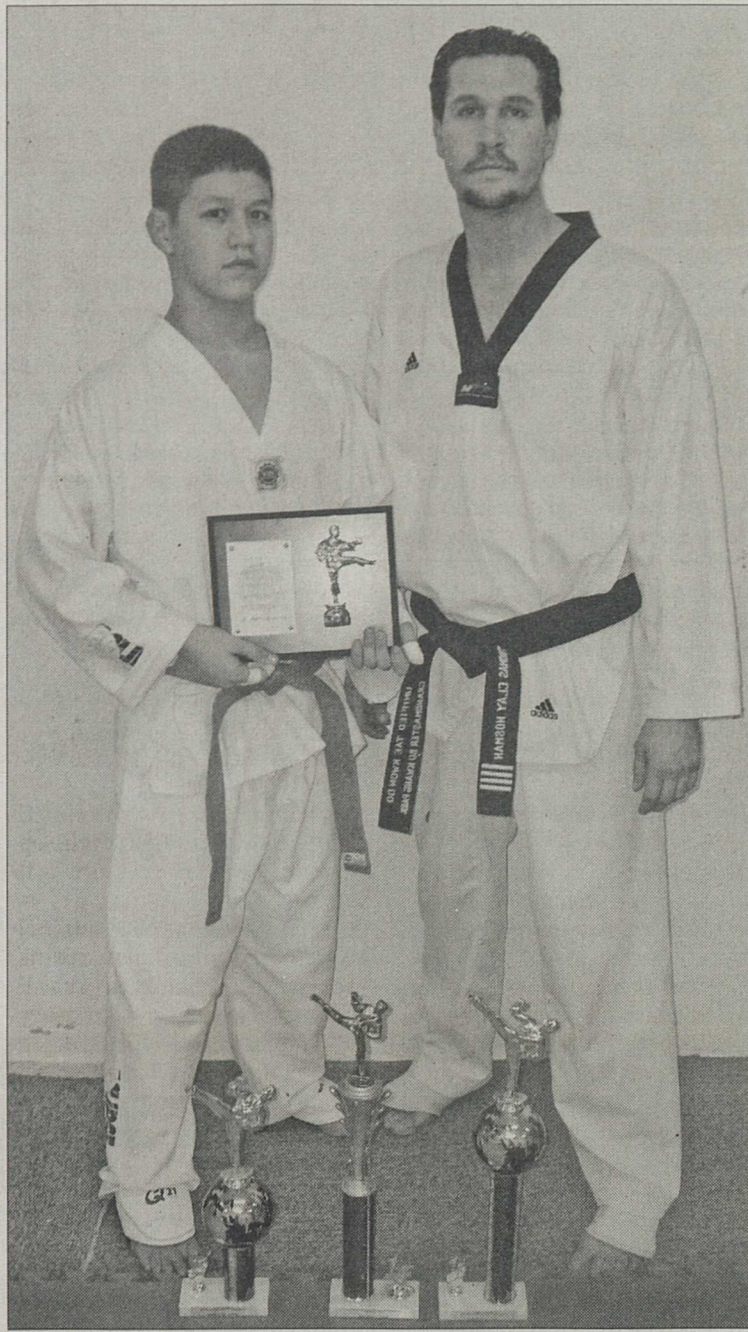




Pictured are Aaron Kucherka, left, and Master Clay Hosman of Eclipse Tae Kwon Do. Kucherka recently placed at the AAU Texas Junior Championships in Houston.

Rice CISD Board

Continued from front page

Also approved were:
-New office doors in Sheridan and Rice High School that incorporate glass to allow staff to see out of the office. The cost of that project is estimated at \$1,375 in Sheridan and \$2,700 at the high school.

-Concrete pads for picnic tables at Altair campus at a cost of \$1,500.

-A counter in the office at Sheridan that will prevent visitors from having direct access to the office area. The cost of that is about \$1,000.

Also discussed was an estimate for new blinds in Garwood.

