

# Torres and Stroud . . .

# Ft. Worth wedding slated

Deborah Rios and Octavio Torres of Burleson have announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter Christina Jeannette Torres of Ft. Worth to Matthew Lyndon Stroud of Granbury.

The bride is a 1999 graduate of Everman high school, and earned her degree at UT Arlington. She is employed as a teacher with the Arlington school district.

Stroud is the son of Grace and Link Stroud of Granbury, and is a 1999 Granbury high school graduate.

He attended McMurry University and UT Arlington and is a server at Miyako Japanese Steak House in Granbury. He is the grandson of Patsy and Wiley Stroud, and the nephew of Patti and Elmer Ballard, all of Fairfield.

The couple have set a July 9, 2010 wedding to be held at The Rose Chapel in Ft. Worth.



MATT STROUD AND CHRISTINA TORRES

# April date set . . .

# Duke, McCuistion to wed

Jerry and Cynthia Duke of Jewett have announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter Stacey Duke of Fairfield to Michael McCuistion, also of Fairfield.

McCuistion is the son of Annette McCuistion of Jewett and Ricky McCeig of Spicewood.

He graduated from Leon high school in 2001 and is employed with the NRG plant in Jewett.

Miss Duke is also a 2001 graduate of Leon high school and is employed with Community National Bank in Fairfield.

The couple, who became engaged in April 2009, will exchange vows March 27, 2010 in Surfside Beach, Texas.



STACEY DUKE AND MICHAEL MCCUITION

# Bob Bowman's East Texas . . .

# Remembering Skin Tight

In the early 1830s, when cattle buyer Henry Reeves and his partner, a man known only as Ball, built a store on the Rusk-Henderson road, visiting customers started calling the settlement "Skin Tight" because they were no match for Reeves' close trading practices.

Reeves moved to Smith County and, on June 13, 1886, he was shot to death in Troup.

The unflattering town name, "Skin Tight," was soon changed to Lone Star when a post office was established in 1883, and Lone Star thrived from cotton and tomatoes. At one time, the town had two cotton gins, a grist mill, several physicians, and a number of business establishments, including three saloons.

Shelly Cleaver, who was born at Lone Star, recalls that his father used a Model T "hoopy" to haul tomatoes to market. "He could haul more tomatoes in that ol' hoopy than any-

one else in Lone Star," said Cleaver.

Cleaver and his family later moved to Jacksonville, but retained the home of his father, Henry Clay Cleaver.

During its hey days the town had a Masonic Lodge, Cherokee Lodge 680, which was chartered in 1890 with D.L. Murphey as the Worshipful Master. The lodge was moved to Ponta in 1928 and then to New Summerfield in 1961.

The town also had a two-teacher school which held classes on the second floor of the Masonic Lodge building. A private school, the Lone Star Institute, was established by Colonel Thomas A. Cache and Rev. Angus M. Stewart in 1889.

The Institute soon became so well-known in East Texas that families often moved to Lone Star so their children could attend the school's classes, which emphasized cultural accomplishments in music and education. But the school lasted only four

years.

Another popular lodge, the Woodmen of the World, also stood at Lone Star and met regularly on the second floor of J. West's store.

By 1890, at least three general stores stood at Lone Star. But in 1893, a fire that began in a doctor's office destroyed much of Lone Star's business district. The Tipton Black store and a saloon were the only commercial buildings spared.

At one time, Lone Star had three church denominations—Methodists, the Church of Christ, and Universalists.

The town lost its post office in 1916 when the town began to lose population. When the Texas and New Orleans Railroad bypassed the town in 1903, many of Lone Star's businessmen moved to newly-established Ponta.

Today, Lone Star is only a ghost town standing about three miles from Lake Striker on Farm Road 35.

But the town site has been marked by a Texas Historical Marker standing on Farm Road 235 about four miles southwest of New Summerfield.

The only remnant from Lone Star's old days is an abandoned and weathered blacksmith shop once owned by J.B. Cleaver.

(Bob Bowman of Lufkin is the author of more than 40 books about East Texas. He can be reached at bob-bowman.com)

Jerrod West of Donie was recently named to Tarleton State University's Distinguished Students list. West is enrolled at the university's Stephenville campus.

Students on the list include freshman and sophomore students who have a minimum 3.25 grade point ratio (GPR) and no grade lower than a 'C,' and juniors and seniors who have a minimum 3.5 GPR with no grade lower than a 'C.'

All must be in good standing with the university.

# Palestine center offers bridge lessons

Beginner Bridge lessons will be offered soon at the Meals on Wheels/Palestine Senior Activity Center.

Lessons will be taught by Helen Stevens who plays both contract and duplicate Bridge and who holds the rank of Silver Life Master with the National American Contract Bridge League.

Cost will be \$10 for six weeks of learning and playing. The fee will include an instruction booklet. Class times will be set to coincide with the most convenient times for those who sign up.

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