

Rice Growers meeting is Nov. 14

Rice Growers of Texas will hold organizational meetings Thursday, Nov. 14, at the Wharton Fair Grounds in Crescent (intersection of FM 960 and FM 961 between Wharton and El Campo). There will be two meetings; one at 9 a.m. and another at 6 p.m.

Anyone involved in rice production is invited to attend either meeting.

Rice Growers of Texas is comprised of a group of

rice producers from the four major rice-producing counties around El Campo. The group was formed to investigate the feasibility of owning and operating a rice milling and marketing organization. The group's major objectives is to establish a market for a portion of the rice produced in the area and have the farmers own and control their commodity until it is delivered to the end user. For more details, call 979-532-3310.

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NEWSBRIEFS

Send off for the Raiders

There will be a sendoff for the Raiders as they travel to Victoria to play Cuero Saturday, Nov. 16 in a bi-district playoff game scheduled for 2 p.m. Please meet at the 4-way in Altair at 8:45 a.m. Saturday morning to send them off to V-I-C-T-O-R-Y. Then come to the game and show your pride-bring pom-poms, bells, noisemakers, etc. Let's be as loud as we were against Wharton.

Let's get fired up!

The Rice Raiders have made the football playoffs for the third consecutive year! Show your pride—decorate your car with glass chalk and ribbons, get out your car flags, put your flag in front of your business, write messages on your business windows or marquees.

District Champ t-shirts ordered

District Championship t-shirts have been ordered and will hopefully be available before this week's game in Victoria. Check with a Booster Club member if you are interested. If they come in, we will have them for sale at the sendoff and the game.

RMC to give 'drive-through' flu shots Saturday

Rice Medical Center (RMC) will provide flu vaccines Saturday, Nov. 16, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Shots will be given under the hospital's covered drive at a cost of \$15 (cash) per shot. You must be over 18 years of age.

Water meter replacement program

The City of Eagle Lake is in the process of replacing all water meters as part of an efficiency program with Johnson Controls. U.S. Bronco Services will be the contractor replacing each meter and will be working in Eagle Lake for the next two to three months. It takes approximately 30 minutes to replace a water meter, and we ask you to please excuse any inconvenience this may cause while your meter is being updated. If you have any questions, please call 234-2640.

Understanding your dreams

In Nov., a class will be offered on understanding your dreams and channeling their power for positive development with meditation. Learn to open your heart to all the gifts the universe has for you, while releasing the fear and anger in your life. Allow your spiritual light to shine Thursday, Nov. 14 and 21, from 7 to 9 p.m. Please call 979-234-5936 for registration and/or information. Beverages will be served during the discussion period.

Rising Star Cemetery Assoc. to hold fundraiser

The Rising Star Cemetery Association will be selling BBQ chicken dinners Saturday, Nov. 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost of the dinners is \$5.50 and includes barbecue chicken, green beans and potato salad. To place your order, call Pat Marshall at 234-7262 or Ruth Carter at 234-3042. Plates can be picked up at 237 Beard St. or delivered. All proceeds will benefit the community cemetery. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Turkey and dressing dinner is Sunday

The Sheridan Lions Club will hold a turkey and dressing dinner Sunday, Nov. 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Sheridan Community Center. Tickets are \$6 each. You can eat at the Community Center or take your plate home.

Jr. Ushers Annual Day Service is Sunday

Please join and worship with Greater Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, 709 N. Lake Ave. on Sunday, Nov. 17 at 3 p.m. for their Junior Usher's Annual Day Service. Guest speaker will be Obie Rhodes, Pastor of White Cloud Missionary Baptist Church and Moderator of 20th Century District Association of Texas.

Variety shoot, youth fall festival is Sunday

St. Mary's Youth of Nada will hold their annual Variety Shoot & Youth Fall Festival Sunday, Nov. 17 at the Nada Community Center. The Variety Shoot will be held from 1 to 4 p.m., and will include a wide variety of prizes and rounds for women and children. The Festival will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Hamburgers, chili, pastries and other refreshments will be available. Activities include bingo, cakewalk, silent auction, kid games, craft booths and conclude with a raffle drawing at 7 p.m.

