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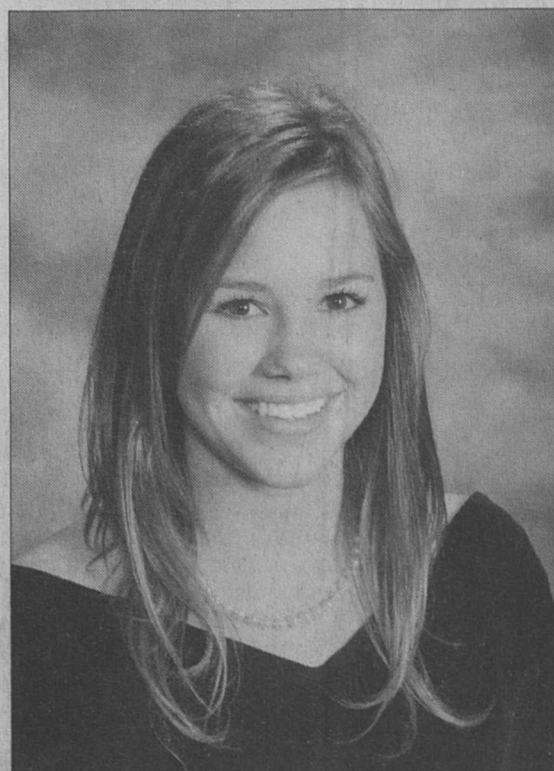
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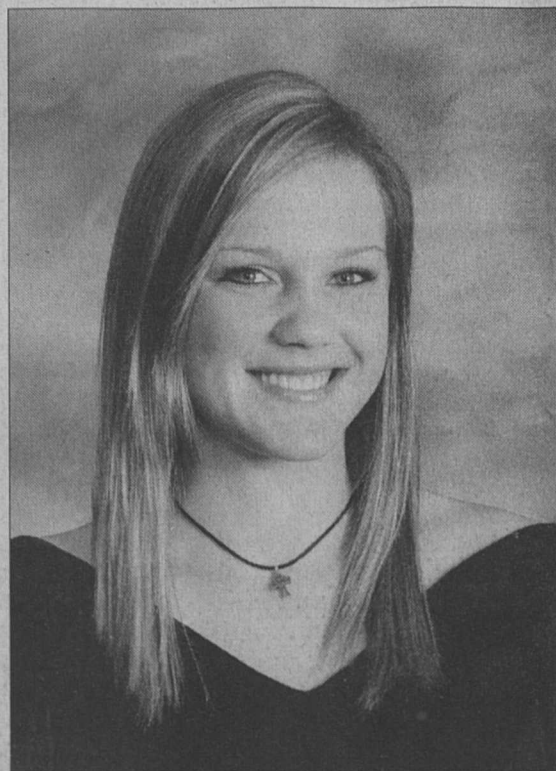
VOLUME 107 NUMBER 10

EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

MAY 27, 2010



Kayli Elizabeth Kallina
Valedictorian



Lauren Shimek
Salutatorian

Ninety Set To Graduate From Rice High School On June 3

Kayli Kallina leads 90 graduates as the valedictorian of the Rice High School Class of 2010. Commencement exercises are scheduled for Thursday, June 3 at 8 p.m. in Altair.

Lauren Shimek is the salutatorian for the Class of 2010.

There are 11 Honor Graduates in addition to Kallina and Shimek.

They are: Shaina Bowen, Rebecca Dota, Nicole Driik, Jacob Galvan, Kaydi Gold, Matthew

Hoffman, Haley Jones, Brian Kallina, Jordan Mahalite, Dillan Sanford, Clarencia Weeks.

For more information on the Class of 2010 see our special Graduation section inside this edition.

Rice CISD Gives Salary Raises Ok

The Rice Board of Trustees approved raises for teachers, and other employees at its regular meeting on May 17.

The board approved raises of \$200 for teachers. This amount is in addition to the automatic step increases based teaching experience.

Non-teaching professionals, such as counselors, were given raises equivalent to \$200 per year as well.

Hourly employees received a ten-cent hourly increase.

The board also approved free meals for food service workers.

Superintendent Michael Lanier said that Rice's teacher salaries are competitive in the area, especially for more experienced teachers.

In addition to the raises, employees will also be able to enroll in some new health care options through the district, one a long-term care plan and the other is a type of flex-spending plan. These plans would be at the employees expense.

It was noted that no salary increases were technically final until a budget is approved in the coming months.

