

# CLASSIFIED MARKET PLACE

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Volume 122, Number 1

Baird, Texas 79504

Thursday, January 1, 2009

## Landscaping 2009

January 2009

Hazel Stone

1444 Pagewood Ave.

Odessa, TX 79761

When we enter the new year, we must prepare for our journey into the 365 days of 2009. We certainly do not want to enter the new year laden with cares and anxieties. We want to discard fears, hurts and unhappy memories. As we enter 2009 with a free and unburdened heart and an expectant attitude, we must enter with a spirit of adventure and willingness to accept new blessings. When I sang in the church choir, Pastor Golden always told us to sing with enthusiasm. We certainly need to enter the new year with enthusiasm. We do not enter it alone, for God goes with us!

It is important to go through the new year with inner peace. One of the greatest helps in achieving inner peace is to make sure the connection between ourselves and our fellow men is clear of all human meanness that would keep us from God.

Joel 2:25 says: "I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust have eaten." Have you lost any years to the locust? You may feel discouraged to find you have lost some time to the locust. Even when God told the people in the day of Joel that He would restore to them the time the locust had eaten, (He had sent a plague because they had disobeyed Him) He assured them there was still hope.

Even though our previous years may have been blighted by sin, we are assured by God that there is hope and that He will be with us.

We need to enter a new year with definite purpose and not just a desire. What definite plans have you made for 2009? Just remember that the Lord is never against us. Even when He chastens us He is always for us.

Phillippians 3:13-14 tells us to forget the things behind and press ahead. Nothing is gained by dwelling in the past. Paul did not dwell in the past. He pressed forward for he desired to know Christ better.

Someone once said that life is like a landscaping job. They said that each person is given a site with possibilities and that our job is to see what we can do with our site.

In the new year, 2009, each person should strive to make like meaningful and in

the next 365 days should try to do a job of landscaping their site.

Deut. 30:19 states: "I have set before you life and death, blessings and cursing: therefore choose life that both thou and thy seed may live."

If a person chooses life, then that person must landscape it. That person must accept their site as it is and then clean off and improve the site. The weeds of life must be eliminated. A person then needs to do the best they can with what they have and with God's help.

Just as each of us has limitations, so we must accept our handicaps and deal with the responsibilities we may have inherited. We cannot escape, but must accept it as part of our lot. The underbrush and the weeds of life must be eliminated.

The annoyances of life could cripple our spirits but the unexpected interruptions and other irritating circumstances should not be allowed to disrupt our control and our steadfastness.

Finally, we must plan and leave the rest to God. We just do the best we can with what we have and exercise our faith.

In the 16th century, a Venetian artist named Titan painted a piece he called "An Allegory of Prudence". In this piece, Titan portrayed Prudence as a man with three heads. One head was a mature man looking at the present. One head was a youth facing the future and the third was an old man gazing at the past. The artist, Titan, then wrote a Latin phrase over the three heads which meant: "From the example of the past, the man of the present acts prudently so as not to imperil the future."

We need wisdom to overcome past failures and the fear of repeating our failures in the future, for this can affect our living to the fullest in the present time.

Moses once prayed, "Teach us to numbr our days..." To make the most of our days we need to lose ourselves in the will of God.

As we end 2008, we need to press into 2009 and live in the present but use wisdom from the past.

### Texas Department of State Health Services Immunization Clinics in Callahan County

Monday, January 12th  
Baird Cafetorium  
400 W. 7th  
Time: 10-12

Wednesday, January 14th  
Clyde First Baptist Church  
216 Austin  
Time: 10-12 & 1:30-3:00

Please bring child's Immunization Records

If child is on Medicaid or CHIP, please bring the card

For more information call 325/754-4945

### County Commissioners Court Minutes

Commissioners' Court Minutes

1100 W. 4th St.  
Baird, Texas 79504  
December 29, 2008

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF CALLAHAN COUNTY

The Meeting of the Commissioners' Court was held at its regular meeting place in the Courthouse on December 29, 2008, A.D., with the following officers present to wit:

Roger Corn, Judge Presiding

Harold Hicks, Commissioner Precinct No. 1

Bryan Farmer, Commissioner Precinct No. 2

Tom Windham, Commissioner Precinct No. 3

Cliff Kirkham, Commissioner Precinct No. 4

Dianne Gunter, County Treasurer

Donna Bell, County Clerk, and ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners' Court and the following items of business were transacted:

\*\*\*\*\*  
The meeting was called to order at 1:05 P.M. by Judge Corn. All Commissioners were present.

\*\*\*\*\*  
The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and signed.

\*\*\*\*\*  
County Agent Hoss Sasin presented his Annual Report to the Court and gave an update on the Feral Hog Hunt. County Commissioner Farmer made motion to approve the Annual Report and Commissioner Windham seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0. Exhibit \*\*\*\*\*

The Court discussed longevity pay and the eligibility of state paid employees. After the discussion Commissioner Hicks made a motion to not pay state paid employees longevity pay, that only county paid employees are eligible for longevity pay. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kirkham. The motion passed 5-0.

\*\*\*\*\*  
County Treasurer Dianne Gunter presented to

the Court for approval the Official Bonds and Oaths for newly elected and re-elected Officials. Commissioner Farmer made a motion to approve the Bonds and Commissioner Windham seconded the motion which then carried 5-0.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Sheriff Eddie Curtis came before the Court to discuss the possibility of him and his deputies purchasing their County issued weapons. The Judge had discussed this situation with a representative of TAC and the Sheriff's Association and neither knew of this taking place in any other County. County Attorney Shane Deel read from the Local Government Code Chapter 263.152 on the disposition or selling of the County's surplus property. After discussion of the subject Judge Corn made a motion to table any action of selling or awarding County issued weapons until further research has been made. Commissioner Kirkham seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Commissioner Farmer made a motion to pay the approved bills with the exception of one bill. Commissioner Windham seconded the motion which passed 5-0.

\*\*\*\*\*  
A motion was made by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Farmer to adjourn. The motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 1:45 P.M.

Also present:  
Shane Deel, Eddie Curtis, Hoss Sasin, Tammy Walker, Danny Tabor, Roger Corn, County Judge

The foregoing minutes were read and approved  
Donna Bell,  
County Clerk

Callahan County  
Baird Star Deadlines  
Tuesdays by 5:00 p.m.  
ecn@att.net

## Happy New Year 2009!

### Commissioners Meeting Held

Callahan County Commissioners' Court

Notice of Open Meeting Held December 29, 2008 1:00 P.M.

100 West 4th, Suite 200  
Callahan County Courthouse

Baird, Texas 79504

Complete Agenda:

Call To Order

Deliberate and Consider

Action on the following items:

I. Review and Sign Minutes of Previous Meetings

II. Discuss-Consider Annual Report County Agent-Hoss Sasin

III. Review & Pay Approved Bills

IV. Discuss- Consider Longevity Pay

V. Discuss- Approve Official Bonds

VI. Discuss- Consider Weapons Disposal- Sheriff's Department

Adjourn

Pursuant to the authority granted under Government Code, Chap. 551, the Commissioner's Court may convene a closed session to discuss any of the above agenda items. Immediately before any closed session, the specific section or sections of Government Code, Chap. 551 which provides statutory authority will be announced.

## AgriLife Extension

End of Year Summary 2008

Monthly

•Radio interview w/Matt Smith

•Crop Reports

•Eula, Clyde, Baird 4-H Meetings

•Shooting Sports Meetings September

•6th-14th West Texas Fair Steers

Lambs

Goats

Swine

•20th Jones County Fair Goats

•23rd Registration Night New 4-H Members

•24th Pesticide Collection Day

Taylor County

October

•6th Kiwanis Club Meeting

Presentation

•13th Food Show Training Preparing youth for Food Show

•14th Rabbir and Poultry Clinic

Information on 4-H Projects

•16th Chicago Mercantile Exchange

Helped Taylor County

•18th 4-H Turkey Shoot

•20th Fifth Grade Field Day

Clyde, Eula, Baird, and Cross Plains

Miller and Marian Scott

•21st State Validation Sheep and Goats

•25th County Food Show Baird Cafeteria

•28th County Validation Sheep and Goats

•27th Assisted with NRCS EQIP Training

November

•8th Major Stock Show Entry Day

•8th Lamb and Goat Clinic

Taylor

•6th State Valitation Eula- Swine

•10th Gold Star Banquet Two Gold Star Winners

•14th Completed Fort Worth Entries

•15th D-7 Shooting Sports Workshop

Brownwood

•18th Helped with Farm Bill Training

Robert Frost

•18th County Swine Valitation

•22nd D-7 Food Show Abilene

•25th State Validation Cross Plains-Swine

December

•2nd Jr. Livestock Association Meeting

Courthouse

•15th CEU Night Course Courthouse

•16th Annual Ag. Committee Meeting

•22nd-23rd Feral Hog Landowner Meetings

•18th & 19th Regional Pecan Show

Abilene

•09 Planned Events

•Feral Hog Helicopter Hunt (January 8th & 9th)

•Feral Hog Seminar

•Forage Seminar

•CEU Night Course

•Egg to Chick

•5th Grade Field Day

•Rabbit and Poultry Clinic

•Lamb and Goat Clinic

•Swine Clinic

•Wheat Field Day

•Horticulture Clinic

•Pecan Clinic

•Brush Control Demonstrations

•Heart of Texas Cow/Calf Clinic

•A.I. and Palpation Clinic

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# Legal Notice

FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF PUTNAM

**KAREN KNAPP**, Petitioner, **File #3340 Docket # V-00981-08 ORDER OF PUBLICATION**

against **PHILIP D. STATEN**, Respondent.

PRESENT: THE HONORABLE JAMES T. ROONEY, J.F.C.

Upon the Summons and Petition duly filed with this Court by the Petitioner KAREN KNAPP herein seeking custody of the infant ASHLEY R. STATEN, date of birth July 19, 1992, and it appearing to the satisfaction of this Court, based upon the oral testimony taken before this Court on December 2nd, 2008, that the Respondent above-named will be unable, with due diligence, to be served by the Petitioner herein or any other servant agent and/or employee acting on her behalf and it further appearing that the Respondent PHILIP D. STATEN is not a resident of the State of New York;

NOW, on application of FRANK A. CATALINA, ESQ., attorney for the Petitioner, it is

ORDERED, that service of the attached Summons and Verified Petition of KAREN KNAPP seeking custody of the infant ASHLEY R. STATEN, upon PHILIP D. STATEN, the Respondent herein, be made by publication and that same by published in the Callahan County Baird Star at least once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks with the last date of publication being made prior to January 20th, 2009.

