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# **SMALL TOWNS HAVE A LOT TO OFFER**



#### **Tumbleweed Smith**

I've heard this said many times about small towns: "The best thing about living in a small town is that everybody knows everybody. The worst thing is everybody knows everybody." In small towns you meet the most interesting people and learn some surprising and fascinating things. Besides the convenience of getting around and having time to enjoy life, small towns offer a sophistication and worldly

Tumbleweed Smith charm.

Winnsboro in northeast Texas has a population of around 3,500. It is known for its autumn trails, when visitors go to see fall color. Lately it has been attracting artists and entertainers to show their works and perform. Winnsboro's Center for the Arts has been in operation twenty years. It was started by a dedicated group of residents who thought something needed to be done to showcase local artists and musicians; some are nationally known and have won important honors. Jami Moore is the center's director of programming.

"We have painting classes, several different workshops throughout the year, including calligraphy, tie-dyeing and all types of creative endeavors. It's a great way to try something new. Some people learn to play an instrument here."

Jami got academic and athletic scholarships to college where she was on the wrestling team. She earned a master's degree in art education. She was an elementary art teacher in Dallas and decided she wanted to travel and live abroad.

"So I went to Chile to teach English then was a peace corps volunteer in Myanmar and the country of Georgia. I wanted to find a position where I could use all of the skills and experiences I had acquired and was lucky to find this position in Winnsboro."

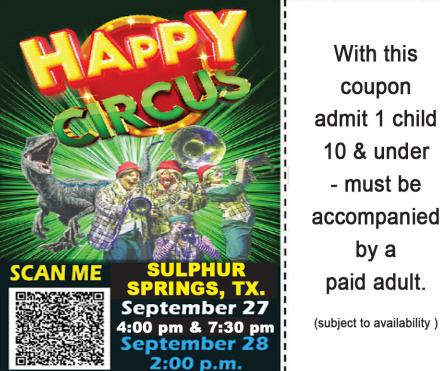
The center has two buildings. One houses a performance space that seats 210 people. There a concert or play there every month. Most of the shows are sold out. A new performance hall is on the horizon. It'll have a much bigger theater and a bigger space for art exhibitions

RENNAISANCE UNDER THE STARS is a gala held in the spring. An event called ART AND WINE takes place in the fall. It's a huge festival that draws around 5,000 visitors. Works from 60 artists are displayed and juried. The first, second and third place winners go home with prize money.

The Center is funded by annual memberships, fund raises and grants. Jami is the only fulltime employee. Two other staff members are part time.

"We have an amazing group of volunteers. We have hard working, friendly people here. It's really a cool, special little place."

Winnsboro's downtown is full of shops and good places to eat.



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#### Gus Hudson

Mr. Gus Hudson, 77, passed away on September 15, 2022, in Mount Pleasant, Texas.

Funeral services for the Sulphur Springs resident were held at 2:00 in the afternoon on Sunday, September 18, 2022, at First Baptist Church in Spence Chapel with Reverend Fred Lewis and Reverend Steve Price officiating. Interment followed at the City Cemetery with Chris Gibbons, Larry Blount, Frank Hudson, Hudson Northcutt, David Graves and Scott Keys serving as pallbearers and Doug Mercier, Dean Ketchum, the NETRC Club and all Jet Modelers serving as honorary pallbearers. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service.

Gus was born September 10, 1945, in Greenville, Texas, to Frank Hudson and Elouise Meers Hudson. He graduated Greenville High School in 1963 and married the love of his life, Tona Sue Robinson, on June 20, 1965.

He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. While he and his future wife dated, he traveled the Dallas area as a member of a band with which he played the guitar and sang. Gus passed his love for playing the guitar to

his son and grandson.

Gus loved to spend his time outdoors. In his younger years, he played tennis and loved to fish and hunt. He loved to spend time on the golf course with his friends. Gus had his private pilot license and enjoyed flying his family to nearby places. His love of flying was passed on to his grandson as they spent many hours flying model airplanes. He served as Pack Master in the Cub Scouts organization. He loved a good cigar and listening to music sitting outside.

Gus is survived by his wife, Tona Sue; son, Frank Hudson and wife, Judy; daughter, Amy Daniel and husband, Dickey; grandchildren, Hudson Northcutt and wife, Darlynn, and Crystal Fails and her husband, Cody. He has 2 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Mary Virginia Marshal. Arrangements were under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

#### Connie Lou Payne

A graveside service for Connie Lou Payne, age 73, of Como, was held at 10 a.m. Friday, September 16, 2022, at Mills Cemetery in Garland, Texas with Pamela White officiating. Pallbearers were Tom Bennett, Cory Payne, Otis Payne, Brandon Tyner, George Ray, and Shane Stone. There was no formal visitation.

Connie passed away on Saturday, September 10, 2022, at her residence. She was born on May 6, 1949, in Garland, Texas, the daughter of Samuel and Margie Middleton Tyner. She married James Payne in December 1983, in Quitman, Texas. Connie worked as a respiratory therapist for many years.

She is survived by husband, James of Como; sons, Jim Bennett of Lake Worth, Texas, Travis Bennett and wife Aubry of Anchorage, Alaska, and Charles Wesley Bennett of Commerce, Texas; as well as grandchildren, Charley Bennett, Tom Bennett, Annie Bennett, Sam Bennett, Ella Bennett, and Harlow Bennett.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Chuck Tyner; and sister, Barbara Jean Chipwood.

Arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.



#### Linda Cowser Stinson

Linda Cowser Stinson, 82, of Mount Vernon, Texas, went to be with her Lord on Wednesday, September 7, 2022. A graveside memorial service/visitation was held at the Mt. Vernon City Cemetery September 17, 2022, at 2 p.m. All were invited.

Linda was born August 18, 1940 to B.E. "Stacker" and Billie Orren Cowser in Purley Texas. They preceded her in death. Linda completed Business College in Dallas Texas. She worked for World Gift and Blue Cross/ Blue Shield. After relocating back to Mt. Vernon she worked for Mt. Vernon insurance, Office manager for Stinson Brothers Fina and Goodyear. Later, she became the owner of the "Dairy Bar" for close to 20 years where she made lots of lifetime friends. Linda is survived by her husband of 64 years, John Stinson of Mt. Vernon Texas; sons and daughters-in-law, Eric and Amy Stinson of Emory Texas, and Brent and Thresa Stinson of Sulphur Springs Texas; grandchildren, Haden and Yazmin Stinson of Leonard Texas, Lauren and Griff Trommer of Josephine Texas, Autumn and Brent Dove of Josephine Texas,

Christopher Stinson of Ohio, Brent Stinson Jr. of Tyler, Texas, and Jessica Stinson Bernard of Como Texas; seven great-grandchildren; sister, Evanette Morris of Florida; and Uncle Bill Deneke of Georgia.

Linda loved her family more than anything. She also enjoyed reading, speaking with her sister every day on the phone, watching scary movies, talking to her friends, painting, watching animal planet, her pets, and the Dallas Cowboys.

Linda was a friend to all and always put herself second. She was very witty and brought a smile to the face of everyone she came in contact with. Linda was a Christian and a member of the Church of Christ.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Michael J. Fox Parkinsons foundation.

Arrangements were under the direction of Sam B Harvey Funeral Home



*THE MILLENNIUM SHOPPER* September 21, 2022

