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Page 6 & 7!

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At The Corral Gate



Funny who you run into when you're out and about in town. And if only from behind the wheel, you spot someone you know and you send out a smile and a wave while you pass by! Or it might happen while you're in a cafe or at the post office, when you get a chance to chat with an old friend whom you haven't seen in years but with whom you have fond memories. All these happy situations bring a smile and a glad heart. Here's a few of my recent favorites, and all this in just one week!



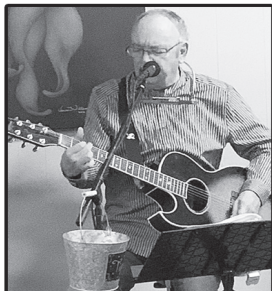
Enola with Erwin Schwartz

Erwin and Elaine Schwartz used to live around the corner from me, on Fisher Street. And that's where they raised their kids while I was raising mine on Davis Street. Ran into Erwin at The ROC. It was his Retirement Day! How special! He was heading to the gym after spending 27 years as Chief Operator at the Sulphur Springs Water Treatment Plant. Enjoy retirement, Erwin!

Larry Neal almost mowed me down on the sidewalk near Briley's Barber Shop downtown last week. I happened to be walking along there too, and if you know Larry, he is always moving in high gear! Anyhow, we caught up on a few things, and Larry has agreed to come and play with the Running Creek Band at our next Reilly Springs Jam-boree, March 21 at 6pm! Ya'll come!



Larry Neal of Saltillo, Texas



Here's a new friend I've made, that's Norm Allen. He is the Morning Show host on Star Country and daily does the Out of the Norm Show. It's fun to listen to! And guess what, Norm is super talented at playing guitar and singing our favorite old tunes from the 1970's and 80's. I caught him entertaining at Phinisse Winery last Saturday night. He may be new to town, but Norm is really getting around!

Norm Allen of local radio's 'Out of the Norm' Show

And this lady has a million friends. Her Hopkins County roots truly run deep! I just happened to be at the same table with her (at Marlene's Fashion Show last weekend) when we found out it was her birthday! Jan Massey, you are a blessing to so many! Jan is gracious and lovely at any age. She's also part of the Millennium Shopper staff!



Enola and Jan Massey at Charleston Sky in Delta County, near where Jan was raised.

Looks like Spring is a sure thing now. May not be immediately, but there's no turning back, Spring is definitely on it's way. If you've got a green thumb, or are good with a fishing pole, there's plenty of daylight now to enjoy it. Meantime, I will watch for you at the corral gate while I stay alert for more signs of Spring!

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Saturday, June 6th
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DID YOU KNOW?



★ Small businesses accounted for 65% of all new jobs over the past 17 years. ★ Small businesses employ 77 million Americans. ★ 89% of consumers agree that independent businesses contribute positively to local economies. ★ Residential neighborhoods served by a successful independent business district gained, on average, 50% more in home values than their citywide markets. ★ Independent retailers return more than three times as much money per dollar of sales than chain competitors ★ Independent restaurants return more than two times as much money per dollar of sales than national restaurant chains. ★ If independent businesses regained their 1990 market shares, it should create 200,000 new small businesses, generate nearly \$300 billion in revenues and employ more than 1.6 million American workers. ★ If just half the U.S. employed population spent \$50 each month in locally owned independent businesses, it would generate more than \$42.6 billion in revenue. ★ For every square foot a local firm occupies, the local economy gains \$179 vs. \$105 for a chain store.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

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- ★ Seek out a local business you've never been to and see what they have to offer.
- ★ Get your prescriptions filled at a local pharmacy.
- ★ Eat lunch at a local eatery instead of a chain restaurant.
- ★ Purchase birthday gifts at a local gift shop.
- ★ Frequent your community's Farmer's Market for your produce.
- ★ Join a locally-owned gym.
- ★ Visit a local nursery for your lawn and garden needs.
- ★ Get your outdoor power equipment from the local hardware store instead of a national chain.

Tell Your Community!

- ★ Inform your friends about that great new shop/gym/nursery you found.
- ★ Take your friends out to eat at that great new restaurant.
- ★ Post a picture on Facebook of that awesome birthday gift you gave your Mom, along with a picture of the store it came from
- ★ Watch for "Buy Local" posters in your community's storefronts and make a special effort to visit those establishments.
- ★ A study in Grand Rapids, Michigan, found that if 600,000 people shifted 10 percent of their spending to local stores, the following would be created locally within one year: 1,600 jobs; \$137 million in new economic activity; and \$53 million in new wages.