RPG meeting is Monday, Nov. 18

The Rice Project Graduation (RPG) meeting will be held Monday, Nov. 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the commons area of the high school. Senior Serve will be discussed and invitations list are due! Everyone is encouraged to attend. **Seniors and Parents you earn points for every meeting you attend!**

Defensive driving course set for Nov. 19, 20

Retired DPS Sgt. Gilbert Keil has scheduled a six-hour state approved defensive driving course in Eagle Lake on Nov. 19 and 20 at the Wintermann Library. Class hours will be 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. To pre-register for the course call 979-234-5411 or arrive a few minutes early the first evening to register.

Booster Club meeting is Nov. 25

The Rice Athletic Booster Club will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 25, at (See Newsbriefs, Page 6)

WEEKLY BIRD REPORT

The following migratory bird hunting report, prepared for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department by Bink Grimes, was updated Nov. 6.

COASTAL PRAIRIES:

The first wave of snow geese arrived on the prairies over the weekend; however, goose hunting remained below average. Expect that to change with persistent north winds forecasted for the week that should continue to dump new birds in rice and waste grain fields.

Duck hunting in Colorado, Wharton, Lavaca, Jackson and Waller Counties, respectively, was generally hit-

or-miss. Several hunters reported great hunts, while others barely scratched half-limits.

Gadwalls, shovelers, wigeons and teal made up the majority of bags.

The region took another pounding of rain which should continue to keep birds scattered.

Pintails remain off limits until Dec. 12 in the South Zone and Dec. 19 in the North Zone (north of IH-10).

Prospects are fair to good. Hunts for whitefronts has been fair to good with many outfitters reporting limits. Some reports of Canada geese have been made as well.



After 'de-stripping' the Tigers...

Raiders are District 28-3A champs

The Rice Raiders defeated the Wharton Tigers 35-21 to win the 28-3A District Championship!

The victory actually left the Raiders and Tigers with identical 4-1 district records. However, in the head-to-head matchup, it's the Raiders outright.

Both teams entered the contest assured of a spot in the Class 3-A State playoffs. Wharton would enter as the Division 1 representative and Rice as the #1 seed in Division 2.

However, the Raiders and Tigers came to play.

Rice received the opening kickoff and put together an impressive 12-play, 67-yard drive to open the scoring.

Nick Sharp carried the final yard for the score, followed by Patrick Milentz' point-after kick, giving the Raiders a 7-0 lead with 4:47 remaining in the opening quarter.

The Raider defense bent a little but didn't break as the Tigers crossed midfield on their opening drive.

Raider Anthony Palmer recovered a Tiger fumble and the offense wasted little time making them pay. Tyreance Dabney rambled 13 yards on the fourth play of a 62-yard drive.

Milentz again kicked the PAT to extend the lead to 14-0 with 2 minutes remaining in the first period.

The Tigers came roaring back, as they put together an 11-play, 72-yard drive capped by Jeremy Washington's three-yard run and Stephen Nelson's extra point, cutting the lead to 14-7.

The Tiger defense then stiffened and, following a Raider turnover, Washington slashed his way for 70 yards and the score, followed by another of Nelson's PAT's, evening the scoring at 14-14, with 4:22 remaining before half.

But, the Raiders were not to be denied. On the ensuing drive, they faced

a third and 16, when Milentz connected with Michael Cooper for 60 yards and the score, capping a six-play, 66-yard drive.

Milentz' point after was good, giving Rice a 21-14 lead with only 55 seconds left in the first half.

The Tigers gave one last gasp as Matt McIntyre connected with Raymond Hudson for 66 yards and the score. Nelson's point after was good, tying the score at 21 with six seconds left in the half.

The Tigers fumbled the second half kickoff and Raider Jason Godley recovered, giving Rice great field position.

