

Last call for contestants!

Last call for contestants to sign-up to compete in the 2001 Colorado County Fair Queen and Jr. Queen Pageant to be held Saturday, Sept. 8, at the Columbus High School Auditorium.

Friday, Aug. 17, at 5 p.m. is the deadline for interested young ladies ages 14 to 21 to pick up an entry form for Fair Queen and girls from 10 to 13 years of age to pick up a Jr. Fair Queen entry form.

Girls competing for the Fair Queen title will have an opportunity to win \$4,250 in college scholarships.

All contestants must live in Colorado County or attend school within the County.

To pick up pageant entry materials, contact Pamela Potter at 979-732-2705; Deborah Hayward, 979-725-8603; Diana Brunner, 979-234-5671; by 5 p.m., Friday, Aug. 17.

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NEWSBRIEFS

Raider football season tickets on sale

Season tickets for Rice High School (RHS) home football games are on sale at the Rice CISD Administration office through Friday, Aug. 17. Beginning Monday, Aug. 20, those who have not held season tickets may purchase season tickets on a first-come, first-serve basis. These will be on sale until Friday, Aug. 31. The cost for season tickets is \$16 per set (four home games this year). The cost at the gate will be \$5 per game. There will be no reserved seats sold for individual games. Adult pre-game general admission tickets will also be sold for \$4 each at RHS Thursday and Friday until 3 p.m. For more information, contact Suzanne Sykowski at 234-3531 for additional information.

Lighthouse offers musical entertainment

Wednesday, Aug. 22, The Lighthouse in Eagle Lake will present the band Philmore. Opening for the band will be Lesser Me from Houston and Leticia Flores of El Campo. Tickets are \$7 at the door. Doors open at 6 p.m. at the show begins at 7.

Hot dog supper is Aug. 20

The Rice High School Cheerleaders will host their annual hot dog supper and pep rally Monday, Aug. 20, at 7 p.m. The rally will be held outside the PAC gym. The public is invited to attend to cheer the Raider football and volleyball teams on to victory in the upcoming season. Coaches will be on hand to introduce their staffs, players and offer a preview of things to come. Hot dogs and refreshments will be provided for everyone as long as supplies last.

MFBC to host workshop, recognition day

The Friendship Missionary Baptist Church (FMBC) will be hosting a workshop Saturday, Aug. 18, beginning at 9:30 a.m. FMBC Mission Ministry Recognition Day will be held Sunday, Aug. 19, beginning at 3 p.m.

Raider yearbooks have arrived!

The 2001 Raider yearbooks have arrived!! Books will be distributed beginning Thursday, Aug. 16, in the commons from 7:40 to 8 a.m., during all lunch periods and after school from 3 to 3:20 p.m. There are extra books available for sale on a first-come, first-serve basis for \$30 each. Book are not available for pick up in Mrs. Grigar's room.

Old-fashioned tent revival is Aug. 15-18

Rock Island Full Gospel Church will be hosting an old-fashioned tent revival Wednesday, Aug. 15, through Saturday, Aug. 18, at 7:30 p.m. each evening.

Randy Whited and his wife, Rhonda, from San Antonio will be the evangelists. Pray that the Holy Spirit will be preparing hearts to receive the gospel, and that our neighbors will hear the music and will be drawn by the Holy Spirit to come! For more information, call 979-234-5840.

RHS volleyball fundraiser scheduled for Aug. 31

The Rice High School (RHS) volleyball players are holding a fundraiser Friday, Aug. 31, before the Rice football game against Hallettsville. The dinner includes brisket, potatoes, green beans and bread. Plates are \$6 each. There will be many pick up places to help accommodate your needs: Eagle Lake Middle School, Garwood School and Sheridan School from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; and, some available at the RHS gym from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Tickets will be sold by all RHS volleyball players. Thank you for your support for the Lady Raiders!

Rice Project Graduation meeting is Aug. 20

Rice Project Graduation will hold a meeting Monday, Aug. 20, in the Rice High School commons area. Please make plans to attend. This is a worthwhile project for our graduating seniors. Hope to see you there!

Study Club needs auction donations

The Eagle Lake Study Club is gearing up for the Annual Study Club Auction scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 27. The Club asks that you get your donations to them as soon as possible. For more information, contact Study Club President Fair Wells or any committee member. You may even take your donations to the library. Thank you in advance for your support.

Senior Friends meeting is Aug. 23

The Aug. Senior Friends monthly meeting and program will be held Thursday, Aug. 23, in the O'Quinn Room of the Wharton Civic Center. The meat will be provided for the covered dish luncheon and members are asked to bring a vegetable or dessert. Please RSVP by calling Carol at 979-282-6090 or Robin at 282-6808.

Senior Friends to view Debra Duncan Show

How would you like to view the Debra Duncan Show from a seat at the Channel 13 studio? Senior Friends members will be going to the Debra Duncan Show Aug. 30, have lunch afterwards and possibly catch a movie at the AMC Theatre in First Colony (lunch and movie on your own). Cost is \$20. Let us know if you're interested in going by calling Carol at 979-282-6090 or Robin at 282-6808. Seating is limited!

