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WELCOME TO EASTLAND

MAYOR LARRY VERNON



Are you looking for a great town to raise your family, start a business, retire, enjoy life, or just visit? Let me introduce you to Eastland, Texas. With a population of just under 4,000 people, located at the intersection of Interstate 20 and State Highway 6, Eastland is in a prime location. With Fort Worth only eighty-five miles to the east and Abilene fifty-five miles to the west, getting to the “city” is easy while still living in and enjoying a small-town atmosphere. Eastland is the home of world famous “Old Rip,” the horned toad that slept in the cornerstone of the Eastland County Courthouse for 31 years!

We are a family-friendly town with great schools, a wonderful city park, amazing swimming pool, gun and archery clubs, and year-round sports for young people. The gem of our town is the eight story Connellee Hotel and Civic Center, home to the Eastland Chamber of Commerce, and the Connellee Roof Garden Ballroom. The Majestic Theatre is just around the corner and shows first run movies each week. Weddings, meetings, conferences, reunions, or events of any kind can use Lumberyard Event Center, Grimes Garden, Connellee Civic Center, or many other available locations. The Lyric Arts Center cultivates and champions the arts in Eastland and Eastland County. The Bankhead Community Theater has been a highlight of the Lyric and regularly entertains us with exceptional performances. Art shows have also been a big part of the Lyric’s success. The County Museum, Austin McCloud Museum, and our newly remodeled Eastland Memorial Library are just a some of places to visit and learn more about Eastland and this part of Texas we like to call home.

Health care is essential, and Eastland has made it a top priority. Eastland Memorial Hospital is a highly rated rural health care facility with a well-staffed emergency room and ambulance service. Doctors, dentists, and other health care specialists are available to take care of your health needs. We are proud of the Eastland Dialysis Center located on the west end of town beside the Woodlands Assisted Living Center. The Woodlands has a skilled nursing facility and memory care unit. The Eastland Memorial Hospital has added a Rural Health Clinic. The Air Evac medical helicopter service is also based in Eastland. Eastland is proud of our “miracle mile” of businesses and our downtown square with wonderful shops. The City of Eastland, Economic Development Corporation, Industrial Foundation, Community Foundation, the Chamber of Commerce, and others work hard to make Eastland the place to be. The new business park on I-20 is another asset for Eastland and welcomes your business. The Eastland Municipal Airport boasts a 5,001 ft. lighted runway, AWOS system, and a state-of-the-art terminal building. Eastland will meet your needs now and in the future without the hassle of congested life in a bigger city. We look forward to meeting you!

FROM THE CITY MANAGER



Welcome to Eastland!

As City Manager, it is my honor to welcome you to the City of Eastland! This Chamber Guide is a valuable resource highlighting the people, places, and businesses that make our city a wonderful place to live, work, and visit.

We are proud to have a strong partnership with the Eastland Chamber of Commerce. Together, we work to promote economic growth, community engagement, and an exceptional quality of life for all.

Whether you're flipping through the pages as a resident, a new business owner, or a guest, I hope you will receive the sense of pride that we have in our hometown and the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Eastland. I encourage you to explore our wonderful city and learn about Old Rip, the famous horned toad, and maybe watch a movie at the historic Majestic Theatre. We're glad you are here!

Sincerely,
Savannah Fortenberry
City Manager, City of Eastland

FROM THE CHAMBER

Welcome to Eastland, where Texas charm meets big-hearted hospitality! From the moment you arrive, we hope you feel right at home in our vibrant community. Whether you're here for a day, a weekend, or you're finding a new place to plant your roots, Eastland offers a unique blend of history, culture, and adventure that's sure to capture your heart.

Take a leisurely stroll through our historic downtown and explore one-of-a-kind shops, savor mouthwatering meals at our local restaurants, and enjoy the friendly smiles that greet you along the way. If you're looking for outdoor fun, you're in the right place! Eastland is home to some great fishing spots, coupled with picturesque parks and trails - perfect for a little rest and relaxation.

But the fun doesn't stop there! Whether you're watching a live performance, attending a local festival, or discovering the talents of our creative community, you'll find no shortage of entertainment to enjoy during your stay. And don't forget to check out the businesses and attractions featured in this guide - they're a big part of what makes Eastland such a special place.

On behalf of the Eastland Chamber of Commerce, we're delighted to welcome you to our town. It's our hope that your time here is filled with wonderful experiences, unforgettable memories, and maybe even a few new friends.

Thank you for choosing Eastland—we can't wait to see you around town!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Elrod & Leah Flowers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

E.C.O.C. STAFF





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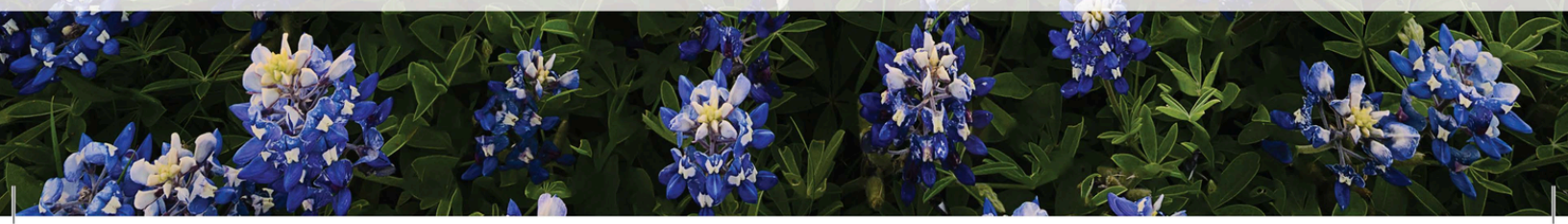
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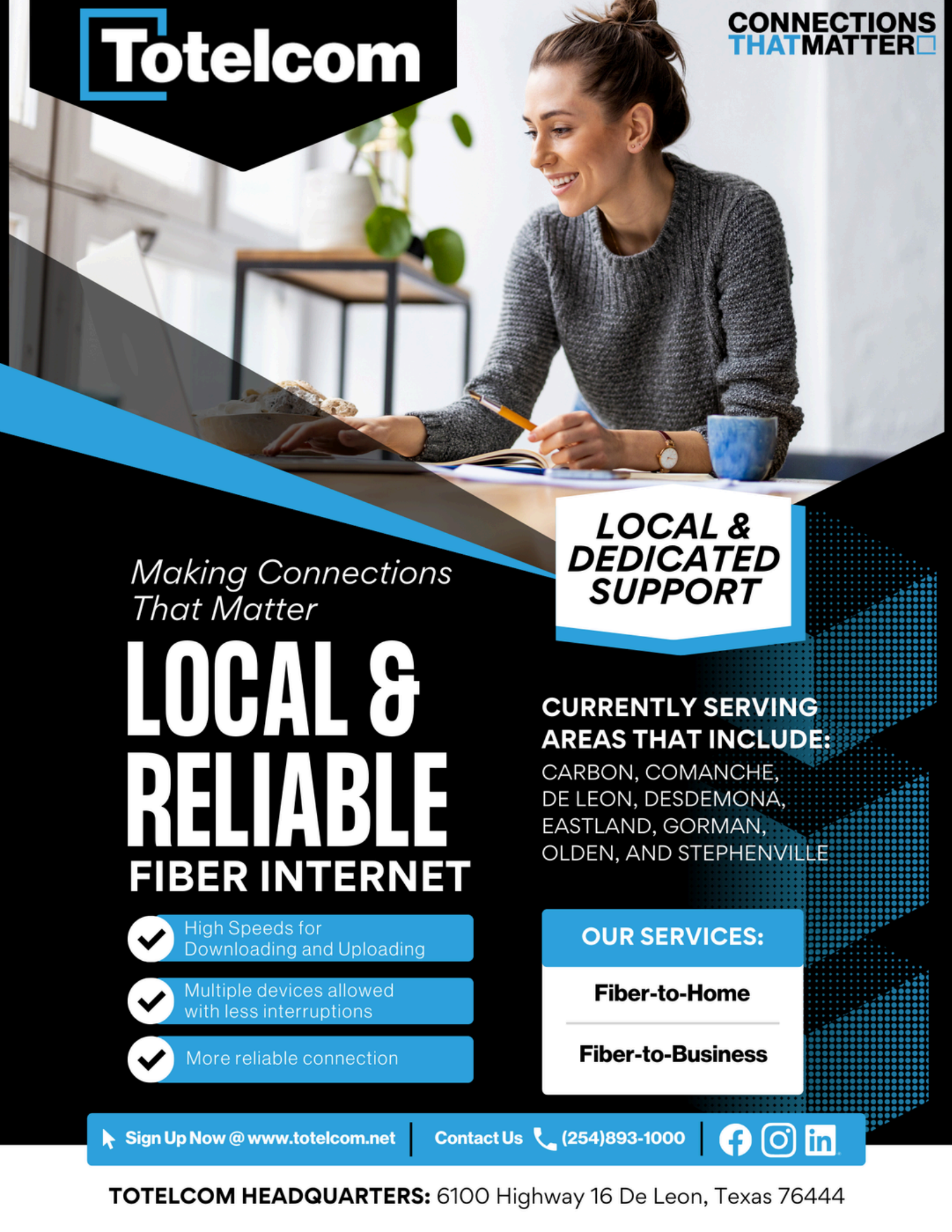


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THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

THE TEAM BEHIND EASTLAND'S THRIVING COMMUNITY



Pictured above (left to right): Chamber Board Members — Debbie Wharton, Carolyn White, Amy Williams, Leslie Pitts, Barrett Thomasson, President Clint Coffee, Treasurer Candi Kanady, Emily Rogers, and Vice President Bobby Blackwell. – **Not pictured:** James Doyle and Amy Glenn.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Eastland Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors is a dedicated team of community members who bring their passion, expertise, and commitment to the betterment of Eastland. These volunteers work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the city thrives economically, culturally, and socially, making Eastland a vibrant place to live, work, and visit.

Each member of the board brings a unique perspective, combining professional expertise with a deep love for Eastland. Their collaboration forms the backbone of the Chamber's mission to support local businesses and foster community development.

THE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The Eastland Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Program is a group of volunteers committed to making a positive impact in our community. Ambassadors play an essential role in helping the Chamber organize events, promote festivals, foster local engagement, and support the growth of businesses in Eastland.

To become an Ambassador, individuals must be affiliated with a business that is an active member of the Eastland Chamber of Commerce. This connection ensures Ambassadors are directly involved in fostering collaboration and supporting the success of local businesses.

Serving as an Ambassador is a rewarding opportunity to network, engage with the community, and contribute to Eastland's vibrant economic and cultural landscape. Whether it's welcoming attendees at Chamber events, assisting with festivals, or helping local businesses thrive, Ambassadors embody the spirit of community involvement. If you're interested in becoming a Chamber Ambassador and making a difference in Eastland, connect with the Chamber today to learn more about this exciting program!

Junior Ambassadors

SHAPING
TOMORROW'S
LEADERS

Eastland, Texas, is home to a unique initiative aimed at developing the next generation of community leaders. The Eastland Chamber of Commerce Junior Ambassador Program invites some of Eastland ISD's brightest senior-class students to embark on a transformative, year-long leadership journey. Each year, the Chamber staff and Board of Directors select highly motivated and driven students to join the program. These emerging leaders participate in an enriching curriculum designed to prepare them for meaningful roles in shaping the future of Eastland County. Through tours and presentations by guest speakers, Ambassadors explore Eastland's economic development, healthcare systems, government functions, and rich history. Additionally, Ambassadors leave a tangible mark on the community by volunteering at Chamber events.

Upon completing the program, participants are awarded the James T. Wright Community Service Scholarship Award, presented at the annual Chamber Banquet in June. This scholarship, named in honor of the late James T. Wright, celebrates his legacy of dedication to business development and community service as the Chamber's manager.

The Junior Ambassador Program is more than a leadership initiative—it's a pathway to fostering a stronger, more resilient community. By empowering its youth, Eastland ensures that the next generation of leaders will be ready to address the challenges of tomorrow while honoring the traditions of today.



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DUTIES OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

The County Commissioners Court serves as the primary governing body for counties, ensuring the smooth operation of essential services and infrastructure for residents. Below is an overview of the structure, responsibilities, and duties of the Commissioners Court.

Structure of the Commissioners Court

Each county is divided into four Commissioner Precincts, with precinct boundaries determined based on population. This approach ensures fair and proportional representation for all residents.

- **Commissioners:** Each precinct elects a Commissioner who is responsible for the maintenance and oversight of roads within their precinct.
- **County Judge:** The County Judge, elected at-large, presides over the Commissioners Court and collaborates with the four Commissioners to manage county affairs.

Collaboration for County Success

The Commissioners Court is essential in shaping the future of the county by ensuring efficient management of resources, infrastructure, and public services. By balancing fiscal responsibility with community needs, the Court supports the continued growth and well-being of the county and its residents.

Residents are encouraged to engage with their Commissioners Court through public meetings, which are open to all. Participation helps ensure that the Court's decisions reflect the priorities of the community.

Responsibilities of the Commissioners Court

The Commissioners Court has broad responsibilities, ranging from financial management to infrastructure development. Its primary duties include:

- **Budget and Taxation:** Setting the budget for all county departments and adopting a county-wide tax rate.
- **Personnel Management:** Establishing personnel policies and benefits for county employees.
- **Infrastructure Maintenance:** Supervising the construction and upkeep of county roads and bridges.
- **Public Safety:** Providing funding and oversight for rural ambulance and fire protection services.
- **Appointments:** Filling vacancies in elected and appointed county positions.
- **Boundary Adjustments:** Determining precinct boundaries for both Commissioners and Justices of the Peace.
- **Additional Responsibilities:** Carrying out other duties as mandated by state law.



Pictured (left to right): Commissioner, Precinct 1, Andy Maxwell; Commissioner, Precinct 2, James Crenshaw; County Judge, David Hullum; Commissioner, Precinct 3, Ronnie Wilson; Commissioner, Precinct 4, Robert Rains



Pictured left to right: Front row – City Manager Savannah Fortenberry, Commissioner Shirley Stuart, Back row – Commissioner Richard Rossander, Commissioner Thom Cameron, Mayor Larry Vernon, Commissioner Michael J. Hackney,

THE ROLE OF THE EASTLAND CITY COMMISSIONERS COURT

The Eastland City Commissioners Court plays a critical role in governing the City of Eastland with criminal jurisdiction that extends across city limits. This authority is vested by state law, the Eastland City Charter, and the City of Eastland Code of Ordinances. Below is an overview of the court's structure, responsibilities, and operations.

Structure and Elections

The Board of City Commissioners, also referred to as the City Commission, consists of five members elected for two-year terms. All positions are At-Large, meaning that commissioners represent the entire city and are elected by all eligible voters in Eastland.

- Election Schedule:
 - Commissioners for Places 1-3 are elected during odd-numbered years.
 - Commissioners for Places 4-5 are elected during even-numbered years.
- Timing of Elections: City elections are held annually on the first Saturday in May.
- Leadership: After each election, the Board selects one of its members to serve as the Chairman, who assumes the role of Mayor of Eastland, Texas.
- Term Limits: There are no term limits for City Commissioners.

Commissioners Court Meetings

The Eastland City Commissioners Court holds regular meetings at 6:00 PM on the third Monday of each month, unless the date coincides with a city-observed holiday. In such cases, the meeting is rescheduled. Additionally, the Commissioners may convene for called or emergency meetings as needed.

Key Details About Meetings:

- Public Access: All meetings are open to the public, ensuring transparency in governance.
- Agenda Posting: Agendas and announcements are posted in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, providing citizens with notice of topics to be discussed.
- Quorum Requirement: A majority of the Board must be present to constitute a quorum and conduct official business.

The Commissioners Court operates with authority defined by state law and local ordinances, ensuring efficient governance for the residents of Eastland. Responsibilities include managing city policies, budgets, and infrastructure while maintaining transparency and accountability in all decisions.

By understanding the structure, roles, and procedures of the Eastland City Commissioners Court, residents can engage more effectively with their local government. Whether attending a meeting or participating in annual elections, the public plays a vital role in shaping Eastland's future.



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Terry Slavens

EASTLAND ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL



Building Eastland's Future

In February 2025, Terry Slavens was appointed Executive Director of Eastland Economic Development, Inc. (EEDI), taking the helm of an organization dedicated to driving economic progress for our community.

- EEDI's Mission: To facilitate the creation of new and better jobs and attract capital investment while diversifying the tax base.
- EEDI's Vision for Eastland: To become "a community experiencing positive growth through improved economic and job opportunities, increasing community wealth, while enhancing the quality of life for all citizens."

Founded in 1993 following local approval of a half-cent sales tax for economic development, EEDI is governed by a board appointed by the City Commission and works in concert with the City to implement a responsive annual strategic plan.



Opening September 2025

Why Eastland?

