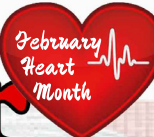


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## A ROMANCE RE-KINDLED BY EMAIL

### Tumbleweed Smith

Curt Waldrip of Liberty grew up Bellmead near Waco where he played football and ran track in high school. He has worked as a soldier, teacher (physics and chemistry), DJ and in the nuclear field. He even jousted at a renaissance festival. In 1999 he got a job with Verizon Communications. He worked in an office at night.

“Most of the time I had nothing to do,” he says. “So I’d go online and just look around. One time I just got curious and I started wondering what happened to this girl that I was dating back in 1983. I was just crazy about her and really never got her out of my system. So I posted her last name that had an unusual spelling because it’s Polish. I found three people on the Internet with the exact same name. I sent all three of them an email and said if you ever dated a guy named Curt back in Waco in 83 or 84 give me a shout. If not, sorry to bother you. “She emailed me back the next day. She was living in Akron, Ohio working for the Goodyear Corporation. We renewed our friendship, first off. And it hit me almost like a physical blow how much I had missed her. And this is seventeen years later, roughly. She told me she would be coming down to Texas in June to go to her sister’s wedding and she asked me if I would meet her there. I said absolutely. Anything to get to see her, even going to someone else’s wedding, which normally I would much rather stick a fork in my leg than do that. “So I’m sitting there and watching her sister go down the aisle and I started staring at her. She looked back and said to me, ‘don’t you dare. She knew exactly what I was thinking. Before we had gone our separate ways we had never formally broken up. She was planning to go college in Maryland. During the wedding reception I had a lot to drink and I looked over at her mother and told her that Nancy is the only woman that I completely and utterly loved. Her mother looked horrified and I thought she was going to scream. I didn’t know exactly why at the time but maybe it was because I had the reputation of liking women just a little too much. Anyway I ended up proposing to Nancy a few days before she left. I proposed three times and she said no three times.” Curt and Nancy spent the next 2 years going over reasons why they shouldn’t and couldn’t get married. He would be ready but she wasn’t and vice versa. When he told her he really wanted her to be his wife she said no, that she had her own world set up and was doing her own thing. But she wanted to be friends forever. “But the way things happened we finally were both on the same page so on August 25 in 2001 we got married. We got back from our honeymoon on the 10th of September 2001. Think about that date for a moment. Our marriage started off during a world crisis, right after the attack on the twin towers.

But we started our family from there and our first son was born August 26, 2004, almost three years to the date after our wedding. Our second son was born August 1, 2006. Things worked out.”



**Tumbleweed Smith**

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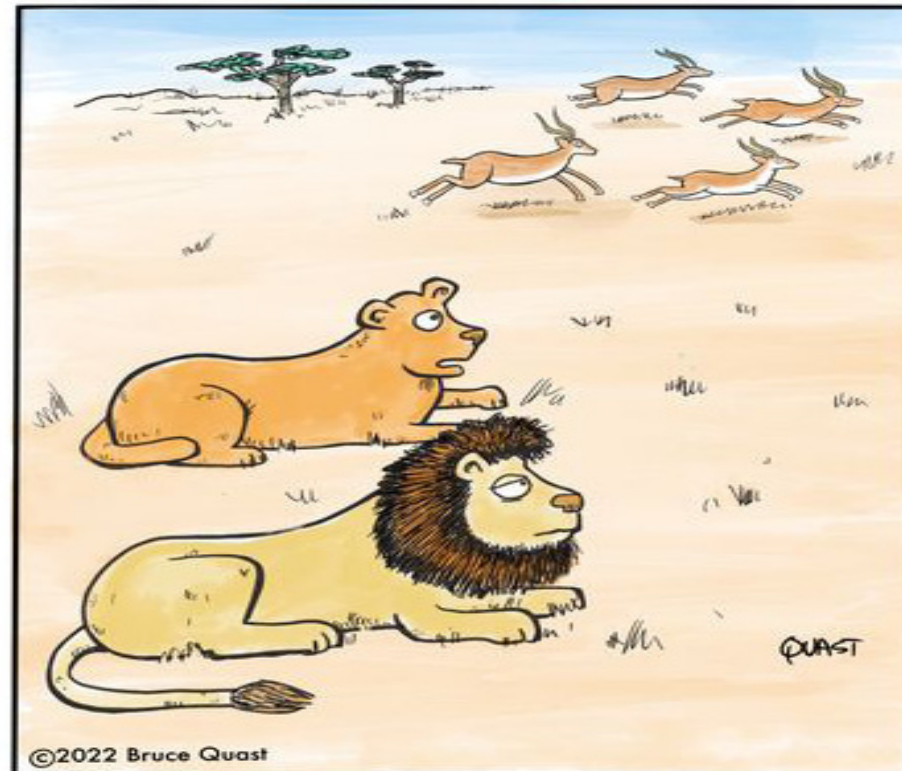
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# Obits



## WEST OAKS FUNERAL HOME

500 Hillcrest Dr., Sulphur Springs, Tx. 75482

<http://www.westoaksfuneralhome.com>

### *Gene “Red” George*

Funeral services for Gene “Red” George, age 79, of Brashear were held at 2 p.m. Sunday, February 13, 2022, at Brashear Baptist Church with Bro. David Burns and Bro. Byron George officiating. Interment followed at Brashear Cemetery with David Almon, Paul French, Aiden Ellis, Robert Dorsey, Ray Petty, and Clint George serving as pallbearers. Joshua George and Kale Ellis served as honorary pallbearers. A visitation was held from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, February 12, 2022, at West Oaks Funeral Home.

