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

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Saturday, September 23rd 11:45 am - 12:00 am - Opening Ceremonies

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**Tumbleweed Smith** 

Dude Ham was a retired King Ranch cowboy who opened a diner in Bliss, Texas. Dinner music was provided by a tuba player who performed all kinds of music, even Italian love songs.

The above is from a fictional story in a book of short stories titled KING OF THE LAKE AND OTHER STORIES written by Temple author Kira Marie McCullough.

"From the time I was eight years old I always wanted to be a published author. I guess it all started when I was in the third grade and the teacher showed a film of an author during an interview talking about a book that he had written for a third grader. I was so impressed, listening to this author and what it was like to be a writer and make books. I thought to myself that's what I want to be someday. I want to write a book and be interviewed by somebody."

One of the first things she wrote as a third grader was a letter to President Nixon asking him to end the Viet Nam War. "In it I said we need more peas in the world. I didn't know how to spell peace. I spelled it peas."

Kira did some writing in middle school and high school then got married, had three children and led a peaceful life as wife and mother. "About ten years ago I decided it's time to take my dream off the shelf." So I went back to school, got a degree in English and started writing short stories. Some of them got published while I was working in public relations and broadcast news. One of my good friends who was a publisher at WordCraft Press said 'let's put these stories in a book.' So we did. And that became KING OF THE LAKE AND OTHER STORIES, which came out last year. It got a five star review on Amazon and Good Reads and people are getting in touch with me and telling me they love the book."

Kira is a good listener and always carries a note pad and pencil with her all the time to write down things she might hear in a restaurant or some other public place.

"There's nothing better in a fictional story or novel than having reflections of real life. Then it becomes authentic. And the reader thinks yeah, I know somebody who talks like that or thinks like that. So when I hear something I write it down and use it in my writing. I have a plastic tub of notes."

Kira is working on a novel that takes place in the 1820s. She spent six months researching the time period. The book is due out next year. Back to the tuba player at Dude's Diner in Bliss, Texas.

"Every time I sat down to work on this story I laughed. I laughed my way through it and I hope that readers will enjoy it as much as I did."

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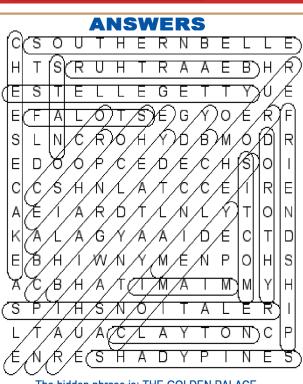
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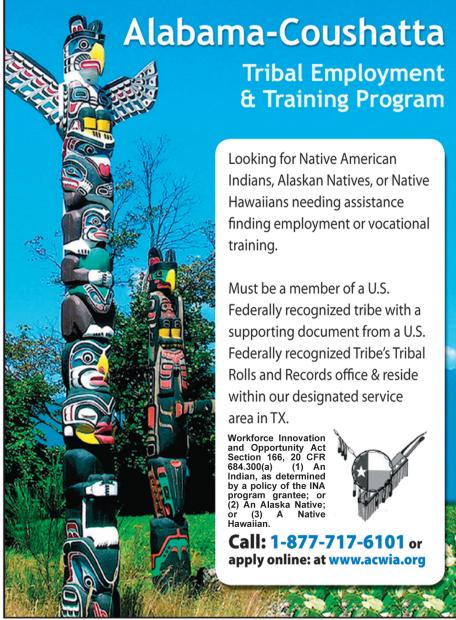
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#### Bruce Alsobrook

Robert Bruce (Bruce) Alsobrook, 63, of Paris, TX, passed away on September 1st after battling multiple health issues for several years.

He was born January 27th, 1960, to Bob and Jackie Alsobrook, of Paris, TX. After graduating from North Lamar High School in 1979, he went on to study at East Texas State University, now Texas A&M Commerce, earning a Bachelor of Journalism in 1989.

