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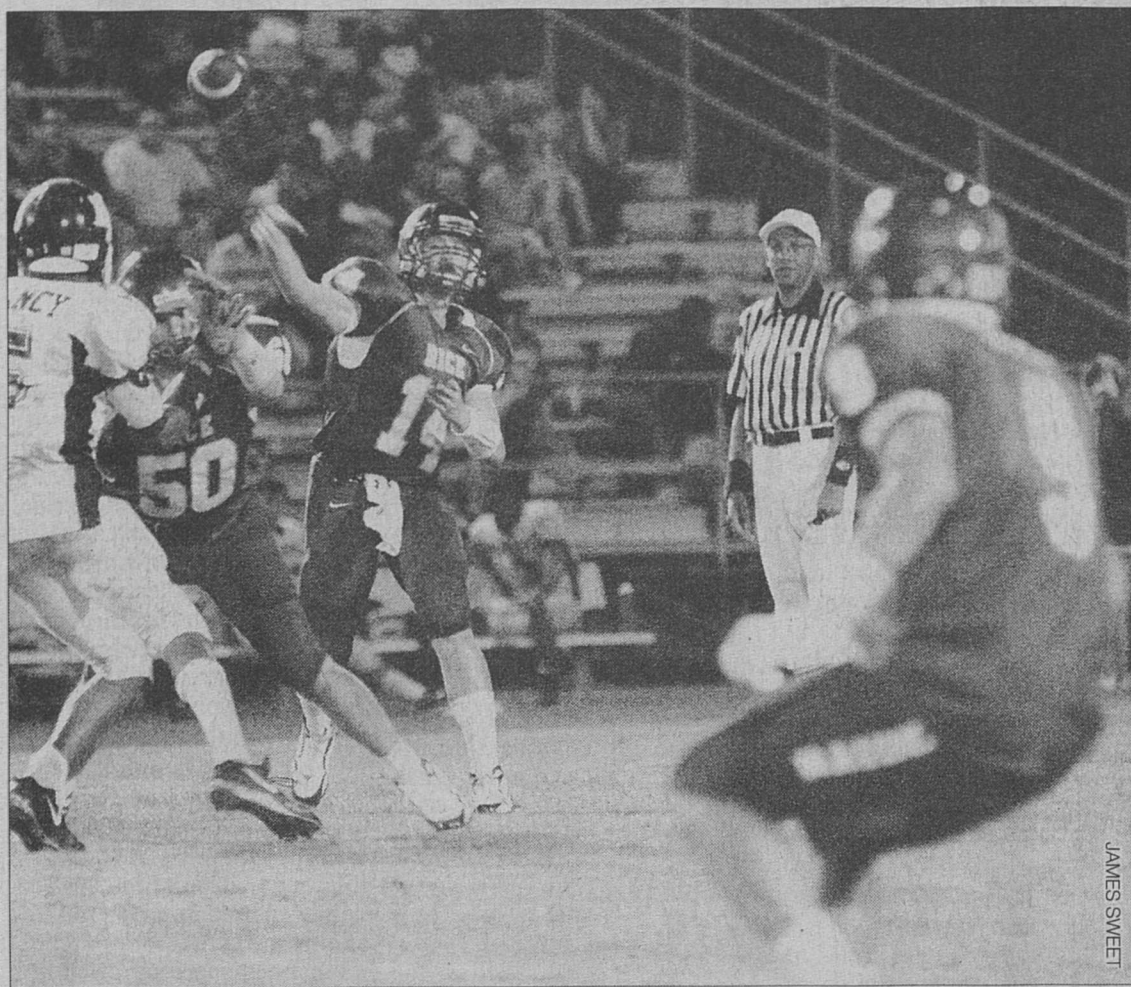
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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

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Myles Dumont (14) and Mario Hull (9) have dominated so far this season for the Raiders. Dumont has thrown for 1,002 yards and 9 touchdowns in 2009, good for second in district. Hull has 27 grabs for 645 of those yards and 7 touchdowns, also good for second in district. The Raiders face a tough test in Weimar on Friday where they will take on the No. 1 quarterback/receiver duo in the district, brothers Brixx (1,110 yds./13 TDs.) and Linx Hawthorne (29 catches/631 yds./7 TDs.)

Sales Tax Payments Down

Sales tax payments to the city of Eagle Lake in October were \$13,497, a decrease of 14.08 percent from last October, figures from the state comptroller show. For the year, payments total \$155,453, a decrease of 4.03 percent.

For October in Colorado County, payments totaled \$75,414, an increase of 8.18 percent.

