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The Raider defense played a tough game Friday, but Rice came up just short, losing to Refugio 21-14 in a mostly packed Ricebird Stadium in El Campo. Above, Damien Stevens, Patrick Dota, Cody Lantelme, Jacob Munoz and Erik Gold work to stop a runner.

Raiders' Playoff Run Ends With Tough Battle Against Refugio

The Rice Raiders were eliminated from the playoffs last Friday night in a tough 21-14 loss to Refugio in El Campo. Rice finishes the season 11-2.

Fans in the mostly full, 8,000 seat Ricebird stadium were treated to a hard-fought battle that saw the game decided late in the fourth quarter.

Refugio broke a 14-point tie midway through the fourth quarter with a 98-yard touchdown drive.

"We had them pinned up and let them out," said Rice coach Brad Dumont.

Refugio's possession started when they intercepted a Raider fourth and ten pass attempt on the first play of the fourth quarter.

The first play, a run up the middle that broke for 18 yards, got them out of the shadow of their end zone.

They rolled from there, running the ball five more consecutive times to near midfield.

A 23-yard pass pushed them deep into Raider territory at the

24.

Two plays later they broke another run, this time for a 20-yard score to break the tie. It would eventually prove to be the game winner.

"We just didn't make the plays on defense when we needed to," said Dumont.

The drive took nine plays and burned about four and half minutes off the clock.

Rice got decent field position at the 38 to start their next drive.

A 17-yard pass to Mario Hull on third and eight kept the drive going and pushed Rice into Refugio territory at the 43.

Three straight runs pushed the Raiders all the way down to the 19, but a false start pushed them back to the 24.

On second and 15, Dumont threw to J. J. Reggins for a short gain, bringing up third and eleven.

Another penalty on the Raid-

ers pushed them back another five yards, making it fourth and 16 at the 25.

Dumont found Tim Morales open over the middle. Despite a hard hit, Morales held on, but the gain was 14 yards, leaving the Raiders with a fourth and two.

Dumont took the snap, rolled left and lobbed a pass toward Reggins. A Refugio defender got a tiny piece of the ball and knocked it off course. Reggins managed to get his hands on the ball, but was unable to come up with the catch.

The ball fell incomplete with about two minutes left in the game and Rice with one timeout.

Refugio got a first down on their second play and were able to run out the clock on the Raiders' season.

Asked if close losses hurt worse, coach Dumont simply said he didn't like to lose. "They all hurt," he added.

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Unemployment Rate Shows Slight Decline

October figures show the Colorado County unemployment rate sitting at 6.5 percent with a decrease of .1 percent from September.

That is still an increase of 2.4 percent from October 2008.

In October in Colorado County, there were 11,336 people employed and 742 seeking jobs.

Fayette County unemployment sat at 5.5 percent in October

showing a decrease of .2 percent from September.

It represents a 2.1 percent increase from October 2008.

In October for Fayette County, there were 12,786 individuals employed and 707 looking for work.

Lavaca County unemployment was 6.3 percent in October with no change since September.

That is a total increase of 2.5 percent from October 2008.

In October in Lavaca County, there were 10,092 people employed and 640 unemployed.

Total nonagricultural employment in Texas increased by 41,700 positions in October with significant increases in Professional and Business Services and Education and Health Services.

The Texas seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose slightly to 8.3 percent in October, up from 8.2 percent a month ago, and continued to trend well below the U. S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 10.2 percent.

"In October, the Texas job market regained some lost ground experienced over the past several months, although it is too soon to indicate a trend," said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Tom Pauken.

"The Texas unemployment rate continued to edge upward as our state continues to feel the effects of the national economic downturn."

Education and Health services employment grew in October with the addition of 14,900 jobs, and Professional and Business Services add 10,800 positions in October.

Employment in the Financial Activities industry increased by

4,500 jobs in October.

"Reports of job gains in October are good news, and certainly better than the alternative, but we remain concerned about the many Texans who still cannot find work," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton.