He married Elizabeth (Beth) Blanton in November 1990, and seven years later, the couple adopted three children, Robert Wayne, Daniel Keith, and Laura Ruth Alsobrook. Bruce and Beth's marriage lasted 31 years until her death in January 2022. Bruce worked his entire life, starting with the family's paper, the Paris Shopper, during his junior high years, a local print shop, and the Paris News. After he obtained his degree in journalism, he began working as a reporter for the Sulphur Springs News-Telegram, was promoted to managing editor in 2001 and later became the editor of the Town & Country magazine.

In 2020 his health began deteriorating, and he began doing delivery work for a pharmaceutical company before becoming too

ill to continue.

Bruce had a brilliant mind and a wonderful sense of humor. His editorial articles were laugh out loud funny, and his writings earned several Associated Press awards, including the prestigious Freedom of Information Award for investigative journalism. He loved movies and punk rock, was unfailingly supportive of others, especially his children, and always provided a sympathetic and understanding ear to anyone needing to be heard. He was generous, thoughtful, objective, kind-hearted and easy-going.

Bruce was preceded in death by his parents and his wife. He is survived by his sisters, Ruth Ann Alsobrook of Paris, Susan Kennedy of Dallas, his three children and his three grandchildren, Chasen Alsobrook of Sulphur Springs, VioletRose of Sulphur Springs, and Avery Alsobrook of Florence, SC. A private graveside service will be scheduled in the upcoming days. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to help with the costs of Bruce's funeral at the GoFundMe site organized by his daughter, Laura Alsobrook.



**Bro. Tommy Hall** June 7, 1935 — September 8, 2023

Bro. Thomas Edward Hall, age 88, went to be with his Lord on September 8, 2023. He was at peace in his home and surrounded by family. Bro. Tommy's memorial will be celebrated on Friday, September 15, 2023 at 11am at Davis Street Baptist Church in Sulphur Springs, TX with a visitation before hand at 10am. His earthly body will be cremated, and the ashes will be given to the family to memorialize as they see fit.

He was born June 7, 1935 in Lone Oak, Texas, shortly before his family relocated to Idabel, Oklahoma. He was the son of the late Dr. W.F. and Ethel Hall. He is preceded in glory by his parents, his brother Joe Hall, his wife Glenda Hall, and his grandson Robert George Damesworth III.

Bro. Tommy attended Idabel High School and graduated in 1953. He graduated from seminary at Jacksonville Baptist College in 1956. He surrendered his life to the ministry of preaching the Gospel at age 18, and spent 58 years serving as the dedicated pastor of 8 Baptist churches—including 18 years at Davis Street Baptist Church in Sulphur Springs, Texas until his retirement. You'd be hard-pressed to find a man more well liked than Bro. Tommy. It was almost impossible to go anywhere with him,

even hours away from home, without running into someone he knew or whose life he had touched. His own love for the people around him was at the heart of what made Bro. Tommy an incredible pastor, father, "Poppy," and friend. If he had it and you needed it, he wouldn't hesitate to give it. He was tireless, for many years preaching 3 sermons a week, teaching a Sunday School class, and making the rounds to visit the aging and the sick.

He will be especially remembered for his sociability and sense of humor. If you knew Bro. Tommy, you know how special he was. The impact of his life and ministry spread far and wide during his life, both for his congregations and for those he comforted and prayed with one-on-one. Brother Tommy is survived by his children: son David Hall and wife Carol Hall, daughter Jamie White and husband Clarence White, daughter Kathryn Harvick and husband Michael Harvick, and daughter Jodi Damesworth; his grandchildren: Heather Roy and husband Chris Roy, John Hall and wife Lacey Hall, Matthew Hall and wife Laura Hall, Clinton Kirby Brown, Kelsey Brown, Caleb Brown, Calli Damesworth, and Caden Damesworth; his great-grandchildren: Tucker Hall, Abby Roy, Mia Hall, Allie Rose Hall, Andi Hall, Laney Hall, Evan Hall, and Asher Hall; his great-granddaughter Emerson Hall; and his nieces Janet Hall and Laura Hall.



Sandra Williams July 17, 1946 — September 11, 2023

A graveside service for Sandra Williams, age 77 of Como, Texas will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Friday, September 15, 2023 at Reilly Springs Cemetery with Rev. CJ Duffey officiating. Visitation will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. on Thursday, September 14, 2023 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Mrs. Williams passed away on September 11, 2023 at her residence.



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