

Eagle Lake Headlight

75¢

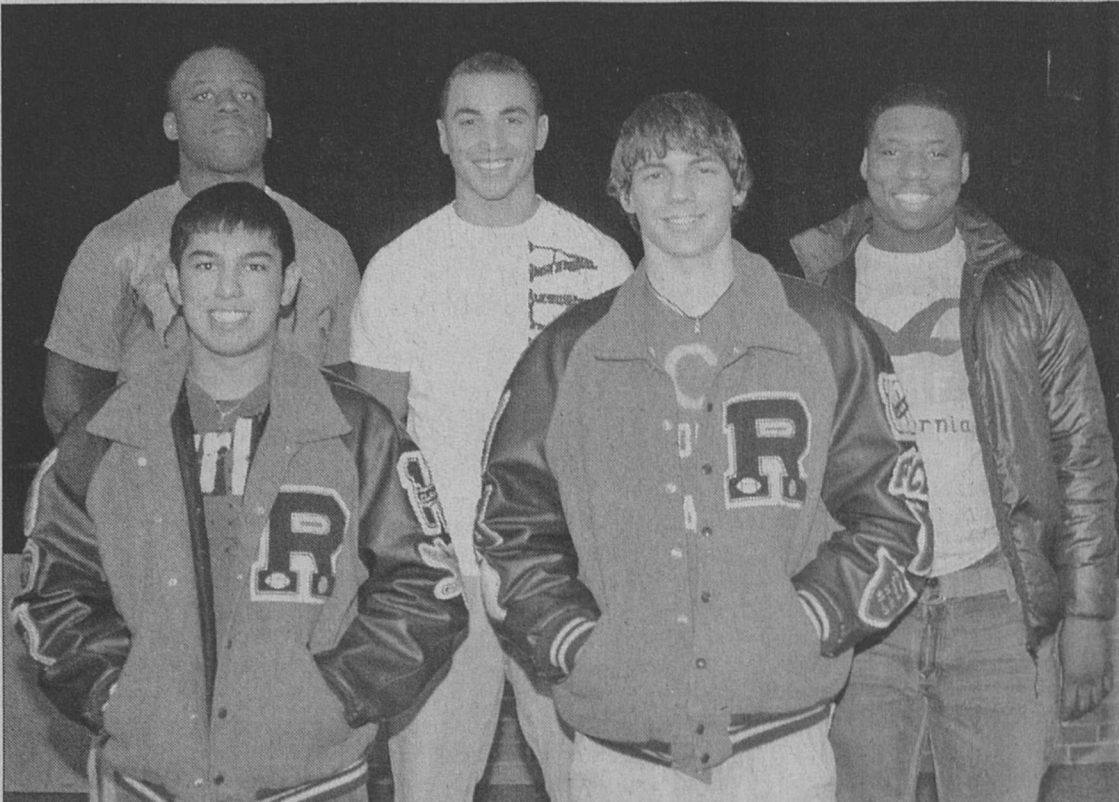
Serving Southern Colorado County
www.eaglelakeheadlight.com

75¢

VOLUME 106 NUMBER 44

EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

JANUARY 21, 2010



Raider All-State Selections

Pictured above are the Rice Raiders named to the 2009 Texas Sports Writers Association All State Football Team. Back row, left to right, Chris Dorsey, 2nd Team, defensive line; Mario Hull, 1st Team, wide receiver; Damien Stevens, Honorable Mention, Named Academic All-State by TSWA, front row, left to right, Tim Morales, Honorable Mention; and Matt Hoffman, Honorable Mention.

Council Discusses Sewer Fine

The Eagle Lake City Council discussed fines from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) that had been assessed for violations at the sewer treatment plant.

The fine amount was \$8,500, but that amount had been reduced to \$6,800.

The fine was due to higher than allowable nitrogen levels in the discharge from the facility.

The elevated levels were at-

tributed to some leaks in aeration equipment.

It was noted that plans for sewer plant work under a Community Development Block Grant are progressing and that the issues that caused the fine would be resolved with the work that will be done.

Council discussed the possibility of asking TCEQ to consider reducing the fine amount further, given that plans are underway to

correct the issues.

