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Page 8



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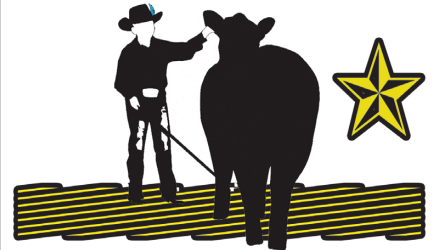
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# WELCOME TO AUTUMN

## Tumbleweed Smith



Some people say autumn means the end of summer and all the fun, time to get serious and go back to the ordinary. Others look forward to fall, saying it's colorful and energizing and it's like starting everything all over again.

Personally I'm with the previous group. I love spring and summer. I looked up the word autumn in the dictionary and its second meaning is "a period of maturity or insipient decline." Another suggests, "the drying up season." To me fall is foreboding, dark and mysterious. But I try to be positive about it, knowing there's no stopping its annual appearance. It's the active time of year when big things happen: the world series, football, symphony concerts, county fairs, long walks, evenings around a fire pit, family gatherings, Halloween, Thanksgiving, the rush toward Christmas. School buses are everywhere taking kids to school and other events. There seems to be more traffic, more coming and going, people doing things and going places.

Nat King Cole's AUTUMN LEAVES along with Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong's rendition of AUTUMN IN NEW YORK are the top two songs about fall. They lighten up the season.

In autumn the days get shorter. The nights get longer. The sky gets darker and the sun is lower in the sky, creating shadows in new patterns. At full phase, the fall moon is a big round orange circle when it rises on the eastern horizon.

There is no doubt that trees are a colorful spectacle in the fall. It's kind of nature's final act of the year, like it's been saving it up all year so it could unleash it at the proper time. Someone said autumn has more gold than any other season.

We look forward to cooler weather and get out grandma's quilt anticipating winter's chill. Light and colorful summer clothing is replaced with darker, heavier wear. A warm breakfast takes the place of cold cereals.

Fall is a time of pumpkins, cinnamon, candy corn, pecans and red apples. It's a time of serenity, nostalgia, reflection, harvest and planning. Birds begin their annual migration. Some go away, others come in. Some just stay.

The puffy white clouds of summer change into long, thin, wispy streaks. And under that sky, with all the activity of the season, there is a stillness, a silence, a reverence that makes us stop and look around and listen to the harmonious rhythm of the changing season.

The autumn equinox occurs the first day of fall when the sun crosses the equator and the day and night are of equal length as autumn moves out summer with a gentle nudge.

Happy fall, y'all

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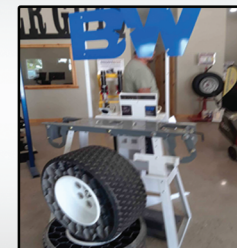
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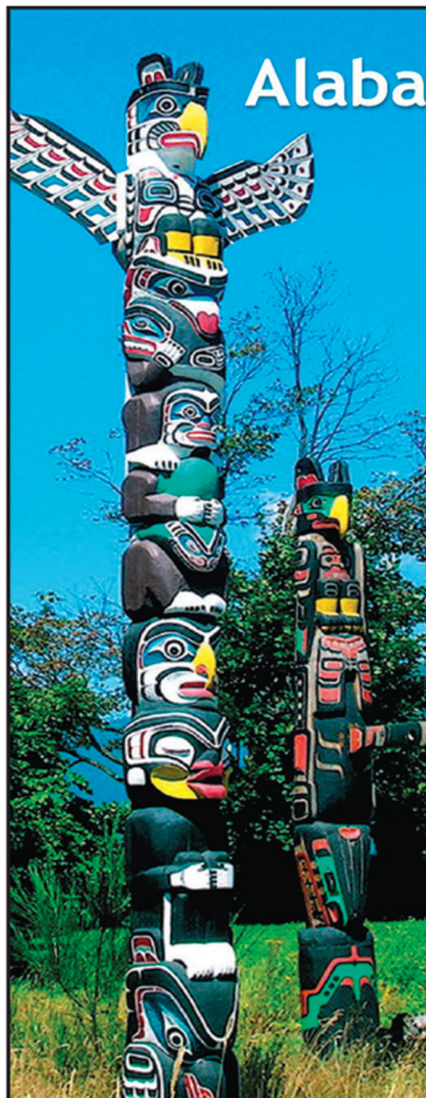
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# Obits



## WEST OAKS FUNERAL HOME

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### ***Irene Theresa Smith Clayton***

Irene Theresa Smith Clayton was born in Winnsboro, Texas, on July 20, 1931, to the parentage of Willie Smith and Creogia Newton Smith. She entered into eternal rest on September 21, 2022, at her residence surrounded by her family.

She accepted Christ at an early age and was a faithful member of the St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church as well as an honorary member and faithful usher to all surrounding churches.

She married Sidney "Junior" Clayton on January 9, 1949. To this union 6 children were born. Two daughters, Jan Robinson and Felecia Taylor; Four sons, Larry Clayton, Tommy Clayton, Dennis Clayton and Curtis Clayton.