Signed this 8th day of December, 2008 at Carmel, New York:

ENTER: **JAMES T. ROONEY**, HON. JAMES T. ROONEY, J.S.C. Family Court Judge Putnam County Family Court Gleneida Avenue Carmel, NY 10512 845-225-3641

COUNTY OF PUTNAM In the Matter of a Custody/Visitation Proceeding File #: 3340 Docket #: V-00981-08 Karen Knapp, Petitioner, SUMMONS

against Philip D. Staten, Respondent.

IN THE NAME OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK:

To: Philip D. Staten 1333 Park Street Peekskill, NY 10566 A petition under Article 6 of the Family Court Act having been filed with this Court, and annexed hereto YOU ARE HEREBY SUM-

MONED to appear before this court on Date/Time: January 20, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. Purpose: Hearing/Inquest

Part: 2 Floor/Room: Floor 3/ Room 306 Presiding: Hon. James T. Rooney Location: 20 County Center Carmel, NY 10512

to answer the petition and to be dealt with in accordance with the Family Court Act.

Signed FRANK A. CATALINA, ESQ. 1013 Brown Street Peekskill, NY 10566 914-736-0087 Dated: December 5, 2008

NOTICE: Family Court §154(c) provides that petitions brought pursuant to Article 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10 of the Family Court Act, in which an order of protection is sought or in which a violation of an order of protection is alleged, may be served outside the State of New York upon a Respondent who is not a resident or domiciliary of the State of New York. If no other grounds for obtaining personal jurisdiction over the Respondent exist aside from the application of this provision, the exercise of personal jurisdiction over the respondent is limited to the issue of the request for, or alleged violation of, the order of protection. Where the Respondent has been served with this summons and petition does not appear, the Family Court may proceed to a hearing with respect to issuance or enforcement of the order of protection.

FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

KAREN KNAPP, Petitioner, File # 3340 Docket # V-981-08 PETITION FOR CUSTODY

against PHILIP STATEN, Respondent.

THE UNDERSIGNED PETITIONER respectfully alleges the following:

- 1. That the Petitioner resides at 19 Chestnut Street, Lake Peekskill, New York 10537.
2. That the Petitioner is the grandmother of the infant ASHLEY R. STATEN, the child subject to this proceeding.
3. The Respondent PHILIP STATEN resides at 208 Callow Hill Street, Baird, Texas 79504.
4. The Respondent PHILIP STATEN is the natural parent/father of the infant ASHLEY R. STATEN, the child who is the subject of this proceeding.
5. That the name, present address and date of birth of the child who is the subject of this proceeding is: ASH-

LEY R. STATEN, 19 Chestnut Street, Lake Peekskill, New York 10537, date of birth July 19, 1992.

6. That a custody proceeding involving this child is pending by the Petitioner against the natural mother, STEPHANIE COSTA under File Number 3340, Docket Number V-00620-08.

7. That the Respondent herein was not named in the aforesaid proceeding.

8. That Petitioner acquired custody of the child from the natural mother in April of 2008 and the child has been residing with the Petitioner since that time.

9. That it would be in the best interest of the child to have custody awarded to the Petitioner so that the Petitioner can continue to care for the child, look after her health and mental well-being as well as provide for her social and educational needs.

10. Upon information and belief, the Respondent will consent to the relief requested herein.

11. The child is not a Native American subject to the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978.

12. That no previous application was made to any Court or Judge for the relief requested herein.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner prays for an Order granting her custody of the infant named herein together with such other and further relief this Court may deem just and proper under the circumstances.

Dated: October 2nd, 2008 Peekskill, NY

Signed Karen Knapp, KAREN KNAPP, PETITIONER

(12-18, 12-25-08, 1-1, 1-8-09)

## Obituary

### Roy Dan Pringle

ABILENE- Roy Dan Pringle, 58, died Tuesday, December 23, 2008 in Abilene.

Funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, December 27, 2008 at Elmwood Funeral Chapel.

Dan was born April 29, 1950 in Abilene, Texas to William Roy and Eula Gladen Pringle. He later served his country honorably in the United States Navy where he was stationed in Puerto Rico. He worked for the city of Abilene parks department for 25 years and enjoyed attending church at First Baptist Church of Hawley. Playing the guitar was one of his most enjoyable ways to spend time but rooting for the Dallas Cowboys was a definite love of his life.

He is survived by two children, Kiersty Pringle and Brian Pringle both of Abilene; four grandchildren, Margan Suzanne Henry, Kierstyn Dan Nell Pringle, Austin David Pringle, Briton Jaly Pringle all of Abilene; two brothers, Jerry Pringle of Reno, NV, and Carroll Pringle of Cross Plains, TX; three sisters, Betty Lane of Fort Worth, Juanelle Johnson of Molina, CA, and LaZeda Jordan of Abilene; two great friends, Suzy Heath Pringle and Johnny Clinton; several nieces, nephews, and friends.

Family suggest memorials be sent to Hendrick Hospice Care at 1682 Hickory St., Abilene, TX. 79601.

## Marie Varner

AMARILLO- Marie Varner, 99, died December 26, 2008 at Ware Living Center in Amarillo.

Graveside services were held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, December 30, 2008 at Elmwood Memorial Park with Mid McKnight officiating.

She was born on October 23, 1909 in Weatherford, Texas to Thomas E. and Dora Kennedy. Her family moved to Cisco when she was a child where she grew up. After graduating from Cisco High School she briefly attended Abilene Christian College. Marie married Dr. Roy W. Varner on December 24, 1937 in Abilene. Except for the time she lived in San Antonio when Dr. Varner was in the service during World War II, Marie lived in Abilene where Dr. Varner practiced medicine for many years. They moved to Clyde after his retirement. She moved to Amarillo in 2005. After her marriage, Marie was a homemaker for the remainder of her life. She was a loving wife and mother and her life revolved around her family.

Marie and R.W. were the parents of six children. She was a member of the Church of Christ for almost seventy years and attended Highland, Hillcrest and Clyde Churches of Christ until her health prevented her from doing so.

She was preceded in death by her husband, her son Roy Don, her parents, four brothers and four sisters.

Marie is survived by sons Darrell and wife Ethel of Amarillo, Larry and wife Tammy of New Braunfels, Terry of Richmond, David of Abilene and daughter, Sharon Simpson of Phoenix, AZ.; seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

## Basketball

Girls Eula Holiday Classic Cisco 64, Eula 38 Cisco 14 20 17 13- 64 Eula 8 13 11 6- 38

Eula 51, Stamford 31 Stamford 8 10 12- 31 Eula 14 13 15 9- 51

Breckenridge Lions Club Tournament Brownwood -52, Baird 45

Brownwood 10 11 14 17- 52 Baird 5 12 15 13- 45

Boys Eula Holiday Classic Roby 73, Eula 71 Eula 14 20 23 14- 71 Roby 14 21 13 25- 73

Monday, Dec. 29 Baird 54, Breckenridge JV 46 Baird 26 3 8 17- 54 Breckenridge 10 7 15 14- 46

# Obituaries

## Carol Elaine Zell

CISCO- Carol Elaine Zell, 59, passed away December 17, 2008, in Abilene.

A private graveside service was held Saturday in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery under the direction of Kimbrough Funeral Home. Reverend Ron Bostick officiated. A Memorial service will be Wednesday, December 31, 2008, at 1:00 PM at the First United Methodist Church in Eastland.

Carol was born February 5, 1949, in Wichita, Kansas, to Raymond and Georgia (Land) Breaker. She married Steven Zell June 29, 1969, in Winchester, Indiana.

After receiving her BS degree in Elementary Education from Tarleton University in 1982, Carol was employed for five years by the Eastland ISD. She

then took a position with the Cisco ISD. She retired in 2006.

Her husband, Steven, of Cisco, and her children, David Zell of Midlothian and her daughter, Sarah Zell, of Clyde, survive Carol. Three grandchildren also survive her: Zachary Zell, Cody Zell and Camryn Zell; sisters, Susan DeCamp, of Winchester, Indiana and Charlotte Barnes of Winfield, Kansas; brothers, Jerry Oakman of Tyler and Scotty Nottingham of Topeka, Kansas also survives.

Carol will be greatly missed by her family and many friends.

Family suggests memorials be made to Cisco Elementary Library Fund, 1100 Avenue H, Cisco, TX 76437.

## Agnes Varner Neill

ABILENE- Agnes Varner Neill, 90, of Abilene died Monday, December 22, 2008 at a local nursing center in Abilene.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Saturday, December 27, 2008 at The Hamil Family Funeral Home. Burial followed in the Rose Garden at Elmwood Memorial Park.

Agnes was born on June 24, 1918 in Cottonwood, Texas to William Brannon Varner and Sally Thompson (Wilkey) Varner. She lived in the Abilene area her entire life. Agnes graduated from Hendrick Nursing School in 1966. She was a member of Southern Hills Church of Christ.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William Cantley Neill and

three brothers. She is survived by two sons, Bill Neill of Ardmore, OK, and Jimmy Neill of Abilene; six grandchildren, Heather Reeves, Mitch Neill, Jennifer Jones, Debra Neill, Melissa Johnson and Joshua Neill; five great-grandchildren, Jordon Reeves, Kylie Reeves, Taylor Neill, Payton Camron and Landon Camron; one sister-in-law, Dorothy Varner of Abilene; two nephews, David and Gary Varner, both of Abilene; and two nieces, Dwalah Nelson of Clyde and Glenda Touchstone of Plano.

Memorials may be made in honor of Agnes Neill to Christian Homes 1202 Estates Drive, Abilene, Texas 79602.

## Troy H. Ely

CLYDE- Troy H. Ely, 86, of Clyde, died Monday, December 29, 2008, at a care center.

Graveside service to be

held at 2 p.m. Friday, January 2, 2009 at Clyde Cemetery. Visitation will be Thursday from 6-8 p.m. at Bailey Funeral Home.

## Flora Maye Hallum

CLYDE- Flora Maye Hallum, 93, died Monday, December 29, 2008 at a hospital.

Memorial service will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, January 1, 2009 at Bible Baptist Church.

Ann Williams Real Estate 601 Conrad Hilton Cisco www.annwilliamsrealestate.com 254-442-1880

Country Cowboy Church 710 N. Seaman Eastland 254-639-2155 Coffee & Donuts...10:45 a.m. Worship Service...11:00 a.m. Wednesday Night Bible Study...6:30 p.m. Pastor Chad Gosnell

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# The Files' Account

## If You Ever Wanted To Know How It Is To Experience A Fire

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The New Year's Day Fire of '06 devastated the property and to some extent the lives of many Eastland County residents. Many articles and photographs have told the story of that terrible time, but many individual stories of the personal horror wait to be told. The Brawner Files family of 3026 CR 295 experienced the terrible fire

up close, and Mrs. Nell Files, a gifted writer, recorded the families travails immediately after the fire and quietly keep her detailed account within the family. We just recently learned of the narrative and with her permission, print it here. It is history that begs to be preserved. The Files have lived in Eastland County for 41 years. You can almost smell the smoke and feel the heat as you read this account.)

