

CPR course being offered

An American Red Cross course in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is being offered Jan. 23 and 24 from 6 to 10 p.m. at City Hall. Training will include, adult, child and infant CPR skills.

This course will give individuals the knowledge and skills necessary to recognize and provide basic care for injuries and sudden illnesses until advanced medical personnel arrive and take over.

Successful course completion requires full participation in classroom and skill sessions, as well as successful performance in skill and knowledge evaluations. This course is for individuals who have never had CPR training or those whose training has expired.

The course fee is \$15. Call Judy at 979-234-5208 to register. **Registration deadline is Jan. 21.** Wear comfortable clothing; you will be working on the floor.

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NEWSBRIEFS

Eagle Lake KC dinner is Sunday

The Eagle Lake Knights of Columbus Council #4843 will be serving a chicken fried steak dinner Sunday, Jan. 20, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Andrew Hall, corner of Murphy and Guadalupe. Tickets for plates to go only are \$6 each and maybe purchased from any KC member or in the serving line. Proceeds benefit the scholarship fund and local charities.

Rice CISD Art Open House

A Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (HLS&R) Art Open House preview of Rice CISD Rodeo entries will be held Wednesday, Jan. 16, from 3 to 6 p.m. in the commons area of the high school. Stop by and take a look at the entries from talented students in the Rice CISD.

No trash collection Jan. 21

The offices of the City of Eagle Lake will be closed for Martin Luther King Day, Monday, Jan. 21. There will be no trash collection that day. Monday's route will be collected Tuesday, Jan. 22, and Tuesday's route will be collected Wednesday.

Need your Xi Pi Psi calendar?

Anyone who has not received their Xi Pi Psi Community Calendar, please contact Connie Lange at 234-7302.

RHS Junior Class fundraiser is Jan. 29

The Rice High School Junior Class will hold a fundraiser Tuesday, Jan. 29. The dinner includes beef fajitas, rice, beans and pico de gallo for \$6 per plate, catered by Oakridge Smokehouse. Your choice of pick-up locations is RHS cafeteria, Eagle Lake Middle School, Garwood School and Sheridan School from 5 to 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact any junior class member or Andrea Contreras at 234-3239.

Benefit to be held Saturday

A benefit lunch for Mike Rivera Jr., a cancer patient, will be held Saturday, Jan. 19, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Andrew Hall (behind Guadalupe Church). The \$5 lunch will consist of carne guisada, rice, beans, pico de gallo and homemade tortillas. Menudo and other goodies will also be sold. For more information, call Mona Garcia at 234-3556; Letty Delgado, 758-4533; or Desi Rivera. The money collected will be used to defray Mike's medical expenses.

RMC Blood drive is Jan. 22

Rice Medical Center (RMC) will hold a blood drive Tuesday, Jan. 22, in the hospital visitors parking lot from 2:30 to 7 p.m. Call Barbara Pidgeon (at home) 979-234-2897 or (at work) 234-5571 for an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome.

Little League registration underway

The Rice Little League will hold registration Saturday Jan. 19, at the Eagle Lake Little League Field from 9 to 10 a.m. You may also pick up a registration form at Johnny's Sport Shop. Students from Garwood and Sheridan interested in playing little league may pick up forms at their respective schools. For more information, call Bryan Wiese at 979-234-7469.

Study Club planning museum tour

The Eagle Lake Study Club is sponsoring a bus trip to Austin Wednesday, April 10, to tour the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum. Details of the trip are incomplete at this time, but a group of at least 40 persons is needed to charter a bus for transportation. Anyone interested in making this tour with the Study Club is invited to call Fair Wells at 979-234-3105 or Betty Wilcox at 234-3554. Further details on the trip will be available in a few weeks.

CCA meeting is Jan. 24

Combined Community Action Inc. (CCA) will hold its board of directors meeting Thursday, Jan. 24, at 6:30 p.m. in La Grange at the La Grange Senior Center, 275 S. Ellinger Road. The public is invited to attend the meeting.

Thrift Shop to open Saturday

The Prairie Edge Museum Thrift Shop will be open Saturday, Jan. 19, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Stop by the Thrift Shop, you never know what you'll find.

