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SOUTH AFRICANS FIND A HOME IN TEXAS



Tumbleweed Smith

A restaurant in Winnsboro serves the traditional menu items like steaks, seafood and smoked chicken but also serves some South African dishes. Jackie and Phillip Strydom have the restaurant called Liefie (Lee-Fee) a popular Afrikaans word meaning sweetheart. They came to the US in 1999 after running a successful real estate business in

Tumbleweed Smith Johannesburg, a city with a high crime rate. The Re-Max Company invited them to Dallas for training with the idea of going back and opening Re-Max offices in South Africa. They considered the offer. "We were young and ambitious and our kids were small so we thought it was a wonderful opportunity," says Jackie. They got to the US after a 21-hour flight. "We landed in New York with two babies and eight suitcases and we were really tired. We found out the plane tickets to Dallas were eight hundred dollars apiece. And if you convert that into South African money, that's a lot of money. We took the Greyhound bus to Dallas and enjoyed the trip because it gave us a chance to rest and see the countryside. It was a beautiful ride."

Jackie says in Dallas, they started a real estate business and after a few years the kids became thoroughly Texanized and spoke English fluently. "We just couldn't stand the thought of taking them back." At a South African Dutch oven cooking festival in 2009 they met a man with South African roots who invited the family to his farm near Winnsboro. "My kids had such a good time on the farm and in the little town. On the way back to Dallas my 15 year-old daughter said, 'Mama, you know we're gonna have to move there.' I told her I would love to but it's too far from Dallas where we make a living. She said 'Mama we just have to follow our hearts and God will provide.'"

They did move to Winnsboro in 2010, bought a home and a downtown building that they turned into a small mall. They set up a real estate office in the front of the building. "We went to Canton and solicited successful vendors with funky apparel, furniture and home décor to rent space in the mall," says Jackie. "Eventually we started serving wine and cheese plates. That just sort of morphed into the restaurant. We didn't plan to open a restaurant, it just happened. We added a kitchen and patio and Phillip got out his smoker and started smoking chickens. It's one of our best menu items. Phillip manages the cooking and our son Jet helps." They opened the restaurant in 2012 and don't plan to go back to South Africa. "What we do now is get enough money together and send it over to our friends and family. They come here and we all go places we have not been."

Liefie has been called the best restaurant in East Texas. It seats 44 inside and 44 outside. Musicians entertain on weekends. It's open Thursday thru Saturday from 11 AM to 9 PM. Reservations are recommended. (903 347-1111)

Jackie grew up in the Kalahari Desert where her mother had a large general store. In college, she waited tables. She and Phillip always liked the rural areas, preferring them over big cities. "Maybe God wants us here."

Comfortably Dumb

by Bruce Quast



WORD SEARCH

NEWSPAPER

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 47 letters spell a Mother Theresa quotation.

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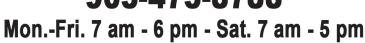






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Lillie Belle Renshaw

December 28, 1929 - April 3, 2022 (age 92)

Funeral services for Lillie Belle Renshaw, age 92, of Miller Grove, will be held at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, April 7, 2022, at County Line Baptist Church with Bro. Wayne Darty officiating. Interment will follow at Miller Grove Cemetery with Paul Gilbert, David Gilbert, Anson Gilbert, James Oler, Corbin Gilbert, and Hagen Holland serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearer will be James Randall Renshaw. Visitation will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 6, 2022, at West Oaks Funeral Home. Belle passed away on Sunday, April 3, 2022, at Christus Mother Frances Hospital in Sulphur Springs. She was born on December 28, 1929, in Cumby, the daughter of Huey Martin and Addie Irene Romans Davis. She was a member of the County Line Baptist Church and worked as a beautician for many years in both Emory and Miller Grove. She is survived by daughters, Phyllis Haywood and husband Kenneth of Sulphur Springs, Susan White of Miller Grove, Lisa Oler and husband