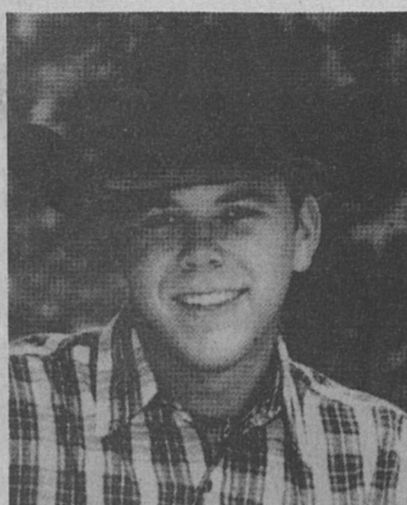
Colorado County Fair kicks off Aug. 25

The 23rd Annual Colorado County Fair, Sept. 13-16, will kick-off Saturday, Aug. 25, with a full slate of events at the Colorado County Ag Complex including a dance featuring Chris Chitsey.

Chitsey, one of Nashville's newest rising country talents, has gained national attention from his hit single, "With a Body Like That," which is now on the Top 40 list and earned the #9 spot on the Hottest Country Dance Tracks CCE Chart earlier this year.

Born and raised in Austin, Chitsey started singing in the choir at a very early age.

In high school, Chris became a big sports enthusiast, playing both foot-



Chris Chitsey

ball and baseball.

He began singing professionally while attending Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos where he recently graduated with a major in broadcasting and a minor in business administration.

Touring with a seven-piece band, Chitsey has opened for such acts as Tracy Byrd, Mark Chesnutt and Tracy Lawrence.

Signing with Premier Nashville Records last year, he completed his long-awaited first album, "Chris Chitsey," released in the fall of 2000.

Chitsey will perform under the pavilion at the Ag Complex with social hour beginning at 7:30 p.m. fol-

lowed by the dance at 8:30. A live auction will begin at 9:30 p.m., hosted by the Junior Fair Board along with a silent auction during the dance.

Though the dance is traditionally the highlight of the weekend, other kick-off activities have been added this year to include several events throughout the day.

Competition in the first Annual CASI Chili Cook-off will get underway at 11:30 a.m.

The cook-off also offers competition for beans and margaritas. For a complete set of rules and/or an entry form, contact Kathy Henneke at 979-732-9300 or 281-732-0953 or e-mail: (See Fair, Page 6)

Fine Arts Department offers three contests

Residents of Colorado County are invited to enter the Art Show, Photography Contest and the Western Art Contest to be held in conjunction with the County Fair, Sept. 13-16.

The Art Show will offer divisions for pre-school art, youth art from elementary through high school and for adult amateurs.

The show is open to all subject matter and media, including sculpture.

All work will be judged on its own individual merit.

First, second and third place ribbons will be given.

All blue ribbon works in each division will compete for a Best of Show rosette to be awarded the outstanding entry in each division.

Further information may be obtained from Art Show Chairman Deborah Petrosky at 979-732-3564.

The Photography Contest is open to youth and adults.

The youth will be divided into three groups: primary, ages four to eight; junior, ages nine to 13; and senior, ages 14 to 18.

The adult work will be grouped into three sections: amateur, semi-professional and professional.

Adult entries must be enlarged to 8x10 inches or larger.

Youth entries need not be enlarged but must be mounted or matted so they can be hung.

Additional information is available from Photography Contest Chairman Norma Draper at 732-6106.

All elementary, junior and senior high school students attending Colorado County schools are eligible to enter the Western Art Contest.

All works must depict a western theme. Elementary, junior high and high school work will be judged separately.

There will be three sections in the contest: illustrations, cartoons and three-dimensional work, such as sculptures made of clay or other types of constructions.

Students may enter one piece in each section.

There is no entry fee for the Western Art Contest.

Chairman Rita Ruffeno can be reached for additional information at home at 732-3223 or at her office at 732-3832.

Entry forms and Fair Catalogues with complete rules for all three contests are available from:

The County Extension Office and Potter's Western Store in Columbus, Weimar City Hall, First National Bank in Eagle Lake, Heinsohn's Store in Frelsburg, Bernardo Farm & Ranch Supply, Schultz's General Store in New Ulm, Larry's Super Service in Garwood, Nada Grocery and Sandy Creek Drive-In in Sheridan.

The deadline to pre-register entries in all three contests is Friday, Sept. 7, no exceptions.

Groundwater Conservation District...

Why should I want one?

By Bob Pickens, Temporary Director, Post Oak GCD

Note: This is the first of a series of articles which are written to provide a factual basis for the public discussion at town hall meetings to follow.

Why should I want a Groundwater Conservation District (GCD)? This is possibly the first thought you might have on hearing that Colorado County voters have the option of saying yes or no to the formation of a district on Nov. 6, 2001.

Let me try to set the stage in the play for Colorado County groundwater.

