Rice

# RAIDER Rewind

August 31, 2023 Volume 1 Issue 1

# Roger that! Gradney heads to Nebraska




Rice High School senior Roger Gradney is headed to Nebraska to play football.

**By Deveron Bennett**

It's not everyday that an athlete from a small town school gets recruited to play Division I football.

Rice High School senior, Roger Gradney, will head to Lincoln, NE to play football at the University of Nebraska.

He will be an early high school graduate, leaving home after Christmas break to attend spring training and classes, but will come back and walk the stage with his classmates in May.

Roger's influences come from his dad and his cousin Austin Deculus, an offensive lineman of the Houston Texans.

He says the coaches, facility, and academic program are what made him pick the Nebraska Cornhuskers.

Roger hopes to play defensive back and running back.

He liked that the coaches treated him with respect.

Roger's high school highlights include: freshman year he was Newcomer of the Year, Track MVP sophomore and junior year, Special Teams MVP sophomore and junior year, three years on Student Council, all year honor roll freshman and sophomore years.

Roger plans to study business in college and expects to wear jersey number 15.

Roger says the Huskers recruited him for his size, speed, and his ability to score more than one way.

He expects to score on both sides of the ball and will stay in shape by running and lifting.

His advice for other athletes hoping that a big school like Nebraska will offer them a football scholarship is to be coachable and athletic.

Roger's favorite quote is: "Nothing comes easy there's always a struggle to get where you wanna be."



Mrs. America poses at her desk with Tianna Earls.

## Our "Mrs. America" crowned Teacher of the Week

**By Ava Frazier**

Mrs. America Palacios was voted Teacher of the Week for Aug. 21 - Aug. 25.

She taught Pre-K for 14 years, but is teaching high school this year. Before she started teaching this year, she was the RHS office secretary.

Mrs. America said she became a teacher because she loves helping others, and being around kids/ young adults.

She also said that she feels teaching is her calling.

Outside of school, Mrs. America enjoys going to the river and being around her family.

Her biggest inspirations are several women who have impacted her throughout her years in education.

She said they are her inspirations because they are so passionate about education and helping others.

## RAIDERS TAKE DOWN EAGLES, HOME GAME TONIGHT

**By Deveron Bennett**

The Rice Raiders traveled to Luling Friday, Aug. 25 to take on the Eagles and came home with the win.

Raider Junior POSITION D'nerian Fuller started the game off with two deep touchdowns thrown by Quarterback Robert "RJ" Myers.

Fuller also had a kick return touchdown.

Freshman Kordae Johnson, also at QB, broke loose on a read-option and scored a TD.

The Raiders' defense was also



Continued on page 4



## Lady Raiders third in tournament

Abigail Hoelscher, Tricelle Fields, and Adalyn Rodgers celebrate after a point in a recent game. See the recap of the Lady Raiders volleyball action on page 4. Photo by Noah Gonzales

# Luttrell's journey from chef to classroom

**By Jazmin Hernandez and Mariana Guerrero**

John Luttrell has been a teacher for nine years, but he started his career as a chef. "Before I became a teacher I was a Sous chef for three years.Then, our former principal, Eric Grogan, decided to add Culinary Arts. Grogan asked me to come down from Huntsville, where I was working as a dining facility manager, and interview for the new Culinary job they had. We spoke for about an hour, after which he asked me to meet Mr. Hefner, our superintendent. They offered me the job. I started teaching in the old Home Economics room, but was soon moved to a science lab while they built the CTE wing," Luttrell said.

Luttrell recommends his students to work in local dine in restaurants and fast food restaurants. He also recommends to students who want to get into the food industry after school to go into management or chef.

Leadership roles his students can have in his class are running catering events, like teacher lunches, and preparing food for the band.

One of his favorite things to teach is how to make international foods. One of his favorite meals is shrimp gumbo, and he shared his recipe for that below.



Mr. Luttrell worked as a Sous Chef before becoming the Culinary teacher at Rice High School. Photo by Avan Woolridge

## Shrimp Gumbo

1 1/2 cups vegetable oil
1 1/2 cups bleached all-purpose flour t
2 cups chopped yellow onions
1 cup chopped green bell peppers
1 cup chopped celery
Creole seasoning
2 1/2 quarts shrimp stock, (chicken stock or water can be used)
1 dozen frozen gumbo crabs, thawed
2 pounds medium shrimp, peeled and deveined
2 tablespoons chopped green onions or scallions (green part only)
2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley leaves
6 cups cooked long grain white rice, warm



# Mighty Raider Band aims for State

**By Leandro Rodriguez**

When school starts, one event everyone gets excited for is the football games.

