

FREE!



23
YEARS
2000-2023

Have a Safe & Happy Labor Day!
Page 8



The Millennium Shopper

(In The Shade of The Courthouse)

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VOL. 24 ISSUE 1214, August 30, 2023

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September 22nd & 23rd

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Celebrate Commerce as the Bois d'Arc Capital of Texas! Come join us for our 33rd annual golf tournament on Thursday, Sept. 14 at Sand Hills Country Club.



Thursday, September 14th
★ 7am - 5pm 37th Annual Bois d'Arc Bash Golf Tournament, Sand Hills Country Club

Friday, September 22nd
Downtown On The Square
★ 6:00 - 7:00 pm Panimation
★ 7:30 - 8:30 pm Cross Trails Band
★ 9:00 pm - 10:00 pm The Heros

Parade - Downtown Saturday, Sept. 23rd - 10:00 am
(Lineup Is At City Park at 8 am - Facing Aldridge Street
Beginning Judging at 9:15.)

Saturday, September 23rd
11:45 am - 12:00 am - Opening Ceremonies
★ 12 Noon - 1:00 pm - The Dixieland Band
★ 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm - The Blandelles
★ 2:45 pm - 3:45 pm - Li-Sher Dance Studio
★ 3:45 pm - 4:15 pm - Judo Demonstrations

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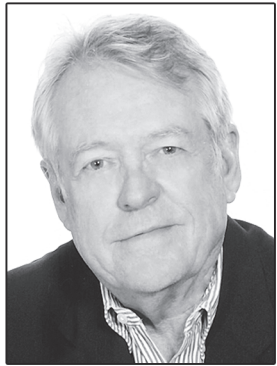
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Alpacas In North Texas

Tumbleweed Smith



**Tumbleweed
Smith**

"We get a lot of shock and awe at how peaceful and serene this little spot is."

Russell Foster changed out of his three-piece suit and put on his overalls. He and his wife both took retirement packages from their high-paying international jobs to settle down on a twenty-three acre farm near Aubrey in Denton County.

"We had this place and decided to do something with it," says Russell. "We bought a couple of alpacas and my wife wanted a little bit of lavender. I went down to a wholesaler and came back with

three thousand lavender plants. The man who sold them to me said 'you're going to have the largest lavender farm in north Texas.'" Russell's place has lavender, pumpkins and Christmas trees. You can also do alpaca yoga.

"You're outdoors, you hear the birds sing. You've got a lot of nature all around you and as you're in one of your yoga poses you may open your eyes and see an alpaca two inches away from your face staring at you. They don't climb on you like goat yoga. They just look at you."

The place is called TX-TURE farm.

"The goal here is to give people old fashioned experiences that they may have never had before, such as the cutting of the Christmas trees."

I asked Russell why he chose to have alpacas on his place. "Things just happen and we roll with it and it just ends up being a good thing. We chose alpacas because they are cute. They're kind of the cosmetics for the property. Besides that we fell in love with them."

After the June bloom of the lavender, summer is a quiet time at the farm. Things pick up in the fall. That's pumpkin season.

"I'm a hobby blacksmith so we have the North Texas Blacksmith Association come here and we support veterans. On Veterans Day November eleventh we open the farm to people who want to try their hand at forging. Proceeds go to various veterans groups including the wounded warriors project."

Christmas is a busy time.

"We run the Paca Express, our little train that goes out to the Christmas trees and the alpacas will be running around looking like reindeer."

Although the farm has been open only two years, people are finding out about it.

"They get caught up in their daily lives as I used to, commuting to work, all that stress. What if you could come out for a weekend, take a picnic basket, sit in a grassy spot and have alpacas all around you. That's real peace."

Miscellaneous

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L	K	S	V	I	V	A	C	A	T	I	O	N	S	S	P	L	H	T
P	N	N	T	S	N	A	I	C	I	G	A	M	R	R	O	E	O	E
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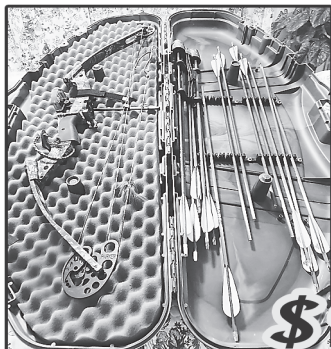
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L	K	S	V	I	V	A	C	A	T	I	O	N	S	S	P	L	H	T
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R	E	S	O	R	T	S	C	L	A	R	K	C	O	U	N	T	Y	L

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Obits



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Billie Jean Ross

September 12, 1927 - August 21, 2023 (age 95)

Jean Ross passed away quietly at her beloved home in Sulphur Springs, Texas. She was the first born child and only daughter of W.B. and Guylah Burns of Delta County. She eloped with a handsome native Hopkins County boy, Nelson H. Ross, in 1948 after he returned from WWII. Jean was happy to spend her whole life in these two counties living a good 'ol country life.

