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VOL. 20 ISSUE 982, January 10, 2019
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Now that the New Year is here, you may BE face to face with your Resolutions! Most likely, you are plotting for a better YOU in 2019. So, while you might still have a stray Christmas ornament to put away and a final serving of our traditional Black Eyed peas to finish off, let's glance back before we get too far afield. From delicious to curious, here's some ways in which New Year's is welcomed in cultures around the world.

In Spain, it is customary to eat 12 grapes — one at each stroke of the clock at midnight on New Year's Eve. Each grape represents good luck for one month of the coming year. In bigger cities like Madrid and Barcelona, people gather in main squares to eat their grapes together and pass around bottles of Cava. What's Cava? A bubbly beverage, the equivalent of champagne, served cold in white and rose. It's also used in another delightful Spanish drink, Agua De Valencia, an close relation of the American Mimosa.

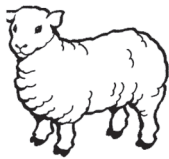


Residents of Denmark greet the New Year by throwing old plates and glasses against the doors of family and friends to banish bad spirits. These Norsemen are fond of standing on chairs to jump off of them together at midnight to "leap" into January in hopes of good luck. In Denmark, they drink Mead, one of the world's oldest alcoholic beverages. It's made from water and fermented honey, with fruits, spices or other flavors added once it's ready to drink. It's sweet, and it's delicious warmed like a cider.

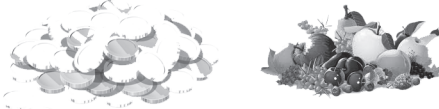


In Scotland, they pull out all the stops for the New Year's Eve celebration of Hogmanay, That's because there was no Christmas in Scotland for 400 years (due to Church of Scotland ban) and thus, the people made up for it on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Common are bonfire ceremonies where people parade while swinging giant fireballs on poles, supposedly symbols of the sun, to purify the coming year. In the Scottish countryside, "first-footing" is practiced...the first person who crosses a threshold of a home in the New Year should carry a gift for luck.

Oh, they drink Scotch whiskey there, and eat Haggis, a spiced pudding composed of the liver, heart and lungs of a sheep.



You'll find round shapes all over the Philippines on New Year's Eve as representatives of coins to symbolize prosperity in the coming year. Many families display piles of fruit on their dining tables and some eat exactly 12 round fruits (grapes being the most common) at midnight. Many also wear polka dots for luck.



In Greece, an onion is traditionally hung on the front door of homes on New Year's Even (evening?) as a symbol of rebirth in the New Year. On New Year's Day, Greek children are awakened by parents tapping them on the head with the onion. The drink of choice in Greece and in Cyprus, it's neighbor, is Ouzo. Ouzo is an anise-flavored aperitif and a symbol of Greek culture. Oh, and don't forget to eat your Gyro!



Of course, common traditions throughout the United States include eating black-eyed peas on New Year's Day for good luck. This totally American habit originated in Texas. You don't know how the culinary custom got it's start? If not, look up The Great Black Eyed Pea Hoax, an entertaining and (mostly) true tale as well as a savory part of our shared Texan heritage. Til then, I'll watch for you from my place at the corral gate.

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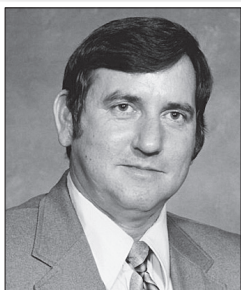
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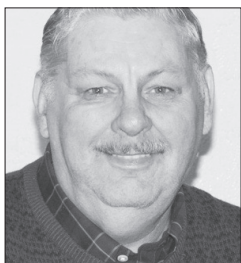
Jerry Wayne Vititow

Funeral services for Jerry Wayne Vititow, Sr., age 77, of Sulphur Springs, will be held at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, January 10, 2019 at Lake Highlands Baptist Church with Bro. Paul Ray Vittitow and Bro. Johnny Wheat officiating. Interment will follow at Greenview Cemetery with Michael Vititow, Chuck Vititow, Jeff Vititow, Robert Vititow, Larry Jay Temples, Eddy Morton, Kim Monico, and Brian Odom serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers will be Raymond Haygood and Dwight Bruhn. Visitation was held from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 9, 2019 at West Oaks Funeral Home. Jerry passed away on Monday, January 7, 2019 at Christus Trinity Mother Frances Hospital in Sulphur Springs.

