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**903-885-9966** VOL. 20 ISSUE 1027, December 5, 2019

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## Sulphur Springs Resident Kaycee Ivey Gets Visit From Dirk Nowitzki

Sulphur Springs resident Kaycee Ivey, 14, recently got a visit from Dallas Mavericks' legend Dirk Nowitzki as she recovers from injuries sustained in a major car accident in October. Kaycee lost her mother and aunt, Keesha Gibbs and Sandy Reed, in the tragic accident on Highway 19 outside of Canton, when returning from a Wildcat football game. She is recovering from her injuries at Children's Medical in Dallas.



Kaycee's sister, Kenzie Ivey, said that Kaycee was excited to get to meet Dirk and was thrilled to have a special visitor. Kenzie said, "She stayed up all day waiting for his arrival. It's just awesome how good he is to the children every year."

Kenzie reported on Kaycee's condition, "Kaycee is still in ICU. Her lungs are a little better and we're hoping to go a regular hospital room soon. Kaycee's progress has slowed somewhat as, I think, the medical part of Kaycee's recovery is now dependent on the rehab portion of her recovery, which will be slower. Kaycee has always participated well, but some of the therapy is painful. Because it's painful, it's harder to be excited about it. We're getting through but at times, it's not very fun. Kaycee understands the importance of working hard and does her best everyday. Please continue to hold us up on prayer and thanks for loving us through this challenge."

Sunday, December 6th, is Kaycee's 15th birthday. She loves receiving mail and birthday cards so the family is asking for people to send her birthday cards to help lift her spirits. Her address is:

Kaycee Ivey  
% Children's Medical Center  
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# At The Corral Gate



Enola Gay



What does the CASA organization and Christmas cookies have in common? A lot actually, during December! And you may ask, what is CASA? Well, CASA is a noun, standing for Court Appointed Special Advocate. A CASA is also a person, an individual who is appointed to act in the best interest of a minor involved in the legal system, through paternal abuse or neglect. Both the CASA organization and the individuals CASA workers do a lot of good in the lives of these unfortunate children, who through no fault of their own, have been removed from an unsafe home environment and placed in a foster care situation. When a case of abuse or neglect is brought against a child's parents, the child is most often removed from the danger and placed in a safe atmosphere. Many times this is a wake-up call for the parents who may begin to work hard at being allowed to have their child placed back into their home. But that is not always the case. Sadly, it is less likely the case. The goal and intention of CASA is to make sure the child has a safe and nurturing environment to grow up in, as every child deserves. That path may be a long and arduous one, with numerous court dates and appearances before a judge or magistrate as the case progresses. But the CASA's job is to be a strong advocate, a familiar face and even a hand to hold during this difficult and time-consuming process.

Lake Country CASA Director is Gena Deaton Law. She has been with CASA for 18 years and her enthusiasm for the help and hope that CASA gives is boundless. Earlier this autumn, Lake Country CASA received a \$10,000 grant from Wood County Cooperative. It was for their commitment to serving the abused and neglected children in Hopkins, Franklin and Rains Counties. Gena told me that the contribution will help to ensure that the voices of all of our children in care are heard and their needs are met. She and her staff are staunch supporters of the children in need in the 3-county lakes region. According to Gena, in 2018 over 20,000 Texas children were removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect and entered into the foster care system. A child with a CASA, or Court-Appointed Advocate, does not have to navigate the heartbreaking challenges alone. Not only on case visits but at each court date and on behalf of the child in their school system, the CASA volunteer assigned to that child is present to speak in the child's best interest. As of this autumn, of the 123 children of the region that had been removed in 2019, 79 of them were from Hopkins County. "The numbers are growing, and we need more workers. If you would like to consider becoming a volunteer, please call our office at 903-885-1173 or stop in at 218 Connally Street in downtown Sulphur Springs".



Friday December 6, 2019 is the annual CASA Cookie Walk. Please come to the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall in Sulphur Springs that morning and pick out your favorite decorated Christmas cookies! There will be dozens of fresh ones baked and ready, and between 9 am and noon, you can make your purchases, mix and match, at \$5 per pound. Take home your delicious cookies to enjoy or to give. The proceeds from our Cookie Walk fundraiser goes toward various needs, including a "special fund" which can help, for example, with the purchase of a crib or bed for a child who goes into a home as a foster child. When all the siblings from a family must be placed in a foster home, sometimes the family they are placed with may not have everything they need to accommodate the children. So, funds are always needed to enable them to meet these children's needs. That's just a small part of what CASA does in the lives of these little ones. You can help CASA by coming to the Cookie Walk on Friday morning! You can also help with donations anytime at the CASA office at 218 Connally Street in downtown Sulphur Springs, or by phoning 903-885-1173.

