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Newsbriefs

Mini-camp cheerleaders to participate

On Nov. 8, all youngsters who participated in the mini-camp this past summer are invited to cheer at the Rice-Hallettsville game. Please be at the stadium by 6:15 p.m. to practice. Be sure to wear blue and white clothing.

Mt. Mariah Baptist Church sets homecoming

You're invited to a Homecoming-Family-Friends and Benefit Days Sunday, Nov. 10, at 2:30 p.m. at Mt. Mariah Baptist Church in Alleyton. The speaker will be Rev. Larry Davis.

Continued from Page 1

Crossing Texas in thanks

Joe "Rainbow" Kurtzo is pushing his wheelbarrow across Texas. He started his journey in El Paso on Sept. 19, which happened to be his 52nd birthday, and plans to push the wheelbarrow to the Seawall in Galveston.

Paralyzed over a year ago, Joe says he asked God to heal him and the use of his legs was restored. He decided to push the wheelbarrow across the state and to help area churches to show his thankfulness. He is also trying to collect food for the churches. His goal is

to collect 1 million cans of food for those in need. Joe said it's been real quiet on the road, and he hasn't had much response to his efforts. He'd like to hear from area churches.

You can drop him a line by writing Joe "Rainbow" Kurtzo, 1426 Alga-Friendswood Rd., Alvin, TX 77511.



Headlight Photo by Carol Cardenas



Help, the United Way

Once again, the United Way needs your assistance. The money raised by the Halloween Walk-A-Thon was put into the fund as a beginning toward a goal of \$10,150. Mike Duarte, Fund Chairman, hopes that with the help of the community, the goal can be met.

Make your contribution by either mailing it directly to United Way of Eagle Lake, P.O. Box 902, Eagle Lake, TX 77434; or by giving it to a teller at the First National Bank of Eagle Lake.

Morales

Continued from Page 8

date must demonstrate the ability to work with families to develop children's physical and intellectual capabilities in a safe and healthy learning environment.

The CDA credential is having a positive impact on the quality of child care. Its impact is evident in center-based care as well as family child care. Child care staff and parents wanting information on CDA should write the Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition at 1341 I Street, N.W., Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20005-3105; or call 202-265-9090 or 1-800-424-4310.

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Garden Club spruces up downtown

The Eagle Lake Civic Garden Club has kicked off fall with a beautification project in the downtown area.

Some eight planter boxes now adorn Main Street and McCarty, planted with a bright and cheery variety of plants.

The planters were made by J.W. Shavers, Bill Kell and several other Lions Club members and spouses of Garden Club members including Sam Thomson, Ronnie Sedgwick, Mark Anderson and Bill Harrison Jr. John Canaris will be caring for the plants.

This project was overseen jointly by the Garden Club and Lions Clubs and reflects the Garden Club theme for 1996-97: "Take Pride."

All the club members are encouraging the businesses in Eagle Lake to take pride in our town and take whatever steps are necessary to make Eagle Lake a town we can be proud of.

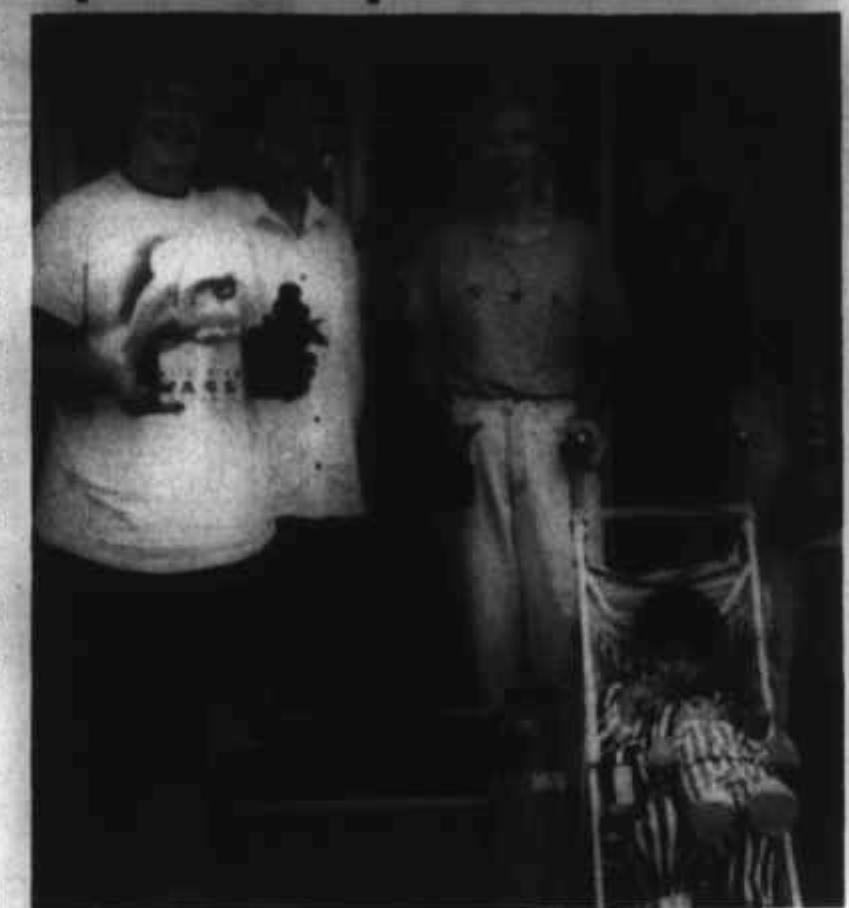
TWONC to visit "Duck House"

Migratory wetlands bird life will be the feature of the Nov. field trip for the Tom Waddell Outdoor Nature Club with a return trip to J.R. Thomas' "Duck House."