- Prime location along I-20 between Fort Worth and Abilene
- Industrial parks with shovel-ready sites
- Strong workforce and training programs
- Business-friendly community incentives
- Outstanding quality of life



Under Terry's leadership, EEDI continues to build on its strengths—including industrial park development, healthcare expansion, and infrastructure support—to create opportunities, support local businesses, and attract new investment. With 300+ acres available across I-20 Industrial Park, Airport Industrial Park,

and Eastland Medical Park, EEDI is uniquely positioned to assist businesses of all sizes.

Every initiative is driven by one guiding principle: **Eastland Works!**



Interested in learning more or connecting with Terry and the EEDI team? Visit www.eastlandtexas.gov/abouteedi.



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THE NAMESAKE OF EASTLAND, TEXAS



THE MIER EXPEDITION

Eastland's commitment to justice was deeply personal. Eager to avenge the deaths of his cousin and nephew at the hands of Woll's forces, he chose to remain on the Rio Grande with William S. Fisher's command when General Somervell ordered a retreat to San Antonio. Elected captain of Company B for the ill-fated Mier Expedition, Eastland led his men into battle on December 26, 1842. However, they were ultimately captured and marched to Mexico's interior.

A TRAGIC FATE

While in captivity, Eastland participated in an attempted escape which tragically failed. Following their recapture, prisoners were subjected to a grim lottery: those who drew black beans faced execution. Eastland, the first to draw a black bean, was the only officer among the executed. In a private moment before his death, he entrusted his money to his brother-in-law, Robert Smith, and said, "For my country I have offered all my earthly aspiration and for it I now lay down my life. I never have feared death nor do I now. For my unjustifiable execution I wish no revenge, but die in full confidence of the Christian faith."

William Mosby Eastland was executed on March 25, 1843.

LEGACY

Eastland's bravery and sacrifice left an indelible mark on Texas history. His name endures as a symbol of courage and devotion to the cause of freedom, commemorated in the city of Eastland. His story serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made in the struggle to secure Texas' independence.

WILLIAM MOSBY EASTLAND

William Mosby Eastland (1806–1843), a figure of remarkable courage and resilience, is the namesake of Eastland, Texas. Born on March 21, 1806, in Woodford County, Kentucky, Eastland was the son of Thomas B. and Nancy (Mosby) Eastland. In 1834, he ventured to Texas with his family, settling near present-day La Grange in Fayette County. This move would mark the beginning of his profound impact on the frontier and the fight for Texas' independence.

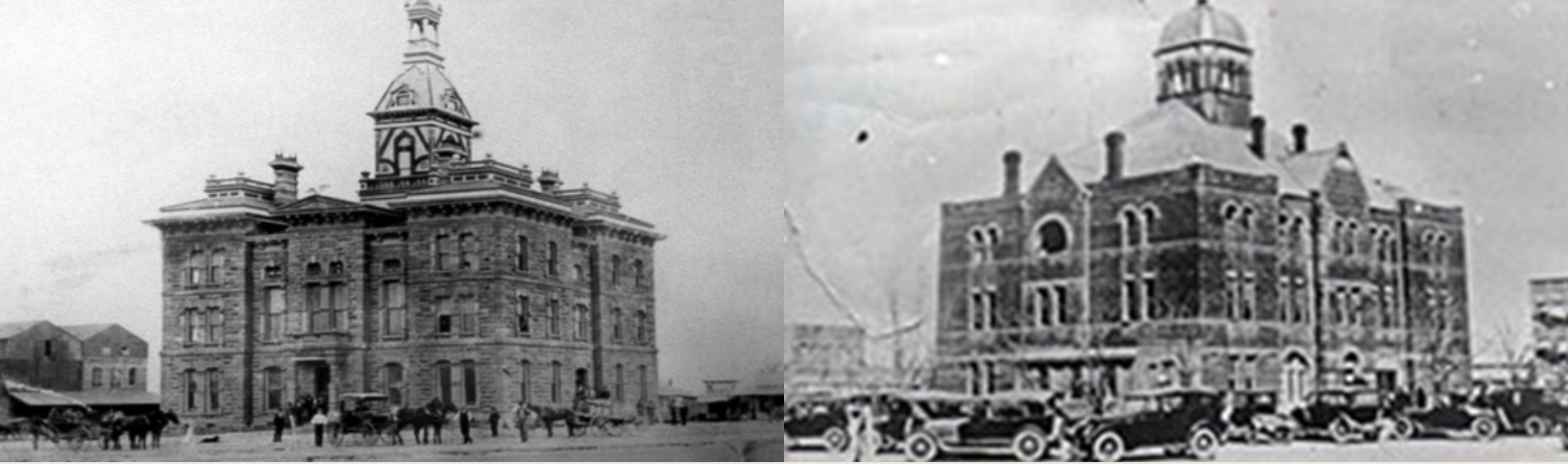
FRONTIER HERO

Eastland's military career began during the turbulent days of Texas' early frontier. From July 25 to September 15, 1835, he served as first lieutenant in a volunteer company led by Col. John H. Moore, engaging in campaigns against the Waco and Tawakoni Tribes. These efforts played a significant role in securing settlements and expanding Texas' frontiers.

LEADERSHIP IN THE TEXAS RANGERS

Beyond frontier battles, Eastland's dedication to Texas' cause was further demonstrated through his service with the Texas Rangers. He not only participated in but also led campaigns during the fight for Texas' independence from Mexico. One such instance occurred in response to Adrián Woll's raid in 1842. Eastland raised and led a company to San Antonio, though they arrived too late to join the Battle of Salado Creek. His forces subsequently joined Col. James R. Cook's First Regiment, Second Brigade, as part of General Alexander Somervell's Army of the Southwest during the Somervell Expedition.

**"FOR MY COUNTRY I HAVE
OFFERED ALL MY EARTHLY
ASPIRATION AND FOR IT I NOW
LAY DOWN MY LIFE."**



The History of Eastland

EASTLAND, TEXAS. Eastland, the county seat of Eastland County, is at the intersection of State Highways 6 and 112, northwest of Interstate Highway 20 on the Missouri Pacific Railroad in the central part of the county.

In 1875 Jacamiah S. Daugherty and Charles U. Connellee purchased land on the C. S. Betts survey and platted a townsite. County voters opted to move the county seat from Merriman to the newly planted site, as it was closer to the center of the county. The new community was named Eastland.

Connellee, Daugherty, J. B. Ammerman, and others built a stone courthouse, and the county commissioners court held its first session in the town in September of 1875. By January of 1876 the population was estimated at 250. The first public school was taught in the community in 1877, and Methodist, Baptist, and Christian churches were soon organized.

The city's growth was assured when, in 1880, the Texas and Pacific Railway was given a number of town lots to build through the community. Eastland Independent School District was established in 1882, and a second courthouse of red stone was constructed in 1883. By 1884 Eastland had three churches, a school, a flouring mill, two cotton gins, and an estimated 500 inhabitants. Among the early newspapers in the town were the Anchor and the Chronicle. Eastland was incorporated for the first time on June 6, 1891, with W Q. Connellee as the first mayor and for the second time on April 6, 1897, with June Kimble as mayor. The second courthouse was destroyed by fire in 1896, and a third courthouse was built the following year.

A horned lizard, later to become famous as "Old Rip," was supposedly placed in the cornerstone. When the third and final courthouse was erected in 1928, the cornerstone was opened, and the toad was found to have miraculously survived. Though many doubted the toad's authenticity, he (and eventually his remains) got quite a bit of state and even national publicity and became an important part of town and county lore.

Eastland grew slowly in the first decades of the twentieth century, reaching 596 inhabitants in 1900 and 855 in 1910. By 1914 the community had two banks, telephone service, and a public Library. The local economy was heavily dependent on cotton. Eastland County experienced a dramatic oil boom from 1917 to 1922, and the city of Eastland grew rapidly, though not as rapidly as other communities in the county, notably Ranger and Desdemona. Eastland population increased fourfold between 1910 and 1920, reaching 3,368 in 1920, though some estimates claim that there were as many as 10,000 people in the town during the height of the boom in 1919.

The town's prosperity in the 1920s helped fund city improvements like the new courthouse, a new high school, and the paving of city streets. The community reached its peak census population in 1930 with 4,648 inhabitants. Thereafter the city began a slow decline, falling to 3,849 inhabitants in 1940, 3,606 in 1950, and 3,178 in 1970. The community experienced some small-scale growth in the 1970s, as the number of businesses increased from 78 in 1972 to 154 in 1982, and the population increased to 3,747 in 1980. In 1990 Eastland had a population of 3,690 and in 2010, the population was 3,960. In 2020, Eastland's population has dipped slightly over the last decade to 3,836. The local economy depends on county government, agribusiness, and several manufacturing plants.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Ruby Pearl Ghormley, Eastland County, Texas: A Historical and Biographical Survey (Austin: Rupegy, 1969). The History of Eastland County, 1873-1973.

Photo by Dove Aerial Services



THE STORY OF OLD RIP



In 1887, during the construction of the original Eastland County Courthouse, a time capsule filled with items contributed by community members was sealed in its cornerstone to be uncovered by future generations.

When the courthouse was rebuilt in 1928, the time came to open the cornerstone. A crowd of 3,000 gathered eagerly to witness the unveiling of the 31-year-old time capsule. As items were removed, one discovery left the crowd awestruck and forever changed the story of Eastland.

Inside the capsule, they found a small horned toad, placed there decades earlier by a child. Flat and dusty, the toad appeared lifeless. But to everyone's amazement, when lifted from the box, the horned toad was still alive! His survival has been credited to the presence of a Bible and a bottle of whiskey found in the capsule alongside him. As locals say, "He was kept alive by whiskey and the Word of God!"

The toad was named "Old Rip," after Washington Irving's "Rip Van Winkle", and he quickly became a national sensation. During his extraordinary life, Old Rip toured the United States, captivating audiences and even meeting President Calvin Coolidge.

Sadly, just eleven months after his miraculous resurrection, Old Rip contracted pneumonia and passed away. His body was carefully embalmed and placed in a tiny, velvet-lined casket with a glass lid. Today, visitors can view Old Rip at the Eastland County Courthouse. His casket is honorably displayed in a special window on the Main Street side of the building.

Old Rip's legacy has lived on for nearly a century, celebrated and remembered in numerous ways. He has been featured in television specials and documentaries, including Ripley's Believe It or Not and an award-winning Australian Documentary.

Each year, Eastland honors Old Rip with RipFest, held on the first Saturday in October. The festival is a vibrant celebration featuring food trucks, vendors, a grand parade, an art competition, a car show, and a 5K run.

In Eastland, we don't just tell Old Rip's story - we celebrate it - preserving his remarkable legacy for generations to come.



THE OLD RIP OATH

The Old Rip Oath, written by H.V. O'Brien—founder of Eastland County Today—is a solemn pledge to uphold and defend the legendary tale of Old Rip, Eastland's most enduring symbol of resilience. To speak the oath is to become a keeper of the story—faithful, unwavering, and proud.

WITH YOUR RIGHT HAND RAISED AND, IF IN AGREEMENT, STATE THE FOLLOWING:

I DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR, THAT I WILL FAITHFULLY
EXECUTE, THE OFFICE OF OLD RIP PROMOTER,
AND WILL TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY, PROMOTE,
PROTECT, AND DEFEND, TO DEATH, THE TRUTH OF
THE STORY OF OLD RIP.

SO, HELP ME, GOD.

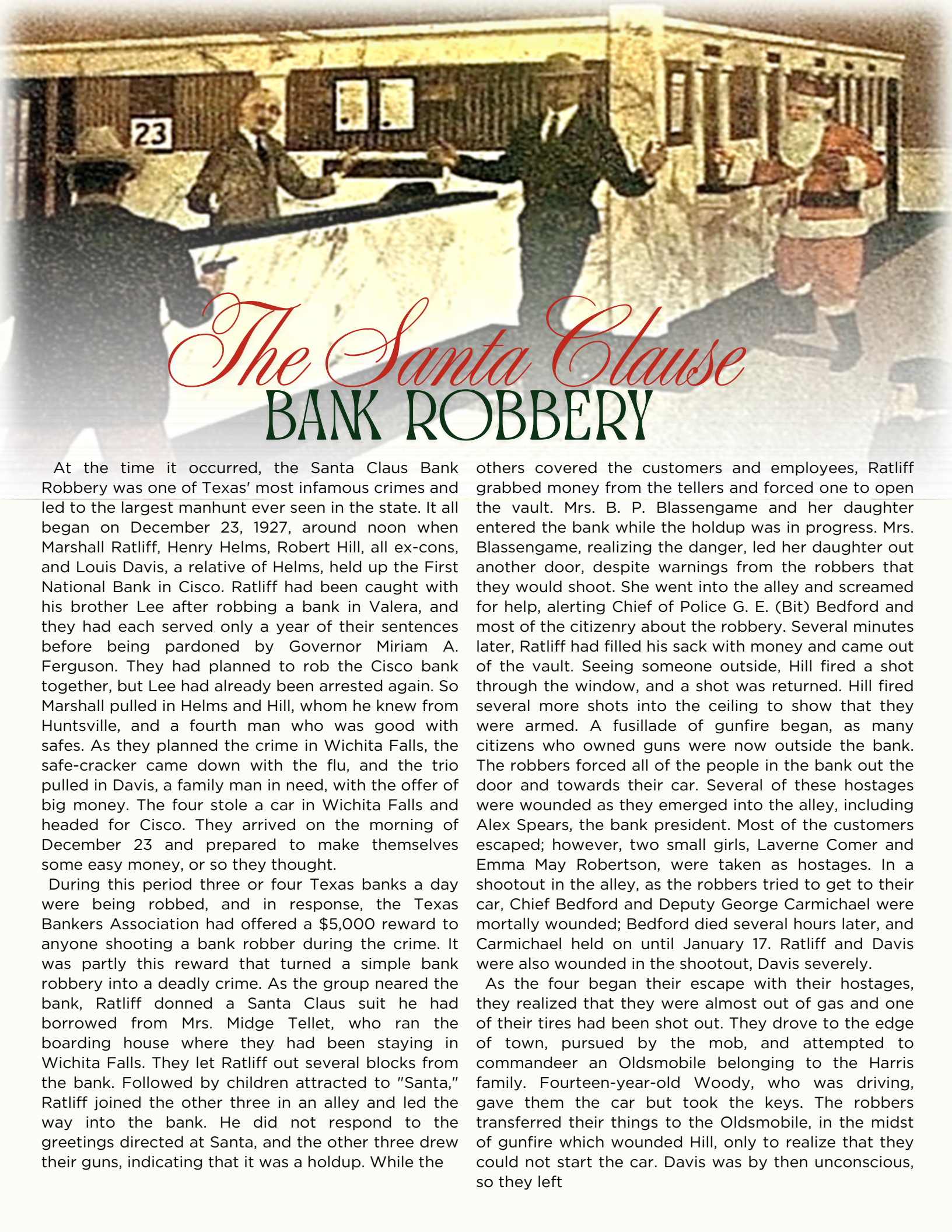
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Pictured above: H.V. O'Brien and his grandson, Levi Freeman, lead The Old Rip Oath at The Golden Deeds Award Banquet



The Santa Clause BANK ROBBERY

At the time it occurred, the Santa Claus Bank Robbery was one of Texas' most infamous crimes and led to the largest manhunt ever seen in the state. It all began on December 23, 1927, around noon when Marshall Ratliff, Henry Helms, Robert Hill, all ex-cons, and Louis Davis, a relative of Helms, held up the First National Bank in Cisco. Ratliff had been caught with his brother Lee after robbing a bank in Valera, and they had each served only a year of their sentences before being pardoned by Governor Miriam A. Ferguson. They had planned to rob the Cisco bank together, but Lee had already been arrested again. So Marshall pulled in Helms and Hill, whom he knew from Huntsville, and a fourth man who was good with safes. As they planned the crime in Wichita Falls, the safe-cracker came down with the flu, and the trio pulled in Davis, a family man in need, with the offer of big money. The four stole a car in Wichita Falls and headed for Cisco. They arrived on the morning of December 23 and prepared to make themselves some easy money, or so they thought.

During this period three or four Texas banks a day were being robbed, and in response, the Texas Bankers Association had offered a \$5,000 reward to anyone shooting a bank robber during the crime. It was partly this reward that turned a simple bank robbery into a deadly crime. As the group neared the bank, Ratliff donned a Santa Claus suit he had borrowed from Mrs. Midge Tellet, who ran the boarding house where they had been staying in Wichita Falls. They let Ratliff out several blocks from the bank. Followed by children attracted to "Santa," Ratliff joined the other three in an alley and led the way into the bank. He did not respond to the greetings directed at Santa, and the other three drew their guns, indicating that it was a holdup. While the

others covered the customers and employees, Ratliff grabbed money from the tellers and forced one to open the vault. Mrs. B. P. Blassengame and her daughter entered the bank while the holdup was in progress. Mrs. Blassengame, realizing the danger, led her daughter out another door, despite warnings from the robbers that they would shoot. She went into the alley and screamed for help, alerting Chief of Police G. E. (Bit) Bedford and most of the citizenry about the robbery. Several minutes later, Ratliff had filled his sack with money and came out of the vault. Seeing someone outside, Hill fired a shot through the window, and a shot was returned. Hill fired several more shots into the ceiling to show that they were armed. A fusillade of gunfire began, as many citizens who owned guns were now outside the bank. The robbers forced all of the people in the bank out the door and towards their car. Several of these hostages were wounded as they emerged into the alley, including Alex Spears, the bank president. Most of the customers escaped; however, two small girls, Laverne Comer and Emma May Robertson, were taken as hostages. In a shootout in the alley, as the robbers tried to get to their car, Chief Bedford and Deputy George Carmichael were mortally wounded; Bedford died several hours later, and Carmichael held on until January 17. Ratliff and Davis were also wounded in the shootout, Davis severely.

