

## Neighbors



**Allen Duggar**

**Name:** Allen Duggar  
**Town:** El Dorado  
**Birthdate & place:** Dec. 29, 1935  
**Occupation:** Retired from Wal-Mart  
**Family:** Wife, Hazel, granddaughter, Jennifer, and son-in-law Paul.  
**I drive a:** Chevy Astro van  
**My favorite authors are:** Stephen King  
**The last book I read was:** "A Twist Of Lemon"  
**My favorite kind of music is:** Easy Listening and New Age.  
**My favorite kind of performer is:** Manheim Steamroller  
**My all-time favorite movie is:** "The Great Race"  
**My favorite television shows are:** "MASH"  
**My favorite comedians are:** Red Skelton  
**My favorite restaurants are:** Old Towne Store  
**My favorite junk food is:** Potato chips/Fritos  
**My favorite president is/was:** Ronald Regan  
**My heroes are:** John Wayne  
**My teenage idol was:** Paul Anka  
**My four guests at my fantasy dinner party would be:** John Wayne, Clint Eastwood, Jack Lemon and James Cagney.  
**If I've learned one thing in life, it's:** No comment  
**If there's one thing I won't do, it's:** Fly  
**My trademark cliché or expression is:** "That'll Be The Day"  
**My pet peeve is:** Hear people talking in a foreign language in the U.S.  
**When I'm nervous, I:** Smoke  
**My best asset is:** Sense of humor  
**I absolutely will not eat:** Okra  
**Though I was proven wrong, I once said I'd never:** Get married  
**You'll never catch me wearing:** A pair of short shorts.  
**If I could, I'd write a book about:** The way this town used to be and the changes over the years.  
**A movie I walked out on:** Can't remember.  
**My mother/father would say I'm:** A good boy.  
**My hobbies are:** deer hunting, fishing and duck hunting.

# Learning From A Drum Circle

Veteran percussionist to spend the week working with El Dorado musicians

**By SARA MITCHELL**  
**For the Sunday News**

EL DORADO - In terms of music in general, and drumming in particular, Eric Stuer sees the discipline as a powerful tool for change.

And with more than 40 years experience in the art of drumming, he's met those changes firsthand.

Stuer travels around the country educating children and adults in the technique of drumming through drum circles, which are literally circles of people who have come together with the goal of making music with percussion instruments.

He will bring his talents to El Dorado this week when he works with both children and adults.

Beginning Monday, he will spend the week at Washington Middle School working with their newly-formed drum club.

Jody Vines, principal at Washington, said the drum club at the school currently has about 30 different percussion instruments.

Students can earn their way into the club by trying hard in school, particularly in the after school tutoring programs.

"There is a lot of interest in the club," Vines said. "And I have noticed some natural talent in these students."

Some of the percussion instruments used in the group are unusual, Vines said. One of the instruments "talks" when it is squeezed under the player's arm.

Washington also owns a Djembe, which is a goat skin covered hand drum, shaped like a large goblet. It is played with the bare hands and is popular in parts of Africa.

In addition to playing the percussion instruments with the hands, some are manipulated with metal and wood. "Put these three approaches together and you get a very nice instrument sound," Vines said.

Stuer will end his week in El Dorado catering to the community with a free "World



**Eric Stuer**

Contributed Photo

Percussion Workshop" to be held at 7 p.m. Friday at Bensberg Music, located at 727 N. West Ave.

No prior musical experience is required for the workshop, and the drums and hand percussion instruments will be provided at the store, according to owner Shelton Harden. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Bensberg Music at 870-862-6844.

Stuer's professional drumming career began in the ninth grade, and by age 16 he was opening professionally in the Houston scene for famous acts such as Little Feat and Cheech and Chong.

His musical background was influenced by a few artistic family members.

After moving to Houston from the New York City area, he remained influenced by his older sister, Audrey, who stayed in New York studying to be an artist. She lived in Greenwich Village, and was married to a drummer and an actor.

"When we'd go to visit for summer, or for Christmas, I would see all the big paintings and sculptures in progress, and 'Uncle Gene' would let me play with his practice pad and sticks," he said. "I loved art and music, as I still do today, and could not wait to visit Audrey and Gene."

