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## At The Corral Gate



### MORE NICE PEOPLE TO REPORT THIS WEEK!!

I get to meet the nicest people! And you never know where you'll meet them! When shopping at an out-of-town Super Center, I found myself at the self-check next to an old friend, Friendlee! Friendlee has been in radio in Greenville for a number of years, and he earned his name by being a friendly guy with a million friends. Now, he has a peach of a job...one day per week in the noon hour, broadcasting (streaming) all over the world from the stage of The Texan Theater, an entertainment venue in downtown Greenville. And prior to becoming a radio personality, Friendly was a well-known businessman and owner of a winery there where I often performed jazz and pop favorites with Kurt Bittner on the tiny window stage. Those were some good old days, and it was great to see Friendlee again!



Enola Gay and Friendlee



Enola Gay and Gale Hague

Gale Hague has been bandleader of the Lone Star Express band for a llllloooooonnnnggggg time! So long, that when I asked him when they started, he couldn't rightly remember! His playing days go back to the 1970's before he moved to Hopkins County. And many a boot has scooted to his music from the 1980's up til now, and still going strong! Now, Gale's regular Tuesday night dance is held at the Arbala Community Center, and dancers flock from all around to enjoy good old country music the way they like it played! Gale and I both have August birthdays, and so we celebrate together at the dance! This year, the cake was a homemade chocolate sheet cake, and, tactfully, had only enough candles on it to spell out **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Last week, it was my privilege to interview Miss Breanna Bowen from Como-Pickton whose FFA successes are still being documented. Although Breanna is entering her second year of college at Tarleton State University at Stephenville, she is still associated with the FFA Department at Como-Pickton CISD through ongoing projects. Breanna has a masterful record from her four years of high school in hands-on agricultural projects, and she elected to apply for a National recognition for her dairy herd development. As of August 2019, Breanna is one of FOUR students in the NATION being considered for the honor. At some point this Fall, she will be notified of her final ranking. But to be a National Qualifier is an amazing point of personal pride and a reward for years of dedication, study and application. Her Jersey dairy herd is doing well and are the calves they produce. Breanna's success came, in part, from being born into dairying families, several generations deep, on both sides! Breanna is the daughter of Mike and Amy Bowen and big sister to Bailey Bowen, a freshman at Como-Pickton and following "the FFA way!"



Enola and Breanna



Enola at her job of 31 yrs.

That story with Breanna was amazing, as are so many which I get to be part of through my job in radio. I have just passed an anniversary (I was hired in August 1989) so I am now working on my 31st year at the station. And I still have fun on the air with the Good Morning Show, the listeners, the callers and the ways in which I get to be involved through the WONDERFUL PEOPLE I meet! I am not alone when I say that Northeast Texas is about the best place to call home! For now, keep smiling and be a good neighbor. Remember, we make our friends and we make our enemies; but God makes our next door neighbor! Til next week, I will watch for you at the corral gate.

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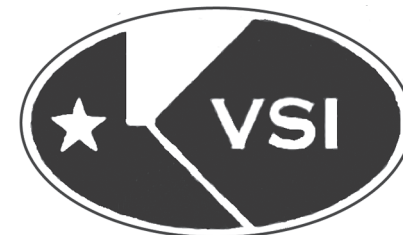
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The NCAA has announced two Texas A&M University - Commerce football games in the 2019 season have been selected for broadcast on ESPN3 as part of NCAA's Division II Football Showcase.

The No. 13 Lions' home game against No. 20 Midwestern State on Oct. 12 and the road game at West Texas A&M on Nov. 2 will be broadcast nationally on ESPN's app and ESPN.com.

A&M Commerce has had home football games televised nationally in each of the last five seasons, becoming one of the most featured schools in Division II.



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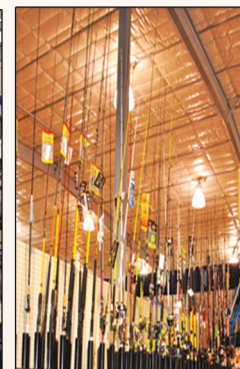
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### ***Linabeth Hoover Edwards***

