

Deaths



Mr. Gage

A memorial service for Larry J. Gage, 76, is Jan. 13, 2010, at 4 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 5300 Main St. in Houston. Funeral services will follow on Jan. 16 at Sneed Funeral Chapel in Lampasas, with burial at Smith Cemetery in Oakalla. A reception will follow at Oakalla Community Center.

Mr. Gage died Jan. 7 at Garden Terrace Nursing Home in Houston after a battle with Parkinson's disease.

He was born Oct. 14, 1933, in the Viewpoint community of Lamar County, the son of Oscar John and Nellie Mae King Gage.

He graduated from Delmar High School in Lamar County in 1951. He attended Paris Junior College and East Texas State College where he earned a bachelor of arts in journalism in 1955.

While in college, Mr. Gage worked in the Austin office of Sen. Sam Rayburn. He also served in the U.S. Army from 1955-57.

Mr. Gage earned a master of journalism degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 1959.

He began his newspaper career at the Jacksonville Journal in Jacksonville, Texas, and later became state editor and editor for the Brownwood Bulletin, where he worked from 1959-66.

Mr. Gage married Mary Angeline Smith on Oct. 1, 1960, in Goldthwaite.

He joined the Houston Chronicle in April 1966, and worked there for 34 years, retiring as a member of its editorial board in April 2000.

Mr. Gage was an avid genealogist. He was a member of the Clayton Library Friends, Carroll County Historical Society in Arkansas, Madison County Genealogical Society in Arkansas, National Society for Historical Preservation and the Democratic Party.

He was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Houston.

Survivors include his wife; a daughter, Mary Frances Gage Lapidus and husband, Mark, of Houston; a sister, Shirley Mae Gage Madison and husband, Victor, of Grand Prairie; a brother, Gary Wayne Gage and wife, Nancy, of Grand Prairie; grandchildren, Mary Katherine and Jared Lapidus of Houston; and many nieces, neph-

ews and cousins. Donations may be made to Smith Cemetery Association, 408 W. North Ave., Lampasas, TX 76550; or to the National Parkinson Foundation, www.parkinson.org.

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Mr. Parsons

Travis Wall Parsons of Lampasas died Jan. 7, 2010, at Regal Nursing & Rehab. He was 82.

Graveside services were Jan. 10 at Cauble Cemetery.

Mr. Parsons was born April 2, 1927, in Cross Plains, the son of Elijah Benjamin and Eva Lena Wall Parsons.

He married Dolores Hardy on April 2, 1948, in Yuma, Ariz.

Mr. Parsons joined the U.S. Navy and served for six years aboard the USS Taladega and USS Helena during World War II.

He worked in California and helped develop the first Atlas rocket. Later in life he was a housepainter.

Mr. Parsons had lived in Lampasas since 1967 and was a member of Second Baptist Church.

Survivors include three daughters, Pam Noyes of Killeen, Cheryl Favero of Huntsville and Marie Morelock of Lampasas; two sisters, Margie Moore and Kathleen Blake, both of Lampasas; 11 grandchildren; and 24 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife; a daughter, Billie Fulkerson; a grandson, Franklin; four sisters; and three brothers.

Memorials may be made to the Lampasas Senior Center.

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First Lometa ISD community forum set

Continued from page 1 purchase concessions." Members of the Lometa ISD Board of Trustees and school

administrators will be on hand at Monday's meeting, which will include a presentation from the district's architect showing

building options and cost projections. Rice and board trustees encour-

age community members to attend the forum and share their ideas in regard to a bond election.

'Geocachers' take part in high-tech scavenger hunts

Continued from page 1 trip to Durango, Colo., the couple spent a full week geocaching.

Those who search for caches can find plenty of activity without leaving Central Texas, however.

The Hursts spend much of their time looking for caches in Lampasas County, although they also enjoy forays into Burnet, Llano, Mason and Mills counties. In the less than three years the couple have been involved in geocaching, they have found more than 1,800 caches. The Hursts have hidden more than 75 in Lampasas County alone, and with many other geocachers in the area, Hurst figures there never will be a shortage of caches to seek.

A wide variety of people, from retirees to families with young children, enjoy geocaching, Hurst said. Aside from the initial expense -- sometimes several hundred dollars -- of GPS equipment used in locating a hidden item, geocaching can be an affordable hobby, he said.

A hand-held GPS tool helps a geocacher navigate within a few feet of the spot where a cache has been hidden. From that point, human instinct takes control.