As the four began their escape with their hostages, they realized that they were almost out of gas and one of their tires had been shot out. They drove to the edge of town, pursued by the mob, and attempted to commandeer an Oldsmobile belonging to the Harris family. Fourteen-year-old Woody, who was driving, gave them the car but took the keys. The robbers transferred their things to the Oldsmobile, in the midst of gunfire which wounded Hill, only to realize that they could not start the car. Davis was by then unconscious, so they left

him in the car and moved back to the first car with their two hostages. They did not realize until later that they had left the money with Davis. The mob found Davis and the money and temporarily gave up the chase. The money was returned to the bank. They had stolen \$12,400 in cash and \$150,00 in nonnegotiable securities. Estimates were made that there were at least 200 bullet holes in the bank, a number which many thought too low. Besides the two police officers, there had been six townspeople wounded in the shootout, but no one was sure whether the robbers or the mob was responsible. Davis died that night at a Fort Worth hospital.

The robbers abandoned the bullet-ridden car and the two girls several miles from town and continued on foot. They stole another car the next morning and managed to evade the search parties for a while, until they wrecked the car near Putnam. They commandeered a vehicle driven by Carl Wylie, forcing him to drive and taking him hostage for twenty-four hours. They then let Wylie have his car back and stole another car. The two wounded men, especially Ratliff, were doing very poorly due to their wounds, lack of food, and the icy, sleeting conditions. Eventually, the threesome was ambushed by Sheriff Foster of Young County at South Bend as they tried to cross the Brazos River. Another car chase followed, with a shootout in a field as the three tried to make their escape. Cy Bradford, a Texas Ranger^{qv}, was involved in the firefight, and it is rumored that he hit all three men. Ratliff was hit and fell to the ground. Helms and Hill were both wounded, but they managed to escape into the woods. Several days later, after dodging an intense manhunt assisted by an airplane, the two made it into Graham and were taken into custody by lawmen without a fight. Two more men had been wounded in the manhunt from accidental discharge of their weapons, bringing the total number of wounded to eight, excluding the three surviving robbers.

Helms, Hill, and Ratliff had several wounds apiece and had not eaten for days. All survived however, and soon faced trials. Hill pleaded guilty to armed robbery, took the stand on his own behalf, and in March was sentenced to 99 years in prison. He escaped from prison three times but was recaptured each time. After settling down, he was paroled in the mid-1940s, changed his name, and became a productive citizen. Helms was identified as the one who had gunned down both lawmen and was given the death sentence in late February. After an unsuccessful insanity plea, he was executed by electric chair on September 6, 1929. Ratliff was first convicted of armed robbery on January 27, 1928 and sentenced to 99 years in prison. On March 30 he was sentenced to execution for his role in the

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deaths of Bedford and Carmichael, although no one could testify to having seen him fire a gun in the bank. Ratliff appealed his case and, when that failed, went for an insanity plea. He had begun acting insane the day that Helms was executed, & thoroughly convinced his jailers that he was. His mother, Rilla Carter, filed for a lunacy hearing in Huntsville. However, the citizens of Eastland County were infuriated that he had not been executed yet, and even further aggravated to know that Ratliff was attempting the insanity plea. Judge Davenport issued a bench warrant for an armed robbery charge, for stealing the Harris car, and extradited Ratliff to the Eastland County jail. There Ratliff convinced his jailers, Pack Kilbourn and Tom Jones, that he really was insane, as they had to feed him, bathe him, and take him to the toilet. On November 18 Ratliff attempted to escape, mortally wounding Tom Jones in the attempt. A crowd began to gather the next morning and by nightfall had grown to over 1,000. They began demanding Ratliff. Kilbourn refused but was overpowered, and the mob rushed in and found Ratliff. Dragging him out, they tied his hands and feet and headed for a nearby power pole. The first attempt to hang him failed when the knot came loose and he fell to the ground. The second time, however, the knot did not come undone. Ratliff was pronounced dead at 9:55 P.M. on November 19. Jones died that evening, bringing the total number of dead, including three bank robbers, to six. No one was ever tried in association with the lynching, although a grand jury was formed. Several thousand persons viewed Ratliff's body the next day at a furniture store in Eastland before Judge Garrett ordered the corpse locked up. Ratliff's family took possession of the body and arranged for a funeral in Fort Worth, with burial at Olivet Cemetery. Many people in Cisco over the years have claimed to have been present at the robbery or related to someone who was, and it is now a part of local folklore. The First National Bank still stands in Cisco, although it is in a new building. It features a painting of the robbery, as well as a collection of newspaper clippings and pictures of those involved. In 1967 the Texas State Historical Survey Committee (now the Texas Historical Commission) placed a medallion on the bank commemorating the robbery.

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The True Doc Scurlock Story

Frontier Legend's Resting Place in Peaceful Eastland County

By: Viola Payne (Eastland County Newspaper 1989)



The grave of William H. Bonney, alias Billy The Kid, lies in an old Fort Sumner Cemetery seven miles southeast of Fort Sumner, New Mexico. He is buried between two associates – Tom O'Folliard and Charlie Bowdre – who died several months earlier than The Kid's death at the hands of Sheriff Pat Garrett on July 14, 1881. A granite headstone marks the resting place of Bonney and his friends. Although, there is a lesser-known pal of Billy The Kid that is buried in Eastland County.

THE KID AURA

There is no way a visitor to Fort Sumner can miss the presence of The Kid's grave, or the aura of this young cowboy/gunman who had a leading part in the Lincoln County War. For Billy The Kid, dead at age 21, has become a mythological figure – a symbol of revolt against a sometimes hypocritical establishment.

A whole tourist industry revolves around this grave and The Kid's legend. People from all over the world turn off the State Highway to travel Billy The Kid Road 3½ miles south. There they may go inside the Old Fort Museum – for \$2 each and view the grave in the white-walled burial ground behind it.

THE GANG

A tourist-promotional group known as the "Billy The Kid Outlaw Gang" operates out of Fort Sumner, assisting with numerous historical events in the area. Some are in Fort Sumner, and others in Lincoln County 150 miles southwest. Every major event in the 1878-1881 Lincoln County War has been written about, debated, and a number of historical markers erected. The town of Lincoln is carefully preserved in Territorial style, with annual Billy The Kid – Pat Garrett celebrations held during the summers.

In spite of international publicity, with books, films, and music based on his life, a lot of controversy, speculation and mystery surrounds Billy The Kid. Josiah G. Scurlock, who knew the answers to most of these questions, lies buried over 400 miles east of Fort Sumner – right here in the Eastland City Cemetery. He shares a marble headstone with his wife, Antonia Herrera Scurlock, the Basque-French girl he married in Lincoln, New Mexico in 1876.

As yet, no tourists are hurrying off the Freeway to visit the grave of Josiah G. Scurlock. There are only visits by family members in the area, or a few friends who remember the pleasant old Irish gentlemen who died in Eastland in 1929. Yet historians of the Lincoln County War will tell you that Josiah G. "Doc" Scurlock was a close associate of Billy The Kid – probably knew him as well as anyone who ever lived.

He and The Kid were in a group called the "Regulators" during the War, sharing the pain and violence of those times.

DOC TOOK PARDON

Their trails began to part when New Mexico Gov. Lew Wallace offered a pardon in 1879 to everyone on both sides of the Lincoln County War. There was one

stipulation for Billy The Kid – he would have to stand trial before he was pardoned. Scurlock and a number of the other Regulators took their pardons and made new lives for themselves – Billy The Kid refused.

A trial in Mesilla, New Mexico and a spectacular jailbreak from the Lincoln County Courthouse were some of The Kid's last adventures. After leaving Lincoln County and Fort Sumner for Texas, Josiah G. Scurlock was very reluctant to tell of his experiences in New Mexico. He related nothing outside the family, and made only brief remarks to family members. He indicated he had enemies who would kill him if they ever found him.

He did say that the law officials in Lincoln County at the time of the War were corrupt, and that he would never stand a fair chance with them. So during the rest of his life, he refused any position of prominence, or any situation that would give him public notice.

CONTRASTS

It would be hard to find two people with more contrasting backgrounds than Josiah G. Scurlock and Billy The Kid. They did have an Irish ancestry in common, but Josiah G. came from a settled family in Alabama with means and advantages.

A fierce pride of race, family and person was bred into the Scurlocks. One family member – thought to be Josiah's cousin – died in the Alamo. Daniel, an older brother, fought for the south in the Civil War. He is also buried in the Eastland City Cemetery, along with Josiah and Antonia's son William, his wife Liddie and Josiah's daughter Gladys.

YOUNG DOCTOR

Born in 1850, Josiah showed an interest in medicine when a young man. He studied under a Doctor in Alabama, then went to Charity Hospital in New Orleans to work on his Internship. He was a bright and handsome young man, and made a lot of friends.

Just before his graduation something happened which plunged Josiah into a wild depression. He was in love with a young nurse, and found that she had decided to marry another intern. Josiah left medical school and took a boat for Tampico, Mexico, where he found work treating patients with yellow fever.

By 1871 Scurlock feared he might have tuberculosis, and came back to the United States. He worked briefly for John Chisum, a Texas New Mexico cattle rancher. Chisum, who drove cattle out of Brown County, Texas in 1866, had established a headquarters in the Fort Sumner-Roswell area. At that time, he was reported to have one of the largest holdings of cattle in the world.

Scurlock was still restless, and he drifted over to Arizona. There he met Charlie Bowdre, and they operated a mine and cheese factory for a short while. One of their employees was an engaging youngster known as William H. Bonney, who was on the run from trouble in Silver City. Bonney had a stepfather, W.K. Antrim, who worked in mines around Mogollon. Scurlock took a liking to mild-mannered Bonney, with his ready smile and lightening draw of a gun.

FIRST KILLING

Bonney became involved in a bar-room killing and drifted south into Mexico. Scurlock and Bowdre decided to set up a ranch on the Rio Ruidoso in Lincoln County, New Mexico. After they settled there Scurlock taught school along with his ranching, and also served as a Doctor. There he acquired the nick-name Doc.

Lincoln County had some of the most beautiful scenes anywhere, with high mountain meadows and clear streams tumbling to dry flats near the Pecos River. But an explosive mix of people had converged on this area, and trouble was simmering.

South of the Ruidoso was Apache Indian Reservation, filling a territory supposedly inhabited by their Mountain Gods. Across the rolling grassy hills below the mountains were old-line Spanish and Mexican families, who established ranches there around 1850. To the east lay the vast holdings of John Chisum, the Texan planning to enlarge his territory. Just southwest of Lincoln was Fort Stanton, with U.S. Cavalrymen (sometimes black) and white officers.

THE RING

Business and finance in the town of Lincoln was under the control of a Murphy-Dolan group, financed by Thomas B. Catron, President of the First National Bank of Santa Fe. Catron was leader of the so-called "Santa Fe Ring", a group who exercised control of Territorial politics and manipulated scores of business ventures.

About this time Billy The Kid drifted out of Old Mexico to Mesilla, N.M., and finally to the John Chisum ranch. A large amount of cattle and horse stealing was going on in the territory, and The Kid got a job rounding up and returning Chisum's stolen stock.

When Chisum later decided Billy was a "loose gun" and quit paying him, The Kid allegedly continued to round up Chisum stock – but then he sold them and kept all the money.

A DUEL

About this time Scurlock, according to family tradition, lost his front teeth in a dispute which arose during a card game. He and his opponent fired at the same time, with the bullet entering Scurlock's mouth and coming out the back of his neck without inflicting a fatal wound. The man who fired that bullet is reported to have been less fortunate.

An English nobleman named John Tunstall had a ranch on the Ruidoso, and he and Scurlock became good friends. Billy The Kid hired on as a cowboy for Tunstall, and it was interesting how quickly the educated Englishman and Billy took a liking to each other. For Billy, it was a chance to eat regular meals and attend some of the local dances. There were some mighty pretty girls at the dances, and Billy was a favorite.

Scurlock was probably a favorite too, but he soon dropped out of the competition. He was in love with dark-eyed Antonia Herrera, daughter of a Basques ranch owner. (The Basques came from the border of Spain and France.)

A WIFE

The Scurlocks and Hererras had one thing in-common – each family believed its members were "too good" to marry "just anyone." Fernando Herrera was certain that lovely Antonia, born to his first wife (a French woman, who died young) was far superior to this cowboy stranger.

Doc Scurlock wasn't exactly considered an angel. He was high-spirited and hot-tempered, and there were some warrants out for him on cattle and horse rustling. Herrera liked the bunch of Scurlock ran with better than that other faction of Anglos – but he sure didn't want his daughter mixed up with any of them.

Somehow Scurlock managed to get Antonia to a Catholic Church in Lincoln on October 19, 1876. One story has him riding by the Herrera ranch, pulling her up on a horse and riding off. Others say this was not true. Either way, Antonia's father never really approved of her marriage to Doc Scurlock.

The couple did stay in the Herrera home some after their marriage, however. The final break seems to have come when Scurlock came in one day to find Antonia's stepmother ordering her to do some work.

He declared that "no one is going to make a maid out of my wife!" and moved Antonia and their two small children out of the house.

Although her father fought on the side of the Regulators during the Lincoln County War, Antonia had little personal contact with her family again.

The Lincoln County War was smoldering, with frequent clashes between Tunstall's cowboys and a group of gunmen under the leadership of James Dolan. In 1877 the Lincoln County Bank was organized with John Chisum – President, Alexander McSween (a lawyer) – Vice President, and John Tunstall – Treasurer. This made the Tunstall-McSween-Chisum faction a serious threat to the Murphy-Dolan group.

Local sentiment was about evenly divided between the newcomers and the establishment, and neutrality was about as dangerous as being on one of the sides. Major Murphy used his political influence to have William Brady made Sheriff of Lincoln County.

By Feb. of 1878, a dispute arose over money on an insurance policy Alex McSween had collected for a former partner of Murphy's. Murphy instructed Sheriff Brady to serve a writ of attachment on the property of McSween's partner John Tunstall.

TUNSTALL'S DEATH

On Feb. 18th, an armed and allegedly drunken posse met Tunstall on the road to Lincoln and killed him. Tunstall's cowboy's, including Billy The Kid, swore revenge for Tunstall's death. Before long they had ambushed and killed two members of the posse and killed Brady and another man named Hindeman on the streets of Lincoln. This began five months of violence and bloodshed in which neither side was ever able to claim a victory.

THE REGULATROS

Two days after Tunstall was killed, Scurlock, ranchers George and Frank Coe, Billy The Kid and about then other supporters forcibly evicted the Sheriff's representatives from the Tunstall store and bank and seized control of the property. Styling themselves the Regulators, these friends of Tunstall set out to liquidate the posse they held responsible for his death. There was a swift ride over to a place called Seven Rivers, known to be a hideout for the group involved. Two men, Morton and Baker, were "executed" during this raid.

When word got around of the killing of Morton and Baker, concern settled on the minds of the townspeople. Who would the Tunstall Death Posse find next? On April 5th the Posse engaged Buckshot Roberts in battle at Blazer's Mill on the Mescalero Indian Reservation. Roberts failed to live up to his boast that he would "get" The Kid, but proved he was a tough gunfighter.

THE SPIDER WEB

As the killings continued on both sides, Doc Scurlock had special reason to fear for the safety of his family. His rides with the Regulators had brought down warrants for his arrest from Lincoln all the way to Mesilla. One day he hid Antonia and their two babies in a deep old cellar, using special care to leave the spider-webs across the cover intact. As Antonia sat in the darkness, enemy riders glanced at the cellar cover and decided no one was inside. Later Scurlock slipped Antonia and the children over to Fort Sumner for their protection.

THE SHOWDOWN

The climax of the Lincoln County battles came with a five-day siege of the McSween home in Lincoln. The house was the most luxurious in the territory, consisting of twelve rooms elegantly furnished, including a fine piano. Supporters of the Tunstalls and McSweens had gathered in the home or in positions nearby on the street.

One account says that Doc Scurlock was in a Montano house nearby during the battle. It is known that he was also in the McSween home during some of the worst of the siege. Susan McSween, her sister and two nieces were in the McSween house, with a Lincoln School teacher named Katherine Gates in the Tunstall-McSween store. As the current Sheriff Peppin and his followers gathered for a showdown, Mrs. McSween is reported to have played the piano to veil noise in the house.

