

**Raider Review
Begins 2000-01
Edition**
(See Page 5)

**Former Colorado
County Sheriff Bill
Estlerling Succumbs**
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Eagle Lake Headlight

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NEWSBRIEFS

RMC invites public to open house

Rice Medical Center (RMC) invites the public to an Open House for Dr. Ramon Cantu and his family Wednesday, Aug. 30, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Thomas Clinic. Join them as they extend a warm welcome to Dr. Cantu and his family. Refreshments will be served.

Closing for Labor Day holiday

The City of Eagle Lake offices will be closed in observance of Labor Day Monday, Sept. 4. Monday's garbage will be picked up on Tuesday and Tuesday's route will be picked up Wednesday. The First National Bank of Eagle Lake and the Colorado County Courthouse will also be closed.

Sponsorships for Fair still available

Sponsorship opportunities are still available for this year's Colorado County Fair, being held during the third week of Sept. Benefits of sponsorship are individual/business advertising while supporting the Fair. A banner, recognizing the sponsor, will be displayed during the Fair. Contact Mark Robinson at 979-732-6413 for rodeo arena sponsorship details; or James Weishuhn at 732-2842 for show/sale pavilion details.

Booster Club meeting set for Sept. 6

The Rice Raider Booster Club will meet on Wednesday, Sept. 6, at 6 p.m. at the CPL Building in Eagle Lake. All members and interested parties are urged to attend.

Senior Citizens' Dance is Friday

The public is invited to a Senior Citizens' Dance, a place to meet old and new friends, Friday, Sept. 1, starting at 8 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Music will be provided by Tim Kulhanek. Admission is \$5 per person. For more information call 234-3795.

Calling all tennis players!

A tennis tournament is scheduled in conjunction with the "Family Fun Day in the Park" Saturday, Sept. 16, from 8 a.m. until noon. For information or sign-up, call Bernice Bornstein at 979-234-3214 or Laura Myres at 979-733-9949.

WCBC Homecoming is Sunday

White Cloud Baptist Church (WCBC) will hold its Homecoming, Church Anniversary, Family and Friends Day Services Sunday, Sept. 3, at 3 p.m. The services will be held at WCBC, 316 Old Altair Rd. in Eagle Lake. "Everyone is invited," said Rev. Obie Rhodes, pastor. Guest speaker will be Rev. Clarence Owens of Camp Zion Rising Star Baptist Church, Spanish Camp, Texas.

RHS yearbooks are in

The 1999-2000 Raider Yearbooks have arrived. Books may be picked-up in the commons at Rice High School through Sept. 7 during the following times: before school, 7:45-8 a.m.; lunch periods, 10:48 a.m., 12:18 p.m.; or after school, 3-3:15 p.m. Books are not available in Mrs. Grigar's room. Any balance due must be paid in full upon receipt of your copy. Extra books are available for sale on a first-come, first-serve basis at a cost of \$30.

Crescent Country Jamboree is Sept. 5

The Crescent Country Jamboree, sponsored by the Wharton County Youth Fair (WCYF), will host their monthly live country music show Tuesday, Sept. 5, at the WCYF grounds, Crescent Hall, intersection of FM 960 & FM 961. WCYF Director's will be serve chicken fried steak as their concession stand special. Other concession items will also be sold. The meal will be ready at 6:30 p.m. with the show kicking off at 7:30. Admission is \$3 per person. All proceeds benefit the WCYF building fund.

'Life After Loss' meeting set for Sept. 5

The monthly "Life After Loss" support group meeting in Wharton is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 5, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 1717 Pioneer. This support group is available at no charge to anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one. Kathy Jones, LSW, will facilitate discussion on "Needs When You Are Grieving". For information, call Hospice Support Care, 979-578-0314.

Free GED classes available

Free GED classes (complete CORE curriculum in 5 areas) are available in Eagle Lake Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Middle School in Room 8. Be there for testing Tuesday, Sept. 5. For more information, call 234-3501. Ronny Jones will once again be the instructor.