Experienced geocaching enthusiasts generally know where to look and can find scores of caches in a single outing. Geocachers especially compete to make the first discovery of a newly placed item and compare records of "first finds." (The Hursts' one-day "first find" record is 38.)

Like all search parties, though, geocachers encounter occasional obstacles. The Hursts have been stung by hornets while seeking a cache. Some geocachers hide their canisters so well that only the craftiest hobbyists can detect them. Sometimes, as Hurst has learned, caches get pushed from their original coordinates by road construction crews.

Other times, just explaining what geocaching is can be a challenge.

When a group from Austin searched on Farm-to-Market Road 580 East for a cache Hurst had hidden, a sheriff's deputy stopped them to ask why they were poking around in the middle of the night. Hurst noted, however, that many law enforcement officers have heard of geocaching and can tell when people are pursuing their hobby legally.

Geocachers are supposed to hide items on public property or on private property only with landowners' consent, Hurst said. They also try to avoid railroads and military bases, he added.

Nevertheless, some property owners, especially near ranches or urban shops, express suspicion when they see people rummaging

PEC to hold night forum on bylaws

Pedernales Electric Cooperative invites members to a forum on Wednesday from 6-9 p.m. to discuss the ongoing effort to consider revisions, updates and improvements to PEC's bylaws. The meeting also will include a discussion of a proposed member bill of rights.

Members at the forum may make comments and fill out a feedback form. PEC's board will consider all feedback as it decides what changes to implement.

Those who cannot attend can read about possible changes on PEC's Web site, and they are encouraged to submit comments to Bylaws@peci.com.

The forum will be at PEC's E. Babe Smith Headquarters Building, 201 S. Ave. F., Johnson City.

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Cattle Auction

The report from the Jan. 6 sale at Lampasas Cattle Auction is as follows.

**Cattle and calves:** Estimated receipts 840 compared to 953 last year. No sale to compare to last week.

Compared to test prior to holidays, feeder steers under 500 lbs. \$2-\$3 higher; over 500 lb. steady to firm. Feeder heifers steady to weak. Slaughter cows and bulls \$2-\$3 higher. Trade and demand good.

Bulk supply medium and large 1-2 300-700 lb. feeder steers and heifers. Slaughter cows made up 16 percent of the offering, slaughter bulls 1 percent and feeders 83 percent.

**Feeder steers:** medium and large 1: 300-400 lb., \$117-\$122; 400-500 lb., \$105-\$114; 500-600 lb., \$96-\$103; 600-700 lb., \$83-\$88.

Medium and large 2: 300-400 lb., \$106-\$112; 400-500 lb., \$95-\$103; 500-600 lb., \$90-\$95; 600-700 lb., \$84.

Medium and large 3: 300-400 lb., \$98-\$100; 500-600 lb., \$83-\$89; 600-700 lb., \$71-\$77.

Heifers: medium and large 1: 300-400 lb., \$102-\$105; 400-500 lb., \$91-\$102; 500-600 lb., \$82-\$87.50; 600-700 lb., \$79-\$86.50; 700-800 lb., \$73-\$77.

Medium and large 2: 300-400 lb., \$84-\$92; 400-500 lb., \$83-\$87; 500-600 lb., \$78-\$83; 600-700 lb., \$76-\$77.

Medium and large 3: 400-500 lb., \$72-\$80; 500-600 lb., \$71-\$79.50.

**Slaughter cows:** breakers, 75-80 percent lean, 1,200-1,600 lb., average dressing, \$46.50-\$50; breakers, 80-85 percent lean, 1,200-1,600 lb., average dressing, \$47-\$50.50; boners, 80-85 percent lean, 1,000-1,200 lb., average dressing, \$48.75-\$50; lean, 85-90 percent lean, 1,200-1,500 lb. average dressing, \$40-\$44.50, high dressing, \$47.50; lean, 85-90 lb. 1,000-1,200 lb., average dressing, \$42.25-\$45.75; lean 85-90 percent lean, 800-1,000 lb., average dressing, \$40-\$43, high dressing, \$47.75; lean, 85-90 percent lean, under 800 lb., low dressing, \$22-\$27.50.

**Slaughter bulls:** yield grade 1-2, 1,215-1,830 lb., \$51-\$56; high dressing, 1,285-1,980 lb., \$57.50-\$63.25.

**Replacement cows:** medium and large 1-2: young to middle aged 1,050 lb. cows 5 months bred, \$640 per hd.; aged 930-1,400 lb. cows 6 months bred, \$400-\$704 per hd.