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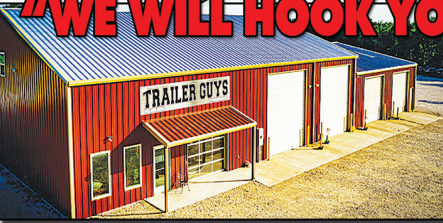
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# BENEFIT FOR JERRY KNIGHT, LOCAL MUSICIAN BATTLING CANCER



Country guitarist Jerry Knight has long been a part of the country music scene in NE Texas, accompanying many country artists during his career. Locally, Jerry played for the Roger Reed Band at the Reilly Springs Jamboree for over 10 years. He was a staple at Gale Hague's Tuesday Night Dances at Arbalá, Texas and Saturday nights in Green-survey with the Lone Star Express Band. And for the past 8 years, he has played lead guitar and sang vocals for the dance put on weekly in Mineola by the Country Drive Band. If you've been to a dance or local event with a country band, or attended benefits for others, you've probably seen

and heard Jerry Knight. He also loves to do country gospel music and would frequently be asked to perform "Three Old Rusty Nails" which is his signature inspirational song. Jerry is a loving and giving friend to everyone, and that's why it was so hard to hear the news about his cancer diagnosis in Summer 2020. Now, as of early 2021, the lung cancer had metastasized to his liver, and at this time no treatments are being administered for the cancer due to the presence of enzymes in the liver. Jerry's friends have clamored for his permission to hold a benefit for him, and just after New Year's, he finally gave permission to his long-time friend, drummer Johnny Rugg to "plan the party". Fans and friends are invited to the Benefit Dance for Jerry Knight on Thursday February 25, 2021 from 6:30 til 10pm. The location is Hickory Village Complex, 1589 US 69 North in Mineola,

Texas, just past KMOO Radio. Donations will be accepted for Jerry's ongoing physician and transportation expenses as he bravely battles the cancer and it's complications. Please come and share love and encouragement for Jerry and Gloria. For more information on the benefit, contact Johnny Rugg at 972-922-1933. If you cannot attend but would like to send a donation to the Jerry Knight Benefit, the benefit mailing address is P.O. Box 626, Hawkins Texas, in care of John Rugg.

Jerry Knight at the Reilly Springs Jamboree, 2017

Friends, this hard winter will go down in history. Please take the weather seriously. Extended cold temperatures can become dangerous to the young, old and infirm.. Coupled with the risk of COVID-19, I hope you will all be diligent in keeping yourselves well. Til next week, I will be keeping the ice broken in the water tanks at the Corral Gate.

## Tired Of Life Without Live Music? Come To Survivor's Jam To Play Or Just Listen!

**SATURDAY - FEBRUARY 27, 2021**  
FROM 4-8PM  
AT THE REILLY SPRINGS COMMUNITY CENTER  
HOPKINS COUNTY

Music lovers have had few chances to enjoy live music since 2020 due to COVID-19 precautions. The organizers of the Reilly Springs Jamboree miss holding shows, and have planned an informal get together for local music lovers. Singers, songwriters and players of all skill levels are invited to share country, blues and rock n roll. Solo musicians are welcome, and the Running Creek Band and Gary Jones Jr. will be onstage to back up guest musicians and singers. The Jam is family-friendly, with snacks and coolers welcome. Plenty of seating is provided. Admission is free, with donations appreciated for band and rent. Masks are optional, just come and have fun at Survivors Jam. For information, phone Enola Gay Mathews at 903-438-3568 or email enolagay.mathews@gmail.com

Reilly Springs is approx. 5 miles north of Yantis and 10 miles south of Sulphur Springs, east of Hwy. 154. The Reilly Springs Community Center is located at 109 CR 1439, just across from the Reilly Springs Cemetery and Baptist Church. Watch for signs.



