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IT'S ALMOST STEW TIME!

As the first two weeks of October, 2021, have come and gone, already there's a crowd of cooks signed up for the Hopkins County Stew Contest set for October 23! It looks like over 140 pots of stew will be simmering the bubbly brew known as Hopkins County Stew! And as I write this on Columbus Day, we've had our first early-season cool front come through, bringing some rain and wind last night, and a day dawning cool with wet leaves and light breezes. Fall is indeed in the air, and it's welcome with the scent of baking gingerbread and pumpkin pies (or maybe just scented candles that mimic baking!) This season is definitely well-rounded on it's



own! Fall decor is everywhere shouting "Happy Autumn!" on porches and homes around the county. But, the Harvest season soon gives way to thoughts of Thanksgiving and Christmas, and plans dancing like sugarplums in our heads for anticipated visits by loved ones and outdoor activities associated with the holidays. These delights are not that far away! But before we get too far ahead of ourselves

here's a time-tested local recipe for Hopkins County Stew from back when The Food Network came to town to televise our event!

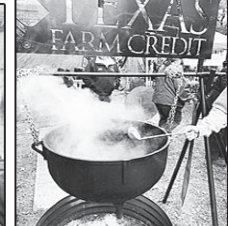
Family-size Hopkins County Stew Recipe

Ingredients: Yield: Four and a half quarts, or 12-15 bowls of stew

1 (6- to 6 1/2-pound) baking hen, cut up	1 teaspoon sugar
1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted	1 teaspoon chili powder
4 cups diced potatoes	1 teaspoon paprika
2 medium onions, chopped	1 teaspoon salt
4 cups chicken broth	1/2 teaspoon pepper
1 (28-ounce) can whole tomatoes, undrained and finely chopped	1 (17-ounce) can cream-style corn

DIRECTIONS: *Step 1.* Brown chicken in butter in a large skillet; remove chicken, and set aside to cool. Bone chicken, and cut meat into 2- inch pieces. *Step 2.* Place potatoes and onion in a large Dutch oven. Add broth; stir well. Cover and cook 1 hour or until vegetables are tender. Add tomatoes; continue cooking, covered, 20 minutes. Add chicken, sugar, and seasonings; stir well. Cook, covered, over low heat 3 hours, stirring occasionally. Stir in corn; cook an additional 30 minutes.

I hope you get to enjoy all the delights of Autumn in Texas! And I hope it whets your appetite for more treasured delights as the Holidays draw closer and closer! Til next week, I will watch for you at the Corral Gate!



Cooper Lake State Park 25th Anniversary Celebration

The park is hosting the Reilly Springs Jamboree Band with special musical guests on October 16th from 7:30pm to 9:30pm. This is the perfect way to conclude our 25th celebration on the banks of Cooper Lake listening to classic country music. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the concert! This free fun event will provide concert goers with access to some of the best local music our area has to offer. Listen in your lawn chairs or in your boat floating on the lake. Bring your own refreshments and food and enjoy! Remember, alcohol is not allowed. Special thanks to the Friends of Doctors Creek, Inc for supporting this musical event.

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October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month!

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Charles David Baucom

Charles David Baucom, 84, of Sulphur Springs, Texas, went to his heavenly home on Friday October 8, 2021, at his residence surrounded by his loving family. Born on September 18, 1937 in San Antonio, Texas, he later graduated from Sulphur Springs High School and Baylor University. He married the love of his life, Sandra Sale on June 2, 1962 in Stanton, Texas.

He was devoted to his Lord and served Him faithfully. David was a man of God. His lifelong service to his local church included teaching Bible Study, serving as a deacon and singing in choirs, ensembles and quartets.

He was a veteran of the US Army and served as a three-time delegate to the Texas Republican Convention as well as a Delegate to the Republican National Convention of 1984. Upon appointment by the Texas Governor, he served on the Texas Medical Board for 16 years; and the Sulphur River Basin Authority as President of the Board. He especially loved serving in his hometown, serving on the city council, as Mayor, as Chairman of the Republican Party of Hopkins County, and as President of the Chamber of Commerce.

David was the founder of Baucom Insurance Agency in 1976 where he worked until the time of his passing.

David was a loving and devoted son, husband, and father. He was preceded in death by his parents, Reverend Robert Gaddy and Reba Catherine Baucom. He is survived by his loving wife Sandra, his three daughters, Connie Brice of Houston, Cathy and Darren Gray of Sulphur Springs, and Carla and Greg Owens of Sulphur Springs. He is also survived by his grandchildren: Benjamin and Diana Brice, Courtney and Aaron Correa, Juliana and Colton Hager, Isabella Brice, Hope Brice, Garrett and Brynn Gray, Sam and Shannon Gray, Justin and Toni Owens, and Morgan Owens and his great grandchildren: Liam and Emma Brice, Jase Owens, and Judson Gray.

Visitation will be held at 1 p.m. at First Baptist Church, Sulphur Springs, on Saturday, October 16, 2021, with services beginning at 2 p.m. Burial to follow at Sulphur Springs City Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to either Cru at give.cru.org/1021870 or FBC Sulphur Springs for mission work in Nicaragua. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.

Ernest Gene Tanton

Ernest Gene Tanton, age 80, of Weaver, Texas, passed away on Thursday, October 7, 2021, at his home surrounded by his family.

Visitation will be on Saturday, October 16, 2021, at Sam B. Harvey Funeral from 10-11 a.m. Graveside service will follow at 12 p.m. at the Sulphur Bluff Cemetery. C.J. Duffey from Choice Hospice will be officiating.

