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VOL. 21 ISSUE 1056, July 8, 2020

Billie Ruth Standbridge  
See Story  
Page 5!



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	Slaton	Flynn
<b>Veterans</b>	Bryan Slaton opposes ANY moves to give exclusive veterans benefits to anyone who hasn't served in the military.	Dan Flynn authored a bill to give non-veterans access to veteran benefits.
<b>Property Taxes</b>	Bryan believes our property taxes are too high and wants better caps in place.	Dan Flynn touts property tax relief as one of his accomplishments but no one has received real relief.
<b>Taxpayer Funded Lobbying</b>	Bryan Slaton opposes taxpayer funded lobbying, and believes we need to ban it.	Dan Flynn voted with nearly every Democrat against the ban on taxpayer funded lobbying.
<b>Campaign Funds Use</b>	Bryan uses all the donation he receives on legitimate campaign expenditures.	Dan Flynn has been rated the second highest spender of his campaign funds on personal lifestyle expenses (Netflix, vehicle taxes, etc).

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## Obituaries *continued...*



### Gwen Parker

Funeral service for Gwen Parker, age 86, of Sulphur Springs, were held at 10:00 a.m. Friday, July 3, 2020, at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home Chapel with Shane Carrington officiating. Interment followed at Restlawn Memorial Park with Curtis Mayo, Mike Miesse, Mitch Ramsey, Casey Phillips, Heath McCraw, Jarret Wilson, Josh Davis, and Greg Scott serving as pallbearers. Shane Carrington, Don Petty, and George Walker served as honorary pallbearers. Visitation was from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, July 2, 2020, at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Gwendolyn Viola Brown was born on January 18, 1934, in Ravenna, TX, to Luther Frank and Shelia Puckett Brown, their next-to-youngest child, and went to be with the Lord Monday, June 29, 2020. She graduated from Bonham High School in 1949 and Paris Junior College, finishing there in 1951. She then attended the University of Texas at Austin where she met Robert F. (Bob) Parker, Jr. They wed on September 1, 1955, in Dallas, TX, and there began their nearly 65-year life together.

Except for two years of military service in Colorado, Bob and Gwen were Metroplex-based for the next decade, after which they moved to Sulphur Springs. There they raised a family of three children, and though their children eventually landed elsewhere, they continued to preside as patriarch and matriarch of an extended clan.

Gwen was a loving mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, and great-grandmother. It would be fair to say that Gwen was a born servant. She served her family constantly, and many others as opportunity arose. The people who sat at her table over the years were legion. In fact, she was so well-known for invitations to Sunday lunch that a family friend said that the "Gwenvitation" became famous at the Southside Church of Christ, where Gwen was a member for so long.

Gwen was a good camper and loved the camping trips she and Bob took with their grandchildren, and those grandchildren retain very fond memories of those times. She was no-nonsense in many ways, but she never lost her sense of adventure.

## WORD SEARCH

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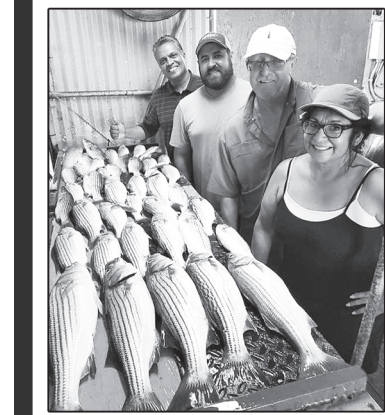
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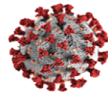
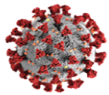
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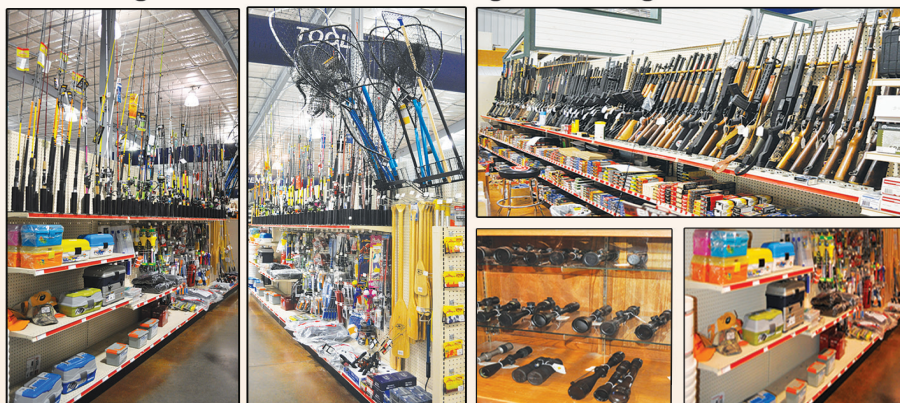