Gary Jones Jr. will appear at Survivors Jam

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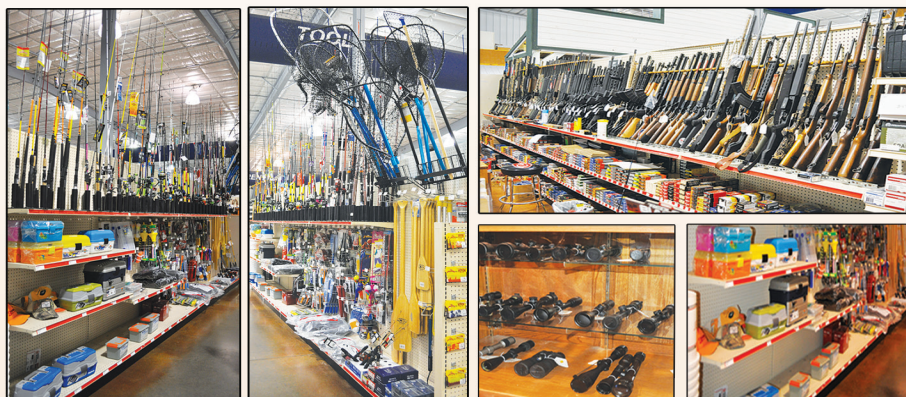
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# Obits



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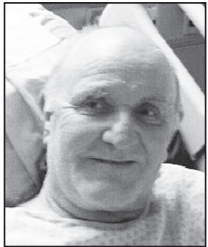
### ***Gloria Jean Thomas***

A funeral service for Gloria Jean Thomas, 73, of Sulphur Springs was held 2 p.m. Monday, Feb. 15, 2021 at West Oaks Funeral Chapel with Reverend Charles Duffey officiating. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service. Mrs. Thomas passed away Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at Hopkins County Memorial Hospital.

Gloria was born on March 27, 1947 in Sulphur Springs Texas to William and Eunice (Ballard) Ashby. She married Billy Mack Thomas April 12, 1968 in Sulphur Springs. Gloria was a retired supervisor from Aerostar International. She was of the Christian faith. Gloria was an exceptional seamstress, she was a devoted wife, mother, and proud grandmother. She loved her animals, enjoyed working in the yard, and cooking for her family and friends. She is survived by her sister Brenda Ashby; children, Annette Van Dyck and Bryan Thomas; grand-children, Kaci Brown and Branson Thomas; and great granddaughter, Dawson

Dozier. Gloria was preceded in death by her parents; William Ashby and Eunice Ashby, her husband; Billy Thomas, and siblings; Billy Ashby, Lauretta Martin, Mary Settle, Randall Ashby and Robert Ashby.

Memorials can be sent Wounded Warriors Foundation. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. [www.westoaksfuneralhome.com](http://www.westoaksfuneralhome.com)



### ***Richard Flowers***

A funeral service with military honors for Richard Flowers, age 75, of Dike, TX was held at 2:00P.M. on Saturday, February 13, 2021 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Chapel with Buddy Wiggins officiating. Interment followed at Conner Cemetery. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service. Mr. Flowers passed away on February 9, 2021 at Legends Health Care and Rehab in Paris, Tx.

Richard was born on October 6, 1945 to Oliver and Ethel (Ford) Flowers in Paris, TX. He married Grace Flowers in May of 1978 in Mt. Vernon, TX. Richard was a Veteran of the U.S Navy and served in the Vietnam war. He worked as a truck driver for Duncan Disposal. Richard was of the Christian faith.

He is survived by sons, Scott Flowers and wife, Mary, and Jason Flowers and wife, Vania; daughter, Shawna Atkins and husband, Christopher; grandchildren, Tori Flowers, Miracle Atkins, Zaila Atkins, Dylan Flowers, and Trista Flowers, sister; Helen Matlock, brothers; Floyd Flowers, and Johnny Flowers.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents, wife, and sisters, Lou Ella Boyd, Joan Ballard, and Mary Ann Flowers; brothers, George Flowers and Wayne Flowers.



