

This Week's Picks!

First Sale of the Season

New!!!

1995 Tahoe 4x4 Demo MSRP \$29,804. Sale Price... **\$23,995.00**

1996 Olds 88 Royale LS ... MSRP \$23,400. Sale Price... **\$20,995.00**

1996 Olds Bravada MSRP \$30,119. Sale Price... **\$25,995.00**

Pre-Owned!!!

1987 Cadillac Brougham

1987 Cadillac Sedan DeVille Only 66,000 Miles

1989 Cadillac Fleetwood Dark Blue; Leather Interior

1990 Chevy Silverado Extended Cab Tool Box; 5.7 Engine; 52,000 Miles

1994 Mazda B-2300 Pickup Only 22,000 Miles

1994 Chevy Corsica 4-Door Must Sell!

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Miniblinds pose lead hazard to youngsters

Those small plastic slats keeping the sun out of millions of homes, schools and office buildings are colorful, inexpensive and, potentially, a danger to young children.

Tests on imported plastic miniblinds, the popular window coverings found in many major retail outlets and home centers across the country, show the presence of lead.

The Texas Department of Health (TDH) is recommending that these imported miniblinds be removed from all areas where children under seven years of age may be present because of a potential lead poisoning hazard.

Neither metal nor cloth blinds have been found to pose this danger. Lead has been added by manufacturers in China, Taiwan, Mexico and Indonesia to stabilize the plastic in the blinds.

Tests conducted by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) indicate that exposure to heat and sunlight causes the plastic to deteriorate and a lead-containing dust forms on the blinds.

Young children can ingest the lead by touching the blinds and then putting their hands or fingers in their mouths. The risk to adults and older children is not as great because they are less likely to ingest the dust.

Exposure to lead can be a particularly serious problem for children, said Dr. David R. Smith, Texas Commissioner of Health. "Elevated lead levels can cause irreversible damage to the brain and nervous system," he noted. "Children with elevated blood levels may form behavioral, learning and hearing disabilities as well as blood, nerve and kidney abnormalities. And lead exposure," he emphasized, "can cause a reduction in IQ by as much as 10 points."

TDH is conducting independent sampling and testing of imported plastic miniblinds.

"Initial testing by the TDH laboratory confirmed the presence of lead on the surface of new blinds as well as in the plastic," said Charles Branton, director of the TDH Product Safety Program. "Additional tests are being conducted to determine the risks presented by touching, chewing or mouthing the blinds," he said.

Determining if the plastic miniblinds currently in use are imported may be difficult if all labeling has been removed.

"Inexpensive lead test kits are available to individuals at major hardware and building supply stores," said Branton. "Blinds also may be tested by analytical laboratories and by companies that provide lead inspection services."

However, TDH recommends that, if in doubt about lead content of the blinds, consumers — especially those with young children at home, and day care centers and schools — should throw them away.

The lead dust cannot be removed by washing the blinds.

People who live in apartments or other rental property should contact their apartment managers or property owners to request that the blinds be replaced or tested for lead.

Once the blinds have been removed and discarded, the window sills should be thoroughly cleaned with a solution of detergent and water. Floors under and near the windows should be wet mopped and carpets should be shampooed. To avoid possible food contamination, water used in washing or mopping should be disposed of in the toilet or bathtub, not in the kitchen sink.

Parents who suspect their child has been in frequent contact with plastic miniblinds should consult a doctor about the advisability of having the child's blood checked for lead.

As of July 1, manufacturers have agreed with CPSC's request to remove lead from the manufacture of the blinds; and the new lead-free plastic miniblinds should be available in retail outlets over the next several months. Consumers are advised to look for labeling such as "new formulation," "non-lead formula," "no lead added" or "new non-lead vinyl formulation."

New non-lead plastic miniblinds should sell in the same price range as the old blinds — \$5 to \$15 each.

TDH will monitor the removal of lead-containing blinds by retailers. New blinds labeled as lead free will be tested to verify that they contain no lead. Other plastic products such as children's toys also are being examined for lead.

Deadline nears for AFBF idea exchange

Tuesday, Sept. 10, is the cutoff date for entries in the American Farm Bureau Federation's 1996 Farmer Idea Exchange, according to Gary Kainer, Colorado County Farm Bureau president.

"The purpose of the Farmer Idea Exchange is to surface inventions, equipment modifications, innovative crops and farming practices developed by farmers," Kainer said. Up to 20 farmer ideas from around the country will be selected for display as posters at AFBF's 1996 annual convention in Nashville in Jan.