Til next week, I hope your Christmas plans are merry and bright. Let's start by saying "Merry Christmas" to everyone we meet!



## Miscellaneous

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December 21, 2019



December 21, 2019

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# Obits



## WEST OAKS FUNERAL HOME

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### ***Peggy Ann Greene***

Peggy Ann Greene, age 85, of Emory, passed away Friday, Nov. 29, 2019, at her residence surrounded by her loving family. Peggy was born December 27, 1933, in Greenville, to Hubert and Mildred Graves Moore. She married Floyd Greene on June 27, 1951 in Greenville.

She was a member of Emory United Methodist Church.

Peggy loved going to watch all kinds of sports where her children or grandchildren were playing or were participating in. They were all dearly loved by their Granny. You could say her hobbies or interests were found in her love and devotion to all those grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, quite literally, they were her life!

Her survivors include: Husband: Floyd Greene of Emory; Daughter: Teresa Northcutt (Ricky) of Emory; Son: Rodney Greene (LouAnn) of Emory; Grandchildren: Dana Hoffman (Jason); Brandi Northcutt; Casey Northcutt (Kristin); Kandi Oakes (Keith); Kylie Bell (Brandon); Great-grandchildren: 15; Brother: Jimmy Moore (Linda); Peggy was preceded in death by her parents; son, Steve; and, brother, Jack.

In lieu of flowers, the family wishes donations be made in Peggy's name to: Heritage Hospice, 1325 Shannon Rd. East, Ste. B, Sulphur Springs,, TX 75482.



### ***Lou Wilda Leewright Bassham***

Funeral services for Lou Wilda Leewright Bassham, age 80, of the Nelta Community, were held at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Robert Newsom and Rev. C.J. Duffy officiating. Interment followed at Nelta Cemetery with Cory Tubb, Will Wilson, Jarret Wilson, Markus Bassham, Jordan Bassham, Tel Pitcock, and Cody Nixon serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were Don Patterson, Gary Stevens, and Keith Bland. Visitation was held at 1:00 p.m., prior to service time. Lou passed away on Sunday, December 1, 2019 at her residence.

She was born on July 17, 1939 in the Nelta Community, the daughter of Minor Hussey "Perch" Leewright and Vesta Uris Palmer Leewright. She graduated from Sulphur Bluff High School where she played defense on the basketball team. She was a big basketball fan and also loved to cook. She married Jerry Thomas Bassham on April 14, 1957 in Idabel, OK. She worked as a receiving clerk for the Hopkins County Memorial Hospital for twenty-nine and a half years. She was a member of the Sulphur Bluff Baptist Church.

She is survived by husband, Jerry Bassham, children, Julie Tubb and husband Gary of the Nelta Community, Mark Bassham and wife Kim of Cooper, Tony Bassham and wife Vicki of Sulphur Springs, grandchildren, Cory Tubb and wife Lyndsay, Amanda Wilson and husband Will, Cassie Wilson and husband Jarret, Markus Bassham, Jordan Bassham and Shelby Killingsworth, Mikah Pitcock and husband Tel, Miranda Bassham and Cody Nixon, and great-grandchildren, Brayden Wilson, Macy Wilson, Weston Tubb, Jayden Wilson, Luke Kyle, Jolee Wilson, Paisley Bassham, Aubri Bassham, Knoxx Nixon, Bryce Tubb, Colt Pitcock, and Charlee Pitcock. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. [www.westoaksfuneralhome.com](http://www.westoaksfuneralhome.com)



### ***Margaret Elizabeth McQueen Dickens***

Funeral services for Margaret Elizabeth McQueen Dickens, age 94, of Sulphur Springs, were held at 4:00 p.m., Monday, December 2, 2019 at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Bro. Wayne Darty officiating.

Pallbearers were Rex Dickens, Randy Dickens, Steven Graves, Brent Johnson, Ronald Dickens, and Tommy Dickens. Visitation was held one hour prior to funeral service. Interment was in Phoenix Memorial Park, Phoenix, AZ. Margaret passed away November 28, 2019 at Wesley Oaks Memory Care in Sulphur Springs. She was born on May 27, 1925 in Cumby, TX, the daughter of Orville Ray McQueen and Nora Lorene Mayo McQueen.

