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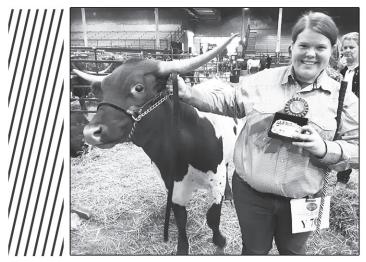
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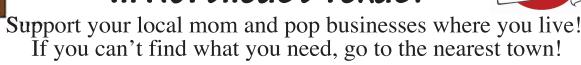
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PAGE 6

Obits



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Joan Vandiver

A funeral service for Joan Vandiver, age 83, of Sulphur Springs was held at 1:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at League Street Church of Christ. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service. Mrs. Vandiver passed away on Friday, December 11, 2020, at her home in Sulphur Springs.

Joan was born on February 24, 1937 in Pettit, TX to Clyde Nathaniel and Lennie Jane (Lewis) Durrett. She married Arles Vandiver on June 1, 1996. She loved reading her bible, Facebook, cooking, she was a seamstress and loved spending time with her family. She was a member of the Church of Christ and was instrumental in the beginnings of the Terrific Tuesday Program.

She is survived by her husband, Arles; children, Mark Bowen and wife, Stacey, Lisa McCaig and husband, David, Kelly Bowen and wife, Cristie; Stacy Higginbotham and husband, John, Benton Vandiver and wife, Julia, Cathy McBride and Wan Vandiver and wife, Candy Lagrange and distributed by her parameters and first hydren decaded Review Agreement and First hydren and

husband, Melvin, Ken Vandiver and wife, Candy. Joan was preceded in death by her parents and first husband Gerald Bowen. Arrangements were under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.



Sandra Kay Scherer

Graveside services for Sandra Kay Scherer, age 58, of Sulphur Springs, were held at 10:00 a.m., Friday, December 11, 2020 at Reilly Springs Cemetery. Sandra passed away on Wednesday, December 9, 2020 in Sulphur Springs. She was born on September 28, 1962 in Hugo, OK, the daughter of Dempsey and Jimmie Langley Simpson. She married Richard Scherer on September 30, 1987 in Reno, NV. Together they owned and operated Red Barn Cafe. Sandra is survived by husband, Rick, daughters, Ricki Shurtleff and Katrina Stageberg both of Sulphur Springs, brothers, Marty Simpson and Hal Simpson both of Oregon, Lynn Simpson of Sulphur Springs, sister, Karon Paul of Oregon, numerous nieces and nephews, as well as her hundreds of patrons she had the pleasure of serving from Red Barn Cafe. She was preceded in death by her parents. In lieu of flowers, memorial may be made to the Reilly Springs Cemetery Association, c/o Kerry Bailey, 1608 County

Road 2436, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482 or a charity of your choice. Arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com



Michael Lee Sparks

Mr. Michael Lee Sparks, age 51 of Austin, Texas passed away on Sunday, December 6, 2020 at his home in Austin.

He was born on April 9, 1969 in Sulphur Springs to the late Larry Sparks and Lee Ann McGahee Sparks. Michael was a loving father, son, brother, uncle and friend. He worked for the State of Texas in various capacities for over twenty years. He was a graduate of Winnsboro High School and Texas A&M University.

He is survived by his mother, Lee Ann Sparks of Winnsboro; children, Samuel Levi Sparks and Rachael Louise Sparks both of Austin, and Heather Nicole Wilson of England; brother, Ernie Sparks of Winnsboro; sisters, Dana Kay Howard and husband, Jess of Victoria and Robbie Musson and husband, Troy of Bentonville, Arkansas; former spouse, Helen Sparks of Austin and two grandchildren, Deliah Eden Wilson and Hunter Daniel Wilson.

Visitation was held on Friday, December 11, 2020 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Beaty Funeral Home-Winnsboro 816 W. Broadway Winnsboro, TX 75494. Funeral Services were held at 1:00 pm on Saturday, December 12, 2020 at Beaty Funeral Home with Rev. Kyle Ray conducting, interment followed at Bethel Cemetery in Scroggins, with Jim Huneycutt, Scott Simons, Matt Pletcher, Gabe Cordova, Robert Moreland, Troy Musson serving as pallbearers. Honorary Pallbearers are Ray McGahee, Mark McGahee, Jeffery Galloway, Dennis Whitehurst, Michael Guess, and Greg Vanginault.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made the the Gus Garrison Masonic Lodge of Winnsboro.



Ryan Oneal Smith

October 10, 1983 - December 13, 2020 (age 37)

An obituary is not available at this time for Ryan Oneal Smith. We welcome you to provide your thoughts and memories on our Tribute Wall at West Oaks Funeral Home.

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THE INFLUENCE OF PAUL BAKER

Tumbleweed Smith

Late in my sophomore year at Baylor I signed up for a history class with a popular professor. I wasn't really enthused about that and one night during a dorm bull session, a student mentioned

he had taken a course from Paul Baker in the theater department and it opened his mind. I was the type student that went to college to have fun and did plenty of that during my freshmen year. By the time we had that springtime confab in the dorm and I heard about Paul Baker, I was beginning to think about learning something worthwhile. I was a business major and the courses didn't interest me. So I dropped the history course and signed up for Drama 106, The Integration of Abilities. It changed

I began to think, to look at the world with new eyes. Paul Baker was a genius at his peak. His productions attracted people from Broadway and Hollywood. Architect Frank Lloyd Wright frequently came by to visit with Mr. Baker about the Dallas Theater Center that Baker was building. Dave Garroway, the first host of the Today Show, had a Sunday afternoon program called Wide Wide World. In the one-hour show that featured Texas, the Baylor Theater was on it for 11 minutes, longer than any other segment of the broadcast. I played a gate of hell and the right front fender of a Cadillac.

I went to the Army after graduation and was stationed in Europe when the World Fair was in progress at Brussels. As I was approaching the American pavilion, I saw a theater student from Baylor and asked him what he was doing there. He said he was picking up the World's Fair Cinematography Award for the film that was made of our production of Hamlet (I played one-third of Horatio).

When you are exposed to that level of talent and accomplishment as a teenager, it has a tendency to stay with you and you want to do something meaningful. Charles Laughton, who came to Baylor to direct Hamlet, called Baker irritating, arrogant, nuts and a genius. The Saturday Review, Life Magazine and similar publications did cover articles on the theater. The play, A Different Drummer, written by the Baylor Theater's playwriting instructor Gene McKinney, was on CBS TV's Omnibus series, presented live from its New York Studio. Baylor's production of Faulkner's As I Lay Dying brought an invitation to present it at the Theater of Nations in Paris, the only non-Broadway production that had ever played there.

Architect Arthur Rogers says no other person contributed more to theater architecture than Paul Baker. "His architectural visions at Baylor, The Dallas Theater Center and the theater at Trinity University have inspired similar constructions in Manila and Seoul." In his book, Integration of Abilities, Baker tells how a summer in Paris gave him a new way of looking at theater. He began to incorporate impressionistic set design in his productions. His teaching methods were the focus of the Booker T. Washington School of the Arts in Dallas. Although he had offers from universities around the world, he chose to remain in Texas where he was born and raised. He died in 2009.





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