



Views Around The Lake

by Cindy Klopsteck

“Light’house: n. a structure with a powerful light on top, erected at the entrance of a port or some important point on a coast, to serve as a guide to mariners at night.” (BrainyQuote)

The aroma of good food was the first thing to wonderfully assault my senses as I arrived for the special “Thanksgiving Celebration” held Wednesday, November 12, at Eagle Lake’s Lighthouse. The second kindly assault was on my auditory senses - the sounds of chatter and laughter and friendly voices raised in greeting and competition.

The sound of youthful voices - even the more “mature” voices in the various groups assembled sounded a bit younger while in the midst of actual happy, strong-willed youth.

Borrowing words from the quote above: “powerful, the entrance of some important point, to serve as a guide.” Yes, I was indeed at the right place, for the Lighthouse is a powerful youth-oriented place, the entrance of an important point in the lives of the young people served here, with volunteers assuring youth are being guided in the right direction.

I had been invited to view and join in the day’s celebration. By the time I arrived, children, teens and adults were in full gear. Outdoors, there were races and game competitions.

Sam Kana was in capable charge of this highly energized and athletic group, discharging his start gun between races, to the delight of all participants and the attention of everyone within hearing distance.

It looked like fun, but my nose guided me indoors where a feast had been prepared and was ready to be served. Community volunteers and first National Bank employee volunteers were scurrying about with platters and serving dishes full of delicious foods.

This is the annual Thanksgiving celebration at the Lighthouse and the biggest celebration for the Lighthouse youth, volunteers and sponsors.

The food was provided through volunteer donations, families of the youth being served, area church donations and The First National Bank of Eagle Lake. I got to meet JoAnne Bies, Lighthouse Director.

Currently retired and residing in Katy, she makes near-daily trips to the Lighthouse to support this venture to which she is so firmly committed.



Pictured above are children having early Thanksgiving dinner at the Lighthouse on Wednesday, November 19.

The Lighthouse is a non-profit facility whose mission is to “transform a community by transforming its children,” meeting the needs of the youth it serves through the provision of fundamental, developmental and recreational activities.

Approximately 50 youth are served daily, elementary through high school ages. At its current type program for some 15 years now, Board Member Linda Ferguson, who has been active with the Lighthouse since its reconception, feels the youth who come here realize they have “a place that belongs to them”, a basic need for all people.

Programs usually run parallel with the school year, but a summer program is being considered. Local youth needing a place to learn and constructively spend some rich, rewarding time, post-school hours, can find it here, and Eagle Lake is fortunate to have such a program for young people.

But more volunteers and interested persons are always needed.

But back to the fun...Youth were being seated at tables festive with fall colors and decorations. Prior to the sumptuous meal, Pastor Kevin Collison of the First Baptist Church provided guitar accompaniment as everyone sang.

As the celebration continued, I spoke with Anna Lee Higgins, a 3-year volunteer. “This is such a good program for the kids who need these activities,” she said. When the prior Lighthouse directors, Lyle and Dana Anderson, left this past year there was speculation as to how well the program would continue.

Mrs. Higgins and other volunteers I spoke with all agreed that Ms. Bies was doing a tremendous job of directing the Lighthouse program and its activities.

That’s why I decided to leave the celebrants for this day and return the next day to view the program in its everyday format. So it’s Thursday as I return to the scene of action.

Most of the youth call her “Ms. Jo” or simply just “Ms.”, and they do so fondly. The Lighthouse Director is miraculously handling at least four different culinary skills as I enter the spacious area and - again - the good aroma of the kitchen. “It’s cooking class today,” JoAnne Bies explains.

As various female class members enter the kitchen, each become busy with an important activity. I marvel as the girls efficiently take over the duties as Ms. Jo’s attention is drawn to an ice pack needed for a boy’s muscle, just strained a bit from an exuberant outdoor basketball game.

“There’s plenty of Gatorade back there,” she informs some of the boy’s fellow ballplayers as they enter the kitchen thirsty and looking for refreshment. “Can I get a ride home later?” asks a young girl coming through the area.

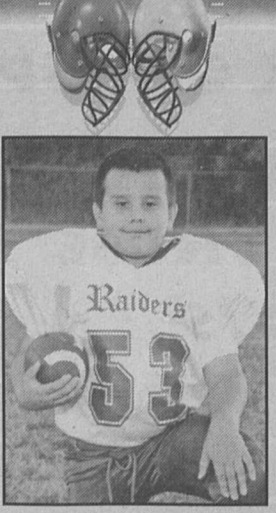
Ms. Jo assures her of the transportation, as she returns to coordinating the four young kitchen workers. People seem to always stay busy at the Lighthouse.

Miranda has just checked the oven to make sure the cinnamon rolls are not overdone. To my question, she quietly comments that she “enjoyed the Thanksgiving dinner yesterday.” Her grandmother, it turns out, had contributed quite a bit of her own good cooking for yesterday’s feast. “At least 85 were served,” Ms. Jo tells me.