Graveside services for Linabeth Hoover Edwards, age 79, of Sulphur Springs, will be held at 10:00 a.m., Friday, August 30, 2019 at Gafford Chapel Cemetery with Rev. Daniel Lewis officiating. Pallbearers will be Dustin Gant, Kurt Gant, Keith Edwards, Dwayne Sears, Evan Hoover, and Ryan Hoover. Honorary pallbearer will be Kegan Edwards. There will be no formal visitation. Linabeth passed away on Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at her residence. She was born on May 8, 1940 in Hopkins County, the daughter of Bill and Agnes Browning Hoover. She was a clerical worker for Coca-Cola for many years and was of the Baptist Faith. She is survived by son, "Bubba" Jay Edwards and wife Tish of Sulphur Springs, daughters, Stacy R. Gant and husband Kurt of Sulphur Springs, Cheryl A. Kirk and husband Allan of Navajo Dam, NM, grandchildren, Tiffany Goncalves, Zane Kirk, Dustin Gant, Kegan Edwards, great-grandchildren, Jaynlin Walker, Aidan Walker, Gracie Walker, Hendrix Walker, Annalin Walker, Jaxson Gant, and brother, David Hoover and wife Debra of Bedford, TX. Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association, PO Box 841125 Dallas, TX 75284-1125. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. [www.westoaksfuneralhome.com](http://www.westoaksfuneralhome.com)

### ***Joe "Shine" Thomas***

Graveside services for Joe "Shine" Thomas, age 59, of Dike were held at 10:00 A.M. on Monday, August 26, 2019 at Conner Cemetery with Mark Garrett officiating. Honorary pallbearers were William "Whup" Penson, Thurman "Julio" Hill, Buddy Brown Sr., Morgan Anderson, Russell Blevins, Tony Titsworth, Mark Baker, Dakota Shelby, Howard Ezell, and C.D. Ballard. Mr. Thomas passed away on Friday, August 23, 2019 at Hunt Regional Hospital in Greenville.

Joe was born on August 22, 1960 in Cooper to Herman Leo and Bonnie Lee Cates Thomas. He married Sharon Nelson on March 20, 1982 in Cooper. Joe was a trucker and of the Baptist faith.

He is survived by his wife, Sharon Thomas; Son: Josh Thomas and wife Krysten; daughter, Amber Miller and husband Obie; son Jacob Posey; grandchildren: Kobie Miller, Braden Miller, Carlee Thomas, Madelyn Thomas; sister: Jan

Dewitt; one brother, and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and niece Jamie.

The family request that donations be made to the Texas Kidney Foundation: 4204 Gardendale St. #106 San Antonio, Texas 78229.

### ***Dr. Wayne Parker***

Funeral services for Dr. Wayne Parker, age 75, of Sulphur Springs, will be held at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, September 1, 2019 at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel. Visitation will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Saturday, August 31, 2019 at West Oaks Funeral Home. Dr. Parker passed away on August 26, 2019 in Dallas. Arrangements under direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. [www.westoaksfuneralhome.com](http://www.westoaksfuneralhome.com)

### ***Barbara Beeson Sturgeon***

Barbara Beeson Sturgeon, 75, passed away on August 27, 2019, at Senior Care of Lake Pointe in Rockwall, TX. She was born in Sulphur Springs, TX. She attended high school there and met her husband, Claude T. Sturgeon, while attending high school. They were married on June 14, 1963, and had one daughter, Robin Sturgeon Abess, in May 1964.

In 1971, the Sturgeon family moved to Commerce, TX, where Barbara worked from her home, typing dissertations for college students at East Texas State University. She was one of the most requested typists and was very proud of her work. She continued her typing after the family relocated to Rockwall, TX in 1977. She retired from typing after many years, but went on to work for the Rockwall County Clerk's Office for several years, as well as Whitmore

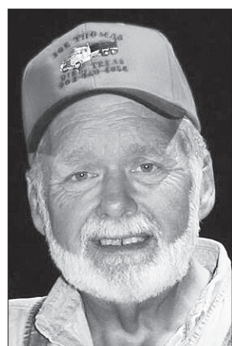
Manufacturing.

Barbara loved all animals, but especially her cats, who lived very happy lives. She enjoyed reading, cross-stitching, and watching Luke Bryan perform. She also enjoyed several other country music singers. She was a wonderful daughter, wife, mother and grandmother, and was well loved by her many friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Edward Wayne Beeson and Inez Williams Beeson, both of Sulphur Springs; her husband of 28 years, Claude T. Sturgeon, of Reilly Springs, TX; her aunt, Cleo Williams Browning; and her aunt and uncle, Clyde Williams Irons and John B. Irons.

She is survived by her daughter, Robin Sturgeon Abess; grandson, Caram Wayne Abess; the Abess family (Michael, Lindsay, Mark, Noah, Jean and Alexander); and several cousins, as well as her aunt, Margaret Beeson; and uncle, Finley Beeson.

Barbara will be buried in City Cemetery in Sulphur Springs, TX, after a service at Tapp Funeral Home in Sulphur Springs on Saturday, August 31, at 2 p.m. Visitation will be Friday, August 30, from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m.





