

7:30 kickoff in El Campo...

Rice clashes with Wimberley Saturday

The 9-2 Rice Raiders will square off with the 8-3 Wimberley Texans Saturday night in El Campo. Ticket prices are \$6 for adults and \$3 for all students.

Pre-sale tickets will be available for students only at all Rice CISD campuses late this week. If students' tickets are not purchased in advance, all tickets at the

gate are \$6. For more information on tickets, call the Rice CISD Administration.

Wimberley, out of 25-3A, advanced to the Area round with a surprising 22-15 win over highly regarded La Vernia. Wimberley's losses this season have come from (See Playoffs, Page 9)

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NEWSBRIEFS

TWONC meeting is today

The Tom Waddell Outdoor Nature Club (TWONC) will meet Thursday, Nov. 20, from 3:30 to dark at the Thomas Duck House at the Vineyard. This is a spectacular sight. Watch birds come to roost. Don't forget your binoculars. If anyone needs a ride, call 234-5981.

'Pink Ladies' fundraiser underway

The "Pink Ladies" Auxiliary is selling tickets for their Christmas fundraiser "A Basket of Christmas Spirit"; a huge basket filled with all kinds of "goodies". Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5 and may be purchased from any Pink Lady or at the hospital gift shop. The drawing will be held Dec. 15 at 10 a.m. at the gift shop. You may also contact Barbara Pidgeon at 234-2897 for tickets or more information.

Rice Raider bonfire is tonight

The long-awaited bonfire at Rice High School (RHS) will take place Thursday, Nov. 20, starting at 6 p.m. the Booster club will also have playoff t-shirts for sale at that time.

WCJC bands to perform tonight

Cajun folk songs, as well as patriotic, swing and classical compositions will be performed by The Wharton County Junior College (WCJC) Concert and Jazz Bands Thursday, Nov. 20, at 7:30 p.m. in the Horton Foote Theatre in the Dusen-Hanson Fine Arts Building. Tickets are \$4 and may be purchased at the door. Among arrangements scheduled are Henry Fillmore's "Americans We" and Rimsky-Korsakov's fast moving "Flight of the Bumble Bee", featuring flutist Lauren Protivinsky. The band will also depict Cajun folk tales through song, plus a three-part "Overture for Winds."

Tri County Flyers meeting is tonight

The Tri County Flyers AMA #4493, Radio Control Model Club of Eagle Lake invites all interested persons to attend the regular monthly meeting every third Thursday; Nov. 20, this month. Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. at the Joe H. McCreary Auction Barn, 201 S. McCarty. There's still time to receive 13 months of membership for the price of 12. Special family plan is available and encouraged. New field will be ready soon.

GRSBC bake sale is Friday

Greater Rising Star Baptist Church (GRSBC) Pastor's Aide Committee will hold a bake sale Friday, Nov. 21, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of C&K Flower Shop on S. McCarty. All proceeds will benefit the Pastor's Aide Program to be held Dec. 7.

CCJF bake sale set for Saturday

The Colorado County Juvenile Facility and Community Advisory Board members will hold a bake sale Saturday, Nov. 22, in front of B&B Foods and Eagle Lake Supermarket. Stop by between 8 a.m. and noon.

RHS Drama Club production is Saturday

Come see the Rice High School (RHS) Drama Club's production of *You Can't Beat The House* Saturday, Nov. 22, at 7:30 p.m. An enchilada dinner, catered by the Diaz family, will precede the performance starting at 6. Tickets are \$5 for show only and \$10 for dinner and show. Contact Deborah Reed at 234-2601 or any Drama Club member for tickets or more information.

MMBC gospel praise set for Saturday

Mt. Moriah Baptist Church (MMBC) of Alleyton will present a Pre-Thanksgiving Gospel Praise Fest Saturday, Nov. 22, at 5 p.m. at the church. Gospel groups from surrounding areas and around the state will be on the program. The public is invited. Admission is free.

Ministerial Alliance Thanksgiving Service is Nov. 23

The Eagle Lake Ministerial Alliance invites the community to its annual Thanksgiving Service at 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 23, at Eagle Lake United Methodist Church, 200 W. Prairie. Pastors and representatives of the churches in the Eagle Lake area will participate in the service. Rev. Chris Thacker from First Baptist Church will bring the Thanksgiving message. The offering will go to support the food pantry in Eagle Lake. The many food pantry volunteers will be recognized and given a special token of appreciation. For more information, call Rev. David King at 234-3288.