She had a tireless work ethic that started with picking cotton by hand. After graduating from Pecan Gap, she spent years typing as a secretary in downtown Cooper and Sulphur Springs. Once her first child arrived it was time to stay at home and milk cows on the farm. Eventually she became the 'mail lady' of Route 4, a job she loved for over 30 years.

Upon her retirement, camping-life allowed her to create treasured memories with great friends. Her favorite hobby was sending cards to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries or to share an encouraging word. I'm sure many people



reading this got one from her.

Jean's long life allowed her to have many adventures, but top of the list was traveling to Los Angeles to see Dancing with the Stars. Wherever she was, she liked to have fun and kid around. We hope she is having a wonderful time 'up there' with all of her departed friends and family members. Jean's advice to everyone was to "go and enjoy every single minute, because it will go by faster than you think."

The family she leaves behind can never thank her enough for her unwavering love and support. We already miss her desperately.

Billie Jean Burns-Ross is survived by her third daughter; Janina, her brother; W.T. Burns & wife Linda, granddaughters; Marisa Phillips & Hannah Tatum, grandsons; Michael McFadden & Patrick Matthews. She adored her great-grandchildren: Lainey, Blake, Reagan, Hayleigh & Callan. She loved being Auntie to all her nephews: Brent, Barry, Bradley, Jimmy, Chuck, Denny, Kent & Britt. She loved each of us very much. Her memory will be a blessing as we grow old without her.

Jean was preceded in death by her parents, husband and two daughters; Gena McFadden & Jana Hankins. Rest in peace together until we all meet again.

The family held a Celebration of Life reception, Friday August 25th, 5:30-7:30pm, Gafford Chapel United Methodist Church Hall, 6491 Hwy 11 West. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to honor Jean's love of birds with Tyler Audubon Society: Tyler Audubon Society P.O. Box 132926 Tyler, TX 75713.

A special note of thanks to devoted caregivers: Emily and Jean. She was so lucky to have your kindness, humor and grace. Another note of gratitude to her son-in-law Scott, who she thought hung the moon. Arrangements under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com

Bridget Reed

July 11, 1953 — August 25, 2023

Sulphur Springs

A memorial service for Bridget Reed, age 70, of Sulphur Springs, Texas was held at 1:00 P.M. on Monday, August 28, 2023, at First United Methodist Church of Sulphur Springs, Texas. Mrs. Reed passed away peacefully, on August 25, 2023, in her home surrounded by her loving family.

Bridget was born on July 1, 1953, in Sweetwater, Texas, to Doyle and Reba (Mercer) Feagan. Bridget is a graduate of Sweetwater High School. She married Mack Reed on June 18, 1971, and they were together for 52 years. After completing some college courses, she went on to work as an office secretary for Travis Elementary as well as an insurance agent for many years. She loved to participate in the Grace Fellowship Class at First United Methodist Church and enjoyed volunteering with her husband for Dinner Bell. In her free time, she loved playing tennis, gardening, cooking, traveling, and spending time with her grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband, Mack Reed; sons, Casey Reed with wife Robin, and their children, Lauren, Luke, and Landry of Dripping Springs, TX, Coby Reed with his wife Chesley, and their children Zoe and Brooks of Sulphur Springs, TX; sisters, Kay and husband Jim Sanders of Tulsa, OK, Jan and husband David Maberry of Austin, TX, Jill and husband Murnie Caukape of Longmont, CO.

Preceded in death by her parents; and her father and mother-in-law, Bobby and Muriel Reed.

The family would like to give special thanks for the love and care provided by Choice Hospice of Sulphur Springs, TX.

Family has requested donations to First United Methodist Church.



Obits

Continued



Richard Lopez

August 15, 1989 — August 27, 2023

Funeral service for Richard Lopez, age 34 of Sulphur Springs, Texas will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Wednesday, August 30, 2023 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home with Pastor Lupe Ybarra officiating. Interment will follow at Sulphur Springs City Cemetery with Chris Tangy, Eric Tangy, Steve Tangy, Jacob Corona, Benathan “Dee” Dovantis Hill and the “Take Cover Krew”, Brandon Chapman, Spencer Berry and Tanner Cordova serving as pallbearers. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Mr. Lopez passed away on August 27, 2023 UT Health – Quitman.

Richard was born on August 15, 1989 in Sulphur Springs, Texas to Victor Manuel and Sharon (Damon) Lopez. He worked at M&F Westerns. Richard loved skateboarding when he was younger. He also loved Anime and was a movie buff. He is survived by his mother, Sharon; father, Victor; sisters, Lacey Lopez, Mary Lopez and Alice Lopez; grandparents, Gary and Janet Damon, and Carmen Lopez; numerous aunts, uncles, family, and friends. Richard was preceded in death

by his grandparent, Angelina Arce.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Life Line at Broadway Veterinary Clinic at 2019 S. Broadway Street Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482.



