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Noelle and McCleary Porterfield!





### HIS COTTON PAYS FOR HIS GRAPES



**Tumbleweed Smith** 

I had the opportunity to see a very clean, manicured and well maintained patch of ground north of Seminole that was filled with grape vines. Each vine seemed to take on human characteristics and stood like a trained soldier waiting for orders. "I take care of this vineyard like it was my racehorse," says John Friesen. "It stays in top shape."

John is a successful cotton farmer and was Tumbleweed Smith considering planting a pecan orchard but decided that would require too much water, so in 2014 he started growing grapes as a hobby. It quickly got out of hand. "Yeah. We've got over thirty thousand vines that produce 13 different types of grapes. Most of them go to wineries, but we also sell some table grapes to area grocery stores." John didn't know anything about wines when he started his vineyard, saying he just liked to grow stuff.

John, at age 43, is one determined farmer. When his first grapes were ready to be harvested, he had a call from a winery wanting to buy some grapes. When the winery manager learned that John's grapes were young he said he wasn't interested, that he was looking for some mature grapes. John asked the man "how do you know my grapes won't work for you? You need to come see my vineyard. I'll be glad to give you the harvest if you like the grapes. We don't have any other customers." So the man came, saw that John was serious about growing grapes, bought the harvest and said he wanted to be Friesen Vineyard's exclusive and only customer. John declined the offer but still sells grapes to that winery because it bought his first harvest. John sells to 4 award-winning wineries now and there's a waiting list of people wanting to buy his grapes. "But we can't plant them and grow them fast enough."

The harvest starts in early September. "It beautiful," says John. "We get up at 2 or 3 in the morning and start picking the grapes wearing headlamps. There'll be 60 or 70 people out there with scissors. It's dark and dead guiet except for all the scissors chopping away at the clusters. We pick by hand. If you want to go for the high-end wines that's what they like. There's a small window to get the best grapes. Even a day or two can make a big difference. We try to do it right. We're willing to work with people, do what they expect, hang the grapes longer, just do all the stuff that make the grapes better."

John says he picks grapes in the morning because it's cool. The grapes are loaded into refrigerated trucks soon after picking and delivered to wineries in Johnson City, Fredericksburg and Austin.

I asked John what he likes to grow most, cotton or grapes. "I'd much rather grow grapes but somebody's got to pay for the grapes. Cotton pays for the grapes for the time being." John's large house sits on a hill and has an extremely plush wine cellar. It is climate controlled and has close to a thousand bottles of wine in it.

### Miscellaneous

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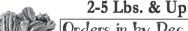


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### | Larry Joe Landers

Larry Joe Landers, 76, passed away on November 26, 2022, at his home in Sulphur Springs, Texas.

Larry graduated Sulphur Springs High School in 1964. In 1967, he joined the Army, where he became a decorated marksman after 12 years of general active duty service. Larry completed his remaining service obligation in the Army National Guard of Texas and, later, retired as Captain from The United States Army National Guard.

He was married to Gilda Ann Gideon for 55 years. Together, they had two children, Angela Paige and Jacob Ryan.

Larry earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1979 from East Texas State University in Commerce, Texas.

He worked as a mechanical engineer at Rockwell International for 24 years. Larry was the owner and operator of L & L Lawn Care for 15 years.

Larry supplemented his retirement by working in the testing center at Paris junior College-Sulphur Springs Campus. Lake Quitman was his happy place for over 40 years. Whether there was some work to be done or fun to be had, "The Lake" was his little bit of heaven while on earth.

Larry is survived by his wife, Gilda; daughter, Angie; daughter-in-law, Shanna; and grandsons, Caleb, Colton, and Tyler. Larry was preceded in death by his son, Jacob, in December of 2021.

Military graveside honors by the Hopkins County Military Coalition will be conducted at 11:30 a.m. Friday, December 2, 2022, at Restlawn Memorial Park. Visitation will be from 10:00 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Friday, December 2, 2022, at West Oaks Funeral Home.