Whether we like it or not, projected population increase along with state drought planning have brought attention to our area's reported abundant groundwater.

According to an article in Scientific American last year, the world population has doubled from 3 billion in 1960 to 6 billion in 2000 and is projected to reach 10 billion by 2050. Close to home, the population of

Texas is projected to double over the next 50 years. Most of the increase in our region will occur in the existing metroplex areas centered on Houston, Austin and San Antonio.

Austin relies on surface water stored in Lakes Travis and Buchanan.

San Antonio is looking for new supplies to replace groundwater from the Edwards Aquifer.

Parts of Harris County are also looking for water supplies to replace their use of groundwater.

Recently, more pressure on surface water was added by an environmental group in San Marcos who filed for a portion of the stored water on the Guadalupe River to insure that there is enough water for the river environment and drainage into its bays and estuaries. If they succeed in getting this water, their action will impact the rest of the rivers in the state.

You may have read recently that the Rio Grande River no longer flows into the Gulf. There is a finite amount of surface water, which means that as

the population grows, water supplies become more critical. As the populations of these metroplexes increase, their need for more water supplies will send them to rural areas that reportedly have plenty of "unused" or "unnecessary" groundwater.

Although Colorado County had a 10.7% increase in population during the last 10 years, we are not projected to add significantly over the next 50 years.

Colorado County added 2,007 people from 1990 to 2000.

Of this number, 71% (1,416) was added in the unincorporated areas and 29% (591) was added to the incorporated cities of Columbus, Eagle Lake and Weimar.

Most of the unincorporated increase is thought to be in the hilly northwest part of the county.

As more and more of our wooded ranch land becomes fragmented through subdivision, there will be an increased number of straws placed in the aquifer. If the wells are concentrated in a small area, there will be an increased risk of water level decline if the producing water sands have limited volume.

Also, with additional wells, our springs may cease because of pressure decline brought about by increased production.

Entrepreneurs are eager to get leases in the prairie farmland, so that they can furnish northwest and west Harris County with water.

Speculators are reacting to the potential profitability of groundwater supplies as a result of the need for water brought on by this increase in population. They are trying to secure long term control over the groundwater through leases and land purchases.

A GCD is a governmental agency whose policy is set by an elected board of directors. We would elect its board of directors from the members of our community, just as we elect your commissioners' court.

The Post Oak GCD will have seven directors. Voters in each of the four precincts will elect one director and all of the voters will vote for three at-large directors who are given positions assigned to the cities of Columbus, Eagle Lake and Weimar. (See Groundwater, Page 8)

Kids do care

By Paul A. Kucherka

When we look at the older children in Eagle Lake in general, we think of things like nothing for them to do to keep them busy, they're not busy and they get into trouble or the kids just don't care about the happenings in Eagle Lake.

Well, I bring to you the story of two boys who stepped up to the challenge to do what was right.

While hanging out together one afternoon, being driven around by one of the boy's father, the three stopped at a local store to check on a cell phone.

The boys saw in the parking lot, a suspicious car with a "rough-looking" driver and a passenger in the back. Since the father didn't like the scene either, the three drove off for a short while.

When they came back, a third "rough-looking" character ran out of the store, hopped in the car and sped off. A woman came out of the store stating her purse had been stolen.

The boys, having had a good look at the car and passengers since they were parked next to them at the store, offered their services to the police. After taking statements, the police pulled out pictures and the kids identified the thieves. And, at a later time, made a positive ID on them as well.

To all of this I say, thank you boys for a job well done. Thank you for doing what was right. You could have easily done what most people do in a situation like this, turn their back and not get involved. Thank you again and I'm sure the owner of the returned purse appreciates it as well.

(All names withheld by request of the boys' parents and to protect the innocent).

Seals to coordinate Rice CISD mentor and volunteer program

Rice CISD has implemented the Mentor and Volunteer Program (MVP) beginning with the 2001-02



Venetta Seals

school year.

In order to plan and oversee the volunteer program, the Rice CISD School Board has employed a part-time coordinator, Mrs. Venetta Seals.

The MVP involves an individual from the community volunteering his or her time (such as an hour per week) to either meet with a student who has been specially selected to be mentored or by volunteering assistance in various areas.

Areas to consider include the library, office, cafeteria, media workroom, crossing guard or assisting with bus duty.

All of Rice CISD's communities' educational expectations are high. Therefore, the focus of the mentoring program is to meet and exceed these expectations and promote adult/parental involvement to help students achieve success.

Who can help?

Parents, guardians, grandparents... anyone interested in helping!

What is required?

A mentor-volunteer sign up sheet, a criminal history check (required in Board Policy), a signed confidentiality statement and sexual harassment statement and a short training session.

This community-to-school based program is a valuable component in the successful partnership between Rice CISD and its communities.

If you are willing to donate your time by volunteering at any Rice CISD campus, please contact Seals, Mentor and Volunteer Coordinator, at 979-234-6933; or contact the campus of your choice.

You CAN make a difference in the life of a child!