

American Legion to distribute toys

Eagle Lake's American Legion Post #108 will again distribute toys to needy children. Boys and girls, eight years of age or younger, will be given a collection of suitable toys. Each child must come in person, accompanied by a parent or guardian, to receive his/her sack of toys. Infants (children under two) need not be present. Parents can pick up a gift sack for them. Distribution will be at Prairie Edge Museum from 9 a.m. to 12 noon Saturday, Dec. 20. Enter through the door on Main St.

Donations of both toys and money are needed by the Legion. New or very gently used toys and money donations may be left at Struss Auto Supply, Wallis State Bank or the Furniture Shoppe. For more information, call Ken Craig at 234-2807 or Vic Scott at 234-2792.

Dec. 11, 2003

USPS 163-760
Volume 100, No. 39
10 Pages Plus 2 Inserts
Eagle Publishing, Inc.
P.O. Box 67 (220 E. Main)
Eagle Lake, Texas 77434-0067
979-234-5521

50¢ PER COPY

Eagle Lake Headlight

NEWSBRIEFS

Benefit garage sale set for Saturday

A benefit garage sale will be held Saturday, Dec. 13, at 600 E. Main St. (El Zarape Bar) for Stephanie Galavis, 14, auto accident victim. Lots of items have already been donated from over 20 families. Anyone wishing to donate can leave them at the home of Jackie Morales, 305 Guadalupe St.

RHS sophomore class selling poinsettias

The Rice High School (RHS) sophomore class is selling holiday poinsettias. The 6-1/2 inch red poinsettia, wrapped with red or green wrapping at the cost of \$13, will arrive Dec. 11. Contact Sophomore Sponsor Kristen Guthman at 979-234-3535. They thank you in advance for your support.

2003-04 Waterfowl drawing underway

The 2003-04 waterfowl gun raffle is underway. The second annual event, sponsored by Friends of Main Street gives you a chance to win one of 25 guns. Tickets are \$20 and available from any Main Street member, at Johnny's Sport Shop, Sportsman's Restaurant and other Eagle Lake merchants. Tickets will be on sale at Austin's BBQ Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. You may also e-mail your request for tickets to mainst1eltx@yahoo.com. Proceeds are used to enhance the appearance of our city.

'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.

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.

Book fair in Sheridan is underway

The Sheridan School will be hosting a "Hats Off To Reading" book fair through Dec. 16. Students and parents may purchase books and other items during school hours. The family event will be held on the final night of the fair in the library. This will be in conjunction with the annual Christmas program.

Garwood Library open house is tonight

The Garwood Veterans Memorial Library invites the public to a holiday open house Thursday, Dec. 11, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Children, come and enjoy the Christmas activities. Adults, come and browse through the many Christmas books. Refreshments will be served.

Drama Club production is Friday

The Rice High School Drama Club fall production of *You Can't Beat the House* will be held Friday, Dec. 12. An enchilada dinner, catered by the Diaz family, will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the show will start at 7:30. Tickets are \$10 for dinner and show; \$5 for show only. Contact Deborah Reed at 234-2601 or any drama club member for ticket information or more details.

Christmas Parade is Dec. 13

The City of Eagle Lake Christmas "Parade of Lights" is set for Saturday, Dec. 13. This year's theme is "Meli Kalikimaka" or Merry Christmas in Hawaiian. If you are interested in entering the parade or having a concession downtown, please call 979-234-2640 or 234-2780 for more information. **There will also be "Caroling on the Square" starting at 5 p.m.**

The parade will start at about 6:45 and the "Big Kahuna" himself, Santa, will arrive for the finale about 8. Santa will then visit with kids, young and old, on the square after the parade.

