

Writers' Corner

If you have a poem, song lyrics or a short story and you would like to share it with the readers of *The Statesman* now is your chance. Email or mail us your submission and look for it in an upcoming issue of *The Statesman*.

THE OLD HOME RANGE

Passing down the pathway of life, my boy,
Don't falter nor turn from the way.
Do the best you can; we'll understand,
And remember, God will help you along life's way.

The grass may look greener over yonder,
But it's better on "The old home range."
The lights may look brighter over yonder,
But it's better if you never, never change.

Keep your eyes wide open and stay free.
Don't stray from the straight narrow way.
Things may look great to you over there,
But remember how good it's been on "The old home range."
by Thomas L. Howard

LIFE'S A JOURNEY

I finally came to understand
Before my Grandma died
Why she was so very kind
To tramps and strangers.

These men would stop by our house,
Asking for a drink of water,
Or if they could do some work for her.
She'd ask the man to wait outside.

She'd ask him to please sit on the porch swing.
Then she'd bring him a cup of hot tea,
A sandwich, wrapped in a cloth napkin,
And a bright and shiny apple

She used to say to me
That you never know when
You might be entertaining angels.
Life is a journey and it matters not

How or when you arrive at your destination;
The lessons you learn along the way
And what matters most are the lives you've touched
By your goodness or your pain,
By your deeds or by your shame.

Grandma taught me that she and I
Don't need to walk down life's road
Hand-in-hand, to arrive side-by-side;
Before our God in His promised land.

Now that I am old, gray and a Grandma myself,
I have learned that as long as the lessons
My Grandma taught me, live on in me,
She is never very far from my side.
by Linda Amos

THE MASTER

Do you love birds in flight,
Or the stars at night,
The flowers in spring,
Or birds that sing?

If you love the Masterpiece,
You must love the Master.
If you love the Master,
You must love the Master's Son.
If you love the Son,
Then you must believe!
by Katrina Edwards

Clark, Mire wed

Shana N. Clark and Clifton S. Mire, III were married on October 18, 2008. The wedding took place at the home of Sammy and Barbara Bates on the banks of Lake Palestine at sunset, in a double-ring ceremony officiated by Billy McLean. The music was provided by Benny Ray.

The bride was escorted by her Grandpa Dean Seely via his 1932 coup to the golden sunset setting and then he walked her down the aisle by the lakeshore.

Sister of the bride, Stephanie Wilson, served as maid of honor, and friend Pam Ridgle served as a bridesmaid.

Flower girl was Ella McLean, daughter of Don and Jennifer McLean.

Ring bearer was Dawson Wilson, nephew of the bride. Cliff's friend, Richard Wynn served as best man. Groomsman was Kyle Clark, brother of the bride.

A reception immediately followed the ceremony with many relatives and friends in attendance. The reception was decorated with white lights wrapped around the trees, cascading around the tables which were covered with black and white tablecloths with flower arrangements that matched the bridal bouquet of orange, white and green.

The bride's table had a three-layer cake with intertwining champagne glasses in the middle of columns that were separating the top layer from the bottom two layers, and accented with a flowing fountain of punch.

The groom's table had a German chocolate cake with a chocolate fountain for dipping fruits. The food table was a buffet of Dean's barbecue brisket with all the trimmings.

After a honeymoon to Beaver's Bend, Oklahoma, the couple will reside in Chandler.

Shana is the daughter of Sylvia and Barry Tedford of Brownsboro and the granddaughter of Dean and Mary Seely of Chandler.

Cliff is the son of Mary and Clifton Mire, Jr. of Chandler, and the grandson of Clifton S. Mire, Sr. of St. Martinville, Louisiana and Katie Moore and the late Jerry Lee Moore of Arp, Texas.



Shana N. Clark and Clifton S. Mire

Tyler Jr College Recognizes area graduates

Tyler Junior College recognized 391 candidates for graduation at its fall commencement ceremony at 7 p.m. Friday in Wagstaff Gymnasium.

Associate degrees and certificates of proficiency were conferred by TJC President Dr. Mike Metke, who will also certify the graduates.

