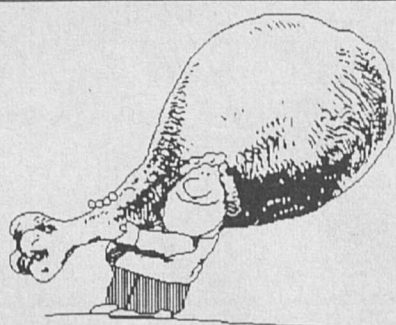


An early message...

Have A Safe & Enjoyable Thanksgiving



Eagle Lake Headlight

Nov. 15, 2001

(USPS 163-760)
Volume 98, No. 35
10 Pages Plus 3 Inserts
Eagle Publishing, Inc.
P.O. Box 67 — 220 E. Main St.
Eagle Lake, Texas 77434-0067
979-234-5521

35¢ PER COPY

NEWSBRIEFS

Caravan, tailgate party planned

Caravan to the game this Friday night in Magnolia and bring along food for a tailgate party at the stadium. Meet at 4:30 p.m. in the area next to Austin's BBQ with decorated vehicles or come early and get yours done.

Lighted Christmas parade is Dec. 1

The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce Lighted "Spirit of Christmas 2001" Parade is set for Saturday, Dec. 1. Line up will be from 4:30 to 5:20 p.m.; judging, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Parade time is 6:45. For more information on the parade or to get an entry form, call 979-234-2780.

Want to be blessed?

Why not join all the folks at the Lighthouse, 200 Ice St. in Eagle Lake, every Saturday night for Saturday Night Live with Jesus. There's live music, praise and worship. Everything starts at 7 p.m. The event is hosted by Little David Ministries. For more information, call 281-347-2794. See ya there!

RHS Drama Club needs your help

Rice High School is getting ready to work on "The Dairy of Anne Frank" for its One Act Play entry. If you have any of the following items and would be prepared to lend them to the Drama Dept., they would be grateful: men's, women's and children's clothes from the 1940s (including hats, shoes, belts, vests, cardigans, suits, skirts, blouses and jewelry); an old love seat, wooden chairs (the older and more broken down the better), wooden crates, a standing lamp (preferably that works), old quilts and blankets. Please call Deborah Reed at 234-2601 to arrange pickup.

NHS to hold bake sale Saturday

The Rice High School National Honor Society (NHS) will sponsor a bake sale Saturday, Nov. 17. Please come out to B&B Foods in Eagle Lake or the Nada Grocery from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and help support this organization.

St. Mary's Youth Fall Festival is Sunday

St. Mary's Youth Fall Festival will be held Sunday, Nov. 18, at the Nada Community Center beginning with a variety shoot from 1 to 4 p.m. After 4, hamburgers, chili, desserts and other refreshments will be sold. Festivities include bingo, cake walk, games, silent auction and a Christmas craft booth. A drawing for 27 nice prizes will be held at 8 p.m. to conclude the evening.

Thrift Shop open Saturday

The Prairie Edge Museum Thrift Shop will be open Saturday, Nov. 17, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Stop on by. You never know what you'll find!

Senior Friends Pre-Thanksgiving bake sale

A Pre-Thanksgiving Senior Friends bake sale will be held Wednesday, Nov. 21, in the Gulf Coast Medical Center cafeteria beginning at 7 a.m. and ending that morning (when all is sold). The funds raised will be matched by the Aid for the Association of Lutherans and used for transportation on Senior Friends trips. Please call Carol at 979-282-6090 or Robin at 282-6808 if you can bring a pie, cake or cookies for the sale.

Defensive driving course is Nov. 27, 28

A state-approved six-hour defensive driving course had been scheduled by retired DPS Sgt. Gilbert Kiel for Nov. 27 and 28 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Wintermann Library in Eagle Lake. To pre-register, call 979-234-5411 or arrive a few minutes early the first evening for registration. Completion of the course can be used for a dismissal of a traffic violation and/or discount on auto insurance for a three year period.

