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VOL. 25 ISSUE 1233, January 17, 2024

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SING ALONG WITH ANNA BANANA

Tumbleweed Smith

Anne Leslie Tijerina of Marshall has sung in Nashville and Carnegie Hall. She has recorded albums of her upbeat music.

"I call it family gospel country," says the talented musician. She sang and recorded for years with her dad, Bill Monigold, calling themselves THE



Tumbleweed Smith DADDY DAUGHTER DUO. The lyrics their songs go like this: Daddy's still fishing with a cane pole and he's still bringing them in. They wrote much of their music.

Two years ago, after a career as an occupational therapist, Ann started entertaining children, singing the songs she learned as a child. She gets the kids singing all verses of familiar tunes like this one:

"Row row row your boat gently down the lake. Don't stand up and rock the boat. That's a big mistake." When she performs she wears a pair of yellow overalls and calls herself Anna Banana, a name she acquired while doing volunteer work in Houston wearing a pair of yellow overalls.

"We were mostly working with Hispanic young people and since my name is Ann they started calling me Anna Banana.

She also performs wearing a blue Hawaiian shirt with a banana design pattern. When she's on her way to a gig, people notice her.

"Try wearing it in the airport going to New York this past summer. It brought a lot of smiles. That's really what it does."

In her appearances at museums, libraries and schools, she fits the songs to the audience. "While I was doing an educational experience with some urban kids in Houston, one of the songs was SHE'LL BE COMING 'ROUND THE MOUNTAIN. The curious youngsters would ask, 'why was she coming around the mountain' and 'why was she driving six white horses.' One said his grandmother did not have a wagon and horses. I asked him what his grandmother drove and he replied 'a red Camaro.' I asked how she got to his house and he said, 'the Beltway.' So we sang 'she'll be coming 'round the Beltway when she comes.' We made it so they could relate to it."

Anna Banana has written about 25 songs and is working on more. She sings and plays the piano and keyboard and is trying to learn to play the harmonica.

I asked Anna where she got her yellow overalls. "Goodwill," she said with a smile.

Miscellaneous

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R	Y	S	I	E	B	G	A	H	B	E	S	O	N	T	R	H	A	R
A	N	A	E	R	C	R	S	E	P	Y	B	O	O	P	I	N	R	E
B	O	I	I	H	I	E	S	R	R	T	I	O	N	R	N	O	T	N
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C	F	E	A	T	V	I	T	N	E	M	E	G	A	G	N	E	D	A
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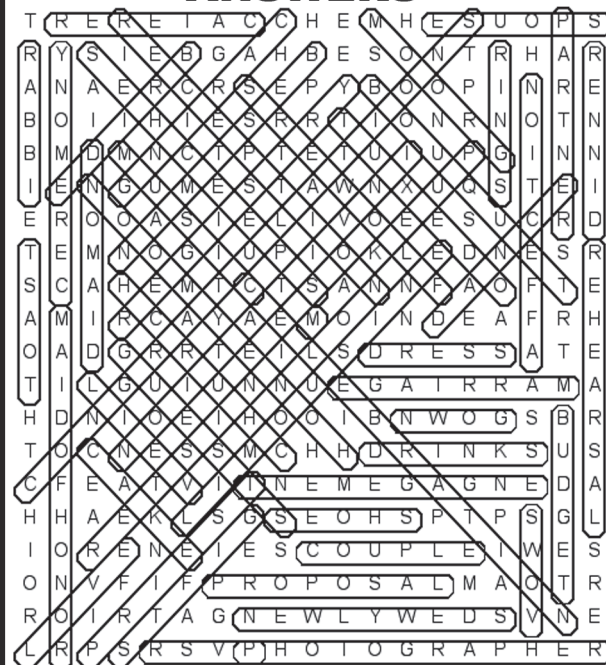
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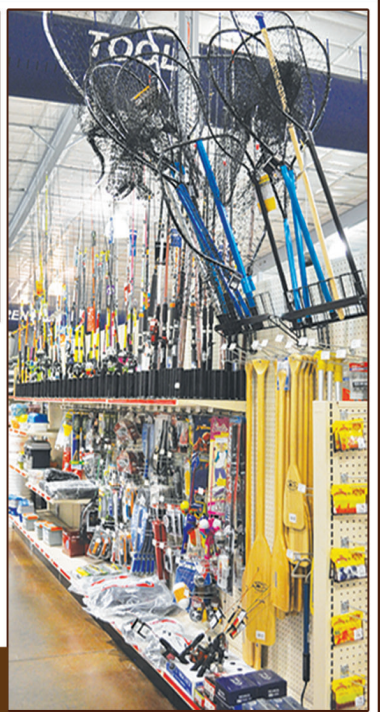
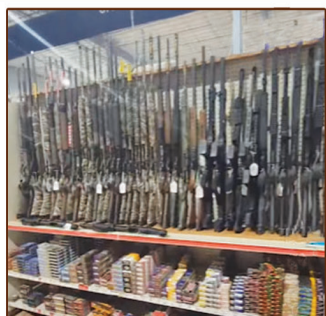
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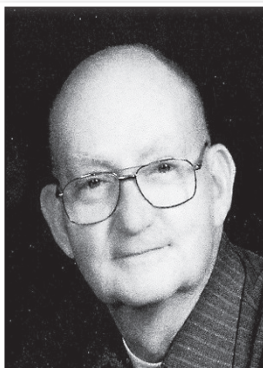
Obits



