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Even for those of us who don't like to "go to town" and especially the "big city", there are times we have to get in the car and go somewhere. That's the case of Melinda McDonald, who last Christmas, took her family shopping in the metroplex and was driving back home after a fun and busy day. The 6-month-old grandbaby was asleep in the car seat and Melinda's daughter and fiance were happily discussing the gifts they had purchased when their car was struck from behind by an intoxicated driver. Upon the impact, the couple was thrown from the rolling car, and Melinda was disoriented and unable to stand. Thankfully, the terrified baby survived the crash without major injury. However, with head, back and other injuries, all four victims were placed in emergency vehicles and transported to area hospitals. Surgery was immediately scheduled for Melinda's daughter, and only now, after nearly a year's recovery, she is once again able to take care of her child without assistance. Melinda counts them all as very, very lucky. During the year, she has attended court proceedings all the way up to the driver's sentencing phase, and sincerely hopes that time served will help the driver to facilitate permanent changes toward a productive life. This week, I had the privilege of meeting Melinda McDonald and the NE Texas Program Director for Walk Like Madd, Beth Powell. She will be in Sulphur Springs on Saturday September 29 at the local Mothers Against Drunk Driving event at Shannon Oaks. The walk starts at 8pm however you can bring the kids and arrive earlier for fun activities, food and music. This year's Walk Like Madd will have a "celebration" atmosphere, in part for the McDonald family and for others like them who hope to end drunk and drug-impaired driving. In 2017, there were 92 such crashes in the 23 counties of the NE Texas region.



Enola with Melinda McDonald



NE TEXAS Program Director Beth Powell and Melinda McDonald

September brings many fun and memorable times to our region. I love to see the pumpkins and Fall decor! Come to Sulphur Springs for the Young Eagles Flight at the airport on Saturday the 15th, the Brick Street Vintage Market downtown on Saturday the 15th, , and the annual Quilt Show at The Roc, near downtown, on both Friday and September 14 and 15. There will **I** be a Reilly Springs Jamboree at 6pm on Saturday the 15th, featuring Josh Davis as Elvis, Buddy Holly and Roy Orbison. October will bring a Hay Bale Decorating Contest, Hopkins County's own Fall Festival and World-Champion Stew Cook-off, and the 80-mile Treasure Trail route from Sulphur Springs to Linden, Texas, filled with yard and barn sales, flea markets and more. These are just a few of the reasons to re-discover Sulphur Springs and Hopkins County!



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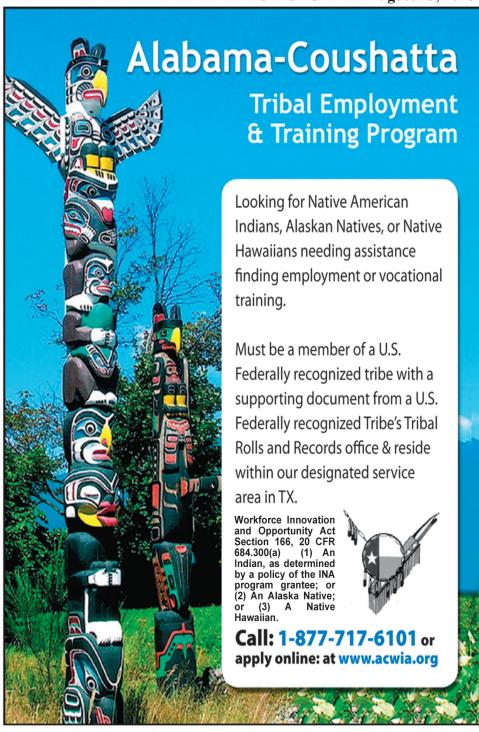
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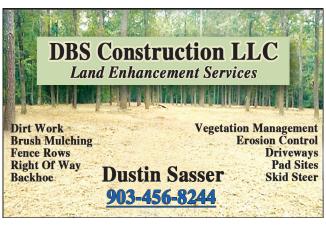
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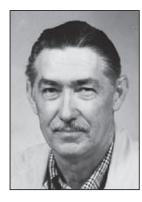
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Obits



Bobby Langford

Bobby Langford, 83, of Campbell, passed away August 27, 2018 at Hunt Regional Medical Center in Greenville. A graveside service was held at 10:00 AM Thursday at Memoryland Memorial Park with Rev. John Foster officiating. Visitation was from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM Wednesday at Coker-Mathews Funeral Home.