ELPA to sponsor lecture

Have you ever thought about getting a historical marker for your building, home or ancestor? Eagle Lake Preservation Alliance (ELPA) Inc. will host a lecture given by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) Nov. 27 at 6 p.m. at the McCreary Auction House, 201 S. McCarty Ave., Eagle Lake. Speakers will include Dan Utley and Geron Hite. ELPA will also host a follow up workshop given by the THC at a later date. For more information, call 979-234-6848 or talk to any ELPA member.

Community Thanksgiving Service is Nov. 18

The Catholic Parish of the Nativity will host the Ministerial Alliance of Eagle Lake Community Thanksgiving Service Sunday, Nov. 18, at 7 p.m. in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Sanctuary, 308 N. Stevenson St., Eagle Lake.

La Parroquia Católica de la Natividad será la anfitriona del Servicio Comunitario de Acción de Gracias de la Alianza Ministerial de Eagle Lake el domingo, noviembre, 18 a las 7 p.m. en el Templo de Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 308 N. Stevenson St., Eagle Lake.

Booster Club to meet Nov. 26

The Rice Raider Booster Club will meet Monday, Nov. 26, at the high school. All parents and fans of girls and boys sports from seventh grade through varsity should attend.

Senior Friends to visit Brenham

Senior Friends are invited to a Poinsettia Celebration at Ellison's Greenhouse in Brenham this Friday, Nov. 16. Tour the greenhouses, view thousands of poinsettias in bloom and see new varieties of poinsettias and mums. A visit to the Blue Bell Creamery and early Christmas shopping on the courthouse square are also slated. Cost is \$35 (includes lunch). Call Carol at 979-282-6090 or Robin at 282-6808 if interested.

WCJC holding registration

Wharton County Junior College (WCJC) is holding Spring 2002 registration. (See Newsbriefs, Page 6)

Raiders lose overtime heartbreaker to Sealy, 21-20

Rice Raider Head Football Coach Russell Roark made a gutsy decision in overtime Friday night.

With the Raiders trailing 21-20, Roark went for two instead of choosing to send the game into double-overtime. The gamble fell short as tailback Gerald Williams was stopped at the one-yard line to end the game.

In a contest dominated statistically by the Raiders in yardage gained, Rice uncharacteristically turned the ball over three times, including two critical fumbles deep inside Tiger territory.

The final fumble came with 1:14 left in the game, with the score tied at 14-14, and the Raiders on the Tiger 23-yard line.

Coach Roark, "I'll take the blame for this loss. But we had to look at all options, and the staff and I thought it was a pretty easy decision to go for two. If we made it, we win 22-21 and go 10-0 and undisputed district champs. If we didn't make it, we still go to the playoffs as the number one seed, and still district champs."

"But, it still hurts pretty badly to lose one like that. Hopefully, we'll pull together and get stronger from this loss and make a great showing in the playoffs. We're looking forward to the playoffs."

Gatorade Player of the Game honors went to tailback/free safety Gerald Williams. After being out over three weeks with a knee injury, Williams exploded for 126 yards rushing and one touchdown. He also led the Raiders' defensively with 14 tackles, high total for the 2001 season.

Defensive Player of the Week honors were shared by linebacker Jerry Cleveland and cornerback Adrian Middleton. Cleveland had six tackles, while Middleton had two, two passes broken up, one fumble caused and a solid game in coverage.

Offensive Player of the Week honors went to massive offensive lineman Norris Powell. Powell dominated

the Sealy defensive line opening up holes for Williams (126 yards) and Conrad Diggs (88 yards). He also added some spark to the defensive line as well.

Come join the caravan to Magnolia Friday, as the district champion Raiders take on the Trojans of Cold Spring.

Regular Season Composite Stats

Season Record: 9-1 District Record: 5-1

Passing Att./Comp. % Yds. TDs Int.

P. Milentz 70/28 40 576 6 1

J. Barrow 1/1 100 29 1 0

Total 71/29 41 605 7 1

Receiving Caught Yds. Avg. TDs

J. Barrow 7 125 17.9 0

A. Middleton 5 144 28.8 3

B. Ortiz 5 54 10.8 0

J. Upson 3 141 47.0 2

M. Cooper 2 100 50.0 2

R. Cunningham 2 23 11.5 0

G. Williams 2 12 6.0 0

Others 3 6 2.0 0

Total 29 605 20.9 7

Rushing Carries Yds. Avg. TDs

C. Diggs 164 1,262 7.7 13

G. Williams 59 507 8.6 8

J. Cleveland 45 252 5.6 2

M. Spears 40 206 5.2 3

B. Gears 13 111 8.5 2

T. Dabney 11 81 7.4 1

P. Milentz 31 0 0 5

Others 42 311 7.4 6

Total 402 2,715 6.8 40

Scoring TDs FG PAT 2-Pt. Tot.