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Ray Boatright

A graveside Service for Ray Boatright, age 90, of Sulphur Springs, TX was held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 13, 2024 at Restlawn Memorial Park Cemetery, Sulphur Springs, TX. Jim Thompson officiated. Mr. Boatright passed away Wednesday, January 10, 2024 in Sulphur Springs, TX.

Ray was born on October 14, 1933 in Fayetteville, AR to Marvin Dutton Boatright and Eulah Bell (Baker) Boatright. He married Camilla Jane Boatright in Whittier, CA on January 14, 1959. After high school, Ray joined the Navy and served during the Korean Conflict. He also obtained an associate degree in Fire Science and was a Firefighter and Battalion Chief for the City of Brea, CA. Mr. Boatright was a League St. Church of Christ member and was passionate about his mission work in Ensenada, Mexico and Ghana, West Africa.

He is survived by son, David Boatright of Sulphur Springs, TX; daughters, Cindy Jo Johnson and husband Scott of Bossier City, LA, Becky Kile and husband Brian of Georgetown, TX; grandchildren, Matthew Johnson and wife Kaye, Andrew Johnson, Katie Johnson, Courtney Elliott and husband Ben, Cody Kile and wife Maddy; great-grandchildren, Brayden Dennis, Riley Johnson, Noah Johnson, Cullen Elliott and Carsyn Elliott

He was preceded in death by his parents, Marvin Dutton Boatright and Eulah Bell Boatright; wife, Camilla Boatright; and brother, Marvin Boatright.

Memorials may be made to Sonrise Christian High School – Ghana, West Africa, in care of League St. Church of Christ, 1100 S. League St., Sulphur Springs, TX 75482.

Arrangements were under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. The online register can be signed at www.murrayorwosky.com



Joyce Jane Simmons

Graveside services for Joyce Jane Simmons, age 77, of Sulphur Springs were conducted at 12:30 p.m., Friday, January 12, 2024 at Johnson's Lawnhaven Memorial Gardens in San Angelo, TX. There was a visitation from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Thursday, January 11, 2024 at West Oaks Funeral Home in Sulphur Springs, Tx.

Jane passed away on January 9, 2024 at her residence. She was born on July 8, 1946 in Spur, TX to Obie and Emma Havner. Jane was a checker at Wal-Mart for many years and loved spending time with her family.

She is survived by her son Jason Wade Simmons (Alicia), sisters June Gibbons, Judy Prather and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her beloved husband Wilburn Wade Simmons, brothers James Havner, Roger Havner, Ray Havner, and Roy Havner, as well as one sister Ida Cantrell.

Arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com



Nanny "Nancy" Lou (Gillham) Acker

A funeral Service for Nanny "Nancy" Lou (Gillham) Acker, age 80, of Sulphur Springs, TX, was held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, January 12, 2024 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home, Sulphur Springs, TX. Bro. Michael Davis officiated with Bro. Michael Stone and Doug Walker assisting. Interment followed at Oaklawn Cemetery in Cooper, TX. Visitation was held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 11, 2024 at the Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Nanny "Nancy" Lou (Gillham) Acker passed away surrounded by her beloved family on January 8, 2024 in Kaufman, TX. Nancy was born May 20, 1943 to Ellie Annis Robinson Gillham and Morris Paul Gillham in Cooper, Delta County, Texas.

She is survived by her sisters, Ella Mitchell of Austin, TX, Helen Brewer (Lawrence) of Sulphur Springs, TX; brother, Morris "Paul" Gillham (Laura) of Horton, TX; daughters, Dorcas Dodd Vittatote of Sulphur Springs, TX; Sherri

Walker (Doug) of Post Oak Bend, TX; grandchildren, Nathaniel Dodd (Kim) of Gilmer, TX, Jeremy Dodd of Sulphur Springs, TX, Kayli Hicks of Sulphur Springs, TX, Brendan Henderson of Sulphur Springs, TX, Ashley Ventura of Bazoria County, TX, Stephanie Fuller (Jonathan) of Weatherford, TX, Shawn Walker of Post Oak Bend, TX, Ethan Mitchell (Hayley) of Flower Mound, TX, Meagan Acker of Hugo, OK, Misty Acker of Hugo, OK, and Shane Acker (Kiley) of Hugo, OK. She had nineteen great grandchildren as well as a host of nieces and nephews.