VFW collecting old flags

Members of W. Cherry-M. Perry Post 108 of the American Legion are collecting old, worn, tattered flags for the Post's annual Flag Disposal ceremony Tuesday, Sept. 25. The ceremony will begin at 6:30 p.m. on the concrete slab of the former White House on E. Main Street. Persons who have flags which need proper disposal (by burning) are asked to leave them at Struss Auto Supply or the Furniture Shoppe. You may call Victor Scott at 234-2792 or Fred Fmka at 234-2065 and they will be picked up. All persons, especially youths, are urged to attend the ceremony.

Tourism workshop to be held Sept. 14

A 2000 Community Workshop Series for Tourism Development Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 14, in Brenham. Lana Dulany, secretary of the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce, will attend. There is an admission charge. If you need more information, contact Dulany at the Chamber office, 234-2780, or call Indigo Resource Group at 830-990-0180.

CCFB convention is Sept. 12

The Colorado County Farm Bureau (CCFB) Annual Convention is set for Tuesday, Sept. 12, at 7 p.m. at the Columbus High School cafeteria. Deadline for meal tickets is Thursday, Sept. 7. To get your tickets, contact the CCFB at 979-732-2383.

Harvest Ball set for Sept. 30

The Rice Medical Center (RMC) Employee's Volunteers' 5th Annual Harvest Ball is set for Saturday, Sept. 30, at the Eagle Lake Community Center. This year, they will honor Steve Balas. Social hour is 6-7 p.m.; dinner, 7-8:30; salute to Mr. Balas at 7:30; and dancing from 8:30 to 12:30 a.m. with music by "Hearts of Fire". Tickets may be purchased at RMC, Eagle Lake Drugstore or Thomas Clinic for \$50 per couple. You'll have chances to win prizes and have your photo taken by Nava Photography. Don't forget about the silent auction. See you there!

Defensive driving course scheduled

A state approved six hour defensive driving course has been scheduled by (See Newsbriefs, Page 12)

Ceremony to honor Hutchins is Monday

By Fred R. Frnka, Past
Commander of Legion Post 108
Fifty-seven years ago, at exactly 1:30 p.m. one of this community's young men died in service and defense of his country and in defending crewmen and service personnel on board LST 473 just off of the shores of Lae, New Guinea.

United States Navy Seaman First Class Johnnie David Hutchins, mortally wounded, used every ounce of strength still in his shattered body to turn the LST out of the path of torpedoes dropped by Japanese attacking the invading force of the United States.



For his acts of bravery, Hutchins was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, posthumously, the highest award available to United States service men and women.

The U.S. Navy has awarded only 57 of these medals.

Johnnie Hutchins died after turning the ship out of the path of torpedoes still clutching the helm of his landing craft.

Now, 57 years after his acts of heroism, some of his shipmates (seven others died in the attack) and relatives and friends will gather at Lakeside Cemetery to lay a wreath on Johnnie's grave and pay just tribute to this brave young sailor.

The tribute will coincide exactly with the time and date of Johnnie's death, Monday, Sept. 4, Labor Day. Now, 57 years later, shipmates, rela-

tives and friends will pay rightful tribute to Johnnie.

Citizens of the Eagle Lake area are invited to pay tribute to this brave sailor. The ceremony will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the Lakeside Cemetery where the body of Johnnie David Hutchins lies in peaceful rest.

Relatives, friends and shipmates will attend a reception in the Prairie Edge Museum. The public is also invited to this reception.

This ceremony has been a long time in coming. All interested persons are invited and urged to attend the ceremony at Lakeside Cemetery and the reception in the Museum, to greet some of Johnnie's family and former shipmates on the LST.

Also, some members of the State LST Organization, who also served well, will be in attendance.

Raider, Gobblers wage battle in last scrimmage

The Rice Raiders football team hosted the state-ranked Cuero Gobblers here last Thursday night. The scrimmage was a tightly contested battle with the Gobblers scoring two touchdowns on runs of 64 and 78 yards, while the Raiders scored on a 63-yard jaunt by fullback Conrad Diggs.

The scrimmage ended with the Gobblers holding a 2-1 advantage on touchdowns with both #1 offenses and defenses. The Gobblers also outscored the Raiders 1-0 with the #2 squads as well.

The Raider offense, led by Diggs' 89 yards on eight carries, and Cornelius Ashton, who rushed for 59 on only five carries, racked up 228 yards.

Patrick Milentz, the Raider signal-caller, was five for 11 passing for 78 yards and no interceptions.

