

New cattle scale ready

The Rice High School Ag Department purchased this new scale Sept. 3 for weighing cattle. The Allflex Digital Scale, which weighs 3,000 pounds, has been mounted under the squeeze shoot which Ag students recently rebuilt.

Kevin Till, Nick Casarez, Cam Muzny, Leroy Shorter, Adam Leal and Brian Bertrand, in the Ag Mechanic class, assisted by teacher Stavinocha, completed the project. It will be used to weigh local show steers, commercial steers for the Houston Livestock Show and other FFA beef and dairy projects.

RHS Photo



Goodyear honors Colorado SWCD

Approximately 800 district directors representing 212 Texas Soil and Water Conservation districts attended the 53rd annual conference in Lubbock recently. Melvin Albright represented the Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD), which was recognized during the Goodyear conservation awards program at the conference.

The CSWCD, headquartered in

Columbus, was named an honor district as a result of nationwide competition sponsored by the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company and the National Association of Conservation Districts.

Honor district awards are presented to the districts that are leaders in the current year as well as the past five years. It recognizes continuing excellence by these districts.

SWCD directors and other conservation leaders attended the convention Oct. 18-20 to focus on developments affecting the state and national soil and water conservation programs. Also attending from CSWCD were Connie and Ruth Fair and Doris Albright.

'Black Comedy' at Opera House

A comedy by playwright Peter Shaffer will be presented Saturday, Nov. 20, at the Stafford Opera House in Columbus. The play "Black Comedy" will be performed in a dinner theater setting.

Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. with curtain time at 7:30. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children under 18.

The play is the second performance of the 1993-94 season. The play comes to Columbus from a three week run in Austin where it premiered. It is a lively account of mishaps and mistaken identity due to a power outage. It chronicles a disastrous evening in the life of a young British sculptor who tries to impress his fiancée's father while attempting to sell his art work to an eccentric millionaire. Mayhem ensues.

Tickets are available at the Style Shop in Columbus.

Sheridan News

Continued from Page 4

ders: 37, \$15 gift certificate to Wal Mart given by Sue's Beauty Shop, Johnny Barker; 38, \$15 gift certificate given by Jo's Greenhut of Hallettsville, Teresa Gordon.

39, Oak Plant Stand given by Ehler's Furniture of Hallettsville, Ken Kram; 40, Watkins Basic Set given by Betty Bauer, Catherine Wick; 41, \$10 gift certificate given by Western Auto of Hallettsville, Inez Matus; 42, \$10 gift certificate given by Hallettsville Florist & Gifts of Hallettsville, Helene Mithy; 43, Hair Hat given by Hair on the Square in Hallettsville, Alice Hinz.

The Sheridan P.T.S. expresses their sincere gratitude for all the donations and support the public put forth to make the carnival a success. The next P.T.S. meeting is scheduled for Nov. 9 at 6 p.m. at the school cafeteria. A carnival report will be given. Hopefully the pictures of the carnival will be in for next week's paper.

Sissy Sims who worked the fourth grade booth, the Country Store, thanks everyone for their generous donations that helped to make their sales very successful. The store was full of baked and homemade items. She told me many "who weren't even asked" donated. "If people continue to contribute it will prove to be a lasting success."

If the weather permits the Sheridan Little League will have a work day Nov. 13 at 10 a.m. to do some repairs and finish some small jobs on the field before the dirt is hauled onto the field.

Calendar events for Nov. 10 through 17 other than those items already mentioned above:

Nov. 11: Veterans' Day
Nov. 12: Early dismissal from school
Nov. 15: Country Squares dance
Nov. 16: Fire Dept. meeting.

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Altwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge Local refuge one of 16 in Texas

By Terry A. Rossignol, Assistant Refuge Manager
Editor's Note: This article is the fourth in a monthly series about the Altwater prairie and the national wildlife system.
The Altwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge (APC-NWR) located in Colorado County is one of 16 national wildlife refuges in Texas. It is located about six miles north of Eagle Lake on FM 3013 and administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The refuge is one of the few national wildlife refuges managed specifically for a specific endangered species, the Altwater prairie chicken for which it is named. Much of the refuge became a preserve in the mid 1960s when the Nature Conservancy of Texas and the World Wildlife Fund purchased about 3,500 acres of tall grass prairie habitat. Today the refuge contains just under 8,000 acres.

Although the majority of the refuge, about 6,000 acres, consists of grassland habitat, the rest of the refuge is a diverse array of wetland, riparian and other habitat types.

The refuge's east boundary, the San Bernard River, provides excellent riparian habitat. An 80 acre marsh provides wetland for wintering waterfowl. The diversity brings a variety of wildlife to the area.

While the refuge was established especially for the APC, it is also home to several other migratory and resident species. Among the migratory species are large numbers of waterfowl, white-tailed hawks, crested caracaras and roseate spoonbills.

Resident species often seen on the refuge are white tailed deer, armadillos, bobwhite quail and skunks. Several species of snakes also make their homes in the APC NWR.