XXXXX  
January 1, 2006  
We came out of church about 12:30 and saw smoke out our way. It was a fire west of the Long Branch Cemetery. By the time we got home and changed clothes, it was nearly on us.

The law people were here saying "go, a brick house just up the way had already burned." We started loading pictures, from the walls, the photo albums in the car. God bless little Donna Grissom for her help. As we loaded things, we watched as the high wind whipped the fire across the field in front of our house. We saw fire jump way on down the field. All this time Rachel sprayed water in the yard until the electricity went off and shut our pump off.

We were not scared, or panicky just so helpless. The fire seemed to be missing us, and was going straight east. I asked someone to go help Johnny McDaniel, and we all went to help Cathy. I started loading things of hers in our pickup. Some folks I don't know ask me what should they get, and I said their musical instruments.

There were 5 fire trucks across from Cathy's house and there in her lane. We all had to go. I was the last vehicle out.

I went down passed Greer Creek and stopped. Someone had cut fences so Cathy and Richard's horses could leave.

I went on passed the Melton's and back to our place. Cathy had been there and found a wooden spool that I had leaning up against the porch, on fire. She grabbed it and threw it out in the road.

I came up, and told Cathy I was trying to find a shovel to put out a fire just starting in our coastal. She said the wind is too high, don't try it, so I didn't.

I ran up to the front yard, and my picket fence was burning-- I ran in the gate and under the burning trellis, took a rake and raked leaves away from the house. The plastic drain pipes were burning so I dug up dirt with my hands and smothered it out.

I left and tried going up to see if Peggy and Pattie were O.K., but there was too much smoke. I came back and the wood pile was burning there by the wind mill; the flames must have been 20 ft. high.

I left again and drove down the road North and stopped. The wind was just roaring in the trees. I started back home. I couldn't stay away. When I got to the gate going into David's field I met our cows. They



Brawner and Nell Files

had panicked and ran to the fence row between us and the Newports.

I could see Brawner in the car driving them, so I turn around and start honking the horn and they follow me up to James Adams unfenced pecan orchard. He had this all plowed up and we put our cows there with his. How he kept them there only God knows. He nearly did get overcome with heat and smoke.

We drove over to David's and Randy Bledsoe and Brawner moved David's pickup to a safer place. Brawner called to me to move the kids Christmas trikes out of the shop. I moved them into the garden and they were safe.

Little Keilah said later God helped her forget and leave her Christmas Bible in the bike pocket so it didn't burn.

We drove over to the far south side of Buddy Notgrass' place and sat on the ground.

We watched the flames and saw fire tornadoes all up in the sky. There were dust devils on the ground all around us. The flames roared across David's pasture right toward his house.

Fire men were everywhere. I head one yell to others "don't get trapped down in there, fire is everywhere."

It was time to go, so we leave. Brawner stops to help move machinery. I go on to the old Stacy place. I stop, the road is blocked a fire truck was refilling from a water tank that had been brought to them. There is lots of fire trucks, but the fire is coming so fast. I thought they could save those two houses, but they could not.

I went on to the Bill Brown place and waited for Brawner. When he comes, we think the fire is headed straight into Carbon. The wind suddenly changes, and the flames turn southeast.

Cathy, Richard and Rachel were at the Carbon store, wondering about us. The fire people began saying for us to leave Carbon just to be safe.

Cathy and Rachel go to Eastland to get Richard something to eat, as he is on duty and can't leave.

Brawner left in our car and me in the pickup. We went down Highway 2526 west out passed June Hicks place and turn south to go home. We make it to the west side of Dr. Speeks place and the fire was blazing across the road to those trees on the other side was really burning smoking a terrible fire.

We turn around and go back to the roads going north and south. I go south thinking he is behind me. He stops at a house on the old Hastings place to see if they are out, then he turns north and went back to Carbon.

I came on up passed the cemetery and I could see Pattie and Peggy's house still standing.

Then on down our road, the Soto's home was still there. I was rejoicing, crying and praising the Lord.

Finally, I could see our home! Praise God old angel wings was still there. I screamed praise God over and over.

Then I drove on to Cathy's and her house was still there. I went over to David's and his house was gone, his shop with all his carpentry tools and welding supplies, and his green house were all in a heap of rubble. The new house that had just been moved up here, was setting there untouched.

I sat there alone and praised God for His blessings. Then I went home and put out a few little fires. I tried to put out our old big mesquite tree but I couldn't.

Finally, I know they are not coming home so I go to the Carbon store, it is beginning to get dark, from all the smoke.

I remember seeing Cathy come running out of the store to meet me, and how she rejoiced when I said her house was still there.

Brawner came up and I told him we had a house left but nothing more. I heard him gasp, and I say let's go home, and we

did. We just walked and looked in stunned silence. Finally David comes, Nickola stayed in Gorman with friends. They are just coming home from Houston where she has just taken her 2nd chemo treatment for cancer. Just seeing David saddened us, to know we didn't save anything from his house.

The first night we, Cathy, Rachel and Brawner and me finally go to bed, but none of us slept. I put on clean jeans and shirt and lay down. I felt we would have fire somewhere.

I looked out the window, and our pasture looked like lights of a city. Never will forget the sound of limbs snapping and falling off the trees all night.

Sometime during the night I look toward Cathy's house and a big fire pops up. I said Cathy's house is on fire and Brawner and Cathy ran down there. It isn't her house but a round bale of hay. She later goes down to check her house and comes back for help, the porch post are burning so Brawner and her together tear them off.

Everyone that looked at her house was amazed it stood the fire. It is a double wide and had wooden latis for unpenning, and that burned. The plastic burned that was under the house. Her back steps were blazing and Randy came jerked them off and drug them away. Someone threw her wood pile out away from the house and some of it was on fire. The Good Lord stepped in.

The next day, David and family, and Nichola's brother and family moved in. There were 8 people sleeping on our living room floor. People were bringing food, clothes, furniture to us and David and all our bed rooms were full.

Somehow we got meals with no electricity or water except bottled water and a little from Cathy.

The water pressure was low and slow to run. I carried buckets of water from the cow trough to mop in. My kitchen sink had been stopped up and so we had a half barrel there for it to drain into. This water I used to put out some small fires and also to flush the toilet.

A big fence post burned for 3 days. I had a little metal stool I had bought at an estate sale, and it just fit up over the post, so we could heat water to scrub off the black dust. We did this to wash dishes and babies. Soon we started using paper plates and glasses.

The second night we went to Eastland to friends house and showered. I had black water running out of my hair.

After the electricity came on, Cathy had hot water, so we all could shower there. We didn't tarry, the smoke had settled in her house. We could hardly breath.

Sometime during the first day or so, I just sat outside and looked around. I felt so relieved to have a house and be able to have a place for David's family. I knew people needed feeding but I just couldn't come inside and do it. I was relieved to see Beck and Nickola take over the kitchen.

I said I was walking around like a zombie and Beck said walk, it would help, they would do the kitchen. Our electricity came on in 2 days. They got us a new pump that lasted 1 day and burned up. A man from David's church bought us a better pump from Higginbothams. These people were so kind to us. I went in with a hand full of hammers, hatchet and ax, and some clerk took the dirty old things and found the right handles. We needed some tools to start repair, and he helped. He said the black, burned stuff would wash off his hands, and they gave all of us a discount on supplies.

Finally with water we could shower and do laundry. I did 5 loads the first day, 4 the next, then 2 loads.

Brawner's friend and barber came and helped build a pump house. He brought his own tools and gave us money to buy the material.

On Saturday the 14th the Files

clan came. They came to work and they got a lot done. The kids raked leaves out of my flower bed that didn't burn. So much for mulching my flower bed, that's scary now!

The hunter that came up from the metroplex, came and picked up tin that had been our barn.

Some are returning to work on the new house for David. Mr. Hayley, a retired carpenter came and put in new windows. Mr. and Mrs. Adams came and worked for days putting up a new ceiling in every room.

I just about have my yard cleaned. The little picket fence I had was nearly all burned. I have taken the rest of it to be used in next years syrup making fire. That saddens me.

I had lots of classmates come to help at David's benefit supper, and I was pleased. There were two friends come up from Ft. Worth. Then I had five cousins from DeLeon come. Brawner's cousin Sussanne came several times to help clean and paint. My friend Edna came bringing stuff from her church. Brawner's friend Bill Fairbetter, from Abilene came bringing lumber and helped work on our pump house down at the well where we watered our cows. He is in bad health, we hoped he didn't over do.

Jim McGaha came and did electric work and would not take pay. So many friends gave us money.

Some strangers came one day and helped pick up the burned tin that had been our pump house and storage. They hauled it off and brought us the money \$4.24.

It saddened us to look at all the burned ruins. We go through the ruins every day, and find a few things to save. We start loading junk that once was precious to us, and taking it to the salvage.

I saw Brawner standing and looking at the place where his shop was. He had carpentry tools there, some he had bought in 1954 when he started to capenter. He had keep sake tools, belonging to his grandfather, his dad, my dad, and a fence stretcher belonging to my brother-in-law's father. Then he had a big collection of antique tools. Who thought a tin building would burn, but it did.

The dust blows every day, mostly from the south. We all have sore throats. Cathy is really sick.

Brawner found two dead hens, and two more we shot they were suffering. Our cows stand all in a little group looking at us with a strange, frightened look.

Everywhere is black. There is nothing for the cows to eat except the few round bales Brawner had saved.

A few days before the fire, he said he was moving our hay to the plowed peach orchard because he was afraid of a fire, it was so dry.

Of course this was the Lord warning him of what was coming.

It is so quiet at night, there is no sound. It seems like a tomb in the day the place looks so strange and lonely.

I keep thinking this isn't where I need to be, I need to go home.

There is no going home to our old place.

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### 'Bedtime Stories' Held Over At Majestic

Walt Disney's new picture called "Bedtime Stories" is being held over for the New Year's weekend at the Majestic Theater in Eastland.

The adventure/comedy will show again from Friday, Jan. 2 through Monday, Jan. 5. Curtain time will be at 7:30 nightly.

General admission will be the usual \$4.50 at the box office, with balcony seats \$6.00 - and for adults only. This family-type movie is rated PG.

In the story, a hotel handyman named Skeeter Bronson (played by Adam Sandler) loves to tell his niece and nephew bedtime stories. The kids love them too.