Defensively, the Raiders did a good job of keeping the powerful Gobblers in check most of the night. Pre-season all-state quarterback Andrew Heard broke away for two long touchdowns runs after scrambling and avoiding several tackles.

There were several bright spots for the Raiders defensively. Quentin Whitfield continues to shine at defensive end, and free safety Gerald Williams was in on many tackles all over the field.

Outside linebacker Adam Baird made several key plays throughout the contest as well.

Leading the Raiders in tackles for the evening was Williams, Nick Sharp, Jerry Cleveland and Diggs. Each was credited with seven tackles apiece.

Offensively, John Rucka, Jacob

Little, Adrian Espinosa and Norris Powell had solid games on the offensive line. Tight ends Anthony Salinas and Baird had solid games, too.

The Raiders came out of the scrimmage fairly healthy. Senior offensive tackle Paul Valles sustained a knee injury early and is expected to miss one or two games.

Coach Russell Roark said, "We're glad the scrimmage and two-a-day workouts are done. Now we can look forward to our opening game against Hallettsville Friday night. They are a quality opponent, but our kids will definitely be ready to play. It's a big game for us. We need to get this season started off strongly and continue to get better. The Brahmas had better have their pads strapped down tightly and be ready to play, because we plan on playing a very physical brand of football Friday night."

Game time Friday will be 7:30 p.m. at Hallettsville Stadium.

Get there early as these two rivals lock horns in a battle for Colorado and Lavaca County bragging rights.

Fair boasts big carnival

A big new fairgrounds means a big new carnival at this year's Colorado County Fair.

The "Heart of America" Carnival will be at the Fair Thursday through Sunday, Sept. 14-17. Attractions include a huge ferris wheel, a giant slide, the Paratrooper, carousel, The Kamikaze, dune buggies, the Iron Man and many more fun rides for the whole family. The carnival will occupy

seven acres of the new fairgrounds.

You can buy armbands each day that let you ride as many rides as you want. The armbands on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday are \$15.

On Friday night, it's "Midnight Madness" from 8 p.m. to midnight with armbands for just \$12.

For complete Colorado County Fair information, call 979-732-9266.

(See Indictments, Page 12)

The Colorado County Grand Jury issued the following 37 indictments Wednesday, Aug. 23.

•Deshunda L. Almeida, aggravated assault.

•Pedro Nino Rodriguez, tampering with government record.

•Thaddeus Emerson, unauthorized use of a vehicle.

•Darren R. Carver, possession of controlled substance.

•Fernando Fuentes Vargas, assault.

•Esther Rachael Armijo, credit card abuse.

•David Wayne Carter, delivery of controlled substance.

•John David Collins, burglary of a building.

•Curtis Dremaine Jackson, aggravated assault.

•John Eddie Wright, tampering with witness.

•Margaret Gannon Noska, endangering a child.

•Felipe Ray Melendez, prohibited substance in correctional facility and attempted escape.

•John Luna Yberra, driving while intoxicated (felony).

•Dario Cortes, unauthorized use of a vehicle.

•Glenn Wayne Peikert, aggravated sexual assault, indecency with a child.

•Will Matthews Jr., engaging in organized criminal activity, aggravated assault.

•Tommy Blake McCarty Jr., aggravated sexual assault.

•Michael Wayne Moore, theft and burglary of a building.

•Abundio Flores Jr., possession of controlled substance.

•Ray Charles Coleman Jr., burglary of a habitation.

•Andrew James Manuel, burglary of a habitation.

•Charles Alan Axel, burglary of a habitation.

•Shawn Elliott Hurd, possession of controlled substance and delivery of controlled substance.

•James Lee Black, delivery of controlled substance.

•Christian Y. Aleman, endangering a child.

•Delores Cabrera Olivares, deadly conduct.

•Rex Joseph Victoria, sexual assault.

(See Indictments, Page 12)

EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following calls and cases for the week ending Aug. 29.

On Aug. 20, at 3:03 a.m., Officer Stephen Nelson observed a vehicle that had turned off its headlights and appeared as if it were about to drive down the railroad tracks near Schley and Lakeside Drive. Officer Nelson stopped the vehicle, which was being driven by Rodrigo Rodriguez. Rodriguez was arrested for suspicion of driving while intoxicated and transported to the sheriff's office where he submitted to an examination. As the result of that examination, Rodriguez was charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI).

