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#### **BORDERLNE: A STORY OF COURAGE**

Tumbleweed Smith

Jayson Woodward was postmaster in Terlingua at a time when people didn't bother locking their doors because everybody knew everybody in the small community. She lived next door to the post office. One afternoon when she returned home from a shopping trip an intruder was in her house. He captured her, took her outside, tied her hands and blindfolded her and held her

Tumbleweed Smith hands and blindfolded her and held her captive for fourteen hours. She was tortured and criminally assaulted. Even though she says it was a very horrible experience, she was incredibly calm during the episode. Toward the end of the ordeal the man told her he had to be in Mexico by sunrise, just a few hours away and had no transportation.

"When I realized that, I told him that was no problem, that I had a truck and could take him. The main thing was to get out of the desert, get back to my house, then get in my truck. Those were the steps for my escape."

They got in the truck. Jayson was driving and looked down to see the man holding a knife by his side. She headed the pickup north toward a store owned by a friend of hers who lived in a trailer behind the building. She was not going toward Mexico.

"When he realized we were going in the wrong direction, he started screaming and yelling 'this is not right, turn around, turn around now.' I did turn around in the parking lot of the store where there were some gas tanks. I hit the accelerator, aimed for the gas tanks and jumped out of my truck. The last thing I saw was him lunging for the steering wheel of the truck. I ran to the trailer behind the store banged on the door and practically ripped it off getting inside. My screaming and yelling get your gun, get your gun woke him up. It was about four o'clock in the morning by now. He saw that I was hysterical and took me to the deputy sheriff's house."

The man missed the gas tanks and drove to Ojinaga across the border. Law enforcement had been alerted and he was found and jailed in Ojinaga. Efforts to get the man back to this country for trial were futile because Mexico was reluctant to release him. News media picked up the story and it was on international radio, television and newspapers.

"Three men from Texas broke into the Ojinaga jail, kidnapped the man and brought him back to Texas. That made a bigger story and Mexico stepped up efforts to get him back. But our sheriff, George Jones, said 'we don't know how he got here and we don't care. He's here and he's going to trial.'

"We had a trial in San Angelo in 1986. He was found guilty and given 75 years in prison. He's still in prison today."

Jayson lives in Alpine today and has written about the experience in a book titled Borderline. She also has a six-episode podcast.

#### Miscellaneous

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Answers On Page 3

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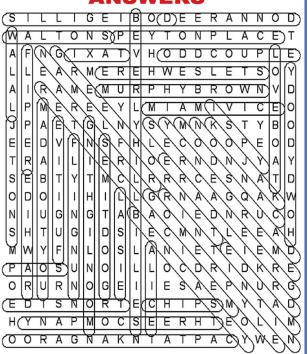
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THE MILLENNIUM SHOPPER May 24, 2023

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### **Twins Share Top Honors**



Noelle and McCleary Porterfield

Wylie Preparatory Academy in Wylie, Texas, has announced its' top honor graduates for 2023.

McCleary Porterfield is the Valedictorian and Noelle Porterfield is the Salutatorian. The graduation ceremonies were held on Saturday, May 13, 2023, at Woodcreek Church in Richardson.

McCleary will be continuing her studies at Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas and Noelle will be attending Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee.

They are the twin daughters of Jay and Amber Porterfield of Sachse and the granddaughters of Ric and Brenda Estes of Commerce and Joy Wilson and Jerry Porterfield of Sulphur Springs.

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Rebecca Sue "Beckey" Flippin

A funeral service for Rebecca Sue "Beckey" Flippin, age 68, of Sulphur Springs, was held at 11:00 a.m., Monday, May 22, 2023, at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Bro. Jeff Harris officiating. Interment followed at Sulphur Springs City Cemetery with Ben Spraggins, Cody Wright, Jordan Smith, Andy Katchinska, Justin Massey and Evan Ford serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were the Employees of Flip's Burgerland and all the customers she cooked for over the years. Visitation was held at 10:00 a.m., prior to service time.

