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**VOL. 22 ISSUE 1128, December 15, 2021**

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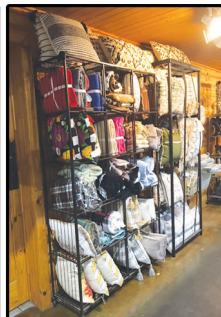
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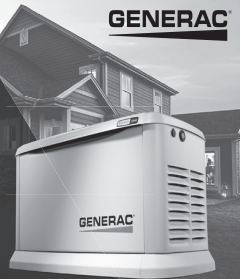
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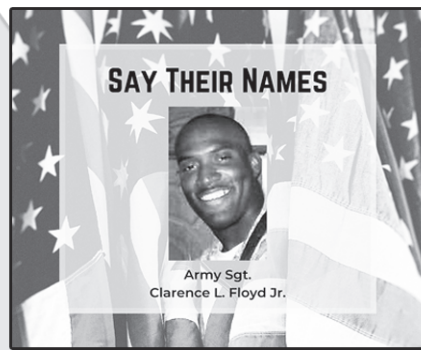
## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA OBSERVED SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2021 NATIONALLY AND LOCALLY



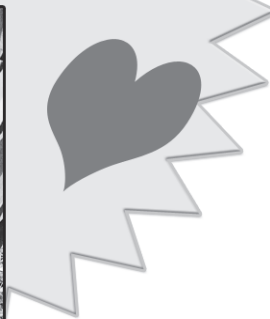
Everyone is invited to the Sulphur Springs City Cemetery at 11am on Saturday December 18, 2021 for an observance which honors fallen military laid to rest in cemeteries across America. At the conclusion of a brief ceremony, hundreds of beautiful live fir wreaths adorned with red bows will be distributed throughout the cemetery to be placed on graves marked with a small flag.



Air Force First Lieutenant  
John Andrew Swanson



Army Sgt.  
Clarence L. Floyd Jr.



Anyone who would like to be part of the local observance is welcome. Families with children are welcome, as the mission of Wreaths Across America is to Remember, Honor and Teach. The act of placing the wreath and speaking the soldier's name aloud can be a teaching moment for young Americans, as well as a rewarding act for anyone of any age. The outdoor event will begin at 11am, and conclude when all the wreaths are placed. Rain is forecast, so please bring an umbrella or rainwear and dress appropriately for wet weather.

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Answers On Page 10





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## Zilker Holiday Tree

The Zilker Holiday Tree is a 155 foot Christmas tree made from lights draped from a moonlight tower located in Zilker Park (Austin, Texas). During the Christmas season the tree is lit by 3000 colored lights. The lighting of the tree has been an annual tradition in Austin since 1967. On December 26, 2010, a five-kilometer run named after the tree took place.

## 37th Street, Austin, Texas

37th Street Lights Annually since 2006. West 37th Street between Guadalupe Street and Home Lane Austin, Texas

37th Street is a street in Austin, Texas, known for its many houses that are decorated with Christmas lights. The tradition attracts tens of thousands of visitors each year, though neighbor participation has decreased the past few years due to the original residents having moved away and more students renting homes in the neighborhood.

In the mid-1980s, a couple of neighbors began bridging the street with Christmas lights left by other neighbors and found at fraternity and sorority houses near the University of Texas. Soon, other neighbors followed suit. Early participant Bob Godbout recalled, "It didn't start out as Christmas lights. It started out as a wild art form and stayed that way."

In 1993, city workers removed lights strung from city poles due to fire hazard concerns. In response, street residents turned off all lights, resulting in numerous complaints directed at the city from visitors expecting light displays. City workers returned the following day to reinstall the lights.

## Merry Christmas, Y'all

Merry Texas Christmas, Y'all is the 14th studio album and first Christmas album by American western swing band Asleep at the Wheel. Recorded at Bismieux Studio in Austin, Texas, it was produced by the band's frontman Ray Benson and released on September 30, 1997 by High Street Records. The album includes a mix of traditional and original songs, which feature guests including Willie Nelson, fiddler Johnny Gimble and former Asleep at the Wheel pianist Floyd Domino.

