

# Rice High ready to begin new year

It is almost time for school to start again and there are a few dates to be aware of for Rice High School students and their parents.

First, senior pictures will be taken at Rice High on Aug. 3, 4 and 5.



Grand Champion Raider twirlers

Shown above are the twirlers from the Mighty Raider Band for the 1995-96 school year. The girls came away from the marching auxiliaries final competition held at Blinn with a Grand Champion trophy.

Senior should also take this opportunity to pick up their schedules and visit the school counselors on Aug. 3 and 4 if they have any schedule problems. All other students should pick up their schedules as follows: juniors: Aug. 7; sophomores: Aug. 8; and freshmen: Aug. 9.

Registration for students new to Rice CISD entering grades 9-12 will be Thursday and Friday, Aug. 10 and 11, at the High School. These students must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. New students should bring a copy of their immunization record, birth certificate, proof of residence and withdrawal record from their previous school. Guardians must provide legal verification of guardianship.

# Teachers seminar is termed great success

The directors of the Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District announced that the Teachers Seminar held July 12 and 13 was a great success with teachers from throughout the state of Texas in attendance.

For more information pertaining to the 1996 program, contact Clara Horndt at 316 Spring Street, Columbus, Texas 78934 or call 409-732-2773.

Therefore they have scheduled June 11 and 12, 1996, for their fifth annual district sponsored teachers seminar.

# More WWII stories from veterans

Programs for the 1995 seminar included the tour of the Aitwater Prairie Chicken Refuge and a very brief visit to the alligator farm near Eagle Lake on July 12.

The WWII Commemoration Committee will celebrate WWII victories on Aug. 19 in Weimar. As we prepare to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the end of WWII, we must realize the victory was a result of the collective efforts of individuals.



# Rice Flag Corps are Champions

The Rice Raider Flag Corps proudly displays the Grand Champion trophy they were awarded during the final competition of the marching auxiliaries camp held recently at Blinn College.

Photo Courtesy of Rice High School

# 'Hurd tells students, 'it's worth it all'

"Dream and whatever you decide to do all that you can be," Sgt. Oscar Hurd told summer school students at Eagle Lake Middle School as they gathered for the Persian Gulf War.

"But, you're going to need an education at whatever you decide to do. In the Army, we are educated on a system. You use what you learn to achieve higher goals."



Sgt. Oscar Hurd told summer school students at Eagle Lake Middle School all he faced during the Persian Gulf War. He told them no matter what happened, it's worth it all for your country.

Photo Courtesy of Jeannie Young, ELMS

"The U.N. had to use military force against Saddam Hussein because he refused to remove his troops from Kuwait. The U.S. and our allies had to help innocent people who were being killed."

"I saw friends killed. We had to trust the fellow watching our back. Training helped us stay focused and not fall apart. We got separated from our troops for two days. It was an uncomfortable situation to be in a desert, the temperature over 120 degrees, and without necessities."

"We were in the middle of U.N. troops and those being run back into Iraq. I knew that whatever happened, my country was worth dying for. Seeing what goes on in other countries helps you realize that... fast." Hurd concluded.

The U.N. environmental efforts are helping to save endangered species and clean up the oceans we all share.

AND YOU THOUGHT THE UNITED NATIONS was all talk?

The U.N. helps countries build businesses, so they can build their own prosperity.

UN schools teach children to read, so they can learn to teach others.

UN health programs are bringing inoculations to children everywhere, and have completely eradicated smallpox from the earth.

The U.N. ensures honest elections, so people can freely vote their consciences.

There's nothing wrong with talk — especially when it keeps people from going to war with each other. But for 50 years, the United Nations has been doing a great deal more than that.

It has helped people all over the world develop the resources they need to help themselves.

The United Nations Association of the U.S.A. is dedicated to helping the U.N. do its best work ever better. This year, on the U.N.'s 50th anniversary, you can help too.

Send in the coupon for free information about how you can join in the efforts of UNA-USA.

# 'Strutters' attend Texas Lutheran camp

Brittany Sommerlatte, Brandy Meitzen and Mindy Moulder, members of the Super Strutters, spent six days in Seguin at the Texas Lutheran College Line Camp winning many ribbons.

This was a very eye-opening experience for these girls, as many of the girls attending the camp were National Baton Twirling Association (NBTA) State winners and will be competing in the National Competition in a few weeks at Notre Dame University.

They learned several dance twirls, solo tricks and rolls from some of the best instructors in the U.S.

Super Star Ribbons were given daily to the one person from each class who worked the hardest and showed improvement.

Later in the week, the girls were evaluated and received Division I ribbons.

Accompanying the twirlers to the camp was their teacher, Becky Moulder.

While the girls were twirling, Becky completed her NBTA teacher-judge certification, took rifle classes for two days, and finished up with drill classes for indoor Winter Guard, to be used to assist the Rice High School Flag Corps.

Left to right, Brittany Sommerlatte, Brandy Meitzen and Mindy Moulder, members of the Super Strutters, show off the ribbons they won recently in Seguin. The girls spent six days at the Texas Lutheran College Line Camp. Ribbons were given to the girls who worked the hardest and showed improvement.

