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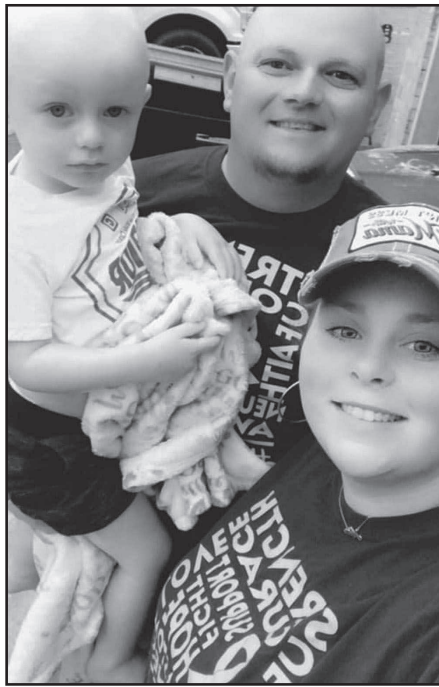
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Young Cancer Patient Gets Motorcycle Escort Home



What a wonderful surprise for 2 year old Caston Stewart as approximately 300 motorcyclists showed up in Sulphur Springs to escort this young cancer patient to his home in Mt. Vernon, Tx.

Caston shown with his parents Clayton and Emily Stewart.

Caston has been undergoing treatment since 2019 for the Neuroblastoma Stage 3 which he was diagnosed with in his first year of life. Little Caston has only four more Chemo treatments scheduled, and has been doing so well that his doctors released him to go home with his family. It was to be a memorable occasion for them. And to mark it as special and share it with others, Caston's dad, Clayton, put the word out on Facebook about the route they would be traveling from Dallas to Mt. Vernon, and if any area motorcycle riders wanted to join them in an escort fashion to their hometown of Mt. Vernon, that it would be a welcome gesture.

According to Caston's mom, Emily, "apparently Clayton's message on Facebook went viral, because all these riders showed up! I understand some of them are individuals and many are members of riding clubs. They circled around us and held a brief recognition for Caston where everybody applauded before mounting back up for the last leg of the trip to Mt. Vernon with us. It was a show of love and joy for our son on this beautiful day". Emily explained that Caston has been in Children's Hospital for 440 days, since he was admitted last year on March 11, 2019. The child's treatment plan has been successful, allowing him to gain strength and be released from hospital confinement. His mom added "Caston is a true fighter, and now he is acting like a normal 2-year old! His two brothers are going to be so happy to have Caston home, and have us all back home again."

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Sam and Charlene Stewart

Things haven't always been 'coming up roses' for the Stewarts, but it's been close! Sharing life for 45 years in the floral and catering business, this couple knows that success comes with teamwork, whether running a family-owned business or as marriage partners. You may know them as some of the hardest-working people in Hopkins County! Let's find out the story of Sam Stewart and his bride Charlene Minty Stewart, owners of April Showers II in downtown Sulphur Springs.

Originally from Tira, Texas and schooled at North Hopkins, Charlene grew up in a family of hard workers. She was helping in the cotton field as early as age three, and by the time she was five, she had her own little cotton sack and could pick 100 pounds in one day! Seasonal picking helped supplement her dad's full-time day job with the Texas Highway Department. Charlene was

bright, energetic and hard-working. And she was ambitious, enrolling at Texas State Teacher's College (now Texas A&M Commerce) right out of high school, and attending a floral design school. She began doing secretarial work at some of the larger corporations in the Dallas Metroplex, like Proctor and Gamble and Southern Pacific Railroad. She got to meet Miss America Phyllis George when a staffer in the Toni Division of Gillette, and later was hired at Varo Manufacturing. That's where she met Sam and their story began.

Sam was already working in the Dallas area. "After Central Freight, I went to Varo Aircraft, and the work required a security clearance. We were manufacturing and shipping equipment which was fueling American forces fighting in Viet Nam, such as search lights, night vision and rocket launchers.

"Happiness Blooms from Within"

By Enola Gay

I was at Varo for about 15 years. Later, when we'd moved back to Hopkins County and I was Assistant Manager of the Hopkins County Civic Center, I met and trained Rod Henderson who told me he'd flown helicopters equipped with Varo's searchlights. Three years after Charlene and I got married, we both quit Varo because we were tired of the traffic and she wanted to start a business back home in Hopkins County. See, Charlene already had the makings of a good floral and wedding service before that. And we had another big reason for wanting to get back to the country, and that was Cody".