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# Billie Ruth Standbridge shows her love of the new “Downtown Sulphur Springs”

By Enola Gay Mathews

## ARTFULLY SPEAKING



Billie Ruth Standbridge is a native of Sulphur Springs.

Artfully speaking, she's got a vision for Sulphur Springs. Since making her home during 2018 in an elegant loft apartment she built on Main Street in downtown Sulphur Springs, Billie Ruth Standbridge has arrived, right where she wants to be. “I really wanted to live downtown, where things are happening, not stuck off in a neighborhood somewhere. I like to be where people are, and I like the energy that Sulphur Springs has generated with the new downtown district. I wanted to do something unique with my Main Street property, and I couldn't be more pleased that I made this move!” A balcony provides views of the town in three directions. And the plans for her residence also included one retail space located at street level, which

has been leased from day one by Landers Creek Outfitters. Thus, her first residential/commercial venture has indeed been a success, but ‘Ms. Downtown’ wasn't ready to stop there. B.R., as she's affectionately known, has been absorbed with a totally new project which will expand the opportunity for downtown living. Taking an expansive view of the opportunities downtown, she had a spacious residential/

commercial complex for Main Street. I think professionally designed a coffee and sweet shop which could host live acoustic music as well as space for art and photography is a very positive concept for our downtown atmosphere”.

And that's not where B.R.'s interest in art ends. Years spent living in California, summer 2020, the first two apartment residents moved in. Interestingly, both families already own businesses in the downtown district. Right afterward, the remaining three apartment spaces were leased. Currently, tenants are being sought for the three street-level commercial spaces. B.R. stated, “hope to secure a coffeeshop vendor in the complex right away as The Courtyard's first commercial business. We need a common area down here, and outdoor space for people to gather along



She likes the functional style of display at The Culture Club Art Gallery in Winnsboro



Sydney Gee, a downtown businesswoman takes notes for B.R. while Mary White, Winnsboro Center for the Arts President explains how their modest gallery got started

at street level, which



Mainstreet view of the “Courtyard”



Courtyard view of the “Courtyard”

Main Street. I think professionally designed a coffee and sweet shop which could host live acoustic music as well as space for art and photography is a very positive concept for our downtown atmosphere”.

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lots of wall space, are well lit and are climate controlled. I don't see why we couldn't utilize the space for art appreciation. Actually, one or more artists could hang their work there, let's say for a period of time, maybe three months. By reservation, people could come inside to view the art, absolutely free. Then, other artists could utilize the space. We will learn who is producing original art locally, and get a chance to view it in person. And

what artist doesn't want coffee and dessert a place to display what and enjoy the unique they create? At this downtown ambience which will include art as well as photography”.

As is typical, B.R. always envisions her next step. The Tomlinson Street alley, which runs parallel to Main Street, is part of her dream for an Art Alley for mural artists. Meanwhile, as B.R.'s wide range of friends and her busy family know, she's always got a project she's working on and a vision she plans to make a reality!



# Obits



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### **Rowena Johnson**

Rowena Johnson was the fourth child born to the late Sutton & Etta Williams Spigner. She grew up in the St. Mark Community where she was an avid softball player. It was the early years that Rowena accepted Christ as her personal Lord and Savior. Growing up on a dairy farm, she developed a great work ethic that would become a trademark of her life. After graduating Como-Pickton High School, she went on to attend East Texas State University graduating with a degree in Elementary Education.

Ms. Johnson was united in marriage to her beloved husband Mr. Mark Wayne Johnson on April 25, 1975. Of this union was born a daughter, Tamra, and a son Marques. Rowena was a dedicated wife, mother, and grandmother. She treasured her family and embraced every moment with them. She especially loved her role as “Granny” to her darling granddaughters,

TaRayla and TaMiyah.

