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At The Corral Gate



THE BIG BIRTHDAY WAVE PARADE

Mrs. Marjorie West of Sulphur Springs turned 91 on Friday April 3, 2020. Being a senior citizen myself, and having had a few large parties with too many candles on the cake, I had a feeling it might have been OK with Ms West if no big affair was made out of that birthday! But nothing do, but her four daughters celebrate it, in spite of the COVID-19 'stay home, stay well' declaration.

Marjorie West was born in New Mexico and came to Sulphur Springs in 1969 and raised her family here. She was a teacher all her life, serving in Winnsboro and Como-Pickton school districts. She's got tons of grandkids and great-grandkids and loving daughters... at least two of them are teachers too... Lee Gifford, Johnna West, Carol Crowson and Ann Lary. After baking the cake and decorating their mom's yard, they let the secret out of the bag by bringing the party TO HER with plenty of friends, at a generous social distance! I hope you enjoy the photos that Johnna sent of her mom's **BIG BIRTHDAY WAVE PARADE** on Vonda Drive!



As we head toward Easter weekend, we should look around and notice the quiet beauty and majesty around us, like this week's full moon which was a feature of the night of Jesus' sacrifice. Remember, some of our most precious possessions in life are free and quite common-place. They are GIFTS, that's why this is known as THE PRESENT!. Til next week, let's PRAY and STAY safe!

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Thomas Ray Kirkpatrick

Thomas Ray Kirkpatrick, 75, of Caddo Mills, TX passed away on March 28, 2020. He was born in Whitney, TX on December 7, 1944 to William and Elsie Kirkpatrick.

Thomas graduated from Whitney High School in 1963. He moved from that area and eventually began working in retail sales which led to him purchasing Whites Auto in Quitman as co-owner with his best friend, James "JR" Young. Their friendship lasted for years even after the business was sold. After sale of that business Thomas continued working for Whites Auto in Paris, TX, Huntsville, AL, Jackson, MS, and Greenville, TX. He then managed Western Auto in Terrell, TX for many years until beginning a career as manager of AutoZone in Greenville, TX. He retired from AutoZone in 2004. At that time he started his own business. Thomas is survived by his loving wife of 29 years, Kathy Kirkpatrick; Children, Tammy Kirkpatrick, Tim Kirkpatrick and his wife Elizabeth, Lisa Sinclair and her husband Jonathan, Scott Hunt and his wife Truly; Grandchildren, Mattie Poteet, Katie and Ellie Kirkpatrick, Hannah, William, Luke, and Sadie Sinclair,

Hayley, Zoe, and Stella Hunt; Numerous nieces and nephews, along with a host of loving relatives and friends.

Thomas is preceded in death by his parents, brothers, Larry Wayne and Bobby Kirkpatrick; a sister, Carolyn Pustejovsky Hoopingarner; and best friend and former business partner, J.R. Young. A Graveside service was held at the I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Caddo Mills on Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at 11:00 AM.

Linnie Wright



Linnie Maxine Brightwell Timms Wright was born August 26, 1926 to the parents of Leonard and Carrie Bowie Timms in Kilgore, Texas. She was preceded in death by her parents and siblings: Thelma, Vernon, Dimple, Calnora, Lonnie, Jessie, Hazel, Helen, and her twin brother, Linzie Timms. Her Aunt Clara and Uncle William Marshall raised her after her parents died. They taught Mom about God and she fell in love with him. She accepted Clara at age six and began her Christian journey. She sang her first solo "Jesus Wants Me for A Sunbeam"; Her first speech recital was "What Is A Home Without A Bible?"

Linnie attended Danville Elementary School in Rusk County. In 1942, she graduated salutatorian of her senior class at North Chapel High School in Kilgore, Texas. She was able to pay her tuition to Jarvis Christian College, in Hawkins, Texas by singing in the college choir and working in the dining hall. In 1946, she graduated with a major in English and a minor in French.

It was at JCC that she met Malcolm Nathaniel Wright, Sr. They were married on September 16, 1945. To this union, ten children were born.

