

McCleary Porterfield Named National Merit Commended



"Tonight I have the privilege and honor to introduce publicly before the Varsity Patriot Volleyball game a most prestigious award to one of our seniors. It is such a delight to announce that McCleary Porterfield has earned the status of National Merit Commended. She is not only a fantastic student, but also a person of great integrity and character. It is such an honor to be her principal," said Virdie Montgomery.

McCleary has won many honors in Cross Country during her high school career.

McCleary is the daughter of Jay and Amber Porterfield of Sachse and the granddaughter of Ric and Brenda Estes of Commerce and Jerry Porterfield and Joy Wilson of Sulphur Springs. McCleary will be attending Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas next fall.



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PAGE 2

TRICKS ON UNICYCLES



Tumbleweed Smith

When RD Vordick was growing up in Millersview, a town of a few dozen people near San Angelo, the school only went through the 7th grade. "There was no baseball or any kind of sports, so the principal Mr. King bought 25 unicycles and told the kids to just ride them any way they wanted to," says RD. "Mr. King paid for those himself. Later he bought a 6-foot unicycle. My friend Charles Hogan and I got to

Tumbleweed Smith

where we could get on that 6-footer in the middle of the gymnasium floor without any help and take off on it."

The kids got to be very good at riding unicycles and devised all sots of maneuvers. They became well known throughout the region and performed their unique presentations in parades. schools and colleges. They were a popular favorite during halftime at basketball games. "One of our tricks was called The Rattlesnake. We'd take a dozen eggs and spread them out on the gym floor spaced about 3 feet apart and ride unicycles in and out between the eggs. There was probably about 25 of us doing that. I don't have a clue as to how many shows we did, but we only broke one egg. As a finale, Charles would be on the 6-footer and I'd be on the smaller one. I'd go by, pick the egg up and throw it up to him. He'd put it in the carton. We'd get the whole dozen eggs in the carton then he'd hand it to me and I'd go put it up. Sometimes we'd ride piggyback. I'd be on the 6-footer and Charles would be on my shoulders. We'd ride around and do some tricks and to dismount, I'd ride under the basketball goal and he'd grab hold of the goal, drop to the floor and I'd just keep riding out from under him. Sometimes we'd play football or basketball on the unicycles."

They'd also jump rope on unicycles. "We'd have 2 people on unicycles twirling the rope and we'd come in with a unicycle, grab hold of the front and back of the seat and we could pick that unicycle up and skip the rope just like people would do but we were doing it on unicycles"

Sometimes they put on light shows. "We had red and blue lights on the spokes. They'd turn the lights out and all we'd have was just out lights on our unicycles and we'd go in all directions all over the gym floor."

The school had a stone wall around the building about 8 inches wide. "Charles and I rode our unicycles on that wall just to see if we could do it."

After graduating from the school at Millersview, students went to high school at Paint Rock. "We'd ride our unicycles in the hall, down stairs and just all over. We never did figure out how to go up the stairs on our unicycles." RD and Charles rode their unicycles to and from high school in Paint Rock. "Seventeen miles one way. We were a little bit saddle-sore by the time we got home."

For RD, those were some of the best memories of his growing up years. He got to keep his unicycle and rode it long after he finished high school in the mid 1960s.

"I always wanted to ride a bicycle without holding on the handle bars but I never learned how to do that."

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PAGE 3

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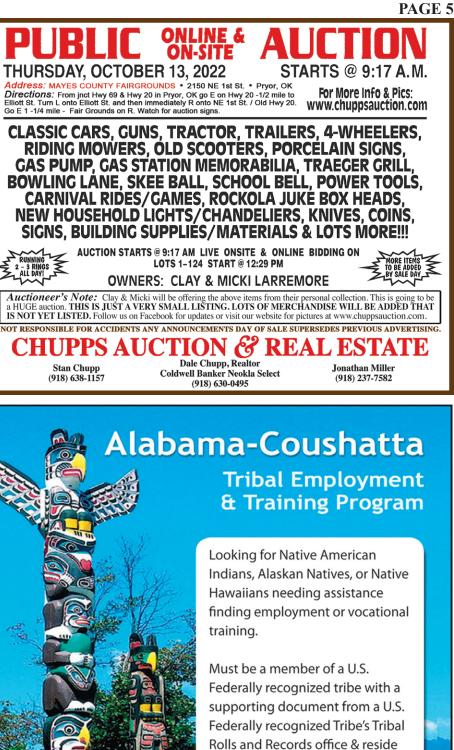
PAGE 4



