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### SHEILA MEETS THE FAMILY

### **Tumbleweed Smith**



Mike and Sheila Abusaab met in Durant, Oklahoma where Sheila was teaching summer classes. Mike was a student there and also managed the university cafeteria. When Sheila first saw Mike at the cafeteria she says he held his head down and seldom talked to anybody. Sheila inquired around campus about him found out that he was from Jordan and was very smart.

Tumbleweed Smith People who had classes with him said he never brought a book to class and always made the highest grade on exams. Mike later told Sheila that he couldn't afford textbooks

and he listened very intently to the lectures in class. He said anyone could do it if they wanted to. Besides that he had learned a lot of the subject material before coming to this country.

Sheila and Mike had their first date at the end of Sheila's first summer of teaching. They went for ice cream at Dairy Queen. They dated every Friday night that Sheila was teaching during the summers. Finally after 5 years Mike told her they were both getting older and should get married. He also told her if she didn't want to marry him to tell him now. Sheila told him that she had wanted to marry him the first time she saw him. Sheila took Mike to meet her family. "That went very well," says Sheila. "After the visit my daddy told me that Mike was a fine, hard working man and would take good care of me and that I ought to marry him."

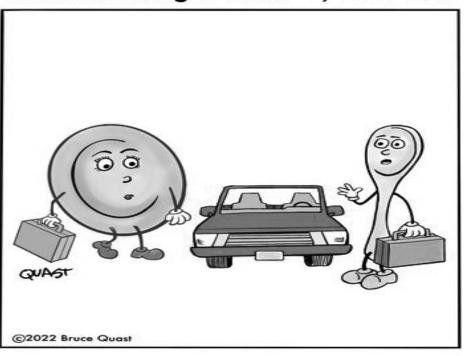
Their wedding was a hurried up affair with a Justice of the Peace after Mike got off work and had to be at work the next day. Later it was Mike's turn to take Sheila to meet his family in Jordan. Sheila says when the plane touched down, she noticed s big

crowd of people at the bottom of the plane's exit stairway. "I told Mike that there must be a VIP on this plane. Mike said, 'Sheila, you're the VIP. That's my family.' He told me 'when you meet my mother you kiss her hand 3 times and you hold it. She's going blind and don't be afraid. She's going to touch your face, she's going to grab you to see how big you are and she wants to hear your voice. You don't need to speak Arabic, just

"When we got to his house there were 250 people there. I told Mike that something had happened; just look at all the people. Mike said they were there to see me and told me not to talk too much or talk too loud. So I didn't say anything to anybody until his mother grabbed my face and wouldn't let it out of her hands. I thought she would never let go. She rubbed my hand and I kissed hers 3 times. She asked for a chair for me and I sat next to her for a long time. She told the 250 people that I was not her daughter in law. I was shocked and saddened and thought: that's it. I looked at Mike and already had tears because I really loved him. He told me to straighten up and to stop crying, that she hadn't finished. And she said real loud in perfect English, 'Sheila is my daughter.' Mike told me that she loved me more than she loved him."

Mike and Sheila made their home in Big Spring and had several Sonic Drive Ins. Mike died last year.

# Comfortably Dumb By Bruce Quast



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Answers On page 7

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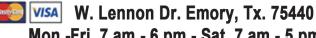


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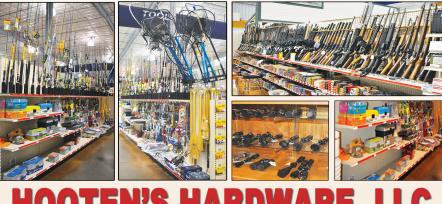
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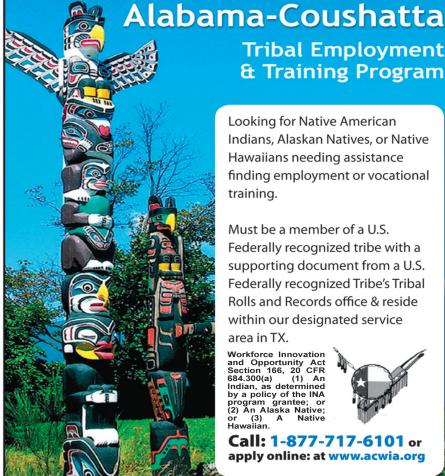
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# J. Michael Petty

Funeral services for J. Michael Petty, 74, of Cumby, Texas, wasa held Friday, March 18 th, 10:00 a.m. at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel, with Brother Lance Crump officiating. Interment followed at Cumby Cemetery with Shannon Gaines, John Hood, Gene Marts, Davy Moseley, Heath McCraw and Glen Keith served as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were Arley Bryant, Mike "Skeet" Petty, Scott Moore, Fred Moseley, Jerry Pierce and Josh Weatherbee. Visitation was Thursday evening, March 17th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at West Oaks Funeral Home. Mike went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, March 15, 2022. He was born on February 22, 1948, in Commerce, Texas, to J.W. Petty and Cleta Terry Petty of Cumby.

Mike graduated from Cumby High School in 1966 and always remembered old friends and playing baseball. He attended East Texas State University focusing on agricultural studies. Mike was baptized at the First Baptist Church of Cumby, Texas.