Malcolm Jr., Joyce, Vivian, Jeannie, Janie, Sigmond, Ivan, Samuel, Brian & Ryan.

After college, the couple moved to Sulphur Springs where Linnie joined Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. Linnie was mentored by the late Rev. J. I Gilmore, Rev. A. D. Sanders, and Deacons Jim Wright, & Samuel Watson. They saw she had a humble and willing spirit for working in the church. There, she served as Vacation Bible School director for 26 years and sang in the church choir. Linnie played the piano and served as assistant musician at Pleasant Hill before being called to be musician at New Hope Baptist Church and St. Mark Baptist Church. For many years, she served as secretary of Cypress District Congress and as Associate Dean of the Cypress District Sunday School & N.B.C. Institute. The late Reverend H. Wheeler, Mrs. Archie Davis, and mom worked with the NETO project to provide running water for the Pleasant Hill Community. She was active in 4-H and the Home Demonstration Club and was a member of the Heroines of Jericho. On several occasions, she presented book reviews of the book "A Man Called Peter" by Catherine Marshall she received many accolades from those reviews.

While raising her children, she worked in substitute teaching positions at the Norris High School in Commerce, Douglas School in Sulphur Springs and at Clark High in Ladonia from 1954 to 1961. In 1962, she accepted a full-time position at Clark High school in Ladonia under the late Professor J. W. Askew. There she taught until 1966 when she transferred to the elementary campus at Fannindel School in Pecan Gap. There she taught Special Education and Kindergarten. She attended Prairie View A. & M. and East Texas State University to earn her master's degree in Elementary & Special Education. She earned three certifications in her lifetime. Linnie later accepted a teaching position at North Hopkins School and taught there eleven years. While there, she wrote one of her poems in dedication of the new North Hopkins School entitled "From the Old to The New".

Linnie was gifted in many areas. She wrote a song entitled "One Way of Life" and sent it to WLAC in Nashville, TN. They sent her back a demo copy, but she chose not to continue with it because she was not pleased with the arrangement. In August 1997, she was inducted into the International Society of Poets for the many poems she wrote. Mrs. Erma Wilson and several family members accompanied her to Washington, DC to observe her receiving the award. It was there that she met the late Florence Henderson. In 1984-85, she wrote a book entitled "Excerpts of A Small-Town School Teacher".

Malcolm & Linnie were married for 65 years prior to his passing in 2010 at the age of 91. Other family members who preceded her in death are son, Thomas Wright, grandsons: Malcolm Nathaniel Wright, III, Roderick Wright and Bradley Cole Wright.

Those who remain to cherish her memory are sisters-in-law: Mrs. Ozie Marie Wright of Sulphur Springs & Mrs. Johnnie Wright of Lancaster. Her children and their spouses, and a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren & great-great-grandchildren along with many nieces & nephews.

Linnie passed away on April 5, 2020. Private family graveside services will be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

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

Barbara Dunavin



A private graveside service for Barbara Dunavin, age 86, of Sulphur Springs, will be held and directed by Delane Malone at Seymore Cemetery. Mrs. Dunavin passed away March 31, 2020 at Carriage House Nursing Home.

Barbara was born in Valley Falls, Kansas on January 29, 1934. She married Howard Dunavin on August 7, 1951 in Sulphur Springs. They celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2001. She retired from E-Systems after many years of service. After retirement, Barbara got her Cosmetologist license just to prove to herself that she could do it. She volunteered at our local hospital for over 12 years. She is survived by her daughters, Linda Gulley and husband, David, Rhoda Cherney and husband, Marvin, Lori Ray and husband, Vernon, Regina Hicks and husband, Greg; son, Donald Dunavin and wife, Mary; grandchildren, Brandy and husband, Bohn, Kori Reed and husband, Shane, Dustin Ray and wife, Megan, Preston Ray and wife, Taylor; great grandchildren, Bryce Sawyer and wife, Devin, Brett Sawyer, Brynlee Young, Jaci Reed, Jax and Kane Ray; nephew, Mark Dunavin; step-sister, Cindi Cushing and niece, Debbie Regottaz. Barbara

was preceded in death by her husband and her sister Peggy Hamilton. Arrangements under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Miscellaneous