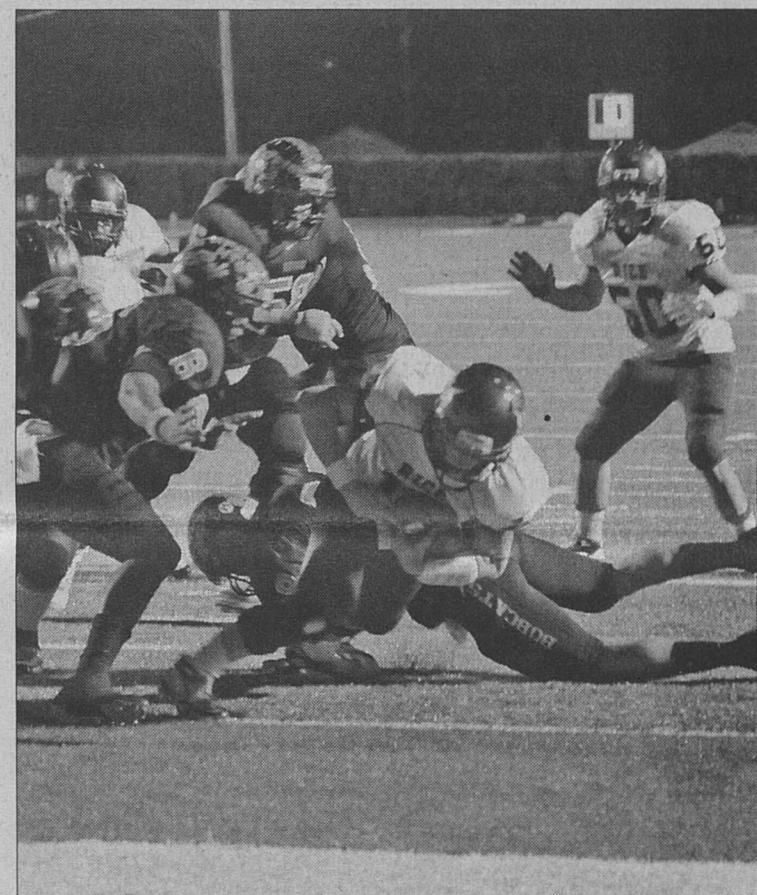
"We want to encourage those seeking work to take advantage of the job-search and training services available at our workforce centers across Texas."

Employment in the Leisure and Hospitality industry was up in October by 2,600 jobs, while Trade, Transportation and Utilities reported an increase of 2,500 positions in October.

Construction employment continued to experience job losses with a decrease of 9,400 jobs last month.

We are encouraged by increased employment reports across most industries in October specifically in the service providing sector which includes health-care, business and finance," said TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar.

"TWC and the 28 local workforce development boards remain determined to help out-of-work Texans find jobs."



With the help of his offensive line, Myles Dumont pushes into the end zone for the Raiders first touchdown against Refugio last Friday night.



City Employee Benito Rangel is busy putting up the ornaments in downtown Eagle Lake.

NEWSBRIEFS

Democrats name chairman

The Colorado County Democratic Party's Executive Committee has elected Mark Warner as its County Chairman to complete the term of Raul Martinez who recently resigned. Individuals interested in becoming Democratic Party Candidates in the upcoming primary election may contact Warner at 979-733-8530. Filing period for the primaries commences on December 3 and ends at 6 p.m. on January 4, 2010.

Toy Drive Underway

The Cozy Lounge is having a toy drive thru December 19. Drop off a new/unwrapped toy at The Cozy Lounge (Thursday thru Monday during hours of operation). These toys will be given to the children in our community at the Cozy Lounge on December 20. Lets help put a smile on a child's face this holiday season. For more information or to make a donation please call 832-859-9330.

Christmas concert is tonight

The annual 'The Candle Light Christmas Concert' performed by the Wharton County Junior College Concert Choir and Chamber Singers, will be held on Thursday, Dec. 3. The program will start at 7 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 570 N. Fulton, Wharton. Come hear much loved carols along with new, soon to be favorite, songs. The evening will close with a medley of carols and the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah. This is a very enjoyable way to start the holiday season. Admission is free. This is a Center for the Arts production. For more information, please call 979-532-6300.

Senior citizen's dance is Friday

A senior citizen's dance will be held Friday, Dec. 4 from 7:30 to 10:30 at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Daniel and the Country Boys will provide the music. For more information call 979-234-2903.

Fantasy of Lights Dec. 4-5

The town of Sealy will be holding the 23rd Fantasy of Lights Festival, December 4-5. The weekend will be packed with kid's activities including a live snowfall, plenty of shopping, BBQ cook-off, softball, and lighted parade. For more information and schedule of events, please visit <http://www.sealycommunityfoundation.org> or call 979-885-3511.

