

# Eagle Lake Headlight

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Darkeith Pratt looks for some room to run as Brian Williams blocks for him during Friday's victory in Edna.

## Raiders Beat Edna, Now 5-0

The Rice Raiders extended their winning streak to five games on Friday night with a 43-13 win in Edna.

The Raiders are 2-0 in District 28AA play, with Schulenburg being the only other unbeaten team.

The Raiders' offense amassed

446 yards, with 259 coming through the air.

"They were trying to take away the run, so the passing game opened up for us," said Rice Coach Brad Dumont.

Rice's stellar defense held Edna to just 29 yards passing and 125 yards rushing.

"The defense is getting better every game," said Dumont.

"We were led by Raul Equivel with 15 tackles, Pablo Suarez, Brian Willimas and Brent Botard each had 12," he added.

Taylor Cook turned in one of his best performances this year completing 11 of 19 passes for 259 yards and three touchdowns.

Darkeith Pratt and Ross Lobpries each caught four passes for 85 and 112 yards respectively. Two of Lobpries's and one of Pratt's went for touchdowns.

Lobpries also rushed for 30 yards and scored a touchdown.

Edna received the opening kickoff and set-up shop at their 30-yard line.

After two short runs, they picked up a first down with a nine-yard carry to the 41.

The Raider defense tightened up and stopped Edna for no gain on first and second down and then a one-yard loss on third.

Edna was forced to punt and the Raiders started their first drive at the 10-yard line.

On the first play, Cook threw complete to Williams for a 33-yard gain to the 43-yard line.

Ziggy Foster took the ball for a 26-yard carry on the next play to the Cowboy 31.

After two losses, Cook completed a pass to Lobpries on third and 15 for a 36-yard touchdown.

Luis Samaniego made the extra-point for a 7-0 Raider lead with 5:11 left in the opening quarter.

Edna returned the following kickoff to the 46-yard line where they started their next drive.

Edna ran the ball on 11 consecutive plays driving all the way to the Raider 19-yard line where they had a first down.

After a two-yard loss, Edna threw the ball for a 17-yard gain to the Raider two-yard line.

A delay of game penalty pushed the Cowboys back five yards where it was first and goal on the seven.

After three ineffective plays, the Cowboys decided to go for the touchdown on fourth down from the six-yard line.

Edna managed only a one-yard gain on fourth down and the Raiders took over on downs at their

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## County Schedules Tax Abatement Hearing

A public hearing is scheduled for 9:10 a.m. on Oct. 23 by Colorado County commissioners on a proposal for a tax abatement for a bottled water plant in the south-east part of the county.

The meeting will be held at the county services facility at 305 Radio Lane.

The application was made by American PureTex Water Corporation, which has said it intends to build a \$250 million plant and employ 371 people.

Commissioners discussed briefly the impact of the project on the county's water supply.

Bob Pickens, who has studied the county's water situation for a number of years, addressed the commissioners at the request of County Judge Al Jamison.

The company has previously said it would use about 1,500 acre feet of water a year, or approximately 480 million gallons.

They have said that is less than 1 percent of the water currently being pumped from aquifers in the county.

Pickens said that the water would amount to about the same amount of water used annually by a 300-acre rice farm that pumps ground water for irrigation.

He described it as a "very low percentage of water" of the total that is currently being pumped

from wells in the county.

Jamison noted that the hearing will allow the public to be heard, but he also indicated he tended to favor granting the abatement.

He noted that the company will get no abatement until the construction takes place.

The judge said the abatement would be 100 percent for the first two years, 75 percent the third year, 50 percent the fourth year and 25 percent the fifth year. After five years, the plant would pay taxes on full value.

He estimated the county could generate \$800,000 a year in tax revenue if the \$250 million figure is correct.

He said the additional revenue would enable the county to fund operations without raising taxes as much as would be needed without the revenue.

"A vote against the project is a project is a vote for higher personal property taxes," he said at one point.

Commissioner Doug Wessels noted that 15 other tax abatements have been granted by the county in the past.

However, three people, Bob and Marge Raborn and Pat Bubela, spoke against granting the abatement when invited to speak by the judge.

