

Mr. Whiz Bang Upbeat Feel Good in Marshall



Tumbleweed Smith

People all over East Texas have told me I need to interview James Duncan who works at radio station KMHT in Marshall. So on an interview trip to that part of the state I stopped at the station. The enterprising staff had arranged a full day of interviews for me; a rare happening indeed and I appreciate it very much. To stay in one

Tumbleweed Smith place and get a dozen interviews happens just a handful of times. It sure cuts down on expenses and time. They even provided a delicious lunch for me. James Duncan was my first interview. It certainly set a high standard for the rest of the day's activities, although I was amazed at the amount of talented, knowledgeable, smart people the folks at KMHT arranged for me.

When James was growing up in Gilmer he had trouble spelling his middle name: Michael.

"When I was about fifteen I called my dad because I wanted to borrow the car that afternoon," says James. "So I called his office. He was district attorney at the time and I said this is Michael and I want to borrow the car. He said, 'Who?' I said Michael. He said, 'Spell it.' I said J-a-m-e-s."

He loves working at the radio station.

"KMHT is the heartbeat of East Texas. We try to bring news and views that fit our area. We're local and cover local activities and local news.

He does a program called Swap Shop weekday mornings from 9 to

"You know one of the interesting items people call in and have for sale is guineas. They're the best watchdogs ever and we get lots of calls about them. We still get horses and mules. But we're country. It's like Canton First Monday on the radio with dogs and chickens, all kinds of stuff. You know Canton's trade days event was started by coon dog trading down at the sale barn."

He really gets close to his callers.

"These people are just like family. It's just like you were in the bunkhouse back on the ranch talking with a group of friends. And they do have some interesting stories. And they're good people. They make me feel good and I'd like to think I make them feel good. It's one of those things where you kinda get personal with the people who call in. We get people of all ages who sew, split wood and talk about recipes."

James has a constant stream of callers. He never has to play music during his show because people are waiting on the phone to get on the air.

"You'll hear a lot of commercials. People like to buy time on Swap Shop because that's when people are listening. Everybody has that distinct East Texas accent and people tune in to hear the flavor and heritage of the language."

James was in the cattle breeding business before going into radio in 1968.

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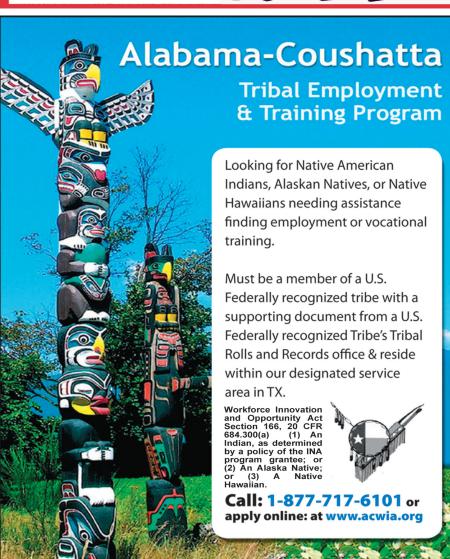




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Linda Gayle (Thompson) Kids

January 14, 1940 ~ April 7, 2023 (age 83)

Linda Gayle Thompson born in 1940 to Caleb James and Mary Garnet Head Thompson in Sulphur Springs, Tx.

Linda grew up in Sulphur Springs and graduated from SSHS. Linda married Harold Lloyd Kids September 7th, 1958, and they soon moved to Hereford, Tx, where their three sons were born, Harold Craig, Kevin Wade, and Paul Cale. In 1971, the Kids family moved back to Sulphur Springs.

In addition to keeping up with three active boys, Linda worked

outside the home at H. D. Lee Company, Sulphur Springs Cable Company and finishing her career at the City of Sulphur Springs.

Harold proceeded Linda in death in 2018. In 2019, Linda moved to Longview where she enjoyed making new friends at Arabella of Longview, an independent living retirement community.

Linda is survived by her brother: William David Thompson, her three sons: Craig and wife, Bonni; Wade and wife, Tana, Cale and wife, Jennifer. She is survived by grandchildren: Landon, Tyler, Brianna, Madison, Cade, Karson and Cooper. She is survived by Great Grandchildren: Walker, Caroline, Audrey, Kennedy, Kate and Collin. She is also survived by two nephews: Scott and Dale Thompson.

Linda passed away on April 7th, 2023. Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 11th, 2023, at West Oaks Funeral Home with visitation beginning at 1:00 p.m., prior to service time.



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http://www.westoaksfuneralhome.com

Kenneth Ray Beck

A visitation will be held Friday, April 14, 2023 at the West Oaks Funeral Home from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. A graveside service will be held Saturday, April 15, 2023, 2:00 pm, Pleasant Grove Cemetery, Sulphur Springs, Tx.



Micheal "Mike" Ray Hodge

Michael "Mike" Ray Hodge, 84, of Wichita Falls, passed peacefully on Friday, March 31, 2023.