Ms. Johnson diligently served SSISD students for 50 years, from 1970 to 2020, starting as a third grade Houston Elementary teacher in 1970. She served as a third-sixth grade teacher at Bowie Elementary from 1971 to 1991. She served as a reading specialist from 1991 to 1993 at Travis Elementary. Ms. Johnson became campus principal at Lamar Elementary in 1993. She was the first SSISD female African American Elementary Principal and continued to serve as campus principal until her retirement in 2020.

Under Ms. Johnson’s leadership, Lamar received the top rating of exemplary from the Texas Education Agency for 14 consecutive years. Her school received recognition from “Just for The Kids” and many Distinguished School Honors as well. She herself received several honors such as Teacher of the Year, Region 8 Nominee for the National Distinguished Principal of the Year, and Educator of the Year, and Administrator of the Year.

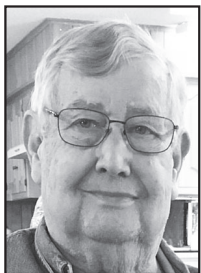
She worked in the frame of mind and spirit of being a “servant leader.” In Hopkins County she not only served in the school district but served in her community and church, such as CASA for Children, Child Welfare Board, Youth Director of MCBC (Morning Chapel), Asst. Church Clerk, directing food drives, and delivering food to hungry children as well as Christmas gifts.

Ms. Johnson remained diligent to her Purpose, and continually insisted, To God Be All the Glory!

She leaves to cherish her unforgettable memories: her loving children, Tamra Kelley of Shreveport, LA; Marques Johnson of Denver, CO; three sisters, Margie Adaway, Marcie Porter (Willie) of Sulphur Springs, TX, Dorothy Parker of Fort Worth, TX and one special nephew, John Bethel of Dallas, TX. Her precious grandchildren TaRayla Kelley and TaMiyah Rose of Sulphur Springs; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a brother, Winston Spigner, and her beloved husband, Mark Wayne Johnson.

A Celebration of Rowena Johnson’s life, age 71 of Sulphur Springs, TX is scheduled for 1 pm Wed. July 8, 2020 at Morning Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, 208 Fuller St, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482. Masks will be mandatory for attendance. Visitation was from 8am to 5pm on Monday & Tuesday, July 6th and 7th at West Oaks Funeral Home. Final internment; Caney Cemetery Pickton, TX. Ms. Johnson passed July 1st, 2020. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. [www.westoaksfuneralhome.com](http://www.westoaksfuneralhome.com)



### **Lloyd Cashion**

A Celebration of Life for Bro. Lloyd Cashion, age 83, of Sulphur Springs, was held at 2:00p.m. Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at South Jefferson Baptist Church in Mt. Pleasant, TX with Bro. Grady Cashion officiating. A family graveside service took place beforehand at Greenpond Cemetery with Bro. Terry Bolton officiating. Visitation was 6:00-8:00p.m. Monday, July 6, 2020 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Bro. Lloyd passed away on Saturday, July 4, 2020 at Christus Mother Frances Hospital – Sulphur Springs.

Bro. Lloyd Cashion was born June 9, 1937 to R.O. Cashion and Helen (Ray) Cashion in Crisp, TX. He married Patricia Wallace in Garland, TX on October 17, 1959; she preceded him in death in 2009. He then married Carol Wylie in Como on August 21, 2010; she survives. Bro. Lloyd served in the United States Air Force Reserves for two years and served in the Baptist Missionary Association for 50 years. He pastored over 50 years, serving four congregations.

Bro. Lloyd is survived by his wife, Carol; daughters, Sonjia (Keith) Burgess, Tisha (Mark) McLemore, Stacie (Everett) Shelby, Joanne Wylie; grandchildren, Jeremy Johnson, Lindsey Bancroft, Daniel Duncan, Steven Duncan, Meredith Earp, Michelle Lowder, Ryan Burgess; great-granddaughters, Kylee Johnson, Lainey Bancroft, Brooklynn Duncan, Lillie Earp, Presley Lowder, and Cami Earp; brothers, Kenneth (Cheryl) Cashion and Grady (Kathy) Cashion.

He was preceded in death by his parents and wife, Patricia Cashion.