Dolan, realizing McSween forces were solidly entrenched, called on Colonel Dudley of the Ninth Cavalry at Fort Sumner for help. He was refused because of an army regulation forbidding troops to assist a civilian posse. But on Friday, July 19 the Colonel rode into town with three companies of soldiers.

It was announced that the military had come to protect the women and children. But – according to most New Mexico historians – the Colonel and his troops simply watched the subsequent burning of the house without taking any action for protective custody.

The women escaped, but the Regulators lost a number of their men, including McSween. The survivors, among them Scurlock and Billy The Kid, regrouped at an abandoned ranch house they often used as a hide-out. On Aug. 5th, they led a successful raid on the herds of the Mescalero Apaches.

Sheriff Peppin was unable to maintain a strong force, and the Regulators were riding in and out of Lincoln without molestation. About the first of September, Doc Scurlock and Bowdre moved to Fort Sumner, a town that had been generally friendly to their cause.

Scurlock went to work for Pete Maxwell, a rancher with large holdings in eastern and northern New Mexico. About the end of that month Lew Wallace, the newly appointed Governor of the Territory, entered upon his official duties. After the murder of Mrs. McSween's lawyer in Lincoln on Feb. 18, 1879, the Gov. decided to go to Lincoln and attempt to settle the continuing War.

PARDONS

His solution was to pardon all people on both sides who would lay down their arms and promise to obey the law. Billy The Kid would be tried and then pardoned. Colonel Dudley at Fort Stanton was to be investigated, and moved from his post.

Although Wallace met with him, Billy The Kid said he did not trust the Courts and could not take the pardon. If he laid down his guns some of his enemies would kill him, he declared.

GONE TO TEXAS

Scurlock took his pardon, and about this time apparently decided to make a break with his New Mexico associates. About October or November of that year, he gave away all his guns – with the exception of one squirrel rifle. He sold a gold mine he owned for \$500 (equivalent \$13,468.15 today) – the man who bought it later resold the mine for \$75,000 (equivalent to \$2,020,222.34 today). He moved his family to Tascosa, in the Panhandle of Texas. There he looked after horses on a mail-hack line, and also hunted wild horses.

During 1880, The Kid, Charlie Bowdre and Tom O'Folliard headed a makeshift group who apparently rustled cattle and horses for a living. They stayed one jump ahead of a young Deputy Sheriff named Pat Garrett, an acquaintance (but not a friend) of Billy The Kid.

SENTENCED TO HANG

In the winter of that year, O'Folliard and Bowdre were killed in Fort Sumner. Billy continued on his old trails, but was captured and tried in Mesilla for a number of murders. In April, he was convicted of the murder of Sheriff Brady of Lincoln, and sentenced to be hanged in Lincoln on May 13, 1881. The Kid was confined in Lincoln in a two-story building formerly occupied by the Murphy-Dolan mercantile firm. Deputy Sheriff Robert Ollinger – a member of the posse which had killed Tunstall – was one of his guards.

The Kid's jailbreak, the killing of two guards and his escape into hiding is now part of the legends which surround Lincoln County. Pat Garrett, who had become Sheriff on Jan. 1 of that year, made no outward sign of pursuit.

TO TASCOSA

The Kid had disappeared. But the Josiah G. Scurlock family knew where he was. According to family stories, he rode into Tascosa to the half-dugout where they lived, and stayed with them until he decided to go back to Fort Sumner.

By that time, the Scurlocks had a third child, a baby named John. During his lifetime, John told his family that "Billy The Kid held me when I was a baby."

In years which followed, John Scurlock also repeated something else he had probably heard from his father: "Billy The Kid never killed a man except in self-defense. He was actually a good and kind person."

Doc Scurlock tried to talk Billy out of going back to Fort Sumner, "You know that Pat Garrett will kill you, Billy." Billy insisted that he must see a certain Mexican girl in Fort Sumner – that would be worth all the trouble of the trip. Besides, Garrett would never face up to him.

AT MAXWELL'S HOUSE

So he rode into Fort Sumner late on July 14th. First, he stopped at the home of a Mexican family near the Fort, then decided to walk over to Pete Maxwell's house in the dark to get some beef to eat. He did not know that Garrett was already in the house, looking for him. Billy's last words were "Quien Es?"

The Scurlocks always felt sure that the "real" Billy The Kid was buried in the grave at Fort Sumner, in spite of occasional rumors to the contrary.

About a year after the Kid's death, the Scurlocks moved to Wilbarger County, near Vernon. Doc practiced medicine on the side and acquired knowledge of French and German from settlers in the area. He took up a wheat farm and in 1893 sold the property. Later the region became one of the large oil fields of Texas.

Eventually, the Scurlocks had ten children – Viola, Josiah G. Junior, John, Ellen, Presley, William, Linda, Gladys, Amy and Lola. From North Texas the Scurlocks moved near Cleburn, where Doc grew cotton and corn and taught Spanish and other subjects at Mehan Business College. From 1899 to 1913, he farmed at Granbury. Antonia Scurlock died at Acton, Texas in 1912.

For several years Doc worked as a bookkeeper for the S.L. Humas Co., a farming concern southeast of Athens. A Dallas newspaper tried to persuade him to write a series of stories on the Lincoln County War, but he was determined to stay clear of his past.

Family stories indicate that Scurlock was a devoted but rather strict father, who expected obedience and hard work from his children. He read extensively, almost entirely from the classics, and urged his family to read good books and get a good education. Such writing as he did was usually confined to poetry.



TO EASTLAND

In 1919, the family moved to Eastland, in Eastland County. Here "Doc" ran a candy store for a few years, just west of where the jail is now. In 1921, he worked for the State Highway Department. In 1925, he retired, living after that with some of his children. As a sideline he wrote book reviews for Students at the University of Texas, charging a small fee.

Josiah G. Scurlock apparently suffered a heart attack on July 25, 1929 and died the same night. After his burial in the Eastland Cemetery the remains of his wife Antonia were removed from Acton to Eastland and buried beside him.

There are a number of Scurlock descendants living in Texas. Among them are Joseph Theodore Scurlock, a grandson, of Breckenridge. Mrs. Mickey Wilson, a

granddaughter, of Hamby, and Marie Tollett, a granddaughter, of Amarillo and Sue Guthrie, also a granddaughter of Amarillo. Mrs. Lucille Stewart of De Leon is another granddaughter. Jodi Scurlock Brumfield of Eastland is a great-granddaughter, and Dona Brumfield (Jodi's daughter) is a great-great granddaughter. Thelma Lewis and Opal Watson of Eastland are other descendants.

Marie Tollett remembers that Grandpa (Doc) did not speak much about his experiences in the Lincoln County War. She learned much of what she knows from "Uncle" Frank and George Coe, whom she met when her parents went to Lincoln County in 1931. The Coe brothers would talk to them for hours about the battles the Regulators were involved in.



AN OLD FRIEND

Marie says she remembers that her parents and brothers and sisters were sitting in a church service when an elderly man tapped her father on the shoulder. John Scurlock stood and embraced his father's close friend, Frank Coe. Both men wept, and Coe told John that he looked just like his father. She said that for the rest of their stay in Lincoln County, Frank Coe kept the family supplied with vegetables from his garden.

In Eastland, Doc Scurlock would walk back and forth to the Library, check out good books for the grandchildren, then take them back. "You'll always be known by the books you read," he declared.

One of the family stories gives some hint of Scurlock's concern over Billy The Kid, and why he had to break with the New Mexico group. "He was a good looking young fellow, happy and easy-going," Scurlock once said. "But I could see he had changed. Toward the end – the last time I saw him – I could see he kinda got into the liking of being an outlaw."

Apparently Scurlock, the intellectual, had a totally different concept of what kind of lifestyle he really wanted.

HIGHLIGHTS ABOUT JOSIAH SCURLOCK

One of the things which makes the story of Josiah G. Scurlock's so interesting is that Scurlock was probably the most educated persons involved with the Regulators. He was about 25 yrs. old when he settled in Lincoln County, and he had far-ranging interests even at that age.

He was a physician, rancher, farmer, expert horseman, gun-fighter, school-teacher, miner, businessman, and poet. Later in life, he also became a linguist and scholar. His grandchildren remember that he "looked like a professor."

Scurlock's early life appears to have included a classic struggle between emotions and reason – with his strong feelings and temper often getting the upper hand. Rejection by a girl he loved in New Orleans set the stage for his long wanderings on the Southwestern frontier. There he came in contact with almost every type of person known to society.

The first mention of Scurlock found in newspapers of that time appears in 1875. The story alleges that he stole three horses, two saddles and a gun from a New Mexican citizen, and made his way to Arizona. (This accusation hardly ties in with the fact that about this time Doc Scurlock went into partnership with Charles Bowdre on a ranch on the Rio Ruidoso).

Scurlock is described in this way: "Twenty-two years of age, between five ft. eight often inches high, light hair, light complexion, front teeth out, writes a very good hand, quick spoken, and usually makes a good impression on first acquaintance."

In Lincoln County, Scurlock tried to defend a side he thought was right. Yet the killings in the war eventually caused him to be tagged as an outlaw. Although he was present at a number of the Regulator fights, it was never proved that he murdered anyone.

Numerous warrants went out for his arrests on various charges, but he usually was "no billed" on the charges or escaped from the local lock-ups. Since Billy The Kid was younger than Scurlock – and had once worked for him – it is probably that Scurlock had a "brotherly" or "fatherly" interest in The Kid.

The Kid probably turned to Scurlock for advice – as much as he turned to anyone. Doc Scurlock was not able to control him all the time, for The Kid sometimes danced around the edge of extinction. But then, so did Scurlock.

One of the happier parts of the Scurlock story is his marriage to Antonia Herrera. Apparently this was a good marriage and an enduring one. The hardships this couple come through can hardly be imagined today.

One interesting domestic sidelight is how Billy The Kid dropped his own activities to help the Scurlocks move to Fort Sumner on Sept. 1, 1878. Antonia and Doc Scurlock had two small children at that time. Fort Sumner, mostly inhabited by Spanish people, was considered a "safe" place for the Scurlocks and others of the Regulators.

Pete Maxwell hired Scurlock to work on his vast ranch. Pete, whose mother was Spanish, had an attractive sister named Paulita. Some historians believe that Paulita Maxwell was the girl Billy The Kid was in love with.

After the Scurlocks moved to Texas their lives must have changed a great deal. Probably some of the old friends visited them occasionally, but neither Antonia or Doc Scurlock ever returned to New Mexico. They worked hard to make a living for their children and "raise them right." Some of these children were fair-haired like the father, and some dark-haired like their mother.

Doc Scurlock seemed to prefer obscurity to any public attention. This trait became almost second nature to him. Photographs show that he would even turn his head sideways to a camera. His picture with daughter Lela is one of the rare times when he faced the camera.

The Scurlock descendants have been generally interested in education, and have excelled in various lines of work. Young men from the family have served in World War I, World War II, and other U.S. conflicts. Family members are active in churches, and none have had any serious trouble with the law. It appears that Josiah G. Scurlock was able to pass on some of his wisdom.

"BLOOD ON THE SADDLE"

Doc Scurlock's great-great-granddaughter, Mica Pharris, wrote "Blood on the Saddle" to help preserve the history and legacy of her family's connection to the notorious outlaw known as Billy the Kid. "Blood on the Saddle" can be purchased at the Eastland County Museum located on the downtown square in Eastland.

PULLING HARD AGAINST THE STREAM

It's in this world I've gained my knowledge
And for it I've had to pay
Although I've never been to College
Yet I've heard the Poets say
Life is like a mighty river
Rolling on from day to day
And we as ships are launched upon it
Some get wrecked and cast away

Refrain

Then do your best for one another
Make this life a pleasant dream
Help a weary careworn brother
Pulling hard against the stream.

-Josiah "Doc" Scurlock



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Follow the Red Brick Roads:

A WALK THROUGH EASTLAND'S HISTORY

Discover history, art, and local flavor on this self-guided stroll through downtown Eastland. Whether you're here for the weekend or just passing through, these nine landmarks offer a perfect blend of the past and present—all within walking distance.



1. EASTLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE HOME OF OLD RIP

At the heart of the square stands the historic 1920 Eastland County Courthouse, a beautiful example of Classical Revival architecture. Inside, you'll find the legendary Old Rip—a horned toad said to have survived 31 years sealed inside a cornerstone. Believe it or not, it's a true Texas tale.

2. AUSTIN MCCLOUD APPELLATE COURT MUSEUM

Once a working courtroom, this carefully preserved space now honors Justice Austin McCloud and Eastland's legal legacy. Step inside to see where real appeals were heard, and explore exhibits detailing the evolution of Texas law.



3. LYRIC ART CENTER

This vibrant arts hub is the new home to the Outdoor Art Museum—a colorful open-air gallery of murals and sculptures—as well as the birthplace Bankhead Community Theatre, a local favorite for live plays, musicals, and youth productions. Creativity thrives here year-round.



Follow the Red Brick Roads:

A WALK THROUGH EASTLAND'S HISTORY

4. EASTLAND COUNTY MUSEUM

Journey through Eastland's rich past at this charming museum filled with photographs, artifacts, and stories from the early frontier days to the oil boom. A must-stop for history buffs.



5. EASTLAND CENTENNIAL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Built to commemorate Eastland's 100th anniversary, this welcoming library offers more than books. Visitors will find great books, a kids corner, free Wi-Fi, and a peaceful place to recharge during your tour.

6. THE GRIMES GARDEN

A short walk from the Old Rip Square, beside the Lumber Yard Event Center, is the beautiful Grimes Garden. With a new pavilion, the Grimes Garden is a great place to sit and relax for a moment. Take a photo with the Old Rip Statue while you're there!



Follow the Red Brick Roads:

A WALK THROUGH EASTLAND'S HISTORY



7. THE CONNELLEE HOTEL

Once a glamorous stop for Bankhead Highway travelers, this beautifully restored 1920s hotel now hosts events and showcases Eastland's golden-era charm. Look for historic photographs and elegant details throughout the building.

8. THE MAJESTIC THEATRE

Still grand after all these years, the Majestic Theatre is a true downtown treasure. This 1920s-era movie house still shows films Friday through Monday, offering a nostalgic night out with a modern twist. Don't miss the original 1940s candy counter and popcorn machine—they're still serving up the same iconic snacks generations of Eastlanders have loved.



9. EASTLAND COUNTY JAILHOUSE

Built in 1897, this stone fortress served as the county jail for nearly a century. It is also where the story of the Santa Clause Bank Robbery came to an end. The building stands as a fascinating piece of local history.