Assistant Superintendent Bill Hefner indicated that he felt the raises would fit into the budget, but that nothing was final until all of it fits in the budget.

"I am very happy with what we are able to provide, given our size and location," said Hefner.

The board also discussed the upcoming budget and heard from the budget committee that met recently.

Included in some of the "wish lists" for this year's budget are \$200,000 for buses. Hefner said that should be enough for two new buses, as they cost \$85,000-\$100,000 for a full-size bus.

Another \$50,000 was on the list for new programs at the high school, including electrical and nursing.

Lanier indicated that there

was a lot of interest in these programs from the students.

As many projects have recently been done, there were no other major items on the list, other than a \$70,000 maintenance request for various needed items. Hefner said that figure is lower than last year.

Budget work will continue into the summer.

In other board action:

-New Trustee Regena Williamson was sworn into office.

-Accepted donations from Reliant Energy for \$1,000 for

the district and \$1,000 for Garwood School. The donations were awarded to the district in recognition of Garwood student Emma Kelly winning Reliant Energy's Power of Art Contest.

The board agreed to offer a one-year contract to Gwen Knight as the Eagle Lake Intermediate School Principal at a salary of \$67,000. Knight has been working as the school's principal for several months. It was noted that Knight has 34 years education experience.

County Approves Tax Exemption

Colorado County commissioners, meeting on Monday, approved without discussion a resolution continuing county's homestead exemption from taxes on 20 percent of the homestead value.

In other action, commissioners:

-Received a check from the Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge as a payment in lieu of property taxes. The county will receive \$4,128; Rice School District, \$5,039; Columbus School District, \$5,969 and Rice Hospital District, \$639.

-Approved proclamations

recognizing the Rice Lady Raider track team as 2010 State Champions in Track and Jaquita Woods as the state champion in the 300-meter hurdles.

-Added constables' vehicles to the county's auto liability coverage while performing their official duties.

-Agreed to table a proposal to eliminate mileage paid to constables for driving from their residences to the courthouse to perform bailiff duties.

Commissioner Tommy Hahn said he felt that if constables were paid mileage to drive from their

homes to the courthouse to start work as bailiffs, his employees should be paid to drive to work from their homes.

-Amended the county's leave policy to require employees to take compensatory time before taking family or medical leave.

-Amended the county's policy to ban animals from county buildings, except for disability assistance dogs, drug dogs, or animals seized when their owner has been arrested.

Commissioner Tommy Hahn said he recently became aware a cat was being kept in the office of Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3.

Commissioners said they felt animals should be banned from county buildings for the safety of the public.

-Agreed to advertise for a wheelchair lift device to be installed in the county courthouse for Ty Prause, who will take office as county judge on Jan. 1. County Judge Al Jamison said he did not think the device would cost more than \$15,000.

-Agreed to advertise for bids to construct the courthouse annex. Commissioner Doug Wesels said he felt that construction could probably start about Sept. 1.

-Agreed to request proposals for EMS billing and field data collection system.

-Approved a proposal to complete repairs to the Robert R.

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NEWSBRIEFS

Closed for Memorial Day

The following businesses will be closed in observance of the Memorial Day Holiday, Monday, May 31: First National Bank, Wallis State Bank, Eagle Lake Post Office, City of Eagle Lake, Wintermann Library, Colorado County Courthouse and the Eagle Lake Headlight.

Farmer's market now open

The farmers market is open on Wednesdays from 4 until 6:30 p.m. at 204 Glen Flora road, in front of Eagle Tree, Lawn & Landscape. Call 979-243-4261 or email rwspal@elc.net for information about selling your locally grown garden or farm produce. Gardens are beginning to produce now, so there is a lot of fresh vegetables and homemade food items.

NHS Induction ceremony is May 27

The public is invited to attend the Rice High School National Honor Society induction ceremony. The induction of new members into the RHS Chapter will be held Thursday, May 27 at 5:30 p.m. in the RHS Commons area.

Juneteenth meeting is May 29

The next meeting for the planning committee will be held Saturday, May 29 at 10 am at Wesley Chapel Methodist Church, 1003 Columbus St. The parade will be held June 19. Line up is Hwy. 71 and Main St. in Altair at 11:30 a.m. It will end at the roadside park on Hwy. 90 and 71. Call 979-758-2412 for more information. Willie King and Deidre Douglass will serve as king and queen respectively. There will be food, music and games. Surrounding communities, Columbus, Eagle Lake, Garwood and others are asked to join this event.