Jackie of Point, son-in-law, Paul "Pete" Gilbert of Sulphur Springs, sisters, Mildred Abbott of Cleburne, Bertha Ann Sparks and husband William of Miller Grove, 8 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, James Carroll Renshaw, son, James Ronald Renshaw, daughter, Sherry Yvonne Gilbert, sister, Evelyn Perry and husband Harold, and brother-in-law, Roger Abbott. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Miller Grove Cemetery Asso., 14280 FM 1567 W, Cumby, TX 75433 or to County Line Baptist Church, 6930 FM 275, Point, TX 75472. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com



Jerald Odis Wren

September 24, 1951 - March 31, 2022 (age 70)

Funeral services for Jerald Odis Wren, age 70, of Cumby, will be held at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 6, 2022, at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Bro. Hoyt Scoggin officiating. Interment will follow at Greenview Cemetery with Brandon Wren, Mathew Wren, Michael Wren, Ty Johnson, Dustin Wren, Robert Pyle, Joseph Pyle, and Shawn Byrd serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearer will be Charles Taylor Jr. Visitation will be held at 1:00 p.m., prior to service time. Jerald passed away on Friday, March 31, 2022, at Christus Mother Frances Hospital in Sulphur Springs. He was born on September 24, 1951, in Sulphur Springs, the son of Orval Odis Wren and Ruby Christine Millsap Wren. He worked as a route manager for the Dallas Morning News for many years. Jerald is survived by sons, Odis W. Wren and wife Amberly of Sulphur Springs, Scott Wren and wife Cristy of Miller Grove, Ronnie Wren and wife Sherry of Sulphur Springs, Lonnie Allen of Sulphur Springs, daughters, Crissy Wren of Sulphur Springs, Crystal Taylor and husband Charles of Point, brothers, Billy Wren of McKinney,

Dwayne Wren and wife Kathy of Miller Grove, 23 grandchildren, numerous great-grandchildren and extended family. He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Mary Dean Scott. Arrangements under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com



Vance Elton Payne, Jr.

July 1, 1949 - March 24, 2022 (age 72)

Vance Elton Payne, Jr., beloved husband, father and grandfather passed away peacefully with his family by his side on March 24, 2022 at the age of 72. He was born the only child to Vance Elton Payne and Katherine Birdwell in Huntsville, Tx. The family relocated to Nacogdoches where Vance attended Nacogdoches High and graduated from SFA. After graduating, he joined the Naval Reserves and was stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Vance was a Petroleum Landman and was in the oil & gas business for 50 years. He worked for Amoco Oil, Enserch Exploration, Stallworth Oil & Gas and retired from Lynx Energy.

Vance was married to the love of his life, Luanne Arnold, for 39 years. After retiring, he and Luanne enjoyed many great travel adventures. This past year they have made some great memories traveling with their son, daughter-in-law and precious granddaughter. The family just returned from a special trip to Big Cedar Lodge in Ridgedale, Missouri.

Vance is survived by his wife, Luanne, son Ross and daughter-in-law Yazmin Payne and granddaughter, the apple of his eye, Ariana Payne all of Irving, TX. He is also survived by cousins, Celeste Salafia, of San Marcos, Sabrina Diehl of Moore, OK and Leslie Pursley of Goodlettsville, TN. Vance was an active member of the First United Methodist Church of Sulphur Springs and member of the Sojourners Class.

Pall Bearers: Bob Craine, Bill Crowder, Danny Burnette, Paul (Skip) Glover, Mike Popejoy, & Gene Herzog. Honorary Pall Bearers: Darrel Slabaugh, Wayne Lindsay, Stan Knowles and Rodney Skinner.

The service was held, Friday, April 1, 2022, at the First United Methodist Church, 301 Church St., Sulphur Springs, TX 75482. Visitation was in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 pm and the service was at 2:30 pm in the sanctuary. Burial followed at Restlawn Memorial Park, 5784 TX Highway 154, Sulphur Springs, TX.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to FUMC – Dinner Bell, 301 Church St., Sulphur Springs, TX 75482 or to a charity of your choice. Arrangements were made through West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com

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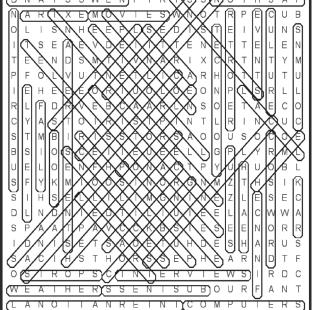
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