

Prairie Edge Players add Sunday matinee

The Prairie Edge Players announce the addition of a Sunday matinee performance of **Don't Mention My Name** by Fred Carmichael.

The matinee performance will be held in the Raymond Thomas Theatre of the Prairie Edge Museum on Sunday, Nov. 17 at 3:00 p.m. Tickets will be \$10.00 and are available from Helen Craig (234-2807), Vic Scott (234-2792), Janet Duncan (234-2504, extension 131) and Joe Wendel (234-3926).

Tickets will also be available from Director Vicki Powers at the Wintermann Library (234-5411) during regular business hours.

Added to list of volunteers to work with the play are **Jeff Frnka** who is in charge of video and **Donna Coldewey** who will be the properties manager. **Gloria McCain** will return to the Prairie Edge stage as an understudy for the female parts.

(See Players, Page 7)

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Eagle Lake Headlight

NEWSBRIEFS

VOTE Tuesday, Nov. 5!

See Sample Ballots, Page 8

Senior Citizen's Dance is Friday

The public is invited to a Senior Citizen's Dance, a place to meet old and new friends, Friday, Nov. 1, from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Music will be provided by The Lazy Farmers. Admission is \$5 per person. For more information call 979-234-3795.

GUBC chicken dinner is Saturday

The Greater Union's Pastor's Aid is sponsoring a fried chicken dinner Saturday, Nov. 2, at Greater Union Baptist Church (GUBC). To place your order, call 234-2581 or 234-2393.

Career Fair is Nov. 1

The first Fall Career Fair will be held Friday, Nov. 1, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the United Way, 531 FM 359 South in Brookshire. For more details, call 281-375-6511.

CCRTA to meet Nov. 4

Colorado County Retired Teachers Association (CCRTA) will meet Monday, Nov. 4, at noon at Schobels' in Columbus. All retired school personnel who receive annuities from the Teachers Retirement System are encouraged to attend and be informed about the present Texas Retired Teachers Association concerns.

El Campo A&M Club meeting is Nov. 5

The El Campo A&M Mothers Club will meet Tuesday, Nov. 5, at 7 p.m. at WECE in El Campo. Call Sara Wind at 979-532-0113 for more information.

RHS yearbook orders to start Nov. 5

Orders will be taken for 2003 yearbooks during lunch periods on Nov. 5, 6 and 7. Cost of the yearbook is \$40 and can be reserved with a down payment of \$20. However, the price will be discounted to \$36 for students who pay in full when placing their order. Anyone who reserves a book next week is guaranteed to be pictured or quoted at least three times in the book. Call Melody Grigar or Amanda Burrow for more information or questions.

4-H fruit sale deadline is Nov. 8

The Colorado County 4-H fruit & pecans and nuts sale is now in progress. **Ordering deadline is Nov. 8.** Order your fruit, pecans and nuts now! Choose from Texas navel oranges, Texas sweet grapefruit, apples, pears, pecans, peanuts, cashews, walnuts and gift packs. Contact a local 4-H member or call Claudine Shorter, Club Mgr. at 979-234-2778 or Erma McGrew, 4-H Leader at 234-2086.

Early dismissal Nov. 8

Rice CISD will be dismissing students early Friday, Nov. 8, to allow parents to pick up their students' second six weeks report card. Students will be dismissed and busses will run at the following time: Rice High School, 12:18 p.m.; Garwood, Sheridan and Eagle Lake Middle and Primary Schools, 12:35 p.m. We encourage all parents, if possible, to go by the campuses to pick up the report card and visit with teachers.

Pardo Benefit scheduled for Nov. 10

A benefit for Colorado County Deputy Jeremy Pardo, who was involved in a serious vehicle accident Oct. 5, will be held Sunday, Nov. 10, at the Veteran's Memorial Hall in Columbus. The all-you-can-eat catfish meal will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., dine-in or drive thru. Advance tickets are \$8; at the door, \$10; children 12 and under \$5 (dine-in only). A bake sale and silent auction will also be held. If you are interested in purchasing tickets or donating items for the auction, please call 979-732-2388. Contributions may be made to the Jeremy Pardo Fund at Columbus State Bank. Pardo has required several reconstructive surgeries on his right leg and ankle and is not expected to return to duty for several months. He has a wife and newborn daughter who depend on him for support.

Outreach now in progress

Little David Ministries invites the public to join them for a Six-Night Outreach at 7 p.m. each night through Saturday, Nov. 2, at the "Lighthouse", 200 Ice Street in Eagle Lake. Refreshments and FREE food will be served. Come early Oct. 31 for games and treats!

American Legion to decorate graves

The Eagle Lake American Legion Post #108 will honor all deceased veterans buried in local cemeteries this Veteran's Day, Monday, Nov. 11, by placing American flags by their gravesites. The flags will be placed in the designated holders Saturday, Nov. 9, and retrieved Tuesday, Nov. 12. The flag holders are white with red, white and blue stripes at the top and are placed, where possible, to the immediate left of the gravesite maker. If we have missed a veteran's grave in the past, please contact Ken Craig at 234-2807 as it is their intention to honor ALL veterans of ALL services.

