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CHRISTMAS IS ON DISPLAY IN ELDORADO



Tumbleweed Smith

Tumbleweed Smith

There must be a million items in Jo Parker's Christmas display located in a downtown building in Eldorado. These include figures, nutcrackers, lighted houses, manger scenes, Christmas art on the walls, holiday items on tables and shelves and a model train that runs around the Christmas tree. She calls it the Polar Express.

"This is actually a dream come true," she says. "I taught music in Eldorado schools for forty-four years and when I got ready to retire my son Shay told me I needed something to do. He got this building for me and now I can continue to share the joys of Christmas."

The building's door has Christmas decorations painted on it along with the words "Welcome to the Joys of Christmas." The display is not put away after Christmas. It stays up and is open every weekday all year long. People can go in and see the display in high summer. During Christmas time Jo dresses up like Mrs. Claus and her husband Bob dons a Santa jacket, jeans, boots and a black cowboy hat and calls himself the Texas Santa. He has a beard and looks the part. He tells kids he's a Santa scout looking for a place to feed the reindeer. He and Jo sit in big chairs near the entrance to welcome visitors.

A back wall of the building has an impressive collection of nutcrackers in different sizes. Some play music from The Nutcracker Ballet.

"I have 576 right now. Many of these are gifts from my students. One is from a student who's in Germany with the Army and he sent me a nutcracker from over there. I've found a few in estate sales. I started collecting these in 2000. I have several things all through the display that play various musical selections. Music is kind of my life."

She teaches piano and plans are to have a piano in the building. She is not sure just how many Santas and snowmen she has. Some are hand-carved antiques.

"I have lots and lots of angels. My nativities are probably my favorite. I have over 200 of those. This all started with my mom when I was growing up. She made her own decorations and figures and I have some of them on display. I made some, too. "

Every square inch of space is used for the display. Shay says they might need to put an addition on the building. He says everywhere a family member goes, they pick up items to add to

"My mom used to have Christmas displays in her classrooms and every year she would add new ones. There were boxes and boxes of them that we went through to set this up. It took a gooseneck trailer to haul the items to this building. School kids and other groups have field trips to come see this collection. " Jo retired in July of last year. It took from July to December to set up the display. There is no admission charge and nothing is for sale.

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Answers On Page 3

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M.J. "Buddy" Mitchell

Graveside Service for M.J. Buddy Mitchell, age 89 of Brasher, TX, will be held at the Greenview Cemetery, county road 1168, at 1:00 P.M. on Thursday, December 14, 2023. Mr. Mitchell passed away at Rockcreek Health and Rehab in Sulphur Springs, TX on Sunday, December 10, 2023.

M.J. "Buddy" was born on October 13, 1934, in Emory, TX, to S.P. and Lucinda Mitchell. He graduated high school and started working in electrical work for 28 years as well as doing wiring on North Park Mall, Valley View Mall, and Dallas Market Center. While he was working as an electrician he got married to his wife, Barbara Jo Carter, on June 3, 1955, in a town called Point, TX. Mr. Mitchell was a member of Freedom Church of God.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years Barbara Jo Mitchell; son, Randy Mitchell, and wife Brenda Mitchell; daughter, Anita Schoenky, and husband Ron; grandchildren, Jennifer and husband Jeff Phillips, Amanda Mitchell, Jordan Mitchell, Cole and wife Cassandra Dennis, and Lindsey and husband Micah Webster; great-grandchildren, Sidney Phillips, Reid Phillips, Drake Mitchell, Lailah Dennis, Caleb Dennis,

Parker Webster, Phoenix Webster, Jayden Perry, and Aubree Perry; sister Dollie Sisk of Emory, TX.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Howard "Buck" Mitchell, Grover Mitchell, and Ivan Mitchell; sister, Winfred Jones, Geraldine Risner, Evelyn Mitchell, Winnona Risner, Loretta Snowden, and Louella Nichols; son, Brian Mitchell; son-in-law, Bill Schoenky, and grandson, Joey Schoenky.



Buddy Smith

A funeral service for Buddy Smith, age 87, of Sulphur Bluff was held at 2:00 P.M. on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at First Church, Sulphur Springs with Bro. Jared Davis officiating. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service. Interment followed at Sulphur Bluff Cemetery with Aaron Swanson, Charles Shelton, Joseph Shelton, Ryan Ward, Daniel Huie, Austin Smith, Jordan Smith and Ralph Calhoun serving as pallbearers. Serving as honorary pallbearers were David Swanson, Don Townsend, Joe Don Shelton, Ricky Williams, Chuck Collin, Alton Mitchell and Jim Scherlach.

