

Nichols
Worth



I'm SO embarrassed!

I swear these things just do not happen to other people. Somehow, I must be the designated clown/idiot to keep this part of the world entertained.

I spent 24 hours on "ride outs" on the ambulance last week. Now, you must remember that I'm an old student, a fat student, a semi-crippled student and an insecure student.

EMT students are usually young, strong, healthy and taking this training as a career. I'm just a first responder hoping to be a better one by becoming an EMT.

All the paramedics have been understanding, helpful and pleasant. They have patiently watched me hoist myself into the ambulance and carefully climb down.

They have taken pains to teach me all they can, and answer my questions with kindness.

Last week, however, I probably managed to become one of those "legends", a story that will be told for years with glee and laughter. The witnesses that day were paramedics Larry McDonald and Cliff Brooks.

Students ride in the jump seat in the back of the ambulance. There is a sign that reads "Fasten Seat Belts". It makes sense, because in the event of an accident, there is a lot of hard surface to bounce into.

But, we had taken one ambulance in for repairs and picked up a backup ambulance to use. Keep that in mind.

I crawled in, and within minutes there was a call. As the ambulance rolled, I buckled up, just like the sign said.

As we arrived at our destination I reached down to unfasten the seat belt. It wouldn't unfasten. I tried pulling, pushing, pressing tugging and cussing, but the belt wouldn't release.

You must realize that I'm claustrophobic and being strapped in like that was almost more than I could take. Fighting panic, I stared at the shears in my pocket, mind racing. "How much does a new seat belt cost...if I cut it, will they kick me out of my class? Is it worth it?" And, the worst thought of all came to be realized as Cliff spoke through the little window between front and back and asked me to bring the trauma bag.

I thought about fainting...that way they would have to get me out of the belt and I would be free without having to admit I couldn't unbuckle a seat belt. But I've never fainted in my life, and didn't know how.

I thought about bursting into tears and trying the "southern belle" routine of helplessness, but I don't do that too well either.

So, I just crumbled and begged for help. Cliff, to his credit, didn't outright laugh at me. He climbed into the ambulance, reached over and released the catch. I think I must have had it backwards, and the release button was inside, not on the outside. Besides, examination showed the buckle was a little rusty. Remember, this was a seldom-used backup rig. I'm just SURE it wasn't my lack of ability that caused me to sit there, strapped into my seat, suffering total humiliation.

My brother Marshal was the only one to come up with a solution to my problem. I wish I'd thought of it. I could have announced that it was a test of the paramedic's extrication skills! Oh well, I guess being laughed at one more time won't hurt me!

Serving Local Businesses and Local People

Talco Times

66TH YEAR, No. 41

TALCO, TITUS COUNTY, TEXAS

Thursday, September 5, 2002

50¢



OUT OF TOWN FRIENDS VISIT WITH "BOGATA LAW"- Jean Blankenship Shanklin of Tyler and Joy Brumley Hesch of Denton visited with Bogata Police Officer Jason Henry when they came to Bogata recently. They were in town to visit old school friends.

Old school friends meet

Several friends who were in school together in the early '50's got together at Wanda Lou Hale Bradley's Bakery/Cafe in Bogata on Saturday, August 24 for lunch and a visit.

Attending were Mary Ann Alsobrook Williams, Frances Mayes Rozell, Mary Margaret Barnard Vaughan, Glenda Whitten Corblel, Wanda Lou Hale Bradley of Bogata, Jean Blankenship Shanklin of Tyler and Joy Brumley Hesch of Denton.

Joy and Jean were so pleased

and excited when the City of Bogata Police car came down the street that nothing would do but wave the driver down the next time he came by so they could meet him and look the car over. Jason Henry was very accomodating. Mary Margaret and Glenda enjoyed visiting with Jason, remembering time they spent with him in his elementary school days in Bogata.

Joy and Jean said Bogata is doing great and are anxious to come back soon.



TWO FATALITIES-According to DPS reports, a late model Chevrolet Camaro with three occupants was found Tuesday morning, September 3, by an oilfield worker on his way to work on Titus County Road 1915. The Camaro had apparently hit a tree sometime late Monday night or early Tuesday morning. Killed in the accident were 21-year old Danny Wayne Milner and 20-year old Jessie Wyatt of Sugarhill, who were both pronounced dead at the scene. The third occupant, 18-year old Donnie Taylor of Talco was airlifted to Wadley Memorial Hospital in Texarkana and was listed in critical condition. The cause of the accident was undetermined as of Tuesday afternoon.

TBSI to sponsor community calendar 2003

The Talco Baseball/Softball Inc. will sponsor a community calendar for 2003. The calendar will contain birthdays, anniversaries and memorials and will be sold for \$6 to \$8 each when completed. The planned date for distribution is the second week of December. All funds will go to the Talco league for equipment, maintaining the field and more.

The cost of listing your birthdays, anniversaries and in memory of will be \$1.00 each. To have your special dates listed call Nancy Brown at 903-379-4445; Patsy Smith at 903-379-2109 or Marta Rhoades at 903-379-3491.

Your contribution will be appreciated and the calendars make wonderful gifts.

PTO to meet

The Rivercrest PTO will meet on Monday, September 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the Rivercrest Elementary cafeteria. The items on the agenda include report of the Back to School Night, discussion on giving the teachers \$50.00 each for art supplies and UIL concession stand fund raiser. Please make plans to attend and support your child's school.

Brisket/Chicken lunch September 6

A smoked brisket/chicken lunch will be served September 6, 2002 beginning at 10:30 a.m. in front of the Talco Post Office. The meal will include brisket or chicken and sauce; cole slaw, beans and bread and will be \$6.00 per plate.

To place an order call Nancy Brown at 903-379-4445 or Marta Rhoades at 903-379-3491.

Fish Fry planned for September 8

A Fish Fry will be held at the Hagansport Community Center on Sunday, September 8, 2002 beginning at 12:00 noon as a benefit for Tyler Cannon and Katrina Easterling.

Tyler is the 3 year old son of Wade and Tonya Cannon and the grandson of Rob and Doris Cannon and Gaylon and Alva Nell Hume of Hagansport and Leonard White of Mt. Pleasant. He has

been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and Burkitt's lymphoma. He is undergoing medical treatment at Medical City in Dallas.

Katrina suffered a burn to the left arm and right leg. She is a paramedic at ETMC and is a firefighter with North Franklin Volunteer Fire Department along with her husband Wade. All donations will be appreciated.

Fair to begin September 18

The Red River County Fair and Livestock Show will begin September 18 and run through September 21 at the fairgrounds in Clarksville.

Check-ins will be held on Tuesday, September 17 beginning at 1 p.m.

On September 18, exhibits will be judged and rabbit and poultry check-in will be held. The fair parade will be at 5 p.m. followed by stage entertainment at 7 p.m., the rabbit show at 8 p.m. Buildings will close at 9 p.m.

On September 19, The Ag Mechanic show will be held at 9 a.m. A stick horse rodeo and dress up pet contest will be held at 7 p.m.

and the commercial beef female show will be held at 7 p.m.

On September 20, the swine show will be held at 8 a.m., the sheep show at 2 p.m., poultry show at 6 p.m. and a youth dummy roping contest at 7:30.

On Saturday, the exhibit buildings open at 9 a.m. The beef show will be at 10 a.m., the horse show at 1 p.m., the kiddie livestock class at 3 p.m., The market swine, heifer, lamb, rabbit and broiler sale will be held at 6 p.m., along with the fiddler's contest. Stage entertainment will be held at 8 p.m. and the buildings will close at 9 p.m.

September 11, 2001 remembered

Bogata United Methodist Church pastor, Joe Gist has announced the church sanctuary will be open all day on September 11, 2002 for a prayer vidual in honor of those whose lives were taken in the terrorist attack on the Twin Towers in New York City.

At 6:30 p.m. a Remembrance

Service will be held. Everyone is invited to visit the church during the day and pray for the survivors, families of those who lost their lives and for our country. And a special invitation is extended for the Remembrance Service at 6:30 p.m.



RIVERCREST ISD PHONE NUMBERS

Phone numbers for the three campuses of Rivercrest ISD are: Talco School Rivercrest Junior High-903-379-3841

Rivercrest High School-903-632-5204

Rivercrest Elementary School-903-632-5214.

Tuesdays
BAM (Bogata Area Moms) playgroup for stay at home moms and their children meets Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Call Kelly for more information at 903-632-4493.

September 9
There will be a meeting of the Rivercrest Elementary PTO on Sept. 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the elementary cafeteria. All parents, guardian and interested persons are invited to attend.

September 11
A Remembrance program will be held at Rivercrest High School on Wednesday, September 11, 2002 beginning at 8:15 a.m. The public is invited to attend.

September 15
Courtney Bynum, bride-elect of Tee Green will be honored with a wedding shower on Sunday, September 15, 2002 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Bogata First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. The couple have selections at Kassighs Kollage; Mason's Hardware in Mt. Pleasant; Gene the Jewlers in Paris; Foley's, Dillards and Sears. All family and friends are cordially invited to attend.

Pattonville VFD car show is Saturday, September 15th

Pattonville VFD will hold their 5th annual car show on September 14th from 10 a.m. to 3 P.M.

It will be held at the Pattonville Firehouse and Community Center on FM 196, 1/4 mile south of Hwy. 271, rain or shine.

Entry fees are \$10 before Sept. 7th and \$12 the day of the show.

For more information contact Ed or Sandy Ring at 903 652-9048 or 903 652-3668.

All makes and models of ve-

hicles are welcome and proceeds benefit Pattonville Fire Department.

The concession stand will sell BBQ sandwiches with chips and desserts for \$4.50.

Free dash plaques to the first fifty PreRegistrors. Make checks payable to Pattonville VFD. Send to Ed or Sandy Ring, P.O. Box 107, Pattonville, TX. 75468.

Entrants will do the judging and spectators judge the People Choice awards.

New weather station in Red River County

Clarksville Mayor Ann Rushing and County Judge Powell W. Peek have advised that a new automated surface weather observing station is now in place at the Clarksville/Red River County Airport. The station was installed in early August and is undergoing testing until September when it will become fully operational.

The weather station is a cooperative effort between Red river count, the City of Clarksville and the Texas Department of Transportation and is one of several stations being installed across Texas.