Asleep at the Wheel's first Christmas album received positive reviews from a wide range of critics, who praised the band's "fun" renditions of traditional holiday songs, as well as its original compositions. The album registered at number 75 on the US Billboard Top Country Albums chart in Christmas week 1997. The band issued a second Christmas album, Santa Loves to Boogie, in 2007, followed by a third, Lone Star Christmas Night, in 2016, featuring some of the same songs.

Asleep at the Wheel recorded its first Christmas album at Bismieux Studios in the summer of 1997. Merry Texas Christmas, Y'all features recordings of traditional Christmas songs such as "Feliz Navidad", "Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!" and "Here Comes Santa Claus", in addition to several original songs written primarily by the band's frontman Ray Benson. Willie Nelson features as a guest vocalist on his own composition "Pretty Paper" and the recording of "Silent Night", the latter of which also features Don Walser. The other featured vocalist is Tish Hinojosa, who performed on opening track "Feliz Navidad".

Merry Texas Christmas, Y'all was issued on September 30, 1997 as Asleep at the Wheel's only release on High Street Records, a subsidiary of Windham Hill. No singles were released. Media response to Merry Texas Christmas, Y'all was largely positive. AllMusic's Ross Boissoneau wrote that "Ray Benson and company have outdone themselves, with nods to traditional country ... as well as the band's stock in trade, Western swing.





Sarah Gibbs, Joy Wilson (Owner), Pat Looney, Peggy Bunch and Jan Massey

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# Obits



## WEST OAKS FUNERAL HOME

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**Lilly Faye Wafford** September 2, 1939 – December 12, 2021 (age 82)

Lilly Faye Wafford, age 82, of Mount Vernon, Texas passed away on Sunday, December 12, 2021, at her home surrounded by her family.

There was a come and go visitation on Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at Sam B. Harvey Funeral Home from 1 to 6 p.m. Graveside services will be on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at 11 a.m. at the Mt. Vernon City Cemetery with Pastor Gerald Hood officiating. Pallbearers will be Aaron Wafford, Nathan Wafford, Jonathan Wafford, Landon Wafford, Carson Wafford, Bradon Wafford. Honorary Pallbearers will be Ray Green, Shaun Suttles and Travis Lake.

Lilly was born on September 2, 1939, in Jal, New Mexico to Eugene Willard and Tennie Elizabeth (Van Zandt) Woods. She married W.D. Wafford on December 20, 1957, and worked beside him for many years. They worked a dairy farm and owned Mt. Vernon Tire shop where Lilly ran the front counter and loved visiting with all the customers. She babysat many years and those she watched still have fond memories of their time at her home. Those that spoke of Lilly said she was an angel and a precious lady that will not be forgotten. She loved her family and loved being Nanoo to her grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 62 years, W.D. Wafford; son, Gary Wafford; brother, Joe Woods, Eugene Woods Jr., and Lewis Lynn Woods; and sister, Ione Nall.

Lilly is survived by her sons and their spouses, Mike and Patti Wafford, Steve and Connie Wafford, Randy and Amy Wafford, all of Mt. Vernon, Texas; Grandchildren, Ashley (Shaun) Suttles of Nacogdoches, Texas, Aaron (Erin) Wafford of Texarkana, Texas, Olivia (Ray) Green of Mt. Vernon, Texas, Alexandra Wafford of Mt. Vernon, Texas, Nathan (Lacie) Wafford of Mt. Vernon, Texas, Jonathan (Taylor) Wafford of Mt. Vernon, Texas, Abby (Travis) Lake of Neosho, MO, Landon Wafford of Mt. Vernon, Texas, Carson Wafford of Mt. Vernon, Texas, and Bradon of Mt. Vernon, Texas; Great-grandchildren, Avery Suttles, Maitland Suttles, Raegan Wafford and Paisley Grace Wafford; Brother, Fred and Martha Woods, John and Mary Woods; and sister, Tennie Goen.

