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Christmas is almost here...but I never got to tell you where I went for Thanksgiving. Our family holiday included not only turkey and dressing and a slew of homemade pies, but a venture out of the house to visit a horse farm. Ten of us converged on daughter Bobbi Bounds Rowland's home, now in Piedmont, Oklahoma which is a suburb of OKC. The seven teenagers were reunited once again for an extended visit of two days and nights. Naturally, Bobbi and I spent most of our time replenishing the array of food and snacks, but we also played a lot of cards late into the night. The guys spent an afternoon working on a car and fixed a nagging problem. We let the teens go shopping just once on that Black Friday weekend, and they came home with a rather sad story. As they exited a busy store, they were witness to a wallet-snatching episode involving an elderly shopper. As the young robber ran from the scene, one of our 14-year-olds (who is on his school's wrestling and track teams) tried to take off after him but was restrained by his cousins. Thank goodness! There's no telling whether or not that thief or his buddies in the little red pick-up vehicle had a gun! Anyway, the kids gave their statements to the police and came on home feeling sad for the victim. They said, "he was just an old guy with hearing aids who was holding his wallet and phone in one hand and placing his groceries into the back of his car with the other hand!" Lesson: don't you fall victim to this underhanded ploy this holiday!



Enola and son with "the 7 teenagers"

The visit to the Express Clydesdale Farm at Yukon, Oklahoma, was a real positive experience. This is a world-class operation which houses about 30 of the gentle giants. Unlike the famous chestnut Budweiser teams, these Clydesdales are black with white stockings. In 1998, owner Bob Funk fell in love with the horses while at Saskatchewan, Canada. About a dozen of the "equine ambassadors" were present in their stalls where we could pet and visit with them. I assume at least one of the hitches was out working at a parade somewhere in America that Thanksgiving weekend! In national competition, the 6 and 8-horse hitches have brought home awards and international recognition. To illustrate the size of these horses, their hoofs appeared to be about 12-14 inches in diameter. My son Clay, who is 6'3" tall, stood equal to the withers of these giants which measure 18-19 hands tall. The self-guided tour of the barns is absolutely free, year-round. If you want to visit sometime, expresselydesdales on facebook.





All year round, let's put the "spirit of thanks" into our days like we do at Thanksgiving, and the "merry" of Christmastime into every good wish for our fellow travelers on this trail we are on. Til next week, I will watch for you at the corral gate.

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Max Drummond

Funeral service for Max Drummond, age 82, of Sulphur Springs, was held at 2:00 P.M. on Wednesday, December 12, 2018 at Wesley United Methodist Church with Rev. Steve Cook officiating and Rev Jerry Putnam and Bill Watts assisting. Interment followed at North Hopkins Cemetery with John Drummond, Don Drummond, Paul Drummond, Steve Drummond, Kent Stiverson, Paul West Jr, Steven Crocker and Gary Lewis serving as Pallbearers. Serving as honorary pallbearers were Gene George, Dale Drummond, Benny Boss, Scott Henderson, Lewis Hawkins, Steve Crocker, members of Double 6 Domino Club and Wesleyan Sunday School Class of Wesley Methodist Church. Visitation was held from 5 to 7 P.M. on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Chapel. Mr. Drummond passed away on Monday, December 10, 2018 in Sulphur Springs, Texas.

Max was born on September 8, 1936 in Flora, Texas. He married Lou Jane Jones in Sulphur Springs in 1958. Max retired from Rockwell International. He was a member of the Double 6 Domino Club, served on the North Hopkins ISD School board for 20 years, was a member of the Wesley United Methodist Church and the Chancel Choir.

He is survived by his wife, Lou Jane; daughter, Julie Weir and Steve Crocker; son, Steve Drummond and wife, Sherrie; sister, Sue Stiverson; grandchildren, Sara West, Jared Drummond, Steven Crocker, Lydia Rose Drummond, Dylan Tennison, Brenli Tennison; great grandchildren, Everlyn West and soon to be Maxson West; numerous nieces and nephews.

Max was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Mary Lou Duncan and Minnie Frances Drummond; brothers, J.E. Drummond, Jack Drummond and Robby Joe Drummond.

Memorials can be made to Wesley United Methodist Church, 614 Texas Street, Sulphur Springs, Texas, 75482 Arrangements were under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home



Helen Huffstickler

Helen Huffstickler, 79, of Commerce passed away surrounded by loved ones at her residence on Saturday, December 1, 2018

Helen was born December 26, 1938 in Ashville, North Carolina, the daughter of Juanita Buelah Browning and Frank Floyd Warren. She was married to Carl Edward Huffstickler, who preceded her in death.

Helen is survived by her two sons; Carl Jeffrey and Sean Franklin Huffstickler, her grandchildren; Kyle Jeffrey, Ciara Leann, Devin Michelle and Mikaela Beth Huffstickler, her great-granddaughter, Nova Dawson Land and her mother Juanita Buelah Browning.