Unable to capitalize on the opportunity, the Raiders were forced to punt. But, Milentz got off a great punt that stopped inside the Tigers five-yard line.

The Raider defense came out swarming and forced the Tigers to punt from deep in their own territory.

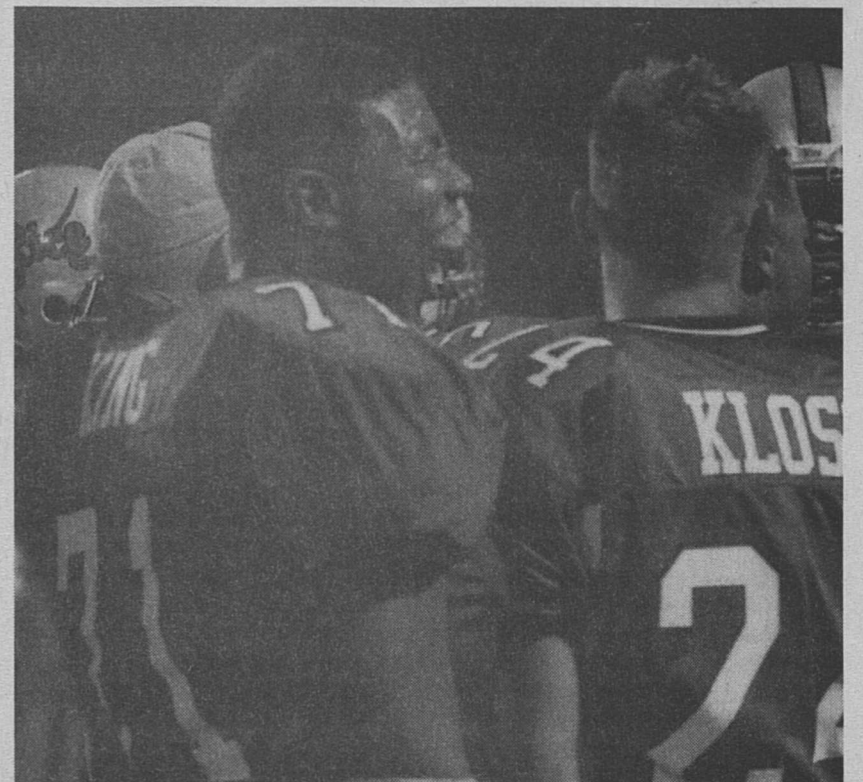
After getting good field position again, the Rice offense wouldn't be denied. It took only four plays to cover the 49 yards with Charles Huffman toting the mail the final five.

Milentz' PAT was wide, leaving the Raiders with a 27-21 lead at 5:21 in the third.

After a couple of stalled drives by each offense, the Tigers were forced to punt.

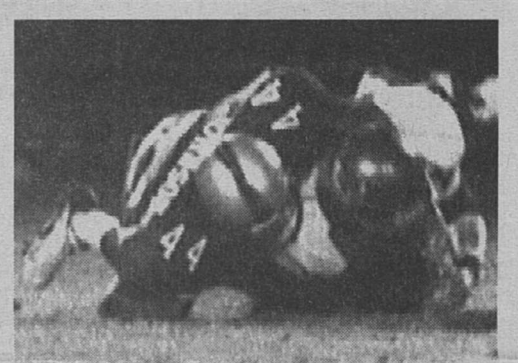
Dabney burst through the Tiger protection to get a hand on Tiger Ryan Mitchell's punt. Raider Donovan King scooped up the blocked kick and re-

(See Varsity, Page 8)



The Raider defense gave Wharton fits last Friday night. Above, Donovan King was really pumped up after picking up a punt blocked by Tyreance Dabney and taking it into the end zone for Rice's third TD of the night.

At right, James Johnson, Raider #44, drops the Wharton quarterback for a nine-plus yard loss about midway through the fourth quarter.



Main Street Eagle Lake receives national recognition

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) and the National Trust for Historic Preservation recently recognized Eagle Lake as one of the 56 National Main Street Cities in Texas.