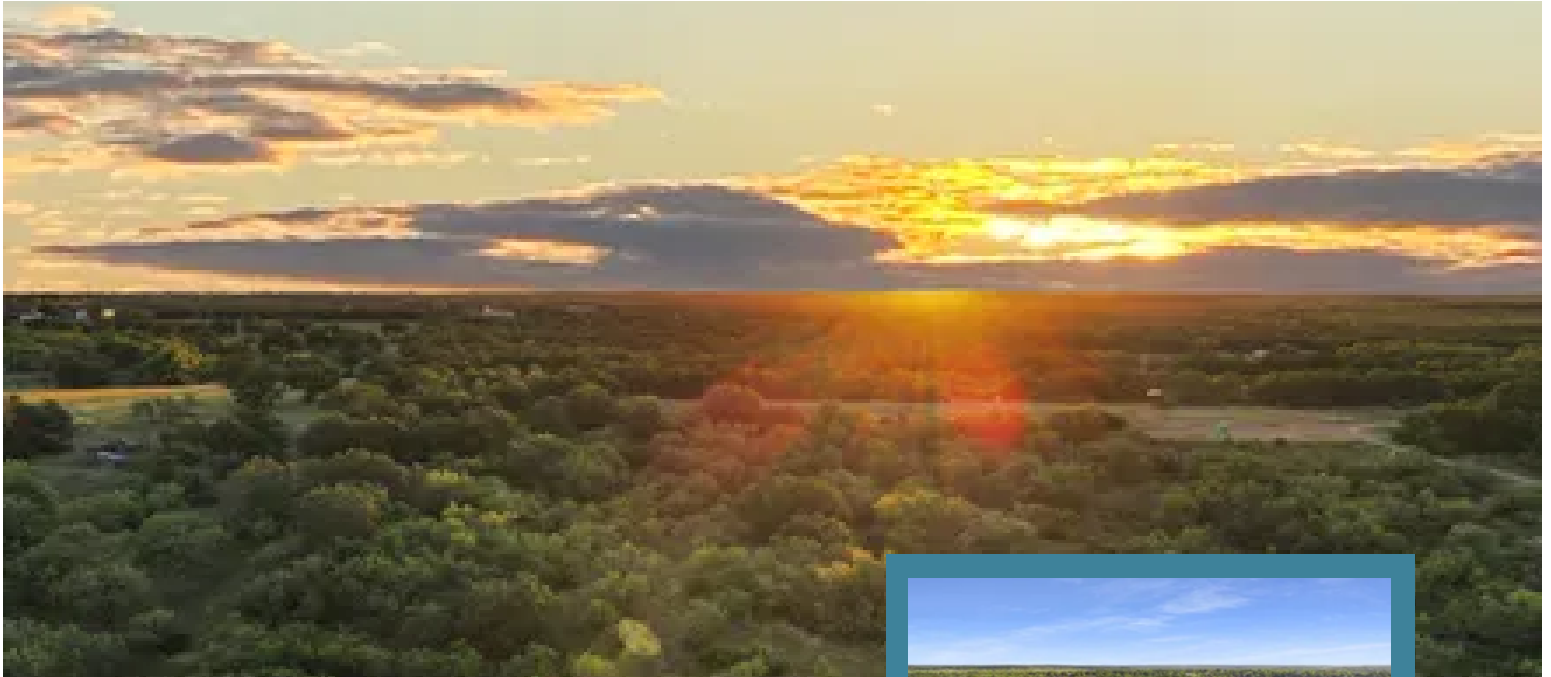


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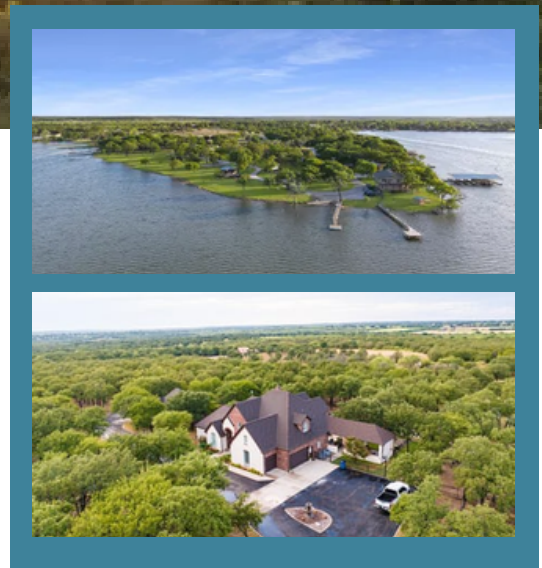
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Nestled atop Park Hill on the southwest side of Eastland, Texas, the Eastland City Park and Pool is a vibrant hub of community activity and recreation. Located conveniently near the intersection of South Niblett and West Plummer Street, this historic park is a favorite destination for residents and visitors alike. Whether you're seeking a fun-filled summer day or a picturesque spot for gatherings, Eastland City Park has something for everyone.

Discover the Charm of Eastland's City Park and Pool

Plan Your Visit

The pool is open from the end of May until the middle of August.

Planning a party or special event? The Eastland City Pool is available for private reservations. Bookings begin in May, so be sure to reserve early to secure your spot. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Eastland City Hall at 254-629-8321.

The Rich History of The Eastland City Park

Built in 1925 as part of a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project, Eastland City Park is steeped in history and serves as the city's primary recreational area. Over the years, it has been the backdrop for countless birthday parties, school picnics, and community events. Its enduring charm is a testament to the care and dedication of the Eastland community.

Modern Amenities

Eastland City Park is equipped with facilities to make every visit enjoyable. The park features covered picnic tables, a large barbecue pit, a children's play area, and restrooms. In 2017, significant updates enhanced the park's appeal, including:

- New basketball goals and freshly painted courts.
- A new volleyball net with fresh sand.
- Safety gravel for play areas.
- Beautiful landscaping with new plants.
- A refurbished Lion's Club lion statue, a beloved icon of the park.
- A Handicap swing installed by the Eastland Lion's Club, ensuring accessibility for all visitors.

Cool Off at the Pool and Splash Pad

The Eastland City Pool, a standout attraction, offers a refreshing escape from the Texas heat.

Adjacent to the pool is a splash pad-style water park, perfect for children to enjoy hours of safe and exciting water play. The pool area also boasts a concession stand with a variety of snacks and drinks, picnic tables, and a large grassy area for sunbathing or relaxing.

Commitment to Safety

Lifeguards are always on duty during regular pool hours, ensuring a safe environment for all visitors. For added safety, non-swimming children are given wristbands to alert lifeguards and other swimmers when they enter deeper water. This innovative program underscores the park's commitment to providing a secure and enjoyable experience for everyone.

A Century of Service and a Vision for the Future

EASTLAND LION'S CLUB



For over 100 years, the Eastland Lions Club has been a driving force for good in our community. They build wheelchair ramps for homes, raise funds to send kids to camp, and take on projects that improve the lives of Eastland residents in countless ways. They do a lot — but when it comes down to it, the mission is always the same. As member Nakkita McBride put it:

“To serve. That’s our goal. That’s what we do. It’s as simple as that. Our mission is to serve.”

This year, their focus has turned once again to a project rooted in their history — the Eastland City Park. The Lions were among the groups that helped bring the park to life when it first opened in 1929, and now, nearly a century later, they are helping it shine again.

Recently, the club unveiled the Kenneth Chapman Pavilion, a spacious and inviting covered area that provides shaded picnic tables for families and friends to gather. Named in honor of the late Ken Chapman — a devoted Lion, community leader, and champion for Eastland’s future — the pavilion stands as a lasting tribute to his legacy of service.



But the Lions aren’t stopping there. Their next big project is already in motion: an inclusive playground designed so that children of all abilities can play side by side. The playground will feature ramps that make it possible for kids with mobility challenges or visual impairments to reach every level of the equipment. And unlike the original park’s green-and-brown play area, this new playground will burst with bright, cheerful colors — a joyful sight through the trees and a welcoming invitation for laughter and fun.

Set to open in spring, the new playground will ensure that Eastland City Park continues to be a place where everyone can make memories. Every bit of this work — from the pavilion to the playground — is made possible through the generosity of local sponsors, individual donors, and the support of the City of Eastland.

The Lions Club is more than a service group — they are a vital thread in the fabric of Eastland, giving time, resources, and heart to projects that benefit everyone. If you’d like to be part of this tradition of service, the Lions Club meets every Tuesday at noon at La Quinta. For more information, contact Lions Club President Bill Moore at 325-207-9148.



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THE LYRIC ART CENTER

A REVIVAL OF THE ARTS IN EASTLAND COUNTY



Nestled in the heart of downtown Eastland, Texas, the Lyric Art Center is a testament to the power of a dream and the generosity of a visionary benefactor. This historic venue has become a cornerstone of community arts and culture, offering a vibrant space for performances, creativity, and connection.

The story of the Lyric Art Center begins with Bill Bradley, who purchased a large building in Eastland's downtown area in 2004. The structure had a rich history, having once housed The Lyric, a bustling movie theater in the 1930s. Bradley saw potential in the old building, envisioning it not just as a nod to its cinematic past but as a reimagined venue for the arts and a hub for the community.

By 2008, Bradley's vision took a significant step forward when the Lyric Art Center became a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. This status marked the beginning of an ambitious journey to renovate and restore the building, transforming it into a state-of-the-art performance space. The original neon letters spelling "LYRIC" were preserved on the front of the building, paying homage to the theater's historical roots.

Further improvements came in 2019, with the addition of bathrooms and a kitchenette to enhance the facility's functionality. Like many organizations, the Lyric faced challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, which temporarily paused its activities. However, by 2022, the Lyric Board of Directors, led by President Anna Ford, reignited efforts to cultivate a vibrant community within the art center. New initiatives, such as paint-and-sip events and art walks brought fresh energy to the venue.

In 2023, the Lyric expanded its outreach by establishing Eastland's first community theater in 30 years, the Bankhead Community Theatre. The following year, the Lyric took on the revival of the beloved Outdoor Art Museum. With over 5,000 hours of volunteer work contributed in 2024 by dedicated individuals from towns spanning from Ranger, to Abilene, to DeLeon, the Lyric has cemented its role as a vital part of the arts scene in Eastland County.

Today, the Lyric Art Center stands as a symbol of Eastland's dedication to preserving its heritage while fostering a thriving arts scene. Its stage hosts a variety of performances, from theatrical productions to live music and community events, drawing audiences from across the state. The center also serves as a space for workshops, art exhibits, and educational programs, ensuring that the arts remain accessible to all.

Visitors to Eastland will find the Lyric Art Center to be a charming and inspiring destination. Its historical significance, combined with its role as a beacon of creativity, makes it a must-visit for anyone exploring this vibrant Texas town.



Bankhead Community Theatre



A BRAVE SPACE AT THE LYRIC

FOSTERING A SPACE WHERE PEOPLE FEEL INCLUDED,
HEARD, AND INSPIRED

Founded in 2023 in association with the Lyric Art Center, Bankhead Community Theatre (BCT) has quickly become a cultural pillar in Eastland County. The journey began in May 2023, when the Lyric Board of Directors hosted a community theatre interest meeting. The response was overwhelming, and within a week, the Board appointed a passionate artistic director—a 22-year-old Cisco native who had recently earned her BFA in Acting. With her leadership and the hard work of a few devoted volunteers, the foundation for BCT was laid, and the team began preparing for their first production.

Just two months later, BCT debuted with their inaugural performance: Shakespeare in the Park. The production featured a collection of scenes and monologues from William Shakespeare's works, performed against the picturesque backdrop of the vintage train car at Hilton Park in Cisco. With over 100 tickets sold on both nights, it became evident that the community not only wanted but craved theatre. Inspired by this success, the volunteers at Bankhead Community Theatre committed themselves to reviving and sustaining the performing arts in Eastland County.

A Thriving Program at the Lyric Art Center

Since its inception, BCT has flourished as an integral program of the Lyric Art Center. Hosting a diverse range of events—including a spring production, a fall production, an annual Shakespeare in the Park, a Young Thespians Camp, and theatrical workshops—BCT showcases local talent and delivers high-quality productions to the Eastland County community.

The theatre continues to grow, attracting dedicated volunteers to Eastland from across Eastland, Callahan, Comanche, Shackelford, and Taylor Counties. Bankhead enthusiastically welcomes new artists and theatre lovers to join as cast members or behind-the-scenes crew, ensuring that every production is a collaborative celebration of creativity and passion.

Expanding Accessibility

In the fall of 2024, Bankhead Community Theatre took an important step toward inclusivity by introducing Sensory-Friendly Performances. These specialized performances are designed to accommodate audience members with sensory sensitivities, creating a welcoming and comfortable environment for everyone. This initiative underscores BCT's mission to make theatre accessible to all, fostering a space where people feel included, heard, and inspired.

A Mission Rooted in Community

Bankhead Community Theatre's mission is clear: to bring the joy and transformative power of theatre to all corners of Eastland County. By creating a brave space for creativity and connection, BCT has not only reignited a love for theatre but has also enriched the lives of its community members. As BCT continues to grow, their dedication to inclusivity, education, and artistic excellence ensures that the arts will remain a vital part of Eastland County for years to come. Whether through a captivating performance under the stars or a workshop that nurtures budding talent, Bankhead Community Theatre is proving that the stage truly is a place for everyone.

THE CONTINUATION AND RESTORATION OF THE OUTDOOR ART MUSEUM

In the heart of Eastland, Texas, a captivating blend of art, education, and community spirit has taken shape over the years. It all began with the visionary creativity of Cathi Ball, a local artist and arts educator, who, along with Norman Logan, Eastland High School art students, and dedicated volunteers, transformed a 210-barrel oilfield tank into an iconic work of art: a giant can of Campbell's tomato soup. This striking homage to Pop Art pioneer Andy Warhol has become affectionately known as "the big can of soup" and serves as the cornerstone of Eastland's unique Outdoor Art Museum.



A Vision for Art and Education

The Outdoor Art Museum (OAM) was born out of a desire to bring art history and education to a small community without a permanent facility for art. Cathi Ball envisioned a space where art could not only be appreciated but also teach and inspire. Collaborating with local businesses, the OAM installed recreations of famous artworks on building exteriors, carefully selecting pieces that complemented the theme of each business. Painted on 4-foot by 8-foot sheets of plywood, these artworks included hand-painted text detailing the original artist, a brief biography, and the artwork's significance in art history.

The museum's location—facing public streets—allowed free access to all and turned viewing into a scavenger hunt-like experience for residents and visitors alike. The concept proved a resounding success, drawing on the talents of Eastland High School art students, inspiring community involvement, and fostering a deeper appreciation for art.

A Community Effort

By 2005, the OAM featured 42 artworks, with contributions from 114 volunteers who devoted their time, energy, and resources to the project. The Soup Can itself has become a symbol of the initiative's success, repainted multiple times over the years to maintain its vibrancy. However, exposure to the elements has taken its toll on many of the artworks, prompting a renewed effort to restore and expand this beloved community treasure.



A New Chapter with The Lyric

With Cathi Ball's blessing, The Lyric is proud to incorporate the Outdoor Art Museum into its programming, breathing new life into the project. A dedicated subcommittee has already begun meeting to connect with current business owners, survey the condition of existing artworks, and plan restoration workdays.

Be Part of the Legacy

The Outdoor Art Museum is more than a collection of artworks; it is a testament to Eastland's vibrant community spirit and love for art. Whether you're picking up a paintbrush for the first time or reliving fond memories of the museum's beginnings, there's a place for you in this ongoing masterpiece.

Email lyricartcenter@gmail.com today to get involved and help ensure the OAM continues to inspire for generations to come.

One Corner. One Couple.

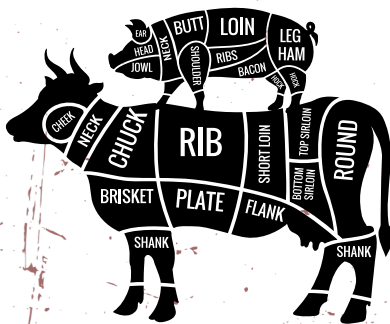
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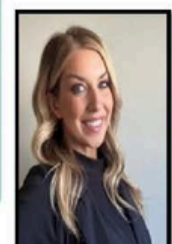
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THE MAJESTIC THEATRE

A LIVING LEGACY

A beloved spot for locals and a unique find for tourists, this historic movie house has continued to capture hearts, offering a timeless escape and a strong sense of community.





In Eastland, Texas, the Majestic Theatre stands as a shining testament to the city's rich history and vibrant community spirit. Originally opened in 1920 as the Connellee Theatre, this grand venue was the vision of town founder C.U. Connellee, constructed during Eastland's oil boom heyday when the town's population flourished. The theatre quickly became a cultural hub, seating over 1,000 people and hosting elaborate stage productions and silent films. Its amenities, such as a spacious orchestra pit, a 50-foot fly space for scenery, and mezzanine-level shops, reflected the prosperity of the times. Productions like *Blossom Time* and *The Vagabond King* graced its stage, while local musicians brought silent films to life with live accompaniment.

A New Era: The Majestic Transformation

In 1946, the theatre underwent a dramatic transformation when the Interstate Theatre chain took over and renamed it the Majestic Theatre. A sleek Art Deco redesign modernized the venue, with curving walls, recessed lighting, and a cowboy-themed mural. Seating was reduced to 850 for comfort, and the grand reopening in 1947 featured the film *Margie*. The celebration included congratulatory messages from Hollywood stars and a rooftop gala atop the neighboring Connellee Hotel.

www.majesticeastland.com



From Closure to Revival

Despite its early success, the Majestic faced challenges as television and home entertainment grew in popularity. By the 1980s, it had closed its doors, but Eastland's residents refused to let it fade into history. In 1987, the city, with support from the Whittington family and local civic organizations, purchased the theatre and rallied volunteers to restore it. Thousands of hours went into refurbishing the space, from recovering seats to repairing the stage and installing new curtains funded by the Hobitzelle Foundation.

A Living Legacy

When you step into The Majestic Theatre in Eastland, Texas, it's like stepping back in time to 1947. The moment you enter, you're greeted with a warm smile from friendly volunteers, ready to make you feel right at home. Grab a local favorite - a bag of fresh popcorn from the vintage concession stand - then settle into the newly renovated seats for a cozy, nostalgic experience. As you look up at the iconic Cowboy Murals on either side of the auditorium, see if you can spot the one small difference between the two! For an even more immersive journey through history, take a trip up to the balcony and enjoy the collection of memorabilia that brings the theater's past to life. Whether it's your first visit or your hundredth, The Majestic Theatre always makes you feel like part of the community.

The Connellee Hotel

EASTLAND'S HISTORICAL GEM

The Connellee Hotel is more than just a building; it is a testament to Eastland's rich history and enduring charm. From the original checkerboard flooring to the timeless reception desk, the Connellee is a stunning venue for hosting events. The grand piano and vintage telephone booths add a layer of nostalgia, each telling a story from the past.

A VISION REALIZED

Charles Ulrich Connellee, one of Eastland's founding fathers, envisioned creating a grand hotel to meet the needs of the bustling oil boomtown. Located along Old Highway 80, which was once the main thoroughfare through Eastland, the town thrived as a hotspot of activity.