Charlene had adopted Cody when he was younger than three months old. Sam entered the picture when Cody was still a toddler, and their first date included Cody! And when, at about age four, Cody asked Sam if 'he would be their daddy', that's when life started for the Stewarts. They married in 1975, purchased a home in the Hatchetville community and built their first floral shop. And they both found full-time jobs in Sulphur Springs. Sam worked for Jim Masters at The Western Store and Charlene worked for Sally Pratt in the office at Pratt Packing. 1980 saw Charlene's part-time floral business growing in Sulphur Springs, with a party or wedding almost every weekend. She explained, "this was a big era for events. There was Dairy Festival in Hopkins County, and people put on a lot of weddings. Just about all weddings were held at churches back then, for there were no wedding venues to speak

of. We did full catering, too, for rehearsal and wedding dinners which required elaborate set-ups and full table settings with all glass, because, of course, there was no disposable tableware back then! I had people I'd hire to help, but Sam and I did this part-time constantly for years. And we also had my family property at Tira to keep up. That's where Cody raised his cattle for show-ing during high school. In 1980, we officially opened as retail merchants, with a floral shop in Commerce called April Showers. Over the years, that business really took off and at it's peak supported a total of four families, some with growing children. It's still going strong today, and my niece, Meredith Coke, now operates that location. At the same time, we had the Sulphur Springs business, too, I was caring for my mom and undergoing a bout with cancer myself, but I kept working though that. Today I am cancer-free today, quite healthy and Sam and I still work every day! Plus, I've been the secretary for the North Hopkins Cemetery Association for more than 25 years, and we have our church life so we've stayed busy and involved!"

Never one to sit still, Charlene started other business ventures, too. "In the late 1990's, I bought Havah Thurman's quilt shop at Brashear, in the old downtown area next to the original post office. At Quilts Galore and More, we expanded the custom quilting business to include upholstery, and added a fabric shop and tea room. The late Kay Franks was one of the seamstresses along with Mary

Farris. Even Sam learned to quilt! He operated the long-arm quilting machine which produced bedspreads and large custom pieces. That was an early effort of mine for tourism, to cater to quilters who liked to visit quaint locations and enjoy good food. We booked luncheons and dinners there and got a good bit of custom quilting business. I was everywhere, every day between the Commerce, Brashear and Sulphur Springs locations, and did this for a few years!" Sam also spent a lot of years as a member and Past Master of Sulphur Bluff Lodge 246 and Sulphur Springs Lodge 221. Sam also has worked through an ongoing battle with cancer, but never misses a day at the shop.

"After we closed the Brashear location, in 2003, Sam and I kind of consolidated our various efforts. We sold the farm at Tira to purchase a retail location near downtown Sulphur Springs with higher visibility than we'd had before, and put in April Showers II. A local banker stood good for us to take out a 5-year note for expansion, and we were able to pay off that loan sooner than in 5 years. Business has been

good. At April Showers II, we've continually offered the kinds of perpetual products that a small rural town requires, that's fresh quality flowers, beautiful silk arrangements, casket sprays and easels, crosses and floral oriented mementos for funeral needs. Some of our most popular original creations for weddings are inspired by life in the country, designed with barn wood, wildflowers and burlap. Meaningful quotes with a floral touch convey just the right sentiments for bereavement as well as for birthdays and wedding anniversaries. The classic silk arrangement is always perfect for church needs and cemetery memorials. As florists, we've have found that the human need for flowers is timeless, spanning across gender, age and personal taste". Just like flowers, which make the perfect statement without words, so flowers were the right career choice for the hard-working, community-minded team. Sam's only reservation about working in the shop was stated when he exclaimed "I will take orders, deliver flowers, set up, clean up, stock and do anything and everything here at the shop, but I do

continued on pg. 7.....



The Stewart Family

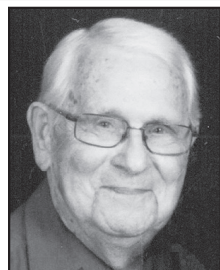
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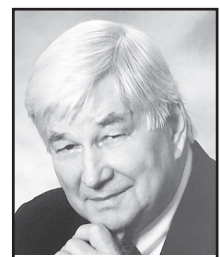
Jack Godfrey

Funeral service for Jack Godfrey, age 85, of Sulphur Springs, was held on 10:00 a.m. Saturday, May 23, 2020 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Chapel with Pastor Steve Cook officiating. Interment followed at Restlawn Memorial Park with Joey Godfrey, Buddy Daehn, Eddie Daehn, Broc Hutchings, Jason Brown, and Toby Home serving as pallbearers and Aron Daehn and Wesleyan Sunday Class serving as honorary pallbearers. Visitation will be 3:00-7:00 p.m. Friday, May 22, 2020 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Jack passed away Monday, May 18, 2020 at his residence.