Speak Out! at WCJC

Wharton County Junior College (WCJC) will hold a Speak Out! Monday, Nov. 24, at 7:30 p.m. at the Horton Foote Theatre Dusen-Hansen Building on the Wharton campus. Speakers will include students from the public speaking classes. Admission is free. For more information, call 979-532-6300.

Colorado Valley quilt guild is Nov. 25

The Colorado Valley Quilt Guild (CVQG) program for Tuesday, Nov. 25, at 10 a.m. will be "Shopping Show and Tell from International Quilt Festival in Houston" so bring the treasures you found in Houston to the meeting. Whether it's fabric, patterns or timesaving gadgets, we all get to learn what exciting products are in the quilters' marketplace, even if we didn't get to go to Houston ourselves. CVQG meets at First United Methodist Church, 1215 Von Minden in La Grange. Everyone is invited.

Gator bake sale is Nov. 26

The Gator Swim Team will hold a bake sale, Wednesday, Nov. 26, beginning at 8 a.m. in front of First National Bank. Buy your baked goods for Thanksgiving instead of "slaving" in the kitchen.

Applications for Habitat House now available

Persons currently living in substandard housing who would like to be considered for home ownership for the next new Weimar Habitat House should call 979-732-5677 or 732-3549 for an application. Applications must be completed and returned by Jan. 1, 2004.

Beginner computer classes to be offered

The Eula & David Wintermann Library will be holding beginner computer classes Dec. 1-3 from 1 to 2 p.m. The charge for the class will be \$10. If you are interested, stop by the library and sign up. There will be a limited number of spots available.

WCJC hosts 'A Christmas Memory'

"A Christmas Memory," a one-act play based on Truman Capote's heart-warming story of the love between Aunt Sook and her nephew Buddy, will be performed Monday, Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m. in the Horton Foote Theatre on the Wharton County Junior College (WCJC) campus. Admission is \$7 and benefits The WCJC Foundation. For additional information, or to purchase tickets, call 979-532-6322 or 1-800-561-9252 ext. 6322.

(See Newsbriefs, Page 6)

Bi-District Champs advance to Area...

Rice's 2nd half explosion ignites playoff win

The Rice Raiders turned a turnover-plagued first half performance into stellar second half dominance. The underdog Hallettsville Brahmas took a surprising 17-14 lead at halftime.

Coach Russell Roark's Raiders woke up in the second half in time to put up 27 unanswered points within a 10-minute span to blow out the Brahmas 41-24.

The Raiders captured their fourth bi-district championship in as many years, raising their overall record to 9-2 and advancing to the area championship game against 8-3 Wimberley Texans, a 22-15 winner over La Vernia.

On a cool night at Victoria Thursday, the Rice Raiders watched the wide-open passing attack of Hallettsville reel off big plays early in the game.

Meanwhile, the Raider offense knocked out huge chunks of yardage, yet had three costly fumbles. Even with Rice ringing up 260 yards in the first half, they went into halftime scratching their heads in disbelief and trailing by three points.

Coach Roark and his staff made the necessary halftime adjustments. The defense tightened up and the offense put on a powerful running display... right down the throats of the Brahmas.

The scoring went like this: The first touchdown for Rice came on a one-yard run by Michael Spears. Robert Shaw kicked the PAT.

The second touchdown came on a brilliant 63-yard pass from Stuart Ray to Spears. Shaw again kicked the PAT.

Rice rolled up 27 points within 10 minutes in the second half. Ray

punched in the ball from two yards out with Shaw, again, kicking the extra point.

Ray scored his second touchdown from four yards away on a rollout. The PAT attempt hold was botched, causing Shaw to shank the ball to the left.

Derland Sanford scored the next two touchdowns, from four and five yards out. Jonathan Thomas ran in a

two-point conversion to finish the scoring at 41 points.

Defensively, the Raiders were led by the fine play of tackle Donovan King and line blocker Shaw. King had 10 tackles, two for losses, one sack and a pass deflection that resulted in an interception.

Shaw added 10 tackles and his first interception of the season. These two

men were awarded Co-Defensive Players of the Game honors. Linebacker Joe Cooper also provided nine quality tackles.