Merlene Teer

November 15, 1935 — August 26, 2023

A funeral service for Merlene Teer, age 87 of Sulphur Springs, formerly of Como, was held at 2:00 pm Tuesday, August 29, 2023 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Chapel with Bro. B.J. Teer and Bro. Jimmy Gullledge officiating. Interment followed at Black Oak Cemetery with Jeremy Pool, Richard Pool, Dustin Barrett, Brody Clark, Grayson Barrett, John Glenn and Jacob Glenn serving as pallbearers. A visitation was held one hour prior to the service. Mrs. Teer passed away Saturday, August 26, 2023 at Carriage House Manor.

Merlene Teer was born November 15, 1935 in Como, TX to Leroy Gullledge and Lorene (Carpenter) Gullledge. She married Valton Teer in Como on June 5, 1953. She was a homemaker and housewife all of her life. She was a member of Greenpond Baptist Church where she served as a Sunday school teacher and the church clerk for over 30 years.

Mrs. Teer is survived by her son, B.J. Teer and wife, Janice, of Sulphur Springs; grandchildren, Jeremy Pool, Richard Pool, Misty Teer, Christy Clark (Brody), Mandy Barrett (Dustin); great-grandchildren, Grayson Barrett, Madilynn Barrett, Elliott Pool; sisters, Sue Crawford (Leon) of Como, Jane Hooper (Hoyt) of Haughton, LA, Ann Harris of Shreveport, LA, Barbara Lofton (Joe) of Quitman, TX; brother, Jimmy Gullledge (Molly) of Shreveport, LA.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; daughter, Debbie Pool, and son, Gary Teer.

The family expresses a very special Thank You to Christy for loving and taking care of her Meme, and to all the other staff at Carriage House Manor.



JoAn Coker

September 16, 1928 — August 23, 2023

A funeral service for JoAn Coker, age 94 of Yantis, Texas was held at 2:00 P.M. on Sunday, August 27, 2023 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home with Byron George officiating. A private family graveside was held after. Pallbearers were Cory Coker, Keith Thronton, Major David Coker Jr., Peyt Blevins, Baylee Riddle, and Langston Ray. Honorary pallbearers were Tim Coker, Fred Jones, Mark Rogers and Jeff Philpott. Visitation was held 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. on Saturday, August 26, 2023 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Mrs. Coker passed away peacefully, on August 23, 2023, at her residence.

JoAn was born on September 16, 1928 in Paducah, Texas to David Crockett and Grace Ruth (Maddox) Emory. She married Noble Coker on December 5, 1943 in Altus, Oklahoma. JoAn worked as the manager of the loan department at Southern Trust and Mortgage in Dallas for 43 years. She retired and moved with her husband, Noble Coker, back to the

Yantis area to spend her retirement among family and friends.

She was the coordinator of the first Bluegrass Festival in Wood county. JoAn was known as the Yellow Rose of Texas. She loved having bluegrass jams at her house, she also loved Texas history, and genealogy. JoAn was a member of the Eastern Star as well as the First Baptist Church in Yantis.

She is survived by her daughter, Carolyn Manns and husband, DeWayne; son, David Coker Sr. Grandchildren: Rena Ann Philpott, Callie Ruth Rogers, Major David Coker Jr., and Olivia Evelyn Thorton. Great grandchildren: David Coker III, Ashley, Addison, Layla Thornton, Peyt Blevins, Baylee Riddle, Morgan Golden, Langston Ray, Emma Hood, Oliver Thornton and Delaine McKinney; nephews: Tim Coker and wife, Lynn and Fred Jones and wife, Karen. She was also survived by eight great-great grandchildren.

JoAn was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Noble, and brother Floyd Jones.



Labor Day became a U.S. federal holiday in 1894, but by that time thirty states already officially celebrated the holiday. Labor Day was created by members of the labor movement, who organized strikes and rallies to fight for better working conditions amid the Industrial Revolution, according to the History Channel. On September 5, 1882, New York City union leaders organized what is now considered the country's first Labor Day parade, according to National Geographic. On this day, 10,000 workers took unpaid time off to march through the streets of New York City, in an event culminating in a picnic, fireworks, and dancing. Organizers declared the day "a general holiday for the workingmen of this city." Their idea spread across the country, and many states passed legislation recognizing the workers' holiday.

It wasn't until 1894, however, that Congress legalized the holiday following the Pullman strike, a nationwide railroad boycott that turned fatal and shined a national spotlight on workers' rights. Amid this massive unrest, Congress sought to make peace with American workers by passing an act making Labor Day a legal holiday. President Grover Cleveland officially signed it into law on June 28, 1894. Strangely enough, The Department of Labor was created after Labor Day became a holiday, and it was the first department to be led by a woman: Francis Perkins.

More than a century later, the true founder of Labor Day remains unknown, although many credit labor union leader Peter J. McGuire for the idea. The world may never know this detail, but now you know enough about Labor Day to truly celebrate everything it stands for.

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