It will continuously monitor the atmosphere for the current temperature, dew point, wind direction and speed, barometric pressure and current weather condi-

tions. The station will also record climatological data such as the daily maximum temperature, minimum temperature and rainfall amounts.

The data collected will be transmitted on an hourly basis to the National Weather Service, FAA and the aviation community.

Lee Harrison, Meteorologist in Charge of the National Weather Service office in Shreveport said the addition of the station and the data from it will be a tremendous help to his staff as they track weather across Northeast Texas.

The Weather Service office in Shreveport is responsible for the routine forecasts and severe weather watches, warnings and advisories for Red River County.

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Country Cooking
By Liz Irwin



Do you know what comes in all shades of red, green and yellows; grown in all 50 states; is a member of the rose family; the largest ever picked was three pounds; 2500 varieties are grown in the United States and 7500 varieties grown throughout the world; and is the 2nd most valuable fruit grown in the United States (oranges are #1)? Can you guess the answer? If you guessed the apple, then you are correct! The glorious apple is the subject of our column this week. Many in our area lost their apple crop this year due to the late cold snaps from the winter season, but a few were still able to harvest some that had been saved from the prolonged cold weather.

Other facts that you might like to know about apples include: Along with that 2500 varieties that grown in the United States, over 100 are grown commercially; many growers use dwarf trees; the top apple producing states are Washington, New York, Michigan, California, Pennsylvania and Virginia (those must have been Johnny Appleseed's favorite states!); apple varieties range from the size of a cherry to as large as a grapefruit; and apples harvested from an average tree can fill 20 boxes that weigh 42 pounds each. Apples are a great source of fiber pectin, with one apple having five grams of fiber. They are fat, sodium and cholesterol free and one apple has only 80 calories! An apple's volume is 25 percent air and that is why it floats. Americans eat 19.6 pounds or about 65 fresh apples every year.....remember, an apple a

day keeps the doctor away! The science of growing apples is called pomology (watch out Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?!). The trees take four to five years to produce their first fruit and most apples are still picked by hand. The average size of an orchard in the U.S. is 50 acres. Some trees have been known to grow over forty feet high and living over 100 years. America's longest-lived apple tree was reportedly planted in 1647 by Peter Stuyvesant in his Manhattan orchard and was still bearing fruit when a train derailed and struck it in 1866 (who does keep up with this stuff?). The Father of our country, George Washington, himself, enjoyed a hobby of pruning his apple trees.

Well, enough of the apple facts and on with the recipes. We have really great ones this week, so try one or two and see what you come up with.....see you in the kitchen! lizwin@hotmail.com or tppub@Istarnet.com

- APPLE CAKE-a super moist and delicious cake for anytime!
- FRENCH APPLE PIE-simple and easy to make!
- APPLE-OATMEAL COOKIES-oats, fresh apples, spices and honey all rolled into one to make a nutritious cookie!
- APPLE-RAISIN MUFFINS-these won't last long!
- APPLE DUMPLINGS-bake and pour sauce over dumplings and a little ice cream on the side sure wouldn't hurt!
- CANNED APPLE PIE FILLING-this recipe makes 7 quarts and will be great this winter!

Bogata V.F.W. News

* The Post is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 3:00 p.m. until 12:00 midnight and Saturday from 1:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m. Pool tables and shuffle board are open to enjoy all the time.
*The Ladies Auxiliary will meet the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Members are urged to attend.
*The VFW men will meet the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Members are urged to attend.
*The Post has a shuffle board tournament every Saturday beginning at 3:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to come out and share the fun. The board has recently been renovated and is ready for play.

McCrury Cemetery Assoc. to meet

The annual McCrury Cemetery business meeting will be held on Sunday, September 8, 2002 at the cemetery beginning at 2:00 p.m. All with loved ones there are urged to attend.



IN ONE YEAR Texas Volunteer Firefighters donate \$32 million of their time...if they were only paid minimum wage!

Genealogical Society to meet

Everyone is invited to attend the regular monthly meeting of the Red River County Genealogical Society on Monday, September 9 at 7:30 a.m. in the Red River County Library. Speaker for the month will be Phillip Payne of Paris, whose subject will be putting together a personal history. He will show examples of how this can be done. All persons interested in researching their family history are encouraged to come and enjoy the program.

Fulbright News
BY BETTY RODGERS 652-6051

Bob and Karen Norris attended the going away luncheon for the Jay Tidwell family held at the Wise House in Paris recently. He was pastor of the church in Paris that Karen attended. Linda Salters was a visitor last weekend of her parents, Katy and Clovis VanDeaver. Jimmy King had as visitors this week Kutchie King of Reno on Wednesday, Dick King of Paris on Saturday. Her grandson, Randy Osburn of Midlothian visited Saturday night, Sunday and Sunday night and played in the golf tournament in Idabel, OK Monday. Jimmy had lunch with Kyle and Kutchie King of Reno. Betty Rodgers and Melissa Arriaga enjoyed lunch in Paris Monday.

Obituaries



C.V. (Buddy) Farris dies September 1

C.V. (Buddy) Farris, age 78 of Blossom, died on September 1, 2002 in the Christus St. Joseph-North Campus ICU. Graveside services will be held on Wednesday, September 4, at 11:00 a.m. in the Knights of Honor Cemetery with the Reverend Tim Young officiating. The family will receive friends Tuesday evening at the funeral home, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

He was born in Lamar County on May 18, 1924, the son of John Wesley and Martha Keturah Giles Farris. Mr. Farris had worked for Evergreen Cemetery, worked in construction and farmed throughout his life.

Survivors include his wife, Bernice of Blossom; his children Jerry and Linda Farris of Blossom; Linda and David Hicks of Detroit, and his son, Jack of Blossom; five stepchildren, Pam Reese of Oklahoma; Tammie Reese of Texarkana; David Reese of Huntsville, Laura Kindle of Oklahoma, and Danny Kindle of Deport; a sister, Annie Milam of Deport; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews.

under the direction of

Wood Funeral Homes
The James Wood Family

508 Monroe Deport, TX

Card of Thanks

We greatly appreciate the work on our county roads, done by Mr. Clay Dodd and crew. More has been accomplished in three weeks than has been done in years.

Durward & Margaret Bell

Card of Thanks

Thank you, Cuthand community for reaching out to us during our time of loss. A special thanks to Bro. Joe Gist, Red River Haven and Clarksville ETMC third floor staff for their excellent care and support. To each who brought flowers, food and uplifting words, thank you.

God bless,
The Family of Johnny Coggins

Card of Thanks

Thank you seems like such a small thing to say, but we do thank you. The First Responders, Life Net, all the churches that had us in your prayers, you are all so special to us. Thanks to all who sent flowers, cards, food and the phone calls. A special thanks to Joe Gist and Don Shovan, for being there with us. God Bless you all, it's so nice to live in such a caring community.

Randall and Margie Mayes and Family

Mrs. Vernona Young dies September 1

Mrs. Vernona Verlee Young, age 91 of Bogata and formerly of Ft. Worth, died on Sunday, September 1, 2002 in the Red River Health Care Center.

Graveside services were held on Monday, September 2, 2002 at the Cuthand Cemetery with Reverend Randy Lemme officiating. She was born on June 15, 1911 in Fulton, Mississippi, the daughter of Charlie Alexander and Hattie Savannah Stewart Barnes. She married John Foster Young on December 22, 1928 in Cuthand, Texas. He preceded her in death on October 24, 1997; as did a daughter, Mary Walch in 1994; and seven brothers and sisters.

Survivors include three children, John Wesley Young of Ft. Worth, Carol Ann Young of Arlington, and Betty Lou Brock of Norman, Oklahoma; one sister, Marie Graves of California; 7 grandchildren, Don Brock, Jr. of Dallas, Kim Matthew of Mt. Pleasant; Brian McDonald and Erica McDonald of Ft. Worth; David Walch of Dallas, Daniel Walch of Seattle; Jason Walch of Georgia; 8 great-grandchildren; John, Johnathan; Jalen; Kate; Cole; Jesse; Elliott; and Stone; numerous nieces and nephews.

She was a long time member and Sunday School Teacher of First Assembly of God in Ft. Worth and later attended Pleasant View Baptist Church of Ft. Worth. She was very active in the Order of the Eastern Star, serving as Past Worth Matron of Everman Chapter 624 and was a former State Grand Officer of Eastern Star. She was also a very active member of the Social Order of Beauceant.

under the direction of

Wood Funeral Homes
The James Wood Family

414 N. Main Bogata, TX

Card of Thanks

God continues to bless my life. Thank you for the love and prayers, phone calls, visits, flowers and food during my illness. Your kindness is appreciated. God bless you,
Tana Guest

ETMC to hold September 11 ceremony

East Texas Medical Center in Clarksville is planning a special event for Sept. 11, 2002.

The hospital opened in its current location in 1976 without a flagpole. In memory of those lost in the Sept. 11, 2001 tragedy and in recognition of the bravery displayed by those who responded, the hospital will erect a flagpole and fly the American flag in a

ceremony planned for Wed. Sept. 11, 2002 at 9am on the north side of the hospital.

James Faulkner, representing the Clarksville American Legion has donated the flag. Other community members are being asked to participate.

For more information contact Stacy Holland, Administrator at 427-3851.



WELL TRAVELED PUMP-this old gas pump made a lengthy journey from Deport, Texas to Douglasville, Georgia. It was completely restored, and graces the "Martin's Store" at the home of Don and Tina Martin. The cabin is a guest house and a show case for their antique store and service station items. (Staff Photo)

The Lonesome Dove Cafe
Hwy. 271, Deport, Texas
IS RESUMING THEIR
SUNDAY BUFFET
In September
(903) 652-3926

Thursday, September 5, 2002
Apples! Apples! Apples!

Cinnamon-Apple Cake
5 medium apples
3/4 cup sugar
16 tablespoons butter/margarine
3 cups flour
1 cup milk
2 teaspoons cinnamon
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons vanilla
3 large eggs
3/4 cup chopped nuts
3 tablespoons apple jelly
Peel & dice 3 apples. Core & slice remaining apples into rings & cut in half. In large bowl with mixer on high speed, beat sugar & butter until fluffy. Reduce speed & add flour, milk, cinnamon, baking powder, salt, vanilla & eggs. Beat until just blended. Increase speed to medium & beat 3 minutes. Gently fold in pecans & diced apples/ Spread batter evenly into greased & floured 9x13 baking pan. Arrange apple rings on top of batter. In small saucepan over medium heat melt apple jelly & brush jelly over apple slices. Bake at 350 degrees for 45-50 minutes until cake test done. Cool & serve.