### ***Annie Elizabeth Wadlow Ridings***

Annie Elizabeth Wadlow Ridings, 47, of Cumby passed away at Hunt Regional Medical Center in Greenville on February 9, 2021. She was born in Lubbock, Texas on January 9, 1974, the daughter of William Paul Wadlow and Loretta Faye Kitchens Wadlow. Annie was a homemaker that worked at Cumby ISD for a while. She leaves behind to cherish her memories, her husband Mike Ridings, three daughters: Molly Elizabeth Doddy and husband Aaron of Denison, Tx., Gracie Lynn Rose Clements and husband Trenton of DeKalb, Tx., Sequoia Nicole Ridings of Cumby; two sons: Coy Wayne Ridings of Fate and Royce Gene McClendon and wife Crystal of Willis, Tx. Other survivors include her grandson; Isaiah Matthew Doddy, granddaughter; Delilah Elizabeth Ennette Doddy, and three sisters; Kim Wadlow, Lissa Vass, and Julie Wadlow. Annie was preceded in death by her mother Loretta Faye Wadlow.

Annie was loved by her family more than she will ever know and will be fondly remembered by a great host of friends as well.

No services are planned at this time.



### ***Jon Thomas "Johnny" Moss Jr.***

Graveside services for Jon Thomas "Johnny" Moss Jr., age 75, of Sulphur Springs, will be held at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, February 18, 2021 at Oaklawn Cemetery in Cooper, TX with Bro. C.J. Duffey officiating. Honorary pallbearers will be Bryan Chitwood, Anthony Chitwood, Gordon "Spike" Hall, Dr. Donald "Skipper" Dossett, and Zac Kely. There will be a come and go visitation held from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at West Oaks Funeral Home. Johnny passed away on Saturday, February 6, 2021 at Carriage House Manor. He was born on August 17, 1945 in Paris, TX, the son of Jon Thomas Moss Sr. and Elizabeth Ann Thurman Moss. He served in the United States Army where he was a Green Beret and earned a purple heart. He later earned his Bachelors' Degree from UTA and worked as a travel agent. He loved watching movies, snow skiing, watching his girls ride horses and dance, and especially loved watching B.J. play soccer. He is survived by son, Bruce "B.J." Moss and Jessica Marie O'Shea of Sulphur Springs, daughters; Meghan Inabinatt and husband

Michael, Philippa Katherine Moss, grandson; Crighton Spencer of Sulphur Springs, brothers; Thurman Wilhite Moss of Lake Texoma, William Peyton Moss of Dallas, and aunt; Karen Partin of McKinney. Johnny was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Susan Singleton Moss, and grandson; Corwyn Phelps Moss. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. [www.westoaksfuneralhome.com](http://www.westoaksfuneralhome.com)



# THE IDLE AMERICAN

## On the Matter of 'Making It'...

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

Wedged in my mind's recesses are these eight simple words: "If you can make it there, go back."

They're easy enough to understand, but application is a whole 'nuther thing.

These words captioned a cartoon a while back. It was drawn to warn folks relocating to New York City....

\*\*\*\*\*

Though probably not intended, the cartoon has a serious undertone that may apply to folks from anywhere--cities, towns or rural.

It suggests that grass probably isn't any greener on their side.

Do you remember when your grass was greener?...

\*\*\*\*\*

From a personal perspective--the point of view with which I'm most familiar--such a "magical" time was around 1950.

School days then were generally celebratory. World War II's bloody but successful victory was still on the minds of Americans, and we barely-teen kids were pretty good at "making do" with what we had. We were "making it." Give us a pleasant 15-minute bus ride home--and a lay-out of peanut butter on crackers upon arrival--and we were set.

For the next two hours,

we lived in make-believe, thanks to adventures provided on radio. We were eager to share ongoing joys and dangers provided by the likes of Bobby Benson and the B-Bar-B Riders, Sky King, The Shadow and Tom Mix. After all, Mom had enjoyed her two-hour spate of "serials" prior to our arrival, so it was our turn to "commandeer" the only radio in our home....

\*\*\*\*\*

In days since, I've wondered why long-ago radio commercials seem far more ingrained than ads today. (Others of a certain age will remember: "My name's Buster Brown. I live in a shoe. That's my dog Tige. He lives in there, too.")

And what about cereal-pushing Tom Mix? "Take a tip from Tom, go and tell your mom, Shredded Ralston can't be beat."