Family strengthening workshop starts Jan. 28

Colorado County Youth & Family Services will present a Family Strengthening Workshop for parents Monday, Jan. 28, through Monday, March 4. Classes will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at 1336 Fannin in Columbus and cover topics such as communication skills needed for family growth, ways to express yourself positively, developmental stages for children and how to see your children's point of views. During the group sessions, a light snack will be provided. No childcare will be provided, so please make other arrangements. For more information or to register for the classes, call 979-732-8355 or 1-800-256-7321.

GED classes are underway

GED classes are being held at the Eagle Lake Middle School Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the library. For more information, call 234-3501.

ELPS PTO meeting is Jan. 29

The Eagle Lake Primary School will hold its PTO meeting Tuesday, Jan. 29, from 6 to 7 p.m. in the school cafeteria. This "Family Fun Night" will include a talent show, refreshments and a door prize give-away. All parents and their children are urged to attend.

(See Newsbriefs, Page 6)

Espinosa invited to play football in Australia

Adrian Espinosa, member of the Rice Raider 2001 football team, has been invited by International Sports Specialist Inc (ISSI) and the Queensland Government of Australia to be part of the Texas All-Star football team at the 14th Annual Novotel Beachcomber Down Under Bowl in Australia.

He has been chosen to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime program along with other football players throughout the state.

Adrian was selected by the ISSI

state coach because of his contributions to the community and other achievements or because he was recognized on either a pre-season or post-season honors list. This invitation is exclusive to high school seniors.

The Novotel Beachcomber Down Under Bowl is an annual event hosted in Australia or New Zealand each June and July. All-Star football players from Texas, along with All-Star football players from other states, will come together for an unforgettable cultural experience.



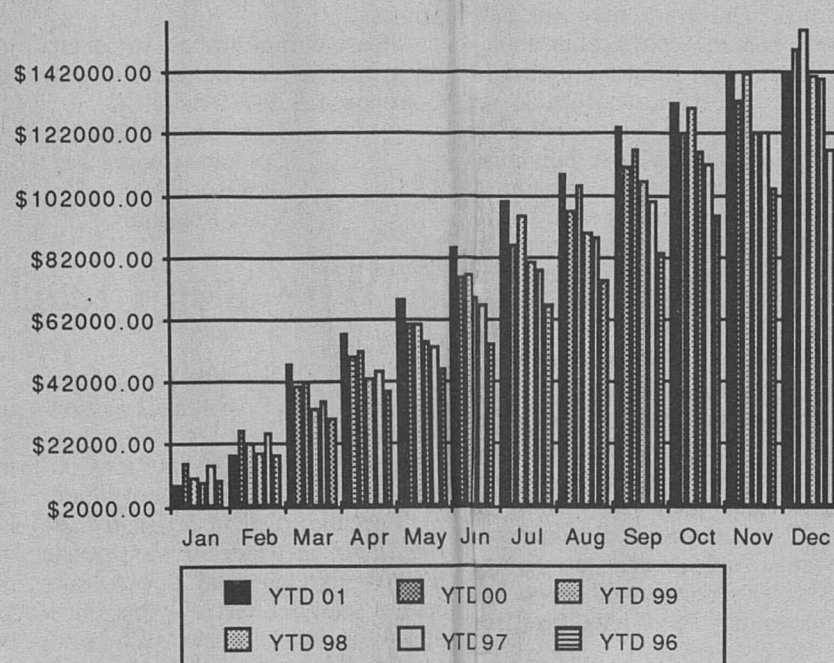
Espinosa will have the opportunity to play in two games, a chance to interact with local people, visit popular attractions, explore a new culture, and experience native plant and animal life unique to Australia.

Adrian's 13-day trip will include one day in Sydney, Australia, seven days and seven nights in Surfer's Paradise on the Gold Coast of Australia, and three days and three nights in either Honolulu, Hawaii, or Cairns, Australia, on the Great Barrier Reef.