She was preceded in death by her husband Carl Edward Huffstickler, her father Frank Floyd Warren and her son Donald Gene Huffstickler.

A memorial service for Helen was held on Saturday, December 8, 2018 at 2:00 P.M. at Jones-Walker & Son Funeral Home



Rosemary Morris

Funeral Service for Rosemary Morris, age 79, of Sulphur Springs, Texas was held at 2:00 P.M. on Sunday, December 9, 2018 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home in Sulphur Springs with Mark Garrett officiating and Beau Alcorn, Tanner Alcorn, Ryan Stracener, Willie Bob Stracener, Leroy Stracener and Colby Hoover serving as pallbearers and Mike McCallum, Tommy Potts, Rodney Hinton, Leeman Stracener and J. W. Ragan serving as honorary pallbearers. Visitation was held from 12:30 to 2 P.M. on Sunday, December 9, 2018 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Chapel. Ms. Morris passed away on Friday, December 7, 2018 in Sulphur Springs, Texas.

Rosemary Morris was born on January 20, 1939 in Greenview, Texas, the daughter of Maurice and Haola Potts McElvy. She married Larry William Morris in Oklahoma in 2002. Throughout her lifetime, Rosemary worked on a Dairy Farm

where she came to love animals. She was of the Baptist Faith.

She is survived by one daughter, Michelle Bond of Sulphur Springs; two grandchildren, Kody Bond and wife Cheyanne of Lafayette, Indiana and Jesslin Bond of Tempe, Arizona; Brother-In-Law Leeman Stracener of Greenview, Texas; best friend Glenda Holbrook of Kemp, Texas and beloved pet Murphy. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews and many friends.

Rosemary was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Larry William Morris, and two sisters; Faye Stracener and Janie Middleton. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.



Terry Calvin Perry

Funeral service for Terry Calvin Perry, age 56 of Sulphur Springs, were held at 1:30 P.M. on Monday, December 10, 2018 at Full Gospel House of Prayer, Sulphur Springs with Rev. Danny Ballard officiating. Interment followed at North Hopkins Cemetery with Daniel Weatheread, John Weatheread, Jordan Perry, Jonathon Keller, Chris Currier and Paul Flanery serving as pallbearers and Gary Parkhurst and Mark Pepper serving as honorary pallbearers. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service. Mr. Perry passed away on Thursday, December 06, 2018 in Sulphur Springs, Texas. Terry was born on July 6, 1962 in Odessa, to Bobby and Darla Perry. He married Kimberly Weatheread in Como on

Terry was born on July 6, 1962 in Odessa, to Bobby and Darla Perry. He married Kimberly Weatheread in Como on October 14, 1995. He was a member of the Chickasaw Tribe. Terry was a nurse at Carriage House Manor. He was a member of Full Gospel House of Prayer.

He is survived by his wife, Kimberly; son, Jordan Perry; daughter, Lindsey Perry; sister, Sherry Boeger and husband, Bill of Madison, Wisconsin. Terry was preceded in death by his father and son, Dillon Perry.

Arrangements were under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home



Fred Lee Epperly

Funeral services for Freddie Lee Epperly, 79, of Lake Fork, Alba,TX were held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, December 8, 2018 at First Baptist Church of Yantis, Texas, with Rev. John Glover of Burleson, Texas, officiating and Rev. Craig Vance, and Rev. Shannon Hassell, assisting. Visitation was held at 10:00 a.m. at FBC-Yantis Fellowship Hall prior to service. Pallbearers were the deacons of First Baptist Church of Yantis. Interment was held at 11:00 a.m., Monday, December 10, 2018 at Fairview Cemetery in Pampa, Texas.

Freddie passed away on Wednesday, December 5, 2018 in Tyler, Texas. He was born on November 21, 1939 in Shamrock, Texas, the son of Lawrence Edward and Lizzie Bernice Dunlap Epperly. He married Dana Cantrell on June 27, 1964 in Pampa, Texas. She survives. He served in the United States Army (ASA) for three years at the start of the

Vietnam War. He worked for Southwestern Bell Telephone as an Outside Plant Facilities Engineer for 30 years.

In addition to his wife Dana, Freddie is also survived by daughter, Cindi Hassell and husband, Shannon of Lake Cypress Springs, Scroggins, Texas. Two grandsons, Daniel Lee Hassell of Irving, Texas and Caleb Lloyd Hassell of OBU University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas; one step-brother, Greg Engel of Columbia, Missouri; three half-brothers, Stan Epperly and Larry Epperly, KS and Raymond Epperly, and a half-sister, Starr Ann Epperly Buur, California. Arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.

Giants Who Wouldn't Pull Rank...

