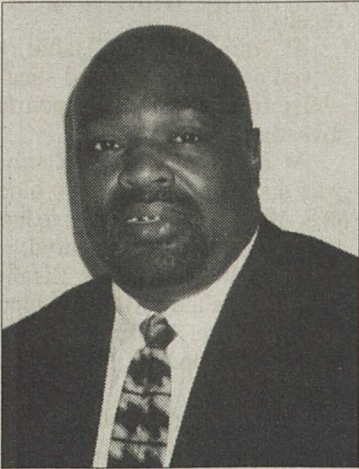


Obituaries



Malcom "Mike" Thomas, Sr.

Malcom "Mike" Thomas, Sr.

On Tuesday, December 5 at 1 p.m., Malcom "Mike" Thomas, Sr., of Eagle Lake affectionately known as "Mike", a beloved husband, father, son, brother and friend answered his call to eternal rest where he joined the Saints of God.

He was born September 24, 1966 in Eagle Lake, to Oliver Petrus and Earleen Upson.

Malcom confessed to Christ at an early age at White Cloud Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Obie Rhodes, where he

was a faithful and dedicated member and became a deacon.

During his term as deacon, he was elected to be the Co-Chairman of the White Cloud Baptist Church Deacon Board.

He was a graduate of Rice High School in May of 1985.

Malcom began his dream as a school bus driver and a dedicated employee of Rice CISD for many years.

After pursuing his dream, Malcom started working with L.C.R.A. and then he became the first Black man to volunteer for the Eagle Lake Fire Department.

Malcom and Marsha McTear were united into holy matrimony on June 10, 1989 and to this union two daughters and one son were born.

He was preceded in death by his father; brother; and sisters.

Left to cherish his memories are his wife, Marsha Thomas; two daughters, Macelsy and Machel-sea Thomas; and one son, Malcom Thomas, Jr. of Eagle Lake; his mother, Earleen Upson; four sisters, Aberleen Lemons, Marcella (Arthur) Foster, Ruby Johnson of Eagle Lake and Odessa (David) Thomas of Columbus; five brothers, Jessie (Diane) Upson, Cordis (Carlene) Upson, Oliver (Catherine) Thomas, Raymond Thomas and Edward (Eve) Thomas of Eagle Lake; very special mother and father-in-law, Deacon Alex and Debra Woolridge; several aunts, Betty Jean Pettus and Ruby C. King of Houston, Lillie Mae Johnson of Bay City, Castella Hall and Arie Lee Spears of Eagle Lake; one uncle, Frank Pettus of

Rosenberg; god-daughters, Destinee Jackson, Monica Barrow, Shanique Williams and Kendall Bailey; god-sons, Tremaine McGrew, Desmond Thomas, Jaelan Crawford and Jordan Johnson; very special friend, Pastor Dave Curry; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and devoted friends.

Home going celebration services were held Saturday, December 9 at 11 a.m. from Providence Baptist Church with Rev. Obie Rhodes serving as eulogist. The earthly remains await the glorious resurrection while being entombed in Rising Star Cemetery-New Town area. Final arrangements were entrusted to Ben Davis Funeral Home in Columbus.

Pallbearers were LCRA and members of the Eagle Lake Fire Department.

Honorary pallbearers were Jessie Upson, Cordis Upson, Dea. Oliver Thomas, Dea. Edward Thomas, Raymond Thomas, Malcom Thomas, Jr., Odrick Thomas, Oshundrick Thomas, Edward Thomas, Jr., Jonathan Thomas, Jerrell Thomas, Quentin Thomas, Desmond Thomas, Rodney Parker, Robert Parker, Jr., Rodney Williams, Dea. Alex Woolridge, Derrick Thomas, Dea. Kevin Henderson, Dea. Wayne Henderson, Dea. Norman Henderson, Jr., Dea. L.M. Alexander, Dea. Dennis Davis, Dea. Victor Davis, Sr., Dea. Douglas Tillman, Sr., David Henderson, Jerome McAfee, Sr., Donald Ray Spears, Dewayne Hemphill and Norris Pettus.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.



Ella Mae Vinson

Ella Mae Vinson passed away on Saturday, November 25 at Queen of the Valley Hospital in Napa, California.

She was born on November 13, 1940 to Frances Johnson in Eagle Lake.

Ella was baptized at her family founded church, White Cloud Baptist in Eagle Lake. In later life, she became a member of First African Methodist Episcopal Church of Oakland, California where she grew closer to the Lord in her faith walk.

Ella attended E.H. Henry High School graduating on May 28, 1959. She was a member of the band playing the clarinet, and was Vice President of the senior student body. She then attended Trimble Technical Business College in Fort Worth, prior to marrying her high school sweetheart, Leon Alvin Vinson on April 17, 1965.

Ella always wanted to travel outside of Texas and at one point wanted to become a flight attendant upon graduation. Her union with Leon allotted her the opportunity to experience travel nationwide due to Leon's work in the aeronautical engineering profession. They lived in such cities as Baltimore, Philadelphia, Atlanta, and Seattle before settling in Los Angeles, California (CA) in 1968. Ella was a stay at home mom, and was very active and instrumental in their young lives; involving herself in PTA, becoming a leader of a Camp Fire Girls troop, and other educational related activities.

