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# SPORTS

## Rice RAIDER REVIEW

### Holidays get Students in Good Spirits

By Jessica Escobar

Once again the favorite time of year for many is just around the corner, and the celebrations have begun at Rice High School.

Just like every Christmas holiday starts with a decorated tree, the Student Council has graced the Commons with a new Christmas tree with great decorations.

The recent Christmas parade in Eagle Lake has brought on the anxiousness of the holidays also. The football team, cheerleaders and other athletes participated in the parade by riding on a float that was pulled by Wesley Perry's award-winning 18-wheeler. Many thanks to Mr. Perry for his generosity!

The Raider Band participated in the parade as well. They also held a Christmas concert at which they played well-loved Christmas tunes. Gerardo Zabala brought joy to many listeners with his solo "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer".

With preparations for the holidays in gear, students are getting in the spirit of gift giving. The Student Council is donating gifts to a nursing home and the National Honor Society helped wrap presents for the Deputy Santa program.

The Drama Club had a Christmas party and participated in a "White Elephant" gift exchange where weird gifts were given. For instance, Victor Brewer received a pink princess hand mirror and Lorenzo Mariscal received a Whoopie Cushion and a can of Silly String.

The varsity cheerleaders went to Poody's for dinner followed by a "Chinese Christmas" gift exchange. FTA members participated in a "Secret Santa" gift exchange.

The FFA and Food Technology classes had a Christmas party as well as the Student Council.

As the fall semester draws to a close, the Raider Review staff would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays!

### Rice loses to the Tigers

The Rice Raiders fall to 0-4 on the season. They lost a close one to the Sealy Tigers on Dec. 9. The 7-B top scorer's were Farrow-10, Leal-6, Bittner-1, and Stredick-1. The 7-A top scorer's were Hull-12, Sosa-6, Castenada-2, Morales-2, Shorter-2, and Arrelano-2. The Raiders also lost last Thursday to Bellville. The top scorer's were 7-B Stredick-2. The 7-A team was Hull with 18, Morales-2, Shorter-1, and Arrelano with 2.

### Jr. High Lady Raiders improving in skills

The Rice Jr. High Lady Raiders have been improving on their basketball skills. They played Sealy on Dec. 9 in Garwood. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade B team won with a score of 8-6. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade A team played a hard game but came up short with a score of 39-14. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade team had a hard fought battle with Sealy but lost the game.

On Dec. 13 the Jr. High Lady Raiders played in Bellville. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade B team lost with a score of 16-2 and the 7<sup>th</sup> grade A team played a tough game and won 16-15. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade team played extremely hard but came up short and lost the game.

The Jr. High Lady Raiders start off the 2005-year with a game on Jan. 6 against Navasota in Eagle Lake.

### Freshman with 6 wins

The Rice Raiders freshman basketball team has a season record of 6-2. They tied for first place in the Schulenburg Tournament recently, beating Victoria Memorial 51-38 and Round Top-Carmine 37-25. They had one loss against Schulenburg 48-53 in overtime.

The Rice Raider JV basketball team has a season record of 5-4. On Tuesday they lost to Somerville 33-46 at home. They won 3rd place in the Schulenburg Tournament last weekend, beating Somerville 36-35 and Industrial 41-33. Their loss came against Hallettsville 15-33.

The Raiders were scheduled to play Brazos at home on Dec. 13, at Port Lavaca-Calhoun on Dec. 20, and at home against Needville on Dec. 21.

### Raiders Defeat Brazos at the Buzzer

The Rice Raiders defeated the Brazos Cougars in dramatic fashion on Monday evening at home when Rob Johnson threw in a half-court shot to win the game, 43-42.

The game was tied at 40 with 22 seconds to go when the Raiders turned the ball over for the 30<sup>th</sup> time on the night. With 4.5 seconds left, the Raiders fouled, sending Brazos to the line for two shots. After hitting the first, Rice called a timeout to set up its inbound play and last chance effort. "The play was designed to be a layup, but Rob saw the amount of time left and

let it fly," said Coach Jason Crow. The shot allowed the Raiders to escape a very sloppily played game by both sides with the victory.

Jay Thomas led the way with 16 points and Johnson chipped in with 7. Other scorers on the evening were Brian Williams with 6, Jeramie Hemphill with 5, Deshaune Fuller 3, Taylor Cook 2, Emerson Dawson 2 (11 rebounds), and Quentin Thomas and Michael Morales with 1 each.

The Raiders travel to Pt. Lavaca on Monday and play at home Tuesday against Needville at 10, 11, and 12:30.



## Stephens' Sing-a-Long

After 20 years a favorite Christmas party was revived at the home of Patty and Draper Stephens on Dec. 10.

The now popular "Sing-a-Long" began in the 60s by Mrs. Clarence Martin (Patty's mother) and the St. Mary's Nada Choir members. It grew in size and musicians until this year's almost 100 friends and relatives attended. Guests gathered in the Stephens' large music room, the living room, family room and of course the festive decorated bar.

