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Lots going on among friends as the holidays rush toward us at light speed! But it's nice to stop and savor the flavor of our community and it's people. Here are a few you may know.



Como Mayor Darla Lewis Henry

Darla Lewis Henry is the mayor of Como, Texas. She was elected in 2017 and is tackling the needs there as she does her day-job at Flo-Serve; to tackle the most pressing first, and to choose your battles. A big need at Como has been to bring the wastewater treatment facility up to standard, but the funds weren't available. Ms. Henry applied for and received a grant for \$275,000, and now construction is set to begin in January 2019. Once the overhaul and repairs are made, residents of Como will not be plagued with "boil water" notices anymore. Her next project is to bring in a Code Enforcement Officer whose

presence will help the Como community address the issues of high or unmown grass, and dogs running loose. Mayor Henry says these are baby steps, but it's steps in the right direction for the growing City of Como.

Here's a hard working lady who has raised a big family and run a successful business for 50 years. She must have begun as a child! Actually, she and her late husband Mike Temples started small in 1969, and grew a trusted, quality trailer-building busiheadquartered in Sulphur Springs, Texas. Congratulations Judy Temples, Larry Jay, Lisa and Lana and the Temples Trailer Sales family. You may have reached a milestone but you are still going strong and having fun too! Keep that great smile, girl. You've already put in the work, so now there's a lot of fun on your horizon, so be ready!



Judy Temples of family owned Temples Trailer Sales.

Here's a guy who has built a reputation as a country musician with staying power. Mr. Gale Hague, dairyman and businessman in the Yantis area, is also a bass-playing singer who loves country music. Traditional country, that is! The kind of music that you can listen to and tap your toe, or enjoy for boot-scooting your sweetie across the dance floor. Fifteen years ago, after Gale had been traveling to gigs all over North Texas on weekends with his band Lone Star Express, he discovered a little venue very near his home. The Arbala Community Center had been hosting country dances with different bands on an occasional basis, so that the Seniors of the area would have something to do close to home. So, in 2003, he decided to ask if he could play there too, maybe on a once-a-month basis. His request was granted. Not long afterwards as his popularity grew and the dancers began to number towards 100, he was asked to play the dance on a weekly basis. And that's what he has been doing for over a decade now, every Tuesday night at 7pm. Admisson is just \$5 per person, and everyone is welcome to bring a covered dish, a pie or cake, or a box of fried chicken to spread for a half-time meal. The smoke-and-alcohol free weekly event has become like "home and family" for many individuals, couples and even families who love country music and country fellowship. Sometimes there are 20 people there and sometimes 80 or 90...but there's always good traditional country music, laughter and fun. Congratulations on a 15-year milestone Gale, and keep the music coming!



recognize Gale Hague's 15th Anniversary at Arbala Dance.



Lone Star Express Band, L. Hague, Bass, Jerry Knight, lead guitar and Jack Phillips, Fiddle.

May you get the Christmas spirit and endeavor to spread it to others this holiday season! This will add to your own peace and joy! Til next week, I'll watch for you and Santa at the corral gate.

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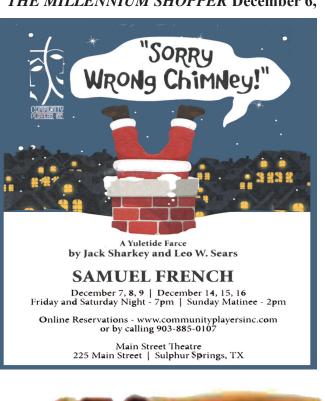
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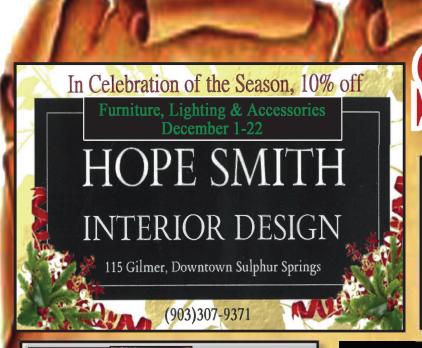
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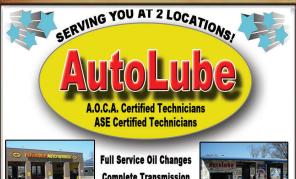
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Norma Johnson

Funeral service for Norma Johnson, age 71, of Yantis, was held at 2:00 P.M. on Sunday, December 2, 2018 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Chapel with Pastor Byron George and Pastor Jeremy Durig officiating. Interment followed at Yantis Cemetery with Scott Ogle, Chad Ogle, Corey Ogle, Tanner Ogle, Hunter Burnett and Colten Burnett serving as pallbearers and the Wednesday Night Group serving as honorary pallbearers. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service. Mrs. Johnson passed away on November 29, 2018 at Rock Creek Health and Rehab, Sulphur Springs.