But then the bedtime stories

mysteriously start to come true, and he attempts to take advantage of the phenomenon. Soon he is incorporating his own aspirations into one outlandish tale after another.

But it's the kids unexpected contributions that turn Skeeter's world upside down!

Adam Sandler has the leading role in this picture, but he is joined by other Hollywood personalities - Keri Russell, Guy Pearce, Courteney Cox, Teresa Palmer, and more.

This movie opened nationwide on Christmas Day, and is having a good run across the country. It's high-energy fun for all, and you can see it in Eastland without having to fight traffic to get there.

#### Sudoku Answer

3	9	4	8	7	6	2	1	5
8	6	5	4	1	2	3	9	7
1	2	7	3	5	9	4	6	8
2	7	6	5	9	3	8	4	1
5	1	9	6	8	4	7	3	2
4	8	3	1	2	7	6	5	9
6	5	1	7	3	8	9	2	4
7	3	2	9	4	5	1	8	6
9	4	8	2	6	1	5	7	3

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99 Taurus, V6, looks, runs good, silver.....	\$3295
98 Ford Contour, V6 runs good, green.....	\$2350
95 Mercury Cougar XR7, V6, very nice car.....	\$2450
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96 Ford F250 Power Stroke, Super Cab, good work truck, runs good.....	\$2995
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85 Ford 4x4 F250, Wrecker Truck, everything works good.....	\$1995

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**Errors and omissions** will be corrected to the extent of the specific error or omission in the next edition when called to the attention of the newspaper or publisher.

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## Poetry Corner

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As we cross the chilly Jordan  
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Will there be someone to lead us  
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In My house are many mansions  
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I go to prepare a place for you  
To be with you forever

more.  
The trials and troubles of this world  
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When we cast our eyes on Jesus  
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Let our light so shine for Jesus  
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That His mercy and His goodness  
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By Bob Harbin

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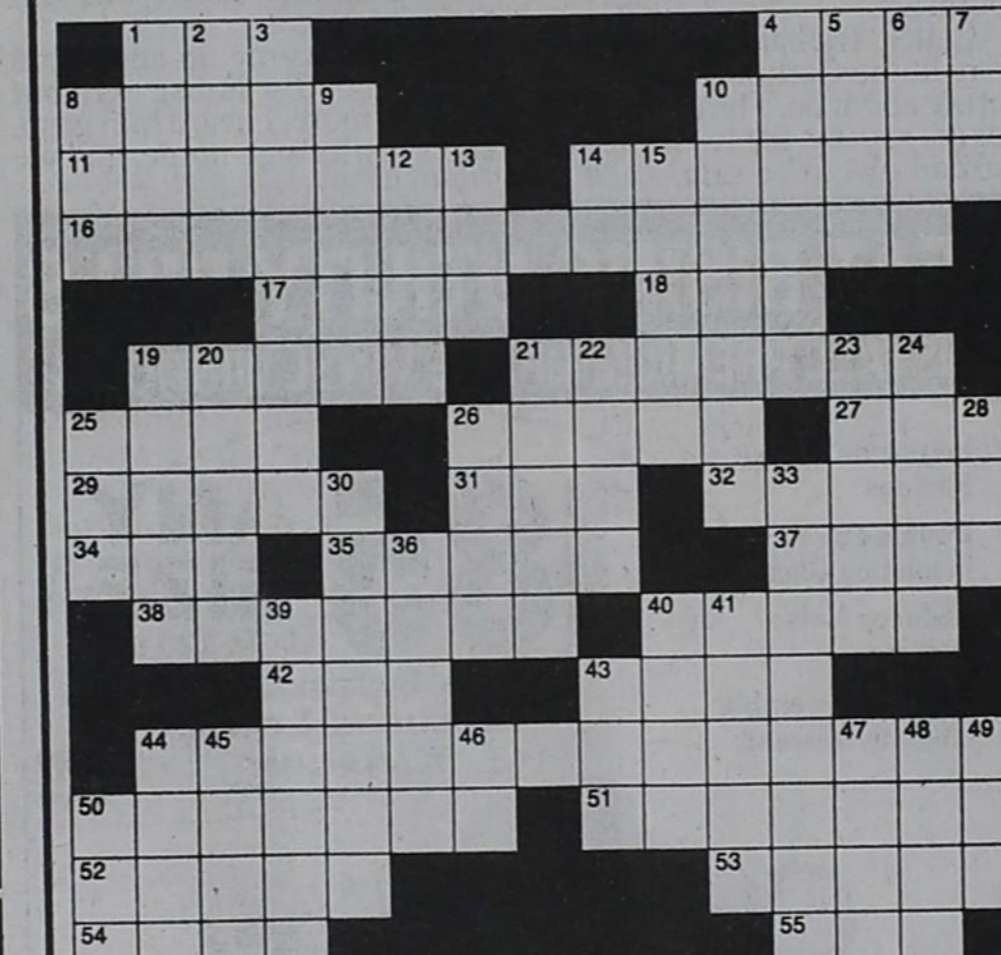
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  - Behave in a certain manner
  - SE Estonian city
  - Goes with tock
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  - Hunting expeditions
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  - 4th caliph of Islam
  - Bert \_\_, Oz Lion
  - "1st To Die" author
  - Put in new lining
  - Life-sustaining
  - Unaccompanied
  - To anoint
  - Take to one's heels
  - Icahn's airline
- CLUES DOWN**
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  - Heroic tale
  - Mercury sulfide
  - Spend significantly less
  - Musician Clapton
  - Sets electronic standards
  - Sorrowful
  - Certified Master Chef
  - Hasidic spiritual leader
  - Eye disease specialist
  - Eye secretion
  - Many not ands
  - Atomic #66
  - Discharge a DVD
  - Big trucks
  - Manila hemp
  - Speed contests
  - Terrestrial newts
  - White heron
  - Fills to satisfaction
  - Decay
  - Lady Raja
  - Foot race
  - An uneven triangle
  - Markedly different from the norm
  - Spring up in rebellion
  - Scarcity of food
  - fulfill
  - The 8th Greek letter
  - Loan to value (ratio)
  - Congea
  - vera: burn plant
  - Atomic #46
  - Large indefinite amount
  - Leaf of the talipot palm
  - "The Science Guy" Bill
  - British air aces

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# Obituary

## Thomas 'Tom' Sinclair Wolford

ABILENE- Thomas 'Tom' Sinclair Wolford, 55, of Abilene died Saturday, December 27, 2008 after a short but courageous battle with cancer.

Funeral service was held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, December 31, 2008 at the Elmwood Funeral Home Chapel. Interment followed at 2 p.m. in the Oakwood Cemetery in Cisco.

Tom was born on September 10, 1953 to the late Eileen and James Wolford in Kenton, Ohio and graduated from high school in Hicksville, Ohio. He married Tammy Castleberry in Abilene. He worked for the Abilene State School, Denver Housing Authority, Abtex Beverage, and was employed with Ben E. Keith as a route driver at the time of his death.

Tom enjoyed deep sea fishing, cooking for his family and spending time with his children and grandchildren. He took great pride in caring for his home and yard and had impeccable organization skills, often following behind Tammy fixing things. He had a witty sense of humor and created a lot of laughs and smiles.

Survivors include his wife, Tammy Wolford; three daughters, Shauna Hernandez and husband Patrick of Colorado City, Christina Wolford of Ft. Worth, and Natasha Wolford of Abilene; one son, Nathaniel Hawkins of New Braunfels; six grandchildren, Dylan Martinez, Ivan Hernandez, Isaac Garza, Caitlyn Garza, Kashlyn Hawkins and Camreigh Wilson; two sisters, Phyllis Hadley (Gene) of Bourbonnais, Illinois and Pat

Womochil (Jerry) of Broomfield, Colorado; one brother, Mike Wolford (Lolita) of Las Vegas, Nevada.

Memorial donations are suggested to the American Cancer Society 209 S. Danville Dr. Abilene, Texas 79605 or Rescue the Animals, 4620 N. 1st Abilene, Texas 79603.



Gorman Principal Mary Reeves accepts a \$100 check for the children of Gorman from Jo Hogan, President of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Eastland VFW, Post. 4136.

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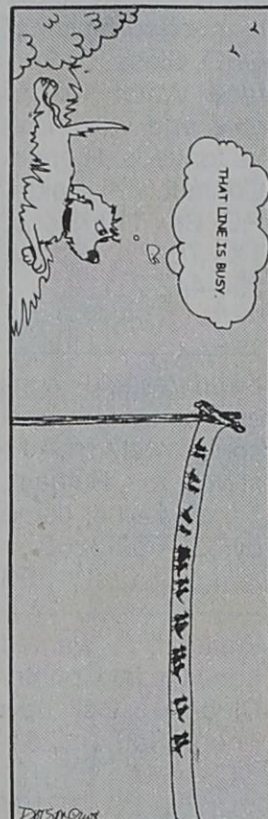
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## Letter To The Editor

Editor,

Thank you for being so conscientious about the honorable disposal of The American Flag. Another acceptable method in addition to burning, is to bury the Flag. This might be a better approach in the future as Flag burning (in a disgraceful manner) has become a form of protest in many parts of the world. Either way is acceptable and I know that you will carry out the burning in a dignified manner. Perhaps there could be a space in the Cemetery near the Veteran's Memorial where we could all bury our worn American Flags that have served so well.

Personally, I keep all my worn Flags and tack them up in my workshop (blue field of stars to the left). The oldest, is one that I hung on my front porch every morning in Key West when I was flying for the U.S. Navy. (1986).

Mike Zoellick

Happy New Year  
2009!!!!

## Drinking & driving...

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) shows that from 2001-2005, an average of 36 fatalities occurred per day on America's roadways as a result of crashes involving an alcohol impaired driver. That number increases to 45 per day during the Christmas period and jumps to 54 per day over the New Year's holiday.

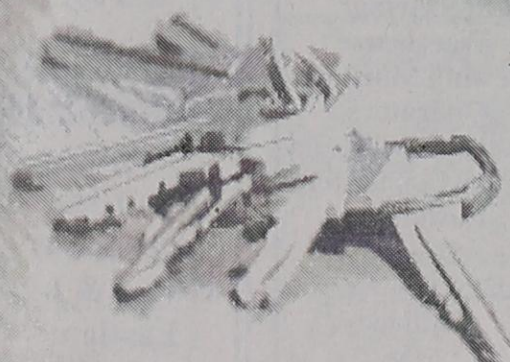
...never a good combination.