Holiday homes tour Saturday

The Eagle Lake Civic Garden Club will hold their Holiday Tour of Homes Saturday, December 5 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 each and available from any Garden Club member or at the Prairie Edge Museum on day of tour. For more information visit www.visiteaglelake.com.

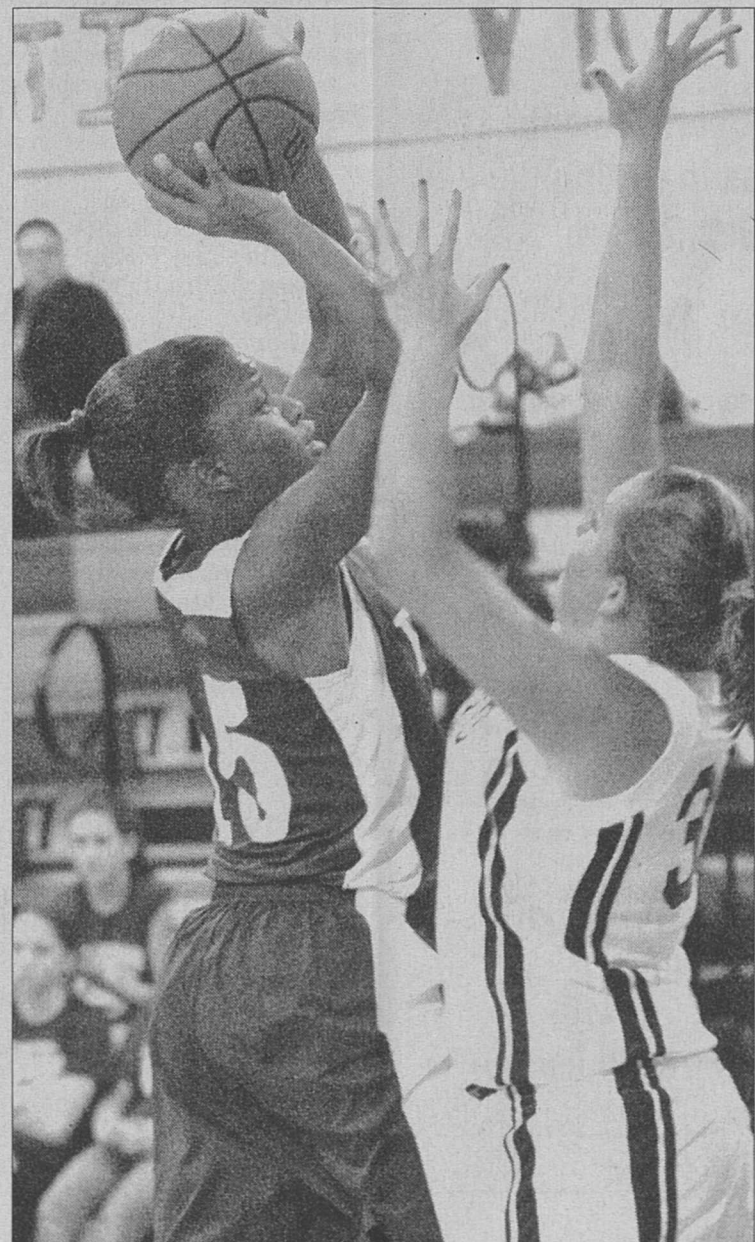
Sealy dance is Saturday

The Sealy Dance Club will host a public dance Saturday December 5 at the American Legion Hall in Sealy. Dance time is 7:30 to 11:30. Music will be provided by Texas Sound Czech. This will be the club's Christmas Dance. This dance will follow the Sealy Parade of Lights. Come and have fun. Every dance is a big party and fun time. Open to the public. Free cake, coffee, sandwiches, chips, dips, and door prizes. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. For Information call 979-885-3489.

Thomas to be honored Sunday

We, the family and friends of Malcom Thomas, Sr., would like to invite the community to come out and fellowship with us on Sunday, December 6 at 2:30 p.m. at the City Park in Eagle Lake. We are expecting to do great things to keep "The Legend" of Malcom Thomas, Sr., alive. So come out and have hot dogs, chips, punch and cookies and enjoy this day.

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Annicia Williams takes a shot during a recent Lady Raiders game in East Bernard.