Players can get tired during games, but fans hype and motivate them to push onward.

There is one group that is louder than them all, one that some consider to be the voice of our school.

They motivate not only the players but the crowd as well.

They're loud, they stand proud - come rain or hail, they will not fail. Come on and listen, I guarantee you won't miss 'em. Because with 84 students this year, they will make our enemies tremble in fear. They are the All Mighty Raider Band.

According to some in the band, last year was good, but they didn't do their best.

Band members went on to say they have much more in store for this year, topping previous years.

This year the band says they are more dedicated than ever to prevail and plan to make it all the way to state.

"I think the band has a lot of potential to be great this year. I think that with the proper work ethic, we will go far, hopefully to state," Head Drum Major Noah Gonzales said.

Kasey Chitmon is the head band director, his wife, Jennifer Chitmon, is the assistant director and junior high director, and Christopher Trabucchi, is also an assistant director.

The show for this year's marching contest and halftime show is "The Samurai and the Maiden", written by Randall Strandridge.

Continued on page 3



The Raider Band has practiced many hours in the summer heat preparing for this year's field performance. Photo by Leandro Rodriguez

## Raider Roundup: Arely Martinez

**By: Ava Frazier**

Arely Martinez was nominated Student of the Week for Aug. 21 - Aug, 25.

Her hobbies are sleeping, reading, dancing, and doing her makeup.

Arely has three brothers, and a dog named Peanut.

She is in Cosmetology.

Her biggest inspiration is her brother because he leads her to be a better person.

In the future she wants to become a nail technician.



# Raider Band

Continued from page 2

This three-part dramatic piece tells the tale of a doomed romance between a samurai and a noble maiden.

The first part is the Prologue/The Warrior's Path, and sets the stage for an exciting show. The second part, Under the Cherry Blossoms, tells about the budding romance between the two protagonists.

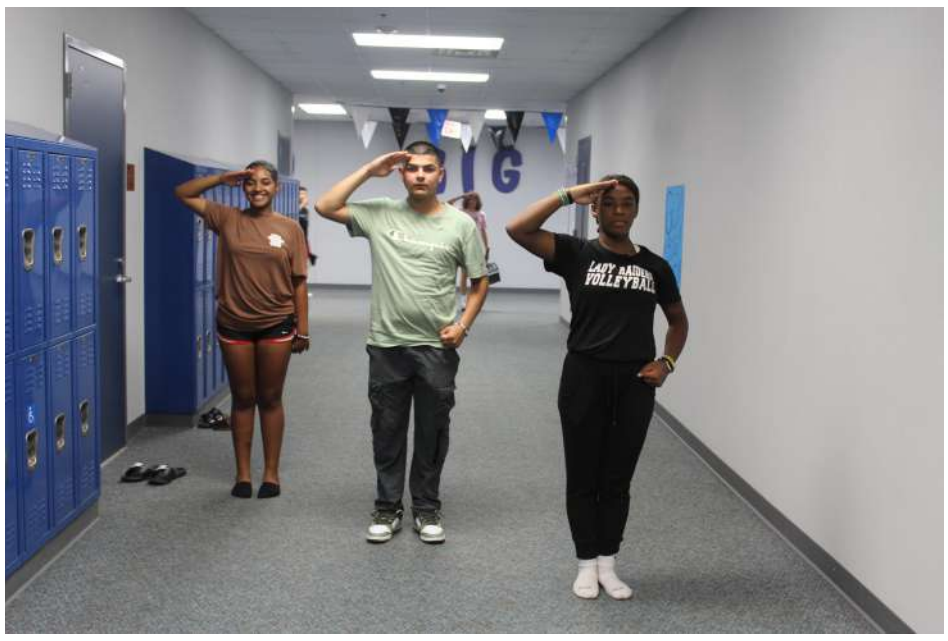
And the third part explodes with a Taiko drum style percussion feature for an amazing finale.

Come see this performance at the first home game of the season Thursday, Aug. 31 at Rice Veterans Memorial Stadium.

The public is invited to see the marching band's amazing halftime performance during what will be an exciting football game where the Raiders take on the Rams of Houston's Kashmere High School.

It's also the Band's Senior Night.

Now this game might be a tough one, but then again they are the Rams, so let's grab their horns, herd them back to their mountain of traffic, and call it a day.