Ella decided to learn how to drive, return to school, and begin her employment with Bank of America in the Business Data Processing Center in Downtown Los Angeles. She retired 20 years later to enjoy her new role as loving grandmother often traveling between Northern and Southern California to see her grandchildren.

Ella returned later to Mukilteo, Washington, just outside of Seattle, where she spent her later years with her beloved Leon until his death in December 2004. She then relocated back to California where she lived with her oldest daughter, Lisa and son-in-law, Deon in American Canyon until her death.

Ella leaves to cherish her memories her loving daughters, Lisa V. Booker of American Canyon, CA and Deborah Vinson-Johnson of Lakewood, CA; her loving sons-in-law, Minister Deon T. Booker, and Wendell V. Johnson; her beautiful granddaughter, Kyla S. Booker; handsome grandsons, Devin T. Booker, Jonathan N. Johnson, and Jared A. Johnson; five wonderful sisters, Marlene Williams of Eagle Lake, Bobbye Williams of Houston, Bernice Releford of Fort Worth, Wilma Sims of Missouri City, and Linda Brown of San Antonio; three incredible sisters-in-law, Gussie L. Mack of Fort Worth, Bettie Runnels of La Grange, and Jewel M. Jones of Carson, CA; two dear brothers-in-law, Howard Sims and Johnny Williams; one caring aunt, Lula Johnson and a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. Saturday, December 9, at White Cloud Baptist Church in Eagle Lake, under the direction of Henneke Funeral Home of Columbus. Burial followed in Willing Workers Cemetery in Columbus.

Pallbearers were Alan Sims, Corey Brown, Cedric Brown, Leon McWright, Kevin Brown and Ceciron Glover. Honorary pallbearers were Howard Sims, Joe Jones, Johnny Williams, Wendell Johnson, Deon Booker, and Anthony Hynes.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.

A Tribute to Malcom Thomas "Gone But Not Forgotten"

Malcom, you will always be a part of this community, we will all see you again someday; you are there to help prepare a place for us, who will eventually follow. It's all part of God's infamous plan. We ask why? God knows why, and it will be revealed to us soon. You were truly an inspiration to all that came in contact with you. You served your family and community well. You'll always be remembered as one of the good guys. Your death has sent shock waves throughout the community; no one could believe it.

Remembering Malcom: the best portion of a good man's life; his little nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and love. You cannot do a kindness too soon for you never know how soon it will be too late. It's not about us, but about whom we touch; and Malcom you have touched a lot, from all walks of life. May you rest in peace, until we meet again.

Your Sister in Christ,
Rene Cooper Scott

"Expressions of Gratitude"

There isn't enough space in any newspaper for me to adequately express my gratitude and love for all of the phone calls, thoughts, prayers, visits and various acts of love shown to our family over the last week.

I would especially like to thank Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), The Eagle Lake Fire Department, Rice Medical Center, Dr. Ramon Cantu, Dr. Russell Thomas, White Cloud Baptist Church, Providence Baptist Church, Mt. Carmel Baptist Church and New Home Baptist Church.

The service held to celebrate Malcom's Life Epitome was awesome, really flawless.

My husband loved his church, family, his career, friends and his community immeasurably and all of you have shown your love for he and his family in return.

From the bottom of our hearts, We Thank everyone.

Your acts of kindness have helped confirm Malcom's Legacy of love.

You will all be remembered in our hearts and prayers forever.

Lovingly submitted,
The Family of Malcom Thomas, Sr.

Sherry Childers

Sherry Sanders Childers, 55, of Avinger, Texas passed away Saturday, November 11.

She was born January 23, 1951 in Eagle Lake the daughter of Rex and Aileen Sanders.

Sherry was a homemaker.

Survivors include a son, Shannon Wayne Sanders of Sheridan; and daughter, Dawn Brandon of Avinger; sister, Vicki King of Katy; brother, Randy Sanders of Bay City; five grandchildren, Cody, Marissa, Autumn, RaLynn and Carrie.

A private family memorial was held in Avinger.

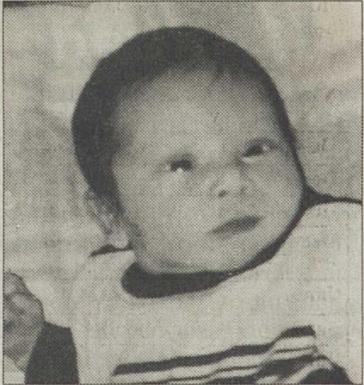
Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.

New Arrivals

Christopher James Piña

Anthony and Bonnie Piña of Sweeny are pleased to announce the birth of their second child, a son, born November 28 at Gulf Coast Medical Center in Wharton.

Christopher James weighed seven pounds, and measured 18-



1/2 inches at birth.

He was welcomed home by his big brother, Anthony Joel Piña, age 1.

Maternal grandparents are Frank and Rosie Navarro of Eagle Lake.

Paternal grandparents are Ray and Evelyn Piña of Sweeny.