For the year in Colorado County, payments totaled \$1,035,032, an increase of 33.64 percent.

For October in Fayette County, payments totaled \$86,987, a decrease of 9.94 percent.

For the year in Fayette County, payments totaled \$985,584, an increase of .20 percent.

September state sales tax revenue and October payments made to local governments represent sales that occurred in August.

Checks sent to area cities, with changes from last year, are as follows:

--Columbus-\$75,377, down 2.79 percent; for the year, \$933,720, up 6.39 percent.

--Weimar-\$23,218, down 6.32 percent; for the year, \$266,399, down 0.57 percent.

--Schulenburg-\$50,409, up 9.29 percent; for the year, \$488,795, up 2.28 percent.

--La Grange-\$100,738, down 12.16 percent; for the year, \$1,175,465, down 6.10 percent.

--Flatonia-\$16,595, up 6.74 percent; for the year, \$158,064, up 4.55 percent.

--Hallettsville-\$62,695, down 9.75 percent; for the year, \$744,157, up .38 percent.

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs said Friday, Oct. 9, the state collected \$1.47 billion in sales tax in September, down 12.5 percent compared to a year ago.

"Declining sales tax collections, which began in February, have continued with September's collections," Combs said.

"Weakness is still evident in all major sectors of the state economy, including oil and natural gas, retail trade and construction.

"Decreases in monthly collections are expected to continue through the end of 2009."

Combs sent local governments \$418.5 million in monthly sales tax allocations, a 7.6 percent decrease compared to a year ago.

So far this calendar year, local sales tax allocations are down 3.7 percent compared to the same period in 2008.

Combs distributed monthly sales tax allocations of \$282.8 million to Texas cities, down 7.3 percent compared to last October.

Texas counties received sales tax allocations of \$25.5 million, down 10.7 percent compared to a year ago.

The 153 special purpose-taxing districts around the state got \$16.7 million in sales tax revenue, a decrease of 1.4 percent compared to a year ago.

Ten Texas transit systems received \$93.3 million in sales tax, down 8.4 percent compared to a year ago.

Continued on page 8

Teams Fighting For District Supremacy Raiders Set For Gridiron Showdown In Weimar

The Rice Raiders (4-1, 2-0) are back in action this week when they travel to Weimar (7-0, 3-0) to take on the top rated offense in the district.

"The next three weeks are all big games, with three teams (Rice, Hempstead (4-2, 2-0), and Weimar) still competing for only three playoff spots," said Rice Coach Brad Dumont. After Weimar this week, Rice hosts Schulenburg and then travels to Hempstead.

"This week should separate a few teams," he added.

The Wildcats roll into Friday's game having dispatched their first three district opponents, Brazos, East Bernard and Hallettsville.

Weimar beat Hallettsville on the road last week, 31-22.

The Raiders last game was an overtime win over Hallettsville in Altair on October 2.

"Weimar is a very good football team," said Dumont.

He said that their offensive line is as good as Rice has seen all season and that would be a concern since the Raiders have had some trouble stopping the run this year.

Weimar is averaging 366 yards per game, with a fairly even split between rushing and passing.

The Raiders average 346 yards per contest with about 60 percent of that coming through the air.

On the other side of the ball, the Raider defense has given up only 168 yards per game while the Wildcats have surrendered about 250 per outing.

"Weimar is very explosive and has a big time quarterback with excellent players at the skill position," said Dumont.

Their quarterback, Brixx Hawthorne is leading the district with

1,110 yards and 13 touchdowns on the year. He has also rushed for 714 yards and eight scores.

His brother, Lynx, is his main target with 631 yards and 7 touchdowns on the year. He is also at the top of the district charts.

Running back B. J. Jones has nearly 500 yards and 8 touchdowns for the Wildcats.

Rice quarterback Myles Dumont is No.2 in the district with 1,002 yards and 9 touchdowns. Mario Hull is listed as the No. 2 receiver with 27 catches for 645 yards and 7 scores.

Michael Scott is the Raiders' top rusher with 310 yards and 4 touchdowns.

"Our health is a major concern. We have some that will be back, but we have a key player or two still out," said Dumont.

Game time is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Friday.



The homeowner at 609 Sixth Street was awakened when a tree on his property fell on his suburban parked in front of his home on Friday, Oct. 9. High winds and rain from the front that came through likely played a role in the incident.

County Gets Federal Funds For Radios, Conservation

Colorado County is in line for \$150,000 in federal funds for radio communications and energy conservation.