RHS Drummajors Jalissa Bluntson, Noah Gonzales and Kayla James. Photo by Leandro Rodriguez

# Can you guess the teacher?

**By Abigail Hoelscher**

- The person has coached and taught for 28 years
- This teacher went to A&M and graduated from Sam Houston
- This person went to school for Kinesiology
- This teacher is known for their hair

Submit your guesses to Ms. Woolridge at awoolridge@riceraiders.net.

The correct answer and correct guessers will be published in the Sept. 15 edition of the paper.

# Guess the athlete

**By Addyson Fucik**

In every edition of the Raider Rewind, readers will have a chance to guess the athlete.

Read the clues and submit your guesses to Ms. Woolridge at awoolridge@riceraiders.net.

The correct answers and guessers will be published in the next newspaper. Good luck!

**Athlete one**

What number are you? No. 10
What position are you? Middle
Who's your favorite opponent? Palacios
Fun Facts -
I LOVE to watch college football
My favorite color is emerald green
I love flowers!

**Athlete two**

What number are you? No. 71
What position are you? Defensive End & Left End
Who's your favorite opponent? Palacios
Fun Facts -
My favorite color is raider blue
I like to hunt
I like to hangout with my friends

**Athlete three**

What's been your fastest race time? Three mile race - 18:37
What's been your favorite race? Regional Race
Who's your favorite opponent? Peyton Engelbrecht
Fun Facts -
I like to run
I live on the lake
I am competitive

# Raider XC bus breaks down, still placed in event

**By Ja'Darius Fitzgerald**

The Rice Raider cross country team had a mishap while heading to the meet in Sealy Aug. 18.

The bus broke down, and the team sat in the shade under a bridge.

Two buses happened to be heading the same way, so the team from the broken bus split in two groups and got on the buses.

Everyone made it to the meet with no other problems.

The Varsity Raiders placed fourth as a team. The top contenders were Payton Engelbrecht with 13:57, Jael Valles and Hayes Dingler with 14:33.



Raider cross country athletes keep cool after the bus they were traveling on broke down. Photo: Noah Gonzales

# Raider XC on a rise

**By Ja'Darius Fitzgerald**

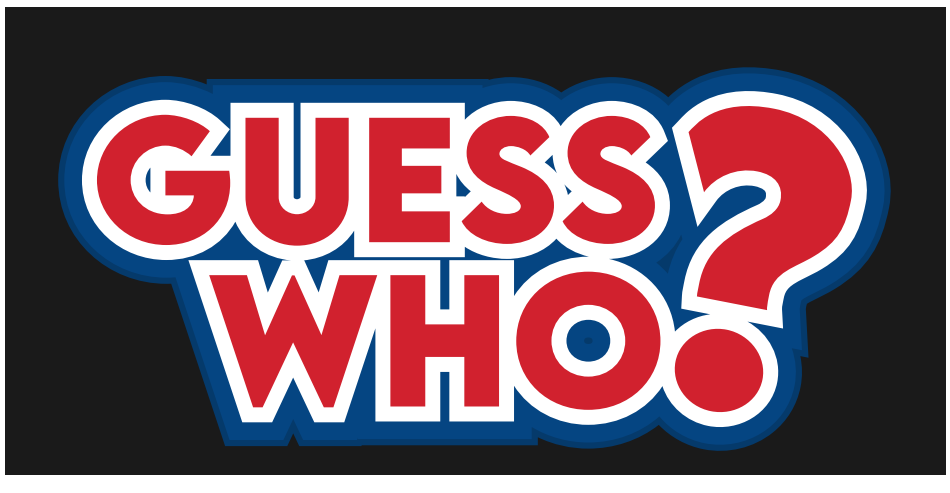
The Rice Raider XC is on a rise! Coming into Aug. 23 Brazos meet, the Raiders placed second as a team.

The top 10 individuals to finish get medals, and four of the medalists happen to be Raiders.

Payton Engelbrecht with fifth, Hayes Dingler with seventh, Jael Valles was ninth, and Ja'Darius Fitzgerald with 10th.




Cross country medalists from left to right: Ja'Darius Fitzgerald, Jael Valles, Hayes Dingler and Payton Engelbrecht.



# Raiders football

**Continued from page 1**

clicking on all cylinders.

Sophomore Robert Bennett had two interceptions late in the game. Darian Johnson was the defensive player of the game with four solo tackles and one assisted tackle.

The Raiders beat the Eagles with a final 43-6 score. Catch the Raiders in action Thursday, Aug. 31 in their first home game of the season against Kashmere High School. Kickoff will be at 7 p.m.