The cost to replace blinds on 97 windows with two inch wood or faux wood slat blinds is \$12,450 or \$8,800 respectively.

They will look at that project again at the next board meeting after getting input from the Garwood principal, Leroy Stavinoha.

The board also got a report on the audit of fiscal year 2008-2009.

The board was told that they were given an unqualified opinion on their financial statements, meaning that everything was done properly and that no major

adjustments were needed.

In other action:
-Heard a report that the final amount of the Rice Junior High Project was \$15.472 million. The amount approved by voters in the bond election was \$15.781 million.

-Discussed the district's investment strategy. Currently the district invests in CDs and investment pools but Assistant Superintendent Bill Hefner said that the rates they were getting were very low. He indicated that there were other options that could yield higher returns, but they would need to consult a broker. The board agreed to go ahead with getting more information on the matter.

-The board appointed Vic Corman as the district's representative on the Colorado County Central Appraisal District's Review Board.

-Approved a right of way for San Bernard Electric Coop for electrical work at the Altair campus.

-Heard the continuing education credits for board members.

USDA Seeking Loan Applicants

USDA Rural Development has announced their allocation for direct single-family loans for Fiscal Year 2010.

Due to an increased level of funding as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, USDA Rural Development in Texas has more than \$130 million in direct funding available to help families achieve the dream of home ownership.

"USDA Rural Development is proud to assist rural Texans in meeting their housing needs, which is critical to the long term sustainability of our communities," said Paco Valentin, USDA Rural Development State Director.

USDA Rural Development's direct program provides low-interest, no-down-payment loans to help eligible families living in rural communities and rural areas to purchase their own homes.

The Direct Rural Housing

Cattle Prices Mixed

For the week ending Dec. 12, feeder cattle price trends at Texas auctions were mixed, from \$5 lower per hundredweight to \$5 higher.

Some locations report good demand for cattle to place on winter grazing, but lower prices for finished cattle.

Higher grain values pressured feeder markets.

Weak demand and lower beef prices pushed the fed cattle market \$3 lower.

Strong global demand continues to support the cotton market.

Corn and grain sorghum ended the week higher after a major Midwest snowstorm halted corn harvest, with some fields likely to remain un-harvested until spring.

As for futures markets, cot-

ton and corn were higher, while feeder cattle, fed cattle, wheat and lumber were lower.

Rainfall during the week varied across the state with the heaviest amounts falling along the Upper Coast and in East Texas.

Topsoil moisture remains mostly adequate to short state-wide.

Winter wheat was 98 percent planted with 91 percent of the acreage emerged.

Cotton harvest progressed to 92 percent complete, well ahead of the normal pace.

Harvests of grain sorghum and soybeans were nearing completion.

Pasture conditions declined with the cooler temperatures and shorter days, and were reported in mostly fair to good condition.

Kucherka Places At Texas Junior Championship

Aaron Kucherka continues on his quest for the AAU Tae Kwon Do National Tournament.

On November 21 Aaron took 1st place in Forms and 3rd place in Olympic Sparring at the AAU Texas Junior Championships in Houston.

Also, on December 5 Aaron

competed in the Houston International Tae Kwon Do Championships where he took 1st place again in forms and improved to 2nd place in Olympic Sparring.

We all wish Aaron the best of luck in the upcoming National qualifying meets in February and March.

NEWSBRIEFS

Continued from front page

Count Habitat Orientation is Jan. 9

Colorado County Habitat for Humanity (CCHFH) will host an Orientation for Prospective Homeowners on Saturday January 9, 2010 at 10 a.m. at the Wintermann Library. Families interested in learning how to become a Habitat homeowner should plan to attend. Call 979-732-5677 to reserve a seat.

Class 2010 Reunion plan underway

Plans are underway for our next Eagle Lake High School All Class Reunion in 2010. The scheduled date is October 8-10, 2010. Most events scheduled will be very similar to previous years. All classes are responsible for their respective Friday night get-togethers, parade down Main Street on Saturday morning at 10 a.m., visitation at community center with teachers and friends Saturday, and a dinner and dance on Saturday night. More information will be mailed to class members in the Spring 2010. If anyone has questions or suggestions, please contact Sidney Struss, Class of 1968 at 234-2020.