Musicians providing the Christmas music and old favorites were Floyd Spenrath, trumpet; Jim Blackburn of Stephenville, clarinet; Major Bengé, guitar; Patty An LaTouf, flute; Draper Stephens, drums; Chuckie Stephens, backup drummer; Mary Kay Heffley, song leader and piano; Cynthia Sunderman, piano and organ, and Patty Stephens, piano and organ.

Chief bartender was Chuckie Stephens capably assisted by Lauren Ugarte. Friends departed looking forward to continuing the tradition in 2005.

## Fitzgerald is MOCT/DCP Student of the Month

Charlonia Fitzgerald was selected as the MOCT Student of the Month for December.

She is a senior at Weimar High School and the daughter of Wanda and Charles Fitzgerald, Jr.

Charlonia has learned to provide the customers with great quality and service at McDonald's in Schulenburg, where she is employed.

She knows all aspects of service, production, and drive-thru. Charlonia can make, take, and serve the orders. She is one of the most dependable crewmembers at McDonald's.

Charlonia learns quickly, is willing to learn more and is a joy to work with for managers and crew. She commented, "I love my job and the experience here has allowed me to acquire job market skills."

Stop by McDonald's of Schulenburg and have Charlonia make you a "Golden Moment" by taking, making, and serving your order!



Charlonia Fitzgerald, pictured with Darlene Carroll (manager) has been selected as the MOCT (Multi-Occupational Cooperative Training) DCP (Diversified Career Preparation) Student of the Month for December.

Photo Courtesy of the Weimar MOCT/DCP Student of the Month Program.

## Eagle Lake Civic Garden Club

By Patty Holloway

The awards committee drove through Eagle Lake Thursday evening to choose the first, second and third place winners in the Christmas decorating contest and let me tell you it was not an easy decision.

There were so many lovely holiday displays but we finally agreed on the following winners: Pete and Janette Canaris, 600 W. Main St., first place; Clodis and Bobbie Christal, 512 N. McCarty Ave., second place; and Paul and Sharon Marsalia, 510 Strickland, third place.

Honorable Mention goes to the following: most of the homes on Partridge Lane, the home at 212 Center that is done in red and green the home on the

corner of Prairie and Lake. The home on 1069 Clipson Road has such a large display that you will have to stop the car to be able to take it all in. The homes on Melody Lane are beautifully done in mostly clear lights and there are two homes in the 1200 block of Raezer that have lovely colorful displays. A big thank you to all of you for sharing your Christmas spirit with the rest of us. I hope everyone will find the time to drive through the town and enjoy the many holiday displays. Merry Christmas!

(Photos can be seen in the Christmas section in this issue, starting with page 9.)

## Views Around the Lake

By Cindy Klopsteck

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!"

But what happened to autumn?

Somewhere between Halloween and Thanksgiving, autumn is lost. The season is all too short. Maybe it's because we live in the south and summer is all too long. September is too hot and doesn't feel like fall is approaching, even though school has already started in August. Then comes October and retail stores, along with a multitude of eager youngsters, anticipate Halloween, with very little of fall itself mentioned. Of course there is some seasonal recognition with fall festivals and church bazaars. Then comes November and talk of Thanksgiving and turkey. With the ever-increasing excess of the commercialized Christmas season, we barely get to mid-November when we are deluged with Christmas. Once Turkey Day itself is over, beware the stampede: the mall doors open earlier and close later, and the pre-Christmas rush is on.

This absence of autumnal celebration occurred to me as I tripped over my forsaken pumpkin yesterday.

Purchased to complete my fall decorations, I moved it into the house a few days after Thanksgiving, plan-

ning to cut it up for the seeds and scoop out the pulp for a pumpkin cake recipe. I certainly couldn't leave it out for another day because the neighbor was already stringing Christmas lights and my orange decoration stood out in cruel contrast to the increasing flow of red and green around the block. What to do with the lonely pumpkin on Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>? He was already outdated. And if I tried to share a pumpkin-flavored pastry with anyone at this time they would wonder why it hadn't been served prior to Thanksgiving. Everything has to be well in advance of the holiday. Thankfully, nature knows the true cycle of the seasons. In the south, where that first light frost comes very late in autumn, the trees are just within the past two weeks displaying their beautiful reds, golds and oranges in the area. I've enjoyed viewing them this past week while driving to work. I've equally enjoyed the quiet contentment of knowing that we humans may "jump the gun" on seasonal and holiday observances, but nature, in its own way, has it timed just right.

And will you look at that? Mother Nature can mix oranges and reds with her brilliant golds and the combination is just beautiful.

## Merry Christmas



On this day Santa gave me a gift, which was you. You're 2 yrs. old now, and we love you.

**Happy Birthday & Merry Christmas**

**"Prieta" (Aylin)**  
Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>

Love,  
Mom & Destinee

**Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday**  
**Megan Starr**  
Dec. 17, 2004

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Mom, Dad and  
Simon Suarez

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