Jack Godfrey was born on February 18, 1935 in Needmore, TX to Wardy Joseph and Arlie Mae Godfrey. He married Barbara Williamson on June 20, 1954 at Dike, TX. Jack worked at O'Reillys Auto Parts as a Manager and a member of the Wesley United Methodist Church. He was a proud member of the Masonic Lodge where he was a Mason Shriner and also a member of the Jaycees.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara; children, Jeff Godfrey and wife, Glenda, Jackie Daehn and husband, Emmet, and Elizabeth McKay; numerous grandchildren; and numerous great grandchildren. Jack was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Donnie Godfrey and Chock Godfrey. Arrangements under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. The online register can be signed at www.murrayorwosky.com



Ed I. Palmer II

Services are currently pending for Ed I. Palmer II, 78, of Sulphur Springs. Mr. Palmer died peacefully on Thursday, May 14th, at his residence.

He was born August 31, 1941 in Greenville, Texas. He married Judy Gambrell Palmer on July 15, 1967. She preceded him in death in 1995. Mr. Palmer was a graduate of Sulphur Springs High School and Texas Christian University, where he was a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity. He studied law at the University of Texas at Austin and was a veteran of the Vietnam War, serving honorably as a First Lieutenant in the United States Army.

Mr. Palmer's life was defined by service to others and the enjoyment of good music. As an Eagle Scout, he worked the waterfront at Boy Scout camp and learned to cook for large groups, a skill that he would use throughout his life. After serving in the Army, he returned to Sulphur Springs to practice law. He served as Hopkins County Judge and as an Administrative Hearings Officer

for the Federal Government before focusing on Disability and Social Security services. He was a Bible scholar teaching God's Word in a number of capacities throughout the years, and he served for over 40 years with the Masons. He was a devoted husband to Judy and is a beloved father to his two daughters.

In retirement, he reconnected with his 8th grade Love, Jo Ann Casey, and they spent the last 20 years enjoying travel, concerts and each other's company. His love of history and reading led him to write a series of books that allowed him to reflect on a simpler time. He was an active member of the Barnabas Sunday School Department at First Baptist Church, Garland.

Mr. Palmer is preceded in death by his wife, Judy Palmer, his parents, Bill and Maxine Palmer, sister, Patsy Palmer McKinney and brother, Johnny Palmer.

Survivors include his daughters, Brooke Palmer of Dallas and Belle Palmer Crouch and husband, Jack, of Jarrell; Jo Ann Casey of Garland and her daughters Lisa Raine, Kristi Orman and husband, Lanny, Julie Mitchell and husband, Michael and grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Friendship House c/o First Baptist Church in Garland or The Dinner Bell c/o First United Methodist Church.



Olen Petty

Private graveside service for Olen Petty, age 83, of Sulphur Springs, will be held on Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at Restlawn Memorial Park. Visitation will be held on Wednesday morning. Mr. Petty passed away Wednesday, May 22, 2020 at Wesley House in Sulphur Springs.

Olen was born on January 26th, 1937 in Pettit, Texas to Troy Otto and Eva Mae (Holmes) Petty. He married Virginia in Emblem, TX in 1975 and spent the next 45 years together racing from one end of the state to the other working for cities and raising cattle.

Olen attended Texas Tech University receiving a bachelor's degree in public administration. He interned at the US Capitol for US Representative, George Mahon. Olen was elected in 1961 at the age of 23, making him one of the youngest State Representatives in Texas History. He also served two terms in the legislature. Following his legislative service, he became a city manager and was

appointed City Manager of Floydada, TX. He was also a city manager of Sulphur Springs, TX. His city management spanned 52 years.

Olen was a faithful, committed husband, loving father and proud grandfather and great-grandfather.

He is survived by his wife Virginia; his three children: Trent Petty of Keller, his wife Mary and six children, Trey Petty of Austin, Melanie Boyd and husband Chris and stepson Craig of Sulphur Springs; 6 grandchildren: Cori (Petty) Martin and her husband Jake of Colleyville, Casie (Petty) Reeder and husband Brent of Colleyville, Carly Petty of Springfield, Ill, Tell Petty, Taggon Petty and Trevan Petty all of Keller; and two great grandchildren, Thatcher and Merrett Reeder of Colleyville; brother in law W.T. "Butch" Huddleston of Sulphur Springs, nephew Larry Petty of Levelland and Tracy (Huddleston) Barnes of Plano.

Olen was preceded in death by his mother and father Troy and Eva Mae, two brothers Gwendolyn Otto and Troy Ira Petty. and his twin sister Gloria Mae Huddleston.

Arrangements under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. The online register can be signed at www.murrayorwosky.com

"Happiness Blooms From Within"

continued from pg. 5....

not arrange flowers!"

"We've just been so fortunate!" was how Sam summed up things. And to that, Charlene added, "we've taken pride in the quality of our work, and still have customers who've done business with us for 40-plus years. During busy holidays, our crunch-time help includes firemen who loyally step in for deliveries, and we love that because firemen know where everybody lives out in the county! I'll be 79 years old on June 1, 2020, and am not thinking of retiring. We're here and get the doors open by 7am every morning, six days a week. And of course we'll come in on Sundays when there's a need out there in the community".