Thomas has again invited members, friends and potential new members to visit the facility, attractive to ducks, geese and wading birds.

Participants may begin arriving at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 12, with lots of time for viewing before dusk.

To get to there, take FM 3013 south out of Eagle Lake toward Wharton 1.7 miles; turn left (east) on a black-topped road for 1.4 miles; turn left (north) through a double gate and follow the graded road past a trailer house to the two-story "beach house" where the party will congregate.



Recently, members of the Garden Club completed a project by adding the plants to the new planters placed downtown. Pictured from left are Vicki Powers, Maxine Griffith, Margo Harrison and Becky Anderson along with the green thumb of John Reed (son of Tom and Deborah).

Headlight Photo by Deborah Reed

Correction

It has been brought to our attention that the statistics concerning full-time peace officers per 1,000 citizens used in last week's report on the recent meeting of the Eagle Lake City Council meeting were incorrect.

Eagle Lake's position should have been at the bottom of the list, but was inadvertently switched.

The correct ratios are:
State average 3.60
Weimar Police Dept. 2.88
Columbus Police 2.07
Colorado County 1.61
Eagle Lake Police 1.40

Booster Club meets in PAC

The Booster Club held their monthly meeting on Oct. 16 in the PAC Center.

Minutes were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given. Under new business it was voted to donate to the Kyle Fink Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The Glorice Trotters will be here on Dec. 7 at the Rice High School gym in Alair. More details will come later. Also, a reminder...the club will be selling memberships all year long. The next meeting will be held Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. in the PAC Center.

4-H

Continued from Page 4

colleagues, \$15. There is a special category for corporate/organization.

For more information about 4-H Friends and Alumni Association of Texas, contact Colorado County Extension Agent Marty Graves at 409-732-2530.



By Dr. Eric R. Tepper, Podiatrist

DIABETIC FOOT ULCERS

Ulcers are basically sores, and they can occur just about anywhere on the outside or inside of the body. When an ulcer appears on the foot of a patient with diabetes, however, you have a potentially serious problem that calls for immediate professional attention. A diabetic ulcer typically begins as a tiny opening in the skin, often forming a small crater-like sore. People with diabetes are prone to developing such ulcers due to related problems of the nervous system and poor circulation. What makes diabetic ulcers more dangerous is that, without proper treatment, they can quickly become infected. This can lead to such complications as osteomyelitis, an inflammatory disease of the bones. The most disastrous complication is diabetic gangrene, in which an overwhelming infection in a localized area of the foot results in the death of that tissue. In such cases, some form of amputation may be necessary.

November is National Diabetes Month, designed to communicate the seriousness of the disease and the importance of proper diabetes control. We've seen the results of untreated and self-treated diabetic foot problems and we can't advise strongly enough for diabetics to seek professional care. If you don't have a podiatrist or are new to the community and need one, please call for an appointment at 234-5571, at Rice District Community Hospital. I am there every Tuesday.

P.S. Anyone with diabetes should inspect feet daily, avoid all do-it-yourself treatments, and have regular foot exams.

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Alzheimer's Risk Reduced by NSAIDS

Up to 10 percent of Americans over the age of 65 are affected by memory loss (dementia) and other mental changes. The most common dementia is Alzheimer's disease. Scientists believe that the brain experiences certain changes as we age. One is the collection of amyloid protein plaques and tangles (whorls) of fibers in nerve cells. Loss of the chemical acetylcholine in the brain also may be involved. Although at least six drugs are being studied currently, the only prescription medicine approved for Alzheimer's is tacrine (Cognex). Tacrine increases brain and nervous system levels of acetylcholine.

Results of a recent study published in the *Journal of the American Geriatric Society* indicate that regular use of aspirin, ibuprofen, or other nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs (NSAIDS) appears to lower the risk of Alzheimer's disease and other age-related memory and intelligence losses in the elderly. Researchers at the National Institute on Aging evaluated mental changes of persons who took NSAIDS regularly over a 3-year period. Those who took these medicines were 20 percent less likely than others of the same age to experience memory problems. Researchers are calling for large, controlled studies to confirm their findings.

Donations needed for toys project

Eagle Lake's American Legion Post 108 is now collecting new toys and accepting cash or check donations to buy new toys for the Annual Christmas Toys for Children in Needy Families.

New toys and cash or check donations may be left at A.J. Struss Auto Supply, Wallis State Bank, Laker Printing & Trophies or IGA Grocery Store.

Cost of new toys continues to escalate and a large number of toys will be needed for the 180 or so children who will receive gifts during the forthcoming holiday season.

