

# RAIDER REVIEW

The Raider Review is published by the Journalism Department of Rice High School. The opinions reflected are those of the students and not the administration nor The Eagle Lake Headlight unless otherwise stated.

## A survivor: J.L.'s Story

By Kinsey Hoffman

During the months of July and August, J.L. Miller, a student at Rice High, was fighting for his life.

J.L. is a student in the Life Skills Program and is mentally and physically challenged. He had been in need of a very risky surgery that would put his life in danger.

J.L. had a 130% curve in his back, which needed to be corrected. If left neglected his back would slowly injure his heart and lungs.

J.L.'s mother held off on the surgery as long as possible. She knew that his bones are very fragile and the number of doctors willing to perform this surgery on J.L. would be limited.

Clifford, J.L.'s brother, had the very same surgery at the age of five. His back was corrected from 114% to a 30% curve. J.L.'s back did not start to curve until he was nine years old so the surgery was put off until it was absolutely needed.

Lisa Tise, J.L.'s mother, began a very long search to find a doctor who would perform the surgery. Almost every doctor she found would not perform the operation because of

J.L.'s weak bones and mostly because they thought he would not survive the operation. Also, many doctors believe that J.L. will not have a very long life span. However, his mother was determined to find the right doctor to correct the curve in J.L.'s back.

Finally Mrs. Tise succeeded and found a doctor that would perform the surgery. J.L. arrived at Texas Children's Hospital on July 17 and headed down a long treacherous road.

After seven long hours, the surgery was completed.

He was put in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) for a week and a half and during this time he was put on life support. He then moved upstairs to the Progressive Care Unit (PCU). During this time he aspirated on medicine which caused him to have pneumonia and his lung collapsed.

Unfortunately, J.L. was put back in the ICU for two weeks and was on life support during some of this time.

As he checked back into the PCU, he had yet another incident. He choked on food and was given the Heimlich Maneuver.

After seven long weeks, J.L. was released to go home. His mother was by his side the whole time along with her husband who came whenever he could. She slept on hard chairs in waiting rooms and spent long hours just trying to comfort J.L.

J.L. was sent home with a feeding tube, breathing machine and suction machine. He had to learn how to chew and swallow all over again.

As he arrived home, his recovery progressed. J.L. still has complications with his back. He still has a curve of 70% but is doing very well at this time. The doctors had to put wires in his back because of the weak bones. This is not the best method but it will work.

His mother is very happy to report he only has to use the breathing machine twice a day, which allows him to come to school a full day.

J.L. underwent a very traumatic operation and is alive and doing great today. J.L. definitely is a true survivor.

Everyone at Rice High School welcomes J.L. back and hopes for his continued progress.

## Manicures, pedicures, facials & more

By Jessica Thomas

Friday, Nov. 2, the 19 members of the Rice High School Cosmetology Class had their first workday for the year.

The purpose of the workday is to allow the students to practice the skills they've learned so far this year, and to provide a service to the community. They normally have one workday per semester.

The workday consisted of manicures, pedicures, facials, arches and some glitzing.

The Cosmetology class will be competing in a local contest against Sealy this year after attending a workday with them.

Cosmetology sponsor Veronica Villafuerte is very pleased with the size of the class this year and really impressed with all the great work done by the students.



Top to bottom, left to right, Deborah McTear, Nicki Maxie; Christina Cuneo, Alma Gonzales, Rosa Hercules, Angelica Molina, Marquita Johnson, Davana McTear; Consuelo Montemayor, Crystal Ramirez, Imelda Posada, Lisa Rangel, Daisy Granillo, Melinda Cavazos; Julia Llanos, Desirea Botard and Lizette Pasohondo. Not pictured is Danisha Reggins.

**Go, Raiders!  
Freeze Out  
Coldspring!**



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