French Apple Pie
6-8 cooking apples
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 cup graham cracker crumbs
1/2 cup flour
1 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
1/4 teaspoon ginger
8 tablespoons butter or margarine-melted
9-inch deep dish unbaked pie shell
Peel, core & thinly slice apples. Combine all dry ingredients. Sprinkle 1 tablespoon dry ingredients over bottom of deep-dish crust. Add layer of apple slices followed by layer of dry mixture. Continue alternating layers until apples are mounded in pie shell. Top with remaining dry ingredients. Carefully drizzle melted butter over all. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

Apple-Oatmeal Cookies
1-1/2 cup quick cooking rolled oats
3/4 cup all-purpose flour
3/4 cup whole wheat flour
1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1-1/2 teaspoons cinnamon
1/2 cup raisins
1 cup finely chopped, peeled apples
1 slightly beaten egg
1/2 cup honey
1/2 cup oil
1/3 cup milk
Preheat oven to 374 degrees. In medium bowl combine oats, flours, sugar, baking soda, baking powder, salt & cinnamon. Stir to combine. Stir in raisins & apples. In large bowl combine eggs, honey, oil & milk. Stir in dry ingredients. Mix to form smooth batter. Drop batter onto ungreased baking sheets using a rounded teaspoon for each cookie & press lightly. Bake 10-12 minutes until lightly browned.

Apple-Raisin Muffins
3/4 cup oil
1 cup sugar
2 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 cups flour
3/4 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon salt
1-1/2 cups diced apples
1/2 cup raisins
1/2 cup chopped walnuts
In large bowl beat oil & sugar for two minutes. Add eggs & vanilla & beat 1 minute. In separate bowl stir together flour, baking soda, cinnamon & salt. Add to creamed mixture & stir until just moist. Fold in apples, raisins & walnuts. Fill 12 greased muffin tins 3/4 full. Bake at 400 degrees for 25-30 minutes or until done. Remove from pan & cool on rack.

Apple Dumplings
6-8 apples
2 sticks real butter
2 can biscuits
1 quart whipping cream
cinnamon
sugar
Peel, core & dice apples. Flour flat surface & rolling pin. Knead & roll biscuits flat. Place 1/4 cup apple together & pinch closed. Turn upside down in pan that has been sprayed with Pam one inch apart. Melt one stick of butter & 1 cup sugar. After sugar-butter mixture has cooled, mix in whipping cream & 1/2 cup of sugar. Pour sauce over dumplings & bake at 325 degrees for 40-45 minutes until golden brown.

Canned Apple Pie Filling
4-1/2 cups sugar
1 cup cornstarch
2 teaspoons cinnamon
10 cups water
Mix in large pot & boil until thick & bubbly. Fill jars with apples & cover with juice mixture. Process in hot water bath for about 20 minutes. Makes 7 quarts.

Red River Co. under burn ban due to dry conditions

Due to the continuing dry weather conditions, and emergency burn ban in the unincorporated areas of Red River County took effect on September 3, 2002 at 9:00 a.m. The order was issued to protect the health, safety and

welfare of the citizens of the county.

Unlawful burning is misdemeanor offense.

The order was issued by Red River County Judge Powell W. Peck.

Attend The Church of Your Choice

When we chartered CNB we made a commitment to provide financing to help our CUSTOMERS grow and prosper.

If you're making plans to start a business or expand your operation stop by and see us.

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Hwy. 82 West of Detroit, Texas
903-674-4355
MEMBER F.D.I.C.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In response to the letter by Leah Cabell in last week's paper, we feel that a rebuttal is required. First of all, we would like to point out that these Juniors and Seniors are not "children" but YOUNG ADULTS. From day one this year, the football program was struggling to have enough players to field a varsity team. And as the season progresses, it stands to reason that the team will lose several players to injury or grades. Therefore, it would take a great deal of luck for the team to have enough players to finish a season when there was barely enough to start. But for an adult to blast a young person's decision to do what they think is best is terrible! Life is full of dealing with circumstances that arise due to the decisions other people make. But lashing out at a person who make a decision that is best for them but not for you is unfair. As parents of one of these young men, our goal is for our son to be able to access a situation and make a sound decision. We don't want him to go through life doing what everyone else thinks is best but to be able to stand on his own two feet and become a strong, stable and responsible adult. We all, as adults, are accountable for the success or failure of our own lives, therefore, we each deserve the right to have some input into those lives. And for anyone to suggest that these young men are letting their community down by not playing football is ridiculous. While everyone is disappointed that we don't have a Varsity team this year, we like to think that this community is made up of people whose lives are full enough to continue on even if there is no Rebel game on Friday nights for a while. It's not like football is over forever for Rivercrest. We still have fine 7th and 8th grade teams and a great Junior Varsity team to support. In years past, not much attention has been focused on

them. This year would be a good opportunity to rectify that. And if you can't get enough football on Thursday nights, come out on Saturday morning and support our new Pee Wee League.

It was also mentioned in the letter that while there were some readers who were not bothered by the fact that there would be NO VARSITY TEAM, it has been very upsetting for some who do care. We have to ask what exactly they care about? It seems as though the program has become more important than the players.

We are also concerned about what the future holds. Not because we have kids who aren't doing what we tell them to do but because we have parents who take a game that is suppose to be all about good sportsmanship and team spirit and turn it into something that is really ugly. How many of us have been to basketball, football or baseball games when there has been more action up in the stands than on the field or court. That we as adults can set such a poor example for our young people and excuse our own behavior because we were "caught up in the game" is sad.

Furthermore we, too, respect all of the people that were listed by name in the article...but not because of WHAT THEY DO OR DON'T DO but because of WHO THEY ARE... young adults striving to grow up in this tough world. To the boys who were such a disappointment to Ms. Cabell, we say, "We admire and respect you for making a tough decision not to play football, it was your decision to make!"

In our opinion, the problem with our program is very evident...any program that can incite a parent to spew the kind of hurtful words that were in that letter to the editor last week is not, nor will it ever be, a good thing.

Mike and Judy Sloan



Jaime Marie Moore with fiance David Benjamin Kane Peek

Moore-Peek to wed

James and Juanita Moore of Arlington announce the engagement of their daughter, Jaime Marie Moore, to David Benjamin Kane Peek, son of David and Kay Peek of Fulbright.

The bride is the granddaughter of Wilma Jean Starks of Nolanville, TX.

The bride-elect, a 1999 graduate of Killeen High School, is pursuing her degree in Elementary Education. She is attending Community College of Southern Nevada and is employed with Lin-

ens and Things in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The prospective groom is a 1996 graduate of Prairiland High School. After finishing four years in the U.S. Army, he is now employed with the Department of Energy in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The couple plans to be married September 21, 2002 at 2:00 o'clock at the First United Methodist Church in Pais with a reception to follow at Heritage Hall, 11th SW and Kaufman in Paris.

Business burglary is Crime of Week

You can earn up to \$1000.00 in cash, by providing Crime Stoppers with the information that will lead to the arrest of the person or persons responsible for committing the following felony crime.

For the second time in less than a month, unknown suspects forced entry into the business office of Valley Feed Mill in Paris. The second burglary occurred during the night of Wednesday, August 7. Suspects attempted to enter into a safe causing over \$5,000.00 in damage to the safe and other prop-

erty.

If you have any information on this, or any other felony crime, please call Crime Stoppers. If Crime Stoppers receives that information by September 9, an arrest is made of those persons responsible, Crime Stoppers will pay you a cash reward of up to \$1,000.00. All calls do remain anonymous and you will not have to testify in court. So lets all work together to fight crime! Call Crime Stoppers today at (785-8477).

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	Baked Potatoes

177 Main Street, Deport, TX

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like to bring to the attention of all third grade parents that our third grade class has a total of 43 students, the state classroom capacity is 22 at this time. We only have 2 third grade teachers, due to Mrs. Reeder leaving our school district, which means that one of our third grade classes is at the state capacity of 22 and the other is one under the capacity.

As many of you know the third grade is the last year that our students will be taught the basics. What they learn in kindergarten is repeated and expanded on in the first grade, as is what they learn in the first grade repeated and expanded on in the second grade and so on in the third grade. When they enter the fourth grade they will then be expected to know the basic skills and apply them independently.

Parents need to understand that in order for a third grade child to be promoted to fourth grade, that child must pass the reading portion of the TAAS test. That includes this year's third grade class.

Testing for promotion begins in 2003 for third graders, 2005 for fifth graders and 2008 for eighth graders. In 2004-05 the same set of students in the fifth grade will have to pass the reading and math portions of the test to be promoted to sixth grade. The same set of students in 2007-08 will have to pass the reading and math in eighth grade to be promoted to high school.

I have asked for this topic to be put on the agenda at the next board meeting, which is scheduled for September 9, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. All third grade parents, that have concerns about this matter, are asked to attend this meeting.

Sincerely,
Holly Steen
379-2049

October 9 & 10 set for Alive 55 Class

There will be a driving class for Alive 55 on October 9 & 10 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day.

The class will be held at the Bogata Community Center. A fee of \$10.00 will be required. The event is being sponsored by the Bogata Lions Club. For more information call 903-632-5668.

Attend
The Church
of Your Choice

Annual McConnell reunion to be September 21

Descendents of Annie Waddell McConnell and Will McConnell will hold their annual reunion on Saturday, September 21, 2002, at the Community Center in Bogata. Family and friends are invited to the covered dish meal at noon and the family history program that will follow. A few history books are still available that were compiled and published in 2000.

Mr. and Mrs. McConnell lived at their home place in the Maple and Cuthand area for more than fifty years. The land was originally homesteaded in the late 1880's by Mrs. McConnell's parents, Sarah Jane Horne Waddell and J.C. Waddell, who came to

Texas from Peachland, Anson County, North Carolina.