Maternal great-grandparents are Mateo Sr. and Effie Navarro of Eagle Lake and Rosa Ramirez of Victoria.

Paternal great-grandparents are Geneva and Albert Garza of Boling and Julia Piña of Rosenberg and the late Domingo Piña.

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Bible Verse of The Week

"He that overcometh shall inherit all things and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

- Revelation 21:7
Submitted by Carol Cardenas

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Eagle Lake Headlight

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GREATER RISING STAR BAPTIST CHURCH: 580 Old Altair Road, Eagle Lake; Rev. Truman Scott Sr., Pastor; 234-2423 or 758-3745.
GREATER UNION BAPTIST CHURCH: Matthews Community; Co. Rd. 141; Rev. Lawrence C. Robertson, Pastor; 234-2581.
MT. CARMEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH: Hwy. 90-A (Pecan Valley), Eagle Lake; Rev. H.O. Williams, Pastor; 234-5813.
LIVING HOPE CHURCH: Eagle Lake; Revs. Joe and Mercy Fling; 234-5536.
BEREA CLADIC: 623 Maple Avenue, Eagle Lake; 234-2130.
ROCK ISLAND FULL GOSPEL: P.O. Box 232, Rock Island; 234-5840.
CHRISTIAN CITY FELLOWSHIP: 1140 Meyer, Sealy; Rusty Griffin, Pastor.
THE DAY OF PENTECOST APOSTOLISTIC REVIVAL RISING STAR: FM 102 South, Matthews; 4 p.m. (at Mt. Zion), Rev. R.L. Carter Sr.
GREATER NEW FAITH CHURCH: 6406 Guyler, Waller; Rev. Clay Spears, Pastor; 979-478-2169.
EAST BERNARD FIRST BAPTIST
FIRST BAPTIST: 527 N. Lake, Eagle Lake; Rev. Chris Thacker, Pastor; 234-2571.
FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST: 405 S. Lake, Eagle Lake; 234-5795.
IGLESIA BAUTISTIA GETSEMANI: 901 B Street, Eagle Lake; Rev. Mario Vasquez.
GREATER MT. OLIVE BAPTIST: Rev. Dave Curry; 705 Lake, Eagle Lake; 234-3545.
WRIGHT GROVE BAPTIST: Rev. T.J. Cunningham Jr.; Altair.
PROVIDENCE BAPTIST: 1207 Seaholm, Eagle Lake; Rev. Coby Shorter Jr.; 234-3735.
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH: 306 E. Stockbridge, Eagle Lake; 234-3437.
ROCK ISLAND BAPTIST: Bob Allison, Pastor.
SHERIDAN FIRST BAPTIST: FM 2437; Rev. Jim Dunn, Pastor; 234-3136.
WHITE CLOUD BAPTIST CHURCH: 202 Old Altair Road, Eagle Lake; Rev. Obie Rhodes, Pastor; 234-3800.

CHURCH OF CHRIST: Sheridan.
NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP: Hwy. 90A, Sheridan; Del Sanford, Pastor; 234-3276.
CHRIST OUR REDEEMER-Charismatic: Jerry C. McKinney, Pastor; 979-478-7534 or 478-6512.
HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH: East Bernard.
CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE NATIVITY: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Sanctuary; 308 N. Stevenson, Eagle Lake; 8 a.m. (Español), 10 a.m. (English) 6 p.m. Saturday (English), Rev. Robert F. Guerra, P.O. Box 307; 234-2842.
ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH: Box 97, Nada; Fr. Joe Vrana; 758-3218.
GRACE LUTHERAN: 408 N. Stevenson, Eagle Lake; Services begin at 10 a.m.; Rev. Clements Richard, Pastor; 234-3381.
LEHRER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST: Garwood; 9 a.m. worship.
LISSIE UNITED METHODIST: J. L. Craft, Pastor; 234-2112, Lissie.
ROCK ISLAND METHODIST: Ken Sells Jr. Lay-Pastor.
UNITED METHODIST: 200 W. Prairie; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:45 a.m.
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN: 106 E. State Street, Eagle Lake; 234-3368.
VINE OF THE LORD: 1300 E. State Street, Eagle Lake; Rev. Paul Aguilar, Pastor; 234-7543.
CrossRoad ASSEMBLY OF GOD: 510 Wallace, East Bernard; Pastor George Kutach; 979-335-7706.
THE CHURCH OF CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS: 600 W. St., Sealy; Marshall Crosby, Branch Pres.
CHURCH OF CHRIST: 815 Milam, Columbus; Lynn Wilson, Minister.
THE SHEPHERD'S WAY: Interdenomination Christian Fellowship; 1225 Eagle Lake Road, Sealy, Frank Lucas, Pastor; 979-885-1225.
SOUTH POINT BAPTIST CHURCH: 6407 Hwy 71-S, Garwood; 979-758-3039.
ASSEMBLEA DE DIOS HOSANNA: 403 East Main, Eagle Lake; 979-732-1966; Pastor Romero Rodriguez Jr.
BIBLE TRUTH APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Corner of S. Wharton & E. First St., El Campo; Pastor Larry T. Smith, 979-543-2331.