Revival services to be held in East Bernard

CrossRoad Assembly of God Church in East Bernard, 510 Wallace St. next to Kovasovic's Meat Market, will hold revival services with Evangelist David Crowson, Sunday, Dec. 14-17. Sunday services are at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Monday through Wednesday at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Chamber luncheon is Dec. 15

The next Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce Luncheon will be held at Christ Episcopal Church (the pink church), corner of N. Lake and Stockbridge, Monday, Dec. 15, at noon. Sandra Flowers of Gerri's Homestyle Chicken will cater lunch. The menu will consist of chicken spaghetti, salad, garlic bread and tea. Plates are \$6 each. Please let Sandra know if you plan to attend in order for her to provide enough plates for everyone by calling 979-234-3935 or call the Chamber at 234-2780. There will be no guest speaker at this luncheon. Let's all get together for a little Christmas spirit and great association.

Rice Project Graduation meeting is Dec. 15

A Rice Project Graduation meeting will be held Monday, Dec. 15, at 6:30 p.m. in the commons. You may start turning in your silent auction items at this time. Also, a talent show practice will follow the meeting so seniors are urged to attend.

Defensive driving is Dec. 16, 17

A six-hour defensive driving course has been scheduled by retired DPS Sgt. (See Newsbriefs, Page 9)

Dream season over...

Tarpons halt Raiders in four overtimes

The Rice Raiders and Port Isabel Tarpons, playing for the 3A region title, fought, battled, scratched, clawed and willed their way to the longest game in UIL playoff history.

The four overtime thriller, a 63-61 win for Port Isabel, was the longest playoff game since the inception of overtime games. The game also made history, albeit negatively for the Raiders, as the highest scoring 11-man playoff game in the 80-year history of the state playoffs in Texas! The combined 124 points surpassed the 122 points scored by Austin Westlake and San Antonio Clark (80-42) in 1997.

The offensive fireworks included a combined 1,088 yards of offense, including 18 total touchdowns!

The Raiders finish their season with a proud 11-3 record, with all three losses by a combined nine points.

Port Isabel will move on to the final four to play Marlin, a 19-17 winner over previously unbeaten Bellville.

Coach Russell Roark stated, "Even though we didn't really play well, especially defensively, I thought our kids played hard. It was an amazing game and an emotional rollercoaster for three and a half hours. I'm extremely disappointed, but I'll never forget that game as long as I live. I'm proud of this team, especially our seniors. We've had great senior leadership."

Providing defensive fireworks for the Raiders came via junior workhorse Charles Huffman. He bulled, juiced and sprinted his way to 221 yards and five touchdowns, two of which came in overtime. He's now the proud Rice High School record-holder for season rushing yards and touchdowns, finishing the season with 1,863 yards (8.9 per carry) and 25 rushing touchdowns.



After Saturday's loss to Port Isabel, Coach Russell Roark told his disappointed team, "Even though we didn't really play well, you played hard in an amazing game and an emotional rollercoaster for three and a half hours. I'll never forget this game as long as I live. I'm proud of you, especially you seniors." *Headlight Photo*

Senior back-mate extraordinaire Michael Spears added 92 yards on 10 carries and a touchdown, before leaving the game with a severe thigh bruise late in the third quarter. He finished the season with 1,722 yards and 23 TDs.

Coach Ryan Roark, the Raiders' offensive coordinator, said, "Even though we continued to score, even in overtime, it was a serious blow losing Spears. He's been our go-to-guy all year, even in the passing game. I was (See Raiders, Page 8)

18 Raiders awarded All-District

A school record 18 different players from the 2003 Rice Raider football team were given honors at the recent 28-3A All-District meeting in Wharton. Coach Russell Roark said, "It's a big honor for the other coaches in our district to recognize the good players Rice has. I'm proud of all the team equally, even those who didn't receive honors. To me, all of these individual

honor are really team honors, because backup players played vital roles in making the starters better." The following Raiders are members of the 28-3A All District Team:

First Team Offense
Seniors, James Ochoa, center; Chad Mahaltic and Jess Little, guards; Kevin Shimek, tackle; junior, Charles Huffman, running back; and 28-3A Offensive MVP, senior Michael Spears.

Second Team Offense
Seniors, quarterback Steven Moore; tight end, Garrett Flores; tackle, Dustin Krennek; wide receiver, Brandon Jenkins; and running back, Derland Sanford.