The Home Place is currently operated and owned by Sam and Sammie McConnell of Bogata. In 1987, the Texas Department of Agriculture accepted the Waddell-McConnell Home Place into the Family Land Heritage Program to honor farms and ranches that have been in continuous agricultural operation by the same family for 100 years or more. For more information on the Land Heritage Program, contact Texas Department of Agriculture, Family Land Heritage Program, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, Tx. 78711, phone: (512) 463-2631.

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Red, White & Blue Day

Rivercrest Elementary School will remember the heroes of Septembdr 11 in an assembly at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 11.

men, the white will represent the clergy and the blu ewill represent the policemen.
Everyone is cordially invited to attend the assembly.

The red will represent the fire-

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TITUS COUNTY FAIR ROPINGS
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www.tituscountyfair.com

Talco Locals

Please call your locals news in to 379-4445

Eddie Brown visited Bobby Jack Brown in Quitman Friday. Justain Norman, Dewyane Sanders, Derek Morris and Laramie Lum participated in fall baseball at Mt. Pleasant Saturday night where they played Daingerfield a double header. Attending to watch were, Nita Hood, Ginger Jones and boys, Scott and Amber Lum and boys and Nancy Brown. Laura, J.P. and James Paul Kernan of Dallas visited home over the weekend with family and friends. They along with other family members enjoyed supper at the home of Marta and Robert Caul Rhoades Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Brown enjoyed supper at Two Senorita's in Mt. Pleasant Friday night. On Sunday Jack, Jennifer and Jaden Brown of Powderly and Paul, Kim and Quinton Anderson of Bogata visited Nancy Brown for lunch.

Sympathy is extended to the fmaily of Johnny Coggins and to the family of Danny Wayne Milner.

Donnie Taylor was air lifted to Wadley hospital in Texarkana Tuesday morning after being discovered in an accident that may have happened during the night Monday. He was listed in critical conditon at press time. Donnie is the son of Scott Taylor and the grandson of Hoyt and Gene Taylor of Talco.

Happy September Birthday to: Tony Cline, Carl Smith, Quinton Anderson, Michelle Savage, LaQuitta Norman, Whitney Savage, Bobby Kuhl, Kristin Kuhl, Gene Duffie, Camen Calvin and Karen Jones.

Jack, Jennifer and Jaden Brown of Powderly visited overnight Tuesday with Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Brown.

Bogata Locals

(Call your news in at 903-632-5322. If the machine is on please leave a message)

Mr. and Mrs. Neil Rozell and Mr. and Mrs. Russell Rozell and daughter enjoyed supper at Two Senorita's in Mt. Pleasant Friday night.

Helen Williams and daughter, Patty Barton of Bagwell visited with Haletha and Granville Jones in Commerce during the Labor Day weekend.

The Corbell clan celebrated Labor Day weekend at the Athens Lake home of Bob and Sue Mears. They enjoyed boating, swimming and skiing and riding 4 wheelers at the Mears Arabian horse ranch as well as lots of good food and visiting. They also toured the new home of Bill and Carol Baker being built on the Mears Ranch. There were 33 in attendance including: Chrystine Baker, Tommy and Glenda Corbell, Mike and Angie Corbell, Ashley and Matt Shew all of Bogata; Billie Welch of Blossom, Joe Corbell of Tyler, Doyle and Nina Smith of Denton, Bo and Peggy Yale, Craig and Lisa Yale, Kelsey and Kaitlyn all of Ft. Worth, Rene, Shawn and ber 20 from 9 a.m. until 12 noon. Blake Waters of Alvarado, Bill To register for these classes, and Carol Baker, James and contact Continuing Education at sey of Athens, Steve, Jennifer and 782-0447. For information on ser- Piper Mears of Dallas, Scott vices offered by the Paris Small Gaddis and Melissa of Dallas, Business Development Center, Elizabeth and Wesley of Dallas contact Pat Bell at 782-0224 or pbell@paris.cc.tx.us.

Happy September Birthday to: Claudine Gable, Jeri Marie Smith, Danny Brown, Nicole Johnson, Leveta Scott, Kaitlyn Brown,

Carlton Stansley, Buford Hervey, Greg Guest, Pam Littrell, Wayne Williams Jr., Marie Cummins, Judy Williams, Aimee Sandifeer, Seton Hawkins, Drue Pirtle, Bettye Sue Watts, Mike Haynes, Williams Dean Ward, Stephanie Pruviance, Aaron Greer, Regan Bell, Micah haynes, Kay Lynn Gordon, Maxine Topping, Joyce Buckman, Lori Bush, Frances R. Rozell, Ann Barnard, Kenneth York, Richard Garrison, Keitta Moreno, Barbara Gibbs, Wanda Ragsdill, Cheyenne Williams, Nadine Rhodes, Camen Calvin and Bryan Williams.

Happy September Anniversary to: James and Sharon Duffee, Tommie and Glenda Corbell, Brad and Nona Branch, John and Wanda Ragsdill, Ray and Susan Shirley, Larry and Cindy Crow and Doyle and Bettye Williams.

Donnie Taylor, son of Scott Taylor and grandson of Hoyt and Gene Taylor was air lifted to Wadley hospital in Texarkana Tuesday morning where he was listed in critical conditon following an accident that may have occurred Monday night.

Visiting Marjorie Glover in her home in Tyler Saturday were Helen Wilkinson and her daughter, Glenda of Dallas, Dora Thompson and Mrs. Fine of Tyler, Charles and Jean Wilkinson of Abilene, Neil and Frances Rozell and Sue Huffman of Bogata.

Small business workshops set

Three small business workshops will be presented in September by the Small Business Development Center at PJC.

A small business tax workshop "Make Taxes Less Taxing" will be held September 11 from 9 a.m. until 12 noon.

On September 13, "How to Sell to the Government" will be presented from 10 a.m. until 12 noon.

"Basics for Starting a Business" will be presented September 20 from 9 a.m. until 12 noon. To register for these classes, contact Continuing Education at 782-0447. For information on services offered by the Paris Small Business Development Center, contact Pat Bell at 782-0224 or pbell@paris.cc.tx.us.

Recently the Bogata Taekwondo Academy competed in a Rowlett Taekwondo Tournament with hundreds entered Instructor James Hale took 8 students and received 1st, 2nd, two 3rd's and two 4th places at the tournament. They competed with several World Champions.

Date set for Rivercrest High School class of 83' reunion

Representatives of the Rivercrest class of 1983 have set the date for their 20 year reunion for July 19, 2003. The place and time, as well as activities, are still being planned. More information will be available at a later date. Mark your calendars and plan on coming back to visit with those you have not seen in decades.

The group are also collecting information for the "20 Year class reunion annual". If you are a member of the class of 1983 please send a recent picture of you and your family as well as a little biography of what you have "been up to" in the last 20 years; college, family; jobs; hobbies etc. The Reunion Annual will have addresses, phone numbers, emails, pictures and information on each of the class members. You can mail your photos and information

to Leah Lewis Bull, 431 S. Bryson St., Bogata, Tx. 75417. You may also email your information and pictures if you have the capabilities to lrlewis@1starnet.com. All photos will be promptly returned within a few days of receiving them. The reunion annual may be purchased before or during the class reunion next year. The price of the annual will cover copying and binding only and the cost will be \$7.00-\$10.00 each.

An invitation is also extended to the classes of 1982 and 1984 as well as any parents, faculty or friends to come reminisce and reconnect with old friends. You may contact Leah Lewis Bull at 903-632-9520; Joe Corbell at 903-509-3027; Kathie Williams Thompson at 903-632-4591 or David Rozell at 903-632-5617 for information.



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The care is provided in a team approach, led by Devabrata Ganguly, MD, who holds board certification in Internal Medicine and Geriatrics. After graduating from medical school in 1987, he completed residency training at Columbia University and Mt. Sinai programs in New York, and fellowship training at Albert Einstein University in New York. Dr. Ganguly has a particular interest in educating patients regarding diabetes, alzheimer's disease, hypertension and women's health issues.

Mark Wooley, a certified physician assistant, also provides primary care services at the clinic, under the supervision of Dr. Ganguly.



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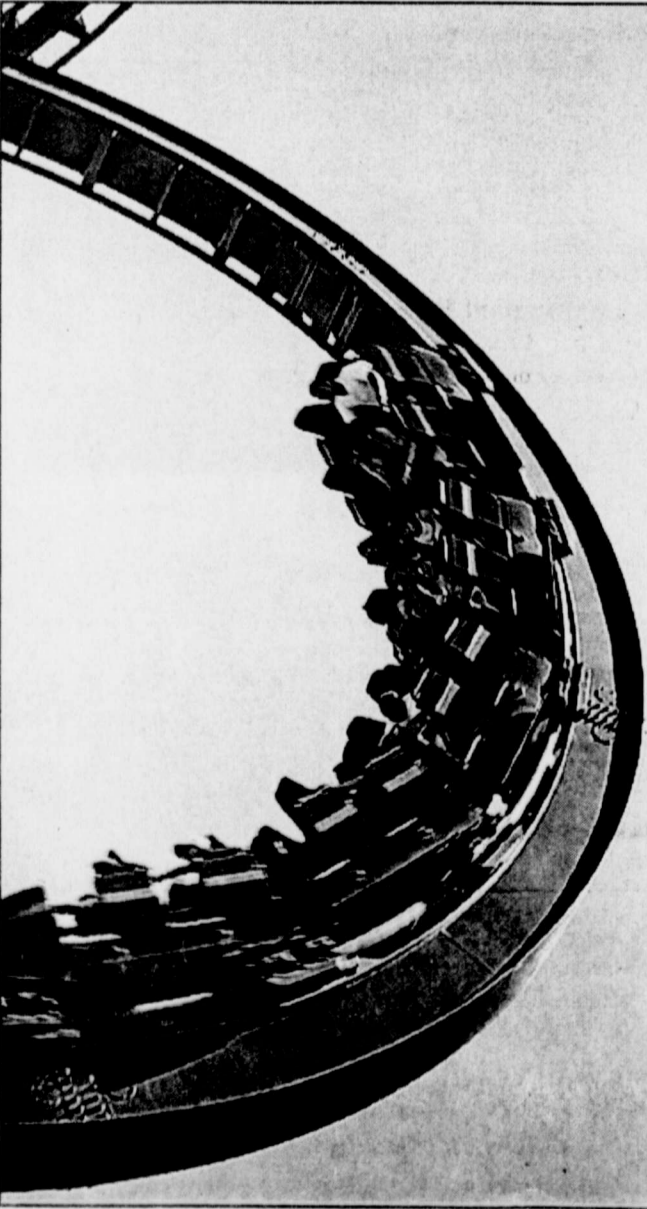
ETMC is a not-for-profit organization committed to improving the quality of life in communities throughout East Texas.