Gene passed away on February 9, 2022, at Christus Mother Frances Hospital. He was born on March 8, 1942, in Brashear, Texas, the son of James Henry and Annie Belle Smith George. He married Patsy Smithers on July 22, 1961, in Sulphur Springs.

Gene worked as a scheduling manager for Rockwell for 21 years. He was over the Brashear Water System. He loved deer hunting and was a master gardener.

Gene is survived by wife, Pat George of Brashear; son, Mark George and wife, Donna, of Brashear; daughter, Gena Ellis and husband, Kian, of Greenville; brother, Glen George and wife, Carolyn, of Brashear; sister, Ruth Miller of Sulphur Springs; grandchildren, Joshua George, Rebecca McDaniel and husband Mark, Paul French, Leanna Brantley and husband Rodney, Aiden Ellis, and Kale Ellis; 5 great-grandchildren; and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Terri French; brothers, Billy Joe George, and Jim Henry George; and sisters, Naoma Potts, Christine Bearden, and Faye Dorsey.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the St. Jude Children’s Research at [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org). Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.

### *April Moran*

On Wednesday, November 18, 1970, April Rochelle “Peaches” Harrison was born to Archer Ben Harrison and the late Carolyn De ‘Lois Walker Harrison, in Topeka, Kansas.

After moving to Texas, she was educated in Sulphur Springs school district and was a graduate of the class of 1989. April also attended East Texas State University in Commerce, Texas.

Pursuing her goals, she worked as a business analyst for Nestle Water, before moving into her current position with LALA USA, where she served as a Senior Financial Analyst-Commercial Planning and Analysis in June 2017. April’s contagious smile was one that captured the second glance of many.

In 1989, April united in marriage with Tony Thomas and to this union, one child was born Alyssa Danyal Thomas. She later married Kenneth Moran in 1995, and to this union one child was born, Tamera Nicole Moran.

April joined Morning Chapel Missionary Baptist Church at an early age and while living in Sulphur Springs, she served faithfully in the youth choir. She, like her mother, had a melodious voice, that she used to sing praises to our Heavenly Father.

April Rochelle Harrison Moran departed this life on Monday, January 31, 2022, at her residence, in Garland, Texas.

Leaving to cherish her memory is her loving father, Archer Ben Harrison; her daughters, Alyssa Thomas and Tamera Moran (Matthew Jackson), Garland, Texas; Her sister, Ra Chandra Berry, of Sulphur Springs, Texas; Grandchildren, Amare (Bubba), Amaria (Rosie) and Adonis Thomas, all of Sulphur Springs, and Rhian Jackson of Garland; Her grandmother, Fannie Berry of Sulphur Springs; her very special “sister/friend,” Trelandra “Punkin” Miles; aunts; uncles; cousins; and a host of other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Carolyn De ‘Lois Walker Berry; stepfather, Jerry Lynn Berry; grandparents, John Wesley Walker and Zephyr Mae Bandon Walker, Lank Harrison and Leona Harrison; and step-grandfather, D.B. Berry.

Funeral services were held at 12 p.m. Saturday, February 12, 2022, at Morning Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. Interment followed at Friendship Cemetery in Klondike.

### *Michael J. Bennett*

Michael J. Bennett was born on June 15, 1962 in Cincinnati, Ohio, to Jerry Escal Bennett and Mary Theresa Di Pilla. Mike passed from his life on January 27, 2022. Services were held February 4 at Bluebonnet Hills Funeral Home in Colleyville.

Mike grew up in Sulphur Springs, Texas. He attended Texas A&M University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1984. Several years later he furthered his education with a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Dallas. He began his professional career at Bell Helicopter working on the V22 Osprey program. After his 15 years with Bell, Mike obtained a project manager position with Nokia mobile phones and was able to travel the world to places such as South America, China, and Europe. From there Mike went to various companies including Siemens and MultiCam, and pursued several entrepreneurial ventures with Kinetic Garage and Ortho-automation.

Mike’s pride and joy was working on his home-built car with his brother, Steve, as they constructed the car from ground up.

Mike is survived by his brothers, Jeffrey Bennett and Stephen Bennett; his three nieces, Ashley Hansen, Bridget Bennett, and Sydney Bennett.

Though Mike never had any children of his own, he loved playing, working, and teaching the children in his life. Therefore, the family’s request in lieu of flowers, wish for loved ones to remember Mike by contributing to any children’s charity of their choice.





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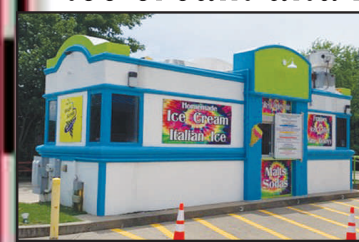


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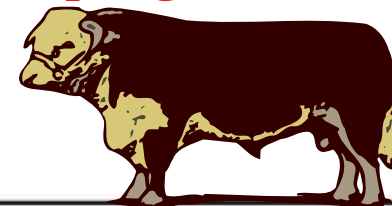


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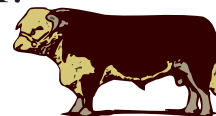
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