Old Skool City-wide celebration set

The Old Skool organization will hold it's 3rd annual city-wide kick ball game, Saturday, May 29 at 3 p. at the E.H. Henry Park. Other activities are scheduled for the day as well. Bring lawn chairs and/or blankets, so that you can sit back and watch the games. We look forward to seeing the citizens of Eagle Lake and surrounding communities. Come out and support the youth of the city. For more information call Jerome McAfee at 979-531-9070.

Family and Friends Day May 30

The pastor, officers, and members of the Providence Baptist Church invite the public to attend their annual Family and Friends Day Service, Sunday, May 30 at 3:30 p.m. The Rev. A.L. Edwards and the Greater New Prospect Baptist Church of Needville will be the special guests.

Homecoming service set

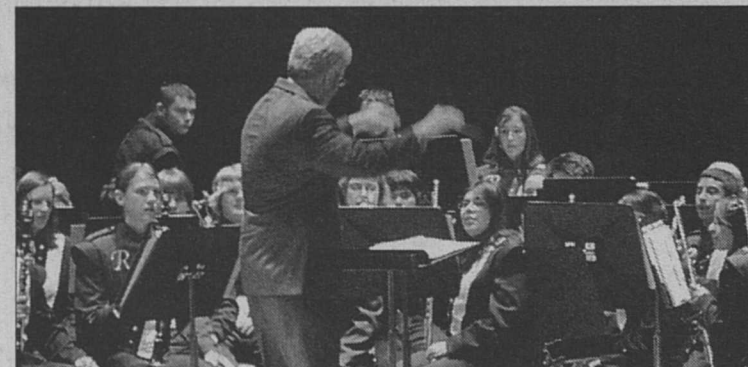
The Annual Homecoming and Memorial Day service will be held at the air-conditioned Rock Island Community Center, Sunday, May 30. A beef and sausage dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Coffee, iced tea and dessert included. The memorial service and program will commence at 12:30 p.m.

Live Oak Chapter annual banquet

The CCA Live Oak Chapter 7th Annual Banquet will be held Thursday, June 3, at the KC Hall in Columbus. Doors open at 6 p.m. Meal: Ribeye Steak and Grilled Shrimp--catered by Austin's Catering, Eagle Lake. Tickets presale \$30, at the door, \$35, youth 12 and under \$10 includes memberships. Table sponsorships available. Call Ellen Labay at 979-733-6045 if no answer, leave a message. Special drawings for ladies and youth, live auction, silent auction. Gun (drawing) tickets \$20 each, only 650 tickets sold. Tickets available at: Columbus State Bank, The Vintage Shop-Columbus, Columbus Tire Center, The Flower Garden-Columbus, The Brides House-Columbus, Main Package Store-Weimar, and Johnny's Sport Shop and Schindler LP Gas in Altair. Continued on page 10



Regena Williamson, left, is sworn into office for her position on the Rice CISD Board of Trustees. She is sworn in by Melissa Peterson.



Houston Cummins directs the Rice High Band at the band concert on May 18.



Emma Kelley recently earned her school, Garwood School, and Rice CISD \$1,000 each for winning the Reliant Energy Power of Art Contest. Emma is fifth from the left above. Appearing in the photo with her are: in back, from left; Leroy Stavino, Garwood Principal; Michael Lanier, Rice Superintendent. Front, from left: Jim Barron, Houston Livestock Art Show Committee; Vicki Kelley, mother; Emma, Sophie Kelley, Tom Kelley, father; Reliant Energy Cowboy Clint Cannon

Student's Artwork Nets \$2,000 For Art Program

On Monday May 10, Garwood Elementary held an assembly to name 6th Grader Emma Kelley the Reliant Energy Power of Art contest winner. Through Reliant Energy Power of Art Program, the top 32 elementary school submissions, as selected by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, were

posted on reliantpowerzone.com and the public voted for their favorites.

After weeks of voting and more than 40,000 votes, Emma's "What's UP Duck" finished as one of the winners.

Reliant Energy representative Kelly Engert presented Super-

intendent Michael Lanier and Principal Leroy Stavino with a check for \$2,000.00 for the Rice District and Garwood elementary schools' art programs.

Emma also received a gift package from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and Reliant Energy. Attending the school

assembly were Emma Kelley and her parents, Tom and Vicki Kelley, Kelly Engert-Representative from Reliant Energy. Michael Lanier-Superintendent Rice C.I.S.D, Leroy Stavino-Principal Garwood Elementary, Elizabeth Greer-HLSR Executive

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