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WEST OAKS FUNERAL HOME

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Sam Kopal

Funeral services for Sam Kopal will be Friday, March 13, 1:00 p.m. at the Sulphur Springs High School Auditorium, 1200 Houston Street. Visitation will be Thursday 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Murray Orwosky Funeral Home. Graveside service will be a private family service. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the Sam Kopal Scholarship Foundation Fund, www.ssisdeducationfoundation.com



Coy E. Owens

A funeral service for Coy E. Owens, age 93, of Sulphur Springs, was held at 2:00 P.M. on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Chapel with Joshua Davis officiating. Interment with Military Honors followed at 3:00 P.M. at Restlawn Cemetery with Larry Owens, Ronnie Owens, Josh Davis, Bill Owens, Mike Owens, and Dale Owens serving as pallbearers and Dean Owens and Mike Shaw serving as honorary pallbearers. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service. Mr. Owens passed away on Sunday, March 8, 2020. Coy was born on August 24, 1926 in Alleene, AR to Ira and Thelma Owens. Coy married Estelle Brown on May 24, 1949. He served in the US. Army and spent his life as a Dairyman and Cattleman. Coy was a member of the Assembly of God and Church of the Nazarene. He is survived by his daughters, Deborah Davis and husband, Gary, Janice Barker and husband, Doug; grandchildren, Joshua Davis, Ryan Chaney, Chelsie Lookabaugh; great grandchildren, Grayson Chaney, Olivia Chaney, Slayde Lookabaugh, Caiden Lookabaugh; sisters, Agnes Ables, Bernice Fitzgerald.

Coy was preceded in death by his wife, Estelle and his parents; two grandchildren, Scotty Owens and Cherie Owens; brothers, Ray Owens, Oscar Owens, Alfred Owens, Buford Owens; and sister, Pearl Wood.

Memorials can be made to the Gideon's or Zion International Ministries. Arrangements were under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.



SPC. Roger Earl Berry

A funeral Service for SPC. Roger Earl Berry, age 71, of Sulphur Springs, TX was held at 3:00 P.M. on Sunday, March 8, 2020 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home Chapel with Perry Johnson officiating. Interment followed at Rockdale Cemetery with Dylan Odom, Jonah Schumpert, Pacye Odom, Eddie Schumpert, Jerry Radney, Jimmy Herig, Tommy Berry and Tim Joiner serving as pallbearers and GreenLee Odom serving as a honorary pallbearer. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service. Roger Earl Berry passed away peacefully at his residence in Sulphur Springs, TX.

Roger Earl Berry was born on March 2, 1949 in Winnsboro, TX to Earnest Walker Berry and Ruby Fay Cater. He married Debora Sue Berry and they were married for then 40 years. He worked as a truck driver, loved to play guitar, he liked to play and listen to country gospel. He as well, proudly served the US Army.

He is survived by his wife, Debbie; children, Gayle Schumpert and husband, Eddie, John Odom and wife, Monica, and Beverly Radney and husband, Jerry; grandchildren, Amie Herig, Justin Radney, Dylan Odom, Jonah Schumpert, Pacye Odom, and GreenLee Odom; great grandchildren, Kamdyn Herig; siblings, Barbara Pritchett, Eugene Berry, Donny Berry, and Sue Joiner. Roger was preceded in death by his parents. Arrangements were under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Wayne Benson

Funeral Service for Wayne Benson, age 81, of Sulphur Springs, TX will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Sunday, March 15, 2020 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home Chapel with Johnny Anderson officiating. Interment will follow at Restlawn Memorial Park with Kip Sonntag, Kevin Benson, Kasey Benson, Cory Benson, and Ronald Flecker serving as pallbearers and Bayler Henslee, Wayne Sonntag, Bunky Hill, and Como Pickton Special Olympics Team and Coaches serving as honorary pallbearer.

Visitation will be 6:00-8:00 p.m. Saturday, March 14, 2020 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Wayne Benson passed away peacefully at Carriage House Manor in Sulphur Springs, TX. Arrangements are under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.



Mary Jo Peek

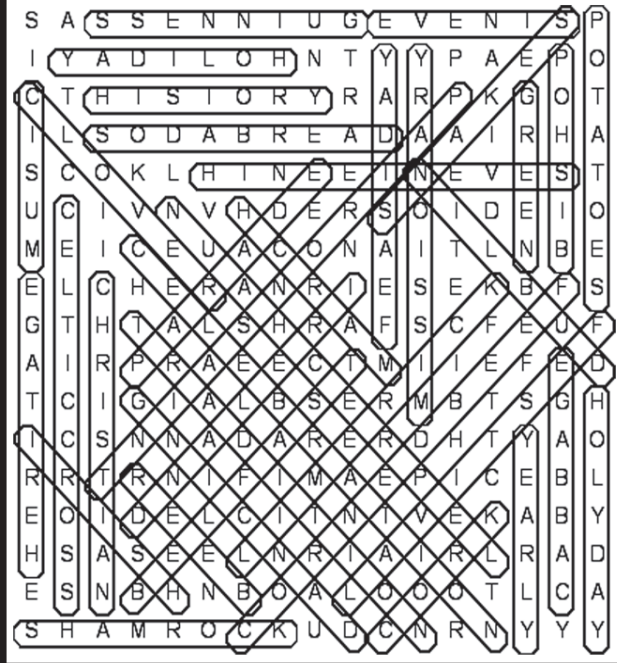
Graveside services for Mary Jo Peek, age 90, of Sulphur Springs, Texas were held at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at Brashear Cemetery with Bro. Wayne Darty officiating. Serving as pallbearers were: Shawn Peek, Bryan Peek, Colby Peek, Jimmy D. Fite, Steve Moore, and James Pickel. Visitation was held Monday at 6 PM to 8 PM. Mrs. Peek passed away on Saturday, March 7, 2020 at her residence.

