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# The Millennium Shopper

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VOL. 25 ISSUE 1238, February 28, 2024

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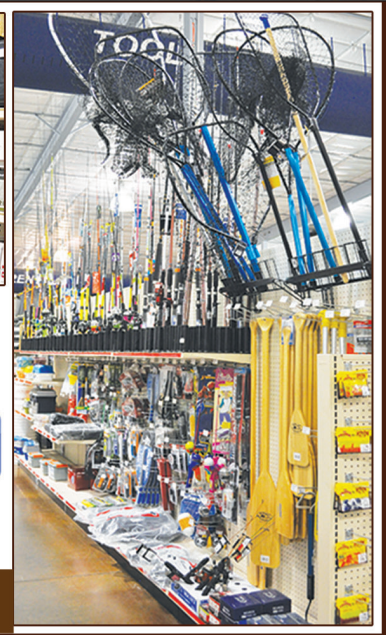
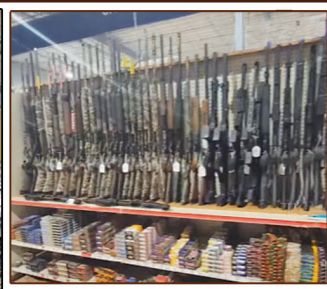
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Tumbleweed Smith

### Tumbleweed Smith

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Paul trains mules to ride or pull at his place in Medina. He'll also come to your place to teach you about mules.

"The mules are easy to train and get going, but it's the people that need the training about how they need to properly communicate with that mule."

Six generations of his family have lived on the property.

"People come here to my place. Most of them stay three days, some will stay a week. We teach them the basis of how to properly and effectively communicate with their animals. There's not but about six or eight people in the United States that do this."

He's been training mules twenty years, more for riding than pulling.

"Once I got started with them it became pretty obvious that I could get along well with them. I could do things that other folks, more often than not, had issues with."

He says the further west you go the more interest you find in mules.

"The maintenance is much less than a horse. They don't require much vet care. Mules, under most conditions, don't need to be shod."

Some mules have a substantial price tag.

"They are getting more and more popular. A good solid mule will start somewhere around six thousand dollars and may go up to sixty thousand."

Paul defines some mule terminology:

"A donkey is a working animal that originated from a wild species in Africa. Now domesticated, they along with mules, helped build highways, railroads and other things when our country was developing. A donkey has longer ears than a mule and is generally shorter than a mule.

"A mule is a hybrid cross between a male donkey and a female horse. The question now is what if you cross a male horse to a female donkey. That cross is called a hinnie. There is very little difference between a hinnie and a mule. There aren't as many hinnies as there are mules.

"A jack is a male donkey, also known as a jackass. A jenny is a female donkey. A burro is a small donkey. A male mule is a horse mule. A female mule is a molly mule.

"The mule, having fifty percent donkey and fifty percent horse, gets its athletic ability, speed and ease of movement from the horse."

# GUN SHOW

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Find and circle all of the old TV shows that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of an additional old TV show.

S	I	L	L	I	G	E	I	B	O	D	E	E	R	A	N	N	O	D
W	A	L	T	O	N	S	P	E	Y	T	O	N	P	L	A	C	E	T
A	F	N	G	I	X	A	T	V	H	O	D	D	C	O	U	P	L	E
L	L	E	A	R	M	E	R	E	H	W	E	S	L	E	T	S	O	Y
A	I	R	A	M	E	M	U	R	P	H	Y	B	R	O	W	N	V	D
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E	E	D	V	F	N	S	F	H	L	E	C	O	O	O	P	E	O	D
T	R	A	I	L	I	E	R	I	O	E	R	N	D	N	J	Y	A	Y
S	E	B	T	Y	T	M	C	L	R	R	R	C	E	S	N	A	T	D
O	D	O	I	I	H	I	L	L	G	R	N	A	A	G	Q	A	K	W
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P	A	O	S	U	N	O	I	L	L	O	C	D	R	I	D	K	R	E
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A I R A M E M U R P H Y B R O W N V D  
L P M E R E E Y L M I A M V I C E O  
J P A E T G L N Y S Y M N K S T Y B O  
E E D V F N S F H L E C O O P E O D  
T R A I L I E R I O E R N D N J Y A Y  
S E B T Y T M C L R R R C E S N A T D  
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P A O S U N O I L L O C D R I D K R E  
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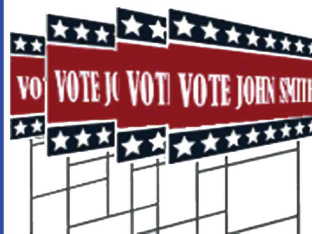
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# Obits



## WEST OAKS FUNERAL HOME

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### **Coach Don Poe**

Funeral services for Coach Don Poe, age 81 of Hideaway, Texas, were scheduled for 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at the First Baptist Church of Lindale with Dr. Tom Buck officiating. Interment followed at Concord Cemetery in Quitman.

Don passed away Thursday, February 22, 2024, in Tyler. He was born August 17, 1942, in Quitman to the late Nolie Martin and Francis Floydean (Moore) Poe. Don has lived in Hideaway for the last 23 years and was previously of Irving, Sulphur Springs, McKinney, and Lewisville. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Lindale where he served as a Deacon. Don retired after many years as an Athletic Director and Football Coach. He was a member of the Texas High School Coaches Association and the Texas High School Athletic Director's Association. He was inducted into the Texas High School Athletic Directors Association Hall of Honor and the Irving ISD Hall of Fame. He impacted many lives throughout his career and even during retirement. He loved playing golf and spending time with his beloved family.