C. Diggs 13 5 19 3 84

P. Milentz 5 1 19 3 52

G. Williams 5 1 19 3 50

J. Upson 8 0 0 0 18

M. Spears 3 0 0 0 18

A. Middleton 3 0 0 0 18

Others 13 7 5 37

Total 50 1 26 9 347

Avg. yards per game, 368.9; avg. points per game, 38.6.

(See Tax, Page 6)

YTD 01 YTD 00 YTD 99 YTD 98 YTD 97

YTD 96 YTD 95

The year-to-date sales tax rebate totals for the City of Eagle Lake (above) and Rice Hospital District (below) are charted according to the month the tax was collected, not the month the rebate was received.

YTD 01 YTD 00 YTD 99 YTD 98

YTD 97

YTD 96

YTD 95

YTD 94

YTD 93

YTD 92

YTD 91

YTD 90

YTD 89

YTD 88

YTD 87

YTD 86

YTD 85

YTD 84

YTD 83

YTD 82

YTD 81

YTD 80

YTD 79

YTD 78

YTD 77

YTD 76

YTD 75

YTD 74

YTD 73

YTD 72

YTD 71

YTD 70

YTD 69

YTD 68

YTD 67

YTD 66

YTD 65

YTD 64

YTD 63

YTD 62

YTD 61

YTD 60

Eagle Lake's sales tax rebate up slightly

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander recently sent \$291.9 million in local sales tax revenue to 1,113 Texas cities and 119 counties. Nov. sales tax allocations are up 3.6% compared to Nov. 2000.

The allocations represent sales taxes collected in Sept. by monthly filers and in July, Aug. and Sept. by quarterly filers.

However, Rylander said if it had not been for changes in sales tax law and application (the biggest of which was new or increased sales taxes in 46 local jurisdictions), Sept. 2001 sales tax collections would have been almost identical to Sept. 2000 sales tax revenue. Thirty-eight cities, one county and seven special purpose districts either imposed new sales tax or increased their sales tax rates since Sept. 2000.

"These local sales tax figures confirm, even more strongly, what our state sales tax figures showed last week. The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks reduced sales tax collections for a few days, but we bounced back," Rylander said.

"For a few days in Sept., people stayed home, watched television and worried about the world situation," she added. "But confident, resilient, defiant Texans soon returned to living their lives and conducting their business as usual. The Nov. sales tax rebates I sent to Texas Communities reflect a slower Texas economy, but a minimal overall impact from the events of Sept. 11."

The City of Eagle Lake's allocation was \$14,917.35, up 3.52% from the \$14,409.99 received last Nov.

Nov. sales tax rebates include \$271.1 million to Texas cities, up

3.7% compared to Nov. 2000. Texas counties received rebates of \$20.8 million, up 3.3% compared to a year ago. Year-to-date, sales tax rebates to cities and counties are up 5.1% compared to 2000.

In addition to city and county sales tax rebates, \$92.9 million went to Texas' six metropolitan transit authorities and two city transit systems; and \$9.2 million was paid to 59 special purpose districts.

One of those special purpose districts, Rice Hospital District, received \$11,072.25, up 13.72% from the \$9,735.65 received last Nov.

State sales tax revenue dropped by 1% in Sept., compared to Sept. 2000. The 3.6% increase in local sales tax revenue is a statewide average. For example, Houston's Sept. sales tax collections rose 7% compared to the same period last year. McAllen's rose 4.2% and Ft. Worth's, 0.9%. Of the 20 Texas cities that receive the greatest amount of sales tax revenue, only six saw declines: Dallas, Austin, El Paso, Irving, Amarillo and Round Rock.

