

News Briefs



Pink Heals

This year's Pink Heals Pink Out t-shirt sales will benefit Camryn Noll and Nory Hearron. Today is the last day to turn in order forms. We will be hosting the Pink Out/Homecoming game on October 16th.



WO Band

The Pride of White Oak, the Regiment of Roughnecks, will have their first marching contest on October 20th.



Congress

The new White Oak Congress team will be competing on November 12th In the first UIL district competition of the year, for the opportunity to go to Austin. The team, led and founded by Mrs. Tricia Cook as a subsidiary to the Model United Nations program, has nine total members that will travel to Harmony High School for this competition.



photo by Mackenzie Brown

STARS AND STRIPES

Wyatt Smith
Staff Writer

Roughnecks honor military veterans and first responders

"If you have ever served in the military, or are a first responder of any kind, please stand," theatre arts teacher Rick Higginbotham's passionate words pierced the anxious, but silent, full-house crowd. As the honored men and women proudly stood, a true sense of pride and patriotism was evident on both bleachers and sidelines. Suddenly a huge rivalry game didn't seem to matter much at all.

Saluting the troops before enjoying a high school rivalry game under the Friday night lights may seem like a boring ritual to some schools, but Roughneck students and fans alike fully embraced the theme by wearing patriotic t-shirts, hats and body paint.

"The reason I dressed up is to show school spirit, and also display the pride that comes with being an American," senior Jeremy Patak said.

Two White Oak alumni, Colton Brown and Josh Bardwell, marched to midfield for the

weekly coin toss. Both of these Roughnecks are sons of White Oak supporters, Coach Billy Brown and previous journalism teacher Mrs. Suzanne Bardwell. Both Bardwell and Brown played football, so their appearance gave current players the opportunity to play for players of past years.

"The Spring Hill game means so much to me because our team carries so much pride for the alumni that have gone before us," sophomore Colby Siegley said. "We want to make all the White Oak veterans proud."

For 47 years, the White Oak Roughnecks and Spring Hill Panthers have faced off with the Roughnecks holding a 24-22 advantage over the Panthers.

"The fact that we know Spring Hill so well outside of school is the reason the rivalry is so big," White Oak alumni and current football and basketball coach Brett Cloud said. "Even when I coached at Harmony, I would always check out the game

because the feeling of wanting to beat Spring Hill never leaves you."

The main event of the night kicked off with White Oak dominating the Panthers. Spring Hill players trudged to the locker room, down 31-0 at halftime.

"We were giving high fives all around we were so pumped," defensive end Jaylon Jeffery said. "We were so amazed because all we could think about was how they couldn't even score. I've had a lot of great experiences playing football, but beating Spring Hill like that has to be one of the best."

While Jeffery and other players caught their breath and discussed strategy, the White Oak Band took the field for their halftime show. After their traditional routine, the band huddled together to belt out the hymn, 'How Great Thou Art.'

"Even after watching my own son play here and teaching at this great school for over twenty

years, the band's performance was possibly the most moving experience I've had at White Oak," long time teacher and Roughneck supporter Joy Smith said. "It honestly brought tears to my eyes it was so beautiful, and people in the crowd were singing. It was one of those moments where you just step back in amazement."



photo by Mackenzie Brown

Fired up, senior Nike Simmons blows on the spirit vuvuzela. Vuvuzelas are traditionally used to summon African villagers to a gathering, but have been adapted for sporting events as noise makers.

The Final Countdown

Colleen Pulpan
Managing Editor

Harvest Festival participants make last-minute preparations

Students who have an interest in woodworking or raising animals, with help from FFA advisors, Roger Jones and Morgan Meyer, have the opportunity to do one of the two in the annual Gregg County Harvest Festival October 22, 23 and 24.

"The student puts forth every single bit of the financial risk. It's all on the student," Jones said. "The advisor's job is to make sure they are doing it right keep them on the right track. On the shop projects we purchase material [cedar] and they build all the projects."

Initially, the students take a picture of something they would like to build and with the cedar at their disposal they begin cutting and sanding wood.

When it comes to shop projects, the Harvest Festival hosts about 80 to 90 projects that enter.

"We are making a hall tree," sophomore Tucker Jones said. "Something you would hang your coat on. The worst part is sanding because we've just made tiny mistakes and a small error will go a long way."

These projects are guaranteed to sell so there is not a big financial risk for the students but that also means that what they gain is also minimal.

"It's fun," sophomore Shelby Cook said. "You're watching it come together and showing how well you are at what you're doing."

The students are given class time to work on their project but

(continued on page two)



photo by Colleen Pulpan

Bent over for a better angle, sophomore Colby McDaniel drills a hole for the next screw to stabilize the project as junior Jackson Toliver supervises. They have been working on their project for about a month and all that is left is sanding and staining it. "I've learned how to be patient and how to have patience," McDaniel said. "I've learned it's better to do stuff by hand sometimes. It's relaxing. The hard part is making sure your measurements are right."