Rivercrest Rebel Junior Varsity/Junior High 2002/2003 Schedule

September 5- JV	Paris High	Here	5:00 pm
September 12- 7, 8, JV	Union Grove	There	5:00 pm
September 19- 7, 8, JV	Wolfe City	There	5:00 pm
September 26- 7, 8, JV	Detroit (7) Chisum (8 & JV)	Here	5:00 pm
October 3- 7, 8, JV	Maud (7) Bowie (8) Paris (JV)	Here	5:00 p.m
October 10- 7, 8, JV	(HC) *Cooper	Here	5:00 pm
October 17- 7, 8, JV	*Honey Grove	There	5:00 pm
October 24- 7, 8, JV	*Prairiland	Here	5:00 pm
October 31- 7, 8, JV	*Chisum	There	5:00 pm
November 7- 7, 8, JV	*Clarksville	Here	5:00 pm

HC denotes Homecoming
* denotes District games

Head Coach, Gary Schultz and coaches, Karl Whitehurst, Terry Hill, Steve Weddle, David Pasternak, Jody Burns
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Woodland News

by Renate McCoin
674-2381



Oh, what a beautiful morning. Oh, what a beautiful day! Christ is risen... Christ is risen indeed. Now if we could just have some rain. In our neck of the woods things look really bleak. I mean, you could be smoking grass in the front yard and it would not even be illegal. You could have your pick of the finest Bermuda, St. Augustine or just common pasture grass. Maybe even a little nut grass thrown in. It is dry. The trees are drooping and the hanging baskets on the porch are surviving in spite of me. Only the star cactus is doing well. It bloomed prodigiously all summer. And stank. Like something died on the porch three days ago and had been there in the sun ever since then.

Guess your part of the county doesn't look much better. Summer time in Texas. And just think, the weathermen tell us it's not bad. Guess inside their offices it's cool and wonderful. Truth to tell, I stay inside as much as I can and have the lily white legs to prove it.

Can you tell? I am feeling good. I really hate it when I am not well. It colors everything. I would probably make a really lousy long-term patient. But, Praise the Lord, I am feeling good!

Tuesday we went quilting in Detroit and had a good time. We finally finished the wall hangings and put another quilt in the frame. Good thing none of you other quilters were there to watch us. It was pitiful. We just somehow assumed that the lining was the approximate size of the quilt and nailed it in the frame. Well, it wasn't. It was too long and also too wide. Lots. And man, did we make it difficult for us to get it right. Well, you had to be there to believe it. So this afternoon we will start quilting on it. Nora Scoggins made it and it is in pretty pastel colors.

Those who quilted were Helena McCoin, Virginia Coleman, Dorothy Ritchie, me, and Murel Pratt. Harry and Nora Scoggins also came by and provided us with moral support and tomatoes and squash. Ella Woody came by for a little while and visited. And then Shirley Marr and Tanya and little Isabel came by. That little girl was a true delight. Talks a mile a minute and runs almost that fast.

Wednesday of course was quilting day in Woodland. Lavurn Edwards, Jimma Tuggle, Marthelle Turner, Desso King, me, Mama, Ruby Ross, Betty Jo Swindle, Joyce and Calvin Gibson, Hazel Vaughan, Charlotte Yoakum and Jamie Carter came and quilted and ate and provided moral support. And Polly Toppin came by to visit. That's the lady that knows all about herbs. At least that is what I think of when I meet her. But let me tell those of you who don't know her. There is a lot more to Polly than herbs. She brought us a quilt to look at. Some of the ladies knew she had been working on it for some time and now it is finished. And is it ever beautiful. I wish I could do it justice with my words here. It is painted. In a romantic, kind of wedding related pictures. In soft colors, blues and peach and greens with flowers and a bride and groom and hearts and doves and absolutely wonderful.

I don't know what she is going to do with it. And oh, she had another smaller wall hanging size quilt in kind of folk art style that was very nice, too.

Hellooo Oleta McCarty out there in California. How in the world are you?

We hope you are doing well. The whole gang here in Wood-

land sends their love and their "howdies". Desso is looking better these days. She enjoys coming to the meetings and conversations with her are always interesting. She is so able to remember her younger years. I personally enjoy visiting with her.

Bo Swindle celebrated his 80th Birthday on Sunday and Betty Jo said they had a houseful and then some. About 50 family members and friends showed up. All the kids showed up, plus nine grandkids and eight great-grandkids. They had a wonderful fish fry with fish that the boys, I think the grand-sons caught in their pool. All had a wonderful time. Except poor David. That man was out on the road making money to pay for the shindig. And Bo is doing so much better. He has not had a blood transfusion in over four weeks now. And his blood count is up, too. Good!

Jimma Tuggle won the door prize this week. Nothing shabby about this one; not that there ever is. But, it is a quilt top pieced by Lavurn Edwards. And incidentally, she is doing fine, too. Lavurn I mean. Feels better and got a good report from her doctor. Praise the Lord. And it was good to see Jimma again. She had been missing for a while. Said she was having some home repairs and remodeling done.

This is a good place to put in our prayer list. Please remember Lawrence and Irene Lyons and their son-in-law and his family, and Michael Durran and his family, and Malcolm Shelby's brother Jimmy, and Ella Woody's brother Alton Langston, and Ella herself. She lost her sister-in-law Beatrice Smith. And pray for Stanley Maddox and the whole Maddox family. And Nora Scoggins, and Mrs. Alpha Lewis and Charles and Dana Sharp. And Cody. And your friends and neighbors. And for the leaders of all the nations involved in this latest crisis. May they make the right decisions. Pray for us all.

Johnny had to go to the dentist on Thursday. Mama had a doctors appointment on Friday. Between us we seem determined to keep the medical profession going in style. But we all had good reports. And Mama and I got her new glasses and got me a hair cut and had lunch at the Sonic. We had us a good day.

Now a word about Saturday. Naomi called to announce that it was family night at Woodland with the festivities starting at 7:30 and please bring a covered dish. Bless her heart, she even left a message on the recorder. So I made Spaetzle with Alfredo Sauce, and off we went. Johnny Van and I. And we had a wonderful evening with the other multitude of people who showed up.

Did you know that a multitude is made up of two (2), yes two, people. There were, three guys and me. Pastor Lee Everett, Dr. Ralph Brown and the McCoins. But we ate well and visited and told some jokes and then went home. Guess we even had enough voices, we could have sung. Where were the rest of you? We missed you.

Sunday was quiet. We ate lunch with the crowd at the Assembly of God Church in Detroit and as always, they had put on an impressive spread. But you know what? We were so busy visiting with Dale and Evelyn Miller that I forgot to get me some dessert. Now that is a first. Monday we went to town and spent some money. It always amazes me how few things can be put into a small plastic bag

for so much money. Monday evening we gathered at Mama's for supper. Grilled chicken and turkey and hot links and wieners courtesy of Albert McCoin, our resident chef. Fried Okra and dumplings made by Mama and mashed potatoes and cole slaw made by Hazel. Yvonne brought a delicious pasta salad and the we had sheet cake (French Vanilla) without icing topped with the most delectable home-made strawberry ice cream you will ever get. I made that. You know me, I am modest. But it was good. Others gathered were Jimmy and Becky McCoin, Sandra and Stephanie Cashion, Laura and Julie McCoin, Tony and Danny Pryor, Chad and Katrina Jenkins with Troy and Stacie Bellmarie. She is a cutie. And Troy is getting to be a big boy. And of course Bobby Brooks, Liz and Johnny. The kids went swimming while the grown-ups sat around and recounted misdeeds we had done in our youth. Good thing the kids were not listening. We had a good time. Joey is away with the Air Force. He is doing well. He is going to some special school. Ask Albert, or Laura, they know all about it.

Johnny just came in the house with one of the little kittens that live in the shop building. If you want one and can catch it you can have it. But I warn you, wear combat gear when you go near them. They are feral. That describes an animal that lives or grows in the wild after having been domestically reared or cultivated or an animal similar to or typical of a wild animal. They are wild. I heard it shriek all the way from downstairs and when I tried to touch it, it tried to bite me and those claws!! They sure could do some damage. Well, as long as they stay out there they are ok. I just don't want them in the house. This was not a fluffy little kitty.

The ponds are getting low everywhere you look. And I think the cat fish in ours are digging into the mud as far as they can. Or the cranes have eaten most of them up. Lord, we need some rain. I think the guys were talking about it the other day, too. The pastures are drying up and if it doesn't rain soon they will have to start feeding the cattle. It's too soon for that surely.

My lone tomato plant is still alive, shaded by tall grass that looks almost like you could use it for fishing poles. Maybe with a little cooler temperatures and some more water it will bloom some and make some more tomatoes.

Well, I guess I better wind this down. Mama has asked me to cut her a bunch of four inch squares and then I....I smelled something and remembered the darn turkey. Yes, I am roasting a turkey. It was either that or celebrate it's first anniversary in my deep freeze. But what I smelled was not the turkey burning, it still has about 20 minutes. It was the giblets slowly but surely being charcoaled in a pot on the stove. I mean talk about hard-hearted. With me if it isn't exploding eggs in that pot it is something else. Man, those giblets look ugly. And don't taste much better either. The dogs will be grateful.

Well, I'll check the spelling and then go and bend my hair into a semblance of a hairdo and turn the curling iron off and go pick up Mama and go quilting. So be good to each other. Hug and encourage your kids and smooch your spouse like you mean it. Take care of the little things and the big ones will follow automatically. And until we see each other again: Meet me in Church on Sunday.

Hunter safety course offered

A course in hunter education is scheduled for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights, September 9, 10, 11 from 6-10 pm in the Vocational Agriculture Building at Mt. Vernon High School. Bruce Hunnicutt, a local vocational agriculture teacher will be the instructor for the hunter education course.