### Thomas Mathew McLemore

Funeral services for Thomas Mathew McLemore, Jr., age 98, of Sulphur Springs will be conducted at 11 a.m. Wednesday, November 30, 2022, at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Shane Carrington officiating. Military graveside Honors by the Hopkins County Military Coalition will follow at Mahoney Cemetery with Gary Tubbs, Greg Scott, Mitch Ramsey, Mike Miesse, Casey Phillips, Josh Davis and Heath McCraw serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers will be Dr. Bob Parker, Joe Douglas, Durwood Smith, Merle Spence and the South Side Church of Christ Elders. Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, November 29, 2022, at West Oaks Funeral Home.

Thomas passed away on Sunday, November 27, 2022, at Hopkins Place. He was born on May 18, 1924, in Hopkins County, the son of Thomas Mathew McLemore and Hetty Palmer McLemore. He married Gracie Sandefur on June 12, 1948, in the Mahoney Community, and she preceded him in death.

Thomas was a graduate of Saltillo High School. He served in the United States Navy during WWII. He was a former member of the Lions Club and a former member and Elder of South Side Church of Christ. Thomas was a fieldman/safety supervisor

for Halliburton for 35 years.

He is survived by his son, Kenneth McLemore and wife Carolyn of Hope, AR; sister, Valeria Taylor of Bardston, KY; granddaughters, Melanie Claire Walters of Oklahoma City, OK, and Megan Carol Cox and husband Justin of Springhill, AR; great-grandchildren, Hanna Jo Chichester and husband Nick, Mollie Walters, Lilly Elizabeth Cox, great-grandson, Sawyer Walters; and several nieces, nephews and extended family. In addition to his wife Gracie, he was preceded in death by his parents; and sisters, Sybil Click, Doris Herman and Annie Lou McLemore.



### Buddy Ray Brown

A graveside service for Buddy Ray Brown Sr., age 71, of Sulphur Springs, Texas, will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, December 1, 2022, at Gafford Chapel. Jacob Posey, Colton Cummings, Austin Garrison, James Reichle, Daniel Elmore, Kevin Williams, Jose Rodriquez and Evan McCord will be serving as pallbearers and Tommy Gene Brown, Larry Charles Brown, Ned Ball, Charles Ball and Harold Ball serving as honorary pallbearers. Visitation will be held Thursday, December 1, 2022, from 12 to 2 p.m. Mr. Brown passed away on November 24, 2022, at Vibra Hospital of Richardson.

Buddy was born on October 7, 1951, in Sulphur Springs, Texas, to Tommy Lloyd Brown and Emma Jean Asbill. He married the love of his life, Julia Brown, on March 7, 1969. Buddy worked as Owner/Operator of Buddy Brown Dirt Contracting in Sulphur Springs.

Buddy was a loving, caring friend to all that knew him, but most importantly he was a loving husband, father and pop.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Julia Brown; son, Buddy Ray Brown Jr. and wife Nadine Brown: daughter, Sharon Brown; and he also raised three granddaughters since 1997 as his own, Jessica Jordan Reichle (James), Danielle Jordan Elmore (Daniel) and Jani Jordan Rodriguez (Jose); grandchildren, Marissa Marie Brown Williams (Kevin), Makaya Ray Brown

(Evan), Emma Paige Brown; great-grandchildren, Rylee Elmore, Hayden Dwayne Williams, Aiden Reichle, Caleb Reichle, Allysa Elmore, Alivia Alane Rodriguez, Kade Elmore, Tucker Ray Williams, and one on the way, Leo Alexander Rodriguez. He is also survived by his brothers, Tommy Gene Brown (Shirley) and Larry Charles Brown (Linda); sisters and brothers-in-laws Sharon Thomas, Sidney Nelson (Tanya), Susan Ferguson (Jeff), Millie Rosser (Bill), and Thomas Lamb (Debbie); and many nieces and nephews that he loved dearly.

Buddy was preceded in death by his parents, Tommy Lloyd and Emma Jean Brown; brothers, Earl Glenn Brown and Gearld Lynn Brown; and grandparents, Thomas Jefferson & Florence Wilkes Brown, Donald & Lottie Glass Asbill, and wife's grandmother, Mildred Penson.