A Celebration of Life was held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 4, 2023 in the Chapel of Owens and Brumley Funeral Home in Wichita Falls with Pastor John Riggs officiating.

Mike was born on February 12, 1939 in Sulphur Springs, Texas to Moxie and Della (Morrison) Hodge. He grew up a Boy Scout and earned the rank of Eagle Scout. He was a scoutmaster for several troops for many years. He later served in the Army National Guard, and went on to receive his Bachelors' degree from East Texas State College. He taught school in Hopkins County Texas and was in sales for Lee/VF Corporation until he found his career in banking. He was a member of the Beefmaster Cattle Association, North Texas Rehab Crippled Children's Auction, and the North Central Texas Bancshares.

While he was never a pro, he never turned down an invitation for a round of golf. He shot more with a camera but he loved to hunt. Fishing was something he shared with everyone from his father to his grandkids. But his stories, as far-fetched and unreal as they seemed, will be missed by all that knew him. He is preceded in death by his parents, Moxie and Della (Morrison) Hodge. Mike is survived by his wife, Linda (Evans) Hodge; children, Susan Baley (Korey), Spencer Hodge, Brooke Hodge (Brandy), and Blake Hodge (Kayla); grandchildren, Colton Baley, Emma Baley, Brayden Hodge, Olivia Hodge, Ryleigh Hodge; brother Bill Hodge (Jo Ruth); brother-in-law Dr. Larry Evans (Rita); and close friends David Dildy, Eddie and Sue Snyder, and Mike and Maria McMichaels.



Fred J. Watson

A memorial service for Fred J. Watson will be held on Sunday, May 7, 2023, at 1:00PM at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home, 876 Wildcat Way, Sulphur Springs. There will be no formal visitation. Fred J. Watson passed away peacefully athome in Sulphur Springs, Texas on March 31, 2023, with his wife Mary Frances at his side. Fred was 82.

The youngest of four children, "Freddy Joe" was born in Greenview near Miller Grove in Hopkins County, Texas on June 17, 1940, to Weldon and Maymee (Gafford) Watson, four generations after the first Watsons arrived in NE Texas in 1832.

While attending Sulphur Springs High School, Fred was among the most popular in his class and excelled in athletics. He set state scoring records as a guard for the Wildcats' basketball team in 1958 that stood for over 30 years, and in 2008 he was inducted into the SSHS Wildcat Hall of Honor.

After graduating High School, Fred served in the U.S. Army and met his first wife Carolyn Irene Howard while stationed in Hawaii. Fred graduated with a degree in Business from East Texas State University in 1966, and after residing in Paris, Texas for several years, the family relocated to Madison, Wisconsin and later Reno, Nevada while he was working in the insurance industry. Fred eventually opened his own insurance agency in Reno which he later sold when he came back "home" to Texas.

Fred married his second wife Mary Frances France in Dallas, Texas, in April 1992, his former high school sweetheart from the 1950's. They started their own ATM banking machine company in 1995 and relocated back to their hometown Sulphur Springs in 2005 to enjoy retirement. Fred and Mary each have three children, and always enjoyed hosting family gatherings during the holidays, with all their loving, blended family. Fred will be remembered for his fun-loving spirit, ever-present sense of humor, and interest in sports and classic movies.

He is survived by his wife and best friend Mary Frances, as well as his former wife Carolyn and their son Mark Watson (Ellen), son Jeff Watson and daughter Branden Watson; his stepsons Mark Romack (Leigh Ann), Scott Romack, Chris Romack (Kellie); eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Fred is predeceased by his parents, sister Marie I. Watson, brother Buster N. Watson and brother Billy T.Watson.

The business services industry is a very broad industry encompassing many different categories of business operations; all of them provide some sort of nonfinancial service to other companies. These services include advertising, marketing, consultation, logistics (including travel and facilities services), waste handling, staffing services, shipping, administration, and security services to name a few. Nearly every business in operation has need for at least one of the different kinds of service offered by the industry. Marketing companies are responsible for increasing the sales of a client company by helping the company gain new customers as well as keep current ones. Legal services are needed to deal with business transactions, as well as for litigation purposes Logistics and shipping companies are responsible for connecting businesses to other businesses or consumers by collecting, storing, transporting, and delivering products. Staffing companies match people in need of jobs, temporary or permanent, with companies in need of qualified employees. Leasing companies fill a client's need for certain items without requiring full purchase. Security companies are responsible for keeping a company's assets secure. Consulting companies are in the business of fulfilling needs for expertise that clients cannot fulfill themselves. These companies may offer professional, scientific, or technical consulting, management or strategy consulting, or human resources consulting.







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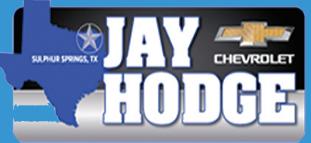
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