Beckey passed away on Thursday, May 18, 2023. She was born on September 17, 1954, in Sulphur Springs, TX. She married Tony Flippin on December 27, 1975. Beckey helped her son Toby with operations of Flip's Burgerland. Beckey served as a Mobile Notary for the past several years. Beckey previously worked as a computer aide for SSISD for 8 years, Copy Products for 10 years, and UPS for 6 years. She is survived by husband, Tony, sons, Toby Paul Flippin, Josh Allen

Flippin, brother, Andy Wright and wife Mary Lou, sister, Judy Cunningham. Beckey is survived by nieces and nephews, Tracey Schaede, Stoney Wright, Cody Wright, Radona Adams, Jeremy Wright, Mark Massey, Mike Massey, Jeff Massey, Shawn Massey, Mandy Helberg, Wendy White and Brian Wright, along with their spouses and children. Other survivors are her Sister-in-law, Rexanne McCauley, along with nephew and niece Matthew McCauley and Sara Mellady and children. She is also survived by her puppies Willis, Pedey, and Ralph, cats, Lucy and Zippy, along with 4 dozen stray cats! Beckey was preceded in death by her mother, Euton Oweta Wright, brothers Mickey Wright and Randy Wright and nephew Randall Wright and niece Mindy Wright and puppies Lola and Boston.



#### Nell Crowson

A funeral service for Nell Crowson, age 90, of Sulphur Springs, TX was held at 10:00AM on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at First United Methodist Church with Rev. Ben Shinn officiating. Interment followed at Tira Cemetery with Blake Crowson, Kade Crowson, Travis Simon, Justin Mattingly, Mark Wallace, and Brett Moore serving as pallbearers. Visitation was held one hour before the service in the fellowship hall. Mrs. Crowson passed away Friday, May 19, 2023 at Carriage House Manor.

Nell Gwynn Crowson was born on June 30, 1932 in Tira, TX to Boyd and Katherine (Patterson) Lee. She married Billy Crowson on October 14, 1949 in Greenville, TX. Nell was a successful business owner. She opened Lou Nell Fashions in December of 1973. She was blessed to have many loyal customers who she enjoyed serving for 30 years. Community service was important to Nell, and she was awarded Lady of the Year at the 2000 Chamber Banquet. She was a loyal member of First United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women, and the Messenger Class.

She is survived by hersons, Billy Crowson and wife, Carol, Larry Crowson and wife, Carrie; grandchildren, Blake Crowson and wife, Katiee, Kaci Crowson and fiance, Justin, Brooke Simon and husband, Travis, Kade Crowson and fiance, Chase; brother, Don Lee and wife, Vicki; sister, Margaret Fletcher. Nell was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Billy; daughter, Kathy; and brothers, Bob Lee and David Lee.



### Mary Elizabeth Gray

Mary Elizabeth Gray, age 99, passed away peacefully on Friday, May 19, 2023, in Marshall, Texas. She was born January 15, 1924, to parents Joy C. and Olga Coyle Richards in Rowlett, Texas. She was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Joy C. Richards; her infant son; her beloved husband of 67 years, Dr. G.W. "Bill" Gray, DVM; and Mardell Clayton who worked for the Gray Family for over 70 years.

Mary was married to her high school sweetheart, Bill, son of Bob and Freda Chiesa Gray, on January 25, 1943. The two led an active life filled with family, friends, travel, and immense joy. She loved golfing, gardening, Aggie football, and playing bridge. Most of all, she loved spending time with friends and family. She was the former president and longtime member of the Lena Day Garden Club, a member of the Ladies Golf Association, and was honored for 70 years of membership in Eastern Star. She was also a lifelong Methodist and devoted member of the First United Methodist Church of Sulphur Springs, and member of the Crusaders Sunday School Class. Mary refused to slow down

for even a moment and kept a fast-paced life well into her nineties. Even in her last year, she took joy in her time with family and the team of dedicated, kindhearted women who have provided her round-the-clock care and companionship for the past six months.

Those left to cherish her memory include her daughters, Suzanne Lindley and Judith Grimes (Bill); her three grandchildren, Rae McManus (Bill), Sara Lindley, and Susan Perkins (Daryl); her four great-grandchildren, Meredith McManus, Savannah Allen, Blaine Allen, and Harper Perkins; and many dear friends who had become like family. Those who knew and loved Mary are encouraged to attend visitation and the graveside service to share fond memories. While she will be forever missed, this is a celebration of a life lived to its fullest. Visitation will be held at West Oaks Funeral Home on Wednesday, May 24, at 6 PM with a Vesper Service beginning at 7 PM. A graveside

service will be held at Restlawn Memorial Park on Thursday, May 25 at 11 AM.



## Congratulations!

McCleary & Noelle Porterfield, Valedictorian and Salutatorian of Wylie Preparatory Academy, Wylie, Texas.





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