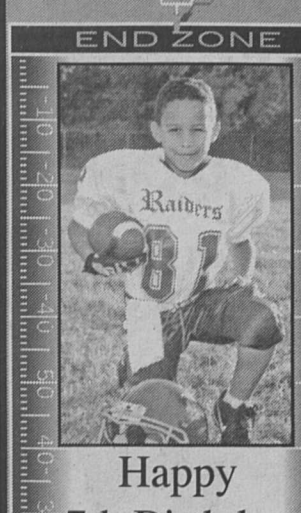
“And I sang the best and the loudest yesterday,” a confident Gisselle informs me. “The ham was really good. All the food was good.” Juanita and Marie are continuing to help in the kitchen as Juanita maintains that she was first place in three different races

Continued on page 11

Check Us Out
Online at
eaglelakeheadlight.com



Happy 9th Birthday
JJ
Nov. 27
Love, Your Family



Happy 7th Birthday
Joel
Nov. 26
Love, Mom & Dad



Rice Medical Center has recently purchased a Toshiba Xario ultrasound system. This system is recognized for its features that promote operator comfort and ease of movement, with advanced imaging techniques, superb image quality and high spatial resolution. The Xario quickly and accurately delivers the high quality images necessary to distinguish minute cardiac and vascular structures. Rice Medical Center offers a wide range of exams for our patients that include: cardiac, vascular, obstetrics, abdominal, breast, thyroid, testicular, soft tissue and special procedures (i.e.: biopsies). The images are digital and can be stored on CD's for patients to take to their physician and can be sent through our secure teleradiology system for emergency readings. Rice Medical Center strives to keep up with the ever-changing technology to provide the best possible care right here in your community, close to home.

Rice Medical Center truly is “Our Family Caring for Yours.”

School Days

Rice School Calendar Dec. 1 -Dec. 5

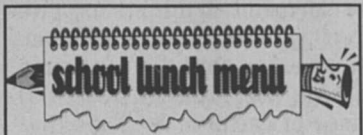
Mon.-

Tue.- STUCO-Activity Period
G-Basketball@Home-5:00/6:30
B-Basketball@Wharton-5:00

Wed.- UIL Academic Meet @ Schulenburg
FCA-Activity Period

Thurs.- 4:30 Jr. High Basketball Boys @ Home
Girls @ Schulenburg G.Basketball-Dec.4-6
JV/9th-Hallettsville Tourn.-TBA
G-Basketball-Dec.4-6-Needville V.Tourn.-TBA
Girls BB vs. Schulenburg - There
Boys BB vs. Schulenburg @ Home

Fri.- B-Basketball@Home-5:00



**Rice Schools
Dec. 1-Dec. 5
Breakfast**

Mon.-Sausage Roll or Cereal, Juice Milk
Tue.-Cinnamon Roll, Sausage patty or Cereal Juice Milk
Wed.-Breakfast Burrito or Cereal, Juice, Milk
Thu.-French Toast Sticks, Ham Slice or Cereal, Juice, Milk
Fri.-Cereal Yogurt, Juice, Milk

Lunch

Mon.-Chicken Tenders, Rice w/gravy, Peas and Carrots, Squash, Fresh Fruit, Milk HS Alt: Steak Fingers
Tue.-Corndog, Baked Beans, Corn, Salad, Fruit, Milk HS Alt: Red beans w/ rice and Sausage
Wed.-Hamburger, Burger Salad, fries, Fresh Fruit, Milk HS Alt: Steakburger
Thu.-Chicken Noodle Soup, Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Pickles, Veggie Sticks w/ Ranch, Fruit, Milk HS Alt: Fiesta Bean Burrito
Fri.-Sausage Roll, Spicy Rotini, Mixed Veggies, Garden Salad, Fruit Milk HS Alt: Fish Square Bread



Christmas on the Colorado

Sponsored by Columbus Historical Preservation Trust, Columbus, Texas

Candlelight Homes Tour on Saturday, December 6, 2008

Matinee at the 1886 Stafford Opera House on Sunday, December 7, 2008

Also enjoy the Santa Claus Museum 604 Washington

Saturdays 10 am – 2:00 pm • November 20 – December 20

Saturday, DECEMBER 6, 2008 • 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Candlelight Christmas Homes Tour

Tickets: Adults \$3 per house • Children \$1 per house (under 6 free)
(Please pay at each house)

1856 TAIT TOWN HOUSE • 526 Wallace
DON CHURCHILL HOUSE • 904 Live Oak
1867 TATE-SENFTENBERG-BRANDON HOUSE • 616 Walnut
1934 GOODMAN-THERIOT HOUSE 737 • Houston

Sunday, DECEMBER 7, 2008
Stafford Opera House, 425 Spring Street
Sunday Matinee 2:00 pm • Tickets Adults, \$20; Students/ Children \$10
Call 979-732-5135 for Information

Bah Humbug - Now in its 6th year. It is Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol with an amazing twist - one actor plays all the roles in this powerful tale of hope and compassion! Award-winning stage actor Damian Gillen transforms before your eyes into all those beloved characters...from Scrooge to Tiny Tim, in this magical, imaginative re-telling of a holiday classic.



Best Food in Texas!

Sportsman's

Restaurant
979-234-3071

Friday Night Specials

Senior Specials

Fried Catfish - Chicken Fried Steak
Hamburger Steak

Comes with salad, vegetable and fries
or mashed potatoes

\$7.99 from 5-7 pm

5:00 - 8:30 pm

Ribeye Steak	\$12.99
Grilled Shrimp	\$13.99
Seafood Platter w/ Gumbo ..	\$14.99
Handcut Ribeye & Shrimp ..	\$14.99
CoCoNut Shrimp	\$14.99
Louisiana Shrimp	\$14.99

All entrees come with Salad Bar,
Vegetable, Fries or Mashed Potatoes
no changes or exceptions

201 Boothe Drive • Eagle Lake