Born March 23, 1935 in Cash, Bobby was the son of Charlie Ernest and Medie Alice (Smith) Langford. On January 30, 1981 in Sulphur Springs, he married Barbara Friddle. He was a retired SMSGT of the United States Air Force and retired from E-Systems. He was of the Baptist faith. Bobby was an avid gardener, a cattle rancher and loved the outdoors.

His survivors include his wife, Barbara; daughters, Vickie Conner and husband Rick, Pamela Himes and husband Kevin, and Sandi Hancock, Jennifer McClanahan and husband Jeremy; sister, Laverne Lambe; nine grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; and 1 great-grandchild.

Several brothers and sisters preceded him in death.

Pallbearers were Orion Casper, Rick Conner, Jeremy McClanahan, David Powell, James Wise, Jimmy Hamilton, Jay Gore and David Ruff.



Lesley Seymore

On Saturday, September 1, 2018, Lesley Lee Seymore, loving husband and father, passed away at the age of 77, at his home on Lake Fork in Yantis, Texas.

Lesley was born on November 13, 1940 in a small farm house in Seymore Community just south of Sulphur Springs, Texas. Both of his parents grew up on farms in or near the community. His father's occupation relocated the family to 23 different places from coast to coast before returning to Sulphur Springs during his sophomore year to finish high school. That is where he met his childhood sweetheart, Barbara.

After graduation from Sulphur Springs High School in 1959, Lesley went to Texas Tech College in Lubbock, Texas. Both he and Barbara graduated from Tech in 1964. During his freshman year at Tech, he signed up for Air Force ROTC because the pay was \$43 a month and he needed the money. Four years later, Lesley was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

Lesley married Barbara Ann Bell on September 5, 1964 and borrowed \$600 from his uncle to finance the honeymoon. While on their honeymoon, he was informed that he was assigned to pilot training at Reese Air Force Base, Lubbock, Texas.

After pilot training, Lesley was assigned as an instructor pilot at Reese AFB. He then completed F-100 Super Sabre training at Luke AFB in Arizona in preparation for a tour at Phan Rang AFB, Vietnam where he flew 263 missions. Among other aircraft, Lesley flew another single seat jet; the A-7 Corsair II. During his Air Force career, he and his family moved seven times for different assignments. After 23 years, Lesley retired from the Air Force as a Lt. Colonel.

Lesley was preceded in death by his father, Elmer Loyl Seymore, and mother, Veta Onellia (Douglass) Seymore, and his grandparents, Elmer and Delia Seymore and Charlie and Maye Douglass.

Lesley will be lovingly remembered by his childhood sweetheart, best friend and wife of 54 years, Barbara Ann (Bell) Seymore and their children, Craig Anthony Seymore of Yantis, Texas and girlfriend, Tammy Sherman; Alicia Ann (Seymore) Day and her husband, Adam Benton Day, of Manvel, Texas, as well as fellow Air Force pilot, and dear friend, John Wall. Lesley "Papa" will also be fondly remembered by his four grandchildren, Benton Lee Day, Brennon Lee Seymore, Barrett Sparks Day, and Kendall Grace Seymore.

A memorial service will be held at 4:00 p.m., Saturday, September 8, 2018 at First United Methodist Church. Visitation will be held at 3:00 p.m., prior to service. Military graveside honors will follow the service at Seymore Cemetery.



Betty Mayes Bassham

Funeral services for Betty Mayes Bassham, age 72, of Sulphur Springs were held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 5, 2018 at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Robert Newsom officiating. Interment followed at Restlawn Memorial Park with Joe Hooten, Don Patterson, David Ragan, Justin Davidson, Benny Johnson, and Kenneth Fox serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were Dave Davidson, Roger Maynard, Michael Rogers, Butch Adams, and Larry Vandiver. Visitation was held Tuesday, September 4, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at West Oaks Funeral Home. Betty passed away on Saturday, September 1, 2018 at Sulphur Springs Health and Rehab.