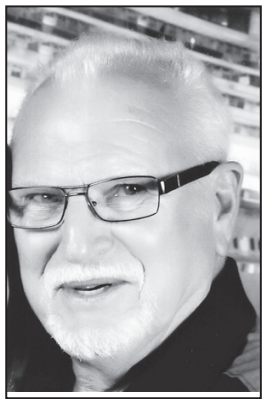
Irene was a homemaker and known as "Mother" to all. She said what she meant and meant what she said!! Her love and devotion was felt by her family and so many others. Despite her large family, Mother always made time for everyone. She always provided support and love for her entire community, she never met a stranger.

She leaves to mourn her passing and cherish her precious memories daughter Felecia (Ken) Taylor, sons Tommy (Marilyn) Clayton, Dennis (Demetra) Clayton all of Sulphur Springs, Texas, and Curtis (Michelle) Clayton of Tyler, Texas; 19 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; 25 great-great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Willie and Creogia Smith; husband, Sidney "Junior" Clayton; daughter, Jan Robinson; son, Larry Clayton; two sisters, Evelyn Dial and Shirley Franklin; one brother, Willie Smith Jr.; three grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

A funeral service was held at Morning Chapel Missionary Baptist Church on Monday, September 26, 2022, at 1 p.m. Interment followed at St. Luke Cemetery. Visitation was held Sunday, September 25, 2022, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. [www.westoaksfuneralhome.com](http://www.westoaksfuneralhome.com)



### ***Jim Bob Bishop***

Jim Bob Bishop, 75, of Miller Grove, Texas, went to be with the Lord on September 20, 2022, at his home in Colorado, after a courageous battle with cancer.

He was born in Commerce, Texas, in 1947, and grew up in Miller Grove, Texas. He was the son of Jim Bone Bishop and Jennie Maud Bishop, who preceded him in death. He was a 1965 graduate of Miller Grove High School. He was a proud veteran and served in the National Guard. During his career, he was a builder and a truck driver. One of his greatest talents was the ability to build or fix anything.

He spent many years of his adult life on the family farm in Miller Grove. Ultimately, he found his love for Colorado during his travels on vacations and as a truck driver. He found the perfect spot in the mountains and built his retirement home. He had a love for traveling, camping, motorcycles, the snow, cutting firewood, sitting on the porch in the sunshine and fixing things that no one else would bother with. His greatest love was for the Lord, and the family and friends He blessed him with.

His loving and adventurous life will be forever cherished in the lives of his family and friends. He is survived by his wife, Kathy Bishop of Colorado; sister, Ruby Ann Ross, and brother-in-law, Norman Ross, of Miller Grove; daughter, Jana Bishop and son-in-law Tracy Blankenship of Miller Grove; son, Casey Boyd of Colorado; daughter, Billie Jo Boyd-Lewis, and son-in-law, Jerod Lewis of Colorado; son, Jesse Boyd, and daughter-in-law, Jocelyn Boyd of Colorado; Grandchildren, Andrew Bishop, Krystal Alsobrook,

Tamra Nowak, Hunter Lewis, Alexis Durham, Savannah Joblinske, Aubrie Schulte, Jacob Lewis, Kelsey Boyd, Elizabeth Boyd, Wyatt Boyd, Gauge Lewis, Lydia Boyd and Izzy Boyd; Great-Grandchildren, Rylan Alsobrook, Raegan Alsobrook, Aylee Boyd, William Durham, Leif Boyd, Weston Schulte, Blayne Nowak, Jeremiah Joblinske, Kamryn Boyd and Waylon Durham; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Graveside services will be held at the Miller Grove Cemetery on a date to be announced.



### ***Frances "Fran" Rowena Watkins Beers***

Frances "Fran" Rowena Watkins was born at home in Venango, Nebraska, to Ross and Lillie Watkins. She is survived by her beloved husband of seventy years, Bernie Beers; son, Brad Beers (his wife, Kylene Neal); daughter, Ellie Beers Moore (her husband Mark); her grandchildren, who she always said were grand – Meredith Beers, Baker Beers, and John Moore; her sister, BJ Weatherby and BJ's husband Verne Nielson; five nephews; three nieces; and numerous great-nieces and great-nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents; and her older siblings, Martha Jeanne and Barbara, Bill, and their spouses. She is also reuniting with her children, Bentley Beers and Shari Beers; two nephews; and multiple cousins.

She grew up in Grant, Nebraska. She and Bernie met in Grant at the Juke Box Cafe, which Fran's parents owned. They were married on May 17, 1952, shortly after Fran graduated from high school. In 1981, Fran graduated from East Texas State University (now Texas A&M – Commerce) with a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in business education. Fran wrote once that she enjoyed attending summer college classes with her daughters Ellie and Shari. She was devoted to her children and grandchildren – saving almost every letter and email they ever sent her – and loved time with family. Fran, Bernie, and their four children moved to Sulphur Springs, Texas, in 1967. While Fran's first job was always raising her children, she also found time to work at her church,

First United Methodist Church (FUMC), for many years.