"A tax abatement is nothing more than corporate welfare," Bob Raborn said.

Bubela noted that the company before the latest bottled water proposal, had proposed building an 8-foot diameter pipeline to pipe water to the Houston area.

He said nothing would prevent them from doing that in the future.

The commissioners will also hold the hearing on a request to create a reinvestment zone that is necessary to allow the granting of the tax abatement.

The location is a tract of 260

acres at the intersection of FM 102 and Ramsey Road.

According to the application, the land is valued at \$1.6 million.

A description of the project included in the application states there will a "capital cost of approximate \$250 million. Land and building will range in the \$55 million level."

The application states that construction will begin in early 2007 and first production will start eight months later.

The building is estimated to cover 440,000 square feet and will house the company's water works division headquarters as well as the bottling facilities, according to the information from the company.

Also attending the meeting were the superintendent for the Rice School District, Mike Lanier, and the business manager, Bill Hefner.

Lanier said he was interested in seeing economic growth in that part of the county.

In other action, commissioners:

--Approved participating in the "Household Hazardous Waste Adopt-A-Barrel Program" in conjunction with a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Oct. 21 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Colorado County Fair Grounds. Residents may dispose of household hazardous waste, such as paints, motor oil, batteries and automobile tires at no charge.

The county will contribute \$1,250 to help defray the costs.

--Approved a request to name a private road in Precinct 3, Hamman Drive.

--Heard from Commissioner Herbie Helmcamp that 1.6 miles of County Road 255, south of U.S. 90A near Sheridan, had been rebuilt by Dominion Oil after the road had been damaged by company trucks.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### PureTex to hold meeting tonight

The PureTex Company will hold a town hall meeting on Thursday, Oct. 12 at City Hall in Eagle Lake at 7 p.m. All interested persons are encouraged to attend.

### Rice Medical Center Harvest Ball Saturday

Rice Medical Center Employee Volunteers' 11th Annual Harvest Ball Tickets. This year's Ball will be honoring Joe Lee McCreary for his vision, leadership, and commitment to the health and well-being of our community. The ball will be held on Saturday, October 14, at the Eagle Lake Community Center. The \$30 per person ticket provides a complete evening of entertainment starting with a social hour at 6 p.m., dinner, salute to Mr. McCreary, and dancing to follow. A silent auction will be held throughout the evening. For more information or to purchase a ticket, call Shara Sunderman or Vicky Pavlu at (979) 234-5571.

### Homecoming tailgate party Friday

The Rice FFA Booster Club will host a Tailgate Party in support of the Rice Raider Homecoming football game Friday, Oct. 13. Serving starts at 5:30 p.m. The price of a hamburger and chips, \$4; cheeseburger and chips, \$4.50. So come on out to the stadium and help the Rice FFA Boosters support the Raiders.

### Softball registration underway

Registration for the Power Unlimited Adult Softball Fall League is underway and will last until Oct. 13. Please contact Portia at 281-989-2555 if you have questions or need more information.

### Footliters evening on the square

The Plaza Theatre, 120 South Houston Street in Wharton, will present Agatha Christie's classic whodunit *The Mousetrap* October 13-15 and 20-22. Curtain time is 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are \$10 for adults; \$8 for seniors age 65 and over; students 22 and under, or groups of ten or more. For reservations or to purchase tickets, stop by the Plaza box office, 212B North Richmond Road, call 979-282-2970 or click on www.whartonplazatheatre.org.

### Parish annual festival is Sunday

The Parish of the Nativity, 545 S. Austin Rd. in Eagle Lake will hold their Annual Fall Festival Sunday, Oct. 15. Eucharist, 310 Stevenson St., Spanish, 8 a.m., English, 10 a.m. live rosary with the CCD children at 11 a.m. A BBQ beef and sausage meal with all the trimmings will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for \$7 a plate. Curb service will be available. The auction starts at 1 p.m. Enter the drawing for a \$1,000 and \$500 gift card. Booths and games throughout the day. Dance to music all day provided by a DJ.