The general public may observe and photograph many of these wildlife species along the refuge's five-mile automobile tour route and two walking trails. In the spring, wildflowers put on a spectacular display.

Unfortunately, the chances of seeing an Altwater prairie chicken are very slim. Recent declines in the refuge's population of APC and documented evidence that visitor disturbance does affect the birds have forced refuge personnel to shut down visitor activities in the APC's core use area north of Crosswath Creek.

The staff of eight Fish and Wildlife employees who manage the activities of this refuge include a refuge manager, assistant manager, two wildlife

Keeping an eye on Texas

Cable rates vary in Texas homes

Rates for basic cable television service vary across the state. A survey of cable companies selected in 11 cities shows subscribers pay \$1.57 per channel in Fort Davis and 49-cents per channel in Del Rio.

City	Rate	month	Cost per channel
Fort Davis	\$23.60	15	\$1.57
Fort Worth	10.70	10	\$1.07
Hempstead	25.90	30	\$8.63
Gun Barrel City	21.25	25	\$8.50
Perryton	10.25	14	\$7.32
Raymondville	10.41	15	\$6.94
Houston	22.58	33	\$6.88
San Antonio	21.58	35	\$6.19
El Paso	8.78	16	\$5.49
Wichita Falls	11.34	21	\$5.40
Del Rio	18.14	37	\$4.90

SOURCE: Texas Cable Television Association, cable companies in cities shown and John Sharp, Texas Controller of Public Accounts.

Echándole el ojo a Texas

Los precios de servicio básico de televisión "cable" varían según la región del estado. Un estudio de televisores en 11 ciudades demuestra que los suscriptores pagan \$1.57 por canal en Fort Davis y 49 centavos por canal en Del Rio.

City	Rate	month	Cost per channel
Fort Davis	\$23.60	15	\$1.57
Fort Worth	10.70	10	\$1.07
Hempstead	25.90	30	\$8.63
Gun Barrel City	21.25	25	\$8.50
Perryton	10.25	14	\$7.32
Raymondville	10.41	15	\$6.94
Houston	22.58	33	\$6.88
San Antonio	21.58	35	\$6.19
El Paso	8.78	16	\$5.49
Wichita Falls	11.34	21	\$5.40
Del Rio	18.14	37	\$4.90

FUENTES: Asociación Texas de Televisión "Cable", compañías en las ciudades citadas y John Sharp, Contralor de Cuentas Públicas en Texas.

Metro

Continued from Page 2

expenditures outside of our service area. (This is not necessarily a prohibitive factor in all cases, however. Metro is not legally prohibited from undertaking out-of-Harris County projects jointly support by Metro and external funding partners. Moreover, exceptions have occasionally been made necessary by external requirements, as was the case for the purchase of the out-of-county portions of the Westpark corridor.)

Most damaging to the immediate prospects for a Metro passenger rail project, however, is our ongoing evaluation of track-sharing commuter rail service within our service area. Over the past 18 months or so, Metro has been working in concert with the various Houston railroads in an effort to determine the feasibility of a commuter rail demonstration project on one or more of 14 existing freight rail lines radiating from Houston.

The two most promising prospects, a line along State Hwy. 249 to near Tomball and the Southern Pacific line along U.S. 90A to Missouri City, have been analyzed in the greatest detail. Ridership projections for these lines do not justify an investment of Metro funds at this time. This conclusion cannot be directly extrapolated to all possible variations of passenger rail service between Houston and Eagle Lake, but it does suggest that the benefits of high-speed, rush hour service along the Westpark corridor will not justify the costs. It is possible that an excursion service similar to Galveston's Texas Limited would be feasible at some point, but my inclination is to leave the analysis of such a project to the private sector.

Having said all of the above, I will close on a much more optimistic note by repeating my initial statement. Metro is very much interested in opening and maintaining the lines of communication to your group and others interested in the long-term uses of the Westpark corridor. Please check back with us from time to time, either through my office or through Metro's General Manager, Bob McLennan. By working together, we will only enhance the prospects for a mutually beneficial project.

Sincerely,
William F. Burge III
Chairman of the Board
Metropolitan Transit Authority
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SPORTS

Raiders scare the Cardinals, 32-25

By Joe Fling
Contributing Writer

The Columbus Cardinals survived a big scare from their Colorado County rival Rice Raiders last Friday night in Columbus to advance to the state playoffs. Columbus finally prevailed in this one 32-25, but it did not come easy.

Perhaps the Cardinals were looking beyond the Raiders, but they shouldn't have. The Raiders who finished with a 4-6 record (2-5 in district) came in very well prepared and with a few tricks up their sleeves. Columbus, who will be making their fourth consecutive playoff appearance this week, clinched the league's runner-up spot, running their season record to 8-1-1 (5-1-1 in district).

The Cardinals will now meet District 21-3A champion Giddings (7-3) in bi-district on Friday night at Lion Stadium in Lockhart. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

Columbus had all they could handle from Rice, and when it was all said and done, the Cardinals had enough weapons to turn back the upstart-minded Raiders.