First Team Defense
Junior defensive tackle, Donovan King; senior outside linebacker, Rusty Moore; junior inside linebacker, Robert Shaw; senior defensive back, Michael Spears; and 28-3A junior Defensive Co-MVP, Joe Cooper.

Second Team Defense
Senior defensive tackle, Jasmine Smith; junior outside linebacker, Stuart Ray; junior defensive back, Jeramie Hemphill; senior defensive back, Derland Sanford; and junior punter, Stuart Ray.

Honorable Mention All-District
Senior wide receiver, James Scott; senior defensive end, Cleve Johnson; junior outside linebacker, Jonathan Thomas; and senior tight end/defensive tackle, Ed Thomas.

Congratulations to all the Raiders on a fine season.

McCreary to serve as Parade Marshal

City of Eagle Lake Christmas Parade of Lights will go on as planned. Caroling will begin at 5 p.m. on the square.

We are asking that no one plan to park along Main between Struss Auto and Wiese Crop Insurance. Please park behind Struss and bring your fold-up chairs to enjoy the Parade on the sidewalk.

The parade begins at 6:45. If you have any questions, please call the Chamber at 979-234-2780.

The City of Eagle Lake and Eagle

Lake Chamber of Commerce are proud to announce that this year's Parade Marshal will be Joe Lee McCreary.

Joe Lee, a native of Eagle Lake, was the only son of Joe Hartwell McCreary and Ora Lee Larey McCreary. Born Dec. 12, 1914, Eagle Lake has always been his home.

He married Eleanor Reese of Eagle Lake; they had two children: Doris McCreary Terrell and Joe Herbert McCreary.

Joe Lee has three grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

After Eleanor passed away, he married Mrs. Ethel Cone. Joe Lee graduated from A&M College in 1937 with a degree in Business. After graduation, he returned home to Eagle Lake to work in the family businesses, which consisted of the Eagle Lake Furniture Store, McCreary Funeral Home and the McCreary land and ranching interests.

An active member of the Christ Episcopal Church, he has served on the vestry numerous times as well as serving as the clerk.

He wouldn't miss a third Sunday for the ladies cook for the monthly luncheon!

Joe Lee helped form the first combined charity drive in Eagle Lake when it was known as the Consolidated Fund, now known as the United Way.

He, along with Hub Matthews and Clyde Gold, was a founder of the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce in the 1940s.

Even back then, he thought a town needed a Chamber... he still does to-

day.

He's the only living charter member of the Eagle Lake Noon Lions Club. He served as president way back in 1945 and was instrumental in starting the organization's major fundraiser, the Lions Club Carnival.

He is still an active Lions Club member today, along with his son and grandson, Chris McCreary.

Joe Lee is one of the founder's of the Eagle Lake Hospital which he and his wife donated the land for the hospital.

An active member of the Eagle Lake Masonic Lodge 366 for over 65 years, he was Master of the Lodge for the first time in 1942, has served all positions and was the recipient of the Golden Trowel Award.

He is a Scottish Rite Shriner and the Past President of the Colorado Valley Shrine Club.