The nation's largest general farm organization will provide up to \$1,000 for each entrant whose idea is selected to help cover costs of attending the convention.

The overall winner of the Exchange will enjoy one year's free use of a New Holland 8670 Genesis tractor. AFBF will also provide \$2500 cash awards to three ideas deemed most innovative, most widely used and most likely to improve a farmer's net income.

Kainer said ideas will be sought in 14 categories including soil quality, livestock, crops, management systems, input efficiency, equipment, energy, marketing, safety and handicapped helpers, farm shop ideas, water management, wildlife, farm buildings and rotational grazing.

Kainer said more details and entry forms are available at the Colorado County Farm Bureau office.

Colorado County

FAIR

Sept. 12 - 15 in Columbus

City teams with Blood Center to save lives

Blood donors, roll up your sleeves! Eagle Lake Ministerial Alliance will be hosting a blood drive in conjunction with the health fair on Friday, Sept. 20, from noon until 6 p.m. on the donor coach located at the Eagle Lake Medical Clinic on Hwy. 90A.

(See Blood, Page 3)

Eagle Lake Headlight

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Board approves resource officer, personnel raises

By Lynda Appelt
Contributing Writer

The Rice Consolidated Independent School District Board of Trustees voted unanimously to support Colorado County Commissioner's Court decision to accept a grant in the amount of \$35,269 to employ a school resource officer for the County's three school districts and agreed to fund its portion at Monday night's meeting.

County Judge Vince Slominski told the Board that a committee, made up of representatives from the three school districts, local law enforcement departments, justices of the peace, Colorado County Youth & Family Services, Colorado County Juvenile Probation Department, Children's Protective Services, Riceland Regional Mental Health and others, approximately 52 people, got together in Feb. to establish a community plan

addressing the needs of juveniles as mandated by the state.

During the planning period, the group decided a resource officer singularly could offer drug and alcohol abuse prevention education and handle truancy problems on the County's 11 school campuses, in lieu of separate officers for each duty.

The grant requires no match the first year followed by a local match of 20% the second year, 40% the third, 60% the fourth and 80% the fifth year.

The sixth year, the officer would

be funded with local tax dollars provided the Court decided to continue the position. "Nothing locks us in to all five years," said Slominski.

According to Slominski, the County will fund one-fourth of the match and the school districts, the remaining three-fourths, if approved by the respective boards.

Weimar has agreed to work with the officer at least during the first free year. The Rice Board concurred with the Commissioner's decision, leaving a voice of approval yet to come from

Columbus. A discussion was scheduled to be held on the subject at Columbus Board of Trustees meeting, also scheduled for Monday night.

The officer will work under the jurisdiction of the sheriff's department. Some duties, in addition to truancy and drug and alcohol abuse prevention education, will be to provide gang awareness education and immediate access to juvenile and family law information.

The officer will help maintain a safe environment for students and teachers, and be available to moderate disputes in a non-violent manner.

According to Slominski, the officer will be able to enforce penal law violations dealing with guns, disorderly conduct or students with drugs or other weapons on campus.

The \$35,269 grant will be divided into a salary allocation of \$20,850, (See Board, Page 16)

Fair passes still available

Season passes to the Colorado County Fair will be on sale on Thursday, Sept. 5, through Thursday, Sept. 12, at Potter's Western Store, Columbus State Bank and First State Bank in Columbus; First National Bank in Eagle Lake and Hill Bank & Trust in Weimar. The passes sell for \$10 each and are good for the entire run of the fair, Sept. 12-15 in Columbus.

Hospital to host 'Harvest Ball'

The Rice District Community Hospital Employee Volunteers for Hospital Improvement (formerly the Employee Trust Fund) will hold a Harvest Ball on Saturday, Sept. 28, at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Music will be provided by Vermillion. The event is semi-formal. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and dinner will be served until 12:30 a.m.

Tickets are \$50 per couple and may be purchased from any hospital employee or you may stop by the hospital. The ticket includes the dinner as well as a chance to win in a prize drawing. A silent auction is also planned with many unique items.

Proceeds from this event will go towards improvements at Rice District Community Hospital.

Every helmet worn by the Raider varsity football team has a decal affixed like the one above in honor of Rice Raider #50, Kyle Fink, who died from injuries received in an auto accident just before school started in Aug. Also, on the inside front cover of the football program, there is a photo of Kyle with a memorium.