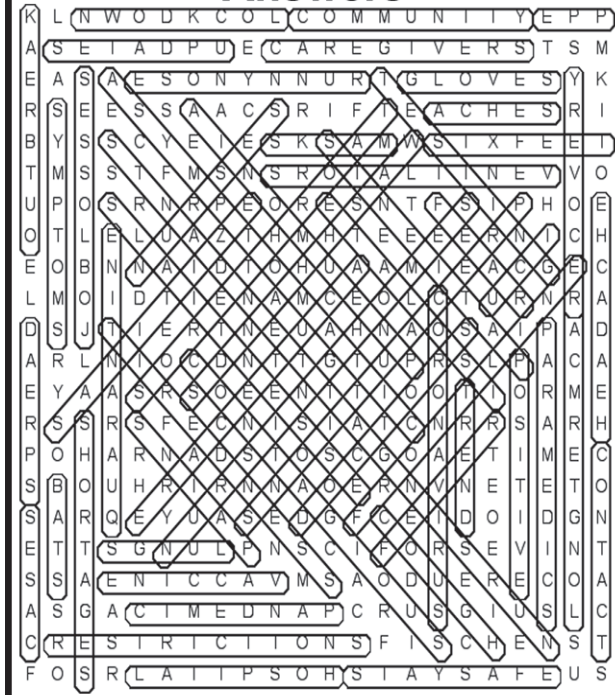
Memorials may be made to the Greenpond Cemetery Association, 2283 FM 1567, Como, TX 75431.

Arrangements were under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

The online register could be signed at [www.murrayorwosky.com](http://www.murrayorwosky.com)



**Answers**



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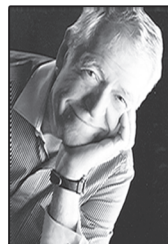
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**PAGEANTRY AT THE POOL**

**Tumbleweed Smith**



**Tumbleweed Smith**

Perhaps the most dazzling outdoor summer event in West Texas is the Fort Stockton Water Carnival.

"It takes place at night in mid-July," says Vicki Mitchell who has worked with Water Carnival for 27 years. "We have spectacular costumes, glitter, glitz, dramatic lighting and it's all at Comanche Springs Pool." Each nightly performance begins with a beauty pageant followed by an outdoor theatrical show with props and a huge cast. The show changes every year and Vicki has written some of the scripts for the show. Her husband builds props. This year the title is "How Not To Propose In Las Vegas." Big crowds come from all over the state and beyond to see the show. They are seated in bleachers around the Olympic size pool.

"Dancing and synchronized swimming are rotated so we have a dancing act that has something to do with the script, then we have a swimming act that has something to do with the script. Our show usually has about 16 different acts."

After the show, winners of the beauty pageant are announced. Saturday's winner (for girls 17 to 22) gets a scholarship and works with the chamber of commerce, making appearances throughout the year as Miss Fort Stockton. 200 volunteers, including generations of some families, work with Water Carnival practically the entire year preparing for it. The same people have worked lights for 40 years. It's Fort Stockton's biggest event.

"That's what you do when you live in Fort Stockton all your life. When I was growing up I lived near the pool and would hear the music from the show. Our summers are spent on Water Carnival. We don't have a summer vacation. That's our family time together. It's a time of school and family reunions."

The Water Carnival has been a part of Fort Stockton since 1936 when the Lions Club wanted to do something at the big swimming hole that was created by natural springs

"They would dance, have diving exhibitions and all kinds of stuff. Water Carnival lasted a whole week back then. Now it's Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights the 3rd weekend in July. So you come, you see beautiful girls at the first, and then you watch a great show of swimming and dancing. After that we name our pageant winners in different age categories. The springs started slowing down in 1950 with the increase in agriculture. The pool was built in 1953 and stays full of water year round. There's a good reason for that.

"When it rained a lot, the pool would float out of the ground because the water underneath the springs would lift the pool up. So it's filled with water all the time to keep it weighted down."



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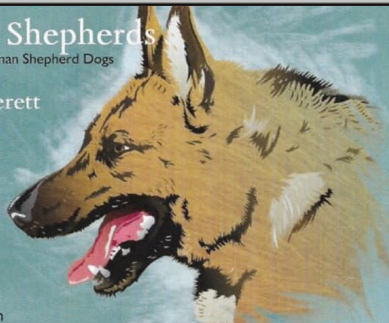
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