On Aug. 22, at 7:28 a.m., while on patrol, Officer Michael Krennek observed a green 1988 Nissan, being driven by a juvenile, hit a pedestrian, identified as Joseph Bill Wilkerson, who was walking in the street next to his residence.

Mr. Wilkerson received an injury to his shoulder and arm when the mirror of the car the youth was driving struck him.

Eagle Lake Medic Unit #3 was called to the scene, but Mr. Wilkerson refused transportation to the hospital. He received minor injuries as the result of the accident.

The youth was cited as the result of the accident investigation.

At 11:58 p.m., Chief Keith Webb stopped a speeding pickup truck on S.

McCarty, which was being driven by

Tony Garza and out-of-town oilfield worker from Kounce, Texas. Garza was arrested for suspicion of DWI. Sgt. Tim Crume assisted Chief Webb and Garza was transported to the sheriff's office where he submitted to an intoxication examination. Based on the results of the examination, Garza was charged with DWI and with having an open alcoholic beverage container in his vehicle. He has a previous DWI conviction.

Aug. 23, at 12:19 a.m., while still at the scene of the above DWI investigation, Chief Webb and Sgt. Crume were dispatched to 400 Beaks St. in regards to several males from an oil drilling rig causing a disturbance. The subjects had left the bar just prior to the officers' arrival. It was later learned that Garza, whom Chief Webb had just arrested minutes earlier, had been one of those causing the disturbance at the bar.

At 9:57 a.m., Officer Randy Schlauch was dispatched to a residential alarm outside the city limits on FM 102 south. It turned out to be a false alarm.

At 5:52 p.m., Sgt. Crume assisted DPS Trooper B. Krueger with a traffic accident investigation located on Calhoun Rd. A female driver had lost control of her vehicle and hit an embankment, causing the air bags in her vehicle to deploy. The subject was treated for minor injuries at Rice

Medical Center.

On Aug. 24, at 8:20 a.m., Officer Wendy Alley was dispatched to 1503 E. Main where she met with Mahendra Patel, owner of the Eagle Lake Farm and Home Store, who reported his building had been burglarized. The burglar(s) had gained entry through a side glass door. The scene was processed and the case is under investigation. A leather saddle was reported as being stolen.

At 9:15 a.m., Lt. Clem Johnson was dispatched to 720 E. Main St. regarding an attempted burglary. Lt. Johnson contacted Philip Nagessar, owner of the Stars on Tires Store. The scene was processed and Lt. Johnson's investigation showed the subject tried to gain entry through a rear window and had tried to pry the back door open, but without success. This case is under investigation.

At 10:05 a.m., Officer Alley met with Joe Romo at 1203 E. Main St. in regards to the Video 2 Go building being burglarized. Her investigation showed the burglar(s) gained access into the building through the front entrance. Alley processed the scene and the case is under investigation. No property was reported stolen.

The three (3) burglary incidents are being investigated together; there is a suspect in these cases.

At 1:20 p.m., Officer Alley was called out to another burglary; this one at 303 N. Strickland. Ruby Reese

reported someone went into her house through the back door as she was mowing her lawn and stole property from her house. A suspect has been developed in this case and is being investigated.

If anyone has any information on these four (4) burglaries, please contact the police department at 234-2727 or call Crimestoppers, 234-5555.

On Aug. 25, at 6:32 a.m., Officer Alley was dispatched to 100 E. Post Office St. in regards to Larry Holway sleeping on the floor in the Post Office. Alley arrived, woke the subject and transported him to his residence.

At 10:32 a.m., Officer Alley contacted Chief Webb in reference to an investigation which she had been conducting on J.T. Black. She then contacted J.T. Black near the intersection of E. Main at Allen St. and called Chief Webb to the scene. Black's vehicle had a fictitious inspection sticker affixed to the windshield. Alley arrested Black at the scene and Chief Webb assisted in the processing of his vehicle, seizing and documenting the evidence. Later, Chief Webb transported Black to the County's Detention Center (CDC).

On Aug. 26, at 5:45 a.m., Officer Alley was dispatched to 1600 E. Main in regards to an alarm being set off at J&K's. Alley contacted an employee, who had set off the alarm during the (See Police, Page 12)