# Players of the Week

**By Darian Johnson**

Here are the Rice High School Players of the Week for football, volleyball and cross country:

**Football**

The Most Valuable Player on defense was Darian Johnson for the Rice Raiders.

Coaches stated that Darian was "all around the football" in last Friday's game in Luling, helping the Raiders win against Luling 43-6.

**Cross Country**

Payton Engelbrecht was the Runner of the Week for cross country with a time of 19 minutes.

**Volleyball**

Ariana Palacios is the volleyball Player of the Week. She dug up lots of balls in Saturday's game, leading her team to an astonishing victory against Fayetteville.

# "Ms.Q" named Teacher of the Week

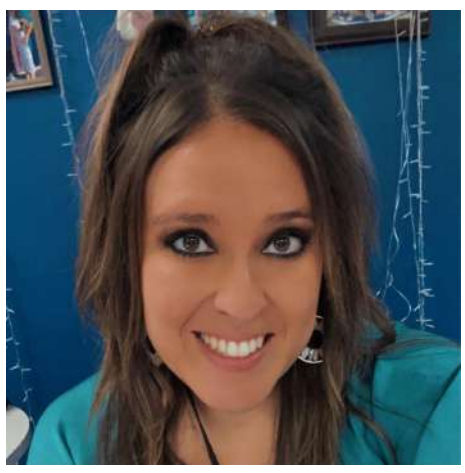
**By Avan Woolridge**

The Teacher of the Week is Kirby Quintero,better known as Ms.Q.She has been a teacher for seven and half years.¨ I taught one and a half years in Sugar Land at Barrington Place Elementary, and this is my sixth year at Rice High School,¨Ms.Q said.

She decided to become a teacher when she was in high school. ¨I worked at an elementary school my senior year and that's when I knew I was destined to become a teacher¨she recalled.

-Ms.Q´s hobbies include reading, hanging out with friends and family and with her dog Nellie.

Her mentor was her AP English teacher from high school. ¨Her name was BJ Swenson,and she was my hardest but BEST teacher I've ever had. I still use some of the things she taught me. I really believe she is the reason why I enjoy English so much.¨



Kirby "Ms. Q" Quintero

# Raider sports scores

**By Alaysia Middleton**

**Volleyball**

Rice vs Ganado

1st round: 25-13

2nd round: 25-16

3rd round: 25-5

The Lady Raiders came home with the win!

**Football**

Rice at Luling

JV41-0

Varsity 43-6



The Raider JV football team won in their season opener against Lulilng. photo by Jalen Porch

## *Raider Roundup: Alejandra Samaniego, Gabriel Castillo*

**By Faith Mendoza**

Senior Alejandra Samaniego was nominated for the Aug. 21 - Aug, 25 Raider Roundup.

Her hobbies are sports, reading and traveling to Mexico.

Alejandra only has one sister who also attends school at RHS.

Her favorite color is Blue and she absolutely loves the Lilo and Stitch movie series.

Junior Gabriel Castillo was also chosen for the Raider Roundup.

His hobbies are working, reading, and doing plays.

Gabriel is currently in Theater class.

In the future Gabriel plans on being present in more plays.

## Lady Raiders place third in home tournament

**By Anabel Gonzales**

The Varsity Lady Raiders hosted their yearly tournament Aug. 24-26 here at Rice High School.

Out of 16 teams participating, the Lady Raiders fought hard against Fayetteville to place third in the silver bracket.

Iola placed first in the gold bracket and won the tournament.

The next game for the Lady Raiders will be Friday, Sept. 1 at Rice against Brazos, so be sure to come out and support them!



Senior Ariana Palacios gets ready to dig the ball in a recent Lady Raider volleyball game. Photo by Noah Gonzales


# Raider Review news staff

**Editors**
Masey Romo
Alaysia Middleton

**Page Designers**
Jasmine Juarez
Shawn Hurd

**Photographers**
Noah Gonzales
Mya Gonzales
Avan Woolridge
RJ Myers
Jalen Porch
Gage Cook

**Reporters**
Deveron Bennett
Ava Frazier
Alaysia Middleton
Avan Woolridge
Faith Mendoza
Abagail Hoelsher
Addyson Fucik
Jazmin Hernandez
Mariana Guerrero
Leandro Rodriguez
Ja'Darius Fitzgerald
Darian Johnson
Anabel Gonzales





What do you think of the Raider Review newspaper? We want to hear from you! Email us your suggestions and feedback at awoolridge@riceraiders.net.