Norma was born on January 28, 1947 in Sulphur Springs to Ernest and Lola Ogle. She married Dave Elledge on February 25, 1967, Yantis, TX and he preceded her in death in 1997. She then married Wendell Johnson in Sulphur Springs on August 1, 2001. Norma worked as a Food Service Supervisor for restaurants, schools and nursing homes. She was a member of League

Street Church of Christ.

She is survived by her daughter, Amber Burnett and husband, Michael of Yantis; step-daughters, Marla Demontigny and husband, Dane of Katy, Rebecca Long of Madisonville, TX; step-son, Jay Johnson and wife, Rosemary of Sulphur Springs; grandchildren, Hunter Burnett and wife, Kathryn, Colten Burnett, Ashten Burnett, Lauryn Badr and husband, Illyasse, Austin Demontigny, Cody Johnson, Jason Long, Ryan Long; great grandchild, Aubrey Badr; brother, Bobby Ogle and wife, Carolyn; numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband; brother, Donald Ray Ogle; great nephew, Casey Ogle.



Leduous Haroldeen Brown

Leduous Haroldeen Brown, 78, of Klondike, passed away on the same property that he was born on, on Sunday evening, December 2, 2018.

Mr. Brown was born July 21, 1940, in Klondike, the son of Leona Lovelace Brown and Samuel Brown.

He was married to Sally Ann Snowman Brown for 52 plus years. Ledous was employed with Safeway for 23 years and Texas A&M University Commerce for 17 years. He was an avid outdoorsman, he enjoyed fishing, hunting and following his cows around in the pasture. He was known as" Mr. fix it" as he could fix just about anything. He was big on helping people in any way he could. He could tell and share many stories and memories and especially tell jokes to make people laugh.

He was lovingly known as Pawpaw & Tex to his kids, grandkids and great-grandkids.

He is survived by his wife Sally, two sons; Mark Brown (Tina) and Mike Foxall, grandsons; Shawn Foxall, Blake Brown and Adam Donnell(Blair), granddaughters; Bailey Brown (Keilah) and Kristy Donnell and his great-grandchildren; Taylor Foxall, Addison Brown, Andrew Brown, Aiden Brown, Houston Donnell and Jude Donnell. Ledous is also survived by his siblings; Alvin Brown (Barbara), Randy Brown, Willie Brown (Kathy), Danny Atterberry (Joann), his sister-in-law Brenda Brown and his brother-in law Bob Rizzo.

Those that preceded him in death are his parents Leona and Samuel Brown, his step mother, Pauline Hooten Brown, his brother, Donald Brown, his sisters; Mary Evelyn Atterberry and Lou Ann Rizzo, and, his loving grandmother who helped raise him, Martha Ann Brown.

Funeral services for Mr. Brown were held at 11:00 A.M. Wednesday, December 5, 2018, at the Jones-Walker & Son Funeral Chapel with Brother Terry Bryan officiating. Visitation occured one hour prior to service at 10:00 A.M. Interment followed at the New Klondike Cemetery, Klondike, Texas 75488. Serving as pallbearers were Luke Brown, Josh Brown, Brad Phifer, Jeff Phifer, Richard Brown and William Loesel.



Frederick Weeks

Frederick Weeks was born February 10, 1960 to the late Ruben and Harriett Weeks in Hopkins County, Sulphur Springs, Texas. He was added to the body of Christ at the age of twelve years under the late W.B.Jackson.

He attended public schools in the Sulphur Springs school system and graduated from Northwood University June 1993 with a bachelor's degree.

Fred also served in the United States Military Armed Forces Artillery Division for four years. He was discharged with honors.

Fred departed this life on November 28, 2018, at 9:50 p.m. at the Veterans Affair Hospital in Dallas, Texas, from an extended illness. He served as a minister for many years to several congregations in the East Texas area. His most precious accomplishment was serving as an Elder at his home church where he grew up, The Church of Christ on 154 M.L.K. Dr. in Sulphur Springs, TX.

He was united in marriage to Monica Denice Edmond on February 17, 1997.

He leaves to mourn his passing, his wife, Monica Denice Weeks, three sons, Travis Lamont Weeks (Debra) of Weatherford, TX, Erick Ruben Weeks of Sulphur Springs, Derrick DeWayne Weeks of Commerce, one daughter, Destinee Freneisha Weeks, one sister, Remona Hynson (Danny) all of Sulphur Springs, TX, one grandson, Travis Weeks (TJ) Jr. of Weatherford, TX, and a host of nieces, nephews, family, and friends.

Fred was preceded in death by his son, Andrew DeJuan Weeks, his parents, Ruben and Harriett Weeks, brothers, James Pruitt and Troy Weeks, and sisters, Billie Rose Young and Carol Ann Tatum. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, December 8, 2018 at League Street Church of Christ. Interment will follow at East Caney Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Friday, December 7, 2018 at West Oaks Funeral Home. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.