He was born on June 2, 1941 in Sulphur Springs, the son of Virgil and Ruby Lee Glenn Vititow. He married Jean Baucum on April 20, 1961 in Sulphur Springs. She survives. Jerry spent his entire life in the trucking industry. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He enjoyed fishing and watching old westerns. He was a member of Lake Highlands Baptist Church.

In addition to his wife Jean, he is survived by daughter, Janet Austin and husband Stanley of Ringling, OK, grandchildren, Jennifer Ward and husband Greg, Ashley Gowin and husband Michael, Adrienne Gentry and husband Brent, Justin Vititow and wife Tara, Tamara Sandoval and husband Jesus, seven great-grandchildren, and brother, Larry Vititow and wife Wanda.

He is preceded in death by his parents, son, Jerry Wayne Vititow Jr., and brothers, C.F. Vititow, Paul Ray Vititow, and Charles Vititow. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.



Larry Eugene Briggs

Memorial service for Larry Eugene Briggs, age 70, of Sulphur Springs, will be held at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, January 12, 2019 at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Blaine officiating. Visitation will be held at 12:30 p.m., prior to service time. Larry passed away on Sunday, January 6, 2019 at his residence.

He was born on February 21, 1948 in Gilmer, TX, the son of William Rankin and Eva Lou Bickerdike Briggs. He served in the United States Navy. He worked as a mud engineer in the oil field. He is survived by son, Kevin Eugene Briggs, daughter, Stacy Victoria Doyle and husband Walter Doyle, step-son, Brandon Witherwax, step-daughters, Patty Witherwax, Megan Henderson, brothers, John David Sapp, William "Bill" Briggs, sister, Mitzi North, daughter-in-law Michelle Briggs, sixteen grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

He is preceded in death by his parents and one son, SSGT. Douglas Kristopher Briggs.

In lieu of flowers, memorial may be made to the American Diabetes Association, at <https://donations.diabetes.org>.

Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.



Ronald Morris Rudd

Ronald Morris Rudd, beloved husband, soulmate, ministry partner, best friend and the greatest love in the life of his wife, Kathy Ann Rudd stepped through the veil into Heaven, Saturday, January 5, 2019 at their home in Winnsboro, Texas.

Ronnie and Kathy Ann Orr met while ministering in the Hopkins County jail in Sulphur Springs, Texas in March 2008. Believing that God had ordained and chosen them for each other, they were married on June 21, 2008. They shared a supernatural love that inspired all who came in contact with them.

They ministered at The Holy Highway for six years and Teen Challenge Ranch for two years in Pickton, Texas.

At the time of his death, Ronnie and Kathy continued to minister in the Hopkins County jail and were in leadership roles at In One Accord Ministries, Sulphur Springs, Texas.

They started and pastored a house church at their home in Sulphur Springs in July 2008 and continued at their farm called Reino Vista for six years after they moved to Winnsboro, Texas in February of 2009.

Ronnie was a true example of a believer in Jesus Christ, whom he lovingly referred to as Yeshua Hamashiach. He came to know the Lord at Teen Challenge Ranch, Phoenix, Arizona in 1969 at the age of 19. He had a compelling testimony of God's love, mercy, grace and forgiveness that he was not ashamed to share. He spread the love of Christ everywhere he went with encouraging words and affirmations for each person he met, making them feel special and loved. His deep and intimate relationship with God was always evident in his every word and deed. Even during the last 9 weeks of his life, while he was in the hospital and then at home on Hospice, he exhibited kindness to his caregivers, even though he was in pain. All who met him were touched and amazed by his great faith in God. Up until the end, he exhibited the supernatural braveness of a mighty warrior of God.