*If you drink, please drink responsibly and please don't drive.*

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# Country Wide Classifieds

Carbon, Gorman, Olden, Morton Valley, Desdemona, Kokomo

Baird Star • Cisco Press • Eastland Telegram • Ranger Times • Rising Star

Thursday, January 1, 2009

Strawn, Mingus, Gordon, Putnam, Lake Leon, Flatwoods

### FHA Advertising Rule:

FHA makes it illegal "to make, print, or publish, or cause to be made, printed, or published, any notice, statement, or advertisement, with respect to the sale or rental of a dwelling, that indicates any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination."

### REAL ESTATE

Desdemona, 4 A m/l, 3-1 frame, well & septic, shop, stg. Bldg., beautiful location, large trees. \$59,900.

15 A north Gorman: Sandy land, 2 water wells, county pond. \$3,000 acre

17 A N/E Gorman, 10 A wooded, nice large oak trees, electric meter, great place for a new home! \$3,500 acre

38 A M/L south Gorman: Fronts FM 679, about 10 A large Pecan Trees, nice location for pond, good fences, sandy land. \$2,500 acre.

40 A near Gorman, paved road, pasture, fenced, small cabin, water well, small pond, elec., sandy soil. \$2,500 A.

NEW: Gorman, 44A, 2-2-2 bi-level frame home, 1728 sf, central a/h, metal roof, covered upper deck, several wells, buildings, coastal. Deer & other wildlife. \$250,000

77 A Sipe Springs, deer & turkey, 2 stocked ponds, Live & Post Oak, mineral rights. Insulated 30 x 40 steel bldg., a/c & living quarters. Nice getaway! \$3,250 acre

130 A, west Carbon, app. 40 a cult, 35 a coastal, pond, elec. county water. \$2,400 acre

156 A Carbon, 1/2 wooded- 1/2 fields, lots deer & turkey, 3 ponds, nice 2-2 mh, central a/c, barn, coral, county water. Hunter's Paradise! \$4,000 acre.

179 A south of Gorman: Partwooded, part old fields, deer & hogs, 2 nice ponds, sandy soil, elec., several water wells. \$1,950.00 acre

Selling Comanche, Eastland and Brown Counties since 1954 and we WANT to sell yours. We solicit and appreciate your listings.

COGBURN REAL ESTATE DE LEON OFFICE (254) 893-6666 HOME 893-2642 758-2401 www.cogburnreal estate.com RS104

### MOBILE HOMES

NEW Starter Home \$298/mo with \$1,850 Down, 8.25%, 20 years. Stove, Refer, DW Washer/Dryer & Central AC! TrinityHomeSales.com 866-672-1499 RB134909

New 3/2 with Stove, Refer, Dishwasher, Washer/Dryer & AC, \$1,850 Down; \$588/mo!! PAID OFF in 7 Years @ 8.25% TrinityHomeSales.com 866-672-1499 RB134909

### REAL ESTATE

80 Acres By Owner- \$3,000 an acre. Very secluded, all wooded, cedar, post oak and mesquite. Deer, hogs and turkey. 3 tanks stocked with fish. 4 deer blinds, 3 hog traps. Electric and water near by. Take 183 out of Cisco towards Breckenridge to CR 155 go to dead end. 817-332-7159 or cell 817-360-2318. C4

Approximately 16 Acres in Mangum Community. Call 254-631-0745 or 254-433-9040. E5

### HOUSES FOR SALE

House For Sale In Eastland: 3 BR, 1 1/2 BA, corner lot, CH/A, owner is an in-active agent. Call 254-631-0572 and leave message. E1

### FOR RENT

House For Rent: 412 Tiffin, Ranger. 3 BR, 1 BA, \$550 per month, \$500 deposit. 254-968-4420. E1

1308 Bullard, Cisco. 3/2 CH/CA, Craftsman charm, hardwood floors, appliances, detached carport with small shop. \$600/month plus deposit. 254-725-4181 or 325-668-3604. C2

1205 Mancil, Cisco. CH/CA 2/1 newly remodeled, appliances \$425 plus deposit. 811 Walnut Ranger, 2/1 newly remodeled, appliances, shed, carport \$425 plus deposit 254-725-4181 or 325-668-3604. C2

For Rent In Cisco: 707 East 23rd. Hardwood floors, new countertop. \$550 a month, \$300 deposit. First and last. Phone 442-1461. C104

### FOR RENT

FOR LEASE OR SALE: 2 large commercial bldgs on 2 acres fenced w/l-20 frontage-Eastland. Owner financing. Dean 623-979-6732. E104

### FOR LEASE

For Lease: 2,000 sq. ft. with showroom, shop & pavillion. Hwy 20 access. 817-219-5322. 5

### APTS FOR RENT

GHOLSON HOTEL APTS We now have vacancies. If you are 62 years of age or older, handicapped or disabled, looking for nice quite place to live, come have a look 215 W. Main, Ranger, TX. or call (254) 647-1513 ask for Don. R104

### COUNTRY VILLA APTS

1-2 bedrooms, kitchen appliances, Central H/A, W/D, pool. On site security and maintenance. (Behind Pizza Inn) 1099 Lago Vista Blvd. Eastland, Texas. Call 629-2769 or 631-9504. If no answer 629-2348. E104

### CEDAR RIDGE APARTMENTS

Clean Unfurnished Apartments Security Guard on grounds Maintenance Total Electric Laundry Central Heat/Air Near Schools/Hospital No Pets 254-629-2805 E104

### ROYAL OAKS APARTMENTS

Unfurnished 1 and 2 Bedroom; Carpet, Drapes, & Kitchen Appliances Furnished. Water, Trash Pickup & TV Cable Paid. Also Laundry Room at complex. Choice neighborhood. See and compare at 1304 Royal Lane, Cisco, or call 442-3232. Vacancies not always available. C104

### HELP WANTED

NOW HIRING!!! Class A CDL Driver Must have wide load experience & clean driving record. Apply at Morgan Buildings in Eastland. E104

### Happy New Year !!!!

### HELP WANTED

Immediate Openings Shipping/Receiving/Warehouse Sewing Machine Operators, Cutters. Will Train Apply in person Eastlander Design 202 N. College St. Eastland EOE 104

### HELP WANTED

Cisco Water Plant Operator Performs various duties associated with the operation and maintenance of the water treatment facility. Requires high school diploma/GED, Class "C" Surface Water Certificate and valid Texas driver's license. Contact Jim Baker, P.O. Box 110, Cisco, TX 76437, Phone 254-442-2111. C2

Need reliable, honest, courteous person to work in AJ's store in Putnam, Texas. Call or come by 325-662-3262. E6

Waitstaff wanted Lone Cedar Country Club 18+ Call Levi Thurs.-Sat. 254-647-3468. E104

LaQuinta Inn & Suites is looking for Housekeepers, must work week-ends; also need part-time 3-11 p.m. Front Desk. Apply at 2400 West I-20, Eastland. E1

Rising Star Nursing Center a privately owned nursing facility with a family atmosphere is currently accepting applications for a full time night shift R.N. or L.V.N. Medical insurance and other benefits available. Call 254-643-2681 and speak with Rachel Riley, R.N. or E6

Now Hiring For All Phases of Housing Construction •Starting Pay \$10.00/hr. •Paid Vacation & Holidays •Medical •Dental •Life Insurance •401 k with 100% match up to 6% •Team Profit Sharing •Excellent Work Environment Apply in person at Karsten Homes E1

### NOW HIRING!

CNAs \$500 sign-on bonus! LIMITED TIME OFFER VARIOUS SHIFTS AVAILABLE! Competitive rates & benefits available for full time employees! EOE. For details, call Peggy Hardin, RN, DON, or apply: VALLEY VIEW Healthcare Center 700 S. Ostrom St Eastland (254) 629-1779 Across the street from the High School track and Siebert Elementary

### !!Help!! Wanted

Red Star Truck Stop Is Hiring Convenience Store Cashier Part-Time Maintenance Apply at Red Star Corner of Hwy 6 & I-20 Eastland 5-104

### HELP WANTED

Lori Osborn, L.V.N. or apply in person at 411 South Miller St., Rising Star. RS1

GOODYEAR Seeking Front End Alignment Specialist to perform alignment service including suspension and steering parts, wheel bearing repair, brakes, shocks/struts, etc. Exp. preferred. Apply at: Eastland County Tire, 315 E. Main, Eastland, TX. 254-629-2662. E2

Northview Development Center is currently accepting applications for the following positions: Direct Care Staff-Full time position HCS Homes in Eastland- 12 a.m. to 8 a.m. shift Northview Development Center- 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. shift Starting salary above minimum wage Northview offers a benefit package that includes Health & Dental Insurance, 401-K Plan, Retention Bonus, PTO Come by Northview at 401 West Moss Eastland, Texas to fill out an application. EOE. E6

Now Hiring For All Phases of Housing Construction •Starting Pay \$10.00/hr. •Paid Vacation & Holidays •Medical •Dental •Life Insurance •401 k with 100% match up to 6% •Team Profit Sharing •Excellent Work Environment Apply in person at Karsten Homes E1

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Red Star Truck Stop Is Hiring Convenience Store Cashier Part-Time Maintenance Apply at Red Star Corner of Hwy 6 & I-20 Eastland 5-104

### HELP WANTED

820 Industrial Blvd Breckenridge, TX 76424 It's All...About You@ Karsten Homes Division of CMH Manufacturing E104

Valentino's Italian Restaurant & Pizza now hiring for the following positions: Wait Staff Dishwasher Cashier Apply in person. E104

Now taking applications for all shifts. Apply in person Smokin Willie's 2009 Conrad Hilton, Cisco. C104

### RANGER CARE CENTER

A privately owned, skilled nursing facility We are currently accepting applications for: Weekend R.N. Choice of 6-2 or 2-10 shift PT/FT LVN Competitive wages, work in a friendly, family-oriented environment. Apply in person at: 460 W. Main St., Ranger, TX 76470 For more info: Contact Stormie at (254) 647-3111 E.O.E. R104

### BUCK'S GUN SCHOOL

Concealed Handgun License Classes Days/nights/week-ends U-Call I-Teach Call Buck at 254-647-1449 E1

### BUCK'S GUN SCHOOL

Concealed Handgun License Classes Days/nights/week-ends U-Call I-Teach Call Buck at 254-647-1449 E1

### Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores

is hiring in Ranger, TX Subway Cashiers Overnight & Evening shifts Starting at \$7.00 hr. DOE Tire/Maintenance Technicians Tire or Lube exp. preferred Driver's License required Starting at \$10+ hr. DOE Apply at: Love's Travel Stop#270 1600 Loop 254 West Ranger, TX 76470 (254) 647-3700 5

### Work at Home at Spare Time!

Help wanted for commission sales to qualified person. Up to 20% commission. Apply with short letter to: Commission Sales P.O. Box 29 Eastland, Texas 76448

