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Pictured above is the Rice Raider Band Color Guard. Kneeling: Christina Lopez, Alex Kucera; standing: Lucinda Cummings (Instructor), Brittany Parker, Jacqueline Chavez, Jennifer McDonald and Anna McConnell. The color guard won most outstanding color guard at a recent contest at Blinn.

## Rice Raider Band Competes At Blinn Contest

The Mighty Raider Band went to the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Blinn College Buccaneer Marching Band Festival on October 3, where they battled other 2A bands in the area as well as the 1A band.

The band received an excel-

lent rating. Rice then competed against other 2A bands at the marching contest for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

The 2A bands that Rice competed against were Industrial, Hempstead, Schulenburg, Lex-

ington, and Hallettsville.

The band won 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall and for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row the Color Guard received Most Outstanding Color Guard. The band's next performance is going to be at the UIL Marching Contest where

the band will have the chance to advance to area.

The band invites everyone to come out and support them on October 17, at the UIL Marching Contest in El Campo. Performance time for the Raider Band is 11:45.

## Monthly Groundwater District Report Given

By Jim Brasher

Wow. I must confess that I've encountered a lot of wide-ranging opinions about our little district here in Colorado County.

Some have been positive, some insightful, some have been rather inoffensive and some have been - how shall I say - colorful. It's given me a different perspective.

I know that there are some people who have a hatred of all things government and a corresponding distrust of all things and people remotely political.

To those people, I'm not sure what I could say that would alleviate their anxiety.

But to those that have some specific concerns and interest about District policy, I hope I can help.

Many people have anxiety about rules of the District that haven't even been created yet.

Only recently has the District Board started to investigate potential District Rules.

Therefore, I'd like to invite anyone that would like to have some input on shaping our District Rules to attend and participate in the monthly board meetings.

If you're unable to do that, come by our office and I'll certainly take note of your concerns and present them to the board as such.

Obviously, any District rule

that the Board creates cannot countermand State Law. So, I'll try to clarify some issues of state law.

**CONCERN #1:** The District is forcing me to register my well.

**RESPONSE:** Technically, it's Texas State Law that is requiring you to register your well with the District. Until District rules are finalized, I'm not sure what the consequences of not registering your well will be.

One thing I can say with certainty is that if you choose not to register your well, it will tend to cause us to underestimate how much groundwater is being used in the district and consequently we will overestimate how much water is available.

The more water that is deemed available, the higher is the probability that an outside interest will look to Colorado County as a potential source of water for their needs.

**CONCERN #2:** The District will force me to apply for a permit for any new well I want to drill.

**RESPONSE:** Again, until the District Rules are finalized, the exact criteria for requiring a permit are uncertain at this time. But, Texas State Law essentially says that a district may NOT require a permit for a well used solely for domestic use.

Nor may it require a permit for a well used solely for providing water for livestock or poultry on a tract of land larger than 10 acres with a well equipped to produce less than 25,000 gallons of groundwater a day.

The District could increase the production criteria for well exemption if it so chooses.

**CONCERN #3:** The District will mandate that I have a meter on my well.

**RESPONSE:** By Texas State Law, the District can NOT meter wells that are exempt from permitting (see above) unless the well-owner wishes it to be monitored.

The vast majority of wells in the district will be exempt from permitting.

**CONCERN #4:** The District can restrict water usage from my well.

**RESPONSE:** Again, if your well is exempt from permitting, Texas State Law says that a District may NOT restrict production on your well.

A decision on how much water a particular non-exempt well (i.e. high-capacity well) is permitted to produce will be determined in part after public hearing.

Further restrictions could

occur should there be a critical situation such as a sustained drought.

Hopefully this clears up a few items. More details of State Law can be found in Chapter 36 of the Texas State Water Code.

In the meantime, if you have questions or concerns about government policy as it regards to groundwater, feel free to access our website at www.ccgcd.net or e-mail me at jim@ccgcd.net.

Of course, you're always welcome to come visit us at our office at the Stafford Opera House in Columbus.

## Cranek Attends Fire School

Russell Cranek, volunteer fireman of Garwood Volunteer Fire Department attended the 80th Annual Municipal Fire School July 19-24.

The school, attended by nearly 3,000 students, was held at the Brayton Fire Training Field on the Texas A&M University campus in College Station.

Representing firefighting personnel from more than 750 cities in 25 states, the annual school educates firemen on a variety of subjects, including specialized fire suppression and rescue techniques, emergency dispatching, officer training, fire investigations and more.

Fireman Cranek was sponsored by Colorado County Farm Bureau (CCFB) and Texas FB

Companies by contributing toward the cost of the school.

Since volunteer firefighters are interested in attending this school to help do a better job for fire fighting and fire preventing, 125 county FBs and the Texas TFB Insurance Companies in the statewide program have sponsored 125 firemen at the school.

"Texas FB Insurance Companies believe volunteer fire departments have been very effective in reducing the amount of loss involved by fire in rural areas," said Texas FB president, Kenneth Dierschke of San Angelo. "It is our hope in sponsoring this program that the firefighter will help the Garwood Volunteer Fire Department to better serve the residents of Colorado County."

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## Ag Dept. Market Recap Given For Week

For the week ending Oct. 3, feeder and fed cattle prices at Texas auctions were \$2 lower with slaughter lambs being sharply lower and slaughter goats being \$3 higher.

Cash cotton was firm and Texas grains were all generally steady for the week.

As for futures markets, feeder cattle, fed cattle and cotton were lower, wheat was weak, while corn remained steady, and lumber was

higher.

Majority of the state experienced scattered showers, with the Eastern and Southern parts receiving 2-6 inches in isolated areas.

Low-lying areas of the Northern High Plains experienced some freezing this week. Winter wheat planting continued, and the cooler temperatures slowed the cotton maturity.

Corn harvesting is making

good progress while sorghum is near completion.

Corn is 72% harvested, with sorghum being at 67% harvested and 100% headed.

Winter wheat is currently 53% planted.

Range and pasture progressed well this week due to the recent rainfall throughout the state.

Topsoil is mostly short to adequate statewide.

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