Ronnie was born in Abilene, Texas on November 22, 1949 to David Rudd and Virginia Teague Rudd. At the time of his death, he was 69 years old. He went to Cooper High School in Abilene, Texas, where he was a football and track star.

His father-in-law is John Orr, Jr. of Sulphur Springs, Texas

Children are Brandon Sage and fiancée Tatiana Van Dusen of Scurry, Texas, David Rudd and wife, Megan Rudd of Austin, Texas, Daniel Sanders of Atoka, Oklahoma, Brandon Owens and wife Leslie Owens of Redwater, Texas and Casey Owens and fiancée Wendi Copeland of Mustang, Oklahoma.

Grandchildren are Taylor Sage and fiancée Krista Van Dusen of Farmersville, Texas, Lillian and Tatum Sage, Karmyn Brian, Cooper and Christian Sage of Scurry, Texas. Harrison Rudd of Austin, Texas, Aiken and Abbi Owens of Sulphur Springs, Texas, Colt and Dylan Owens of Redwater, Texas.

Great grandchildren are Jaxon and Levi Sage of Mesquite, Texas.

Siblings are Randy Rudd and wife Karen Rudd of San Antonio, Texas, Russell Rudd and partner Randall Means of Kyle, Texas, Rickey Orr and wife Kay Orr of Sulphur Springs, Texas.

Ronnie has many nieces and nephews as well as great nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Ronnie Rudd's life and ministry will be held Sunday, January 13, at 4:00 at the Hopkins County Civic Center, 1200 Houston Street in Sulphur Springs, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to In One Accord Ministries, Sulphur Springs, Texas or Radical Restoration Ministries, PO Box 2845 Ormond Beach Florida 32175 at: radicalrestorationministries.com

Laura Murray Wilcher

Laura Murray Wilcher, 61, passed away on Thursday, January 3, 2019. She was born September 9, 1957, to the late Tamadge Murray and Wilma Ready Murray.

She is survived by sons: Brandon Murray, Dustin Haynesworth, and daughter-in-law Angela Bevill Murray. She is also survived by her brother Joe Lee Murray, and Gina of Pickton; sisters, Opal Bowen, Pearland; Elizabeth Troutz and Gene, Pickton; Gladys McClanahan and Jerry, Yantis; Virginia Brown Davis, Sulphur Springs; and Wilma Maynard, Pickton. Grandchildren: Josiah and Brenna Murray and Austin Haynesworth and numerous nieces and nephews also survive.

A celebration of life will be conducted January 12th, at Greenpond Baptist Church, 1911 CR 2324, Como, at 3 p.m. with Jack Newsom officiating. Visitation will follow the service until 6 p.m.

Nominations Needed!

Nominations are now being accepted for outstanding people and businesses in Hopkins County. These awards will be awarded at the Chamber of Commerce banquet on February 14, 2019.

Nominations are needed for Outstanding Educator, Large and Small Businesses, Citizen of the Year and Community Pride Award. These should be turned in by January 18 to the Hopkins County Chamber of Commerce, 300 W. Connally, Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482.

Additional nominations are being accepted for: Woman of the Year, Beta Sigma Phi Organization, P.O. Box 72, Sulphur Springs, Texas 75483 and Caregiver of the Year, Pilot Club c/o Carriage House Manor, 210 Pipeline Rd., Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482.

Each of these nominations should be submitted in writing and mailed to the above addresses. Last minute nominations can also be faxed to the Chamber at 903-885-6516 or email to: Lezley@HopkinsChamber.org.

Are you caring for someone with memory loss?

Join "Terrific Tuesdays"

a Sulphur Springs Respite Care Program for seniors with memory loss.

This program is open to everyone with Alzheimer's or dementia. It gives the participants an opportunity to spend each Tuesday meeting new friends and participating in cooperative activities.

It also gives the caregiver a few hours to run errands and to take care of personal healthcare needs, etc. knowing that their loved one is well taken care of in a safe and enjoyable environment.