### BUSINESS SERVICES

Ruth Schaefer Stewart, L.P.C. Licensed Professional Counselor Working with children and women's issues incorporating play, art, and sand tray Call for appointments at (254) 442-4280. C104

### WANTED

Seeking Christian woman to care for three children (ages 6, 2 1/2 & 1) in our home M-F from 8-5. Must love kids, have clean driving record, neat appearance and be NON-SMOKER. Above average compensation for the right person. Call 631-2209 or 629-8169 lvm. E104

WANTED: Ranch for lease for grazing cattle, primarily cow/calf operation. In or around Eastland County. 817-243-4984. R104

### AUTOS FOR SALE

For Sale: Platinum Edition '05 Cadillac Escalade, loaded, like new, leather seats, pearl white. Will sell for blue Book Value of \$28,000. Serious inquiries only. If you can finance or pay cash write Cadillac, P.O. Box 29, Eastland, TX 76448. E104

### FOR SALE

Coastal Hay 4 x 5 round bales \$30.00. Can make a deal on 50 or more bales. Located close to Scranton 817-319-0057. E2

Tamales \$7.50/dozen Pies \$8.00 & up

Rabbits, pigeons, ducks, bantams, peafowl. Fresh farm eggs 254-643-2612 or 254-210-1541 RS1

King Bed Blk metal w/matt.; end table and foot bench \$700.00; Glass dining table 4 chairs \$200; Couch green/olive \$200; other misc. Call for information 803-743-3650. E1

Steel Buildings Super Discounts Complete: Foundation, Permit Plans Can Erect www.scg-grp.com#12X 254-230-0059 E1

### FOR SALE

Liquidation Clearance Eletronic supplier, computers, printers, lap tops, software Special offer Sell all or individually or best offer for everything. Call John 254-433-0235. C1

Brand New queen pillowtop/orthopedic mattress 2 pc set, in plastic Original warranty \$150 325-428-9172 E2

Double/Full orthopedic mattress set. FLAME RESISTANT, warranty, \$135 Twin mattress \$99 325-428-9172 E2

MUST SELL brand new king pillowtop mattress and box, in plastic. \$250 325-428-9172 E2

Body contouring memory foam mattress and foundation, still wrapped with warranty. \$375 325-428-9172 E2

### NOTICES

The Eastland County Sheriff's Office is accepting bids on two seized vehicles: a Black 2003 single cab Chevrolet pickup and a Purple 1993 Cadillac 4 door, also they will be accepting bids on 3/4 ton Chevrolet prisoner transport van. All the vehicles can be seen at the 201 West White Eastland, Texas or info. by 254-629-1774. Bids must contain bid amount and contact numbers, all bids must be in sealed envelopes with the vehicle your bidding on listed on the outside, one bid per envelope. Bids will be open on January 12, 2009. E3

The Ol' Gusher in Ranger would like to announce that the business is Now Open under New Ownership and New Management. 254-647-1555. R7

### NOW SUBSCRIBE, RENEW SUBSCRIPTIONS, ORDER GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS, OR ORDER TEXAS MESSENGERS, PAY FOR ADVERTISING

Over the Phone with Credit Cards: VISA DISCOVER 254-629-1707 1-888-277-1708 Fax 629-2092

# Happy New Year 2009

about current address identity theft complaints: 1-877-ID-THEFT (877-438-4338) www.consumer.gov/idtheft

Visit the FBI.GOV website for the latest information on e-mail scams and warnings. Within the FBI.GOV website is a section titled "Be Crime Smart". "Be Crime Smart" provides information on new e-mail scams and warnings; reporting internet crime; common fraud schemes; looks to good to be true scams; and more tips and suggestions to avoid being a victim of a scam.

## BUSINESS SERVICES

**LOANS** 3  
I can do what banks won't!  
We also buy Owner financed Notes.  
Cash in 5-7 days.  
505-250-0093

## NOTICES

**NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS**

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

**CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)**

Dist/Div: Brownwood  
Contract 0007-06-075 for RECONSTRUCT EXISTING ROADWAY in EASTLAND County will be opened on January 14, 2009 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and application for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below.

If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's websites at www.txdot.gov and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.

NPO: 28535  
State Office  
Constr./Maint. Division  
200 E. Riverside Dr.  
Austin, Texas

## NOTICES

78704  
Phone: 512-416-2540  
Dist/Div Office(s)

Brownwood District District Engineer  
2495 Highway 183 N  
Brownwood, Texas 76802-3227  
Phone: 325-646-2591

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin. (12-25-08, 1-1-09)

## Fraudulent Telemarketing Scams

Robert E. Casey Jr., Special Agent In Charge, Dallas, FBI, advises due to the recent increase in frequency and variety of internet, mail, e-mail, and telephone scams, the FBI provides the following information and recommendations:

Fraudulent telemarketing scams are estimated to cost over 40 billion dollars a year. The Department of Justice estimates the number of American consumers defrauded each year by fraudulent telemarketing at one in six. Fraudulent telemarketers are continuing to target elderly citizens in disproportionate numbers.

Some of the more common scams that continue to be a concern include:

a) Nigerian Letters;  
b) Lottery/Sweepstakes Scams;  
c) Internet Auction Fraud.

**NIGERIAN LETTERS**

Individuals and businesses continue to receive letters from Nigeria through the mail, over fax machines, and over e-mail. These letters appear to come from a prominent individual or company with access to a substantial sum of money. The

## AVAILABLE FOR WORK

Need help around yard, house or odds and ends? Call 254-631-7047, Toby. E2

writer purports to need someone with a bank account outside Nigeria to facilitate recovery of this large sum of money. These Nigerian scam letters have been going around for years and there are now numerous versions which may appear to originate from outside Nigeria. Do not provide bank account information, or other personal information based upon these letters.

## LOTTERY/SWEEPSTAKES SCAMS

This scam involves the victim receiving notification, either by telephone, mail, or e-mail, that the victim has won a large sum of money, typically from Canada, although they may originate elsewhere. The victim is then convinced to pay money, under the guise of customs taxes, processing fees, or as a fee to convert the winnings to United States currency, as a prerequisite to receiving the winnings. Do not send money as a condition of receiving lottery or sweepstakes winnings. It is a violation of Federal Trade Commission (FTC) trade rules to require a purchase as a condition of entering a contest, sweepstakes, or other promotion. Also, it is illegal to play a foreign lottery through the mail or on the telephone or internet (Title 18 United States Code, section 1301-1307).

## INTERNET AUCTION FRAUD

This scam involves a "buyer" expressing an interest in purchasing something, typically over the internet. The buyer will then send a check to the victim in an amount above the purchase price. The buyer explains why the check is higher than the purchase price and asks the victim

to send the balance back to the buyer. The victim, believing the certified check is good, then forwards the excess money back to the buyer. The check sent by the buyer is counterfeit and the buyer has no interest in purchasing anything. Sellers should be cautious of a buyer who wants to send a check for an amount above the purchase price. Sellers should be cautious of sending merchandise or money back to the buyer, without first ensuring that the buyers form of payment is legitimate.

## RED FLAGS TO WATCH FOR

a) Pressure: Scammers will often pressure the victim to act quickly. The "opportunity" is only available for a limited time, or the prize will be given to someone else if not claimed;

b) Pay Up Front: A scam will often require the victim to pay money up front in order to take advantage of the "opportunity." No legitimate contest requires a winner to pay money up front to claim the winnings;

c) Will Not Send Written Information: The scammer will rarely send written documentation to the victim, because that provides the victim time to think about the situation, as well as provides the victim the means of checking out the operation/organization;

d) Excuses: The scammer will often be unable to answer legitimate questions posed by the victim. They will provide excuses rather than directly address such questions and concerns. They will even become upset because the victim is questioning the caller by threatening to provide the opportunity to someone else if the victim is not interested.

## DO'S AND DON'TS

DO ask for the business/

organization name and address (many will not provide this information, because it is something that may be verified);

DO ask for written information. This gives the potential victim the opportunity to examine the offer and talk to others about the offer;

DO talk to family and friends about the situation. A second opinion is always a good idea. Something that sounds too good to be true, normally is;

DO call the Better Business Bureau (BBB) if you are unfamiliar with a business;

DON'T pay to receive lottery/contest winnings;

DON'T allow the caller to pressure you to ACT NOW!

DON'T give out bank account

numbers, credit card numbers, or other personal information to anyone you did not initiate contact with and you know is a reputable business.

## RESOURCES

Internet Fraud: All federal internet fraud complaints are centralized through the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3). Because internet fraud is not geographically limited, a centralized complaint center allows all related complaints to be connected and referred to the appropriate agency. Report instances of internet and email fraud, i.e. international lotteries, FBI e-mails, sweepstakes, etc., to the Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov.

Telemarketing Fraud: Information

# HELP WANTED

**Warehouse Forklift Worker**  
-forklift experience required, clean driving record, heavy lifting

**Dr Pepper/Pepsi** offers competitive pay, a comprehensive benefit program, including group health, profit sharing, 401K, Life insurance, short/long term disability, vacation, personal days, etc. This job is fun, challenging and filled with new opportunities daily. Apply in person at Ab-Tex 6700 I-H 20 Ranger, Texas between 8am and 5pm Monday through Friday.

EEO/AA Employer 3

**You Can Make a Difference!**

- If you like helping others, you'll love Rock House
- FT and PT positions available
- Rewarding work
- Benefits, profit-sharing, weekend differential
- Must be 20 years old with high school diploma or GED
- Driving and background check on potential hires

Shifts Available:  
Full Time - 4P-12A M-F  
Part Time - 12P-12A S&S; 2P-12A S&S

**THE COMPANY OF ROCK HOUSE**  
Eastland

**Apply Now**  
Online: www.rockhouses.org  
In Person: 401-A E. Lens, Eastland  
E-Mail: hr@rockhouses.org  
Phone: 254-592-9805, 254-629-8683  
254-968-4004, Ext. 159 5

**Narcotics Anonymous**  
500 Ave. E (Ex-GI Bldg.)  
Cisco, TX 76437  
Monday 8:00 p.m.  
Open Meetings  
Wednesday 12:00 noon  
Friday 6:00 p.m.  
Book Study  
For more information contact 254-442-4462

**Alcoholics Anonymous**  
302 N. College  
Eastland, TX 76448  
\*\*\*  
MONDAY 5:30 p.m. (Closed-Alcoholics Only)  
TUESDAY 8:00 p.m. (Open)  
THURSDAY 6:00 p.m. (Open)  
Big Book Study  
SATURDAY 8:00 p.m. (Open)  
\*\*\*  
442-4462 or 254-433-3340  
For questions or info. call 254-631-0271  
Parole/Probationers Welcome  
Please No Correctional Papers

**Grandpaw's Tool Shed Rental, Inc.**  
1304 E. Main,  
Eastland, TX 76448  
254-629-3363

Tired of all the same entertainment at your parties?  
We have the solution: Rent our New "Dunking Booth". A lot of fun for the whole family.

