

Legionnaires kick off toy drive

American Legion members in Eagle Lake Post 108 have kicked off the drive for toys and/or cash with which to buy toys for children in needy homes.

Bags full of toys are being prepared for the annual give-away to be held in the Prairie Edge Museum Saturday, Dec. 22.

Parents or guardians may get toys for the children in needy homes from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Museum

on E. Main St. It is not necessary to bring the children.

Registration will be required on the day of the toy give-away but only parents or guardians will be allowed to register the children.

New and usable toys are being collected now until Friday, Dec. 21. If you would like to donate toys or cash or checks with which to buy toys, they may be left at (See Toys, Page 3)

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NEWSBRIEFS

Senior Citizen's Dance is Friday

The public is invited to a Senior Citizen's "Christmas" Dance, a place to meet old and new friends, Friday, Dec. 7, from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Music will be provided by Daniel and The Boys. Admission is \$5 per person. For more information, call 979-234-3795.

Parish of the Nativity to hold garage sale

The Parish of the Nativity will hold a garage sale Saturday, Dec. 8, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Sanctuary at the corner of Guadalupe and Murphy St. from 9 a.m. to noon.

Reminder to sewer customers

In order to calculate residential sewer rates for the upcoming year, the City of Eagle Lake will be considering water consumptions of each customer from Dec. 16 through March 15. Customers are encouraged to fix any water leaks as soon as possible in an effort to keep water consumptions at a minimum during this time. Each residential sewer rate is based on the actual water consumed at that particular location. If you have any questions, please call City Hall at 234-2640.

CCCAD representative to visit Dec. 19

A representative of the Colorado County Central Appraisal District (CCCAD) will be in Eagle Lake on Wednesday, Dec. 19 at City Hall from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to collect 2001 taxes. For more information, you may call the CCCAD at 979-732-8222.

Rice CISD to close of Christmas holiday

Rice Consolidated ISD will be closed for Christmas break from Dec. 22 through Jan. 4. The office will re-open on Monday, Jan. 7, 2002. Students will return to class Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2002.

Study Club meeting is Dec. 12

The Eagle Lake Study Club will hold their monthly meeting Wednesday, Dec. 12, at 2 p.m. at the Wintermann Library. New Beginnings with Patty Holloway as leader, will present skits, music, a program and Christmas party. You're invited to attend and bring a friend.

Winter Rice Meeting is Dec. 13

The Colorado County Winter Rice Meeting will be held Thursday, Dec. 13, at 8 a.m. at the Lehrer Interests Building in Garwood. Speakers will include Drs. Arlen Klosterboer, Fred Turner and Larry Falconer and Texas Dept. of Agriculture Inspector Melissa Barton. One CEU in Laws and Regulations and one in General will be offered for private applicator re-certification.

GCA sponsoring yard decorating contest

The Garwood Community Association is sponsoring a Christmas Yard Decorating Contest to be judged Dec. 19. Deadline for entering your yard is Dec. 17. Please call Gay or Laurie at 758-3476 or Alice at 758-3249 to enter. First, second and third prize will be awarded for the best decorations.

ELMS PTO meeting is Dec. 11

The Eagle Lake Middle School (ELMS) PTO meeting will be held Tuesday, Dec. 11, at 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. The theme of the meeting is "IMPROVEMENT MOVEMENT", setting goals to improve the school.

Miss Christian Teen Pageant is Dec. 15

Mt. Moriah Baptist Church invites you to the First Miss Christian Teen Pageant Saturday, Dec. 15, at 6 p.m. in the Sealy High School Auditorium. Special guests will be Porter Chapel Anointed Choir of Dobbin, Rev. Douglas Franklin and The Anointed Crusade Choir of Navasota and His Anointed Voices of Houston. The event will also feature Sis. Paula Richardson of Eagle Lake. For more information, call 936-825-6354, 281-342-7557 or 281-438-8618.

Retired teachers meeting is Dec. 17

Attention retired school personnel and teachers of Colorado County! The Dec. meeting has been changed to Monday, Dec. 17, at Schobels' Restaurant at noon. Please bring your volunteer hours. These are very important for the organization. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please send your volunteer hours by someone who will attend. Columbus is the host town. For more information, call Betty Wegenhoft at 979-758-3361.

Take your picture with Santa Saturday

Do you want to have a picture of your loved one with Santa but want to avoid the traffic and crowds of the city? Well we have a great solution for you. Santa will be at the Norris Building on Main St. Saturday, Dec. 8, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. He will be taking pictures with the young and young at heart of the communities. Come by and say hello. This will make a wonderful gift for those on your shopping list. Nava Photography Studio will be taking these great pictures for a nominal fee. Santa is being sponsored by The Eagle Lake Preservation Alliance Inc.