Stuer said that one night around the age of 9 or 10, he went with his Uncle Gene out to play the drums. "He was drumming on the street, right in midtown Manhattan," he said. "He played a big, old metal can, playing it with brushes, and his associate played a washtub and broomstick bass."

The music was lively and surprisingly good, Stuer said, considering the homemade instruments. "There, as they played, and as the coins plunked into the hat they'd



Members of Washington Middle School's drum circle add parts as they feel the beat.



Dalton Miles, left, and Mason Clay play djembe drums, while Rebecca Butler plays out the rhythm on the 'Mama' drum.



Teacher Sara McDaniel, left, plays the guiro, while student Makaila Marshall plays the blocks during drum circle rehearsal.



Jody Vines, principal at Washington, instructs students in drum class as she plays the claves.



Crystal Meeks plays the kokinko, a wooden percussion instrument that makes a clacking sound.



Clay Henry, left, and Mason Clay, keep the beat as part of the school's 'drum circle.'

left out for tips, my life's work unfolded into view. I was a drummer."

After the eye-opening experience, Stuer began learning drums, and by the ninth grade, he was playing professionally in Houston. "Houston was great in the late 60s and early 70s, with club work everywhere," he said.

In 1972, he moved to northern Texas, to study music at North Texas State University. "For the most part, I have been living in the Dallas and Fort Worth area ever since. I have been in the same house for 25 years, since 1983."

He has seen many changes

Photographs by Janice McIntyre

in the music industry through the years. "There were no computers being used, and the drum machine had not even been invented," he said. Instead, the emphasis at the beginning of his career was on being able to actually play the instruments. "I have played straight through the period of history where the new technology was invented, and it has come to be used more often than real drummers in most popular music."

Stuer says he vividly remem-

bers the days of the wind-up metronomes and practice rooms, "long before the loops and the laptops."

What is his present calling as related to playing the drums?

"My current mission is to nurture and grow the recreational drumming community, and to pass down the musical principles I have learned in a usable form," he said. "I also want to play, make music, and have fun during my remaining

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# 'The Abundance Principle' has potential to change your life

If you had the opportunity to purchase a book that had the potential to change your life for the better, would you want to know about it?

Today I would like to tell you about such a book, that I can enthusiastically recommend to you.



Jim Davidson

After you learn about it, I believe you will agree that this book

needed to be written years ago, because it gets to the heart of the matter of why millions of people struggle through life and miss most of the real joy of living.

The name of this book is "The Abundance Principle - Five Keys to Extraordinary Living," and was written by Dr. Jeff Standridge and Rev. Tim Kellerman, two gentlemen I am blessed to know personally.

Jeff is a former college professor, and currently serves as an award-winning business consultant and Sunday school teacher. He has been invited to be a speaker, trainer

and consultant for numerous businesses, organizations and institutions of higher education across the U.S., Canada and Europe. Tim is the lead pastor of the First Church of the Nazarene here in our community, and has been serving there for the past 17 years. He holds a bachelor of arts degree in pastoral ministry with an emphasis on church management. Additionally, he is a graduate of the School of Large Church Management.

To be sure, Jeff and Tim bring a special blend of talents to the writing of this much-needed book. They have captured the essence

of success principles, based on a solid Biblical foundation. What makes this book so valuable is that it is a self-help, counseling, planning, people building, financial management and giving-back book, all rolled into one.

Several months ago, I got a call from Jeff asking me if I would be willing to read the original manuscript and make suggestions that would improve it. I was honored and pleased to do this, and they have incorporated a good number of my suggestions and ideas in the finished product.

If I may, I would like to

go back to something I said earlier. There are millions of people in our nation today who struggle through life and miss most of the real joy of living. This is what Jesus was saying to his followers in John 10:10: "The thief comes not but for to steal and to kill and destroy; I have come that you might have life and that you might have it more abundantly."

Please understand that this is not a religious book, but it is based on a solid Biblical foundation. These two talented writers have combined their unique backgrounds to produce a book that I believe

is destined to become a classic.

It is an accepted fact that the vast majority of people fail because of their thinking. The reason is because they have a Scarcity Mentality. This is to say, as a basic philosophy of life, there is not enough to go around. If I get more, you get less.

If I win, you lose. It also says, get all you can before someone beats you to it. What I am saying here is never to be confused with the Prosperity Gospel, where some preachers will tell you,

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