Gene was born on November 28, 1940, to the late E.D. "Gene" and Mary Opal (Dawson) Tanton in Sulphur Spring, Texas. He married Linda Patterson on May 23, 1991, in Oklahoma. Gene worked as a fireman and retired from the Dallas Fire Department.

Survivors include his wife of 30 years, Linda Tanton of Saltillo, Texas; son, Jeff and wife, Debi, of Rockwall, Texas; daughter, Jennifer and husband, Steve Gibraltar, of Rockwall, Texas; son, Justin and wife, Letitia Ashby, of Fort Worth, Texas; granddaughters, Jackie, Jill, Ashley, Natalie, April and Shannon; and great-grandchildren, Austin, Braden and Edith.

Services entrusted to Sam B. Harvey Funeral Home. www.samharveyfuneralhome.com

Ruby Nowlin

Funeral Services for Ruby Nowlin, age 90, will be held at Murray Orwosky Funeral Home on Wednesday, October 13, 2021, at 2 p.m. A visitation is scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, October 12, at Tapp Funeral Home. Mrs. Nowlin passed away on Saturday, October 9, 2021, at her residence in Henderson, Texas.

She was born the daughter of William Henry Wesson and Ruby Demple Fraizer in Sulphur Springs, Texas, on July 13, 1931. Ruby was a cook before retiring and was of the Baptist faith. She was married to Thomas Nowlin, who preceded her in death.

Survivors include children, Sharon Ball, Carolyn Johnson and husband Russell Johnson, Sr., and Elvon Nowlin; and grandchildren, Margaret Adams, Robert Newbry, Joe Thompson, Eli Thompson, Brittany Anderson, Devyn Summers, Matthew Sumner, Winter Nowlin, Remington Nowlin, Sage Nowlin, Stormy Nowlin, Newton Burton Anderson, Charlotte Sue Seabourne, Billy Joe Sanders, Sandra Banks, Russell Johnson, Jr. Thomas Johnson, David Johnson and Denice Speers. She was preceded in death by her parents, William Henry and Ruby Demple Wesson; husband, Thomas Nowlin; daughter, Glenda Alvarez; son, Dwayne Nowlin; 16 brothers; and sisters.

Anita Shaw

A memorial service for Anita Shaw, age 71, will be held at a later date by family. Mrs. Shaw passed away on Saturday, October 9, 2021, at Rock Creek Health and Rehab in Sulphur Springs, Texas.

She was born the daughter of David D. Lee and Dorothy Ury Lee in Sulphur Spring, Texas, on September 28, 1950. Anita worked as a cook before retiring and was of the Baptist faith. She was married to Ennis Shaw in Denver, Colorado. He preceded her in death.

Survivors include son, Kenneth Ray Henelt; sisters, Melvina Goodson and Blanch Petty, both of Sulphur Springs; brothers, Danny Ray Lee of Washington, Crandel Lee of Colorado and Max D. Locket of Colorado. She was preceded in death by her parents: David and Dorothy Lee and husband: Ennis Shaw.



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Celebrate Cooper Lake State Park's 25th Anniversary and so much more during October!

Cooper, TX— Fall may be the best time to experience a Texas State Park and Cooper Lake State Park is no exception! Making this October more special than most is the park's 25th Anniversary Celebration. Cooper Lake State Park was opened to the public in 1996 and is one of the newest parks in our vast Texas State Park system. The festivities will take place on October 15th and October 16th. We are waiving all entrance fees during the two-day event so that means, FREE!

On October 15th at the Doctors Creek Unit, we will host our official 25th Anniversary Ceremony at 10am. Headliners will be the Texas State Park Director, Rodney Franklin, the Hopkins County Judge, Robert Newsom, the City of Cooper Texas Mayor, Darren Braddy, the Army Corps of Engineer Lake Manager, Matt Seavey and others! The public is invited, and refreshments will be provided by the Friends of Doctors Creek, Inc. Special thanks to the Cooper ISD and North Hopkins ISD for event support.

On October 15th at 7pm, at the South Sulphur Unit, the Main Street Community Theatre of Sulphur Springs will host a theatrical production. This performance will be held at the amphitheater located near the Honey Creek Day Use Area. The production is free and is titled, "Community Players Variety Show." Arrive early for the best seating.

On October 16th, from 9am to 4pm, at the South Sulphur Unit, a wide variety of family fun events and displays will be provided. This includes guided hikes, visit with water safety dog - "Bobber", learn about the mammals of the park, get a quick course on boater safety, visit with a game warden and so much more!

Fish from the bank, off our pier, fishing wall, or rent a kayak and try your luck along the shoreline. Fish attractors have been placed around the Doctor's Creek floating fishing pier and the fishing wall at South Sulphur to help increase fishing success. Fishing licenses are not required if you are fishing from the bank or fishing pier at Cooper Lake State Park. Other popular activities include hiking our trails, or just resting under a giant Post Oak tree, or camping at one of our tree-canopied campsites. Park entrance fees are \$5 for adults; kids 12 and under always free. Senior Texans 65 or older will only pay \$3 to enter the park daily with a Blue-bonnet Pass (Remember, October 15th and 16th free entrance). Unlimited park entrances for you and everyone in your vehicle can be accomplished with the purchase of a Texas State Park Annual Pass for \$70, which is good for over 12 months. Buy your pass and let your Texas adventure begin!

For more information on this or other events and programs, please visit and like our Facebook pages (Cooper Lake State Park - South Sulphur (903)-945-5256 and Cooper Lake State Park - Doctor's Creek (903) 395-3100).

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