Betty was born on August 11, 1946 in Greenville, TX to Oscar Avery Mayes and Lynda Record Mayes. She married Bill Bassham on February 14, 1997 in Sulphur Springs, and he survives. Betty worked for Hopkins County for 19 years, as an Administrative Assistant from 1977 – 1987 and Treasurer from 1987 – 2006. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church. In addition to her husband she is survived by sons, Scott Steele of Flint, Bill Bassham, Jr. and wife Cherie of Richardson, and

Brett Bassham of Thornton, daughter, Stacy McMinn and husband Mike of Sulphur Springs, sisters, Glinda Felty and husband Larry of Waxahachie, Susan Ducos and husband Frank of Burkburnett. Grandchildren, Coby Steele and wife Libby, Cortni Steele and fiance Garrett Swatsell, Jaci Davis, Brooke Daniel and husband John, Ryan Bassham and wife Marissa, Mikayla Davis, and Cassidy Davis, great-grandchildren, Wyatt Swatsell, Zoe and Cora Bassham, and Nora Daniel. She was preceded in death by her parents.



Frances Grace Francis

Memorial service for Frances Grace Francis, age 76, of Sulphur Springs, will be held at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, September 8, 2018 at Wesley United Methodist Church with Pastor Steve Cook officiating. Visitation will begin at 1:00 p.m., prior to service time. Fran passed away on Sunday, August 26, 2018 at Carriage House Manor.

She was born on March 1, 1942, in Detroit, MI, the daughter of Joseph and Beverly Denver Rizzo. She was a homemaker and a member of Wesley United Methodist Church. She married Arthur Francis on November 28, 1980 in Pickton, TX. He preceded her in death on November 30, 2017.

Fran is survived by sons, Richard James Francis and wife Janeen, Frank Samuel Francis and wife Faith, daughter, Kathie Marlin and husband John, grandchildren, Lisa Marlin, Amanda Marlin, Tyler Wayne Francis, McKenzie Francis, Frankie

Francis, Tyler Kimbro, Kendal Kimbro, and great-grandchildren, Ava Marlin, Maddox James Francis, Addilyn Grace Francis, and Jaxsyn Wayne Francis.

In addition to her husband, Fran was also preceded in death by her parents and one brother.

Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.

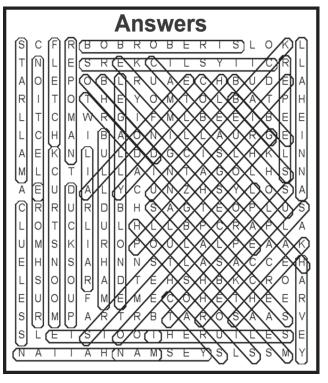
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THE IDLE AMERICAN A Look Back at Losses...

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

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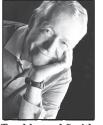






THE TEXAS COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME

Tumbleweed Smith



Fumbleweed Smith

Tommie Ritter Smith of Carthage is kin to legendary country musician Tex Ritter. "Tex and my dad were first cousins," says Tommie. "Their dads were brothers." Tommie has been the chamber exec in Carthage since 1982. Her office is in a historic old antebellum home. In the early 1990s Tommie got the idea to start the Tex Ritter Museum upstairs in the chamber building. She gathered a lot of Tex's

memorabilia and put it on display. Tex was born in Panola County. So was Jim Reeves, another giant in country music. "We think we're the only county that can lay claim to being the birthplace of two country music hall of famers and international country music stars." So some Jim Reeves memorabilia was added to the Tex Ritter items.

"In 1997 we started the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame to recognize the importance of country music in the state," says Tommie. "We began inducting two Texas country musicians every year. We made a list of 300 when we started and that list keeps growing.

Every year the induction ceremony turns into a concert featuring big names in country music. The crowds have reached more than 2,000 and the inductions are now held in Carthage High School's new 15 million dollar performing arts center. This year's honorees were Leon Rausch and the original Chuck Wagon Gang.

"The museum was a popular destination but it was upstairs in an old home," says Tommie. "We got a group together and approached the city to build a separate museum." The forward thinking city fathers approved spending two and a half million dollars to fund the project. Since then, another million and a half dollars were approved for improvements. It has been a good move. The museum visitors log shows people from every US state and 50 foreign countries.

It's a state of the art facility with some valuable items on display loaned by families of the inductees. "They trusted us to take good care of the things they let us display," says Tommie. "We have 50 displays of Texans that are famous country music stars. We have guitars, cowboy boots and hats, very valuable records and sheet music with the stars' handwritten notes on them. We have suits tailored for the stars." consultant from Nashville does the displays, making the trip to Carthage three times a year to spruce up the displays and add new ones,

Tommie says people who visit the museum on bus tours get special entertainment. "We have several volunteers that come out to entertain the bus tours. We have a little stage set up and they sing the songs of our inductees. My husband is one of them. I talked him into dressing up like Tex Ritter and singing for bus tours and he does a great job."