# Christmas and the Holiday Season

the holidays) is an annu- many areas. ally recurring period rec-

known in some countries ments and light bulbs are riod observed in Western references to the seaas the holiday season or illuminated are traditions in Christianity from the fourth son that omitted the word

ognized in many Western the Christmas season is The term "Advent calen- rate and public sphere of and other countries that synonymous with Christ- dar" continues to be widely the United States, which is generally considered to mastide, which runs from known in Western par- has caused a semantics run from late November December 25 (Christmas lance as a term referring to controversy that continto early January. It is de- Day) to January 5 (Twelfth a countdown to Christmas ues to the present. By fined as incorporating at Night or Epiphany Eve), Day from the beginning the late 20th century, the least Christmas Day, New popularly known as the 12 of December, although Jewish holiday of Hanuk-Year's Day, and some- Days of Christmas, or in in retail the countdown to kah and the new African times various other holi- the Catholic Church, until Christmas usually begins American cultural holiday days and festivals. It also is the Baptism of the Lord, a at the end of the summer of Kwanzaa began to be associated with a period of Christmas season which season, and the beginning considered in the U.S. as shopping which comprises can last for more or fewer of September. a peak season for the re- than twelve days. As the Beginning in the mid-20th season", a term that as of tail sector (the "Christmas economic impact involving century, as the Christian- 2013 had become equally (or holiday) shopping sea- the anticipatory lead-up associated Christmas holi- or more prevalent than son") and a period of sales to Christmas Day grew in day and liturgical season, "Christmas season" in U.S. at the end of the season America and Europe into in some circles, became sources to refer to the end-(the "January sales"). the 19th and 20th centu- increasingly commercial- of-the-year festive period. Night, the day before the lasting until Candlemas Christmas window dis- ries, the term "Christmas ized and central to Ameri- "Holiday season" has also Epiphany, which is cele- (February 2), which is traplays and Christmas tree season" began to also can economics and culture spread in varying degrees brated either on January 6 ditionally the 40th day of

The Christmas season lighting ceremonies when encompass the liturgical while religio-multicultural century, the calendars of ing the Epiphany, or on or the festive season (also trees decorated with orna- Advent season, the pe- sensitivity rose, generic both churches included the Monday following the Sunday before Christmas "Christmas" became more In Western Christianity, Day until Christmas Eve. common in the corpobeing part of the "holiday to Canada; however, in or on the Sunday between the Christmas-Epiphany the United Kingdom and January 2 and 8. In other season; meanwhile, in the Ireland, the phrase "holi- churches (e.g., the Roman Lutheran Churches and day season" is not widely Catholic Church), it contin- the Methodist Churches, synonymous with the ues until the feast of the Epiphanytide lasts until Christmas-New Year pe- Baptism of the Lord, which the first day of Lent, Ash

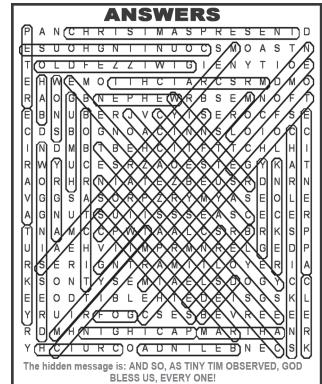
> The earliest source stating December 25 as the date of birth of Jesus was Hippolytus of Rome (170-236), written very early in the 3rd century, based on the assumption that the conception of Jesus took place at the Spring equinox which he placed on March 25, to which he then added nine months. There is historical evidence that by the middle of the 4th century, the Christian churches of the East celebrated the birth and Baptism of Jesus on the same day, on January 8, while those in the West celebrated a Nativity feast on December 25 (perhaps influenced by the Winter solstice); and that by the last quarter of the 4th

both feasts. The earliest Epiphany if the Epiphany suggestions of a feast is moved to January 7 or 8. of the Baptism of Jesus If the Epiphany is kept on on January 6 during the January 6, the Church of 2nd century comes from England's use of the term Clement of Alexandria, Christmas season correbut there is no further sponds to the Twelve Days mention of such a feast of Christmas, and ends on until 361, when Emperor Twelfth Night. Julian attended a feast on January 6 that year.

riod, and is often instead falls on the Sunday follow- Wednesday.

This short Christmas season is preceded by In the Christian tradition, Advent, which begins on the Christmas season is a the fourth Sunday before period beginning on Christ- Christmas Day, coincidmas Day (December 25). ing with the majority of the In some churches (e.g., commercialized Christmas the Lutheran Churches and holiday season. The and the Anglican Com- Anglican Communion folmunion), the season con- lows the Christmas season tinues through Twelfth with an Epiphany season







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