It was also noted that there was a time limit on the reduced fine amount, and that if the city asks for further reductions, it is possible that they would instead have to pay the original \$8,500.

Ultimately it was decided that the city manager would respond to TCEQ with information regarding what has been done to remedy the situation as well as information about the major improvements coming through the grant. The hope is that TCEQ may reduce the fine given the steps the city is taking.

Officials said that the planning for the \$350,000 grant work is in the final draft stage. After that, bidding would begin. A summer start time on the project is expected.

In other council action:

Heard a report from the city manager that over that last several weeks over 8,000 feet of ditches have been improved. City Manager Bill Rankin said that County Commissioner Darrell Gertson has been very helpful in loaning the city a gradall and an operator when possible. He said that has been instrumental in helping with those improvements.

Rankin indicated that the city will continue to work on ditches when possible and that they are trying to prioritize work based on need.

Police Chief W. E. Lattimore told council that one of the city's officers has expressed interest in working with LuLu, the department's drug dog. LuLu has been inactive for several months because the officer that handled her resigned and no one else on the force has the necessary training to handle a drug dog. Lattimore said that LuLu and the officer would have to undergo a two week training course.

Rice School Board Talks Stadium Improvements

The Rice School Board held their regular monthly meeting on Monday following an appreciation dinner for the board.

Trustees heard a report on the progress of looking into possible upgrades to the football stadium.

Several administrators and board members recently toured Hallettsville's and Columbus' football facilities to get an idea of what other districts are doing.

The issue came up initially several months ago when a facility committee recommended doing something about the fencing, restrooms and concession stands at the aging football facility.

"We really need to look at doing something," said Superintendent Michael Lanier. "The current facility was built 40 years ago, and nothing has been done since then," he added.

The board agreed at their December meeting to go ahead and have the school's architects, Bay Architects, start working on some proposals.

During Monday's meeting the possibility of adding a track to the football stadium was discussed.

This would require moving stands and possibly the entire playing surface to accommodate a track.

There have never been any bleachers installed for the existing track, and it was noted that even though the track was fairly recently resurfaced, that due to foundation problems with it, the surface is already degrading.

Currently, without a track, the football playing field is fairly close to the stands.

"This is an accident waiting to happen with the stands so close," said Assistant Superintendent

Bill Hefner.

Also mentioned as possibilities with a project were new concessions and restrooms, a press box, and a permanent area for the FFA Hamburger sales.

Hefner said that the critical thing is a new fence, but he said that they should be careful if they just put in a fence right now, that it takes into account possible future upgrades so that they don't waste money.

Lanier said that they would have something from the architects for the February meeting and that any board member input would be passed along to the architects in the next week or so.

He indicated that they would have pricing on each aspect of the project so that the board could pick and choose if they wanted to proceed with anything.

In other board action:

-Trustees got an update on district construction projects. Hefner indicated that the Tate Street facility improvements were progressing as planned and that work should be complete by the April 1 completion date. The bus canopy in Altair is nearing completion.

-Approved campus attendance zones for 2010-2011.

-Approved early resignation notice incentives that help the district to replace teachers in a timely fashion.

-Agreed to a joint election site in Eagle Lake with the City of Eagle Lake and Rice Hospital District. The polling location will be the Eagle Lake Community Center.

-Changed the March meeting date to March 22.



Darrell Stancik, left, was recently named Eagle Lake Volunteer Fireman of The Year. Presenting the award is First Assistance Chief Curtis Rose. (More on page 10)

NEWSBRIEFS

Girl Scouts cookie time

It's Girl Scout Cookie Time! Your favorites are still available. Sales end Feb. 26. If you have questions or want to place an order, please call Mary Semora at 234-3634.

Fish fry, wing dinner is Friday

Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church will hold a fish fry or chicken wing dinner Friday, Jan. 22 at the church at Columbus and Bowie Streets in Altair. Serving from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Plates include fish or chicken wings, potato salad, green beans, bread and dessert. Cost is \$8 a plate. Delivery upon request. For more information call 234-3264, 234-3164 or 234-2206.

Wild game supper Friday

The Annual Wild Game Supper sponsored by the Hallettsville Knights of Columbus will be held Friday, Jan. 22 at the KC Hall in Hallettsville. Doors open at 5 p.m. Tickets for the 125 gun and 4-wheeler drawing still available. Check out their monster trophies and thousands of dollars worth of prizes to be given away. Visit the huge commercial merchant display under the pavilion. For more information call 361-798-2311.