For details sales tax payments to individual cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts, locate the Monthly Sales and Use Tax Allocation Comparison Summary Report on the Comptroller's web site at <www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/allocsum/compsum.html>

Other cities in the Eagle Lake area and the amount of their sales tax rebate this month are:

Columbus, \$84,268.60, up 1.11%; Weimar, \$22,168.28, up 70.98%; Sealy, \$147,021.91, up 42.32%; Bellville, \$58,369.76, +10.73%; El Campo, \$209,998.58, up 6.81%; and Wharton, \$131,034.58, +6.51%.

Year-to-date for the above cities and the change from last year are: Columbus, \$758,037.97, +5.33%; Weimar, \$193,596.43, +37.06%; Sealy, \$970,979.35, -4.23%; Bellville, \$471,129.77, +12.64%; El Campo, \$1,950,304.87, +4.48%; and Wharton, \$1,140,300.46, +8.16%.

On the county level, Colorado County received \$65,452.37, up 5.90%.

Hutchison updates mail situation in DC

Because of the presence of anthrax in the Hart Senate Office Building, all mail delivery to Capitol Hill was stopped Oct. 16, according to Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison.

"I want to make sure Texans know not to expect responses if they mailed a letter to any member of Congress in Washington," Hutchison said. "Until mail delivery resumes, the best way to let me know your opinions on legislation is to send an email or regular mail to my regional offices."

Constituents can use the email link from the senator's web page, www.senate.gov/~hutchison, or send an email to senator@hutchison.senate.gov. They can also call any of her offices in Texas or her Washington office at 202-224-5922.

"I encourage anyone who wants to know my views to visit my web site."

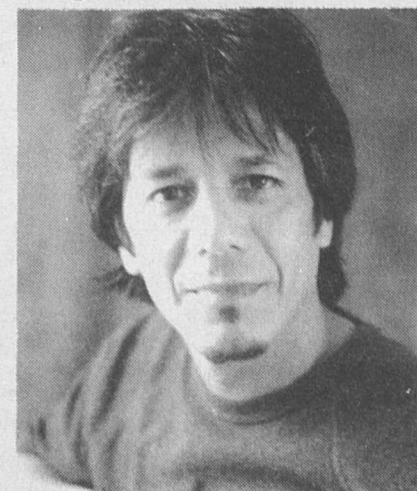
Come, enjoy and participate!

Joel Guzman, accordion master, will be making presentations this week at the following locations:

Thursday, Nov. 15: Eagle Lake Primary School, Lions Club, Tom Waddell Outdoor Nature Club and Eagle Hill Inn & Retreat for a jam session;

Friday, Nov. 16: Rice High School, Main Street Eagle Lake, Taco Tony's for a jam session;

Saturday, Nov. 17: Colorado County Juvenile Boot Camp, Free Concert, "Guzman at the Gazebo", 4-6 p.m., Eagle Lake Municipal Park,



Hwy. 90 (inclement weather, Eagle Lake Community Center).

Sunday, Nov. 18: Parish of the Nativity Catholic Church (all three masses), Providence Baptist Church, Heritage House Nursing Home, and the Ministerial Alliance Thanksgiving Community Service.

Monday, Nov. 19: Colorado County Juvenile Detention Center.

All presentations are free of charge. Please call the Main Street Office at 234-6933 for a complete schedule of times; or you may pick up a schedule at City Hall.



WEEKLY MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING REPORT

The following report, produced for Texas Parks and Wildlife by Bink Grimes, was last updated Nov. 7.

Coastal Prairies: Goose hunting has been excellent in the rice fields of Katy, Eagle Lake, El Campo, Garwood, Altair, Lissie, Brookshire, Winnie, Nome and Devers.

Most outfitters have said they have never seen so many snow geese here this early in the season. However, lack of commercial hunting has lessened the pressure on the light geese.

Decoying action for snows and specklebellies has been excellent.

Duck hunting is good on flooded flats, however, duck numbers are beginning to thin out with continued mild weather. The region needs another push of cold air to bring new migrants to ponds and waterways.

Pintails, gadwalls, teal, widgeons and shovelers have comprised most of the strays.

Prospects are good for duck and excellent for geese.