Also we have Temporary Storage Containers 8 x 20 at your location for rent. 104

**House Leveling & Foundation Repair**  
By David Lee & Co.  
Professional Work Since 1967  
\*Free Estimates\*  
No Payments Until Work Is Satisfactorily Completed

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- Steel Piers To Bedrock
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254-629-2267 1-888-486-8588  
254-965-5635 915-675-6369  
104 www.davidleeandco.com

**Newspaper Deadlines**  
Monday by 5 p.m. for Thursday edition  
Thursday by 5 p.m. for Sunday edition

Do you need to sell anything?  
Sell it in the classifieds.  
Do you need a job?  
Look in the classifieds.  
How about an automobile?  
Check for one in the classifieds.  
Advertise in the Classifieds and get results!!!

**CLASSIFIED AD RATES:**  
\$10.00 the 1st run  
\$5.00 each run after the 1st run (25 words or less)  
Classifieds run in all 5 Newspapers- Cisco, Eastland, Ranger, Rising Star & Baird Star

**Business Services**

To advertise in this section call Gary or Patrick at 629-1707 or come by 215 S. Seaman in Eastland

**Wind & Water Tight Rodent Proof Used Containers**  
Larry Singley  
Toll Free 800-992-9122 or 817-992-9122  
We Solve Storage Problems

Advertise in the Business Services section of the newspaper

Master Electrician  
All Types of Work  
254-639-2964  
254-433-1782  
State Licensed 104

**A-QUALITY WELDING & STEEL SUPPLY**

METAL BUILDINGS • STRUCTURAL STEEL  
FABRICATION • BUILDING COMPONENTS  
WELDING SUPPLIES & GASES

Metal Bldg. Clearance Sale Call Now  
700 East I-20 Cisco, TX  
(254) 442-3036  
Check out our prices updated daily www.aqualitysteel.net

## Bubba's Christmas Letter

J.B. Johnston

Bubba said since his Christmas letter of last year was so well received he thought he should, and would, write another. This years letter goes something like this:

Dear Friends,  
I just wanted to bring you up to date on our year, which was 2008. First of all I never thought I would live to see the new century, but here I am. The actual year never concerned me much, because I seldom ever know what year it is. However, this being the end of another, I figured you would like to know how ours went.

This has been an exciting year for us, especially since Maw got out of prison. She said six years wasn't too bad

for a bootlegging charge, and the food was better than she could cook. We all had to agree with her on that. Especially the ones that had been there and done that.

Little Susie is still doing well in her hair dressing work, a trade she learned in reform school. We always knew she would someday make it big. Ralph is about over the gout and is now beating me in horseshoes. Brother Slick and I took a cruise this year. Of course we do that every year, but the scenery along the banks of the Brazos was especially pretty this spring. Slick has decided for a change of scenery we will take the Trinity river cruise next year. That is if we can get the leak fixed in his old flat

bottom John boat.

My cousin Peanut and I signed up for a course at the college in animal husbandry. We figure after graduating we can get our PHD (Possum Hunting Degree). This has been an exceptionally good year for hunting. I almost killed a deer and a turkey. I missed the deer three times, but only missed the turkey twice. I did manage to get a good mess of squirrels, and one old possum. The squirrels were good but the possum was a little tough. I will have to be especially careful with my shells this coming year since, those gun grabbing Democrats got back into office. I doubt if any one of them has ever eaten a possum.

I just found out last week that old Blue was the father of a new litter of puppies, and boy am I excited. Since I get the pick of the litter, and the mother is a border collie, bulldog, lab, greyhound, mix, they are sure to be

good hunting dogs. With old Blue as the father, what else could a person ask for?

Like I said, we have had one fantastic year, and hope yours has been as good. Of course I know that would be expecting too much since not everyone has such a good family as ours. Anyway, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and remember Christmas, is Christmas, not just another holiday. Go ahead and say it, it won't hurt you. Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas.

Bubba  
(From Bubba's house, and the ex-Carbonite)

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In Your Local  
Newspaper  
And Get  
Results**

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FINANCIAL  
SERVICES**

A Life Planning Firm

What is missing in  
your life plan?

254-629-3863

Toll Free 800-588-6381

www.kennedy-financial.com

106 S. Seaman St.  
Eastland, TX 76448

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Providing Leadership,  
Relationship and Creativity  
to Focus on What  
Matters Most

## Obituaries

### Roberta W. Bartee

ALBANY- Mrs. Roberta W. Bartee, 81, of Albany, Texas died Saturday, December 27, 2008 at her home.

Roberta was born on February 23, 1937 in Moran, Texas, the daughter of R.W. "Bud" Brooks and Florence Rogers Brooks. Roberta married Edgar Lee Bartee in 1946 in Breckenridge. He preceded her in death.

She was a homemaker and a member of the First United Methodist Church.

A graveside service was held at 11 a.m. Monday, December 29, 2008 at the Moran Cemetery with the Rev. Jerry Krueger officiating. Arrangements under the care and direction of Godfrey-Neese Funeral Home.

Survivors are two sons, Larry Bartee and wife, Ginger and Garry Bartee and wife, Marilyn of Dublin; 6 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

### Sophia Jerry Newman Holmes

CLYDE- Sophia Jerry Newman Holmes, 90, of Rising Star and formerly of Clyde, died Wednesday, December 24, 2008 at the Rising Star Nursing Center.

Graveside services were held at 10 a.m. Saturday, December 27, 2008 at the Clyde Cemetery under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home of Clyde.

### Vernon N. 'Hump' Weeks

BAIRD- Vernon N. 'Hump' Weeks, 79, of Baird, Texas died Wednesday, December 24, 2008 in Hendrick Medical Center, Abilene, Texas.

Services were held at 10 a.m. Saturday, December 27, 2008 in the Parker Funeral Home Chapel in Baird. Bro. Jimmy Hatcher officiated. Interment followed in Ross Cemetery. Spencer-Price Addition. Services under the direction of Parker Funeral Home of Baird.

Hump was born October 10, 1929 in Putnam, Texas to George O. and Myrtle M. Young Weeks. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1946 and served his country during World War II. He met and married Eleanor Lynn in November of 1950 in Baird.

After being a 'jack of all trades' Hump attended barber school where he earned his barber's license. He was a barber in Baird for 40 years. After his retirement "Papa Hump" spent his days with

his lovely wife, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He enjoyed long walks, gardening, and carpentry. He had resided in Baird for 45 years and was a member of the First Baptist Church of Baird.

Survivors include his wife, Eleanor Weeks of Baird; 3 daughters, Melba Weeks of Baird, Peggy Herod and husband Jon of Clyde, and Sherry Curtis and husband Jimmy of Tye; one son, Donnie Weeks and wife Diane of Cypress; five grandchildren, Jennifer Marcee and husband John of Clyde, Allison Herod McFarland and husband Cayden of Tulsa, OK., Shelby Weeks of Cypress, and Brenden and Kiersten Curtis of Tye; two great-grandchildren, Ethen Herod of Clyde and Alexandra Marcee of Clyde; two sisters-in-law, Bonnie Badgett of Eastland and Margie Weeks of Waco; and several nieces and nephews.

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# Desdemona News

By Vonnie Guthery

Holiday visitors with Bernard and Ann Keith were De and Vicki Robinett, Keitha Robinett and daughter, Lexie of DeLeon; Bill and Tami Sanders and daughter, Robyn of San Antonio; Brad and Priscilla Keith and children, Brett, Brian, Jenna and Andrea of Louisville, Kentucky; Johnny and Sandy Cameron, Danny Cameron of Justin; Billy and Nikki Febinger and children Christopher, Allison and Erin of Cleburne; Pug and Vonnie Guthery and Lorin of Desdemona.

Karen Fair and granddaughter, Lorin hosted a Christmas Eve supper for the family. Those attending were Pug and Vonnie Guthery; Belinda Guthery; Holly Guthery and daughter, Karsan; Roy and Angela Powledge and son, Lane; Sonja Hornback and son, Justin; Donal and Kandice Cogburn and children, Dylan and Taiha.

Visitors with Robert and Ima Brown were from St. Louis, Missouri; New York; Grove, Oklahoma; Arlington; San Antonio; and Dallas.

Pug and Vonnie Guthery hosted the Guthery Family Holiday dinner on Sunday. Those attending were Frank and Ella (Guthery) Reeves of Irving, Richard and Glenda Garrett from Justin, Ricky and Ranell Foreman of Marbleton, Wyoming, Thomas and Vicki Seay, David and Martha Guthery from Gorman, Karen Fair, Belinda Guthery, Holly Guthery and daughter, Karsan, Angela Powledge and son, Lane all of Desdemona.

Colin and Kaley Garcia visited Christmas holidays with their dad, George Garcia and family in Cleburne.

Holiday visitors with "Humpty" and Betty Duke were Rodney and Debra

Duke of Pantego; Ronda James and daughter, Emily of Whitney; Scott and Risa Ashley and daughter, Lauren, Brandon and Daydra Ashley all of Midlothian; Russell Duke and daughters, Elise and Katie of Stephenville; Rusty and Samantha Duke and daughter, Cadence of Desdemona; Susan Benbrook and son, Bram of Houston.

"Happy New Year" from Pug and Vonnie Guthery

# Tidbits

By H.V.O.

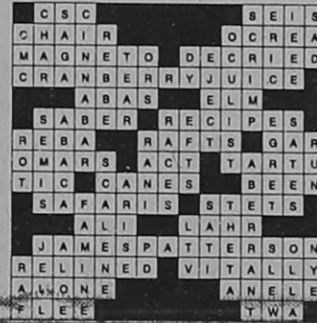
WAS YOUR Christmas everything you'd hope for? For most, they usually fall short-- maybe because we always expect them to be so much better. They were good in many ways: the weather was agreeable, there were no major catastrophes locally, although there were the usual bumps in the road...With no little ones

about, our Eve was spent enjoyably watching the eyeball machine, specifically the Fox Channel Christmas Program. It was a mixture of music, fun and games, with some seriousness thrown in--reminding us almost of the old Perry Como, Dean Martin, Andy Williams variety shows--the likes of which are not seen on television much any more. Mores the pity.

In a similar vein, talk in our shop recently centered on the type of music that is popular today. Ad-Man Patrick Ready, a learned individual deep into chess, literature and all things uplifting, opined that it seemed time now for music makers--writers, producers and performers--to return to the type of music of yesteryear when repetition of the same boring one-line thought. Remember when ballads meant something... Side note: who remembers the late Peggy Lee's "Is That All There Is?" or Jim Ed Brown's "Morning?"