Little League registration is Saturday

Eagle Lake Little League will hold registration on Saturday, Jan. 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Little League field. Fee is \$45 for first child; and \$35 for each additional child per family. A homerun derby contest/fundraiser will also be held. \$5 for 10 cuts. Winners to receive awards on Opening Day. Ages nine and under hit on small field. Ages 10 and up hit on big field. Additional registration dates: Jan. 28 and Feb. 11, 6 to 8 p.m., City Hall; Feb. 6, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Little League Field.

Logo contest underway

Help us design a logo for Rice Little League to be used on fan shirts during the season and at All Stars. Submit your logo idea between Jan. 23 and Feb. 19. Stop by registration Saturday, Jan. 23 at the little league field for more details. Winner to be awarded on Opening Day.

Time for Raider Little Dribblers!

Boys and girls in 3rd - 6th grades interested in participating in Raider Little Dribblers can get sign-up forms at all elementary schools. There is a cost to enroll. Each child gets a Rice Raider T-shirt and mini basketball. Camps will be held Jan. 23, 30 and Feb. 6, 13 at Rice High School (RHS). Following the mini-camps will be games on those Saturdays as well. Completed forms and money should be turned into your school office. Last chance registration will be held at RHS at 8 a.m., Jan. 23.

Domino tournament is Sunday

The 61st Annual Domino Tournament will be held Sunday at the KC Hall in Hallettsville. Registration is from 7 to 9 a.m. Play begins at 9. Enjoy a chicken barbecue dinner served in the hall from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Plates to go available. For more information call 361-798-2311.

Reminder from City

Residents of Eagle Lake are reminded to bring by some sort of statement if you had broken pipes caused by the freezing temperatures. That way the City can take into consideration the amount of water used as a sewer averaging rate is underway. For more information call the City at 979-234-2640.

Episcopal teaches rules to children

On Sundays from January 10 to March 21 Christ Episcopal Church (CEC), 401 N. Lake at Stockbridge (the pink church), is offering a series of The Ten Commandments for all children ages 7 through 16. Each Sunday during the first half of the 10 a.m. church service the children

Continued on page 8

After 86 Years, Rotary Club Of Eagle Lake Folds Its Tent

At the Rotary Club of Eagle Lake board of directors meeting on January 6, the board voted to present to the general membership a motion to terminate the Rotary Club of Eagle Lake membership in Rotary International.

At the club meeting on January 13, the motion was presented. After some discussion, the motion to terminate passed by a vote of 8 to 4 with one member absent.

Over the next few weeks or months the President, Treasurer and Secretary will wind down the operations of the local club. There will be no further club meetings.

It was a sad day for the members, many of whom have belonged to the club for over forty years. But the club went out with a few happy moments.

The President made it official that Bill Harrison Sr., who was

present at the meeting, was the 2009 Rotarian of the Year.

He received a resounding round of applause and standing ovation and gave a very eloquent speech in thanking all the local Rotarians for what they have done for the community.

And Earl Rodgers was named the all time Goose Hunting Capital of the World Rotary Club of Eagle Lake Master Pancake Batter Mixer.