Presenting diplomas and certificates were TJC Trustees Lonny Uzzell, board president; Clint Roxburgh, first vice president; John Hills, second vice president; Rohn Boone; Ann Brookshire; Mike Coker; David Hudson; Dr. Joe Prud'homme; and Peggy Smith.

James Sheridan, president of the TJC Alumni Association, gave the alumni salutation, and Dr. Mark Jones of Baptist Student Ministries gave the invocation and benediction.

Dr. Cheryl Rogers, director of institutional planning and effectiveness, led the singing of the National An-

them and alma mater. The TJC Alumni Association also hosted a reception immediately following commencement.

The following local candidates for degrees and certificates are listed alphabetically by hometowns:

Athens - Kendra Coburn, Leila Humphreys, Beau Sheffield, Shane Smith, Rachel Smith.

Ben Wheeler - Allan Dike Jr., Nathan Diller, Samantha Lewellen, Alison McAuliffe, Shannon Mooseberg, MariAnne Roach, Sarah Steel, Misty Stevenson.

Brownsboro - Sheri Elmore, Audra Newell, Ginsel Olaide, Earnest Welch, Jr.

Chandler - Carletta English, Julie McLain, Adam Travis.

Van - Whitney Armus, Heath Hand, Koa Kurzenhauser, Talon Wiggins, Travis Wiggins, Joshua Williams.

Do you know someone who is a great cook?

If you or someone you know would make a good Cook of the Week call *The Statesman* to set up a time to be interviewed. You may also email us your suggestions.

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statesman@embarqmail.com

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Sunday: 12:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Trinity Mother Frances announces additional respite care program

Tyler, TX —

Officials with Trinity Mother Frances Hospitals and Clinics announced that an additional Respite Care Program began November 29 at the First Baptist Church in Mineola.

The Respite Care Program provides an organized day program for special needs children and some free time for their parents or guardians.

"Since 2001, Trinity Mother Frances Hospitals and Clinics has partnered with the Special Needs Clinic Program in Tyler to offer The Respite Care Program," said Shirley Gordon, director, TMF Respite Care Program. "We are very excited that the program has been awarded grant money to expand our current services into Wood and an additional 11 north-

ern counties."

Due to the success of the current program, Stephanie Hacker, Respite Care Program Coordinator, was offered the opportunity to develop a proposal targeted at serving children and families in an expanded geographical area.

"As a result, every fourth Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., we will provide monthly respite care for five to 10 children, with a goal of 20 participants, at the First Baptist Church in Mineola. Any child with special

health care needs residing in our service area can apply for participation in the Respite Program and does not need to be a patient of TMF to qualify," said Mrs. Gordon.

The original Respite Care Program is funded by a grant from Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN), and sponsored through Trinity Mother Frances. It provides for center-based respite care for 25 children the third Saturday of each month and staffing includes TMF personnel and

members of TMF Volunteer Services.

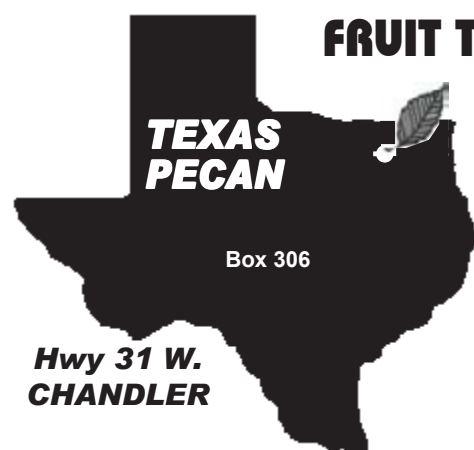
Additional in-home respite care hours are also available to individual children through the program.

For additional information or an application packet, please contact: Stephanie Hacker, Respite Care Coordinator at 903-595-3942 extension 255.

For more information on additional services available through Trinity Mother Frances Hospitals and Clinics, visit www.tmfhs.org.

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8:00 p.m. til Midnight
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2009

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Happy New Year 2009