### Nativity Breakfast Invitation

On the second Sunday of each month the Catholic Parish of the Nativity (POTN) Men's Club hold a breakfast for sale to the public. We cordially invite everyone to come and enjoy breakfast tacos, barbacoa tacos, menudo, donuts, coffee, orange juice and sodas. Proceeds are used to assist parishioners in need, scholarships to qualifying students of the parish, and to help renovated of the church. We welcome any and all donations of items used for preparing these breakfasts. If you wish to make a donation you may call the office at 979-234-2842. Leave a name and number and a member will call you to tell you which items we use and when to donate them.

### Invitacion de Desayuno

En el Segundo domingo de cada mes la Parroquia de Natividad Catolica tiene un desayuno de venta al publico. Cordialmente invitamos a todos que vengan y disfruten un breve menu de tacos de desayuno, tacos de barbacoa, menudo, donas, café, jugo de naranja y sodas. Los beneficios se utilizan en ayudar parroquianos con graves necesidades, otorgar becas a estudiantes de la parroquia que quali-

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Joe McCreary will be honored at this year's Rice Hospital Harvest Ball. See page A2 for more information.

## Raiders Play Tidehaven On Homecoming

The Rice Raiders take on the Tidehaven Tigers in Altair this Friday night at 7:30 p.m.

Homecoming is Friday night, with activities scheduled for halftime.

Rice will try to extend its winning streak to 6 games on the season.

Tidehaven comes in to "The Swamp" with a season record of 2-3 and a 1-1 district mark.

"They are coming off a big win over Ganado, 47-7," said Rice Coach Brad Dumont.

He advised that they run a spread offense and defensively they run a split-6.

Through five games this season the Raiders are averaging a district best 422 yards per game while holding their opponents to just 267 yards.

Tidehaven has gained only 261 yards per game while giving up 339 yards.

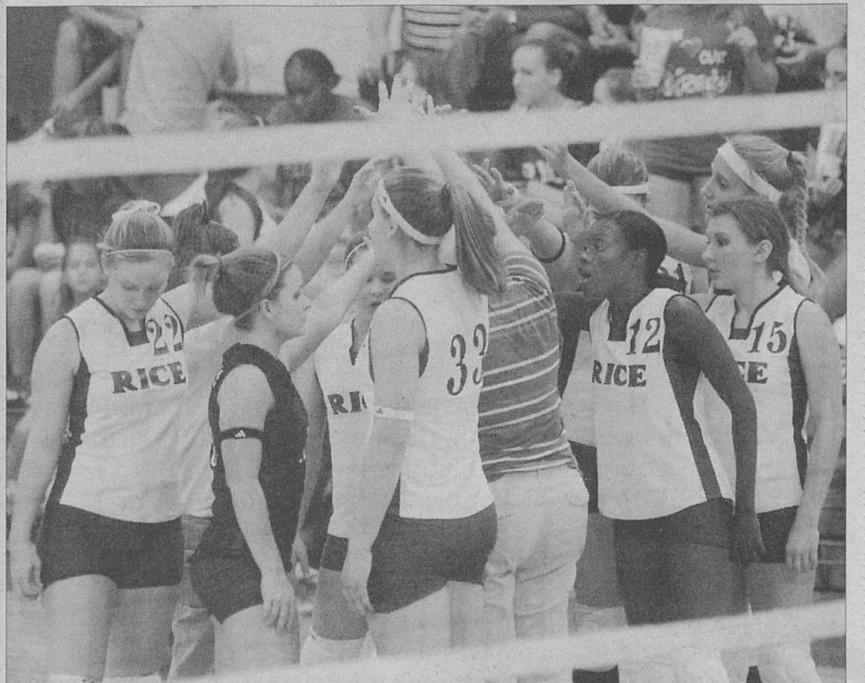
The Raiders have outscored opponents in district 90-13.

A matchup against fellow unbeaten Schulenburg looms large, coming a week from this Friday in Altair.



## Open For Business

A new business opened its doors on Saturday with an open house featuring music and free coffee. Wild Goose Chase, a bookstore and coffee bar is officially open for business. Pictured above are Linda Schmoker (Owner), at right and Barbara Pidgeon.



The Lady Raiders huddle up during their victory over Edna last Friday night.