THE MILLENNIUM SHOPPER October 5, 2022







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PAGE 6

Barbara Cockrum

A funeral service for Barbara Cockrum, age 75, of Birthright, Texas, was held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, October 4, 2022, at Cooper Church of Christ with Cade Kennedy, Carson Kennedy, Brock Kennedy, John Pat Kennedy, Brad Wood and Alford Echols serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers included Tommy Long, Danny Evans, Tim Menke, Steve Drummond, Joe Smiddy and Ken James. Visitation was held from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, October 3, at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Mrs. Cockrum passed away on September 30, 2022. Barbara was born in Paris, Texas, on October 12, 1946, to W.B. Gunter and Helen Jo (Toon) Gunter

She married Kenneth Cockrum in Cooper, Texas, on March 31, 1967.

She was a graduate of Cooper High School and East Texas State University, where she obtained her Bachelor of Science degree. She taught Business, English and Computer Science classes at North Hopkins ISD for 35 years.

Barbara was a member of Cooper Church of Christ, Retired Teachers Association, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and The Lee Society of Virginia.

She enjoyed traveling with her sister, Debra, and had visited all but 5 states in the country. She was an excellent cook and loved preparing meals for her family. This gave her great joy. She even made several college trips to cook for her grandsons and their friends, and was an avid sports fan.

She loved the students of North Hopkins ISD, where she continued her passion for education by substituting many years after her retirement. During this time, she also worked as a UIL competition judge for prose, poetry and speaking competitions.

She attended the Cooper Church of Christ for her entire life, a faithful member for 75 years.

She is survived by her husband, Kenneth; daughter, Stephanie Kennedy and husband, John; grandchildren Cade Kennedy, Carson Kennedy, Brock Kennedy, John Pat Kennedy and wife Michelle; sister, Debra Wood; sisters-in-law, Elvira Echols and Sharlene Brice; and a host of nieces and nephews she loved dearly.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents and her twin infant daughters.

Arrangements were under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.



Pat McCoy

Funeral service for Pat McCoy, age 82, of Nevada, Texas, formerly from Sulphur Springs, Texas, was held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, September 28, 2022 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home with Reverend Tony McCoy officiating. Interment followed at Restlawn Memorial Park with Ryan Stracener, Josh Cope, Jacob Cope, Michael Cope, Lance Kruse, and Rowdy Stracener serving as pallbearers. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service. Mrs. McCov passed away on September 25, 2022, at her residence.



Pat was born in Sulphur Springs, Texas, on July 12, 1940, to Ted Ezra Jacobs and Mildred Arizona (Smith) Jacobs. She was married to Bobby McCoy. She retired from Jordan Health Care as a social worker and healthcare provider. She was a member of the Immanuel Baptist Church.

She is survived by sons, Rickey Cope and wife April, Jimmy "Donnie" Cope Jr. and wife Janice, Mike McCoy, and Tony McCoy and wife Sherri; grandchildren, Michael Cope, Tria Clark, Tessa Gibson, Ty Clark, Jennifer Jenkins, Ryan

Stracener, Josh Cope, and Jacob Cope; numerous great-grandchildren; and sisters-in-law, Charlene Jacobs and Dee Jacobs. Pat was preceded in death by her husband, Bobby McCoy; daughter, Donna Cope; son, Danny McCoy; and two brothers, James Jacobs and John Jacobs.

Arrangements were under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Cindy Lou Petrea

A memorial service for Cindy Lou Petrea, 59, formerly of Sulphur Springs, Texas, will be held at 2 p.m. October 8, 2022, at Full Gospel House Of Prayer, 824 North Jackson St. in Sulphur Springs, Texas. Pastor Danny Ballard will officiate the service.

Cindy passed away September 13, in Edwards, Missouri, following a brief illness. She was born November 18, 1962, in Sulphur Springs, Texas, to W.G. Petrea and Lillie Patton Smith.

Survivors are her son, Ronald Burris of Pickton; brothers, Billy and Rose Petrea of Pine Mills, Texas, Johnny and Leslie George of Emory, Texas, Tony and Julie Petrea of Diana, Texas, and Jason Petrea of Winnsboro, Texas; sisters, Jeanie Beaty of Whitney, Texas, Lisa Fouse of Cumby, Texas, and Tina Petrea of Brashear, Texas; aunts and uncles, Janet and Sonny Cox of Baytown, Texas, and Jimmy Patton of Sulphur Springs, Texas; several nieces and nephews; and also great-nieces and great-nephews.

The church will have a luncheon for the family at 12 p.m., before the service.

THE MILLENNIUM SHOPPER October 5, 2022



PAGE 8