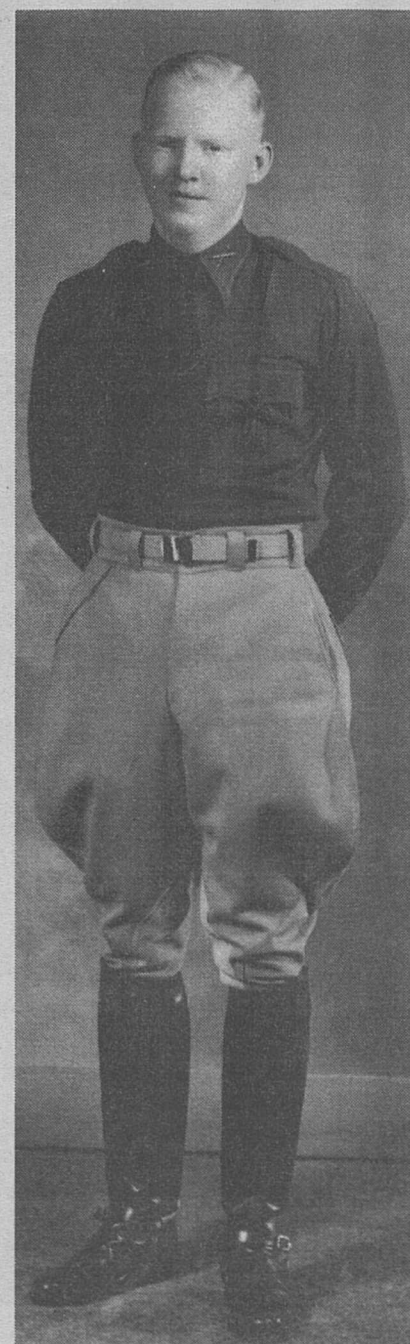
Joe Lee was instrumental in bringing Eagle Lake Concrete to our city. His first question to them was "Will you hire people from Eagle Lake?" He is a member of the Eagle Lake Prairie Edge Museum.

He has received the Outstanding Older Texan award for Colorado County.

Mr. McCreary is very civic minded and still believes in helping his fellow man and the old saying "If you don't have something good to say, just don't say anything."

A great storyteller, he can find humor in almost any situation.

He is truly a man of honor and one we are proud to honor!



Joe Lee McCreary as a senior cadet at Texas A&M.

Parade, Rice Raider celebration is Saturday

Take out your Hawaiian shirt, skirts, leis and Hawaiian holiday and Raider spirit and come to downtown Eagle Lake Saturday night, Dec. 13, for the Hawaiian Holiday of Lights Parade and Rice Raider's winning season celebration sponsored by the City of Eagle Lake and coordinated by the Chamber of Commerce.

Join in the "huladay" excitement starting at 5 p.m. with "Caroling on the Square". The parade will begin at 6:45 at the corner of Beaks and Hwy. 90A.

Participants will continue down Main St. to the Community Center.

Immediately following the parade, Santa and Mrs. Clause will be extending holiday wishes on "the square." Concessions will be sold throughout the evening.

Don't miss out on all of the festivities. Gather up your friends and family and join in the fun!

For more information, call the Chamber of Commerce at 979-234-2780.

Main Street awards grant to Struss Auto

Main Street Advisory Board Members, Sandy Bendy, Mary Ann Kaluza and Tony Tyler and Main Street Manager Rhonda Bridges, along with Louis Schorlemmer, Main Street Design Chariman, presented A.J. Struss Auto Supply owners Sidney and Barbara Struss with a grant for new signage.

Main Street provides grants for downtown building owners/tenants to help in renovating their building. There is a matching grant for renovating the façade and windows of buildings and a grant for signage.

To apply for either one or all of these grants, please contact Rhonda Bridges, Main Street Manager, at 234-2640; or Louis Schorlemmer, Main Street Design Chariman.

If you are interested in applying for a grant, you must contact one of these people **before** the work is done and keep all receipts for the expenditures. (See Struss, Page 5)

WEEKLY BIRD REPORT

The following migratory bird hunting report, prepared for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department by Bink Grimes, was last updated Dec. 3.

Coastal Prairies: Decoying action for geese is fair at best along the rice prairies near Katy, El Campo, Garwood, Eagle Lake, Lissie, Altair and Brookshire. An unlimited ceiling coupled with windless mornings has not proved prosperous for goose hunters.

Still, plenty of snaw and speckle-

bellies are in the region, most of which are using rice and plowed ground.

Duck hunting is spotty, though limit hunts have been reported on secluded ponds for gadwalls, teal, shovellers, wigons and the occasional mallard.

Pintails and mallards are not legal to harvest in the South Zone until Dec. 11.

Sandhill crane numbers are building. Zone C season will run Dec. 20-Jan. 18 with a 2-bird daily bag.

Prospects are fair to good.