She was of the Baptist Faith and a former member of Mission Drive Baptist Church in Phoenix, AZ. She was a beautician, and loved to crochet, making quilts, fishing, and hunting. She is survived by son, Mike Dickens and wife Luanne of Sulphur Springs, TX, daughter, Kay Dickens Graves and husband Lynne of Colorado Springs, CO, sister, Lequita Tanner and husband Wayne, of Mesquite, TX, grandchildren, Rex Dickens, Brenda Wilson, Randy Dickens, Steve Graves, and Rachael Johnson, seven great grandchildren, and four great-great grandchildren. She is preceded in death her husband, J. D. Dickens, sister, Wanda Shaw Johnson, brothers, Nathan Ray McQueen, and Troy Gene McQueen. Arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. [www.westoaksfuneralhome.com](http://www.westoaksfuneralhome.com)

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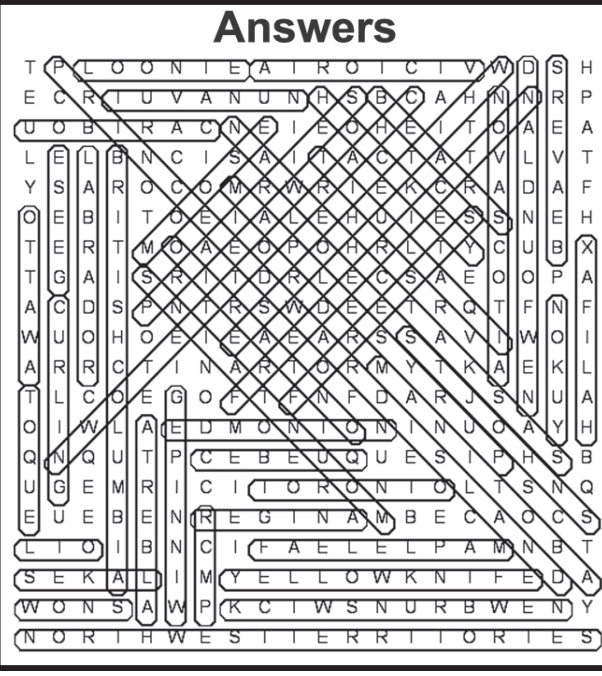
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So many Texas cities really put on the glitter and lights around Christmas. Big Spring, with a population 28,000 lights up the city park with displays and giant lighted poinsettias (it's the lighted poinsettia capital of Texas) that attract some 20,000 visitors every December. Andrews has 13,00 residents and puts on an impressive downtown light show. After people watch the lights they go to the home of Gary Rawls that has a nativity scene with live actors and live animals, camel and donkey with lights. Fort Worth, population 800,000, outlines its downtown buildings with lights.

In East Texas, the place to go see Christmas lights is Marshall, where 24,000 people live. There are millions of lights downtown and beyond. It's a spectacle that has been covered by all kinds of media for years.

"It started with lighting our downtown courthouse, the shrubbery and trees around it and morphed into much more than that," says Tim Holt who works with Marshall's Wonderland of Lights. "Neighborhoods started to decorate. It started with the bag lights and luminaries and people started putting lights on their houses. Next thing you know, Marshall is lit up. People have come here at Christmastime from all over the country. It is just such a beautiful sight that puts you in the Christmas spirit real quick. We have tour buses from Dallas, Houston and New Orleans around our courthouse square then they go out to the neighborhoods." The celebration starts the day after Thanksgiving.

"We kick it off with a bunch of activities. Bands play in an outdoor pavilion on weekends and it's all free. We try to do things that will bring people downtown so we can keep downtown involved in our everyday lives and keep people involved. We've got ice skating, we'll have things for the kids to do like visiting with Santa, working on a model train, eating reindeer food, I mean there's just so many things that we set up for the kids."

The ice skating rink is outdoors.

"The city has spent a lot of money on our ice skating rink. You know it can still get hot here in East Texas in November so the city makes sure it stays frozen. The ice rink is just east of the courthouse. Last year they covered it with a tent but if it's not raining they'll not use it. People come from all over East Texas and bring their skates just so they can say they went ice skating on an outdoor rink in Texas. Millions of photos have been taken around Christmastime in Marshall.

"You've got the courthouse 30 yards away from you, so the pictures are absolutely beautiful. They're postcard pictures with people ice-skating, thousands and thousands of tiny white lights twinkling behind you and all around you. It is a spectacular sight to see in downtown Marshall."

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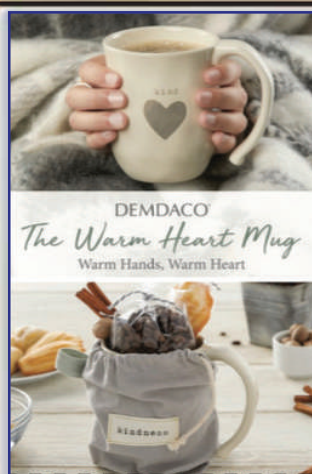


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