In remembrance

Headlight Photo by Jeannine Fearing

NEWSBRIEFS

Blood drive scheduled for Sept. 14

Columbus area residents invite you to give the gift of life on Saturday, Sept. 14, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the donor coach at Wal-Mart. This drive is to boost the number of units needed to provide for patients in 180+ health care facilities in the 21-county region served by Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center. Contact Delores Flores or The Blood Center's Betty Webb at 1-888-GV-BLOOD.

Heritage House to hold garage sale

The Heritage House staff and residents have scheduled a garage sale for Saturday, Sept. 14, from 8 a.m. to noon in the Heritage House parking lot. Proceeds will go to the Residents' Fund.

Head Start program accepting applications

Are you looking for a pre-school program with quality services and want to benefit from those services immediately? Con-Tex Family Services Inc. is now accepting applications for the Head Start program in your area. Eligible children can attend at no cost. Call 512-303-7737 or 1-800-484-6634 code 7737 to request an application or for more information about eligibility requirements. There are limited enrollment slots available, so please call soon.

Alpha Delta Phi to hold Mexican dinner

Alpha Delta Phi will have their annual Mexican dinner on Sept. 29 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Community Center. Carry out only tickets must be bought in advance at Laker Printing & Trophies, 123 E. Main, for \$5 each.

4-H archery program to get underway

The 4-H archery project will get underway on Wednesday, Sept. 18, at 7 p.m. at the Columbus Elementary School cafeteria. Interested individuals, along with their parents, should plan to attend the first group meeting to complete required forms. The project is open to boys and girls, ages third grade through 19 in Colorado County. If you have any questions, call 409-732-2082.

School day scheduled for the Fair

It's Colorado County Fair Time and we need you. Friday, Sept. 13, will be Special Education and School Day at the Colorado County Fair. Students and child care facilities are invited to visit the Children's Barnyard, featuring the Running Springs Exotics, and ride the Little Henry Clown Train. Any group wishing to visit the barn and/or train can schedule a visit by calling 409-732-2705 or 732-2977.

Constitution Week is Sept. 17-23

Constitution Week, Sept. 17-23, commemorates the signing of the Constitution of the United States of America. It is the oldest Constitution still in active use in the world today and is the document which protects the individual liberties of all citizens. Be worthy of its protection. Study your Constitution. Just a reminder from the John Everett Chapter, D.A.R.

PJs rehearsals run through Nov.

PJs will hold rehearsals from 3 to 5 p.m. every Sunday through Nov. at the Prairie Edge Museum for "Last Chances High". Production dates will be Nov. 22 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 24 at 3:30.

Wintermann Library selling books

Books that have not been checked out frequently from the Wintermann Library are for sale to the public, for children as well as adults, priced from 25¢ to \$1. A few paperbacks for 10¢ are also available. Come by the Wintermann Library, browse and pick up a few additions to your home library.

United Buyers fund set up

The Eagle Lake Community United Buyers fund has been set up at the First National Bank to help the youth of our community and Colorado County at the County Fair. Anyone interested in contributing to the fund may go by the bank. Your help for area youths will be greatly appreciated.

1996 Kolache show is Sept. 14

The 1996 State of Texas Kolache Bake Show is set for Saturday, Sept. 14, in Caldwell. Persons throughout Texas are invited to share their talents and enter the contest with four divisions: state-non professional; county-non professional, professional and youth. For more information, call 409-567-3255.

TAAS, TEAMS tests scheduled

Individuals no longer enrolled in a Texas public school and wish to register to retake the exit level TAAS test, or those who wish to take the TEAMS test, may pick up a registration packet at any high school campus or education service center. Packets may be picked up from Tom Davidson at RHS in the office. The test registration form must be completed and returned in the pre-addressed envelope and received in Iowa City, Iowa, no later than 5 p.m. on Sept. 20, 1996. The Texas Education Agency and National Computer Systems will not be responsible for forms that are delayed or lost in the mail. To ensure that you are registered, forms should be sent either by registered or certified mail.

(See Newsbriefs, Page 7)

This Week's Action!

