

Deaths

Mrs. Brooks

Mary Katherine Brooks, 62, of Temple died Sept. 11, 2009, at Scott & White Memorial Hospital in Temple.

Funeral services were Sept. 14 at 11 a.m. at Sneed Funeral Chapel in Lampasas. Burial was at Rock Church Cemetery near Rumley.

Mrs. Brooks was born Feb. 1, 1947, in Temple, the daughter of Stuart Wier and Katherine Florence Gartman Kirby.

She graduated from Lampasas High School in 1965 and earned a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Mary Hardin Baylor.

She married Troy Brooks on June 10, 1967, in Lampasas.

Mrs. Brooks was a professional educator. She taught school in the Copperas Cove Independent School District for 28 years.

Survivors include her husband of Temple; a son, Troy Brooks Jr. and wife, Stephanie, of Plano; and a granddaughter, Chloe Brooks of Plano.

She was preceded in death by her parents and by a sister, Neva Ann.

Memorials may be made to the American Red Cross or Muscular Dystrophy Foundation.

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Mr. Greear

Thomas (Tom) Ray Greear, 74, of Mesa, Ariz., formerly of Lampasas, died Aug. 28, 2009, at his residence.

Services were Sept. 2 at Meldrum Mortuary Chapel in Mesa.

Mr. Greear was born Jan. 25, 1935, in Burnet County, the son of L.C. and Alma Smith Greear.

He attended Lampasas public schools and graduated from Lampasas High School in 1953.

Mr. Greear attended the University of Houston for a short time and later went to work for Phillips Petroleum Company in McGregor.

He married Shirley Fisk in McGregor on Oct. 29, 1955.

Mr. Greear was a sergeant in the 142nd Infantry Texas Army National Guard until 1959.

He moved to Arizona where he

worked in the construction business and was a brick mason until his retirement.

Survivors include his wife; one daughter, Raye Pine and Larry of Gilbert, Ariz.; a son, Coury Greear and Shelia of Mesa; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and a sister, Joyce Greear Baker and husband, Terry of Dallas.



Mr. Sockel

A memorial service for John Sockel, 81, of Kempner is Sept. 18, 2009, at 9:30 a.m. at Crawford-Bowers Funeral Home of Copperas Cove. Burial will follow at Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen with full military honors.

Mr. Sockel died Sept. 1 at his residence.

He was born Jan. 8, 1928, in Springfield, Ill., the son of Anton and Antonina Razemskus Sockel.

Mr. Sockel served in the U.S. Army until his retirement on July 31, 1973. He earned the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Korea) and the Good Conduct Medal Clasp, Silver with One Loop.

He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Knights of Columbus and Moose Lodge, and he enjoyed sports and traveling. He was a Catholic.

Survivors include his wife, Sybill Sockel of Kempner; a son, Peter Sockel of Alabama; a brother, Frank Sockel of Illinois; a granddaughter, Teresa Sockel of Alabama; a stepson, Tom Christianson and family of Arizona; and a great-grandson, Matthew Sockel of Alabama.

Arrangements by Crawford-Bowers Funeral Home of Copperas Cove.

Animal shelter opening coming

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seekers can visit the city of Lampasas Web site for adoption information.

Though the facility is large, Mrs. Dressel anticipates overflow at times, and that is when she will rely on area shelters to help by taking in animals.

About once each month, animals are shipped to several no-kill shelters and to specialized breed rescue sites. "I recently had golden retriever, great pyrenees and a pit bull rescue group pick up animals."

And Mrs. Dressel would like to involve volunteers for a variety of tasks, including fostering pets,

helping clean cages, feeding and walking animals, and to provide general companionship for animals.

Community service workers are welcome as long as they don't have drug- or assault-related charges, she said.

The shelter also is in need of ani-

mal bedding, blankets, towels, pet toys, cat litter, cages and crates. "We especially need towels," Mrs. Dressel added.

An open house is tentatively scheduled Oct. 15 with tours of the facility and an adoption fair.

To contact the facility, phone 556-8586.



PHOTOS BY LISA CARNLEY
Clockwise from top left: Animal shelter supervisor Kasey Dressel and Piper are ready for the new facility to open; a head-on view of the dog kennel area; an individual dog cage; a medical office at the ready.

Police chiefs enforce codes

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comply with orders to repair structures deemed unsafe.

In one case, Mrs. Spinney said, the owner completely remodeled a rental property that had been reported for its porch, which was caving in. "The owner complied, and it's in great shape now," Mrs. Spinney said of the rental property.

Compliance has been more difficult to enforce in Lometa, particularly with the Main Street buildings that concern Ruzicka. The corner structure, Mrs. Kirby said, is owned by an out-of-town resident for whom the mayor only recently obtained a telephone number.

The mayor said city staff likely will need to set deadlines for the repair of structures that do not meet city standards and send letters to owners informing them they must bring their properties into compliance.

Along with potentially unsafe buildings, Mrs. Kirby plans to address properties overgrown with weeds or covered with large amounts of trash, as well as "junked vehicle" violations.

Lometa's vehicle regulations require that automobiles open to public view be operable and have a current safety inspection sticker, Mrs. Kirby said.

A member of the Lometa Lions Club, Ruzicka hopes to convince the civic group to volunteer the time and materials needed to remove the downtown awnings he considers unsafe.

Mrs. Kirby agrees that improving Lometa's safety and appearance is important, regardless of how code compliance is obtained. "I'd just like to clean up Lometa," she said. "It's a big job. ...Sometimes it just takes longer than I would like."

Drought relieved

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wide burn ban at 10 a.m. on Friday. The ban will resume Thursday at 6 p.m.

In the east end of the county, F.A. Taylor had 4.3 inches of slow, soaking rain from Friday morning through Sunday night.

Drizzle began to fall Thursday night at Betty Rials' home in the township of Adamsville. Mrs. Rials reported 2.62 inches of precipitation and "a light norther" as of Monday morning.

Travis and Mary Ann Herring got 0.33 inches of rain on Wednesday at their ranch north of Lometa. Another 0.75 inches fell on Thursday, and the Herings enjoyed a half-inch of precipitation during the weekend.

"We could use some for the tanks, but the ground is in good shape," Herring said.

Forecasts call for partly cloudy skies through the weekend, with high temperatures projected to reach into the low 80s and overnight lows to dip into the low 60s.



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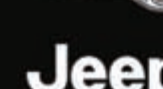
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