Raiders Drop Early Game To Bellville

The Rice Raider boy's basketball team lost to Bellville on Tuesday, Dec. 8, 24-53.

Scoring for Rice were Terrence Shorter, two points; Sean Torres, one point; Jared Kaster, three points; Cody Lantelme, five points; J.J. Reggins, two points; Corey Farrow, eight points and Spencer Spencer, three points.

The Raiders lost to the Schulenburg Shorthorns on Friday, Dec. 11, 38-52.

Leading scorer for the Raiders was Reggins with 15 points on the night. Following close behind was Kaster with nine points. Farrow had six; Damian Stevens, five; Kris Talton, two; and Lantelme, one point.

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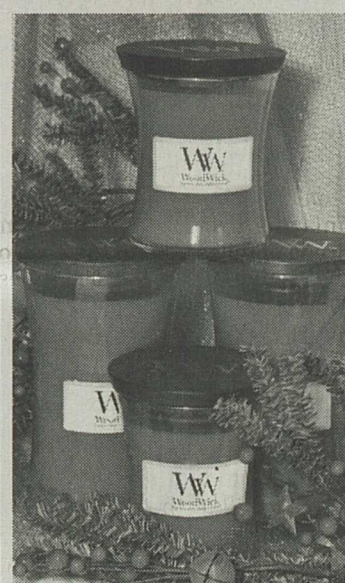
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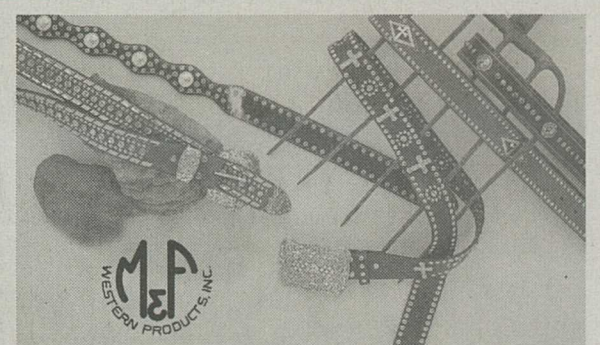


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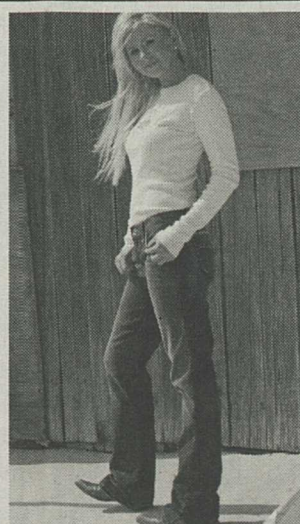
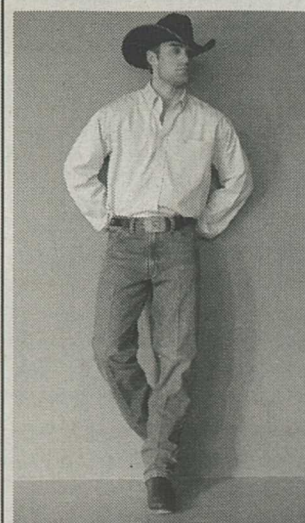
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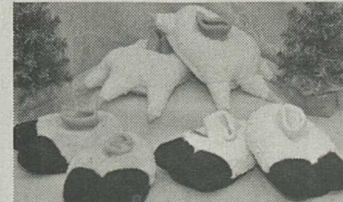
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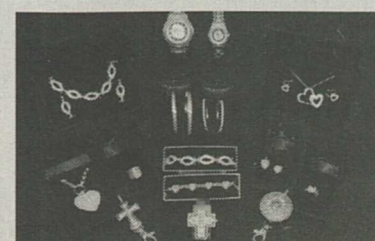
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