

LOCAL

Bullard Banner News

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Deadlines

Advertising

Deadlines are noon Friday
for publication the following
week. During holidays, dead-
lines are noon Thursday.

News and Sports

Community news announcements must be
submitted by noon Friday.

Sports Announcements deadline is noon
Friday.

Letter to the editor must be submitted by
noon Friday.

Circulation

For problems with paper delivery
or subscriptions call, (903) 894-
9306

To ask about your account or to
refill news racks, call (903) 984-
2593

Subscriptions for Smith, Cherokee,
Rusk counties are \$20 a year.

All other places in U.S.A. are \$24.
Over 65 is \$18

Charter members are \$10.

Bullard Banner News (USPS
015622) is published every
Wednesday by Bluebonnet Publish-
ing LLC at 114 N Houston,
Bullard, TX, 75757. Periodical
postage paid at Bullard, Texas.
Copy right 2008 Bullard Banner
News.

Postmaster

Send address changes to Bullard
Banner News 114 N Houston,
Bullard, TX 75757

New meat market opens



Photo by Jim Epperson

At Ra-k's, customers can get freshly cut steaks, smoked briquet sandwiches, deli-meat sandwiches and ribs. The new restaurant just opened last week.

Arp State Bank Announces Name Change and Building Plans For New Tyler Location

Arp State Bank has announced that it has adopted a new name effective September 25, 2008. After a unanimous vote by the bank's stockholders, the bank is now American State Bank. President and CEO Steve C. Wiggs stated "thanks to our loyal customers and a long tenured staff, our bank has grown into one of the strongest banks its size in Texas. This financial strength has allowed our board of directors to adopt a long term strategic growth plan including an increased presence in Tyler as well as future offices in other East Texas communities. As we expand beyond the Arp area, we needed a name that is less geographically restrictive. By adopting the American State Bank name, we will be able to continue to utilize our familiar "ASB" logo at all of our locations. For some period of time, the Arp location will continue to operate under the Arp State Bank name, but all other locations will adopt the American State Bank name." Wiggs stated that the name change reflects no change in owner-

ship, adding "our philosophy of providing the very best in personalized banking services will continue as it always has. Our bank is a very traditional community bank that places a major emphasis on customer service, helping them to achieve their financial goals. We're a bank in which local decisions are made by the bankers you know."

"Additionally, we are in the final planning stages for our new building to be located at the intersection of Old Jacksonville Road and Rice Road." Construction of that facility should begin in January and a temporary facility should open in February at the new location site. The 7,600 square foot location in Tyler is expected to be complete in the fall of 2009.

American State Bank, founded in 1911, has earned a 5-star Superior rating for financial soundness for 19 consecutive years by Bauer Financial, Inc., a nationally-recognized rating service for financial institutions. Wiggs also announced that the bank has entered into

an agreement to acquire the Texas Bank and Trust - Texarkana banking facility subject to anticipated regulatory approval. Upon consummation of the Texarkana purchase, American State Bank will be an approximately \$190 million community bank with full-service banking offices in Arp, Tyler, Chapel Hill and Texarkana.

Wiggs, a former resident of Tyler, most recently resided in Texarkana, serving as President of BancorpSouth for 12 years and President of the Texas Bank and Trust - Texarkana office from March, 2005 until accepting his current position in October, 2007. Wiggs stated, "We are excited about our further expansion into the Tyler market and about bringing our brand of community banking to Texarkana. We believe that both Tyler and Texarkana have stable, diverse economies and are poised for significant growth in the future. We look forward to having the opportunity to work with both communities to be a part of that growth."

NewsBriefs

District Judge Candidate barbecue supper set

Dr. John & Misty Alexander will be sponsoring a BBQ supper in support of Dwight Phifer, District Judge of Cherokee County, Oct 18, 2008 at 5:30 pm. Location at the Agtoprof Show barn on Hwy 69 Bullard at Shingwetz Farms. Please put this on your calendar. This is a very important race in Cherokee County. Dwight represents all Conservatives both Democrat and Republican. He is the incumbent judge servicing on the bench. He has been in such service since fall of 2000 when he was elected. Participants will meet Dwight and his family and hear his views on this year's election.

Take a Trip Back to the Days of Christ

First Century Ministries is a modern, nation-wide traveling ministry with full drama staging and a real craftman shop. They present exciting and dramatic wood sculpting, a pottery wheel clay pot creation, or even a red-hot blacksmith demonstration.

But what makes it all so

special is their entire stage and costumes are right out of the days of Christ and the teaching message is all about the endless and unconditional love of Jesus. It is a highly enjoyable show for any age and for any denomination. Your attention is locked onto Wade's highly skilled artistic hands while Jennifer narrates the story.