"Our biggest concern coming into the game was stopping Rice's big-play potential. Fundamentally, we did not play well in the secondary and they were able to take advantage of our mistakes," said second-year Cardinal coach Tommy Bladun.

"They executed extremely well and we didn't. However, I was pleased with the way the kids battled. I have

preached time and time again that championship teams are able to overcome adversity and we did that two, three times tonight.

"These kids have been through so much this year... more so than I have ever experienced. We have had injuries, sickness and grades, but the kids came through," said Bladun.

The Raiders' goal was a 500 season... and it almost became a reality. "I thought our kids played a great football game tonight. We gave it our best shot, but it just wasn't good

enough. We wanted so much to finish 5-5, but it wasn't our night," said Rice Head Coach Mark Johnson.

"Columbus knew they were in a game. In fact, I thought we had some chances to win. We had a good season, but we have to climb to the next level... we almost did that tonight."

The game began predictably enough with Columbus marching 84 yards in 13 plays from the opening kickoff, picking up seven first downs and taking a 6-0 lead on a 1-yard plunge by John Morris. Rodney Gus-

tus blocked the point-after by Morris and Columbus led with 5:24 left in the quarter.

Rice struck back quickly, moving 70 yards in six plays. The Cardinals were stunned when running back Ernest Sims pulled up and hit tight end Heath Mahaffie all alone for a 55-yard touchdown pass. Jerome Haynes' extra point was good and Rice took a 7-6 lead into the second quarter.

Rice's defense seemed to rise up for the rest of the half and the Cardinals seemed to get tentative on defense. The Raiders increased their lead to 10-7 on the next possession on a 21-yard field goal by Haynes.

Columbus held the Raiders on first-and-goal at the 4 to force the field goal.

Three minutes later, Curt Hahn fell on a Rice fumble at the Raider 36 to give the Cardinals a chance.

Columbus responded with a hard-fought eight-play drive that ended on a 5-yard run by ReShawn Brown with 37 seconds to go.

Brown added the two-point conversion to give the Cardinals a 14-10 lead at the half.

Any thoughts that the Raiders would fold up in the second half were quickly dispelled as quarterback Charyn Thomas struck with a 56-yard pass to Sims on the third play of the third quarter.

Rice regained the lead at 18-14 as Thomas ran for the two-point conversion.

The touchdown was a fabulous job (See Raiders, Page 9)



Got it!
Rodney Gustus, #3, comes flying in front of Cardinal kicker John Morris to block Columbus' first point-after-touchdown attempt. Jerome Haynes, #72, with his hand up, was close to blocking it himself.
Headlight Photos by Jeannine Fearing

Rice Special Olympians roll to victory in Austin

Showplace Lanes in Austin again hosted the Area 13 Special Olympics Bowling Tournament, Oct. 30-31, including six athletes from Rice.

Winning gold medals were Socorro Cano, Eric Guthrie, Jody Hollaway and Matt McCoud. Doyle Holland and Sidney Lira brought home silver medals.

The Raider athletes competed in

either single or doubles. Other events were individual skills, team and unified team bowling.

The Raider Special Olympians will now concentrate their efforts on preparations for the state games in Houston, Nov. 12 through 14. Hollaway, Holland and Lira will represent the team in bowling. Cano will compete in individual softball skills.

Alumni game Nov. 27

The Rice girls' basketball teams are to host the Lady Raider Alumni Game Saturday, Nov. 27, at 7 p.m. in Rice High School gym. Anyone interested in playing in the alumni game should contact Susan Pittman at the Rice athletic office 234-3543 or at home 234-2006 as soon as possible.

Junior high football season comes to end

Both the seventh and eighth grade football teams from Rice lost their final games to the Columbus teams Thursday, Nov. 4.

The eighth grade Raiders came home with a 28-8 defeat from the Cardinals. The team did a good job on offense for the most part but were inconsistent noted Coach Dennis Jackson.

Several penalties cost the young Raiders one touchdown and brought back some good plays. The only score came on a pass from Pete Rangell to Josh Godley. Godley also scored the 2 point conversion on a reverse. Jeremy Gohlke, Lupo Gonzales and Clint Gertson had some fine runs.

Coach Jackson commented that a losing score of 30-6 to the Columbus Cardinals Nov. 4. The offensive play

was weak with only one bright spot... a touchdown by Jay Knight on a reverse.

The defensive effort was also lacking, allowing the Cards to rack up 30 points.

Leading tacklers for the young Raiders were Warren Scott with 4; Knight and Barrett Thomas with 3 each; David Houser, Zach Daniels and Jonathan Godley with 2 each. Getting one tackle apiece were Ralph Gertson, Richard Vargas, Matt Gertson, Thomas Marsalia, Eric Sanders, Kevin Godley, Kurt Rodgers and Cliff Cerny.

With the end of football action, basketball is ready to begin. Hoop action for Rice junior high seventh and eighth grade boys teams opens Nov. 18 in Hempstead.

White's ball

The defense turned in a grand performance against cross-county rival Columbus last week. Here, about halfway through the second quarter, the referee signals that the Raiders are in possession of the ball after holding the Cardinals on fourth down and five.

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