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christmasmarketonmain@gmail.com Facebook: The Christmas Market on Main in Sulphur Springs



It's funny how so often, a strong undercurrent which is invisible to the eye can cause very visible effects in our world. First, there's the wind, which we all know is powerfully effective yet invisible, as in fallen tree limbs in the yard! And of course, ocean waves which are so inviting during summer vacation can become disastrous when strong invisible undercurrents are unleashed during hurricane season. Similarly, there's a powerful but beneficial undercurrent right here where we live. Let's examine that human undercurrent a little closer.

This lady is an officer in the Downtown Business Alliance. The DBA, a volunteer group of merchants, community leaders and individuals, has exerted a powerful force toward the renovation and revitalization of downtown Sulphur Springs, a de-

lightful area we can enjoy today. Linda Galligher, Senior Vice President of Alliance Bank, is a force to be reckoned with in "getting things done from back stage". She is ever humble and gracious, and will insist that she is but one of a multitude, but don't believe her! Linda gets things done! And she not only assists the DBA, she is also a guiding force in the Northeast Texas Symphony League's cultural contributions to the town, and I don't know how many other causes she represents! Watch for her at the next DBA event, the Christmas Tree Lighting /Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus on Celebration Plaza Friday, December 6, on the same night as the Lions Club Lighted Christmas Parade. See more of what DBA does by going to sulphurspringsdba.org.



Linda Galligher of **Downtown Business Alliance** 



Texas Choral Society

Talk about putting talents to work! Not only did Carol put her own formal training and impressive musical talent to work for Sulphur Springs and Northeast Texas when she launched her first 'choral music concert' for the public twenty years ago, she shines the spotlight on the talent around her. Carol Allen, Director of the Northeast Texas Choral Society, pours her heart and soul into the fifteen weeks of intensive rehearsals with her choir twice yearly for Concert season, with a Spring Concert on the last weekend of May and the Christmas Concert on the first weekend of December each year. The "Hearts Come Home for Christmas" concert will be staged on Saturday December 7 at 7pm and Sunday December 8 Carol Allen of Northeast at 2pm, in the SSHS Auditorium. If you are a singer, she welcomes you to join the 2020 100-voice Choral Society! Find out more at singerscount.org.

Here's a lady who's a cowgirl at heart as well as a powerful force for good across the region. Linda Chase has been the UPRA Rodeo Queen Co-coordinator for the past several years, and she does her job with enthusiasm and good humor. The United Professional Rodeo Association is 40 years old, and annually stages the Cinch United Finals Rodeo performances in the Hopkins County Civic Center arena during November. Starting each Spring, the organization seeks a young lady to be 'Queen" or Miss UPRA and they also seek a Junior Queen or Miss Teen UPRA to represent them throughout the months of the rodeo circuit. These candidates often have already achieved small-rodeo titles from the NE Texas region. For their course of instruction, Linda organizes the candidates, oversees them as they prepare for the horsemanship events as well as the crucial poise and personality judging, and prompts them for a successful Interview with Judges. And during the final weeks of preparation, Linda becomes like a 'second mom' as the girls work, travel and prepare themselves for the big Finals weekend. So, with their horse in tow and their changes of glittery cowgirl outfits, the ladies converge in Sulphur Springs to give radio interviews, have their photos made for newspaper, assist with the Handicapable Rodeo for disabled children, meet with Rodeo officials and in general become 'the

face' of UPRA. On the last night of Finals, they will be horseback in the arena before the crowds as the honors are announced and crowns placed upon just two heads, or hats, actually! The two top-scoring girls who have blossomed under the tutelage of Linda Chase will begin their reign as "Rodeo Royalty"! Linda personifies the best of the cowgirl spirit as UPRA Queen Co-ordinator. And was she a cowgirl in her younger years? I'll have to find out next time I see her!



Enola Gay with Linda Chase, **UPRA Queen Coordinator** 

I hope your holidays are nourishing to your spirit and your table laden with not just food but the blessings of family and friends! Til next week, I will watch for you at the Corral Gate.

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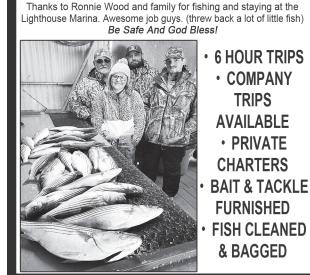
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http://www.westoaksfuneralhome.com



## Fred Auston Fisher

Funeral services for Fred Auston Fisher, age 89, of Yantis, were conducted at 2:00 p.m., Monday, November 25, 2019 at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Dr. Jeff Gravens officiating. Interment followed at Restlawn Memorial Park with Drew Fisher, Brady Fisher, Jarrett Lassig, Danny Lawrence, Jeremy Bowman and Blake Fisher serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers will be Tino Zapata, Lynn Crook and Travis Rowland. Visitation was at 1:00 p.m., one hour prior to service time on Monday, November 25, 2019. Fred passed away on Saturday, November 23, 2019. Fred was born on March 20, 1930 in McKinney, TX, the son of Loyd Auston Fisher and Lucille Brown Fisher. He married Ruth Leach on July 29, 1950 in McKinney, TX and she survives. After retiring from the State Highway Department Fred went into the Dairy Business for over 30 years. Fred

was also a member of First Baptist Church. In addition to his wife Ruth, he is survived by one son, Brit Fisher and wife Susan of Sulphur Springs, two daughters, Ludonna Smithers and husband B.J. of Sulphur Springs, Lea Ann Fisher of Leonard, TX, brothers, Bentley Fisher and wife Lavon of Bella Vista, AR, Bryant Fisher and wife Marilee of Sulphur Springs, Wendell Fisher of Sulphur Springs, sister, Nancy Bowman and husband Jim of Seagoville, TX, grandchildren, Aly Lassig, Brady Fisher, Marcy Fisher and Drew Fisher, great-grandchildren, Tracy Smithers and Ivy Lassig. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother, Perry Fisher, sister, Elizabeth Crook and granddaughter, Katelyn Petrea.

Arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com



## Tracey Lee Fox

A memorial service for Tracey Lee Fox, age 57, of Sulphur Springs was conducted at 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, November 26, 2019 at the First United Methodist Church with Rev. Ed Lantz officiating. There was no formal visitation.

Tracey was born on February 20, 1962 in Johannesburg, South Africa, the daughter of Errol Gold and Nola Fitzpatrick Gold. She married Lonnie Fox on May 18, 1985 in Dallas, TX and he survives. Tracey worked as an Instructional Designer at Wyndham Hotels & Resorts. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church. One of Tracey's proudest achievements was when she became an American Citizen on September 13th, 1995.

In addition to her husband Lonnie, she is survived by her parents, son John Michael Fox of Nashville, Tennessee, daughter Sarah Michelle Fox of Alexandria, Virginia, brothers Russell and David Gold of California, and friends and family world-wide. Memorials may be made to the nursery ministry of First United Methodist Church.

Cremation arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com



## Jeri Wisniewski

A funeral service for Jeri Wisniewski, age of 67, of Sulphur Springs, TX was held at 2:00 PM on Sunday November 24, 2019 at Murray Orwosky Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Gary Jordan officiating. Interment followed at Restlawn Cemetery with Leo Wisniewski VI, Zach Wisniewski, Shawn Tutt, Zach Rice, Tyler Francis, Elijah Thompson, Jonah Helms, John Brian Hull, and James Hull serving as pallbearers. Visitation was held on Saturday, November 23rd, 2019 from 6 to 8 P.M. at Murray- Orwosky Funeral Chapel. Jeri went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, November 19, 2019 in Medical City McKinney.

Jeri was born on July 3rd, 1952 in Lawton, OK to James and Dorothy Lanier. She married Leo Wisniewski on July 17, 1970 in Anthony, NM. Jeri worked and retired from Hopkins County Appraisal District as the office manager. She was a member of the New Richland Baptist Church. She is survived by her husband, Leo; son, Tony Wisniewski and wife, Tracey; daughter, Fay Robinson and husband, Jeff; grandchildren, Angela Gore and husband Steven, Jacque Foster, Kristy Foster, Leo Wisniewski VI and wife, Angel, Ashley Tutt and husband, Shawn, Zachary Wisniewski, Kaila Rice and husband, Zach, Haley Robinson, Brooke Francis and husband, Tyler, Morgan Helms, and Jonah Helms; great grandchildren, Elijah Thompson, Brooklyn Thompson, Tate Peoples, Seth Tutt, Aaiden Wisniewski, Kennedi Tutt, Maddox Francis, Addilyn Francis, Roman and Ramey Rice, and Jaxsyn Francis Michael Foster, Jamee Foster, Destiny Foster, Hunter Hathcoat, Brandon Hathcoat, Trent Gore, Duncan Evans; sister, Debbie Lanier and, husband Bill; nephew, John Brian Hull and wife, Michelle and James Hull; great-nieces, Tisha Knickerbocker and husband, Shawn, Morgan Hull, TaLisa Smith, and Robin Smith; sister in law, Walta Sue Ebert; Daughter in law Deborah Wisniewski.

Jeri was preceded in death by her parents, son, John Wisniewski, and sister, Jamie Paulette Hull.

Arrangements were under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

### Miscellaneous

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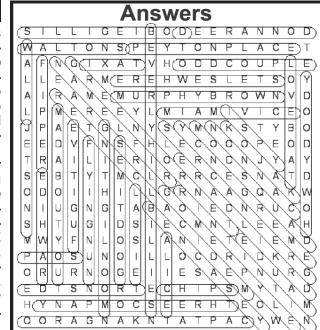
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After graduating from high school in Roby 52 years ago, he worked in a cabinet shop and has been doing woodwork ever since. He became quite a craftsman and wanted to start something on his own. He decided on rocking chairs. He made them at his shop in Weatherford, loaded them on his truck and peddled them along the highway. "One day I sold 36 rockers," says Larry. "That's when I decided we could build our stuff and offer it for sale in one place. We bought this place here in 2001 and it's been real good for us."

He makes furniture from mesquite, pecan and mountain cedar trees that grow in his area. "Customers give us an idea of what they want and we'll sit down and start making a sketch. We'll work it until they see what they want then we'll start making it. The wood dictates what we're going to make and how it's supposed to look. All our stuff is our design and made by hand. We make own dowels and everything. When we get an order for aromatic red cedar for a cedar chest or chest of drawers, we'll bring in a truckload of red cedar logs from east Texas."

He calls his look hill country. "It's not rustic but more finished work. We have more requests for things made from pecan wood because it has so many different neutral tones. It'll go with anything in the house. We make beds, desks, bars, doors, split log staircases, all kinds of things and we probably have the largest supply of mantles in the country."

When I visited Larry, he showed me a load of merchandise all wrapped up on pallets. It was bound for Las Vegas and a satisfied customer there who had ordered big items from Larry before and wanted more. Jay Leno, Willie Nelson, ZZ Top and Ruth Buzzy are among his customers.

His place is not just a sawmill, warehouse and an old time general store. It's a complete environment. People from the metroplex drop in on weekends with their families and spend the day there. Larry's family members have a barbeque place, blacksmith shop and bakery just a few doors down from the store. It's not unusual to hear several languages in the store. "People fly in to DFW from Europe and head this way. I guess they just want something from Texas. They love the general store. I have to confess that most of the stuff on the walls came from my garage. When I see something old and rusty I pick it up,"



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