



## THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

(USPS 163-760)  
P.O. Box 67 — 220 East Main  
(979) 234-5521  
CITY OF EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS 77434-0067  
Published Weekly Every Thursday

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## ADVERTISING AND NEWS DEADLINE: 5 P.M. MONDAY

## Subscription Rates

Colorado County (including Lissie and Egypt)	\$12.00
Fayette, Lavaca, Wharton, Austin counties	\$13.50
Other Texas Residents	\$15.00
Outside of Texas	\$16.50

Single Copy Price: 35-Cents  
Second class postage paid  
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## To THE EDITOR &amp; YOU

## Commitment leads to success

There is something "special in the air" concerning the Rice Consolidated School District.

What I have to say was preceded by a sterling effort by the Rice Pee Wee baseball team which won the regional tournament, going undefeated. It took commitment by some hard working little league coaches and some competitive youngsters.

Commitment has enabled the Rice Raiders to continue the winning trend starting off the 2000 football season undefeated.

What commitments were made to bring on this success?

It began four years ago when Rice's athletic endeavors were going through dire straits. A group of new coaches began to assemble a staff and work toward building a program with little time.

Potential players were recruited in the communities, school halls and classrooms, just to field a squad when two-a-day workouts began. Several young men re-joined the program after dropping out in earlier years. Most of these youngsters contributed the best they could and gained respect.

Progressive-minded citizens and members of the Rice CISD Board of Education got behind the school administration and coaching staff and began to commit toward doing their part to give Rice kids a better chance.

The baseball facility was totally rebuilt, providing an above average facility. A new track and weight-training building were erected.

I believe many of our school district's leaders and parents could see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Now, Rice has a coaching staff second to none on most any high school level. At first, it was difficult to convince prospects to come to Rice and stay to see this "thing" through. Now, many coaches are seeking to be a part of the program.

Commitment... patience... dedication... all have helped turn this situation in the right direction.

There is also commitment in the school building. There is a positive attitude among the students and much more pride. Discipline is marvelous! Reason? A principal who is a Rice graduate and assistant principal promoted from within the District have helped create a learning atmosphere. The teaching staff has pitched in to make the system something to be proud of.

Last Friday night, I witnessed a

complete domination of a perennial football power and county rival by a school once considered a "floor mat".

Rice dominated all aspects of the game from the beginning. Then, after the game was over, I observed an atmosphere that is both conducive and always present around successful programs. Instead of leaving early, people, besides parents, came on to the field to congratulate the team. Elementary kids and junior high youngsters flooded the field just to throw a ball around and be part of the celebration. Commitment makes WINNERS!

Am I partial to Rice? You bet! I am the proud father of two outstanding Rice coaches, a friend to staff members, and the grandfather of a young

athlete and two future cheerleaders in the district. I also have a profound fondness in my heart for the kids who helped make my year at Rice High School a happy one. To see these young people mature and succeed is an incredible reward for me.

Is the job finished? No. Not by a long shot. Things are just beginning to happen!

So, adults of Rice CISD, I challenge you to continue and build your support for your kids. Fill the stadium, gym, and stands and become part of this super time in history.

Good luck, Raiders and Lady Raiders!

Sincerely,  
Doug "Pop" Roark  
Monahans, Texas

## V.F.W. says 'thanks'

V.F.W. Post 8783 would like to thank everyone involved for helping at the Johnnie D. Hutchins Service at Lakeside Cemetery and Prairie Edge Museum Sept. 4, 2000.

Thank you to all that helped in any way, such as furnishing vehicles to

transport chairs to and from the cemetery.

Also, thanks to those who donated and furnished the coolers of ice and cookies, and to those who helped serve at the museum.

VFW Post 8783

## Let's Look Back...

## 24 &amp; 48 YEARS AGO

Sept. 23, 1976

These five pretty young ladies will be leading the Rice High School Raider Band during its 1976-77 activities. They are Drum Major Judy Ash-

by and twirlers, Lisa Mahalite, Patti Mathis, Becky Gertson and Sharon Hoffmann. The band is under the direction of Floyd Spenrath...

Miss Carol Ann Duncan became the bride of Kenneth Ray Graham in a lovely double ring ceremony at the home of the bride's parents in Altair on Sept. 16...

Funeral services were held Sept. 18 for Johnnie Swanner, a life-time resident of this community and an employee of Lakeside Irrigation Company...

Citizens of the area regretted to learn of the death of Overton S. Campbell, a life-time resident of this community, while vacationing in Colorado...

Mr. & Mrs. Alton New of Lissie announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Beatrice Gail, to Darrell David Gertson, son of Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Gertson of Eagle Lake. The wedding will take place Nov. 6 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Eagle Lake...

Eagle Lake City Council voted to promote Bufford Ashley to the position of Chief of Police in the City of Eagle Lake. He had been acting chief since the resignation of former Chief Roy Chisum last July 27th...

Darrel Justin Dopplauf, one and a half year old son of Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence F. Dopplauf of Sheridan, passed away Sept. 16 from injuries received in a car accident. Funeral services were held Sept. 18...

Twelve pleas of guilty were made in county court Monday, including a guilty plea by former Eagle Lake Police Chief Roy Chisum to a charge of theft of funds from the City of Eagle Lake...

Madeline McCarty of Dallas spent several days here this week visiting the friends and looking over "the old home town". She is the daughter of the former owners and publishers of the Eagle Lake Headlight, Mr. & Mrs. Bruce W. McCarty...

Among those receiving birthday congratulations this week was Massey Duncan, owner of the M&M Western Store...

Lt. Don Frnka left Sunday to return to his duties with the Navy in Florida after a week's here visit with his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Fred R. Frnka, and brother, Jeff, a student at Southwest Texas State University.

Sept. 30, 1976

Melissa Wilcox, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wilcox, won the decorated bike contest in the Eagle Lake Lions Club Parade held last Saturday...

Heavy losses caused by a fire were reported at the Joe Mahalite farm in the Elm Grove area...

Alan Kristynik, 17, son of Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Kristynik of Garwood is one of 120 FFA members from across the nation selected to participate in the National FFA Band...

First place winners in the Ford Motor Co. Punt, Pass and Kick competition were 10-year-old, John Harborth; Brian Smith, 8; Michael

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