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No matter where you live or your personal tastes, music is a part of your life. It definitely is of mine! Here's a few "notes" from recent local music events

I am part of a duo called "Sentimental Journey". Mike Shing and I perform favorite older pop tunes, classic romantic songs by Frank Sinatra and Patsy Cline, and upbeat duets by George and Tammy, Dottie and Kenny and June and Johnny. Sentimental Journey performed at the Sulphur Springs Country Club on Valentine's evening.Love was in the air, as the restaurant was full. At every table, couples were celebrating their own story!



The Reilly Springs Jamboree held on Saturday February 15 featured a lineup of Texas talent. RJ Vandygriff delivered a healthy size portion of cowboy entertainment, song and comedy. I got the chance to sing "I'm An Old Cowhand" with him. Local radio personality Norm Allen from the "Out of the Norm Show" on Star Country, was there with a one-man show. Amy Asbill Patrick made her return to singing for the public after a two-year absence. Her step-father, the Bluegrass legend Bill Grant from Hugo, Oklahoma, experienced a lengthy illness led to his death in Summer 2019. He and Amy were a duo during his final years. Amy is back, her voice is strong and distinctive, and she's ready to entertain again in Country and Bluegrass events. Love and best wishes to Amy! Also, Doyle Hayes appeared with Brad Davis, yes THE Brad Davis! and Tom Glosup, Arturo the Pizza Man and Steve Blezinger for an hour's concert of originals written by Hayes. Hey, they're great!



A new academy and venue in Sulphur Springs is Chaffers Place, at 410 Main Street. Charles and Kenya Chaffer opened the Academy and Arts Center one year ago as a Christian Homeschool and a place for music instruction. During 2019, the stage area was completed and now that portion of the building serves as a family-friendly music venue nights and weekends. Attend one of the Tribute Thursdays or a Sabbath Session on Friday nights. The growing success of their academy and music-related business warms my heart!



Kenva and Charles

As we endure the rain and look forward to sunshine, let's never forget that rain is a lifegiving gift from God! Only He knows when it's enough! Remember too that Daylight Savings Time begins March 8, Easter is April 12 and Mother's Day is May 10. Til next week, I will watch for you and Spring at the Corral Gate!



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### Marlene Sturdevant

Funeral services for Marlene Sturdevant, age 84, of Miller Grove, TX, will be held at 2:00 p.m., Friday, February 21, 2020 at Brashear Baptist Church with Bro. David Burns officiating. Interment will follow at Miller Grove Cemetery with Jeffrey Wren, David Tipps, Kevin Tipps, Austin Tipps, Keith McCord, Ray Glenn Jordan, and Craig Buck serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers will be Deacons of Brashear Baptist Church, and Sam Hall Sunday School Class. Visitation will begin at 1:00 p.m., prior to the service. Marlene passed away on Tuesday February 18, 2020 at Sulphur Springs Health and Rehab. She was born on June 1, 1935 in Ft. Worth, Texas, the daughter of Jimmy Clifton Williams and Flora Margaret Scott. She married Floyd Ray Sturdevant on June 1,

1951, in Lewisville, Texas. He preceded her in death. Marlene worked for State Farm Insurance for 6 years and for Colonial Savings and Loan. Marlene was of the Baptist faith and a member of Brashear Baptist Church. She is survived by daughters; Kathy Wren and husband Dwayne of Miller Grove, Cheri Tipps and husband Stevie of Miller Grove; grandsons, Jeffrey Wren and Mindy Pogue, David Tipps, Kevin Tipps and wife Michelle, Austin Tipps; great-grandchildren, Colton Tipps, Dylan Tipps, Rebecca Tipps, Jacob Tipps, and Hunter Pogue. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents, two daughters, Darlene and Bertie Sturdevant, and brother, Rev. Robert E. Williams. In Lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Brashear Baptist Church, P.O. Box 126, Brashear, TX 75420. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com



### Wanda Kay McCord

Funeral Service for Wanda Kay McCord, age 66, of Sulphur Springs will be held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday February 22, 2020 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home with Pastor Philip L. Harrison officiating.

Interment will follow at Restlawn Memorial Park. Wanda passed away surrounded by family on Sunday, February 9, 2020 at UT Southwestern – Dallas.

Wanda was born on August 2, 1953 in Fort Worth, TX to William Lee Hilburn and Judy Wooten Hilburn.