Photo Courtesy of Becky Moulder

# Raider Band excels at camp

The drum major, twirlers and flags corps of the 1995-96 Mighty Rice Raider Band recently participated in a four-day Marching Auxiliaries camp at Blinn College in Brenham in preparation for the marching season this fall.

Grand Champion trophies were awarded to the Rice High School twirlers and flag corps following the final day's competition culminating in the week's rigorous instruction session and evaluations.

The Raider Band will be led this year by drum major Crystal Atkins, who turned in a fine performance to the music of "All Day and All of the Night" during the final competition.

Raider twirlers turning in a Grand Champion performance in the competition to the tune of "We're An American Band" were head twirler Rebecca Burrow, Leah Brisco, Joy Hengst and Jackie Schmitt.

Earlier in the week the Rice twirlers received Excellent ribbons for their home routine to "Hot, Hot, Hot".

The entire front line from Rice was named to the All American Performance Team, which enables them to perform in the Citrus Bowl in Florida and the Aloha Bowl in Hawaii.

Receiving Feature All American for the twirlers were, Rebecca, Leah, Joy (she was ill the day the routine was taught for auditions). For the flag corps, Sunny, Rachel, Laila, Jennifer, Kelli, Anna, B.J., Jill and Marcie received Feature All American.

Optional solo routines were performed by some attending. Jill's Superior performance to "Red Strokes" was named overall first runner-up in the routine to "I've Had the Time of My Life" was awarded a Superior rating.

# Local families hold, schedule reunions

It's summertime... time for family reunions and get togethers. Local families have sent in reports on their annual reunions and information about an upcoming gathering.

SCOTT FAMILY: The Scott family reunion was held at the Eagle Lake Community Center on July 22, 1995.

UPCOMING REUNION OF JAKOB VOELKEL FAMILY: The descendants of Jakob Voelkel will gather for a family reunion at Harmonie Hall in Shelby, which is located in the western part of Austin County on Sunday, Aug. 6.

of the family association. For further information, Voelkel can be contacted at 409-774-4405. Jakob Voelkel, five sons and three grandsons settled in Shelby after emigrating from Erndbrueck, Germany, in two groups in 1846 and 1849.

OPAL & ED CAUSEY FAMILY: Eighteen descendants of Opal and Ed Causey Sr. enjoyed a four-day family reunion at Con Can on the Frio River, July 13-17.

Mark and Alison Causey planned this third annual reunion dedicated to the memory of Opal and Ed. Those not able to attend were missed by all.

A barbecue meal will be served at noon followed by fellowship and a family meeting in the afternoon, according to Eugene Voelkel of Bryan who is currently serving as president of the family association.

Those attending were George and Ida Causey of Eagle Lake; Charmaine Causey Laughlin and Tom of Housatee; Paul, Sue, Morgan and Mackenzie Causey from College Station; Ed Jr. and Hope Causey, Jill Causey Williams; Mark Causey and Alison, all of Houston; Jan Causey Brown, Ashley and Allison from Corpus Christi and Jean Causey Banfield and Ivan from Denison.

Other activities to enjoy that day include guided tours of the 100-year-old Houston House, 621 St. George, and the 1914 Judge Fly House at 827 St. Joseph.

For more information, call the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce at 210-672-6532 or Gonzales Main Street at 210-672-2815.

# 'Ghosts of Gonzales' stories told

The town and buildings of Gonzales are some of the oldest in Texas. Author and story-teller Leon Netardus concludes that this may be the reason there are numerous recollections of ghost sightings in the area.

Netardus will recount some of his collection of stories at a book signing for his "Ghosts of Gonzales" scheduled for July 29 at the Main Street Tent in downtown Gonzales.

Other activities to enjoy that day include guided tours of the 100-year-old Houston House, 621 St. George, and the 1914 Judge Fly House at 827 St. Joseph.

Gonzales Trade Days are held on the last Saturday of the warm-weather months of April through Nov. Each Trade Days celebrates different aspects of early Texas culture.

Food vendors, restaurants, cafes, deli and barbecue provide ample opportunities to taste the local specialties at locations in cool comfort or under the shade of old oak trees.

Downtown Gonzales is located on Hwy. 183 Business Route, approximately 15 miles south of I-10 and a relaxing drive from Austin, San Antonio, Houston and the Gulf Coast.

# Tips on watering in summer

Proper watering of landscape plants tends to be one of the most misunderstood and confusing home-owner chores. Oftentimes, homeowners do not realize their inadequate methods until it is too late and the plant is badly damaged or dead.

When plants are dry, water thoroughly. Water lawns so that the soil will be wet several inches down to encourage deep rooting and drought tolerance.

How often should I water? and "How much should I apply?" are, at this time of year, the most often asked questions from homeowners. Since water is both essential for healthy plant growth and often costly to apply to plants in quantity during the summer, it is important to get the water to the plant's roots and keep it there.

One of the worst mistakes people make on lawns is to "sprinkle" each day by using your thumb and the end of a running hose. Most people don't have the patience to stand in one spot long enough for deep water penetration.