ELPA opening Norris Building

Eagle Lake Preservation Alliance (ELPA) will open the Norris Building from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month for anyone interested in preservation. Learn how to research historical property or just visit.

Band Boosters to meet Nov. 7

The Rice Band Boosters for Rice CISD will hold a general meeting Thursday, Nov. 7, at 6:30 p.m. at the high school. Band parents of students at Rice High School, Eagle Lake, Garwood and Sheridan Middle Schools are all encouraged to attend. By-laws and future plans for the bands will be discussed and voted upon.

Second annual craft, trade day is Nov. 9

The Second Annual Community Craft & Trade Day is Nov. 9 at the First United Methodist Church of El Campo, 1001 Ave. I, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Indoor and outdoor spaces are available. For more information, call Karen Ringleb at 979-543-7486 or Lynn Reed at 543-2978 to reserve your space early. Indoor spaces are limited.

Hospice remembrance service is Nov. 12

A service of remembrance to honor those individuals served by the Hospice Staff who have died during the past year will take place at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 12, at the First Christian Church, 205 W. West St., El Campo. The community is invited to the candle-lighting service. For further information, call Gloria Garcia at 979-578-0314.

RMC fundraiser is underway

The Rice Medical Center Auxiliary (better known as the Pink Ladies) is selling tickets for a remote control truck. The truck has headlights, coil springs, low and high gears, and oversized tires. Tickets are \$1 each for 6 for \$5. The (See Newsbriefs, Page 9)

The Rice Raiders rebounded from their overtime loss to Sweeny to completely dominate the highly-touted Cowboys from Edna.

The Raiders opened the game in a must-win situation to keep their playoff chances alive.

Things started out on the down side, with the field a quagmire from recent rains.

The Raiders elected to kick the ball on the ground on the opening kickoff in order to make it hard to handle for the Cowboys' Mr. Everything Japhus Brown.

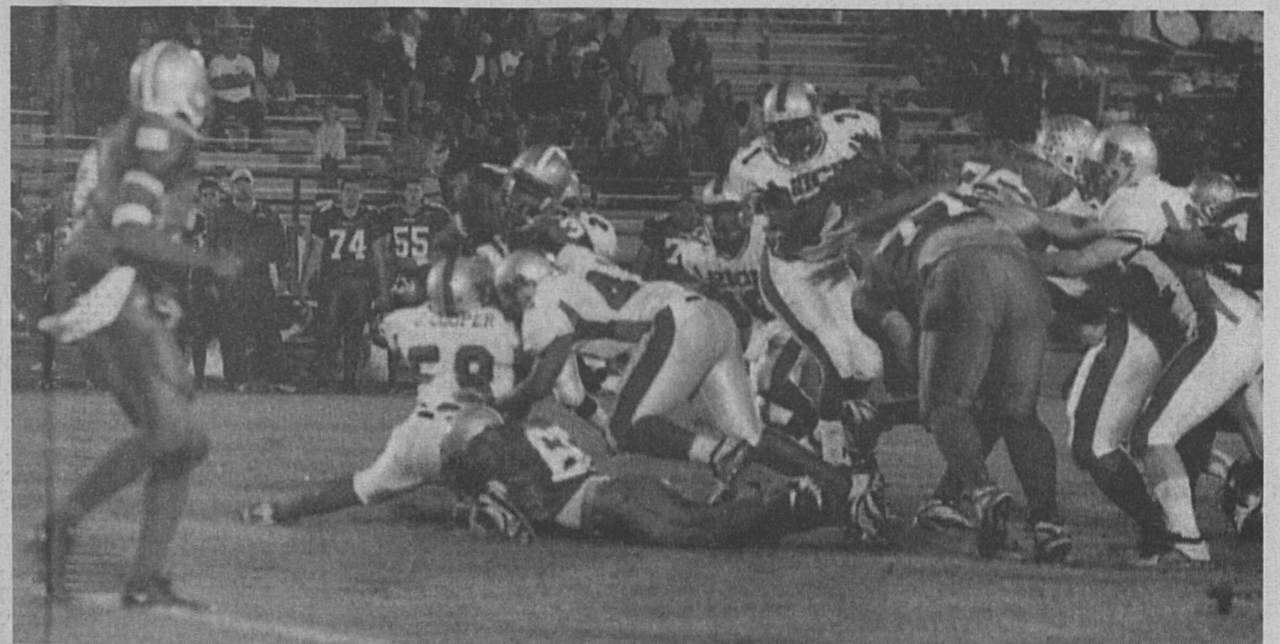
The kick hit one of Edna's front line players and appeared to bounce right to the Raider's Robert Shaw. However, the referees gave the ball to the Cowboys at midfield, giving them great field position.