Their closely-knit family is at the heart of their success, Charlene shared. "Our son, Cody Stewart, has a good business of his own here in town, and although she has a full-time career in helping people,

our daughter-in-law Jana helps alongside us in the business when needed. Our granddaughter, Kalan, was the Hopkins County toddler who wasn't supposed to survive, but she did! In 1998, Kalan was diagnosed with childhood leukemia at age 3, one of the first in our community. Her treatments lasted though five years of her childhood, but she lived and has thrived! Thank God for the doctor who finally diagnosed her and sent her to Medical City Hospital. Today, Kalan's career is in the medical field, and she now works for that same doctor at Medical City. The Stewart family is blessed, and pleased that we could bloom where we were planted. It's just the five of us; Sam and I, Cody, Jana and Kalan. We may be a small family but our faith is strong!"

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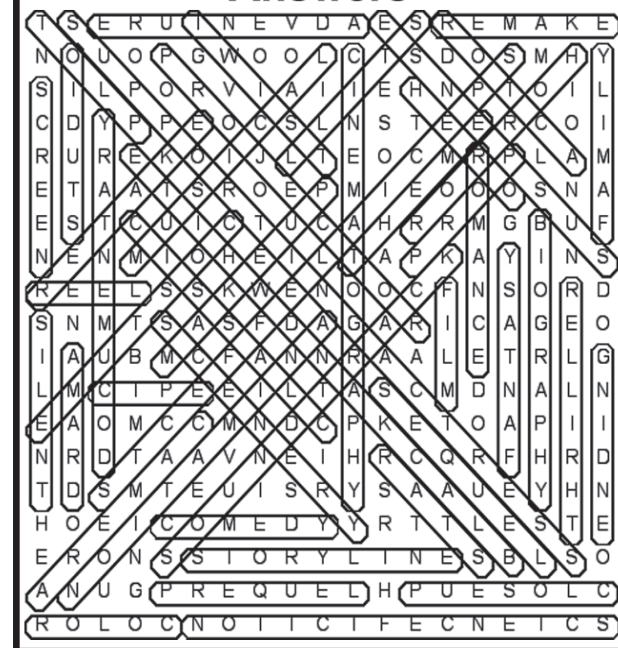
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Answers



WALKING THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL

Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

Ethan West has The Squarehead Barber Shop in Mason. He likes cutting hair and he likes adventure. He has done 500-mile kayak trips on Texas Rivers and walked the 2,000-mile Appalachian Trail.

"During my sophomore year in high school I wanted to do something significant in my life at some point. I saw a documentary on TV about the Appalachian Trail. It mentioned the 2,200-mile hiking trail starts in Georgia and goes all the way to Maine. I turned to my dad and said, 'I'm gonna do that.' He said he would drive me to the trailhead. That built a fire within me."

When Ethan graduated from high school he went to barber school and became a barber. Generations of his family had been barbers. "I became a barber to earn money so I could hike that trail. But I love barbering and will probably do it the rest of my life." He walked the trail 3 years ago when he was 20. He cut hair along the way. "I had about \$200 worth of hair-cutting supplies with me. Believe it or not those hippies wanted to get their hair cut right about midway in the hike. I cut their hair and charged for it. I made enough money to cover the cost of the equipment and made some extra for me. I gave the barbering tools away."

The walk took 145 days. "I started on April 11th and finished somewhere between September 2nd or 3rd. It's pretty hard to plan, so I just took it a day at a time." He averaged 22 miles a day. His longest day was around 40 miles.

He had a sleeping bag, a tent and a 36-pound pack to start, but the pack got lighter as he went along. "I didn't know anything about hiking and was carrying a lot of junk I didn't need." He got a motel room every 5 days so he could take a shower. That's also when he stocked up on food.

"I weighed about 190 when I started and my body weight dropped down to about 140 at one point. But I was able to put that back on by eating a bunch. I finished at about 162." He ate energy food during the day. "Peanuts, M & Ms Cheez-Its. Oreos, Snicker bars. But in the morning and evening is when I would cook my protein." He faced all kinds of weather. "Snowstorms in the beginning, hot and humid in the middle, toward the end it starts getting cold. I walked from spring all the way to fall. I walked in the rain all day sometimes. The dropout rate among young people is high. Older people are usually more successful. I believe it's because their mind set is refined. They have resolved to complete this."

There were fears. "You fear every day that you're going to break your leg because you're walking on rocks and different landscapes. If you hiked the trail and say you didn't fall you're not telling the truth. I fell on my butt a lot of times."

Ethan sent back his progress to friends and customers in Mason.



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