The course is open to everyone, however, to receive a lifetime certificate you must be 12 years of age or older. The course will include instructions in hunter responsibility, wildlife conservation and management, firearm, bow, muzzle loading and handgun safety, wildlife identification, game care, survival and first aid, water safety and hypothermia and other special concerns in hunter

safety. With dove, deer and squirrel season set to begin this fall, this is a good opportunity for hunter to take the safety course before the hunting seasons get into full swing. Hunnicutt said, "I urge everyone who is not certified to take this opportunity to do so".

To preregister, contact Bruce Hunnicutt at 903-537-3700 or 903-537-2651 evenings. For more information, contact Bruce Hunnicutt or Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Law Enforcement Division, Mt. Pleasant, Tx. at 903-572-7966. Additional information may also be obtained from Texas Parks and Wildlife Hunter Education Dept. in Austin, Tx. at 1-800-792-1112 or 512-389-4999.

I think the next best thing to solving a problem is finding some humor in it.
-Frank A. Clark



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Detroit Locals

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Happy Birthdays this week to Glen and Diane Cogburn of Tyler were here on Saturday night visiting with Benny and Clara Cogburn.

John Mac Johnson of the city and Kay Whitley of Blossom along with Modie Johnson attende the funeral of Gilmer Norwood at the Highland Cemetery at Deport on Saturday.

Odell Wortham along with Tonya and Eldon Jackson, Sharon and Jerry B. Leverett all of Paris, Harlan and Janice Brown of Woodland, Johnny and Beverly Edwards, Katie and Howard Williams of Conroe, and Paula and Kennedy Alexander of

Richardson and enjoyed a dinner at the Fish Fry on Friday night. They also attended church with her on Sunday morning along with Brenda Fleming and Chelsey and Parker Fleming of Paris. Katie and Howard and Paula and Kennedy spent Saturday night with Odell and they all enjoyed lunch on Sunday with several other family members.

Mary Kay and Patrick Scribner of Plano spent the weekend with Coop and Janie Cowan.

Larkin and Texie Gooch, Alma Flippo of Paris and Charles and Daisy Norwood of Plano enjoyed lunch Monday at Sirloin Stockade in Paris.

The *Detroit Weekly* is sent to Delma and Sue Gibbs on their anniversary from Robert and Venita Jo Morris. They send the *Weekly* to her sister, Lovice Preston, on her birthday.

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TS 110	90	\$4,070	\$612	\$4,700	\$707

TL New Holland Tractor Standard Non Cab

*Dual Remote with Wobble Stick *12X12 Transmission *Canopy *Foldable Roll Bar *3 Point Hitch

Model	PTO H P	DOWN PAYMENT 2 WD	72 MONTHS W.A.C.	DOWN PAYMENT 4 WD	72 MONTHS W.A.C.
TL 80	66	\$2,150	\$323	\$2,600	\$391
TL 90	76	\$2,300	\$346	\$2,750	\$414
TL 100	82	\$2,450	\$389	\$3,050	\$459

TL New Holland Tractor With Cab Air

Model	PTO H P	DOWN PAYMENT 2 WD	72 MONTHS W.A.C.	DOWN PAYMENT 4 WD	72 MONTHS W.A.C.
TL 80	66	\$2,700	\$414	\$3,200	\$481
TL 90	76	\$2,900	\$436	\$3,350	\$509
TL 100	82	\$3,050	\$459	\$3,650	\$549

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Dairy program to provide needed relief

Texas dairy farmers can expect to receive much needed financial assistance with the Milk Income Loss contract program launched by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in August. Retroactive to December 1, 2001, the federally funded farm bill program activates a safety net for dairy farmers when the Boston Class 1 milk price drops below an established target price of \$16.94 a hundredweight. The Class 1 price has been below that rate since November, 2001.

MILC program payments are available to dairy operations that produced and marketed milk commercially in the U.S. since December 1, 2001. The program runs through September 30, 2005. Farmers may enter into a contract with the USDA's Farm Service Agency at any time during this period.

Payments are issued on a monthly basis when the Boston Class 1 milk price is below \$16.94 per hundredweight. Payment rates are determined by subtracting the Boston Class 1 price from the \$16.94 target price, then multiplying the difference by 45%. The farmer's eligible milk production in hundredweight is then multi-

plied by the resulting payment rate.

During fiscal years 2003-2005, farmers must designate a "start month" to receive MILC payments. Farmers will not be allowed to change their start month during a fiscal year, they cannot select a month that has already passed or a month that has already begun.

Payments will be issued starting with December's production and end the earlier of the fiscal year or once the 2.4 million pound cap is reached.

To receive payment, farmers must bring their monthly marketing payment stubs or other verifiable records to their local FSA office. At this time payments cannot be issued at the time of sign up. FHS will issue a payment within 60 days of receiving the documents. The first MILC payments will not be issued until mid-October.

For detailed MILC and applicant eligibility criteria or to schedule an appointment to file an application, contact the Lamar County office at 784-6679 or visit FSA on the web at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.



CHASE BYNDAS-played T-ball for the Dale Sooners. The team had a record of 30-3 and ended the season as USSA State Champions. Chase contributed to the team as one of the leaders with 25 home runs. Chase is the son of Doug and Belva Byndas of Oklahoma. He is the grandson of Ted and Kay Byndas and Bill and Barbara White and late Dean Ward all of Bogata. If you would like to check out the team's website is: www.eteamz.com/Dalesooners.

Class of 1972 to reunite in 2002

The 1972 graduating class of Rivercrest High School will reunite for their 30 year class reunion in 2002 at the Bogata Community Center. The official date will be announced soon.

A special invitation is extended to the classes of 1971 and 1973 to join in the fun. Help is also needed in contacting all the classmates. If you have telephone numbers or addresses please contact Sue Ann Martin Bennett at 903-643-9489; Monte Smith at 817-297-3909 or Larry Harville at 817-430-9046. Please plan to come, bring your family, old pictures and memorabilia of the Rivercrest High School days of 1972.

Rivercrest Schools Menus September 9-13

MONDAY
Breakfast
 Breakfast pizza
 condiments
 juice & milk
Lunch
 Corn Chip pie
 beans
 salad
 fruit
 milk

TUESDAY
Breakfast
 sausage biscuits
 condiments
 juice & milk
Lunch
 Mexican lasagna
 cheese potatoes
 corn
 cornbread
 milk

WEDNESDAY
Breakfast
 Pancakes w/syrup
 cereal
 condiments
 juice & milk
Lunch
 Taco salad w/chips
 refried beans
 lettuce & tomato
 cobbler
 milk

THURSDAY
Breakfast
 Oatmeal
 toast
 condiments
 juice & milk
Lunch
 Chicken nuggets
 green beans
 creamed potatoes w/gravy
 hot rolls w/honey
 milk

FRIDAY
Breakfast
 Cereal
 toast
 condiments
 juice & milk
Lunch
 Cheeseburgers
 burger salad
 beans
 chips
 ice cream
 milk

Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 Pursuant to Local Government Code, 102.006, the City Council of Blossom, Texas hereby gives notice of a Public Hearing to consider the adoption of the City's General Fund and Utility Fund Budgets for Fiscal Year 2002-2003. The meeting will be held Thursday, September 12, 2002 at 5:00 p.m. at City Council Chambers, Blossom City Hall, 1240 W. Front Street, Blossom, Texas. The City intends to adopt above budgets at a Public Meeting to be held immediately after above Public Hearing. The public is encouraged to attend and to participate. For additional information, call 982-5900. 9-5

PUBLIC NOTICE
 The Detroit ISD is requesting bids for the following items for the new high school, which will be completed November, 2002. Only those bidders need to apply who can guarantee delivery on the listed items no later than October 25, 2002. Delivery and set-up charges need to be included in the cost of the item bid.

1. Classroom furniture for all classrooms except (2) computer labs and science laboratory.
 2. Computer furniture and accessories for two classrooms.
 3. Office furniture and furniture for teacher's workroom.
 4. Furniture, shelving, circulation desk, office furniture and all accessories associated with a media center (library).
- Bids on the above mentioned items will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, September 9, 2002 at the Detroit Administration Office located at 210 Garner Street, Rt. 1, Box 370, Detroit, Texas 75436. For additional information or generic bid specifications, please contact Curtis Barnett, Superintendent, or Greg Jones, Business Manager for the Detroit ISD at 903-674-6131. Bids will be opened and tabulated after 4:00 p.m. on September 9, 2002 and all bids will be submitted to the Board of Trustees at the regular scheduled September meeting on September 9, 2002. Successful bidder will be notified immediately. The Board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. 9-5

PUBLIC NOTICE
 City of Blossom
 Texas Community
 Development Program
 The City of Blossom is giving notice of the City's intent to submit a Community Development Fund application for a grant from the Texas Community Development Program. The grant application request is \$250,000 for wastewater system improvements in the north central portion of the City. The application is

available for review at City Hall during regular business hours at 1240 West Front Street. 9-5

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
 Prairiland Independent School District is accepting qualification statements for Construction manager-at Risk for a planned Instructional Facility Building Project. For a detailed project description containing the project scope and schedule, please contact James Morton, Superintendent, Route 1, Box 200, Pattonville, Texas 75468 or by calling 903-652-6476. Submit ten (10) copies of qualification statements to the Prairiland ISD administration building by 1:00 p.m. CDT on September 16, 2002.

Selection for Construction manager-at Risk will be made in accordance with Chapter 44.038 of the Texas Education Code, two-step process. Prairiland ISD intends to review the qualification statements on September 16, 2002 and to set interviews for the short listed candidates on September 23, 2002.

The district will use the following criteria in selecting five, or less, Construction managers for second step of the process.

- * 40%-Reputation and quality of Construction manager's goods and services
 - * 40%-Regional experience and familiarity with area subcontractors and suppliers.
 - * 20%-Project Safety Record
- Prairiland ISD has the right to reject any and all proposals. Prairiland ISD is an equal opportunity employer. 9-5

NOTICE CITY OF BOGATA PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing on the proposed 2002-03 budget will be held on Monday, September 16, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bogata Community Center. The Council will vote on the proposed budget and set the tax rate at the meeting to follow immediately. Anita Couch, City Secretary 9-5

CITY OF BOGATA LEAK POLICY

The Bogata City Council wishes to inform the citizens who have a large water bill due to a leak, that after a City employee has checked to be sure that the leak has been repaired, the large water bill can be averaged with the previous five (5) water bills and the customer pays the average bill. This can be done only one (1) time in twelve (12) months. 9-5

Stew cookoff is September 7

The annual Red River County Stew Cookoff and Auction will be Saturday, September 7 at the fairgrounds in Clarksville.