One that held on for years lauded Morton Salt. "When it rains, it pours," the ad proclaimed. Not until college years would I understand that the reference was to two different "its." The first one, of course, was to the elements, meaning while raining. The second "it," however, switched to the king of salts, which don't clot when "it" rains. It still pours! Hallelujah!...

# Classified Ads Cont. ....

Miscellaneous

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Tumbleweed Smith

# A WELL-EDUCATED CHIMNEYSWEEP

Tumbleweed Smith

Micah Ables has a company in Harker Heights called Ables Top Hat Home Services. He cleans chimneys. He bought the business from his dad, Doug Ables.

"When my dad said he was going into the chimney sweeping business I thought who in their right mind thinks that chimney sweeping can be a fulltime job especially in Texas. I thought the idea was goofy, but luckily he didn't listen to me and it has turned into kind of an institution here in Central Texas. I started doing this with him when I was eight years old so I grew up working for him. I went off to college, joined the Army and did some other stuff. When I would come back on weekends or on leave or something I'd help him out for a few days. Then I bought the business from him last year."

He says equipment to clean chimneys has improved over the years.

"There is a big change from how my dad and I used to do it when I was growing up. We used to stand on top of the chimney and use some big heavy brushes with long handles and scrub up and down. It was very physical and was not a very pleasant task. Now we do it all from below by rotary power sweeping."

Micah has customers that call him every year. He can clean a chimney in record time.

"Hopefully about 45 minutes. Some of the dirty ones can take up to an hour and a half."

Once a squirrel fell into a chimney and got caught in the chimney damper.

"I don't know if it was the Arnold Schwarzenegger of the squirrel world or what, but it ended up kicking out one of the bricks that was probably three times his size. The brick was in the front of the fireplace and when he got it out, he made a run for the front door."

Micah has an impressive education.

"I studied mathematics for my associate degree, then for my Bachelor's degree I studied Russian and Ukrainian politics. Then I got my Masters in Government Diplomacy and Conflict Studies. I spent four years at West Point then did a little more than eight years as a commissioned officer in the Army. I absolutely loved the military and am really thankful for the experiences I had there and the opportunities that I had, but it's really hard on family life. With two young kids of my own I wanted to be there for them. I'll be glad when I'm able to take them to work with me. My wife helps me with marketing our services." Micah is in the reserves and teaches ROTC at Central Texas A & M.

"It's great to be able to influence future generations of Army leaders."

## Answers

Answers to the crossword puzzle:

Across: 1. LNWODKCOLCOMMUNITIYEPP; 2. ASETADPUCECAREGIVERSTSM; 3. EASAESONYNNURTINGLOVESYK; 4. RISEESSAACSRIFTEACHESRI; 5. BISSCYEIESKSAWMSIXFEET; 6. TMSSTFMSSMSROTIALTINEVVO; 7. UPOSRNRPPEORESNTFSPHOE; 8. OTLELUAZZHMHTEEERNDICH; 9. EOBNNAIDTOHUAAMTEACGCE; 10. LMOIDTIEMAMCEEDLOFTURNRA; 11. DJTIERITNEUAHMAOASAIPIAD; 12. ARLNTOCDNTTIGTUERSLPEACA; 13. EYAAASRSOEENTTIOOTIJORME; 14. RSSRSFEENISXATCNRRISARH; 15. POHARNADSTOSCGGOAETETIMETCO; 16. SBOUHRIRMNNAOERNVNETEIDETON; 17. SARRQEUASEEDGDFCERDNOIDGNT; 18. EITSGNULBNSCIEFORSSEVINDINT; 19. SASTAENTCCAVMSAODUERECOACO; 20. ASGACTMEDNAPACRUSGIUSLCT; 21. CRESTRICITIONSFISCHENST; 22. FOSRLATIPSOHYSIAYS SAFEUS

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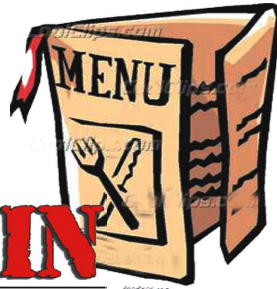
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