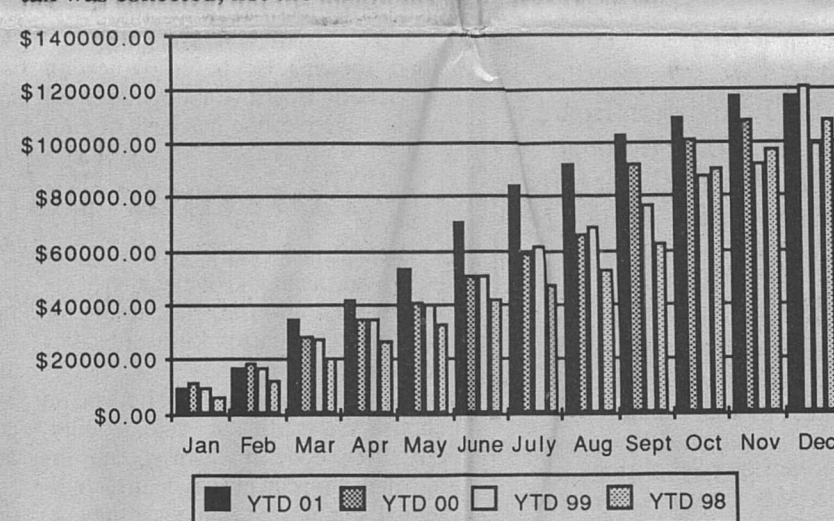
ISSI will not be paying his way to this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, so his family is planning fundraisers.

More details on that will follow at a later date.

Way to go, "Espi"!



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.



Eagle Lake's sales tax rebate down 6+ %

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander recently delivered \$207.8 million in monthly sales tax payments to 1,114 Texas cities and 121 counties, a 0.5% increase compared to the \$206.6 million paid in Jan. 2001.

The City of Eagle Lake received \$9,775.39, down 6.79% from the \$10,104,882.25 received last Jan.

This month's sales tax rebates include local sales taxes collected in Nov. and reported to the Comptroller in Dec. The state's share of sales tax collected during this period was \$1.1 billion, up 0.2% compared to a year ago.

Comptroller Rylander sent Jan. sales tax rebates of \$190.9 million to Texas cities, up 0.3% compared to Jan. 2001.

Texas counties received Jan. sales tax rebates of \$16.8 million, up 3.2% compared to a year ago.

Texas' six metropolitan transit authorities and two city transit systems received \$70.4 million in sales tax rebates.

Another \$7.6 million went to 65 special-purpose districts around the state.

One of those special purpose districts, Rice Hospital District, received \$7,730.09, up 4.38% from the

\$7,405.36 received last Jan.

For details on 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, \$57,506.84, up 0.27%; Weimar, \$17,112.30, up 58.05%; Sealy, \$72,463.67, -11.16%; Bellville, none reported; El Campo, \$152,382.66, down 2.25%; and Wharton, \$79,058.78, -9.52%.

On the county level, Colorado County received \$49,019.01, down 9.64%. Austin County received \$58,114.66, down 7.14%. Wharton County received \$110,673.88, down 7.71%.

The Comptroller's next sales tax allocation will be delivered Friday, Feb. 15.

*This is an inaccurate comparison; Weimar recently increased the city's portion of sales tax to 1.5%

'Boll Weevil' ballots are mailed

Cotton farmers and landowners with cotton production are eligible to vote in a referendum which will determine whether to establish a boll weevil eradication program in the eight-county Upper Coastal Bend Boll Weevil Eradication Zone. **Ballots must be postmarked no later than Jan. 25.**

Based on Farm Service Agency records, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) has mailed out 2,530 ballots. Eligible voters in the Upper Coastal Bend Boll Weevil Eradication Zone should receive an

official ballot by mail after Jan. 10. A postage-paid return envelope will be included. Producers who planted cotton in 2001, but do not receive a ballot should contact TDA at 512-463-7593.

Voters will also establish a maximum assessment rate and elect a member from the zone to serve on the statewide Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation Board of Directors.

Local committee members have proposed a maximum assessment rate of \$22.20 per acre of cotton.

TDA received one nomination for the board member position before the

Dec. 28 filing deadline.

The name of Keith Bram of Wharton County will appear on the ballot as a board nominee. Bram is a cotton producer who has farmed in Wharton County since 1986.

Soil test campaign set

Soil testing is the most accurate means of knowing the level of soil nutrients available for plant growth.