She is survived by her children, Jennifer Mitchell and husband, Archie, Jerry McCord and wife, Misty, Chance Adams and partner, Ethan; grandchildren, Staci Clayton and husband, Brandon, Amanda Harrison, Jessica Horne and husband, Zack, Catie Arrington and husband, Cory; eleven great grandchildren; two sisters, Brenda Reed and husband, Mark, and Rhonda Phillips and partner, Tommy; and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Wanda was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Larry Hilburn; her niece, Sandy Reed; and great-nephew, Micah Reed. Arrangements are under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. The online register can be signed at www.murrayorwosky.com



### Theresa Ann Harred

Memorial services for Theresa Ann Harred, age 60, of Sulphur Springs were held at 2:00 p.m., Monday, February 17, 2020 at West Oaks Funeral Home with Bro. Leo Wisniewski officiating. There was no formal visitation. Theresa passed away on Friday, February 14, 2020 at CHRISTUS Mother Frances Hospital in Sulphur Springs. She was born December 28, 1959 in Port Arthur, Texas, the daughter of Weldon Travis "Buddy" Hicks and Dorothy Brady Hicks. She married Charles Harred October 26, 1979 in Sulphur Springs, and he survives. Theresa was a homemaker. In addition to her husband she is survived by her daughter, Maegan Ratcliff and husband Michael of Sulphur Springs, brother, Darrin Hicks and wife Becky of Sulphur Springs, sister, Joyce Carpenter of Como, grandchildren, Kaden, Hunter, and Averi Ratcliff, and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded

in death by her parents, brother, Larry Hicks, sisters, Brenda Davis, and Janice Cotton. Arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com



### Shirley Hood

A Funeral Service for Shirley Hood was held at Tapp Funeral Home Chapel on Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 1:00 PM. with Ellington Wiggins officiating. Interment followed at Sharp Cemetery in Wood County. Shirley passed away on Saturday, February 15, 2020 at Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas.

She was born on February 20, 1935 to Herman Turner and Sybil Ruth Ross Turner. She was a meat wrapper for Kroger Groceries before she retired and was of the Baptist faith.

She is survived by her two sisters, Pat Taylor of Combine, TX and Bennie Bryant of Yantis and numerous nieces and nephews. Shirley was preceded in death by her parents: Herman Turner and Sybil Honeycutt and one son: Ricky.

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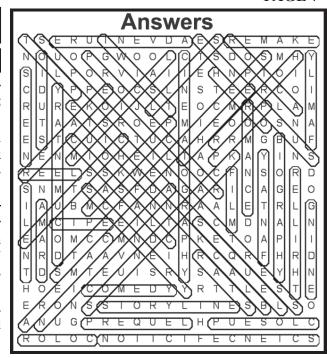
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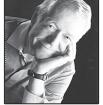
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I heard that Bob Haydon was a fantastic banjo player so I went to interview him at his home in Winnsboro. I found out he is much more than a banjo player with a gold record, singles and albums on the charts and a worldwide audience. He has written 3 books (murder mysteries) and paints in the Taos style of art. I recorded him playing his banjo. It was like hearing a performance in Carnegie Hall. His fingers flew up and down the

instrument and produced some amazing music.

Bob was born in Kensington, Maryland and his family moved to Dallas when he was in his early teens. He attended Saint Marks School and met a classmate named Steve Miller who told Bob he played guitar. Bob said he played, too and they hit it off. The formed a band called The Marksmen and played for high school and college dances all over Texas and Oklahoma. "We weren't playing Top 40," says Bob. "We were playing the stuff that Stave was brought up on. It was Blues, but it was Rock and Roll Blues. The kids hadn't heard it and they loved dancing to

They played for a teenage style show at Neiman Marcus and the National Cheer Leaders Convention at SMU. Not bad for a bunch of 14 year olds. "We were booked solid and played all over the place. We were playing at a frat party in Oklahoma at about 4 AM and I looked over at Steve and said 'this is it, isn't it.' He said 'yep, this is it. This is what we want to do.'" Bob's music career just zoomed. Besides playing with Steve Miller he toured with the Beach Boys. His bluegrass album Collage earned him honors. For 12 years he was art director for the largest yearbook publishing company.

Bob admits he wasn't a good student in high school. "I was too busy being a musician. I wanted to be a Rock and Roll star and didn't have time for school. I made Ds, Es and Fs. I finally wore out the teachers and graduated form Highland Park High School when I was 21 years old. They were running out of classes to give

Then he found out he could draw, something he enjoyed doing. He went to a 2-year school in Dallas for a while, taking English, History and 2 art courses. He got As in art but barely passed the others. His father, recognizing his son's talent, urged him to go to SMU. "I passed the entrance exam and took only art courses the first semester. They gave me a partial scholarship for the second semester. After that they gave me a full scholarship, but I had to take all those other courses. I did good, learned how to study and do things the right way and ended up with a 3.7 grade point average during my 4 years at SMU."

He got interested in southwest art in 1969 when he and his wife went to Taos for a vacation. "I loved it and so did my wife. Just the feel of the place. When we got there we met another couple who were hippies. They invited us to dinner and during the meal we noticed that there was something funny about the food. The more we ate the happier we got. We never did ask them what they did but there was something in that food I can tell you that."



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