WCJC to present holiday concert

Wharton County Junior College (WCJC) Music Department invites you to attend the 27th Annual Candlelight Holy Days Concert Thursday, Dec. 6, at 7:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Wharton. This year's program will include music by the WCJC Concert Choir, a vocal ensemble from Dawson Elementary School, the First United Methodist Church Handbell Choir and vocal and instrumental soloists.



WEEKLY MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING REPORT

The following report, produced for Texas Parks and Wildlife by Bink Grimes, was updated Dec. 5.

COASTAL PRAIRIES: Duck hunting should be good when the South Zone resumes Dec. 8. Flooded flats in Eagle Lake, El Campo, Garwood and Wharton are holding gadwalls, pintails, widgeons, teal and mallards.

North Zone hunting in Katy, Winnie, Devers and Liberty has been good since the recent front. Heavy rains earlier in the week have water standing in fields, which should scatter birds temporarily. The positive side of

the rain is it will recharge roost ponds and decrease the odds of a cholera outbreak.

Goose hunting has been average with light winds and high skies. Hunters did well in the rain and low ceiling, though conditions were less than desirable for waterfowlers hunkering in soggy fields.

Specklebellies are becoming tougher to hunt. Some hunters have said the specks are "call-shy" and are decoying better with silence or a snow goose call.

Prospects are good for ducks and fair to good for geese.

Giddings ends season for Raiders

The Rice Raiders dream season came to a halt Friday when they lost to a very talented Giddings Buffalo football team.

In front of 8,000 loud fans at Kyle Field on the campus of Texas A&M, the Raiders sputtered in the first half, committing four turnovers, and fell to the Buffaloes 24-8.

After the third of four first half turnovers, Giddings took a 16-0 lead into the half, while Rice only had the ball for 15 plays and six minutes.

Giddings capitalized on big pass plays and a slew of Raider penalties (14) to build their lead.

Stats were somewhat misleading in this game as Giddings rang up 249 yards of offense; Rice had 217 yards.

Rice, behind big plays by Gerald Williams and Michael Spears, also had over 120 yards in punt and kickoff returns.

The Raiders had a season high 163 yards passing, mostly when back-up

Nick Sharp took over when starter Patrick Milentz went down with a knee injury. Sharp completed four passes for 104 yards including some big plays via the scramble.

Fullback Conrad Diggs, who finishes the season with 1,491 yards and 18 touchdowns, led the Raiders with only 39 yards rushing. Diggs finishes his high school career with over 3,500 yards rushing, along with 35 touchdowns.

Defensively, linebackers Jerry Cleveland and Jermal Wright both had all-state caliber performances. They, along with safety Gerald Williams, combined for 40 tackles, which was almost two-thirds of the team totals.

Coach Russell Roark, finishing out his fifth season as the Raiders' head coach, was disappointed, yet proud of his troops.

"I'm very disappointed in this loss. We made far too many mental mistakes and had far too many penal-

ties to have a chance to win. Our team played extremely hard physically, but we weren't ready to play mentally.

"Overall, everyone is hurt and disappointed, but we also have an awful

lot to be proud of this season. I think our players represented Rice High School and our communities with heart and pride.

(See Varsity, Page 8)

Numerous Raiders named to All-District

The Rice Raiders were high on the list of players chosen to the 24-3A All-District Football team.

The Raiders were not the only ones receiving high honors this year. Chosen as Coach of the Year was Rice's own Russell Roark.

Making First Team All-District were linemen Norris Powell, unanimous choice (U); Trent Korenek (U), Quentin Whitfield and Adrian Espinosa; running back Conrad Diggs (U); receiver Ben Ortiz; inside linebackers

(See District, Page 8)

LCRA returns pieces of history to FNB

LCRA employees recently discovered an interesting bit of history in Eagle Lake while digging through construction records of an irrigation pumping plant built here during the early years of the community's rice farming industry.

Two 80-year-old blank checks from the First National Bank of Eagle Lake were clipped to the original engineering plans for a plant expansion project in the 1920s. Years before, someone had used the checks as scraps of paper to sketch field drawings of architectural and engineering details for the project.

Paul Thornhill, LCRA executive manager of Water Services, in Nov. presented framed copies of the checks to Bill Harrison Jr., president of the bank, and John H. Matthews, a director of the bank and a member of the LCRA Board. The original checks must remain with the official construction records.