The cookoff is a major fundraising activity for the county Fair. It is open to all organizations, clubs or individuals residing in Red River County. Trophies and cash prizes will be awarded to first, second and third place winners. Plaques will be awarded in showmanship and for best kit. A cake/craft auction will be held at 6 p.m. If you would like to

donate an item to the auction, please bring it to the bandstand before 6 p.m. with your name on it.

Bowls for the all you can eat stew supper will go on sale at 4:30 p.m. and serving will begin at 5 p.m. Cost will be \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for youth. Everyone is invited to attend all the activities and help make the fair great.

The Clarksville VFD will be cooking and serving fish dinners from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. for \$5.00 per plate.

September

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Childbirth Education Classes* Sessions begin Thursday, September 5, 2002. Classes are held on Thursdays from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. (You must register for Childbirth Education Classes at least a week in advance, call 577-6201.)

Big Brother/Big Sister Class Saturday, September 21, 2002, 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. (You must register at least one week in advance, call 577-6201)

Adult Diabetes Support Group Tuesday, September 3, 2002, 6 p.m. Topic: *Suprise Speaker.* Call 903-577-6542 for more information.

Better Breather's Club Wednesday, September 25, 2002, 1:30 p.m., TRMC Auditorium. Call 903-577-6588 for more information.

Stroke/Brain Injury Support Group Monday, September 9, 2002, 2:00 p.m., TRMC Auditorium. Call 903-577-6299 for more information.

Why Weight? Weight Management Support Group Monday, September 9, 6:00 p.m., TRMC Cafeteria. Membership is free. Call 903-577-6299 for more information.

* Childbirth Education Classes include Big Brother/Big Sister Class. To register for these classes, call 577-6201 at least one week in advance.

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 FM 196 (1/4 MI. South of Hwy 271)
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 For More Information Contact Ed or Sandy Ring (903)652-9048 or (903)652-3668

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98 Nissan Maxima	98 Chevy S10 Excab
98 Mitsubishi Eclipse	98 Chevy 1500 Reg Cab
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99 Toyota Camry	99 Chevy 1500 Z71
99 Mercury Cougar	99 Chevy 2500 Z71
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00 Pontiac Grand Prix GT	99 Dodge Ram Reg Cab
00 Chevy Prism	99 Chevy Tahoe (2)
00 Chevy Lumina	00 Chevy TX/OK (2)
00 Chevy Impala	00 Chevy S10 XCab
00 Chevy Malibu	00 Chevy Blazer
01 Chevy Camaro	00 Dodge Dakota XCab
01 Chevy Impala	00 Chevy 1500 XCab (2)
01 Chevy Malibu	00 Chevy TX/OK 4x4
01 Chevy Cavalier	00 GMC 1500 TX/OK
01 Chevy Prism	00 Ford Explorer
01 Chevy Lumina	00 Chevy Suburban
01 Olds Alero GL	01 Ford F150 Super Crew
01 Olds Aurora V8/V6	01 Dodge 3500 XCab 4x4
01 Chrysler Sebring	01 Dodge 1500 Reg Cab
02 Chevy Monte Carlo	01 Chevy S10 Extreme
02 Chevy Impala	01 Chevy 1500 Reg Cab
02 Cadillac Deville	01 Chevy Blazer
02 Olds Intrigue	01 Chevy Tahoe
	01 Chevy Suburban
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 Directions: From Hwy 82 turn between Dairy Queen and City Hall going South on S Grove St. Go 3 blocks to corner of Taylor. Watch for auction signs.

Real Estate:
 Brick home, 3 bedrm/2 bath, carport -- located on large corner lot -- to be offered at 12 noon through Andy Faskon Realty with a 24 hr confirmation

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 King sized bedroom suite including dresser, chest, night stand, TV entertainment center, 2 dinette sets, washer, dryer, refrigerator, portable dishwasher, microwave, book shelves, books, dishes, assorted kitchen items, small appliances including toaster oven, stereo with speakers, lamps, pictures, vacuum, computer, adding machine, linens

Car: 1996 Pontiac Sunfire, 2-door, auto transmission, sun roof Needs some repair

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BACKROOM FLORAL DESIGN: Get ready for football season. Order your mums & garters. Will deliver to school. 903-632-2003 or Touch of Country, Mt. Vernon, 903-537-2042, next door to Sonic, come by and visit. *MA t/c*

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MATTRESS SALE: Twin set, \$19 down; full, \$29 down; queen, \$39 down; king, \$49 down. Instant credit, no interest or finance charges and free delivery. Save-More Furniture, 1806 W. Main, Clarksville, TX. M-F, 9-6, Sat, 9-5. *MA t/c*

271 MOTEL- Open 7 days a week, reservations appreciated, walk-ins welcome. 903-379-5411. *MA t/c*

THE GARAGE SALE, 310 E. 9th @ Washington in Mt. Pleasant, is closed on Mondays. 903-572-3700 *MA t/c*

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CUSTOM HAY BALING, 4x6 rolls, \$12.50. 903-632-1700. *MA t/c*

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FERTILIZER SALES & SPREADING: 21-7-14 w/Kmag \$180/ton; 17-17-17, \$185/ton; 34-0-0, \$188/ton, spreading \$250 per acre. Dan Kelley, 903-632-1700. *MA t/c*

COOPER'S DOZER SERVICE: James Cooper, owner. All job types. Rt. 1, Box 20B, Pattonville, TX, 903-652-5765. *MA t/c*

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CACKLEBERRY'S Crafts, angels, gifts, lawn furniture, Adirondacks. Hwy. 271 south, six miles from Talco. Open Thursday through Saturday or call anytime 577-7158 or 572-3825. *MA t/c*

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GARAGE SALE: September 27, Saturday, 7 a.m. until ?? Hwy. 271 S, Deport, #276. Baby clothes, baby items, womens clothing, lots of misc., furniture, too much to name. No early sales. 9-5

GARAGE SALE: September 6 & 7, riding lawn mower and trailer, chain saw, household, glassware and much more. Hwy. 410 south, 3/4 mile from Detroit Post Office. 9-5

Moving Sale

MOVING SALE: Friday and Saturday, September 6-7, 395 N. Main, Detroit. Lots of stuff. 9-5

GARAGE SALE: Saturday, September 7, 7:30 until 6 p.m. Fulbright, FM411. All sizes clothes, jackets, blazers, jeans, toys, books, dishes, golf clubs and many more items. Inquiries may call 632-5683. 9-5

BIG GARAGE SALE: Friday and Saturday, FM410 about 5 miles north of Rugby, 5 miles south of Detroit. 9-5

Lost & Found
REMEMBER, we don't charge for free pets, or for your lost or found animals, we want them to have a home! Call 652-4205 or 632-5322.

FOUND: Large black & tan male dog on hwy. 71 east of Talco. Very friendly, loves water. 379-5372.

FOUND: Black and white Border Collie, looking for his owner. Call 632-5355. 9-5nc

LOST: 2 year old male, black, tan and white Beagle. Lost between Rosalie and Country Corner on FM909. Call 632-4137. 9-12nc

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FOR SALE: Morris Minor, body only, \$125.00 obo. 903-652-9986.

FOR SALE: 1999 Ford Ranger, V6, automatic, bed liner, side rails, \$10,000. 674-4355/652-2855. *MA t/c*

FOR SALE: 1988 GMC Suburban, color red, 1 owner, excellent condition, clean, new tires, has removable 3rd seat. Neil Rozell, 903-632-5752. *MA 9-12*

Wanted
WANT TO BUY South Lake stock. Call 903-632-4355. *MA 9-5*

WANTED: Manager for V.F.W., small salary. Must be member or qualified to become member. Prefer middle aged couple but not necessary. Call Jim Smyth, 903-632-4319. *MA 9-5*

RIVERCREST ISD is looking for substitute teachers for the 2002-2003 school year. Persons interested in substituting for grades PK-12 should fill out an application at the Rivercrest ISD business office located in Rivercrest High School. Persons must have at least a high school diploma to be eligible to substitute. *MA 9-5*

REGENCY NURSING HOME has a Social Services position open. Please call 427-3821 and ask for Berta Dawson. We also have a Medication Aide opening, 3 days on and 3 days off. Please call 427-3821 and ask for Benny or Donna. *MA 9-12*

HELP WANTED: Part-time office assistant. Call for details. Welch Gas, Bogata, 903-632-5341. *MA 9-12*

WANTED: Deer lease for my two boys in Lamar or Red River County. Call Stuart Keys, Pattonville, 784-8344. *MA 9-19*

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FREE: Boxer/Dalmatian puppies. Call 903-652-2550. *nc*

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Cunningham News

by Neva Jean Oats

Happy birthday to Cindy Anderson, Jenifer Taylor, Heath Kennedy and Karla O'Neal Colter.

Several in the community attended the wedding of Amber Norwood and Matthew Galloway at the home of Ross and Laura Miller of Blossom on Saturday.

Amber Norwood was honored with a bridal brunch by Georjeana Nutt and Neva Oats at Neva's home on Saturday.

Linda Anderson and Wendy, Carlos and Cord Ordorica went to Mexico over the weekend to visit family.

Zak Kennedy spent the weekend with Bobby and Shelby Kennedy.

Sunday guests of Jane O'Neal were Sue and Murray Jackson, Andrea, Kara and Aaron Palmer, Lisa, Dewayne, O'Neal and Weston Drinnon, Jane and Keith Black, Renae Jackson and David, Kathy and Sydney Jackson from Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

James and Pat Norwood spent the Labor Day holiday at their home on Lake Bob Sandlin. Joining them were Todd, Mendy, Lacy and Kelby Cole and Tracy Norwood.

Talma Norwood had weekend guests at his home on Lake Bob Sandlin. They were Ronald and Susie Hicks, Pam, Jimilyn, Jay Kurt and Jerika McKee, Colton Ingram, Shane, Chelsie, River and Shanice Cole and Morgan.

Jamie, Teresa and Seth Smith, Kelly Mowery and Ricky Norwood spent the weekend at Lake Bob Sandlin.