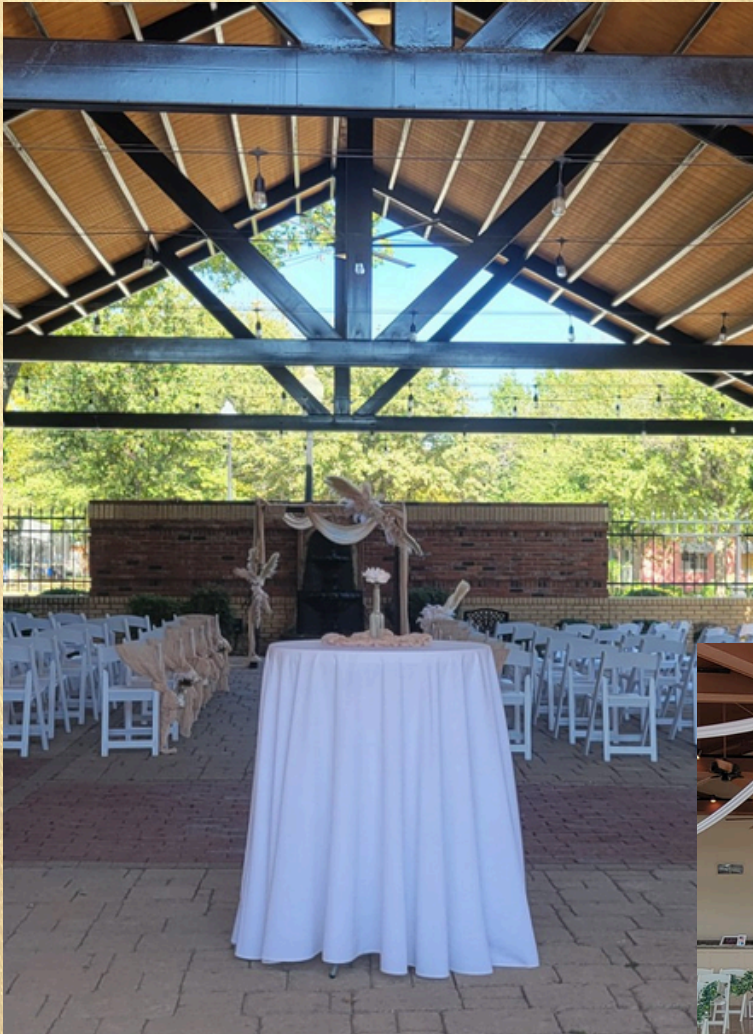
In 1928, Connellee's dream came true with the opening of the Connellee Hotel, a 100-room marvel where every room boasted a private bathroom—a luxury virtually unheard of at the time. At the grand opening, Connellee himself remarked, "This is the proudest moment of my life; it is my dream come true!" The hotel's first floor featured a restaurant that served free coffee, a welcoming gesture that remained a tradition until the hotel's closure in the 1970s.

A JOURNEY OF PRESERVATION

Despite its initial success, the Connellee's fortunes declined with the construction of Interstate 20, which diverted traffic away from downtown Eastland. By the 1970s, the building's aging infrastructure led to its closure. However, the hotel's story didn't end there. Mabel Grimes Bradley, an alumna who attended her senior prom at the Connellee in 1953, dreamed of reviving the landmark for her 50th class reunion. In 2004, she and her husband Bill founded the Eastland Community Foundation to spearhead the hotel's renovation.



Through their efforts, the ballroom on the eighth floor, the East and West rooms, and the lobby were meticulously restored. The addition of the Grimes Memorial Garden, a beautiful outdoor space dedicated to Mabel's grandparents, further enhanced the venue. Just in time for the Bradleys' class reunion, the Connellee reopened, reclaiming its status as a cherished Eastland landmark. Today, the Eastland Community Foundation holds a 50-year lease on the building, ensuring its preservation and day-to-day operations.



“THIS IS THE PROUDEST
MOMENT OF MY LIFE; IT IS MY
DREAM COME TRUE!”

A MODERN RENAISSANCE

Standing eight stories tall, the Connellee remains Eastland’s tallest building, serving as a versatile venue for a variety of purposes. The first floor houses the Eastland Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau, along with a historical lobby, caterer’s kitchen, and the East and West rooms for showers, luncheons, and business meetings. The seventh floor is home to the Eastland Community Foundation, the Eastland Economic Development Corporation, and private offices. Meanwhile, the grand eighth-floor ballroom continues to host receptions, proms, banquets, private parties, and business conferences. Floors two through six are currently undergoing renovations, with exciting plans for future use. The Connellee Civic Center, featuring the newly covered pavilion at Grimes Memorial Garden, is part of the Lumber Yard Event Center.



With its rustic charm, seating for up to 250 guests, a kitchen area, and other amenities, it provides everything you need to make your event a great success.

VISIT THE CONNELLEE

Whether you’re looking to host an unforgettable event or simply immerse yourself in Eastland’s history, the Connellee Hotel is a must-visit destination. To book a tour or reserve space, contact Debbie Wharton at 254.631.0708. Experience the legacy of the Connellee Hotel—where history and modern elegance meet

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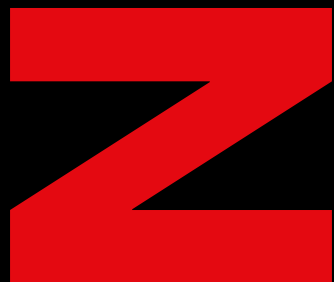
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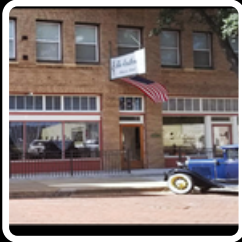
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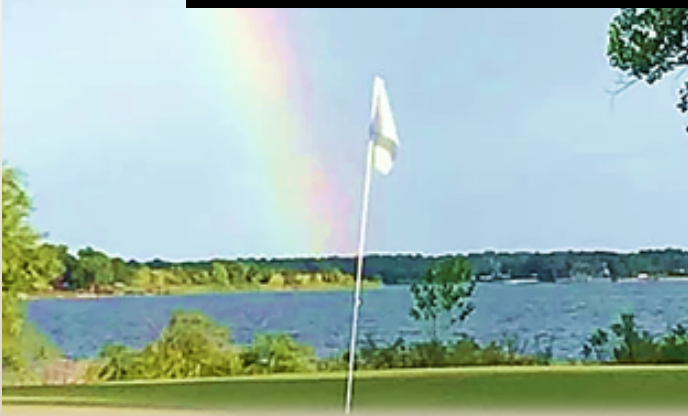
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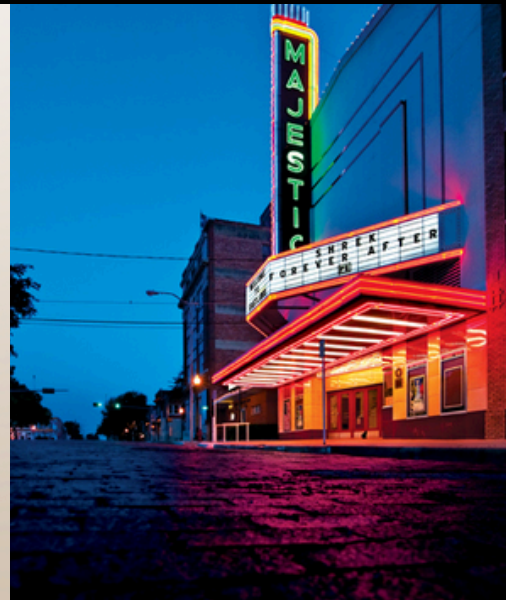
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RipFest

Where Legends Leap and Memories Are Made

Each year, the Eastland Chamber of Commerce rings in the vibrant colors of fall with RipFest, a spectacular celebration held on the first Saturday in October. As Eastland's largest annual event, RipFest draws crowds from all corners of Texas and even beyond state lines. This community-centered festival celebrates Eastland's most famous resident, Old Rip, the legendary horned toad whose story continues to captivate visitors of all ages.

RipFest kicks off bright and early at 8:00 AM with the Miles for Meals 5K & Kids' Fun Run. Hosted by Meals on Wheels of Eastland, this popular event benefits the local program and offers fun for families and fitness enthusiasts alike.



At 11:00 AM, the streets come alive with the Old Rip Parade. Featuring over 60 participants, the parade begins with a display from Dyess Air Force Base and the Hardin-Simmons University Six White Horses. From classic vehicles to creative entries by local organizations, the parade is a can't-miss spectacle.

After the parade, the fun continues at RipFest around the Eastland County Courthouse. With over 100 vendor booths, live entertainment, and the Old Rip Car Show, there's something for everyone. Families can enjoy Kids Street, packed with activities and entertainment for children and those still young at heart.

Food lovers will rejoice at the variety of options, from savory bites to sweet treats. Shoppers can

browse arts and crafts, home décor, jewelry, clothing, and unique Old Rip memorabilia. It's a perfect opportunity to find a special treasure while supporting local artisans and businesses.

New to the festival is Rip's Respite and Art Competition, held at the Lyric Art Center. This exciting event combines live music, refreshing drinks, and a dynamic art competition, bringing together creativity and camaraderie in one of Eastland's most beloved venues. It's a perfect spot to relax, enjoy incredible talent, and soak in the festive atmosphere.



Whether you're interested in becoming a vendor, showcasing your art, joining the parade, or displaying your car at the show, there's a spot for you. Don't miss your chance to be part of this extraordinary event that exemplifies the best of Eastland's hospitality and charm.

RIP'S RIBS COOK-OFF



Mark your calendars for the second weekend in April as Eastland's Old Rip Historic Square transforms into a barbecue lover's paradise for the annual Rip's Ribs Cookoff. This much-anticipated event invites professionals, traveling cookoff teams, and local backyard barbecue enthusiasts to fire up their grills and compete for cash prizes across multiple categories.

But the excitement doesn't end with the competition. Vendors will line the historic square, offering handcrafted goods, tasty treats, and fun activities for attendees of all ages. For those seeking to complement their barbecue experience, a wine fest within walking distance provides a perfect pairing opportunity. Whether you're a competitor looking to claim the title of rib master or a guest eager to sample some of the best barbecue in Texas, Rip's Ribs Cookoff promises a day of mouthwatering fun and unforgettable memories.



RIP'S WINE FEST



As the tantalizing aroma of barbecue fills the air during Rip's Ribs Cookoff, another flavorful event will take center stage at the Lumber Yard Event Center: Rip's Wine Fest. Held on the same day as the cookoff, this delightful wine festival offers a sophisticated yet welcoming experience for attendees looking to sip, shop, and savor in downtown Eastland.

Under the open-air pavilion, about a dozen Texas wineries will showcase their finest selections, providing guests the opportunity to sample and purchase a variety of reds, whites, and rosés. Whether you're a seasoned wine connoisseur or just starting to explore the world of wine, Rip's Wine Fest is the perfect place to discover new favorites while enjoying the charm of Eastland.



A Legacy of Community Care Eastland Memorial Hospital

Eastland Memorial Hospital (EMH) has been a cornerstone of healthcare in Eastland County since its establishment in 1952. Known for excellence in rural healthcare, EMH operates as a financially sound and independent entity, unaffiliated with any other hospital or healthcare system.

A History Built on Community Support

EMH has a unique origin story as the “Hospital that Coffee and Doughnuts Built.” The original facility was constructed through the generosity and hard work of Eastland’s citizens, who donated materials and labor to make the hospital a reality. In 1973, the hospital underwent a major renovation to meet the growing demand for medical services, doubling its size and enhancing its capabilities. Over the years, additional renovations and expansions have included updates to the Emergency Room and Operating Room Suites, the addition of the Earl and Billye Bradley Wellness Center, and the construction of a community outpatient dialysis center.



Most recently, EMH built the EMH Regional Healthcare Clinic to serve the residents of Eastland County.

EMH offers a wide range of inpatient, outpatient, and ambulatory services to meet the healthcare needs of its community. These services include medical and surgical nursing with Swing Bed availability, radiology, laboratory, and respiratory therapy. Rehabilitation services such as physical, speech, and occupational therapy are also available. The hospital operates a 24-hour Emergency Room and provides ambulance services, inpatient and outpatient surgery, cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation, wound care, and access to a state-of-the-art Wellness Center.

The hospital’s medical staff includes five dedicated physicians who live and work in Eastland County. This team is supported by a full-time hospitalist program and full-time Emergency Room physicians. EMH’s ambulatory clinics also host specialists in general surgery, nephrology, pain management, cardiology, interventional radiology, oncology, ophthalmology, orthopedics, sports medicine, and podiatry.

A Commitment to Excellence

With its rich history and ongoing commitment to innovation, Eastland Memorial Hospital continues to be a vital healthcare resource for Eastland County. By combining advanced medical services with the community-driven spirit that built it, EMH upholds its reputation as a premier hospital in rural Texas.



EASTLAND MEMORIAL HOSPITAL



YOUR HEALTH. OUR MISSION.

Eastland Memorial Hospital (EMH) is a general acute care rural hospital district that operates independently, unaffiliated with any other hospital or healthcare system. We are proud to be recognized as a premier provider in rural healthcare.

Founded in 1952, EMH has deep roots in the community. The original hospital was built by the hands of Eastland citizens through donated materials and volunteer labor earning its name as "The Hospital that Coffee and Doughnuts Built."

Over the years, we've continued to grow and adapt to meet the needs of our community. Today, EMH offers emergency and surgical services, wellness programs through the Earl and Billye Bradley Wellness Center, outpatient dialysis care, and comprehensive primary care through the EMH Regional Healthcare Clinic and Walnut Street Clinic, serving residents throughout Eastland County.

We provide a full range of inpatient, outpatient, and ambulatory services, including medical/surgical nursing with Swing Bed availability, radiology, laboratory, respiratory therapy, physical, speech, and occupational therapy, 24-hour emergency care, ambulance services, inpatient and outpatient surgery, cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation, wound care, and a Wellness Center.

Our medical staff includes local physicians supported by a full-time hospitalist program and Emergency Room providers. EMH clinics also offer access to specialists in general surgery, nephrology, cardiology, interventional radiology, oncology, ophthalmology, and orthopedics.

Eastland Memorial Hospital remains committed to delivering exceptional care, close to home.

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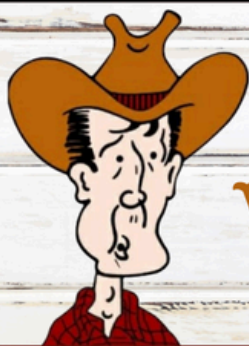
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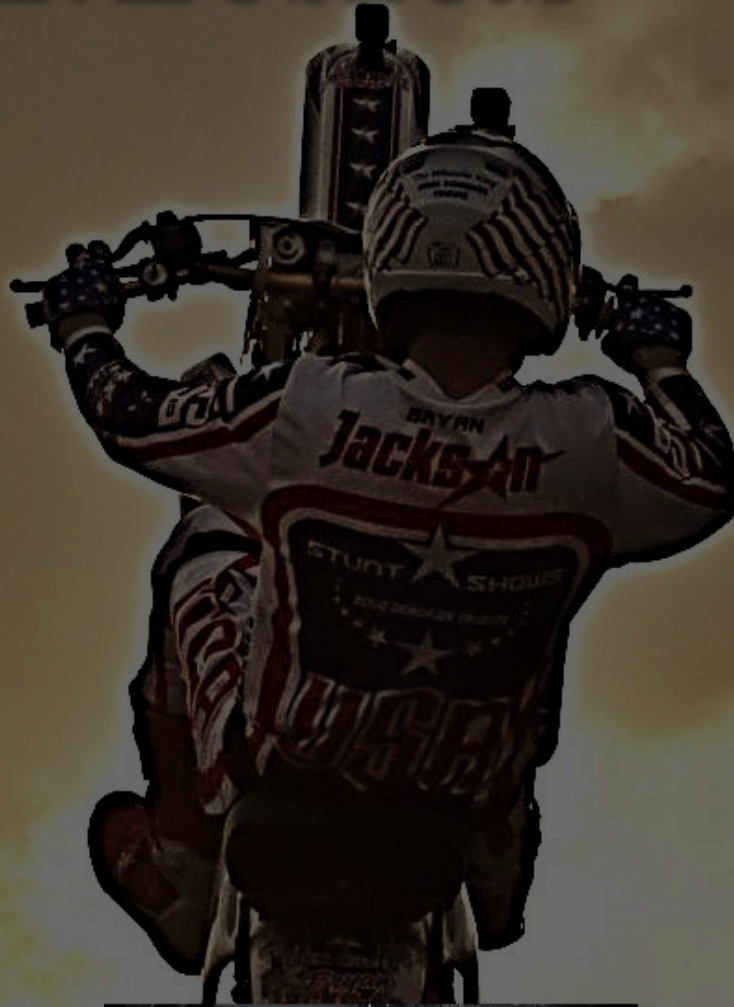
Bryans MOTORCYCLE MUSEUM

Located inside the Eastland County Museum

Whether you're a kid, or just a kid at heart, there is something for everyone to enjoy at Bryan's Motorcycle Museum. The museum is jam-packed with motorcycles, larger-than-life photos, trophies, and tons of other Jackson Family motorcycle memorabilia. History shows that motorcycles have been a major part of the Jackson family since the 1920s and although some of that history has been lost, the museum has preserved most of it—including the last bike Bryan's granddad owned, a 1949 Harley Hummer.

