



Mills County is the Best Place in the World to Live

By Steven Bridges

Keith Brooks had no idea how special Mills County citizens can be until he experienced a devastating car wreck earlier

this year.

“When I was hurt bad, there was a tremendous amount of people who helped me and my family,” said Keith. “I guess

I always knew my family and friends would help me if something bad happened to me, but I had no idea that this many people would come to my aid. It is fantastic what this town will do for someone in trouble.”

Keith was driving alone to work at Enterprise Products between Iraan and Fort Stockton in his wife’s Toyota Matrix. He saw another vehicle cross the stripe. The next thing he knew, the other vehicle hit him in front of the front door. “My car turned over three times and ended up on top of a barbed wire fence. I remember that guy who hit me came to the side of my wife’s little car and told me he was going to get help. They picked me up in a helicopter and flew me to the hospital.”

“It crushed me. It crushed my lungs. It took a day and a half to blow them back up. The wreck broke my pelvis in two places. It broke nine ribs, lots of vertebrae and all kinds of other trauma,” Keith said. He spent two days in ICU at Shannon Hospital in San Angelo. The doctors then sent him to the trauma center for several weeks.

“For me, it wasn’t a money deal. We were alright financially,” said Keith. “The local people helped me and my wife in so many other ways. People I wouldn’t even know or recognize helped us out.”

“I don’t remember much because I was ‘out of it’ for many weeks. But, my wife told me

later who came by and helped out,” Keith said. “Heck, there were even people who don’t like me who showed up to help. That says something about this little town and county. It is the best place in the world. It is pretty fantastic when you think about it.”

Often, local citizens need financial help to make it through rough spots. House fires, illnesses and car wrecks can be devastating for individuals and families in rural America. But our little town is special.

Mills County citizens pull together over and over to help each other in times of need. “Since my car wreck, I’m more aware of all the things people do to help others around here,” said Keith. “Now I notice all the bake sales, BBQ dinners and other fund raisers people hold to help local families in need. They are in The Goldthwaite Eagle newspaper nearly every week. But what you don’t see is all the time, food and help that flows from those who are fortunate to those who are having it rough in town.”

Rafter B Ranch Bed & Breakfast

Keith and Brenda Brooks own Rafter B Ranch Bed & Breakfast located just outside Goldthwaite in Mills County.

The Rafter B Ranch House was built about 1941 by Earl Tanner Fairman for use as a hunting lodge. The Lodge was constructed using materials from an old mill built in 1877 at Williams Ranch.

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