The Cowboys couldn't take advantage of the short field on their first and third snaps, Brown bobbled the ball. On the second snap, he was dropped for a 10-yard loss.

After a 32-yard punt, the Raiders took over on their own 25-yard line.

The Raiders' first drive wasn't much better, as they gained only five yards and were forced to punt.

Patrick Milentz got off a 35-yard



Right off the bat last Friday night, the Raider defense showed fans what kind of game they should expect when a gang of Raiders got to the Edna quarterback.

Headlight Photo

punt that was fair-caught by Brown and the Cowboys were back in business at their 35-yard line.

Edna could only gain three yards on their first two plays of the drive, then Brown faked inside and tried the

option wide. The "Swarming Raider D" was ready and forced him to try to pitch on the option. Instead, he fumbled.

Luckily, for the Cowboys, Eric Floyd was able to prevent total disaster

by falling on the loose pigskin at the 25-yard line, enabling Edna to try and regain some field position with a punt.

Browns' line drive 30-yard punt (See Raiders, Page 14)

'Local product' explains GCDs to citizens

Ron Gertson, son of Dan and Marian Gertson of Lissie and president of the Coastal Bend Groundwater Conservation District (GCD) in Wharton County, explained everything from what a GCD can and cannot do to the "games" water marketers (like Pure-Tex) play with people's emotions.

Some of the points he stressed were:

1. The "Rule of Capture" cannot be eliminated by a GCD board;
2. The tax rate for any GCD is limited by law to 2-1/2¢ per \$100 valuation (after exemptions);
3. Can require permits for non-exempt wells (usually extremely large

amount of water being pumped);

4. Can not force citizens to install meters on their wells;

5. It is against the law for any government entity with the power of eminent domain to condemn property in order to acquire groundwater; and,

6. GCDs can't eliminate exportation of groundwater, but they can limit it. Without a GCD, citizens have NO control over the amount of water pumped from under the land.

After a question and answer session following the presentation, candidates for the Post Oak GCD were introduced and given time to tell those in attendance a little about themselves.

In existence for over 50 years, groundwater conservation districts, they are limited to an \$8/acre foot fee by law. According to Gertson, this is not enough to discourage most water marketers since the sale of water to large metropolitan areas can be very lucrative.

Other items which can be enacted by a GCD board are collection of data

on the aquifer in order to get a better handle on its size and replenishment rate; require permits and fees for exporters; set production (pumping) limitations on non-exempt wells; and set well-spacing standards.

Gertson explained a program LCRA is working on which would involve groundwater pumping.

LCRA proposes to drill wells on their irrigation canal rights-of-way and pump the groundwater into the canals.

If passed, the Post Oak GCD could control the amount they pump.



During the information session Monday night, one point Ron Gertson made was, "The question is not is a GCD good or bad. The question is is a GCD right for Colorado County at this time under these conditions."

Headlight Photos



A large crowd gathered at the Eagle Lake Community Center Monday night to hear information on the formation of the Groundwater Conservation District, despite the weather.

TxDOT gives Transit additional funding

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) provided Colorado Valley Transit (CVT) and other transit agencies with additional funding support. CVT's initial cut in state funding was \$119,502. TxDOT added \$37,897 in federal to the agency's contract.

CVT, along with members of the Texas Transportation Association and other transit agencies, will continue to pursue additional funds by preparing for the upcoming legislative session. Texas Transit agencies are adopting the following two resolutions, and encourage all concerned citizens to write letters, and make calls:

•Resolution 1 urges the Texas Transportation Commission to advance federal rural transit funding to fill the current funding reductions.

•Resolution 2 urges the legislators to raise the motor fuels tax by 10¢ a gallon and allow for local option motor fuels tax, all of which shall be directed into a Transportation Fund for both highways and public transportation, and with public transportation receiving a minimum of 5% of such funds.

The second resolutions are the platform for transit to establish a stable funding base for operating service.

For more information, call 1-800-548-1068, ext. 16.

Award entries sought

Gov. Rick Perry and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) are looking for outstanding projects to honor as 2003 Texas Environmental Excellence Award winners.

Presented every spring during the TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair and Conference, the awards honor the state's most outstanding waste reduction and pollution prevention projects. They are presented in a variety of categories to recognize individuals, organizations, schools and businesses that have created successful programs to preserve and protect the Texas environment.

"In order for Texas to continue to grow and prosper, we must commit to environmental stewardship—conserving our natural resources, using them well, and being good neighbors regarding shared resources," stated Gov. Perry. "The Texas Environmental Excellence Awards recognize projects that have a positive impact on the state's air, water and land and provide an opportunity to commend environmental excellence, while highlighting models for others to follow."

A blue-ribbon committee, made up of Texas business and community leaders, will recommend potential award recipients to the governor and TCEQ commissioners. The committee looks for projects that are the result of cooperative efforts, and that are innovative, beneficial and educational. (See TCEQ, Page 7)