Bryan grew up watching his dad, Kay, participate in hill climbs, lime runs, and a little flat tracking. One of Kay's bikes, a 1958 Ariel 500, is also in the museum. And ladies, Bryan's mom, Bertie, also rode motorcycles—and not in a sidecar. She had a passion for riding all her own. Though she has since passed away, her love for the open road is remembered and celebrated within the museum's collection.

When you visit the museum, you'll get to see the Yamaha Mini Enduro 60 that launched Bryan's motocross racing career back in 1972. In the decades since, he's won multiple World Championships, along with numerous National Titles. But along with the good comes the bad, which, interestingly enough, is documented in the museum as well—a few surgeries, a few internal plates, and more than a few screws are holding Mr. Jackson together. And just like the Energizer Bunny, he keeps on going.



*Bryans Motorcycle Museum is located inside Eastland County Museum,
114 S. Seaman Street, Eastland.*

The museum is free to the public and is open Thursday - Saturday from 10 AM to 2 PM

Discover the History of Eastland County: **THE EASTLAND COUNTY MUSEUM**



PRESERVING OUR PAST FOR OUR FUTURE

Eastland County's rich history is beautifully preserved in the Eastland County Museum, housed in a striking five-story building on the downtown square. Originally built in 1919 by First State Bank investors and designed by renowned architect Henry T. Phelps, the building once represented the prosperity of Eastland's oil boom era.

After serving as a bank until 1980, the building became a museum in 2005 through a generous benefactor. The first two floors feature original dark woodwork, patterned glass, and Community Rooms highlighting Eastland County's past and present. Bryan's Motorcycle Museum, opened in 2018 in Bryan's Auto Parts Store, moved to the second floor in April 2025. The third floor holds offices, while the fourth and fifth remain vacant for future development.

In December 2020, the museum gained national attention when the History Channel's American Pickers featured its treasures, including a rare antique gasoline pump globe. The episode, aired in June 2021, sparked nationwide interest.

VISIT & IMMERSE IN OUR HISTORY

Visitors can explore fascinating exhibits, from a motorized chicken plucker and a Linotype machine to an extensive medical museum. Learn about Eastland's famous figures, including Old Rip, the horned toad who survived 31 years entombed in a courthouse cornerstone, and Josiah "Doc" Scurlock, a companion of Billy the Kid.

In 2022 genealogy records were moved to the museum from the Eastland Centennial Memorial Library. The Genealogy Room was open to the public in 2024.

Entirely volunteer-run, the museum operates on a modest budget supported by office space rentals, private donations, and fundraisers. It remains a free attraction for visitors, open from March to mid-November, Thursdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

THE AUSTIN MCCLOUD APPELLATE COURT MUSEUM



“THIS HAS BEEN A LABOR OF LOVE,
10 YEARS IN THE MAKING. WE’RE
THRILLED TO SHARE THIS SPECIAL
PLACE WITH THE COMMUNITY.”

VISIT & LEARN

The museum is open Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For tours outside regular hours or to support this treasure with a donation, contact Sherry Williamson at 254-631-1216. Make the Austin McCloud Appellate Court Museum your next stop for a unique and enriching experience!

Nestled in Eastland, Texas, the Austin McCloud Appellate Court Museum is a must-visit for anyone curious about history, law, or unique Texas attractions. Opened in 2017, this one-of-a-kind museum offers a fascinating glimpse into the appellate court process, complete with multimedia exhibits, historic photographs, and artifacts. Museum curator Sherry Williamson shares, “This has been a labor of love, 10 years in the making. We’re thrilled to share this special place with the community.”

Visitors can explore real cases from the Eleventh Court of Appeals and other local courts, gaining insight into Texas’ judicial system. College and university groups often tour the museum to deepen their understanding of the appellate process.

The Eleventh Court of Appeals, established in 1925, serves 28 counties across Texas. Its history comes to life in the museum, which is housed in the court’s historic building. Guests can also step into the stunning courtroom on the second floor, a perfect spot for photos and an immersion into the past.





BASS BOATS BIG SKIES

Discover Eastland's Lakes

WHETHER YOU'RE CASTING A LINE IN LAKE LEON OR EASTLAND LAKE, OR EXPLORING THE HISTORIC GROUNDS OF RINGLING PARK, EASTLAND HAS THE PERFECT MIX OF ADVENTURE AND RELAXATION.



LAKE LEON

Located just seven miles southeast of Eastland, Lake Leon is a premier destination for fishing enthusiasts and nature lovers. Spanning 28,000 acre-feet, this beautiful reservoir is famous for its outstanding bass fishing, including largemouth bass tournaments. The lake also supports thriving populations of channel catfish, sunfish, and white bass.

Amenities and Activities:

- Two public boat ramps with camping areas.
- Four private camping and recreational areas.
- Plenty of opportunities for fishing, boating, and family picnics.

For detailed information and lake demographics, visit the Texas Parks and Wildlife website.

EASTLAND LAKE

Nestled northwest of downtown Eastland on FM 3101, Eastland Lake offers a serene escape for outdoor enthusiasts. Relax by the calm waters and enjoy the peaceful surroundings.

Amenities and Activities:

- Gravel boat launch area near the bridge.
- Angler access points, including one at the dam.
- A 100-acre lake ideal for fishing largemouth bass, crappie, catfish, and white bass.

Eastland Lake is known for its under-fished largemouth bass population, offering a great experience for avid anglers.

RINGLING LAKE PARK

Once a water stop for the John Ringling-financed railroad, Ringling Lake was built by investors H.P. Brelsford, Earl Conner, Breckenridge Stephens Walker, C.U. Connellee, and others. The park features remnants of the original dam and bridge trestle and a 2.4-mile loop through rocky Post Oak woodlands with excellent birding and wildlife viewing.

Vehicle access is permitted only for ATVs, dirt bikes, members of the two recreation clubs, and oil/gas personnel. The public may enter the park on foot from sunrise to sunset, weather permitting.



Camping & RV Parks

Slow down, breathe deeply, and reconnect with the natural world.

Spend your days hiking shaded trails, birdwatching, or paddling across tranquil lakes. Evenings are perfect for gathering around a crackling campfire, sharing stories, and enjoying s'mores under the stars. Nestled in the heart of Texas, Eastland is a hidden gem for nature lovers seeking a peaceful escape. Whether you're a seasoned camper or looking for a cozy cabin retreat, Eastland's scenic parks offer a getaway to suit every adventurer.

Chock-a-Block RV Park



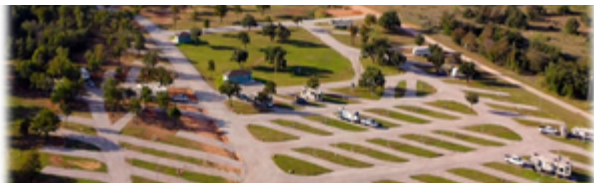
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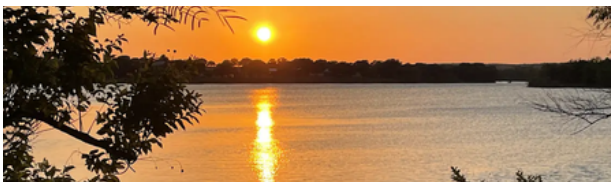
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WHERE LOVE NEVER LEFT: THE OLD ABANDONED ZOO TRAILS

Tucked just beyond the edge of Cisco, Texas, lies a place where memory and nature intertwine: the Old Abandoned Zoo Trails. Once a lively part of the community and now a peaceful outdoor escape, these trails are steeped in history, quiet beauty, and the enduring love of one local couple.

Back in the 1940s, the Cisco Zoo and Pool were the pride of the town. At the time, the pool was recognized as the largest concrete swimming pool in the world—an ambitious feat built into the back of the Cisco Dam. Right next door, the zoo welcomed families, school groups, and travelers passing through, with cages and enclosures nestled among winding paths. It was here that Buster first met Gloria, a local girl, on a summer day at the pool. Their story began with small talk and sunburns, and blossomed into something lasting. Dates were spent walking the zoo trails, talking beneath shady trees, and soaking in all that young love and small-town life had to offer.

Over time, the landscape changed. With the construction of Highway I-20, both the pool and zoo were eventually shuttered. Slowly, the area fell into disrepair. Trees overtook paths, vines wrapped around the old cages, and the sound of visitors faded into silence. While most moved on, Buster never forgot. He and Gloria married, raised a family in Cisco, and built a life rooted in the same town where their love had begun.

In 2021, Buster returned to the long-abandoned trails, determined to bring them back to life. With the steady help of his grandson and the quiet encouragement of the community, the overgrown paths gradually reopened, one step at a time. That same year, Gloria passed away — but her vibrant spirit, boundless spunk, and deep love for this place continue to echo through the trees. Her legacy and their love lives on in every footstep along the zoo trails.

Today, thanks to Buster's dedication and the support of the City of Cisco, the Old Abandoned Zoo Trails have been reborn. Restrooms have been installed on-site, and the space has been cleaned and carefully reimagined for public use. Visitors can now explore the remains of the zoo, stroll through shaded trails, and discover a small park with swings for children. The once-empty pool has even taken on new life as a bass fishing spot, offering peaceful moments for anglers and families alike.





Pictured above: Bankhead Community Theatre's production of Shakespeare in the Park: Romeo and Juliet performed at the Old Zoo Park

“—IT’S A LIVING REMINDER OF WHAT CAN GROW WHEN PEOPLE CARE DEEPLY.”

The trails are open 24/7 and located at County Road 112 in Cisco, just 15 minutes from Eastland. It’s an easy drive for anyone looking to reconnect with nature, local history, or just find a quiet space to walk and reflect. Whether you're a hiker, a photographer, a history lover, or simply someone who appreciates the quiet persistence of love and community, the Old Abandoned Zoo Trails are worth the visit.



This place isn’t just a relic of the past—it’s a living reminder of what can grow when people care deeply. Thanks to one man’s love for his wife and his hometown, the Old Zoo is no longer abandoned. It’s alive again. And it’s waiting for you.

And if you happen to be there on a quiet morning or just before sunset, you might see Buster himself—out on the trails he’s walked for decades, pruning a branch, picking up litter, or sharing a story. If you do, be sure to tell him thank you. This place is here because he never forgot it. And he never stopped loving it.

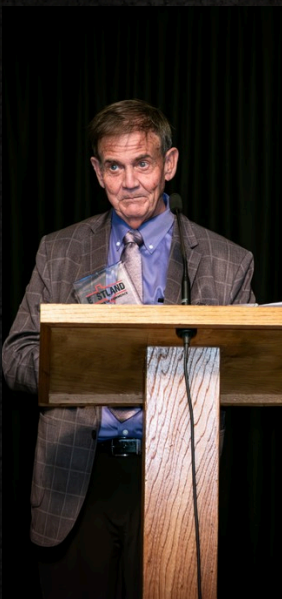
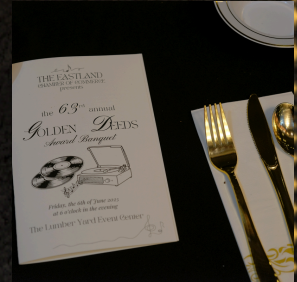
Honoring the Heart of Eastland

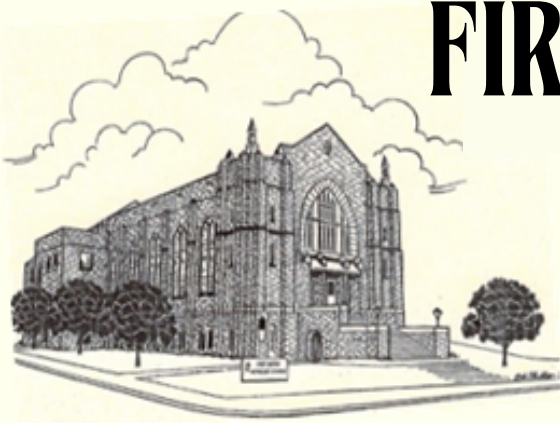
THE GOLDEN DEEDS AWARD BANQUET

Hosted annually by the Eastland Chamber of Commerce, the Golden Deeds Awards Banquet is a celebration of the people and businesses who make Eastland shine. This special evening honors our Chamber Members and recognizes individuals who have made a lasting impact on our community. The event also features a silent auction benefiting the Junior Ambassador Scholarship Fund, helping us invest in the future leaders of Eastland.

2025 GOLDEN DEED AWARD WINNERS

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In Eastland, we believe in the power of local. The power of partnerships, progress, and people working together to create something better for their businesses, their families, and their community.

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Members play a role in the events, initiatives, and conversations shaping Eastland's future. When you join, you don't just watch the progress — you help lead it.

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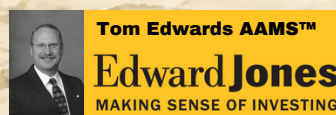
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Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-2518

ATTORNEY

James P. Farrar, Attorney at Law
220 County Road 567
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-8547

Turner, Seaberry, & Warford
301 W Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1777

MEMBER DIRECTORY

Categorical

ATV &

BOATDEALERSHIPS

Outdoor Specialties

10402 N I-20 Access Rd
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-8877

AUTO MAINTENANCE

Bayer Chevrolet

Buick Cadillac

601 West Walker
Breckenridge, TX 76424
254-559-2266
www.bayercadillac.com

Blake Fulenwider

Chevrolet GMC

1245 E Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-2636
www.blakefulenwiderchevygmc.com

Blake Fulenwider Dodge

9610 IH 20
Eastland, TX 76448
254-433-7021
www.blakefulenwiderdodge.com

Certified Auto Glass

1700 West Valley
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-3251
www.certified-auto-glass-eastland.com

Main Street Oil & Lube

802 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-631-0660

Performance Pit Stop

513 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
325-450-0796
www.performancepitstops.com

Stanley Ford

1308 E Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1786
www.stanleyfordeastland.com

AUTO SUPPLY

Bayer Chevrolet

Buick Cadillac

601 West Walker
Breckenridge, TX 76424
254-559-2266
www.bayercadillac.com

Blake Fulenwider

Chevrolet GMC

1245 E Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-2636
www.blakefulenwiderchevygmc.com

Blake Fulenwider Dodge

9610 IH 20
Eastland, TX 76448
254-433-7021
www.blakefulenwiderdodge.com

Napa Auto Supply

925 E. Main St
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-2158

Stanley Ford

1308 E Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1786
www.stanleyfordeastland.com

BANK & CREDIT UNIONS

Ag Texas

3145 W. Washington
Stephenville, TX 76401
254-965-3151
www.agtexas.com

Farmers & Merchants Bank

930 E Main Street
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-3282
www.fmbank-tx.com

First Financial Bank

201 E Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-6139
www.ffin.com

Texas Bank

510 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-8250
www.texasbank.com

BEDDING & MATTRESSES

Great Times Furniture

3100 I-20
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-3921
www.greattimesfurniture.com

MEMBER DIRECTORY

Categorical

Walmart

1410 Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-3371
www.walmart.com

BUILDING MATERIALS

Bartee Metals

9518 I-20
Eastland, TX 76448
254-735-7034
www.barteemetals.com

EBAA Iron Inc.

702 County Road 442
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1737
www.ebaa.com

Vulcan Materials Company

702 County Rd. 442
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-2850
www.vulcanmaterials.com

BUSINESS RESOURCES

Dove Aerial Services

254-433-8343
info@doveaerialservices.com
www.doveaerialservices.com

Eastland Economic Development, Inc.

209 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-631-2726
www.eastlanddevelopment.com

ZenBusiness

outreach@zenbusiness.com
www.zenbusiness.com/texas-llc

CABLE & INTERNET

New Source Broadband

979 E Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-572-8889
www.newsourcebroadband.com

Totelcom

254-893-1000
www.totelcom.net

TXOL Plus

105 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-3278
www.txol.net

CAMPING & HIKING

Inez Springs Riverfront RV Resort

10505 I-20
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1197
www.inezspring.com

CHRISTIAN CAMPS

Solid Rock Camps

599 County Rd 570A
Eastland, TX 76448
254-647-3219
www.solidrockcamps.com

CHURCHES

First Baptist Church

405 S Seaman St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-3355
www.fbceastland.org

First Methodist Church

215 S Mulberry
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1022
www.firstmethodisteastland.org

River of Life Church

1247 E Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1015
www.eriveroflife.org

CLOTHING & SHOES

Greer's Western Wear

1414 E. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-3989
Find them on Facebook!

SunShine Shoppe

304 S Daugherty
Eastland, TX 76448
254-631-0110
Find them on Facebook!

Walmart

1410 Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-3371
www.walmart.com

MEMBER DIRECTORY

Categorical

Urban Roze Boutique

102 W. Commerce St
Eastland, TX 76448
254-433-9060
www.urbanroze.com

COFFEE SHOPS

4:18 Coffee Company

112 N. Lamar Street
Eastland, TX 76445
682-262-6970
Find them on Facebook!

COMPUTER & TECH SUPPORT

TXOL Plus

105 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-3278

CONCRETE

Flatworks Concrete

7402 Hwy 183
Cisco, TX 76437
254-631-9987
www.flatworkslctx.com

CONTRACTORS & BUILDERS

Bartee Metals

PO Box 1549
9518 I-20
Eastland, TX 76448
254-735-7034
www.barteemetals.com

Big 'S' Company

254-629-2550
www.bigscompany.com

De Leon Roofing & Construction

325-201-5137
Find them on Facebook!