ENOUGH OF that! Does this statistic scare: the U.S. attracted 583,000 foreign students in the 2006-07 school year, about 4% of the nation is 15 million college students. Countries sending the most: India, China, S.

### Crossword Answers



Korea, Japan and Taiwan. OR: Attendees in large churches (1,000+ members) who say they shared their faith with strangers in the past month--53%. Attendees of small churches (<100 members) who say they have shared their faith in the last month with strangers--35%.

OR: Percentage of parents who impose restrictions on teen drivers: phone use,

94%; number of passengers, 86%; where they drive, 77%; time of day they drive, 72%; and age of passengers, 69%.

AND TO close, these snips from here and there:

Where we go and what we do advertise what we are. The biggest shortage of all is the shortage of common sense. Throwing mud gets your hands dirty.

## SUDOKU

	6		4				3	
			3	5		4		
2		6						4
5		9				7		
4			1		7			9
					8	9	2	
7			9			1		6
	4							3

Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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--WANTED--  
20 lines,  
double spaced or less  
Poetry  
Fiction or Non  
Each entry with brief  
biography notes. All  
must be family orient-  
ed; no smut, slander or  
liable material.

**WANTED: Poetry and/or short stories for this page each week. Mail to: Star P.O. Box 29 Eastland, TX 76448 or e-mail to [thebairdspotlight@att.net](mailto:thebairdspotlight@att.net)**

### Words to Use

**Flageolet:** This is a small flute-like instrument of music that very few of us have ever seen. You might not ever see one unless you go to France.

**Galingale:** Here is a plant similar to ginger. Its odorous root is used in medicine, so that people will know it is medicine.

**Halieutic:** An adjective, this word describes an action that is related to the art of fishing. It is not used much around Lake Leon in Texas.

**Incrassate:** This can be used as a verb to mean thicken, or to thicken, as when one uses flour to give a body to gravy. It is used in the big metropolitan areas of Texas now, but not around Muleshoe.

### New Poetry Contest Open

A \$1,000 Grand Prize is being offered in a new poetry contest sponsored by Friendly Poets Guild. There are 50 prizes in all, totaling \$4,500.

To enter, send one poem of 21 lines or less to: Free Poetry Contest, 10499 Mills Tower Dr., Suite 35, Rancho Cordova, California 95670. Or enter online @[www.friendlypoets.com](http://www.friendlypoets.com). The deadline is Jan. 21, 2009. If you wish a winner's list please enclose a stamped return envelope.

"This is our first big contest of the new year," says Contest Director Joseph Mellon, "We expect to discover exciting new poets!"

For more information contact: Joseph Mellon, Contest Director call toll free 1-888-228-3820.

### Writers And Poets!

The Eastland/Callahan County Newspapers announce that the Baird Star will be publishing submitted poetry and short stories. We will also be publishing a literary journal in the near future.

1. We ask for first-time publishing rights. All other rights will remain with the author.
2. There will be no payment, but you will get your works before the general public. We will be sending sample copies to other organizations, the literary world and libraries for their archives and your notoriety.
3. Short stories should be brief. Poetry should be no longer than 24 lines.
4. Each submission should be typewritten, single spaced, with author's name and contact information in the top right hand corner. You must include a SASE for the return of the submission.
5. Please address all submissions to:

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Eastland/Callahan County Newspapers  
P. O. Box 29  
Eastland, TX 76448  
email: [thebairdstar@yahoo.com](mailto:thebairdstar@yahoo.com)  
Fax: 254-629-2092

### Literary Calendar

January 2, 1920: The science fiction writer, Isaac Asimov was born in Petrovichi, Russia.

January 3, 1882: Oscar Wilde told custom officials in New York that his genius is all he had to declare, when he entered the country.

January 6, 1854: In Yorkshire, at Mycroft, William Sherlock Scott Holmes was born.

January 7, 1841: Victor Hugo was elected to the Academie Francaise on his fifth attempt to be accepted.

January 8, 1913: Harold Munro opens the Poetry Bookstop, where Ezra Pound and Robert Frost meet for the first time.

### American Life In Poetry

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE, 2004-2006

One of the most effective means for conveying strong emotion is to invest some real object with one's feelings, and then to let the object carry those feelings to the reader. Notice how the gloves in this short poem by Jose Angel Araguz of Oregon carry the heavy weight of the speaker's loss.

#### Gloves

I made up a story for myself once,  
That each glove I lost  
Was sent to my father in prison  
That's all it would take for him  
To chart my growth without pictures  
Without words or visits,  
Only colors and design,  
Texture; it was ok then  
For skin to chafe and ash,  
To imagine him  
Trying on a glove,

Stretching it out

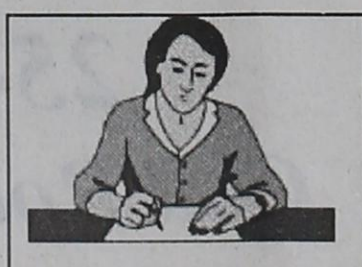
My open palm closing  
And disappearing  
In his fist.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation ([www.poetryfoundation.org](http://www.poetryfoundation.org)), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright (c) 2007 by Jose Angel Araguz. Poem reprinted from "Rattle," Vol. 13, no. 2, Winter 2007, by permission of Jose Angel Araguz. Introduction copyright (c) 2008 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006. We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts.

### Words to Rhyme With

- Undiplomatic
- Axiomatic
- Morganatic
- Ecgatic
- Acrobatic
- Static

Have a Safe & Happy  
New Year 2009



The pen is mightier than the sword.

### Poets In The Age Of Obama

Poet Elizabeth Alexander, who will read a poem at the 2009 Inauguration, discusses President-elect Barack Obama and his relationship with language.

By Elizabeth Alexander  
Poetry Media Service  
Poetry Media Service

The Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies announced on 12.17.08 Alexander's place in the Inaugural Program. This interview is transcribed from a Poetry Foundation "Poetry Off the Shelf" podcast which aired on 11.25.08. Listen to the podcast at <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/journal/audioitem.html?id=643>

Curtis Fox: Elizabeth, where were you on election night?

Elizabeth Alexander: I was with my family, with my husband and my nine year-old and ten year-old sons, and two families--lovely friends with their young children as well--and we all let our kids stay up until midnight, because this is their reality and nothing could be more powerful than that. It was beautiful.

CF: How do you think the election of Obama, who seems to have gotten a lot of support from intellectuals and poets, is going to affect poetry?

EA: From the very beginning, in his public utterances we've seen that Obama is someone who takes great care with language, who understands that language is the medium that we travel in--it's what we have to communicate with each other. And so his words have always been unusually precise, unusually careful, and certainly beautiful, but not for beauty's sake. So I think that there's something that he really understands in his rhetoric about the twinning of form and function that has made him an extremely effective communicator.

CF: Do you think that this respect for language, which seems to be new in the political sphere, will take some of the edge off of poets' attitudes towards political power?

EA: I don't think so, because that is in part the very essential work that poets do. Poets are always looking from the outside. Poets are never in any significant way the center of power. Poetry is an art form that is not well compensated, which leaves poets in a wonderfully free place to be able to criticize constructively without any kinds of economic ties or incentives.

So I think that's where poets always reside in the society. But I think perhaps what I hear is a lot of poets taking heart, in that not only is this someone who takes care with his language, not only is this someone who is evidently a thinker--certainly we haven't had a president who's been a professor, that is to say, someone who spends at least a part of his professional life thinking about complicated ideas and trying to make them comprehensible and working them through with students--but also, this is someone who appears to care about poetry itself. As many people have noted, he was photographed three days after the election carrying Derek Walcott's Collected Poems. I mean, the inbox went wild!

Poets just absolutely couldn't believe that, with that gesture, he was saying that a few days after being elected president, [he was able] to find the time for the contemplation that poetry provides, to read one of the great poets of world poetry, Derek Walcott; that is to say, not to have a strictly nationalist view of where important art is found... it is utterly extraordinary.

We heard one of his refrains, "We are the ones we have been waiting for"--that's a line from June Jordan's "Poem for South African Women."

(From Barack Obama's acceptance speech, 11.04.08: "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or

if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for.")

CF: Do you think he self-consciously quoted that? Or is that just a coincidence?

EA: Well he certainly didn't invent it out of whole cloth; at least that's my guess. I think that there are probably other moments [from which] we could parse little hidden gems that suggest to us that this someone who appreciates the effective distillation that poetry offers.

CF: Can you imagine how it would electrify poets in this country if they thought that not only Barack Obama but other political leaders actually read what they wrote?

EA: Well, that would be electrifying indeed, and again not just because we don't sell very many books and we like for people to pay attention to our words; but rather, because we think what we do is important. Because we struggle to be precise and that is how human beings communicate across divides, communicate across difference. We take that work dead seriously, and that is the work that we want our leaders to be engaged with, with equal care.

CF: I think this particular cultural moment is pretty exciting for a lot of people; a lot of people have a sense of the country that's dramatically different. Do you have any recommendations for a poem that reflects that spirit?

EA: Yes--I have truly in my head been hearing lines from Walt Whitman's "I Hear America Singing."

#### I Hear America Singing

By Walt Whitman  
I hear America singing, the varied carols I hear,

Those of mechanics, each one singing his as it should be blithe and strong,

The carpenter singing his as he measures his plank or beam,

The mason singing his as he makes ready for work, or leaves off work,

The boatman singing what belongs to him in his boat, the deckhand singing on the steamboat deck,

The shoemaker singing as he sits on his bench, the hatter singing as he stands,

The wood-cutter's song, the ploughboy's on his way in the morning, or at noon intermission or at sundown,

The delicious singing of the mother, or of the young wife at work, or of the girl sewing or washing,

Each singing what belongs to him or her and to none else,

The day what belongs to the day--at night the party of young fellows, robust, friendly,

Singing with open mouths their strong, melodious songs.

EA: So I think this campaign truly belonged to an extraordinary cross-section not only of Americans, certainly as a campaign to Americans, but of the world over. Everyone from their own particular is finding a way to sing of what this moment can be, to sing of what their hopes and aspirations and frustrations and needs are; and somehow, that can come together in one leader's vision.

Elizabeth Alexander is a professor of African American Studies at Yale, and her latest book of poems is American Sublime, published by Graywolf Press. This interview originally aired on the podcast series "Poetry Off the Shelf." Distributed by the Poetry Foundation. Read more about Elizabeth Alexander, and her poetry, at [www.poetryfoundation.org](http://www.poetryfoundation.org)

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