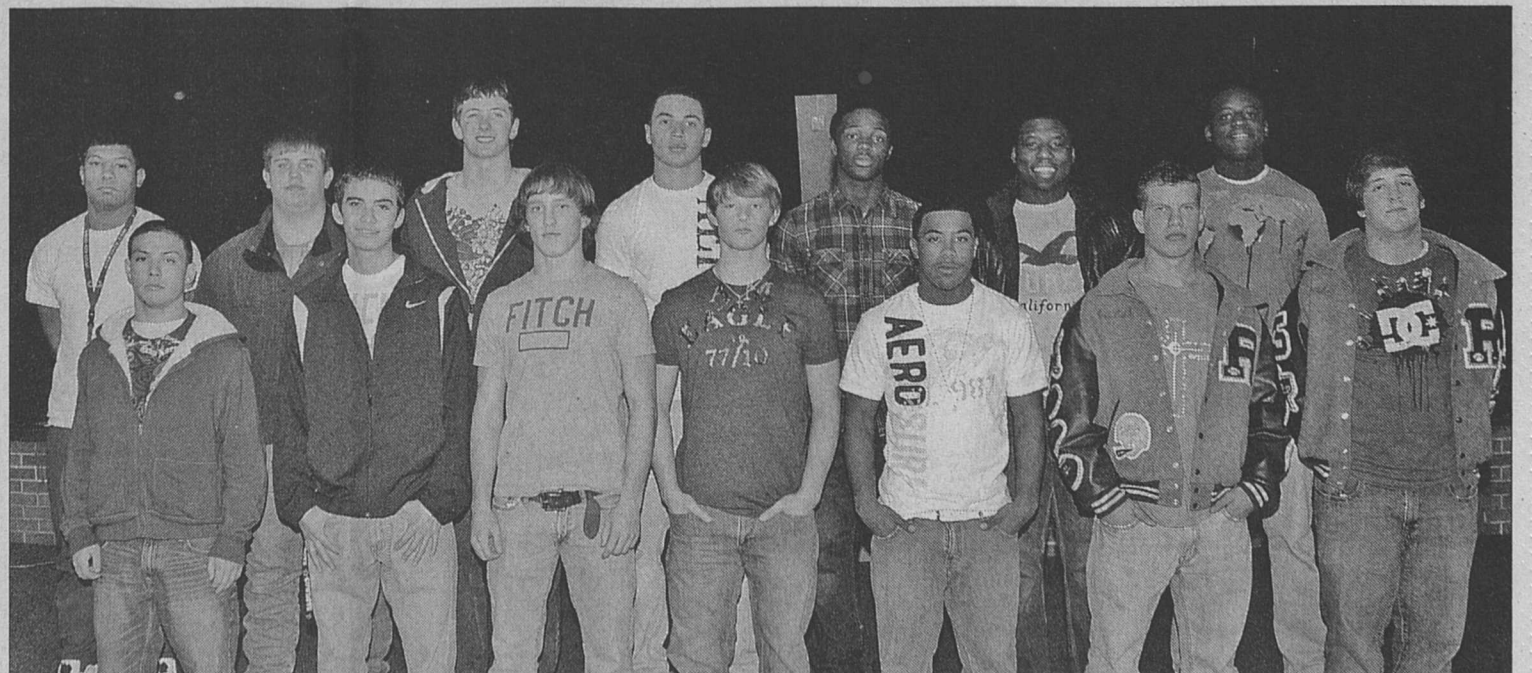
It was Mr. Rodgers who began the pancake supper in 1954 and he faithfully procured the ingredients, placed them in protective custody until the precise moment and then, locked behind closed doors, mixed the most delicious pancake batter known to Eagle Lakians.

After a discussion of some final housekeeping matters, the President invited Vance Duncan to the podium.

Mr. Duncan's grandfather was one of the founding members of the local club and because of that, the President chose to honor the Duncan name by passing the gavel to Vance Duncan for a few words of farewell and allowing him to sound the closing bell for the last time.

In this final report of the Rotary Club of Eagle Lake, the President would like to remind the citizens that every time they look around Eagle Lake and see something good, they should remember that somewhere in the birth and life of that thing they will probably find the fingerprints of an Eagle Lake Rotarian.

All of the members of the local club wish to express their sincere gratitude to all of the citizens in and around Eagle Lake that supported the club during all the years of its existence.



Victoria Advocate All-Area Team

Pictured above are the Rice Raiders named to the Victoria Advocate All Area Team. They are back row, left to right, Chito Vaquez, Honorable Mention; Ryan Korenek, Honorable Mention; Jared Kaster, 2nd Team Center; Mario Hull, 1st Team, Wide Receiver; JJ Reggins, Honorable Mention; Damien Stevens, 1st Team Linebacker; Chris Dorsey, 1st Team, Defensive Lineman; front row, left to right, Kevin Ellis, Honorable Mention; Carlos Sosa, Honorable Mention; Cody Lantelme, Honorable Mention; Myles Dumont, Honorable Mention; Mike Scott, Honorable Mention; Erik Gold, Honorable Mention; and Stephen Lafferman, Honorable Mention.