On September 9, 1967, he married his high school sweetheart, Rita Crump, of Cumby, and together they raised five sons.

Mike was blessed to run Heritage Dairy for thirty-seven years on the same property where his dad and grandfather also dairy farmed. Mike served on the Cumby School Board, Cumby Telephone Board, and the Miller Grove Water Board. As a young man, he was in several dairy organizations, serving on their committees. He enjoyed watching his sons play sports as they went through school, and traveling in the Summer on family vacations across the U.S. After he retired from dairy farming in 2010, Mike enjoyed spending time with his sons and grandchildren, watching old western TV shows, and watching the antics of his three dogs.

Mike is survived by his wife, Rita Petty, his sister, Charlotte Henderson of Sulphur Springs, Texas, sons, Jay Petty of Rowlett, Texas, Matt Petty and wife Sharon of Cumby, Heath Petty and Erica Johnson of Cumby, Ryan Petty and wife Megan of Cumby, Russell Petty and wife Krystal of Commerce, and his grandchildren: Hannah, Sarah, Brooke, J.T., Michael, Derek, and Liam.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the MDS Foundation, or donate a unit of blood in his honor, or to Cumby Cemetery P.O. Box 734, Cumby Texas 75433.



# Dimple Pinson McPherson

Funeral services for Dimple Pinson McPherson, age 80, of Sulphur Springs, will be held at 2:00 p.m., Friday, March 25, 2022, at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Bro. Robert Newsom officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Sterling Cemetery with Bobby Woodard, Danny Woodard, William David McPherson, Josh McPherson, Dillon Stubblefield, Tony Lynn McPherson, Jr., and William Fouse serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers will be Hunter McPherson, Tanner McPherson, Jeffrey Frazier, and Kyle Burnett. Visitation will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Thursday, March 24, 2022, at West Oaks Funeral Home. Dimple passed away on Saturday, March 19, 2022, in Tyler, TX.

She was born on August 21, 1941, in Matagorda County, the daughter of Jess Kid and Wera Inez Ables Pinson. She married Joe Dan McPherson in 1958, in Hugo, OK. She worked in home healthcare for many years.

She is survived by sons, Danny McPherson and wife Phyllis of Sulphur Springs, Tony McPherson and wife Carolyn of Salado, TX; daughters, Tammy Woodard of Sulphur Springs, Pam Harrington and husband Johnny of Sulphur Springs; brothers, Chris Chance, Gary Chance, Maurice Chance, and James Chance all of Dallas, TX; 12 grandchildren; 32, great-grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, birthmother, Bonice Chance, granddaughter, Shannon Stubblefield, grandson, Tommy Stubblefield, and sons-in-law, Bobby Woodard, Sr., and Paul Rogers.

Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.



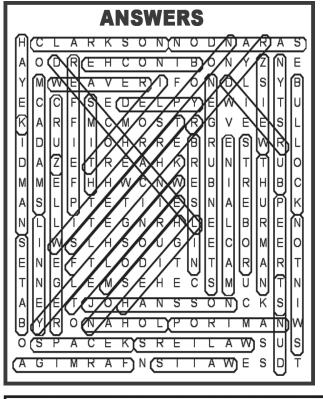
### Judy Worley

A funeral service for Judy Worley, age 62, of Sulphur Springs, Texas, was held at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 20, 2022, at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home with Judge B.J. Teer officiating. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service. Ms. Worley passed away on March 17, 2022, at Christus Mother Frances – Tyler.

Judy was born on April 15, 1959, in Mount Pleasant, Texas, to James D. and Frankie Lena (Terry) Worley. She worked as a receptionist and bookkeeper for Walmart for over 40 years. Judy was a volunteer for Relay for Life and member of TOPS. She was a woman of the Baptist faith.

She is survived by her brother, Mark Worley; numerous cousins; best friend, Karen Leeper; and fur friends, Spot, Rex, Ringo and Bear. Judy was preceded in death by her parents.

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### **News from The Hopkins County Chamber of Commerce**

If you consider yourself a cornhole pro or simply like to toss some bags in the backyard occasionally, then the Sulphur Springs Leadership Class' cornhole tournament is for

Even if you don't play cornhole, the Saturday, March 26, event will include a silent auction with dozens of great items.

The best thing is that 100 percent of the money raised will be used by the 2022 Leadership Class to restore Kids Kingdom.

The cornhole tournament will have two divisions: open (for advanced players) and social. The cost is only \$50 per team, and prize money will exceed \$1,000.

Two-person teams can register in advance on the Hopkins County Chamber of Commerce website or registration can be done the day of the event, beginning at 11 a.m. at Backstory Brewery. The brackets will be double elimination and teams will begin play at noon.

The silent auction will run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Silent auction items include Courthouse balcony seating for the Independence Day concert, a ride for up to four kids on the Hopkins County firetruck, a morning tee time for the Chamber golf tournament, hundreds of dollars on gift cards and gift baskets.

The tournament will also have a free jump house for kids. Money from the event will be used to pay for powerwashing, restaining, repainting, replacing some wood, replacing playground equipment including a handicap swing, tire swing and two slides, new dirt and mulch and installing new lighting.

For more information, call the Chamber of Commerce at 903-885-6515.

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