Darold and Ida Mae Norwood visited Shelia Norwood in Denton Sunday.

Billie and Leonard Ford attended the King family reunion at the home of Thomas King over the weekend.

Velma Cox visited Dora Hester last week.

Sunday guests of Johnny and Nelta Musgrove were Stacy, Linda, Stoney and Charity Musgrove.

The Corner Stone church family and friends enjoyed supper Sunday night.



James Grayson

Local students graduate from A&M-Commerce

Graduation ceremonies were held August 10 for graduates in the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Business and Technology, Graduate School and College of Education and Human Services at Texas A&M University-Commerce.

A total of 425 students received diplomas at the commencement, 185 were bachelors, 230 were masters and 10 were doctoral de-

grees.

Graduating from Blossom were Dorothy J. Brown with a MSW and William L. St. John with a BA.

Graduating from Bogata was Susan M. Schmidt, BSIS, Magna cum laude.

Graduating from Deport was Crystal Simmons Folse with a BSIS and Mark Douglas Jones with a BS.

Bogata native retiring after 56 TxDOT years

By James A. Johnson
Texas Dept. of Transportation
Public Information Office

Few in the work force can compare changes in management and technology to the experiences and memories relished by engineer James Grayson of the Texas Department of Transportation. Fifty-six years after beginning his career when most of Houston's current major highways were ambitious pipedreams, the only road or bridge the 78-year-old plans to worry about after this month are the ones whose final destinations are to rest and relaxation.

The Bogata native, whose career has spanned three agency name changes and five district engineers, will soon look over his last set of bridge plans for the department as his unparalleled career reaches the final page of a long book on Friday, August 30.

His career also has encompassed 56 of his 61 married years, the birth of three children and six grandchildren, the transformation of popular music from Big Band to techno funk and dozens of other technological revelations. In fact, the one constant in Grayson's career has been a weathered drafting table he has used since his first day as a TxDOT employee.

Professionally, he will take with him a wealth of historical perspective about the Houston area's highways when he cleans out his desk and exits the 7721 Washington Avenue employee parking lot for the last time.

His TxDOT career began in 1946, about five years after he married Willie Pauline "Tedd" Craddock and shortly after a World War II stint as a metal smith in the U.S. Navy and with North American Aviation in Grand Prairie for a then-healthy \$1.25 an hour.

After his work with North American Aviation, he was without work a full month before his wife encouraged him to rediscover the employment line. Although it was for 50 cents less an hour than he was accustomed, Grayson accepted a job offer by then-district engineer Jim Douglas (1946-54) that paved the way for what would become a half-century-plus adventure. At the time a youthful 22-year-old, Grayson began under the agency's initial "Texas Highway Department" name as a semi-skilled laborer in which he helped draft work for maintenance projects.

The agency was still in its original location - a small square-framed building at 205 North Greenwood built in 1933. An example of how primitive early methods were included his recollection of drafting with ink on linen while strapping paper to his arms to prevent mucilage from melting off the linen if a tracing was touched by a sweat-covered arm. Air conditioning was, after all, a luxury in the early days when nearly everyone's job was considered blue-collar.

In some instances, workers didn't know what task awaited them until arrival and he recalled how he often questioned whether to wear jeans or swimming trunks to work. In one particular incident, work dispatched him to a worm-infested bridge at the San Bernard River in Matagorda County that was at the risk of collapsing. It wasn't unusual, Grayson fondly recalled, to seize such a moment and go for a swim.

After six years in its original location, the highway department moved to its current Washington Avenue site in 1952.

Grayson fondly recalls that experience, too. "When we moved

over here, it was just like a peanut in a barrel there was so much room. We didn't know what to do."

Even though the new location didn't yet include the five-story building, annex or much of the north section of the current main building, echoes could still be heard from the open space. No rooms were vacant, however, and employees enjoyed their first-ever exposure to an air-conditioned environment. Quite a few employees had homes built near the Greenwood site to make their commute to work easier. They chose to carpool because, as Grayson described it, "the new campus was at the end of the world" as mostly cattle and empty land occupied the present campus.

"There was nothing out here," exclaimed Grayson, grinning. He himself participated in the carpooling venture by placing a plank over two concrete blocks in the back of his coupe and transported 2-3 co-workers to and from work.

Grayson, whose district engineer at the time was Wiley E. Carmichael (1955-73), earned his engineer's license in 1956 through night courses at the University of Houston on the G.I. Bill. He worked in maintenance until 1959, when he accepted duties in design and programming but relinquished his design duties when both became full-time positions. Under the agency leadership of three other district engineers including Omer Poorman (1973-86), Milton Deitert (1986-95) and Gary Trietsch (1995-present), he continues to meet challenges through his responsibilities in the Programs section.

The department has experienced three name changes since Grayson started. It changed from the Texas Highway Department in 1975 to the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation and became the Texas Department of Transportation in 1991.

While he has witnessed and played a part in many monumental changes in Houston's highway system, a few stand out above the rest. What currently is IH 45 began as US 75 in late 1946 during Grayson's first year as the roadway provided two lanes in each direction between Houston and Galveston and resulted in the reconstruction of the city's four-street system of Pease, Jefferson, Calhoun and Pierce. It wasn't until 1956 that the roadway became Interstate 45.

Other projects to which he contributed or witnessed have included construction of the Washburn Tunnel in 1952, the Baytown Tunnel in 1953, the Texas 159 bridge over the Brazos River, the Quintana swing bridge in 1957 and the Texas 146 Fred Hartman Bridge in 1995, which replaced his earlier Baytown Tunnel venture. His years with the department haven't been void of mystery, either. He recalls a gentleman named Ringwilt who vowed that he would haunt the Baytown Tunnel after his death. When the man's funeral procession went through the tunnel years later, lights in the structure's mid-section went out unexplainably for a short period. Other employees, Grayson said, have had brushes with Ringwilt's alleged ghost. One worker claimed to have been touched repeatedly in the dark by something while repairing water pumps following a flood despite no one being in the tunnel with him. Grayson said there was a leg-

endary joke about how no one claimed to be "scared of the dark," but just whatever was in it.

The development that made the most profound effect on his career was the invention of the computer chip for hand-held calculators, he proclaims enthusiastically, "and the improvements (to the profession) have not slowed down," he explains.

The most universal change to the transportation department, he said, has been the way state funding has fueled its growth and helped it meet demands which never would have been possible when he first started - a time when the department operated on more scarce funding with fewer resources. With the aid of the McKinsey Corporation study in the late 1970's, however, a more elaborate 20-year project development plan and later a 10-year plan with three funding levels was established.

These days, much of Grayson's work focuses on off-system bridges and dealings with governmental entities in identifying and funding bridges in need of repair. Among the biggest changes in his work, he said, is that he no longer works "out in the field", so to speak, and there have been times he missed it. Whether indoors or outdoors, though, he said his daily interaction with colleagues encouraged him more than anything to just keep chugging along.

He told himself in 1986 he would retire in two years and echoed the same sentiments several times thereafter, but never followed through. Despite a triple bypass and an operation for ear cancer, he opted to stay busy and enjoy the routine social interaction at work. After selling his Houston home recently and moving to Lake Lorraine in Montgomery County, he has spent many nights in Houston motels to avoid Houston's notorious rush-hour traffic. It didn't take long for that to convince him it was time to relish the years he had spent nearly three quarters of his life working toward.

His new priorities will be spending more time with his wife of 61 years in their home near Lake Lorraine in Conroe and feeding a newly-befriended school of fish in the lake while pampering his grandchildren, whose ages range from 16 to 42. It will replace all those hours that for more than half a century were spent in discussions about bridge specifications.

The legacy he hopes to leave behind mirrors a passage he once read in Uvalde where his grandfather introduced him to an old schoolmate in Red River County, former U.S. vice-president John Nance "Cactus Jack" Garner, who served under Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt in the 1930's. He saw it on the wall of Garner's mansion. The passage, written by Estiene de Grellet (1773-1855) read "I shall pass through this world but once, if therefore there be kindness I can show or any good thing I can do, let me do it now; let me not defer it or neglect it for I shall not pass this way again."

Grayson said he has tried to live by those words during his TxDOT career. "I will miss the friends I have made here the most," he said jokingly. "A lot of them have gone on to greener pastures and a lot of those pastures are in the sky. This job put a roof over my head and kept me off the streets and I've enjoyed every minute of it."

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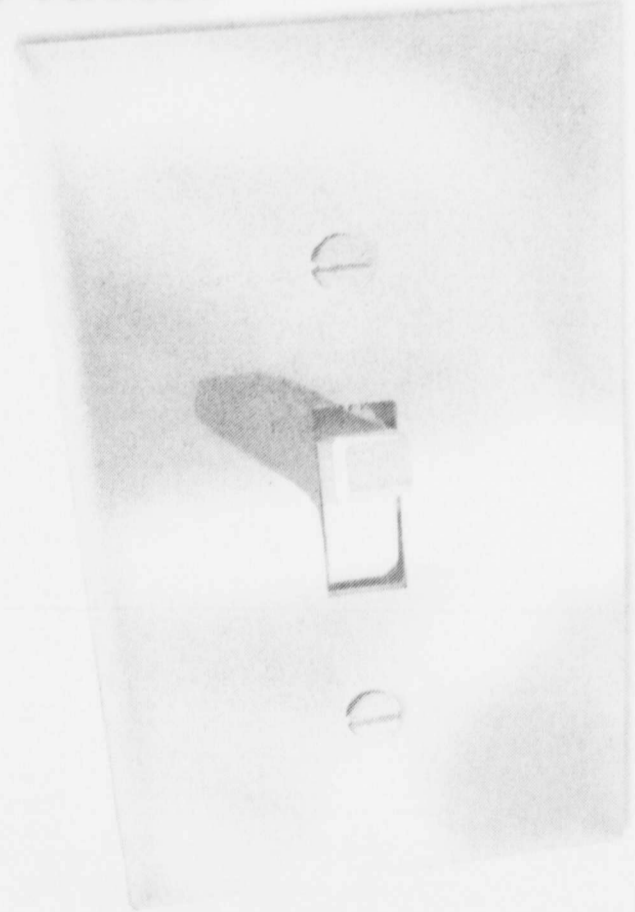
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