Tommy is amazed at what has happened over the years. "It all started because I wanted to honor Tex Ritter in his hometown and it has escalated way beyond my expectations. I cannot believe we are where we are."

By Jan Massey

If you have not seen and heard Hanah & Hailee perform, you are missing a very special treat!!

From singing in Church and nursing homes, to performing on stages everywhere, their singing makes everyone happy.

Their songwriting and singing skills will make you wonder how they can only be a freshman in college and a sophomore in high school. The girls have been singing and writing music since the early ages of 9 and 7. I remember seeing them perform as "Two Hearts Plus" with their younger brother several years back. In fact, they were performing at the Reilly Springs Jamboree in Hopkins County. They took the audience by surprise with their talent and personalities.

Later on, Hanah decided to form a band and named it "Scatter Proof". Their first booking was at the Reilly Springs Jamboree in 2014. Roger Reed and Enola Gay Mathews, producers of the Reilly Springs Jamboree are avid supporters of this duo and bring them back as often as possible.

The girls' musical talent includes more than guitars. When you meet them, let them tell you their story. It is fascinating.

Not only have they played in venues around Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and California; plus both auditioned for American Idol. In addition, songs they write, compose and sing have won National songwriting contests.

Winnsboro residents, the girls wrote a song about Winnsboro, Texas. It's called "My Town" and can be found on youtube.com.

Both have been nominated for the 2018 Josie Music Award -Female Artist of the Year. This came about as a result of earning the title of Young Adult Duo in Nashville last September. They are scheduled to perform on the Dollywood stage in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee on Saturday, September 8.

Check out this website for what's new with Hanah and Hailee: www.HanahnHailee.com

Joyce Hooten Nixon (manager, promoter, publisher +++) on Facebook Hanah and Hailee are building a future for themselves and their music. Look for them to be front page news!!

Colston Saturday Night

Headliner 8:30 - 10:00



Entry to the Bash is FREE to the public (no gate charge) and proudly presented by the Commerce Chamber of Commerce and our generous sponsors.

2018 BASH EVENT SCHEDULE

Friday, September 21

- ★ 28th Annual Bash Golf Tournament 7 a.m. until 4 p.m.
- ★ Morning and afternoon tee times available
- ★ Hole-in-One contest
- ★ Putting Contest
- ★ BBQ lunch included in entry fees
- ★ Raffle tickets
- ★ 33rd Annual Bois d'Arc Bash
- ★ 5p Commerce Leadership Institute BBQ
- ★ 5 6:30p Panimation Steel Drum Band
- ★ 5p 10p Vendor booths open
- ★ 6p Carnival opens
- ★ 7 8p Cross Trails Band
- ★ 8:30 -10p Twisted Whisky

Saturday, September 22

- ★ 33rd Annual Bois d'Arc Bash
- ★ 7:30a Motorcycle Bash Ride, sponsored by Commerce Community Cares
- ★ 7:30 -10a Commerce Masonic Lodge Pancake Breakfast
- ★ 9a 6p Vendor booths open
- ★ 9a 5p East Texas Model Railroad Club Exhibit, on Pecan St.
- ★ 10a Bois d'Arc Bash Parade
- ★ 10:45a Opening ceremonies; announcements
- ★ 11a Carnival opens
- ★ 11 noon Dixieland Band
- ★ Noon Aglaia Culture Club Duck Pluck (purchase tickets from any club member prior to the Bash)
- ★ 12:30 2p The Blandelles
- ★ 1 9p Northeast Texas Food & Wine Society Wine Tasting (admission charge)
- ★ 2:30 3:30p Beatnik Bandits
- ★ 3:45 4:30p Li-Sher Dance Studio
- ★ 5 6p Bad Moon Rising
- ★ 6:30 7:30p Nevermind
- ★ 8:30 10p Chris Colston as our Saturday night headliner
 - http://www.chriscolstonmusic.com/



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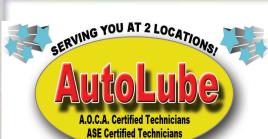
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