The toys will be distributed to parents or guardians of children in needy families from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on (See Toys, Page 10)

Eagle Lake Headlight

November 14, 1996

(USPS 163-760)
Volume 93, No. 34
10 Pages Plus 1 Insert
Eagle Publishing, Inc.
P.O. Box 67 — 220 E. Main St.
Eagle Lake, Texas 77434-0067
409-234-5521

35¢ PER COPY

Auditor says Rice CISD in 'good financial shape'

By Lynda Appelt

Contributing Writer

In spite of decreasing appraised value for school tax purposes, the Rice Consolidated Independent School District remains "in good financial shape."

This fact was reflected in the 1995-96 audit report reviewed by auditor David Blomstrom at the RCISD Board of Trustees meeting Monday night, showing the district with a General Fund balance of \$3,409,916.

According to Blomstrom, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) recommends 20 to 25% of the district's expenditures be kept in reserve, resulting in an optimum fund balance of \$2,722,500. This leaves \$687,416 of excess listed as net undesignated, unreserved general fund.

Plans for use of the excess must be reported to TEA. The report reads "The district is planning a capital improvement projects program and will be discussing the transfer of approximately \$1 million from the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund."

The same transfer action was taken by the Board the previous year. The audit report shows general fund local revenues of \$3,898,690, state program revenues of \$4,221,952 and federal program revenues of \$9,324 for a total of \$8,120,666. Expenditures are listed at \$6,746,925. Revenues over expenditures in the General Fund are shown as \$1,383,048.

The fund balance of all funds is \$4,381,205, compared to \$3,903,927 for 1994-95. Blomstrom pointed out that in addition to local and state revenues, \$1,430,449 was received by the district in federal financial assistance, the majority of which is absorbed in the school lunch program and salaries.

The appraised value for the audit year was \$266,560,456, down \$10,839,341 from the 1994-95 audit. Appraised values in the Rice District have steadily declined since 1990 when the value was \$307,205,076.

The audit report shows the district's tax collection rate to be approximately 96%. The district has a total of \$391,502 in delinquent taxes. There was \$134,572 in delinquent tax in 1995, compared to \$15,912 delinquent in 1990, the year tax value began its steady decline.

Lengthy discussion was again held pertaining to honor graduate requirements and ranking for three-year graduates. The subject had been addressed at the Oct. meeting and postponed pending a recommendation for the Rice High School Site-Base Committee.

The committee's recommendation to the Board was a policy that treats both regular and early graduates equitably while maintaining the intent of the original school policy.

The requirements recommended for achieving honor graduate status was that minimum of four academic courses must be taken each of the last two years of high school. Of these courses, at least two in each of the last two years must be designated AP or PAP (advanced placement or pre-advanced placement).

Concerns were expressed by parents and some Board members about "changing horses in the middle of the stream," graduation traditions and grade averaging which would use seven semesters for four-year graduates and five semesters for three-year graduates.

The recommendation for class ranking is that a sticker be attached to the transcript of three-year graduates with the following statement: "Rice CISD does not customarily rank students prior to their fourth year of high school. However, if (name of student) were to be considered with the graduating class of (year), he/she would be ranked in the (number) percentile."

"Our intention is to develop a policy that will not restrict scholarship application for our three-year graduates," said Superintendent Dr. Richard Gott.

Action was postponed until two distinctly separate policies relating to four-year and three-year graduates can be formulated.

No change will appear in graduation policy for four-year students.

The Board authorized Johnson Controls Inc. to proceed with an evaluation study and develop an energy-saving program at a cost not to exceed \$20,000.

When the program study is completed and presented to the Board, action will then be taken.

Johnson Controls guarantees the district savings in its utilities and other energy functions over a 10-year period. These savings, which will come from already budgeted funds, will be used to upgrade for further savings, thus no additional budget expenses will be incurred by the district.

If the program study is adopted at a later date, all utility functions will be able to be operated from a computer located at Gott's home, thus preventing frivolous use of utilities during out-of-school hours.

In other business, the Board: •Approved Clark Powers for a new term beginning Jan. 1 as a member of the Colorado County Appraisal Review Board;

•Heard an update on plans for the Sheridan band hall;

•Heard prospective plans to add micro-software in its vocational area at Rice High School, whereby students would be micro-soft certified upon completion;

•Learned that the school attorney will be hiring an engineering firm to study improper repairs made on the Rice High School parking lot so that a course of action can be taken;

•Approved an updated version of the adjunct faculty document, deleting Rick Jahn and adding Extension Agent-Agriculture Jack Hunter;

•Approved the 1997-98 Textbook Committee;

•Approved making application for a Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Grant in the amount of \$330,000, which will intra-network all the schools in the Rice CISD and allow one central control base to collect all data;

•Approved Instruction - E Section - Policies regarding credit by examination, correspondence courses, elective instruction gifted and talented, grading progress reports to parents, graduation, commencement academic achievement, federal Title I programs and promotion/retention for grades K-12;

•Presented Sheridan Principal Larry Varley with a sign in recognition for the Sheridan campus re-

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