Flatworks Concrete

7402 Hwy 183
Cisco, TX 76437
254-631-9987
www.flatworkslctx.com

Incredible Kitchens & Baths

Eastland, TX 76448
254-433-6470
www.ikb-tx.com

DEALERSHIP

Bayer Chevrolet

Buick Cadillac
601 West Walker
Breckenridge, TX 76424
254-559-2266
www.bayercadillac.com

Blake Fulenwider Chevrolet GMC

1245 E Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-2636
www.blakefulenwiderchevygmc.com

Blake Fulenwider Dodge

9610 IH 20
Eastland, TX 76448
254-433-7021
www.blakefulenwiderdodge.com

Stanley Ford

1308 E Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1786
www.stanleyfordeastland.com

DIGITAL MARKETING

Bryan's Signs

900 W. Main Street
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-2631
Find them on Facebook!

Eastland County Today

PO Box 29
215 S. Seaman St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1707
www.eastlandcountytoday.com

Dove Aerial Services

254-433-8343
info@doveaerialservices.com
www.doveaerialservices.com

EDUCATION

Eastland ISD Administration

900 W Plummer
Eastland, TX 76448
254-631-5120
www.eastlandisd.net

MEMBER DIRECTORY

Categorical

**The Open Door
Pregnancy Resource
Center**

1906 TX HWY 206
Cisco, TX 76437
254-442-3000
www.theopendoorprc.com

ELECTRICAL/GAS

Atmos Energy
401-411 College St.
Eastland, TX 76448
325-481-3716
www.atmosenergy.com

**Comanche Electric
Cooperative Association**

PO Box 729
Comanche, TX 76442
800-915-2533
www.ceca.coop

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Air Evac Lifeteam 115
9614 IH-20 Access Rd.
Eastland, TX 76448
940-327-7767
www.airmedcarenetwork.com

**Eastland Co. Crisis
Center**

PO Box 1010
254-629-3223
www.eastlandcrisis.org

Eastland Co. Sheriff
201 W. White St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1774

**Eastland Fire
Department**

414 S. Seaman St.
Eastland, TX 76448
www.eastlandfire.com

**Eastland Police
Department**

416 S. Seaman St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1700

**Eastland Memorial
Hospital**

304 S. Daugherty St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-2601
www.eastlandmemorial.com

EMPLOYMENT

Workforce Solutions
500 Chestnut, Suite 1100
Abilene, TX 79602
325-795-4200

FINANCIAL

**Edward Jones - Tom
Edwards**

514 West Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-3851
www.edwardjones.com

**Kennedy Financial
Services**

PO Box 904
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-3863

**FUNERAL
HOME/SERVICES**

Eastland City Cemetery
400 S. Halbryan St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-2363

Edwards Funeral Home

411 S Mulberry St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-2611
www.edwardsfh.com

**Sterling Monument
Company**

9401 I-20
Eastland, TX 76448
254-653-2363
www.SterlingMonument.com

FURNITURE

**Goodwill West Texas
Industries**

2000 IH-20
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-8611
Find them on Facebook!

Great Times Furniture

3100 I-20
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-3921
www.greattimesfurniture.com

Page Outdoors

701 W Main St
Eastland, TX 76448
Find them on Facebook!

MEMBER DIRECTORY

Categorical

Walmart

1410 Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-3371
www.walmart.com

GIFT STORE

Amy's Cards & Gifts

939 E. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-3521
www.amyscardsandgifts.com

Doc's Drugstore of Eastland

905 E. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1000
Find them on Facebook!

Love Oak Cafe and Pharmacy

805 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1791
www.loveoak.com

Page Outdoors

701 W Main St
Eastland, TX 76448
Find them on Facebook!

SunShine Shoppe

304 S Daugherty
Eastland, TX 76448
254-631-0110
Find them on Facebook!

Urban Roze Boutique

102 W. Commerce St
Eastland, TX 76448
254-433-9060
www.urbanroze.com

GOVERNMENT

City Of Eastland

113 E. Commerce St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-8321
www.cityofeastland.com

Eastland County Courthouse

100 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1263
www.eastlandcountytexas.com

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Bryan's Signs

900 W. Main Street
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-2631
Find them on Facebook!

Eastland County Today

PO Box 29
215 S. Seaman St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1707
www.eastlandcountytoday.com

Sterling Monument Company

9401 I-20
Eastland, TX 76448
254-653-2363
www.SterlingMonument.com

GROCERY/DEPARTMENT

Brookshire's Grocery

111 N. Seaman St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1667
www.brookshires.com

Mae's Meat Market and Cafe

201 Terri St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-2800
Find them on Facebook!

Page Outdoors

701 W Main St
Eastland, TX 76448
254-631-0702
Find them on Facebook!

Walmart

1410 Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-3371
www.walmart.com

GYM & WELLNESS

Earl & Billye Bradley

Rehab & Wellness Center at EMH
304 S. Daugherty Ave.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-631-5233

MEMBER DIRECTORY

Categorical

Love Oak 24/7 Health Club

805 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1791
www.loveoak.com

HAIR/NAIL SALON

Locks and Loaded Salon & Barber

1300 South Seaman St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-433-0605
Find them on Facebook!

HARDWARE

Duffy's Lumberyard

304 E. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-8711

Higginbotham Brothers

1125 E. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1311

White's Ace Hardware

404 E Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-3373
www.semieager.com

HEALTHCARE/CLINIC

Accel Health

1100 W. Reynosa Ave.
DeLeon, TX 76444
254-893-5895
www.accelhealthcare.org

Advanced Eyecare, Inc

719 W. Main Street
Eastland, TX 76448
254-433-8562
www.abileneadvancedeyecare.com

B&W Health Clinic

400 W. Plummer
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1744

Comanche County Medical Center- Rising Star Clinic & Pharmacy

1870A TX-36
Rising Star, TX 76471
www.comanchecmc.org

Eastland Memorial Hospital

304 S Daugherty Ave
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-2601

Family Health Clinic

500 W Plummer St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-3393

HOME DECOR

Amy's Cards & Gifts

939 E. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-3521
www.amyscardsandgifts.com

Doc's Drugstore of Eastland

905 E. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1000
Find them on Facebook!

Love Oak Cafe and Pharmacy

805 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1791
www.loveoak.com

Goodwill West Texas Industries

2000 IH-20
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-8611
Find them on Facebook!

Great Times Furniture

3100 I-20
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-3921
www.greattimesfurniture.com

Page Outdoors

701 W Main St
Eastland, TX 76448
Find them on Facebook!

Walmart

1410 Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-3371
www.walmart.com

MEMBER DIRECTORY

Categorical

HOME HEALTH

CenterWell Home Health
405 E Commerce St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-8698
www.centerwellhomehealth.com

HOTEL/MOTEL

Budget Host Inn
10119 IH 20
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-3324
www.budgethost.com

The Eastland Historic Hotel
112 N. Lamar
Eastland, TX 76448
214-354-7480
www.theeastlandhotel.com

LaQuinta Inn & Suites
10150 I-20
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1414

The Train Vacation Rental
307 S Hillcrest Ave.
Eastland, TX 76448
www.airbnb.com/h/TheTrain

HVAC

J&J Air Conditioning
106 Pogue Ave.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-329-2251

Super Cool HVAC
317-341-6260
www.livesupercool.com

INSURANCE AGENCY

Aaron Insurance Agency dba LBK Insurance Agency
310 S. Seaman Street
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-8533
www.aaroninsuranceagency.net

Clint Coffee State Farm Agent
1128 E. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1222
www.clintcoffee.com

Perkins Insurance
104 N. Lamar
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-3933
www.protectedbyperkins.com

Sherry Green Insurance
606 W Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-5040

Tina Lewellen Insurance
817-517-9369

Texas Farm Bureau Insurance
1311 E. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1704

JEWELRY

Love Oak Cafe and Pharmacy
805 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1791
www.loveoak.com

Urban Roze Boutique
102 W. Commerce St
Eastland, TX 76448
www.urbanroze.com

LIBRARY

Eastland Centennial Memorial Library
210 S Lamar St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-2281
<https://centennial-memorial.ploud.net>

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Doc's Drugstore of Eastland
905 E. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1000
Find them on Facebook!

Love Oak Pharmacy
805 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1791
www.loveoak.com

MEMBER DIRECTORY

Categorical

Walmart

1410 Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-3371
www.walmart.com

MOVIE THEATER/ LIVE THEATRE

The Lyric Art Center
107 S. Lamar
Eastland, TX 76448
www.lyricartcenter.org

Majestic Theatre
108 N. Lamar
Eastland, TX 76448
www.majesticeastland.com

MUSEUM

Austin McCloud Museum
515 S. Lamar St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-631-1216
www.austinmccloudappellatecourtmuseum.com

Bryan's Motorcycle Museum
114 S. Seaman St.
Eastland, TX 76448

Eastland County Museum
114 S. Seaman St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-631-0437
www.eastlandcountymuseum.com

NEWSPAPER/ ONLINE NEWS

Eastland County Today
PO Box 29
215 S. Seaman St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1707
www.eastlandcountytoday.com

MicroplexNews
Eastland, TX 76448
254-631-6790
www.microplexnews.com

Nexstar Media Inc. dba KTAB TV
325-692-4242
www.bigcountryhomepage.com

NURSERY

Page Outdoors
701 W Main St
Eastland, TX 76448
Find them on Facebook!

NURSING HOME/ ASSISTED LIVING

Avir at Woodlands
125 Inspiration Blvd.
Eastland, TX 76488
254-629-1925
www.avirhg.com/avir-at-woodlands.com

OFFICE SUPPLIES

TXOL Plus
105 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-3278

Walmart
1410 Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-3371
www.walmart.com

OPTOMETRISTS

Advanced Eyecare, Inc
719 W. Main Street
Eastland, TX 76448
254-433-8562
www.abileneadvancedeyecare.com

OUTDOOR/SEASONAL

The Jackson Lighting Crew
254-631-1595
Find them on Facebook!

Page Outdoors
701 W Main St
Eastland, TX 76448
254-631-0702
Find them on Facebook!

Walmart
1410 E Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-3371
www.walmart.com

MEMBER DIRECTORY

Categorical

PEST CONTROL

Pest Patrol
PO Box 9516
Abilene, TX 79604
325-673-6704

PHARMACY

Doc's Drugstore of Eastland
905 E. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1000
Find them on Facebook!

Love Oak Cafe and Pharmacy

805 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1791
www.loveoak.com

Walmart

1410 Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-3371
www.walmart.com

PLUMBING

Collins & Son's Plumbing, LLC
700 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-433-6120

PRINTING

Bryan's Signs 900 W.
Main Street
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-2631
Find them on Facebook!

Eastland County Today

PO Box 29
215 S. Seaman St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1707
www.eastlandcountytoday.com

Eastland Centennial Memorial Library

210 S Lamar St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-2281
<https://centennial-memorial.ploud.net>

RADIO

KATX Radio
2010 W. Commerce St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-2621
www.katxradio.com

REAL ESTATE

Amiee Baker Realtor
Ranger, TX 76470
817-682-7729
www.bakertexasrealtorteam.com

Big Country Title

116 N. Seaman St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-8548
www.bigcountrytitle.com

Campbell Farm & Ranch

801 Elm St.
Graham, TX 76450
940-549-7700
www.cfrland.com

Capstone Real Estate

112 N. Lamar
Eastland, TX 76448
254-485-9701
www.CapstoneTeam.com

Copeland & Co Real Estate

1101 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-631-5922
www.copelandandcore.com

Harrison Properties

254-631-3200
www.harrisonproperties.net

John Boyett Real Estate Group - KW Brazos West

PO Box 235
Ranger, TX 76470
682-712-5462
www.johnboyett.kw.com

Ranger Realty

101 W. Main St.
Ranger, TX 76470
254-647-1587
www.gorangerrealty.com

MEMBER DIRECTORY

Categorical

RENTAL EQUIPMENT

Grandpaw's Tool Shed Rental

1304 E. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-3363
www.grandpawstoolshed.com

Outdoor Specialties

10402 N 1-20 Access Rd
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-8877

RENTAL FACILITY

Connellee Hotel & Civic Center

209 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-631-0708
www.eastlandfoundation.com

RESTAURANTS

4:18 Coffee Company

110 N. Lamar Street
Eastland, TX 76445
682-262-6990
Find them on Facebook!

Bear Creek Taphouse

113 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-433-5456
Find them on Facebook!

Dairy Queen of Eastland

1491 E. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-2400

Domino's Pizza

9972 IH-20
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-3399
www.dominos.com

La Hacienda Restaurant

3800 1-20 E
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-8998
www.lahaciendaeastlandtx.com

Love Oak Cafe and Pharmacy

805 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1791
www.loveoak.com

Mae's Meat Market and Cafe

201 Terri St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-2800
Find them on Facebook!

McDonald's

1490 E Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448

The Original Billy's BBQ

100 W. Commerce St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-264-4001
Find them on Facebook!

Rip's Pizzeria

1001 E Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-505-7477
www.ripspizzeria.com

Sammiches

(located in Doc's Drugstore)
905 E Main St
Eastland, TX 76448
254-433-9848
Find them on Facebook!

Texadelphia

1500 E Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-264-5212
www.texadelphia.com

Whataburger

1401 E Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448

RV PARKS/CABINS

Inez Springs Riverfront RV Resort

10505 I-20
Eastland, TX 76448
254-433-2550
www.inezsprings.com

Tiny Town & RV Park at Lake Eastland

699 County Rd. 3101
Eastland, TX 76448
650-224-2389
www.exceptionalenterprisesllc.com

MEMBER DIRECTORY

Categorical

Wandering Oaks RV Park

10502 I-20
Eastland, TX 76448
254-433-9090
www.wanderingoaksrvpark.com

SIGNS & BANNERS

Bryan's Signs & High Impact Graphics
900 W. Main Street
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-2631
Find them on Facebook!

SOCIAL CLUBS

Eastland Lions Club
PO Box 403
Eastland, TX 76448
eastlandlions@gmail.com
Find them on Facebook
@EastlandLionsClub

VFW Post 4136 Eastland

918 HWY 570
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1918
Find them on Facebook!

SOCIAL SERVICES

CASA for the Cross Timbers Area, Inc.
PO Box 1181
1385 N. Graham
Stephenville, TX 76401
254-965-6610
www.casata.org

Eastland Co. Crisis Center

PO Box 1010
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-3223
www.eastlandcrisis.org

The Open Door

1906 TX HWY 206
Cisco, TX 76437
254-442-3000
www.theopendoorprc.com

VFW Post 4136 Eastland

918 HWY 570
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1918
Find them on Facebook!

STONEWORK/HEADSTONES

Sterling Monument Company
9401 I-20
Eastland, TX 76448
254-653-2363
www.SterlingMonument.com

SURVEYING

Williamson Surveying
201 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-8151
www.WilliamsonSurveyingInc.com

TANNING

Love Oak Pharmacy
805 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1791
www.loveoak.com

TITLE COMPANIES

Security Title Co.
115 S Lamar
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-1300
www.securitytitleco.com

Big Country Title

116 N. Seaman St.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-8548
www.bigcountrytitle.com

UTILITIES

Atmos Energy
401 College St.
Eastland, TX 76448
325-481-3716
www.atmosenergy.com

MEMBER DIRECTORY

Categorical

Comanche Electric Cooperative

1311 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
800-915-2533
www.ceca.coop

VIDEO/PHOTOGRAPHY

Dove Aerial Services

254-433-8343
info@doveaerialservices.com
www.doveaerialservices.com

Waste Connections

350 Dennis Rd.
Weatherford, TX 76087
254-672-5094
www.wasteconnections.com

VACATION RENTAL

The Train Vacation Rental

307 S Hillcrest Ave.
Eastland, TX 76448
www.airbnb.com/h/TheTrain

Tiny Town & RV Park at Lake Eastland

699 County Rd. 3101
Eastland, TX 76448
650-224-2389
www.exceptionalenterprisesllc.com

VETERINARIANS

Lazy 3 Animal Care

9991 Hwy 6
Cisco, TX 76437
254-631-0816

Eastland County Veterinary Clinic

200 Pogue Ave.
Eastland, TX 76448
254-629-8766