We want to thank the physicians, nurses, all the staff of Cypress Basin Hospice, all the caregivers, and special caregiver Cleo Crews, for the love and wonderful care that was given to Lilly. Services entrusted to Sam B. Harvey Funeral Home. [www.samharveyfuneralhome.com](http://www.samharveyfuneralhome.com)



**Gloria Jean (Nash) Franklin**

Gloria Jean (Nash) Franklin passed away on Friday morning, December 10, 2021, in Sulphur Springs, Texas. Gloria was born in Sulphur Springs on August 15, 1940, the daughter of Leoza and Catherine (Askew) Nash. She graduated from Douglas High School. On April 18, 1959, Gloria married JD Franklin in Sulphur Springs, where they began their life together. She worked at HD Lee Corporation for over 20 years, before it's closure. She then worked at Steele's Shoes in downtown Sulphur Springs. She spent over 25 years in the pharmacy business at ABC Pharmacy, which later turned into CVS Pharmacy. Gloria was a devoted member of Morning Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, where she served as the Deaconess Chairman and was a member of the music ministry and was also was a faithful member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Those left to cherish her memories are her husband of 62 years, JD Franklin; daughter, Daphne Hunter (Kennith); sons, Gary Franklin (Darcell), Sean Franklin (George Carrancho), and Jarrod Franklin (Dionne); grandchildren, Brittany Green, Cordell Franklin, Chayce Franklin, Keylan Hunter, Colby Franklin, Erin Haven, and Jarron Franklin; eight great-grandchildren (two great grandchildren on

the way); sisters, Ozie Marie Wright and Glenda Brown; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, other family and friends. Gloria was preceded in death by her parents; son, JD Franklin Jr.; sister, Ardahlia Scott; and brothers, Noble Earl Nash, Truman Nash, and Lee Nash. Gloria's amazing spirit, voice, caretaking, giving, and wisdom will be missed by all those who knew and loved her. She had a way of making everyone she came across feel like their presence was most important at that present time. She loved and adored her husband, her children, grand and great-grandchildren as well as her entire family and friends. This earth has forever changed because of her absence but heaven has gained a beautiful soul and spirit.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, December 16, 2021, at Morning Chapel Missionary Baptist Chapel Church with Pastor Harold Nash officiating. Burial will be at Mel Haven Cemetery with Cordell Franklin, Chayce Franklin, Colby Franklin, Keylan Hunter, Anthony Goodson, and Harlan Harrison serving as pallbearers. Visitation will be held at the church one hour before the service. Arrangements under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.



**Leona "Sue" Caddell**

Leona "Sue" Caddell, 76, left this world to meet Jesus and be reunited with her daughter Jaime on December 3, 2021. A celebration of life was held at West Oaks Funeral Home, Monday, December 13, at 2 p.m. with Pastor Ed Lantz of First United Methodist Church Sulphur Springs officiating.

Sue was born on April 24, 1945, in Harlingen, Texas. She attended Richfield High School where she was an incredible flutist. In fact, in 7th grade, the high school band director asked her to join the high school band! After graduating from high school in 1963, she moved to Dallas and received her Associate's Degree from Eastfield Community College, then, continued her education at Southern Methodist University on academic scholarship. Sue worked in the medical field as an office manager the majority of her adult life.

Sue was passionate about Jesus! She loved the Lord with all of her heart and she always had a bible verse to fit any situation. And last but certainly not least, she loved her children and grandchildren. She never wanted to miss a single game, recital, awards assembly or anything her grandkids were doing. It didn't matter how far she needed to drive, if there was a chance she could be there, she would.

Sue was preceded in death by her parents Opal & Newt Bigham of Waco and beautiful daughter Jaime Astin Caddell Jennings of Dallas. Sue is survived by her son, Jake Caddell and his wife Meredith and mother-in-law (friend) Cathey Pribble Williams of Sulphur Springs; son-in-law Brian Jennings of Boston and sister Mary Bigham Johnson of Waco. She was also the proud Nana to her 3 grandchildren, Ryder and Addison Caddell, and Jaileigh Briar Jennings. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Hopkins County Health Care Foundation, 115 Airport Road, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482.