Nancy was preceded in death by her parents, Morris Gillham and Ellie Robinson Gillham; sisters, Ruby Gillham Matlock, Carol Gillham and her beloved son, Daniel Acker.

She also has four fur children who are waiting for her over the rainbow bridge, Lou Lou, Roxy, Chocy and Doby.

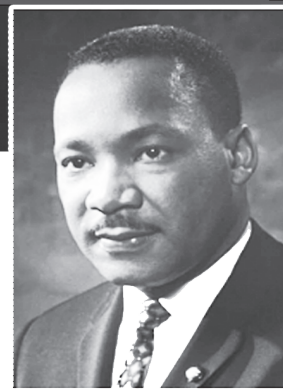
She will be missed by all that knew her.

Arrangements were under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. The online register can be signed at www.murrayorwosky.com



Martin Luther King Jr.

American Baptist Minister, Activist and Political Philosopher



Martin Luther King Jr. (born Michael King Jr.; January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968) was an American Baptist minister, activist, and political philosopher who was one of the most prominent leaders in the civil rights movement from 1955 until his assassination in 1968. A black church leader and a son of early civil rights activist and minister Martin Luther King Sr., King advanced civil rights for people of color in the United States through the use of nonviolent resistance and nonviolent civil disobedience against Jim Crow laws and other forms of discrimination in the United States.

King participated in and led marches for the right to vote, desegregation, labor rights, and other civil rights. He oversaw the 1955 Montgomery bus boycott and later became the first president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). As president of the SCLC, he led the unsuccessful Albany Movement in Albany, Georgia, and helped organize some of the nonviolent 1963 protests in Birmingham, Alabama. King was one of the leaders of the 1963 March on Washington, where he delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, and helped organize two of the three Selma to Montgomery marches during the 1965 Selma voting rights movement. The civil rights movement achieved pivotal legislative gains in the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

The SCLC put into practice the tactics of nonviolent protest with some success by strategically choosing the methods and places in which protests were carried out. There were several dramatic standoffs with segregationist authorities, who frequently responded violently. King was jailed several times. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) director J. Edgar Hoover considered King a radical and made him an object of the FBI's COINTELPRO from 1963 forward. FBI agents investigated him for possible communist ties, spied on his personal life, and secretly recorded him. In 1964, the FBI mailed King a threatening anonymous letter, which he interpreted as an attempt to make him commit suicide.

On October 14, 1964, King won the Nobel Peace Prize for combating racial inequality through nonviolent resistance. In his final years, he expanded his focus to include opposition towards poverty and the Vietnam War. In 1968, King was planning a national occupation of Washington, D.C., to be called the Poor People's Campaign, when he was assassinated on April 4 in Memphis, Tennessee. His death was followed by national mourning, as well as anger leading to riots in many U.S. cities. King was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977 and the Congressional Gold Medal in 2003. Martin Luther King Jr. Day was established as a holiday in cities and states throughout the United States beginning in 1971; the federal holiday was first observed in 1986. Hundreds of streets in the U.S. have been renamed in his honor, and King County in Washington was rededicated for him. The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., was dedicated in 2011.

King has become a national icon in the history of American liberalism and American progressivism. His main legacy was to secure progress on civil rights in the U.S. Just days after King's assassination, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1968. Title VIII of the Act, commonly known as the Fair Housing Act, prohibited discrimination in housing and housing-related transactions on the basis of race, religion, or national origin (later expanded to include sex, familial status, and disability). This legislation was seen as a tribute to King's struggle in his final years to combat residential discrimination. The day following King's assassination, teacher Jane Elliott conducted her first "Blue Eyes/Brown Eyes" exercise with her class of elementary school students to help them understand King's death as it related to racism.

King's wife Coretta Scott King was active in matters of social justice and civil rights until her death in 2006. The same year that King was assassinated, she established the King Center in Atlanta, Georgia, dedicated to preserving his legacy and the work of championing nonviolent conflict resolution and tolerance worldwide. Their son, Dexter King, serves as the center's chairman. Daughter Yolanda King, who died in 2007, was a motivational speaker, author and founder of Higher Ground Productions, an organization specializing in diversity training.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Beginning in 1971, cities and states established annual holidays to honor King. On November 2, 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill creating a federal holiday to honor King. Observed for the first time on January 20, 1986, it is called Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Following President George H. W. Bush's 1992 proclamation, the holiday is observed on the third Monday of January each year, near the time of King's birthday. On January 17, 2000, for the first time, Martin Luther King Jr. Day was officially observed in all fifty U.S. states. Arizona (1992), New Hampshire (1999) and Utah (2000) were the last states to recognize the holiday. Utah previously celebrated the holiday under the name Human Rights Day.

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