



# Bullard Banner News

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**Hours**

**Office Hours**  
Monday through Friday,  
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Deadlines**

**Advertising**

Deadlines are noon Friday for publication the following week. During holidays, deadlines are noon Thursday.

**News and Sports**

Community news announcements must be submitted by noon Friday. Sports Announcement deadline is noon Friday. Letter to the editor must be submitted by noon Friday. News items may be sent via e-mail to addresses listed above.

**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 \$26 a year. All other places in U.S.A. are \$30.

**Postmaster**

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## Panther Prowl

Guest Column by Bullard High School Newspaper Journalists

The Search  
By REGAN du PREEZ



Most teenagers get their license when they turn 16. Shortly after, many are awarded with the freedom of a car.

However, that was not the case with me. I did not begin driving on my own until about six weeks ago – a year and a half after I turned 16.

Before I got my license, my family and I began the fretful search for a vehicle of my own. I never imagined that there would be so many options, and yet so few. At first, all I wanted in a car was four tires that rolled. As the search unfolded, I realized exactly how much more thought goes into the process. Dizzying factors such as reliability, safety, fuel economy, mileage and, most importantly, purchase price began to fill the picture. Every time I thought I had found the perfect car, something would be wrong. It would have terrible safety ratings or have some sort of undiagnosed mechanical malady or be virtually uninsurable. I began to think we would never find a car.

Eventually, after going to see several cars and making an untold number of unplanned u-turns to see roadside advertised cars, we saw light at the end of the long tunnel. My mom saw a car advertised in the Tyler paper. We went to look at it, and I was blown away. It was pretty, fairly new, well maintained and had a great price to boot. Once my dad test drove it and saw it was free of mystery mechanical issues, I was guardedly optimistic. We took it to our friends at Engines Express so experts could give us their unbiased opinion before the final decision. I was afraid that would be it. I just knew they would find something awful. But they didn't!

Finally, after all the papers had been signed and the car sat in our driveway, my heart filled with joy and appreciation. Even though there might not be such a thing as "the perfect car," I'm pretty sure we found the best car for me within my budget.

Once I had my license in hand, I was ready to tackle the unknown, go anywhere, do anything, and make my own decisions. Right?

Wrong. Having my own car wasn't an amazing freedom like everyone describes it. Rather, it was a terrifying responsibility! I was always worried about scraping the bottom on a speed bump, parking in a spot where some other teenager would ding it or even washing it with the wrong soap.

Driving itself was another responsibility that I still take very seriously. The first time I drove to school on my own, my heart was beating so hard when I arrived that I was afraid to stand up for fear of fainting. Of course, I've gotten much more comfortable behind the wheel, but I'm still cautious. If you're ever behind a silver car going much too slow, chances are, it's me. If you wish, please pass me. I won't be offended. After all things are considered, even the worries, it's truly a wonderful experience to have my first car. In the words of Ferris Bueller, "It is so choice...I highly recommend picking one up."

## Church to distribute food

Carpenter's Cross Baptist Church will distribute food boxes from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every second Thursday of the month to low income and emergency/crisis households.

The next distribution date will be Thursday, Feb. 11, at 18110 F.M, 344 West in Flint, right behind the new East Texas Medical Center

on 155. For information, call (903) 825-3533.

Carpenter's Cross Baptist Church also will host its annual Valentine's Banquet, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, Feb 12. Tickets will cost \$10 per person. The theme will be "The Beautiful Romance."

For more information, call (903) 825-3533.

## Quilters move to new location

Quilters Guild of East Texas meeting will move to the First Baptist Church, South Campus, Thursday, Feb. 11.

The church is located at the southwest corner of

U.S. Highway 69 and F.M. 2813. Driving south on Broadway, the entrance is ¼ mile south of Texas Toll Road 49. The other entrance off F.M. 2813 is marked by three flagpoles.

### Meals on Wheels

**Wednesday, Feb. 3**

Meat sauce  
Spaghetti noodles  
Green beans  
Wheat bread  
Cobbler

**Thursday, Feb. 4**

Baked pork chop  
Butter beans  
Turnip greens  
Corn bread  
Applesauce

**Friday, Feb. 5**

Italian meatballs/gravy  
Buttered noodles  
Green beans  
Wheat bread  
Banana

**Monday, Feb. 8**

Steak fingers  
Tater tots  
Carrots  
Wheat bread  
Pineapple cup

**Tuesday, Feb. 9**

Enchiladas with chili  
Spanish rice  
Refried beans  
Wheat bread

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