The cost is \$20 each Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and that includes lunch!

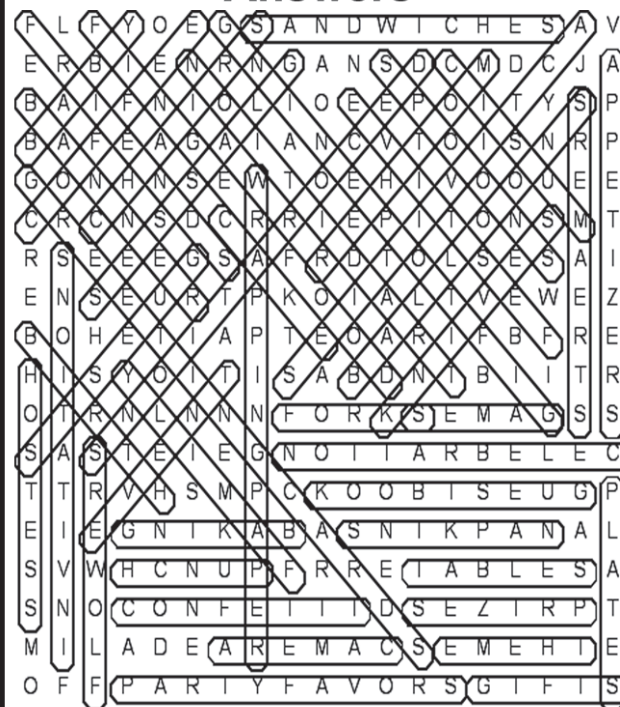
"Terrific Tuesdays" meets at The First United Methodist Church Family Life Center at 301 Church Street, Sulphur Springs.

Contact Joyce McDonald at 903-243-5620 for more information.

Place your ad in the Millennium Shopper today for your garage sale.
903-885-9966

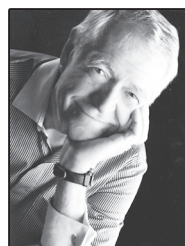


Answers



A HOUSE FULL OF SANTAS

Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

I walk into a house in White Oak, near Longview, and all I see is Santa Clauses. They are everywhere. Every room including the bathroom has Santas of all sizes and descriptions. In some rooms they take up so much space there's barely enough room to squeeze by. The house belongs to Sandy Rawlings. I asked her how many Santas she has.

"I don't have an exact number, but I'm going to say close to a thousand. And they range from teeny-weeny to life-size." You can't imagine the feeling you get when you see all those Santas. They are well displayed and you just want to sit down, have a cookie and coffee and look at each one.

"I buy a lot, I've made a lot. My friends and family are constantly giving me Santa Clauses. I am addicted. Instead of being a crazy cat lady I'm a crazy Santa lady."

Sandy also has Santa Claus table decorations and a collection of Santa Claus cookie jars, some of which are valuable antiques. She spends three days decorating her house for Christmas. The decorations stay up until New Year's Day.

"It makes me happy when they are all out. I kind of dread it at first because it's work but when they're all out I'm just so happy. Sometimes I go from room to room looking at them. It gives me a good feeling to see all those smiling faces. I hate to put those little faces in boxes after Christmas. I always feel bad for them. It's like they were performing and now their time on stage is over until next year."

Sandy has been collecting them since the late seventies. It all started when she bought one.

"That's all it takes. Just one. If you like them. It just ricochets from there."

She gets lots of visitors in December.

"I have lots of friends who have seen it over the years. I used to have little cookie parties and everybody went crazy over all the Santas. Every year they ask me if I'm putting my Santa Clauses out. I tell them yes. I'll keep doing it until I just can't. It wouldn't be Christmas without them."

She has some favorites, the ones that mean the most to her. "My favorite is this one here on this shelf. It's the very first one. Then of course the special ones that my kids have given me. But I love all of them."

Sandy has two Christmas trees. The main tree is all Santas, of course. I asked her if Santa is going to be good to her this Christmas.

"He'd better!"