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## Okrapalooza Celebrates The Strange Veggie



Tumbleweed Smith

## Tumbleweed Smith

Gumbo is not the only use for okra, a vegetable brought to the US by slaves in the 1660s. Dallas has an event called Okrapalooza every year about the time okra is harvested. Elizabeth Dry turned a trashy vacant lot into a community garden 12 years ago and named it The Promise of Peace Garden. To raise money for the rent on the property she went to her computer and googled okra festivals in Texas, "And there were none," says Elizabeth. "So I started one. The first year there were just 3 chefs who prepared okra dishes on picnic tables and attendees paid 5 dollars to come in."

The fund raising event has grown considerably and now attracts hundreds of people. It is an upscale event with an admission charge of 85 dollars. Guests get to sample gourmet okra dishes and custom made wines and beers while listening to live music. They also get to hear about okra recipes and ways to eat healthy.

"We have several musical groups that play 45 minute sets. During that time guests will be tasting the okra dishes, going from chef's table to chef's table and they learn about stuff. There are two prizes. One is a people's choice award and the other is a choice of 6 judges. The winner will be judged on presentation, complexity, flavor and all that."

This year's event was at the Cotton Mill in McKinney. Twelve chefs were on hand producing everything from pickled okra seeds to okra ice cream.

"We've got a very diverse group of cooks. There's personal chefs, there's chefs from 4-star restaurants, there;s chefs that actually farm their own food."

Elizabeth says there are no big corporate sponsors. This is for the community.

"The chefs love it. It's one of the most down to earth, fun, love-filled events I've ever been to. And these chefs create masterpieces that have never been replicated. People told me that I need to ask the chefs what they'll be cooking, so nobody will be cooking the same thing. Well they never have in 12 years. And we've had an average of 15 chefs per festival since it started. And that's a lot of different dishes."

This year because of Covid the number of guests was limited to 150. Everyone seemed to like the Cotton Mill and it will probably take place there next year.

"We received so many compliments from guests, chefs, musicians and nearly everyone was pleased with the winners. The judges' favorite was Olivia Lopez who is cultivating heirloom red, yellow and blue corn from Mexico to preserve her culture. For Okrapalooza she did an okra enchilada that was unbelievable. She used two different colors of corn, blue and red. The people's choice award went to Adam West who owns Local Yokel Restaurant in McKinney. He did a churro that was incredible. He folded okra into the flour and somehow made it sweet with a dipping sauce."

Winners get to forage once a month for 3 months on Elizabeth's farm.

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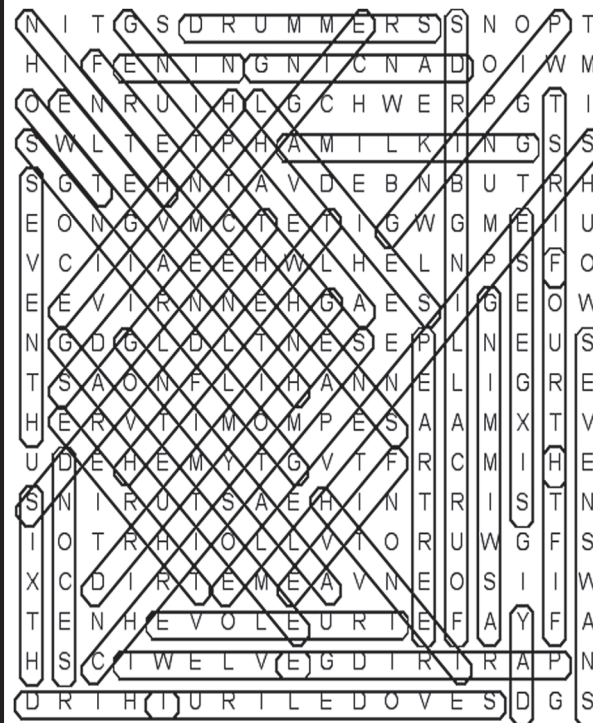


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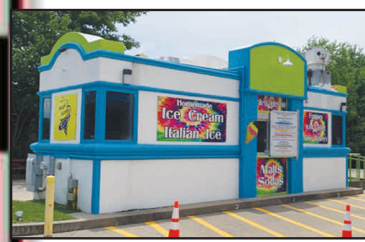
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