For the past three and a half years, Fran was a resident at Wesley Oaks Memory Care. The family is grateful to the staff for their devoted and thoughtful care of her, along with her Hospice team. Fran's wonderful life, which began August 19, 1934, and ended September 21, 2022, will be celebrated at First United Methodist Church on Saturday, October 22, 2022, at 3 p.m., with a reception immediately following. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made in Fran's name to FUMC or to the Hopkins County Museum and Heritage Park.



# Classifieds

## Miscellaneous

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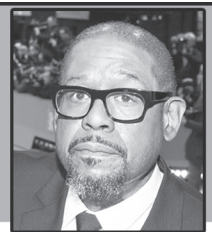
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# FAMOUS TEXANS

# Forest Whitaker

*American Actor!*



Forest Steven Whitaker was born on July 15, 1961, in Longview, Texas, the son of Laura Francis, a special education teacher who put herself through college and earned two master's degrees while raising her children, and Forest E. Whitaker Jr., an insurance salesman. A DNA test has shown that his mother had Akan ancestry, while his father was of Igbo descent. When Whitaker was in elementary school, his family moved to Carson, California. He has two younger brothers and an older sister. His first role as an actor was the lead in Dylan Thomas's play Under Milk Wood.

Forest Steven Whitaker (born July 15, 1961) is an American actor. He is the recipient of various accolades, including an Academy Award, a Golden Globe Award, a British Academy Film Award, and two Screen Actors Guild Awards.

After making his film debut in *Fast Times at Ridgemont High* (1982), Whitaker went on to earn a reputation for intensive character study work for films, such as *Platoon* (1986), *Good Morning, Vietnam* (1987), *Bird* (1988), *The Crying Game* (1992), *Phenomenon* (1996), *Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai* (1999), *The Great Debaters* (2007), *The Butler* (2013), *Arrival* (2016), and *Respect* (2021). He has also appeared in blockbusters, such as *Panic Room* (2002), *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* (2016) as Saw Gerrera, and *Black Panther* (2018) as Zuri. For his portrayal of Ugandan dictator Idi Amin in the British historical drama film *The Last King of Scotland* (2006), Whitaker won the Academy Award for Best Actor. Whitaker made his directorial debut with the television film *Strapped* (1993), and directed the films *Waiting to Exhale* (1995), *Hope Floats* (1998), and *First Daughter* (2004). Since 2019, he has starred as Bumpy Johnson in the Epix crime drama series *Godfather of Harlem*. Apart from his acting career, Whitaker is also known for his humanitarian work and activism. In 2011, he was inducted as a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, later receiving a promotion to Special Envoy for Peace and Reconciliation, and serves as the CEO of Whitaker Peace and Development Initiative (WPDI), a non-profit outreach program.

In 1996, Whitaker married actress Keisha Nash, whom he met on the set of *Blown Away*. They have four children: two daughters together (Sonnet and True), and his son (Ocean Alexander) and her daughter (Autumn) from their previous relationships. In December 2018, Whitaker filed for divorce from Nash, citing irreconcilable differences.

Whitaker studies yoga, has a black belt in kenpō and is a vegetarian. He also trains in eskrima, originally under Dan Inosanto and currently with Joe Jackson. In 2021, it was announced that he had joined NBA Africa as a minority owner and strategic investor.

Whitaker's left eye ptosis has been called "intriguing" by the critic Susan Wloszczyna, with the writer Stephanie Zacharek maintaining that it gives him "a sleepy, contemplative look". Whitaker has explained that the condition is hereditary and that he has considered having surgery to correct it, not for cosmetic reasons but because it affects his vision.

His ancestry has been traced to Nkwerre in Imo State of Nigeria, where he was made an honorary titled chief on April 5, 2009.

Over the past decade, Whitaker has spent much of his time dedicated to humanitarian work. These pursuits were partially motivated by a core lesson his mother taught him: "You don't have to believe what I believe, but you have to believe in something," which Whitaker has discussed giving structure to much of his life.

He founded the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative, a non-governmental organization, in 2012. WPDI implements peace-building programs in conflict affected communities throughout the world, which are focused on training youths in conflict resolution and developing businesses in areas of conflict. WPDI's programs are currently operating throughout Africa, Mexico, and the United States.

Whitaker was inducted as a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Peace and Reconciliation. As Goodwill Ambassador, Whitaker worked with UNESCO to support and develop initiatives that empower youths and keep them from entering or remaining in cycles of violence. At the induction ceremony, U.S. Ambassador to UNESCO David Killian described Whitaker as a "perfect choice as a Goodwill Ambassador... he has exemplified compassion in every area of his life, with humility and grace. He does this because it's the right thing to do."

## ANSWERS

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L F S I I R A I N A Z N A T I C A R A E  
A S O R M R E P B U R U N D T U E S Y D  
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E H I L W D R E G T N D L I T O G O N E  
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R L E A A A G U I H C U N G E A B I S A  
W L C O S G A G C O A U A O A M A M L C  
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O T E N C A I H E I M U I W P S E P U S  
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