To promote soil testing throughout the county, the Colorado County Cooperative Extension (CCCE) office has designated the weeks of Jan. 14 through Feb. 6 as soil test weeks.

To support this activity, the Texas A&M University soil test lab has agreed to test samples at a reduced price for all individuals.

This is a routine analysis test which only gives an accurate reading of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and some trace elements. Normally, the fee is \$10 but you are required to only pay \$6 during this campaign.

Soil testing is important to both homeowners and agriculture producers involved in production of lawn grasses, garden vegetables, fruit and nut trees, agriculture grain crops and pasture forages.

Soil sample kits will be available at the following locations through

The Upper Coastal Bend Boll Weevil Eradication Zone consists of approximately 270,000 acres in eight counties: Austin, Brazoria, Colorado, Ft. Bend, Jackson, Matagorda, Wharton and part of Waller.

Feb. 6: the County Extension Office, Colorado Feed and Heffley's Mill & Grain in Columbus; Eagle Lake General Store; M-G Farm Service Center in Weimar; Garwood Farmers Co-op, Garwood Implement & Supply and Texana Seed Co. in Garwood; Bernardo Farm & Ranch; and Heinsohn's Store in Frelsburg.

Soil samples should be collected and delivered to any of these locations through Feb. 6.

Soil sampling instruction forms, information sheets and soil sample bags are available at these locations.

You must submit payment by check payable to CCCE with your soil samples.

The objective in sampling is to obtain a composite sample that represents soil in the field, garden or lawn to be treated.

The deadline for submitting a sample is 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6.

For more information, contact the CCCE at 979-732-2082.

Nine indicted in crack cocaine distribution cases

U.S. Attorney Michael T. Shelby announced that nine defendants were charged in federal indictments returned Dec. 20 and unsealed Jan. 10. Defendants were charged with the distribution of crack cocaine in Colorado County.

The defendants were arrested Jan. 10 by officers with the 24th and 25th Judicial District Narcotics Task Force, the Colorado County Sheriff's Office, the Columbus Police Department, Eagle Lake Police Department, Weimar Police Departments and agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Named in the indictments and arrested were, from Columbus, David Anthony Carter Jr., 18; Deandre Capri Wilson, 22; Balbino Toro Jr., 24; Ben Ernest Collins, 37; and John Ladle Woods, 22; and, from Eagle Lake, Bruce Y. Montgomery, 37; Freddie C. Douglas, 56; Jesse Upson, 51; and Cordis Upson Jr., 47.

Defendants were processed and transported to the federal holding facility in Corpus Christi.

Six vehicles, 61 crack cocaine rocks (11.34 grams), one crack cocaine cookie (20.5 grams) and three grams of marijuana were seized during the arrests.

The indictments charged each defendant with the distribution of crack cocaine in violation of 21 U.S.C. 841.

If convicted, the defendants face up to 20 years in prison and a \$1 million fine.

An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence.

Defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

These cases were investigated by the 24th and 25th Judicial District Narcotics Task Force.

Missing juveniles found

Last week, the Eagle Lake Police Department reported two girls, Sarah Dispart and Elizabeth Espinosa, missing.

The two girls were found in Jackson County. The vehicle they had taken from Eagle Lake was also occu-

pled by two 20-year-old males when they were located at 2:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9.

Parents of the two juveniles were driven to Jackson County by Sgt. Tim Crume to recover the girls and the vehicle.



WEEKLY MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING REPORT

The following report, produced for Texas Parks and Wildlife by Bink Grimes, was last updated Jan. 9.

Coastal Prairies: Duck hunting on the prairie continues to be spotty at best. New migrants moved into the area with the back to back fronts; however, movement during the daylight hours has been at a minimum. Most ducks are remaining on the roost.

Goose hunting has been tough for decoying birds unless you are hunting a hot feeding field. More Canada

geese have migrated to the area with the frigid weather.

Specklebellies remain shy of decoys and calling.

Dark geese are beginning to segregate themselves from the light geese. Many snags are working the edges of fields due to concentrations eating all the waste grain from the middle of the fields.

The Special Snow Goose Conservation Season begins Jan. 21.

Prospects are fair for ducks and geese.