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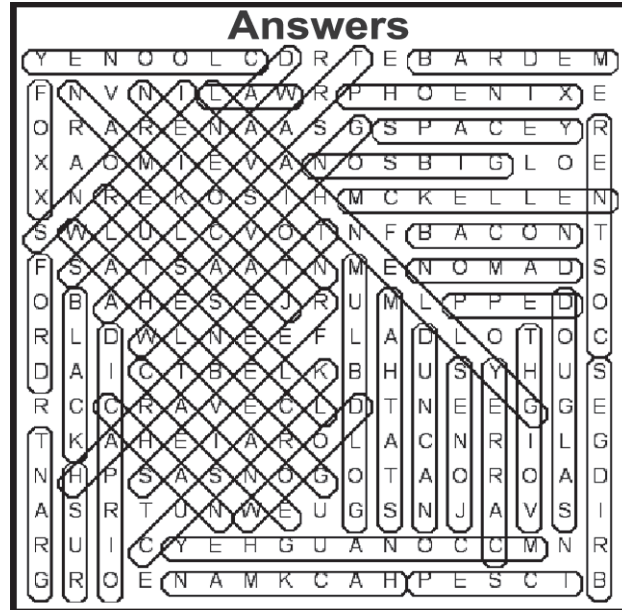
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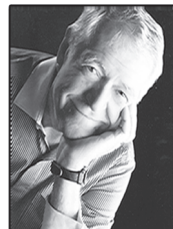
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Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

Andrews has a turtle race on the 4th of July. "It's the biggest thing here on the 4th of July," says Mylissa Powers. "Everybody gets up super early because the race is like 8 o'clock in the morning. They draw a big circle, put the turtles in the middle of it and the first one out of the circle is the winner."

Mylissa got a 3-inch turtle 7 years ago. Now it's a foot and a half tall, has a shell 3 feet across and weighs 100 pounds. He makes his home in Mylissa's back yard in Andrews. His name is Spike. "He's an African Spiked Tortoise or Spurred Tortoise. He has these little spikes on his shell and feet. As he gets bigger they'll spread out so that when he gets full grown they'll be pretty smooth and almost disappear. He'll live to be 50 to 100 years old and can get up to 200 pounds. When we first got him we used to put him in a 5-gallon bucket. Within a year we couldn't put him in a 5-gallon bucket anymore. We love him. He's a pretty quiet pet."

Spike's favorite food is lettuce. "He can eat 3 heads of lettuce in one sitting. He can eat a head of lettuce in about 2 minutes. They're really not supposed to have fruit but he loves strawberries. So every once in a while he'll get a strawberry. He'll also graze on some weeds. He's never tried to bite. They don't have teeth, just jaws. And they don't chew anything they just bite and swallow."

Spike can move pretty fast. "If we're not careful he has got out of the yard and is across the street. He has learned how to unlock the gate. Our neighbors like him and keep an eye on him if he gets out. They'll either bring him back or let us know he got out. Here lately they've just called us, since he weighs a lot."

Mylissa and her husband have other pets, too. "Spike thinks he's a dog. We had a little dog and Spike used to follow her in and out through the doggie door. He'll come in and eat out of the dog bowl and drink out of the dog's water bowl."

Spike responds to displays of affection. "He loves to have his neck rubbed. And he loves to have his shell rubbed. He'll lean in to me when I pet his shell. He loves to walk through the sprinklers and get out in the rain when it's not raining too hard. He is a very unusual pet."

When he was younger, Spike entered the annual turtle race and did pretty well. "He came in second in the only race he entered. He would have won first but he was chasing other turtles around."

Mylissa is the second owner of Spike. Her son bought it for his daughter and she kept it for a while then passed it along to her grandmother. Spike has made him some living quarters in the back yard. You don't see much of Spike in cold weather. He's in one of a series of tunnels he has dug. One goes straight down, but has a little cave on one side where he stays when it rains. He hibernates most of the winter but sometimes comes out on days that are sunny and warm. He doesn't like snow.

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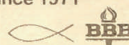


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