Colorado County commissioners, meeting on Tuesday, approved accepting a \$81,000 grant from the federal Homeland Security agency to upgrade radio equipment for fire departments in the county and provide a new generator in Weimar.

The county also approved applying for a \$75,000 in federal

stimulus funds for energy efficiency and conservation.

County Judge Al Jamison said the money would be used for air conditioning improvements at the courthouse. He said the county was also looking at purchasing frosted windows when the courthouse renovation starts and some of those funds could be used for that.

In other action, commissioners:

--Authorized the district clerk

to collect a records technology fund fee not to exceed \$5 per filing to be used to preserve and digitize district court records.

District Clerk Harvey Vornsand estimated that the fee would generate about \$1,500 a year.

--Approved purchasing 1.75 acres for \$5,000 in Precinct No. 3 along Oil Patch Road to conform the road to its present location.

--Approved spending approximately \$6,800 for replacing two-

Continued on page 8

Fish fry, chicken dinner Friday

Wesley Chapel Methodist Church in Altair will hold a fish fry and chicken wing dinner fundraiser, Friday, Oct. 16. The dinner will consist of fried fish or chicken wings with green beans, macaroni and cheese and dessert. Plates are \$7.50 each. Serving will be from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Delivery upon request or stop by the church located at Columbus and Bowie St. in Altair. For more information call Marie Glover at 234-2206, Betty Glover at 234-3164 or Mary Nightingale at 234-3264. They thank you in advance for your support.

Nesbitt open house, dedication

The public is invited to an open house and dedication of the Bill Stein Texas Room slated for 2-5 p.m., Friday, Oct. 16 at Nesbitt Memorial Library in Columbus. The dedication will include viewing of a new portrait of Stein by noted Colorado County artist Ken Turner. Stein was the library's long-time director and highly-regarded historical archivist. The event is being sponsored by Nesbitt Memorial Library Foundation, Inc. The library is located at 529 Washington St. in Columbus, across from Columbus Elementary School.

CDA bake sale Saturday

The 20th Century District Association (CDA) youth will sponsor a bake sale Saturday, Oct. 17 at Wal Mart in Wharton from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. They thank you in advance for your support.

Rice Medical Harvest ball is Saturday

Rice Medical Center (RMC) Employee Volunteers will hold their 14th annual Harvest Ball Saturday, October 17 at the Eagle Lake Community Center. This year they will be honoring Dr. Ronald Mahoney for his vision, leadership and commitment to the health and well being of our community. Social hour will be from 6-7 p.m. Dinner at 7 p.m., salute to honoree from 7:30-8:30 p.m., and dancing from 8:30-12:30 a.m. \$35 per person includes open bar, meal and dance. Silent auction and live auction proceeds go towards new hospital equipment and renovations. If you are unable to attend, please contact Vicky Pavlu or Shara Sunderman at 979-234-5571 to make a donation or to be a sponsor for this event. Every donation, big or small, is appreciated by the family of Dr. Ronald Mahoney and RMC.

Parish fall festival is Sunday

If you are looking for good food and entertainment for all ages... don't miss the Annual Fall Festival being hosted this Sunday by the Parish of the Nativity Catholic Church here in Eagle Lake. The day's activities will begin with Eucharist being celebrated at the church at 310 N. Stevenson Street. Mass at 8 a.m. will be in Spanish and at 10 a.m. in English. Activities then move to the church's pavilion area at 545 S. Austin Road (across from the hospital). BBQ beef and sausage with the trimmings will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for \$8 per plate. You can either enjoy your meal at the pavilion grounds or a convenient drive-through line will be available. A live auction with a variety of unique items will begin at 1 p.m. followed by a drawing for 41 prizes including a \$1,000 gift card. Other activities include a country store, cake and plant walk, and a variety of food booths. For the youngsters, there will be laser tag, super slide, obstacle course, moon walk, duck/fish pond, face painting, and lots of traditional games and rides. Lots of action is expected in the soccer and horseshoe tournaments. Parishioners invite you to bring the family and enjoy a day of fun and fellowship.

Project graduation Meeting Oct. 19

Rice Project Graduation will be having a meeting on Monday, October 19 at 6 p.m. at the Rice High School commons.

Little league Meeting Oct. 20

The Rice Little League will be having a meeting on Tuesday, October 20 at 7 p.m. at City Hall to elect new officers.

Continued on back page



Holding some of the items that will be available at the Rice Medical Center Harvest Ball this Saturday are from left to right: Laverta Bluntson, Gloria Munoz, Velma Loya, Rachel Rodriguez and Rocio Lugo.