Other 2003 National Main Street Cities include: Amarillo, Bay City, Beaumont, Bowie, Breckenridge, Brenham, Canton, Canyon, Carthage, Celina, Comanche, Corsicana, Decatur, Denison, Denton, Electra, Elgin, Fairfield, Farmersville, Floresville, Fort Stockton, Gainesville, Gatesville, Georgetown, Gilmer, Gladewater, Goliad, Gonzales, Graham, Greenville, Henderson, Huntsville, Irving, Kerrville, La Grange, Levelland, Lufkin, Marlin, Mineola, Monahans, Mount Vernon, Odessa, Paris, Pilot Point, Pittsburg, Plainview, Quanah, Rio Grande City, Rusk, San Marcos, Seguin, Sonora, Tyler, Weatherford and Whitewright.

"Our National Main Street Cities have worked really hard to achieve this distinctive honor. Establishing and maintaining an active and successful Main Street Program is a huge challenge and we're proud of the cities that achieved national recognition," said

Kay Harvey-Mosley, state coordinator of the Texas Main Street Program.

The cities were honored at the recent Texas Downtown Association/Texas Main Street Conference in Denton. The National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Main Street Center will honor these cities at the 2003 National Town Meeting on Main Street to be held May 18-21 in Cincinnati.

Cities chosen as National Main Street Cities must show above average performance in 10 categories. The selection criteria focus on planning, staff and volunteers, preservation ethic, training and program assessment. For additional information, visit the National Main Street web site at www.mainstreet.org and the National Trust (See Recognition, Page 5)

Prairie Edge Players present Don't Mention My Name this weekend

The Prairie Edge Players are putting the final touches on their upcoming dinner theatre and matinee production of *Don't Mention My Name* by Fred Carmichael.

The Friday and Saturday, Nov. 15 and 16, performances will be a dinner theatre with the meal catered by the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department.

Each night, the meal will be served at 7 p.m.; the play will begin at 8.

The Sunday matinee performance will begin at 3 p.m.

All performances will be held in the Raymond Thomas Theatre of the Prairie Edge Museum, 408 E. Main.

The comedy will keep you laughing and on the edge of your seat as the actors portray the saga of a man with amnesia and the series of funny events which occur in the living room of a Bed and Breakfast in Vermont.

The play features local actors. Directed by Vicki Powers and produced by Helen Craig, it promises outstanding entertainment for the entire family.

Some tickets for each night's performance are still available from Prairie Edge Museum Board members or cast and crew members. Tickets to the dinner theatre are \$20 (including taxes) and must be taken to Wallis State Bank to reserve table seating for each performance. Tickets for the Sunday matinee are \$10 and are available from Vic Scott (234-2792), Joe Wendel (234-3926), Janet Duncan (234-2504, ext. 131), Director Vicki Powers (234-5411), and Craig (234-2807).

One very important note—there will be no ticket sales for Sunday's matinee performance at the door.

Prepare yourself for a most enjoyable evening or afternoon. Mark your calendars for Nov. 15, 16 and 17 and be in Eagle Lake for one of the performances. For more information, you may contact one of the people previously listed.

Cranek wins big at RRYA Finals

Cody Cranek of Garwood came home with a truckload of saddles from the Run-n-Rope Youth Rodeo Finals held Nov. 1-3 at the San Antonio Rose Palace in Leon Springs.

He won the Senior Boys Breakaway saddle, the Senior Boys Ribbon Roping saddle, the Senior Boys Tie-down saddle and the Senior Boys All-Around saddle for the year-end and finished off by winning the All-Around saddle at the finals, for a total of five saddles in all!

He also placed second and third for the year-end in the Team Roping in Heading and Heeling.

The finals finished off the year, which started in March, for the cowboy with a total of 20 rodeos where he also won 10 All-Around buckles.

Cody is the son of Huck and Donna Cranek and the grandson of Louis and Leona Cranek, all of Garwood, and Gene and Margaret Bures of El Campo.