Mr. Smith passed away peacefully on December 4th, 2023, surrounded by family. Buddy lived a long life of 87 years. Willis "Buddy" Smith was born on June 11th, 1936 in Faulke, Arkansas. He moved to Sulphur Bluff, Tx in 1959. Buddy worked on a ranch in Sulphur Bluff, Texas for over 40 years. When he wasn't working, you would find him fishing, Buddy loved to fish. He retired in 2006.

Buddy is survived by his loving wife of 61 years Willa Dean Smith, son Jeffery Smith and wife Summer, daughter Susan Swanson and husband David. Six grandchildren, granddaughter Casey Huie and husband David, granddaughter Chelsey Fite and wife Sara, granddaughter Sierra Ward and husband Ryan, grandson Aaron Swanson, Austin Smith, and Jordan Smith. He leaves behind four great-grandchildren who

brought him so much joy, Cason, Weston, Mattalie, and Lorabelle Huie.

He is preceded in death by his father and mother, Gene and Nettie Altom Smith, and sister Wanda Lee Calhoun.

Buddy was a simple man, who lived a simple life. He had the biggest heart and was a fierce protector. And, while some might even say he was strong-willed and stubborn, he would go out of his way tohelp someone in need. He loved God, his beautiful wife, and his family.



Nona Vicars

A graveside Service for Nona Vicars, age 89 of Euless, Texas, was held at Greenview Cemetery in Greenview Texas at 2:00 P.M. on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 with Mark Garrett officiating. Serving as pallbearers were Kevin Vicars, Don Pierce, Shane Parks, Sy Hurst, TJ Hingle, Randy Mitchell, and Karter White. Nona passed away on Saturday afternoon, December 2nd,2023 at her home surrounded by her family.

Nona Gay Vicars was born on December 30, 1933, in Lone Oak, Texas to John and Edith Williams Carter. Nona was married to Daniel Vicars on July 4, 1952. He preceded her in death on December 21, 2002, having been together for 50 years. She loved working doing restoration work for fire and water jobs. If you knew Nona, you know she loved her vanilla wafers and Dr Pepper. She loved her trips to Galveston with her sisters. She is survived by her son Kevin, and wife Shannon Clarkin; daughters, Linda Hingle, and Tina Pierce and husband Don Pierce; grandchildren, Ashley Husketh, TJ, and wife Jillian Hingle, Karlie and husband Shane Parks, and Emily Hingle;

Great Grandchildren; Nikki Griffin, Treavor Griffin, Dalton Griffin, Peyton White, Karter White, and Spencer Hingle; sister Jo Mitchell. She was preceded in death by her parents John and Edith Carter; husband Daniel Vicars; brothers; Charles Carter and wife Boots, and Mike Carter; and sister Bonnie Fry.



Beverly Gaston

Beverly was born to Robert Elias Brumfield and Jewell Edna (Jones) Brumfield on September 25, 1953, in Dallas, Texas. After completing her GED, she went on to work as a photo developer for Walmart as well as a professional wallpaper hanger. She is survived by her husband, Kinne Lee Gaston; daughter, Monica Jewell (Roberts) Haley and her husband Anthony; son, Robert Scott Mosher and his wife Gena; grandchildren, Christopher Roy Mosher, Mattyelena Jo Thompson, Alyssa Rose Mosher, Cadence Liberty Runyan, and Creedence Nathaniel Ancil Runyan; great-grandchildren, Kourtlyn Jo Mosher, Tinley Thompson; sisters, Peggy Sue (Brumfield) Grenwelge, Sherri Lou (Brumfield) Scribner, and Betty Carole (Brumfield) Norman.

Mrs. Gaston is preceded in death by her parents, Robert Elias and Jewell Edna Brumfield; siblings, Mary Nathlene (Brumfield) Mitchell, Bobby Frank Brumfield, Eddie Earl Brumfield, Wendell Wayne Brumfield, Faye LaVern (Brumfield) Evans, Harold David Brumfield, Barbara Ann (Brumfield) Calhoun, Jerry Don Brumfield and Delores and Brenda Brumfield two girls who died at birth; her grandparents,

Sam Franklin Jones, Mattie Eunice (Beadles) Jones, James Edward Brumfield, and Callie Falin Brumfield.



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