Miscellaneous

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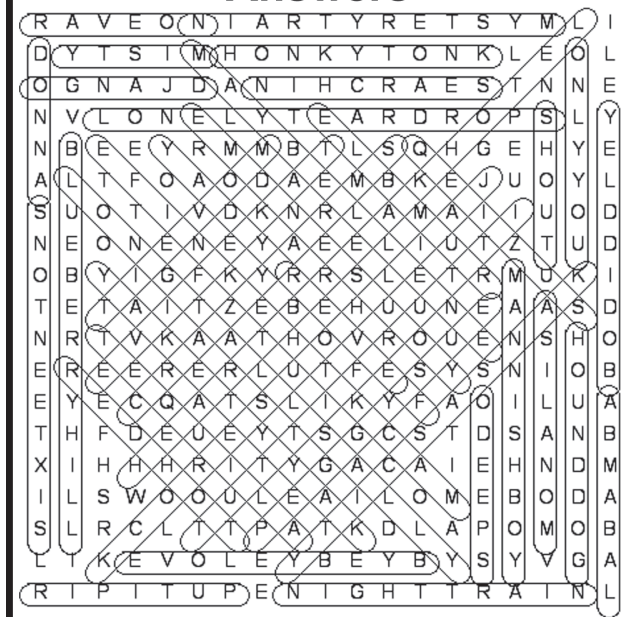
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Answers



**Lil 4's Kids Club**  
 Reach One, Teach One!  
 200 Fuller St. ★ Sulphur Springs, Tx. 75482  
 Titiacniffe892@gmail.com ★ 214-809-1908

The Lil 4's kids club is a non-profit community safe-haven that seeks to reach and teach potentially at-risk children, and to provide a positive and safe atmosphere to help shape and guide their future endeavors in life. The organization currently has 50 students, ages 5 to 18, enrolled in the program. The primary objective of the Lil 4's Kids Club is to provide children with educational enrichment activities that give them an opportunity to develop confidence, to feel valued, and to set/accomplish their dreams. All services provided to the children are free of charge, but we ask for donations to keep it running.

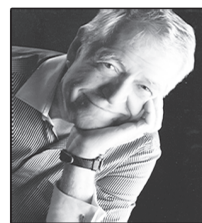
Lil 4's is extremely proud to impact their minds in a constructive and productive way. None the less, we need the support of the community to help us with continued success.

*Your contributions truly impact and change lives.*

**WE NEED YOUR HELP. ALL DONATIONS WILL BE APPRECIATED.**

WESTERN UNION'S BICYCLE DELIVERY BOYS

Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

When Bill Cole of Midland was in high school in Abilene, he delivered telegrams for Western Union.

"They wouldn't hire anybody under 16," says Bill, "so when I turned 16 I knew Western Union was hiring messenger boys so I went to work. I'd start about 4 o'clock, soon as I got out of school and work until about 7. On every shift they'd have maybe 3 or 4 messengers. We'd cover the whole town on our bicycles delivering telegrams. Course Abilene wasn't as big as it is now."

The telegram was a major means of communication during the 40's and 50's because not everybody had a telephone.

"They'd give us several telegrams to deliver and give us sort of a route to take. Usually they'd give each messenger 10 to 12 telegrams at a time. When we'd deliver those, we'd come back and get some more." The delivery boys didn't have any special uniforms.

"We had a little pin that said Western Union on it and we'd pin it on our shirt."

The telegrams came into the Western Union office by Teletype. They'd come in on narrow strips of paper that were then pasted onto square sheets of yellow paper that had the words Western Union at the top. Then the manager would put the message in an envelope.

"We'd deliver it to where it was addressed. When they came to the door I'd have them sign a form that said they received it. Delivery boys never saw what was written on the telegrams."

Lots of businesses used telegrams.

"Hotels and motels would get reservations by telegram. Floral shops got lots of their orders by telegrams. Businesses used Western Union to order supplies. Some had a way of contact Western Union that they had a telegram to pick up. They called them night letters. And of course we had things like singing telegrams every once in a while. Sometimes companies would contract with Western Union to put out samples of their products. I remember one time there was a contract with the people who make TUMS and the delivery boys would stand on street corners and hand out sample packages of TUMS."

I asked Bill about those singing telegrams.

"If someone wanted to wish a relative or friend a happy birthday they'd contact Western Union and ask that one of the delivery boys go to the address and sing Happy Birthday. People that got them really enjoyed them."

I asked Bill if he ever got a tip for delivering a singing telegram.

"I don't remember any. I wasn't a very good singer."

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