Following are several suggestions for easier and more effective watering. These techniques apply to all landscapes from shade and fruit trees and vegetable gardens to lawns and houseplants.

Water trees by taking the sprinkler off the end of the hose and let the water run slowly for hours, being sure that run-off does not occur. Water thoroughly and less often.

Never water strictly by the calendar. Learn to recognize dry plants and soil and use these as your tip-off for watering.

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Too many factors determine how fast soil dries to water on a scheduled basis. We need to conserve water, not waste it when it is not needed. Different plants require varying amounts of water.

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# Stories

nearby. It was not a good feeling. The Germans had a lot of subs in 1942, but after the first day there was no more trouble.

There were several ships in this convoy. We were escorted by aircraft carrier Wasp until we neared Iceland. From there the convoy was escorted by the British Navy. Almost everyone became seasick, but I was one of the lucky ones; I should have been a sailor.

We docked in Belfast, Northern Ireland, on Jan. 26. I was mighty glad to set foot on land again. Things were tough for us Yanks there for about a month until we got our American equipment.

I had the honor of being with the first US soldier to set foot in the European Theater of Operations. I had several maneuvers in Ireland and studied radio operation. Ireland was a very beautiful country, but cold and rainy; there were very few days of sunshine.

We lived in British huts and had to have fires made every night in the months of July and August. I was stationed in a town called Carrickfergus near the coast. We later moved inland a short way to a town called Lurgan.

We left Ireland in Sept. of 1942 for England. We stayed a while near London, then went on to Scotland to get on a boat to North Africa. We landed in Algiers in the middle of Nov. I will never forget the first Arab I saw when I got off the ship in Algiers.

The 5th Army was formed under the leadership of General Mark W. Clark in North Africa. The 3rd Signal Battalion came into being, and I was part of the radio platoon. Four radio operators and I were attached to the British 8th Army, and we went into Italy. We maintained communication between the American 5th and the British 8th armies.

British food was hard for us to get used to, but we got along pretty well. Being just a small group of Americans, we pretty much did as we wanted. We had our job to do and we did it. We spent Christmas of 1943 with the British. They treated us to a very good meal with all the trimmings. About July or Aug., we were transferred back to our 5th Army; it was good to see some of our old buddies.

As the Germans were being driven north, we kept moving north. We spent the Christmas of 1944 in the central part of Italy close to a small village called Coviglio; there was about two feet of snow on the ground. I got to go through Rome and toured the Vatican with a couple of buddies of mine. On May 8 (my birthday), we were far up in Northern Italy at the foothills of the Alps.

The war ended and I was ready to come home. I was picked pretty quick since I had so many months overseas. I was transported by plane from Northern Italy to Naples, and after several weeks I got on a boat for the good old USA.

I got to New York in June of 1945; the Statue of Liberty looked good. We went to Fort Dix for a wonderful meal, got on a troop train, and headed for San Antonio. I spent a few days at Fort Sam and enjoyed looking out the barracks window watching the recruits go through drills.

For the record, I went through the ranks in the Army from PFC to T-3 Staff Sgt. I received my discharge papers on June 22, 1945, in the afternoon and headed home the same night by bus. That about sums it up—as far as my memory tells me. I served four years and two months with 41 months

# Continued from Page 6

overseas duty. I was wounded and did not spend any time in the hospital.

Simon John Burttschell Jr. was inducted into military service in Sept. of 1942 in Dallas. He served in the Asiatic Pacific as a Naval Aviator. As a Night Fighter Pilot aboard an aircraft carrier, he flew combat air patrols at night in F6F Hellcat Fighter Aircraft. He relates these memories.

My first night landing was aboard the aircraft carrier Saratoga in 1944. I picked up the last cross deck pendant (the cable that is strung across carrier deck to snag the tail hook) and was abruptly stopped. I was aware that I had destroyed the instrument panel when I threw my hands up as I thought I was about to hit the island of the Saratoga.

Our carrier group was proceeding to Guam for repairs on a collapsed flight deck when the atom bomb was dropped. This was an event that immediately relieved our task group of preparing to attack Japan.

I was launched from the deck of the Carrier USS Bon Homme Richard as it steamed slowly into San Francisco Bay. The weather was overcast with clouds about 300 feet. I flew under the San Francisco Bridge and landed at the Naval Air Station Alameda. The captain waited until the last minute to launch aircraft in anticipation of the weather clearing. When it didn't, 80 aircraft were launched before the ship docked at Pier 45 in San Francisco, where a gala homecoming was planned. We were based across the bay to join in the festivities.

To add your story to this collection or to purchase tickets for the celebration at \$5 each, please contact Lee Jones, Commemorative Committee, RR 1, Box 114, Weimar, Texas 78962 or call 409-263-5239.

Boating vacation: Sam Johnson, 1992

Learning to swim in the tub, 1992

Visiting grandma in California, 1992

Alex Bishop. Killed by a drunk driver on November 8, 1992, on Kent-Kangley Road in Kent, Washington.

Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.

If you don't stop your friend from driving drunk, who will? Do whatever it takes.

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