In their "Crown of Thorns" presentation, a cedar log is carved into a magnificent head of Christ right before your eyes. As the thorns are slowly pounded in, Wade sings in his rich baritone voice a heart-wrenching song of how they represent each of our sins. It will leave its mark on your heart, never to be forgotten. Many times it has moved crowds to repentance.

Wade and Jennifer are bringing this raw biblical truth drama to Bullard Texas. The presentation is at 6:00pm, Sunday November 2, 2008, at First Assembly of God church in Bullard, located at 51773 US HWY 69N. The public is invited and the admission is FREE.

For more information, please contact Pastor Mike Boudreaux at 903-894-7756 or 903-830-8183. You can also find more information about First Century Ministries on the web at www.FirstCenturyMinistries.org

Tyler Pounds Airport reminds travelers to purchase holiday flights early

The holiday season is just around the corner and the Tyler Pounds Regional Airport is reminding travelers to make reservations early for the best airfares and availability.

Currently, there are nine departures from Tyler daily through Continental Connection and American Eagle Airlines. Direct flights are available to Dallas-Ft. Worth and Houston with worldwide connectivity.

"Travelers are often surprised at how convenient it is to travel out of the Tyler Pounds Airport," said Airport Manager Davis Dickson. "With nine flights per day, the introduction of regional jets and connections throughout the world, it couldn't be easier."

"By flying out of Tyler, travelers avoid the two hour drive to Dallas, as well as the traffic and parking," said Mayor Barbara Bass. "Flying out of Tyler is convenient, often adds very little to the cost of the plane ticket and supports our local air service system."

An example of flight costs: Round trip from Tyler to Los Angeles on Nov. 21 and returning Nov. 28 - \$353

Round trip from Tyler to St. Louis on Nov. 21 and returning Nov. 28 - \$227

Tyler Pounds Regional Airport was named 2007 Airport of the Year for the State of Texas by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The award recognizes outstanding contributions made by airports toward aviation in the state.

Tyler's new terminal was completed in 2002 at a cost of \$17.6 million - 40% of which was funded by the FAA. The new terminal improved passenger flow, expanded customer parking, enhanced traffic movement for passenger pick-up and drop off, streamlined airline operations areas, modernized rental car operations, utilized proactive planning to address future aviation needs for the next 20 years, and added security measures for customer safety. In 2007, the Airport added jet bridges to further strengthen security and passenger safety.

Currently Tyler Pounds serves 150,000 travelers per year.

Bullard author to debut novel at Texas Book Store

Bullard's own Joan "Jonikay" Pace will make her Bullard debut of her first novel, "Voices from the Heart" at The Texas Store Fall into Savings sale Saturday, Oct. 18. Pace, the founding editor of the Bullard Weekly News, will do a book signing from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m.

"Please come visit the sale and say hello," Pace said. "I'll have plenty of copies on hand and be happy to autograph one for everyone."

"Voices from the Heart" is a tale about teenagers, Clara Grace Sheppard and her brother, Hank, who flee their East



Joan Pace

Texas home in fear of their murderous father. After going their separate ways, for their own safety, Clara finds herself 20 years older and alone. Grief-stricken, she begins to hear the voices of loved ones from her

past who give her comfort and guidance that she is now willing to heed. Clara and Hank are at last reunited and return to their childhood home where they hope to learn the truth of their mother's death and their father's part in it, but the visit could cost them their lives.

The book is available for order at comfortpublishing.com, amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com. Additionally, bookstores may order "Voices from the Heart" through Ingram's. Media copies are available by request for

review.

Pace married her high school sweetheart Joe Pace in 1958. She graduated from Henderson County Junior College in Athens and the University of Texas at Tyler. She taught high school English until 1996 when she and her youngest daughter Cyndi Reed founded the Bullard Weekly News. The paper was awarded numerous statewide awards including the Alafair Hammet Award for excellence in public school coverage. In 2005, the paper was sold and Pace retired to write stories of all kinds of

families and the people in them.

Texas Book Store is located at US Hwy 69 and FM 2493 about a mile south of the new overpass construction site. Besides new and used books, the store has Diamond K handmade jewelry, Burts Bees natural skin care products, McAvoy Honey, RADA kitchen knives and CASE hunting knives, Steed's Texas Style Peanut Brittle, soup and dip mixes, Smoky Jo Bar-B-Q seasonings, Texas Flags, Leanin' Tree cards and New Canaan Farms salsas and jellies.

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We want you



to submit your
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