Mary Jo Peek was born on March 15, 1929 to Jim and Sadie Luttrell Fite in Hopkins County, TX. She married Guy N. Peek in Hopkins County Texas. Mary Jo was a retired Nurses Assistant at Leisure Lodge for 10 years, and affiliated with the Baptist Church, Sulphur Springs, Texas.

Mary Jo is survived by sons: Horance Gene Peek of Grand Praire, Larry Don Peek of Sulphur Springs, James R. Peek of Riley Springs; a daughter Mary Evelyn Castro of Houston; and a sister Doris Jenkins of Martin Springs. Also surviving are a number of grandchildren and great grandchildren. Mary Jo was preceded in death by her parents, daughters: Brenda Kay McGee and Linda Eastman; son Joe

Kenneth Peek; brothers: C.E. (Goob) Fite, J.W. (Pete) Fite, Jimmy E. Fite, Charles W. Fite, and one sister Katheryn Nolen. Arrangements were under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Answers



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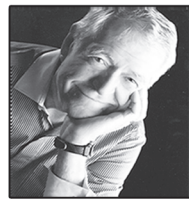
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ONE WEDDING RING LOST AND FOUND

Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

The weather was terrible. It didn't start out that way, though. When we left Dallas around 9:30 AM, it was just cold and cloudy. We were encouraged that our drive of 280 miles west might be accomplished without any problems. As we approached Fort Worth we even saw a little sunshine. That made us feel even better.

Eastland is where we ran into problems. The sky just turned dark and huge snowflakes poured down. The snow piled up and the roads became dangerous. We started seeing flashing signs saying "WINTER STORM.

DO NOT TRAVEL" and "TRAVEL DISCOURAGED." The snow must have been at least 3 or 4 inches deep and it froze as it hit the pavement. Soon every forward movement was crunchy. We slowed down to 37 miles an hour and felt fortunate to be going that fast.

At Tye, just west of Abilene we ran into a full-fledged blinding blizzard. We made a wise decision to stop at Flying J Travel Center for gas, a snack, and a restroom stop. We wasted 20 minutes or so just looking at the merchandise and recuperating from the hazardous white knuckle stomach-churning driving experience. We considered just staying at Flying J until the storm passed, even thought about getting a motel room nearby. But knowing we just had a little over a hundred miles to our house, we got back in the car and battled the elements again. This was early February in West Texas, not Minnesota. But the weather reminded us of that cold, icy northern state.

Trucks whizzed by us like it was 80 degrees and clear. Some with more prudent drivers slowed down. Those are the ones we got behind, letting them blaze a trail thru the icy roadway.

Around Sweetwater I panicked when I realized my wedding ring wasn't on my finger. I was devastated, thinking that I had lost the most precious item I own. I just knew someone had picked it up and walked off with it. Susan asked me if I wanted to go back to Flying J. I told her the weather was too bad and we were just 70 miles from home. Susan called Flying J and told the person on the phone that the ring was very important to us and could they look for it PLEASE. We left our home phone number. It was a sad drive home. I figured the ring was probably on its way to another state by now.

When we got home there was a foot of snow around our house. We parked on the street and walked down the driveway, knowing we would have difficulty driving up. The phone indicated there was a message. It was from Juan Lueras, manager of Flying J. He said someone had turned in the ring and he had it and I could come get it any time. I went to Flying J the next day (the highway was completely clear under sunny skies) and Juan reached into his coat pocket and retrieved the ring, which had been wrapped in tissue paper.

I'm grateful for good, honest people. I will do more business with Flying J.

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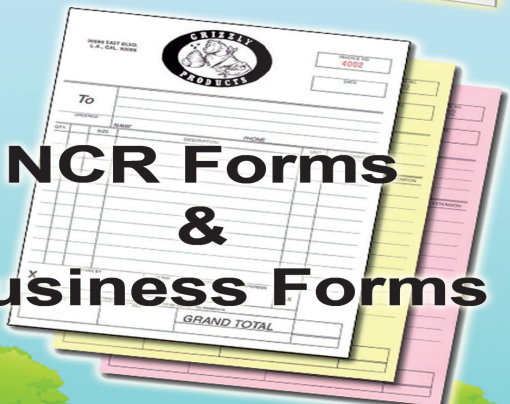
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