The Lakeside Irrigation Company of Eagle Lake built the pumping plant at the turn of the century and expanded it in the early 1920s, according to construction records. The pumping plant originally used a steam engine most (See History, Page 6)



Bill Harrison Jr., (left), president of First National Bank of Eagle Lake, and John H. Matthews, bank director and LCRA Board member, hold a framed display of historical blank checks found in LCRA's construction archives in Eagle Lake. Photo Courtesy of LCRA

Eagle Lake Chamber's 'Lighted Christmas Parade' draws entries from across the area

Over 25 entries helped spread the spirit of Christmas to all who lined Main Street Saturday, Dec. 1.

Serving as judges for this year's parade were Doreen Dispart, Dr. Ra-

mon Cantu, Vivian Metzger and Wanda Webb.

Serving as emcee again this year was Lynda Appelt Evans.

The parade kicked off the local

VFW presenting the colors followed by the playing of the National Anthem.

Elizabeth Waddell, the 2001 Parade Marshall accompanied by her sons Davis and John, was recognized at the reviewing stand and presented a plaque and bouquet of flowers.

Top finishers in this year's parade were:

First Place entry in the individual family division and Best Overall entry went to Hudson the Wonder Goat pulling a four wheel wagon; second, The Sunshine Club; and third, The Blue Dot Hunting Club.

In the chamber of commerce division, first place went to the Ellinger Chamber of Commerce.

Winning first place in commercial was Rice Medical Center; second, Tim Kelley's Waterfowl Outfitters; and third, Big Daddy's Restaurant and Catering.

In the service division, first went to Cub Scout Pack 3078; second, the Eagle Lake Fire Department entry, the 1923 American La France Fire Truck,

which carried Santa, Mrs. Clause and the elf; and third to Xi Pi Psi.

Taking top honors in the marching division was Colorado County Boot Camp; second, Sherri's Starlight Twirlers; and third, Keller Academy of Performing Arts.

In the school division, St. Anthony School cheerleaders took first; while Rice High School's student council garnered second.

Living Hope Church again this year took first place; and Rock Island United Methodist Church took second.

In the decorated auto division, first place went to Dreams of Reality Car Club; second, a decorated tricycle; and third, dancing cars. Honorable Mention went to Colorado County Clerk Darlene Hayek.

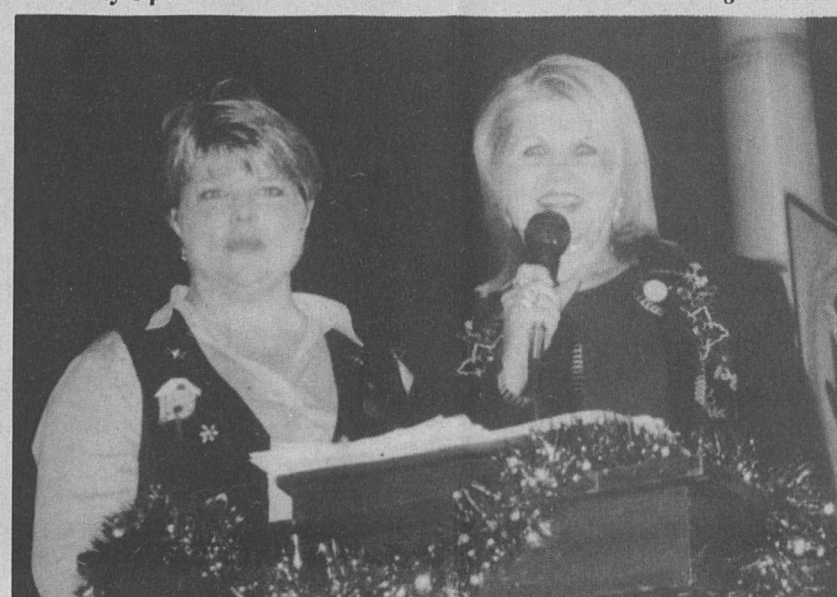
The Colorado County Fair Float carrying the County's royalty won first place in the County Fair division.

We hope the parade of 2002 will be bigger and better.

Thanks to all who participated and made the parade a success.



Hudson, the Wonder Goat, and his two companions took Best Overall in Saturday's parade. Headlight Photos



Chamber of Commerce Secretary Lana Dulany, at left, and Lynda Appelt Evans, emcee for the parade.



John and Davis Waddell, at far left and right respectively, accompanied their mother, Liz Waddell who was this year's Marshall. Presenting Liz with flowers and a plaque are Chamber President Mary Ann Kaluza.