HELP-A-CHILD

Chili & Brisket Cook-off,
Tractor Pulls & More
Sulphur Springs, Texas



Thank you

WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY NEW YEAR
& VERY PROSPEROUS 2019 !!

Your support in 2018 allowed us to have the most rewarding year to date.

We were able to contribute over \$73,000 to our three charities:

**TEXAS SCOTTISH RITE HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN
NORTHEAST TEXAS CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER
SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN CHILDRENS HOME**

It is our hope that **HELP A CHILD BENEFIT 2019** will remain to be one of the ways you will help support children with special needs. Please make plans now to participate in our upcoming events. Plans are underway now for some new and exciting changes. This past years success would not have been possible without the following individuals, organizations, & companies.

GOODS & SERVICES

Lake Country Antique Tractor Pullers, Lone Star Garden Tractor Pullers, Backstory Brewery, Cowboy Chef Newton, KSST/KRVA radio, Jason Waldon & the Alibis, Lefty's Catering, Carl & Debbie Bryan, CPI Inc., Red Barn Café, 5W Construction Co., Farm Country, Rocky Young Construction, Benson Bros Wrecker Service, Southwest Dairy Museum, J & K Triggers & Bows, to all the Chili & Brisket Teams who cooked, served, & sponsored, & every FFA & FCCLA team who entered the project show & auction, The Welding Store, Como-Pickton FFA.

PREMIER SPONSORS

The Faulk Co., Dr. David & Pam Black(Broadway Veterinary Hospital), Tom & Pam Sellers (Alliance Bank), and Danny & Karen Cooksey (Farm Country).

PRESENTING SPONSORS

Mahoney Oaks Retreat, Benson Bros Wrecker Service, BT Medical Supplies, LoneStar Surgery, inTouch by CumbyTel, Bulkley & Associates, Reefer & Trailer Services, Rail Pro Field Services.

GRAND SPONSORS

Anchor Contracting LLC, 5W Contracting LLC, Catocon Inc., Alliance Bank, CBX Hydraulics, Lawrence & Nancy Galbraith, Saputo Employees.

PLATINUM SPONSORS

The Pawn Shop, Baxter Electric, Austin Bank, GSC Enterprises Inc., Hopkins County Law Enforcement, NorTex Tractor, Interstate Body Shop, Sulphur Springs Professional Fire Fighters, Northeast Texas Farmers Co-op.

GOLD SPONSORS

Jay Hodge Chevrolet, Stacy's Fish Fry, Hopkins Lodge #180, Ron Guard, Cattlemen's Veterinarian Service, A-1 Auto Supply, A.K. Gillis & Sons Inc., Guaranty Bank & Trust, Joe Bob's, Joe & Pat Anderson, Discount Wheel & Tire, Super Handy Inc, Sulta Mfg., Advantage Copy Systems, Ricky Glossup, Germania Insurance, Hopkins County Tire, C & A Foods Inc, Calco Inc, Alliance Document Shredding, Johnna West, Texas Heritage National Bank, Legacy Ag Credit, George & Dee Harder, Roger & Rita Wright, Gilmer Street Dental, Blacklands Railroad Inc, Zahn Farms, John Aufdenkamp, City National Bank, Mike & Rose Odell, Mack & Bridget Reed, Glynnna Bartley, Gay Bailey, Melba Blount, David & Maureen McAree.

Thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets, meal tickets, and auction items. Thanks to the Masonic Lodges of District 7, and everyone else who donated their time. If you gave and we failed to list your name, please accept our sincerest apology. Looking Forward to Help A Child 2019!

(Help A Child Benefit is a 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation. Your donations are tax deductible by law).

Jay Hodge Chevrolet Introduces The ALL NEW SILVERADO!



THE STRONGEST, MOST ADVANCED SILVERADO EVER.

What's new about the All-New Silverado?

Everything. Eight different trim levels, six different powertrains and the most functional bed in its class with more cargo volume than any other pickup. See for yourself what happens when legendary dependability meets modern capability.

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