The following Raider defenders also had solid games:

Thomas, six tackles, one pass broken up; Rusty Moore, six tackles; Spears, five tackles, two passes broken (See Raiders, Page 8)

Rice quarterback Stuart Ray put on a running show against Hallettsville Thursday night, rushing for 80 yards on eight carries and scoring two touchdowns. Taking only four minutes to score the go-ahead touchdown in the second half, the Raiders never looked back. Headlight Photo



Have you sent in your entry?

There are less than two weeks left to enter the Eagle Lake Holiday of Lights Parade sponsored by the City of Eagle Lake and coordinated by the

Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce. The deadline for entering is Dec. 1.

This year's parade is going to be bigger and better than ever so don't miss out! The City and Chamber of Commerce want YOUR participation!

This year's Hawaiian Christmas parade is Saturday, Dec. 13, so take out your Hawaiian shirts, skirts, leis, Hawaiian holiday spirit and start preparing for the "Huladay" festivities.

Individuals, businesses, schools, service organizations, a group of friends, etc. can have a float, walk or march in the parade. You can even have a concession booth or join in the "Caroling on the Square" at 5 p.m.

This can be fun for all! Santa will be on "the square" following the parade.

Judges will award prizes in the fol-

lowing categories: Annual Chamber President's Award (Grand Prize), Judge's Special Award (2nd), Grand Marshall's Award (3rd), 2003 Theme Award (Hawaiian Christmas), Traditional Christmas Award, best lights, most spirited, most original/unique entry and best musical entry. Judging will be between 5:30 and 6:45. The parade will begin at 6:45. Awards will be presented as entries pass the announcement stand. Lighting entries is a must and entries cannot include a live Santa or Mrs. Clause. For safety reasons candy or other items cannot be thrown.

Entry forms for the parade and concession booths must be returned to the Chamber of Commerce, 210 Golf Course Road, Eagle Lake, TX 77434 (See Parade, Page 3)

TDH issues flu advisory, urges shots

The Texas Department of Health (TDH) has issued a statewide health advisory reporting heavier-than-usual influenza activity in the state and urging people to get a flu shot.

"It's not unusual to have flu occur this early in the season. What's unusual is to have this much of it this early," said Texas Commissioner of Health Eduardo Sanchez.

Influenza, or flu, has been reported

in several Texas counties.

"Get a flu shot," Sanchez advised. "That's the first line of defense."

Authorities report that the flu vaccine is in plentiful supply this year. People wanting to get a flu shot should contact their doctors, employers or local public health departments or watch for announcements from supermarkets and other businesses offering the shot (See Flu, Page 4)



Pictured during the recent tree donation were Eagle Lake Chamber Secretary/Treasurer Jane Meldahl, LCRA Board Member John Matthews, Chamber President Tom Kelley, LCRA Clean 'n Green Coordinator Jamie Bolger, Chamber Member Steven Meinecke, LCRA Community Relations Rep. Ed Vander Strucken and Michael and Keith, LCRA Special Projects.

LCRA Photo

Buckle up for Thanksgiving holidays

Texas leads the nation in traffic fatalities. In 2000, 3,775 people were killed and more than 300,000 injured on Texas streets and highways. Many of these deaths and injuries could have been prevented if the victims had been wearing safety belts.

Safety belts save lives. And that's why Texas is drawing the line for drivers and passengers: buckle up for face a fine.

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) will be joining with hundreds of police and sheriff's depart-

ments through out Texas to launch a massive statewide Click It or Ticket effort to enforce the state's occupant protection laws for adults and children.

The Click It or Ticket campaign will begin Tuesday, Nov. 18, at 12:01 a.m. and end Monday, Dec. 1, at midnight, a total of 14 days.

Texas law requires every person sitting in the front seat of a vehicle to wear a safety belt. All children under 17 year of age must be secured with a safety belt or in a child safety seat, (See Safety, Page 4)



Class Concrete opens new office

Saturday, the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce helped Class Concrete open its new office, constructed of materials that can withstand winds up to 200 m.p.h. Pictured, from left, are Diane Causey, Mary Semora, Beverly Duddleston, Barbara Class, Sandra Flowers, Eva Vazquez, Jimmie Class, Steven Meinecke, Amanda Edwards and Jason Class.

Photo by Jane Meldahl & Associates