Date	Team	Time	Place
Thursday, Sept. 5	Raider JV football at Weimar	6 p.m.	There
Friday, Sept. 6	Lady Raider volleyball		
	F, JV, V teams at Smithville	5 p.m.	There
	Varsity football vs. Weimar	7:30 p.m.	Here
Saturday, Sept. 7	Lady Raider volleyball F team at Victoria	11 a.m.	There
	Raider cross country teams at Bellville		
Monday, Sept. 9	Raider Jr. High volleyball at La Grange	4 & 5 p.m.	There
Thursday, Sept. 12	Jr. High football vs. Schulenburg	5 & 7 p.m.	Here
	JV football at Schulenburg	6 p.m.	There

Lady Raider JV falls to Sweeny

The Lady Raider JV volleyball team traveled to Sweeny on Tuesday, Aug. 27, where they lost two close games, 15-12 and 15-13.

The Raider team servers who scored points were lead by Amalie Kuchera with nine, two of them aces.

Also scoring were Lori Grigar, six points; Monique Cotton, three; Fausta Rodriguez and Jerica Smidovce each scored two; and Sha Sewell, Nina Salazar and Misty Tesch each added one point.

Blocking for the Raiders were Jennifer Christ with three and Cori Gertson with one.

Tournament action

The Lady Rice Raiders JV volleyball team traveled to a tournament hosted by Schulenburg on Thursday, Aug. 29, and Saturday, Aug. 31.

The Lady Raiders played industry; splitting their games.

Industry took the lead game by the

score of 15-2.

The Lady Raiders came back to win the second game 15-12.

The rally match lead Rice to the consolation bracket with the score of 15-7.

The consolation match was held on Saturday during which the Lady Raiders were defeated by Burton in both games, 15-6 and 15-11.

Points scored for the Raiders in the industry matches were served by Rebal Canaris, seven points; Misty Tesch, four; Stacy Rodriguez, two; and one each by Adriana Rodriguez, Valerie Korenek, Sha Sewell and Fausta Rodriguez.

Points scored in the Burton game came from serves by Tesch with eight and two each by F. Rodriguez, Amy

Raiders wrap up scrimmages at Palacios

The Raider varsity and junior varsity football teams traveled to Palacios last Thursday, Aug. 29, to play in their last tune up before the regular season opener.

The varsity won their competition by a score of 2-0.

Offensively, the team looked good at times and very bad at times, according to their coaches.

Defensively, there were some bright spots as the team did not let Palacios score. According to the coaching staff, the defense still needs some improvements and better effort overall by the athletes in order to defeat Weimar on Friday.

The season opener is at Rice Stadium this Friday, Sept. 6, at 7:30 p.m. against the Weimar Wildcats. Everyone is urged to come out to the game and support these young men as they give it their best to start the year off on a winning note.

The junior varsity did not fare as well against the Sharks.

"The team showed much improvement over the previous scrimmage, but there are still a few adjustments needed," said the coaching staff.

The offensive line showed the most progress in their blocking schemes and the coaches were pleased with their efforts.

Defensively, players allowed a few big plays but, on the whole, performed much better as a unit, said their coach.

"If we could eliminate the big plays by Palacios, our goal of a victory in the season kickoff against Weimar is within reach," he said.

These young men continue to put forth the work needed in practice and should be praised for their efforts, according to the Rice coaching staff.

The JV team will play Weimar at Wildcat Stadium Thursday, Sept. 5, beginning at 6 p.m.

Zarate, 30.20, 5th; Thomas Pittman, 32.56, 8th; Jimmy Hassin, 35.34, 9th; D.J. Sosa, 35.37, 10th; Joey Sommerlatte, 35.48, 11th; and Drew Dulany, 35.55, 12th.

Rochelle Teague finished second in the girls' competition with a time of 39.41.

What their coach calls their first "real" meet will be this Saturday, Sept. 7, in Bellville.

Coach Jim Crews said he was very proud of the runners and hopes to get the same type of performance from them, week to week.

Rice Cross-country runners begin season

The Rice High School Cross-country teams took part in a practice meet held in Ganado Saturday, Aug. 31.

Those participating, their places and times are listed below.

Jose Ruiz, 29.45, 4th; Emanuel

Moore, Lori Grigar and Canaris while Jerica Smidovce added one point.

Blockers for the Raiders were Cori Gertson, Jennifer Christ, Mildred Smith and Valerie Fields.

Points scored for the Raiders in the industry matches were served by Rebal Canaris, seven points; Misty Tesch, four; Stacy Rodriguez, two; and one each by Adriana Rodriguez, Valerie Korenek, Sha Sewell and Fausta Rodriguez.

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