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

decisions without fanfare, and come to light years later. We're running short on noble decisions of late, but two made by decades ago by two prominent Arizonans worth calling to

McCain's death caused reflection on his life of service to country, including his imprisonment in Viet When captors years. realized his prominence, they saw great public relations value in releasing him soon imprisonment, with much fanfare. He immediately refused,

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Late columnist Erma degradation. quarter-century later....

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Nam for more than five it, vowing to wait her no doubt wrote. It was turn. When that time came, months later, she was in a weakened condition, and her body rejected the transplant. her humor was evident. One of the world's wittiest persons whose late writing to thank columns brightened millions of lives, was dead at 69.

1968 resulted in with my laundry."....

imprisonment Erma's Bombeck, a "favorite decision was made in daughter" of Arizona 1996 robbed readers during the final 25 of smiles. She could years of her life, made coax more grins from a similar decision a a column of 400 words or so than anyone I've ever read....

I was an avid reader, John kidney disease, she had and wrote her a grateful

A couple of weeks later, I was surprised She'd have no part of to receive a note she typed on copy paper, and signed with an editor's pencil.

Even in the short note, "I apologize for being you for your letter," she said. "I'm nearly as far behind with my McCain's decision correspondence as I am

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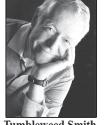
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Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

Michelle Smith had a career traveling coast to coast in the mortgage and software development industries. Thirteen years ago she bought 30 acres of land south of Pittsburg, Texas, hired a contractor to build some guest cottages, hired a forester to plant dozens of pine trees, opened a bed and breakfast facility and named it the Lavender Mermaid.

"We had a lake house on Lake Cypress Springs east of here for 18 years. We bought a statue of a mermaid for the lake house. Then we bought another. Friends who came to see us would bring us mermaid memorabilia and we have plenty of it now, hundreds of items in fact. We love the smell of lavender, the healing aspect of it and I cook with it."

The Lavender Mermaid can sleep 10 comfortably in 3 individual cottages and one duplex. All have private porches that look out on the piney woods. The place has received some good publicity from East Texas publications. County Line Magazine calls it the best B&B. Piney Woods Life calls it the most romantic B&B. It has been featured on television, radio and in Texas Highways magazine. Guest books in the cottages are full of praises from satisfied customers. The majority of the guests come from Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas. Some come from as far away as Alaska and England. The usual stay is 2 or 3 nights, although some guests stay a week or more.

Michelle has adapted to life in the woods. "When I came out here I left Dallas and big corporate America and became a country girl. I found a whole new way of life and I love it."

Her bed and breakfast is just up the road from Los Pinos Winery. "We're right in the middle of the Piney Woods wine trail," says Michelle. "There are 10 wineries within an hour from here."

Nobody ever leaves hungry. She delivers breakfast to your door every morning. "It's typical to get brown crusted quiche, fresh fruit salad swirled in lavender syrup, home made granola, home made blueberry lime jam made from blueberries that grow here, fresh blueberry scones, and honey made from beehives on the property. I make chocolate lavender truffles that have just a hint of lavender. I put those by your bed at night so you'll have sweet dreams."

The B&B is remote. It's easy to miss the sign giving directions to it, even though you're going slow because of the narrow rough road. It has a quiet, relaxing atmosphere. And the smell of lavender growing along the walkways is intoxicating. There is a pastoral reverence about the place. "People come here to get away from the hustle and bustle of the big city. They sit on the porch and smell the pines, hear the birds and other country sounds. It's a real relief from everyday life."



YEAR END ESTATE AUCTION

Our Last Auction In 2018 Saturday, December 15, 2018 @ 9:30 AM **OUR FACILITY IN MOUNT VERNON** Directions: From Intersection of I-30 & TX Hwy 37, Go 1

Mile West on the North Service Road in Mt. Vernon, TX. Auctioneers Notes: This auction will finalize all the estates that we have worked with in the last few months. Including Linda Frederick's estate which consists of all household belongings, furniture, collectibles including NASCAR memorabilia, over 100 pieces of "Christmas Village" still in original boxes, 2007 GMC Arcadia SLT w/147K miles, storage, like new riding lawnmower, tiller, yard tools, yard furniture and decorations, tons of fabric & material, craft and sewing items.

We could not conduct this auction at the residence due to lack of parking. We have moved it all to our facility.

There will also be some NEW items! *JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS!*

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year For Information: srsauction.com 903-439-9013 • 903-219-7170

Conducted by SRS Auction Services Lic # 17652 Like our Facebook Page SRS Auctions for updates & photos

SATURDAY, December 22, 2018 @ 5:00 pm

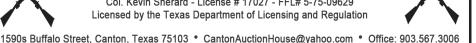
We will have over 500 guns, most of which are brand new and most will have NO RESERVE! We also have beautiful collectible rifles, pistols and revolvers! NEW & USED! More are added every day!

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Must pass a standard background check. Must be 21 years or older to purchase handguns or hand gun ammo. Must be 18 years or older to purchase long gun or long gun ammo. Kevin Sherrard.



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