



Violin display

Will Rogers fifth and sixth graders listen to famed violinist, Lisa Liu, as she entertains the students with both classical and modern music. Lisa Liu is performing at 3 p.m. today with the Southwest Symphony at First United Methodist Church in Hobbs.

Obituaries

Martha Mullins

Funeral services for Martha Mullins, 90, of Tatum, NM will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. at Tatum First Baptist Church with Bro. Wayne Brazil officiating. Burial will follow at Tatum Cemetery. Services are under the direction of Kirby-Smith-Rogers Funeral Home. Mrs. Mullins was born on August 10, 1921 in Spur, Texas to Joe Clifford and Birdie Blanche (Hobbs) Davis and passed away at her home on March 8, 2012. She was married to Ben J Mullins on Dec 19, 1936 in Matador, Texas.

She was a military wife for over 20 years and was also in the restaurant business for many years, but most of all, she was a homemaker for her family. She was President of the Woman's Club in Germany, played the guitar and entertained for her family and friends, was an avid "42" player and loved traveling. Buster, her rat terrier, her beloved pet at the time of her passing, was her great companion for many years. She has resided in Tatum over 44 years.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, two daughters: Barbara Ann Evans and Glenda Sue Rogers; four grandchildren: David Mullins, Donald Mullins Jr., Richard Wayne Mullins Sr. and Grandbaby Campbell. Also, one brother, Frank Davis and one sister, Judy DeMoss.

She is survived by three sons: Billy Jean and wife Margaret "Peggy" Mullins of West Virginia; Bennie and his late wife Carol Mullins of Missouri; Donald Wayne and wife Mary Ann Mullins of Tatum, NM and one daughter: Kathy Lou and husband Bill Porter of Colorado; 23 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; 36 great-great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be on Monday,

March 12 from noon until 8:00 p.m. and on Tuesday, from 8:00 a.m. until noon. Condolences may be sent to www.kirby-smithrogers.com.

Betty Sue Merryman

Betty S. Merryman, 84, of Jal passed away on March 09, 2012, at Odessa Medical Center. She was born on July 06, 1927, in Crosscut, TX, to Paul and Virginia Evans. She married John Merryman on January 16, 1946, in Kermit, Texas. They moved to Jal around 1960 and started their family. Betty was a loving



Merryman

mother and wife and will be greatly missed.

Funeral Services will be on Tuesday, March 13, 2012, at 1 p.m., at Church of Christ in Jal. Officiating will be Reverend Darrell. Burial will follow at Kermit Cemetery. Visitation will be on Sunday, March 11, 2012, from 2-6 p.m., and on Monday, March 12, 2012, from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Calvary Funeral Home in Eunice.

Mrs. Merryman is survived by her husband: John Merryman of the home; one daughter Lana Sue Lucas of Midland; three grandchildren: Micah Taylor and husband Rusty of Jal; Dustin Lucas and Tara Partridge, Shanna Lucas all of Midland, TX; four great grandchildren: Breece, Cash, and Trypp Taylor all of Jal; Tenley Lucas of Midland.

Preceding Betty in death is her parents: Paul and Virginia Evans; one daughter: Candy Sue Merryman; two sisters: June Holmes and Nondis Parish.

Terry Gilcrease

Graveside services will be held for Terry "Delane" Gilcrease, 50, 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 14, 2012, at Prairie Haven Memorial Park officiated by Pastor Wes McAfee. Terry died March 5, 2012, at his home in Hobbs. He was born August 15, 1961, in Hobbs to Samuel and Myrtis Gilcrease.

Terry attended school in the Hobbs school system. He went to work in the Hobbs oilfield for several years and then moved to Amarillo. He came back from Amarillo in 2009 and went to work for Bull Rogers. His hobbies include fishing, hunting, golf and listening to country music. He was of the Baptist faith.

He is survived by his mother, Myrtis, of Lovington, NM; his wife, Dorothy, of Amarillo, TX; two daughters, Reana and Jessica Gilcrease, both of Lubbock, TX; three brothers, Sam R. Gilcrease, and wife Theresa, of Hobbs, Tommy Gilcrease of Hobbs, and Larry D. Gilcrease, and wife Gwen, of Stuttgart, AR; a sister, Gloria Jernigan, and husband Keith, of Lovington, NM; four grandchildren and

Cutbacks have even rich Texas school districts struggling

HOUSTON (AP) — Cristian Mendoza is scribbling with a black marker on a miniature whiteboard. Suddenly, he wheels around and wields the marker like a dagger, menacing fellow 5-year-old Joseph Simon who giggles and covers his eyes with two small magnifying glasses.

Their teacher, Sara Estrada, doesn't see the wrestling match at first. "Cristian," she finally calls. Both boys stop and look up with sheepish grins.

"I try to meet their needs. I'm not sure I am anymore," Estrada, who has been teaching for 27 years, says of her pre-kindergarten class at Lion Lane School in Houston, which has grown to 25 students even as it lost its fulltime teacher's aide.

All over Texas, school districts have laid off teachers, support staff and administrators to cope with steep reductions in state education funding. But even with job opportu-

nities suddenly scarce, seven of Estrada's colleagues — nearly half the pre-K center's 17 teachers — are resigning at the end of the year. They say fewer aides and larger class sizes means teachers spend more time with potty training and runny noses than teaching the ABCs and basic math like in previous years.

It's a sign that the financial pinch is even being felt by well-to-do districts like Houston's Spring Branch Independent School District, which includes Lion Lane School. Classroom advocates say this is the inevitable result of an unwavering commitment to keeping taxes low. But others counter it's simply the new face of a more efficient way to

educate the state's children.

The Republican-dominated state Legislature cut \$4 billion in education funding over the next two years while eliminating an additional \$1.4 billion from grant programs, even though statewide enrollment is increasing by about 80,000 students annually.

Districts endured a cut of 6 percent this school year and are facing cuts of between 2 and 9 percent in 2012-2013 with those in property-tax wealthy areas looking at larger percentage reductions than poor districts. This year's cuts were softened by a one-time infusion of \$830 million in federal funding which won't be available next year.

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