Nelda Sue Mitchell

Ms. Nelda Sue Mitchell, 66, of Sulphur Springs passed away in Sulphur Springs, on Sunday, November 25, 2018.

"Sue" was born January 15, 1952, in Sulphur Springs, she was the daughter of Velma Putman Bryant and James Thomas Bryant. She is survived by her daughter Susan Law of Sulphur Springs, her two sons; Jimmy Dan Mitchell of Sulphur Springs and Stephen Mitchell of Dallas, her granddaughter, Jessica George, her two grandsons; John George and Jacob George, her great-granddaughters; Jasmin Gonzales, Elaina George, and Abby George, great-grandsons; Jordan Gonzales, Jonathan Gonzales, Jeremiah Gonzales, Jayden Gamboa and Jesse George. Sue is also survived by her three brothers; Truman Baxley, Billy Baxley and Bennie Bryant.

She was preceded in death by her husband Jimmy Wayne Mitchell, her parents, "Tom" & Velma Bryant and her two brothers; James and Joe Baxley.

Funeral Services for "Sue" were held at 3:30 P.M., Saturday, December 1, 2018, at the Myra Wilson Chapel, 7th St @California St. Sulphur Springs, TX. 75482. Visitation was from 2:00 P.M. until service time at 3:30 P.M.

Interment followed at Sulphur Springs City Cemetery, in Sulphur Springs with Angel Gamboa, John George, Jacob George, Johnny Bryant, Harold Bell, Ryan Bell, Chad Watkins and Dustin Flanery serving as pallbearers.

Services were under the direction of Jones-Walker and Son Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Commerce.

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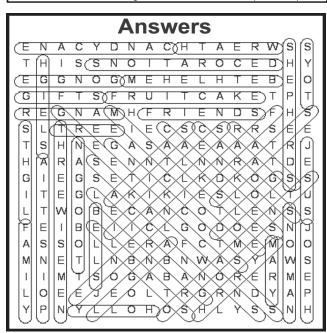
Christmas Tack & Saddle Auction Sunday, December 9, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. at the Hagansport Community Center

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THE TASTE TESTER FOR SNICKERS

imbleweed Smith

Tumbleweed Smith

I had a great visit with Gary "JC" Penney at his home in Lorena, just south of Waco. I found out he is one popular guy and has friends in many area. Someone suggested I interview him because he writes and recites cowboy and plays and teaches harmonica. I couldn't ignore that.

When I pulled up to his place I noticed an ancient gas pump in his front yard with a price per gallon of 13 cents. When his wife Donna came to the door I told her I wanted

a fillup. She says she gets that a lot. She came to the door because Gary has had a stroke and it affected his left side. He's not getting around as well as he did, but he is on the mend and has a super attitude. He is anxious to resume all the stuff he is used to doing.

I found out Gary has many hobbies including a parrot that talks a lot and sometimes sings along with Gary's harmonica playing. Donna took me up to a playroom above their garage. There was an elaborate train layout and dozens of Oil Company signs in all sizes. Donna says their grandkids love to go up there and play.

Gary is one happy fellow. Maybe there's a reason for that. He had a career as a taster for Snickers. "I worked for M & M Mars Candy Company in Waco for thirty years making Snickers, Starburst and Skittles," says Gary. "I was the taste tester. It was a great job. Snickers is named after the Mars family's horse."

In Junior High School Gary acquired the nickname JC. In many circles he is known as JC Penney. He started doing cowboy poetry in 2004 and rose up the ranks in a hurry. He has performed in Lubbock, Texas, Durango, Colorado, Prescott, Arizona and Abilene, Kansas. He started doing it when a family member wrote a series of straight-laced cowboy poems and told Gary he needed some levity. Gary decided he could do that, too. Some of his poetry has been published in books.

He has won numerous awards for his poetry including the top prize for humor at the Cowboy Poetry Rodeo in Abilene, Kansas. In that event, poets pay an entry fee and the winner gets the pot. He won over 25 contestants and was awarded the "Best of the West" prize. He recites his own poetry as well as some of the old classics. He does his recitations from memory. He says it just takes lots of practice. "My wife is my coach and teacher. She pushes me. If it wasn't for her I wouldn't do as well as I do." He makes appearances at retirement centers, churches and private functions

Gary started playing harmonica when he was in his sixties and teaches harmonica at cowboy poetry gatherings. "I always have a bunch of cheap harmonicas with me and sell them along with printed pages explaining how to play certain songs." He got interested in the instrument at an event in Lubbock where a woman in her nineties was teaching how to play harmonica. When he found out she started playing when she was 82, he decided it wasn't too late to start to learn.





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