Don was preceded in death by his wife, Patricia "Pat" Poe; brother, Billy Poe; and sister, Debbie Poe. He is survived by his son, Toby Poe and wife, Mandy of Hideaway; daughter, Teena Story and husband, Kyle of Prosper; brother, Ron Poe and wife, Betty of Hideaway; grandchildren, Shay Stephens and husband, Justin; Tyler Story and wife, Lauren; Luke Poe, and Casey Poe; great grandson, Steele Stephens; and numerous nieces, nephews, and other loving family members and friends. Serving as pallbearers will be Mike Poe, Jon Poe, Matt Poe, Bill Poe, Tyler Story, Luke Poe, Casey Poe and Tim Clemmons.

Family received friends from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday, February 26, 2024, at Caudle-Rutledge-Daugherty Funeral Home in Lindale.



### **Cindy Newkirk** June 21, 1959 — February 22, 2024

A celebration of life service for Cindy Newkirk, age 64, of Sulphur Springs, TX was held at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at Murray Orwosky Funeral Home, Sulphur Springs, TX. Visitation was held at 2:00 p.m. Cindy went home to be with the Lord peacefully at her home on Thursday, February 22, 2024.

Cynthia Diane Newkirk was born to John Bernice and Mary Ann (Cayton) Goldsmith on June 21, 1959, in Sulphur Springs, TX. She married the love of her life Thurman Newkirk on June 1, 1996, in Sulphur Springs, TX. Cindy was a believer in Jesus Christ and was a member of the Central Baptist Church in Sulphur Springs. She loved collecting purses over the years.

She is survived by her husband, Thurman Newkirk; daughter, Cayla Rae Newkirk; son, Colton John Newkirk; brother, Bert Wayne Goldsmith; sisters, Debbie Hammons, Irene Goldsmith, and Mistie Knighton.

Cindy is preceded in death by her parents, John Bernice and Mary Ann Goldsmith, brother, Ronnie Goldsmith, sisters, Carolyn McCurdy, Linda Walton, and Regina Goldsmith.



### **Billie Ruth Tunnell** August 30, 1927 ~ February 23, 2024 (age 96)

Funeral Service for Billie Ruth Tunnell will be at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, March 3, 2024 at Oakland Gospel Church with graveside to follow at Ridgeway Cemetery.

Billie Ruth Tunnell was born on August 30, 1927, in Sulphur Springs, Texas to Buster and Lulu Burns. Billie graduated from Sulphur Springs High School and moved to Dallas, Texas. Billie had a successful career with Southwestern Bell and AT&T for 35 years until her retirement. Billie had a love for traveling.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Buster and Lulu Burns and siblings Cecil Ferrell, Truitt Burns, Taylor Burns, Bobbie Burns, Robbie Burns, Luther Burns, Tommy Joe Burns, Baby Burns, and grandson Kendall Eric Tunnell.

She is survived her sister Betty Lou Hobbs, sons and daughter-in-laws, Mike and Kathy Tunnell and Steve and Karen Tunnell. Grandchildren Karissa and Deryk Agnew, Cole and Annie Tunnell, and Justanni and Will Buck. Great grandchildren Shane Allen Agnew, Adelynn Gayle Agnew, Claire Rebecca Tunnell, Thomas Michael Tunnell, Weslee Grace Buck, and Sadee Mae Buck. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. [www.westoaksfuneralhome.com](http://www.westoaksfuneralhome.com)

### **Kevin Wade Matheny**

Kevin was born August 31, 1977 and he died February 25, 2024 at the age of 46. There will be a visitation on Friday March 1, 2024 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at West Oaks Funeral Home. The funeral service will be Saturday March 2, 2024 at 2:00 PM at West Oaks Funeral Home. Interment will be Saturday March 2, 2024 at 3:00 PM at the North Hopkins Cemetery.



# FAMOUS TEXAN

# Audie Murphy

*Actor, Medal Winning Military Veteran*



Audie Leon Murphy (20 June 1925 – 28 May 1971) was an American soldier, actor, and songwriter. He was widely celebrated as the most decorated American combat soldier of World War II, and has been described as the most highly decorated soldier in U.S. history. He received every military combat award for valor available from the United States Army, as well as French and Belgian awards for heroism. Murphy received the Medal of Honor for valor that he demonstrated at the age of 19 for single-handedly holding off a company of German soldiers for an hour at the Colmar Pocket in France in January 1945, before leading a successful counterattack while wounded and out of ammunition.

Murphy was born into a large family of sharecroppers in Hunt County, Texas. After his father abandoned them, his mother died when he was a teenager. Murphy left school in fifth grade to pick cotton and find other work to help support his family; his skill with a hunting rifle helped feed his family.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, Murphy's older sister helped him to falsify documentation about his birthdate in order to meet the minimum age requirement for enlisting in the military. Turned down initially for being underweight by the Army, Navy, and the Marine Corps, he eventually was able to enlist in the Army. He first saw action in the 1943 Allied invasion of Sicily; then in 1944 he participated in the Battle of Anzio, the liberation of Rome, and the invasion of southern France. Murphy fought at Montlilimar and led his men on a successful assault at L'Omet quarry near Cleurie in northeastern France in October. Despite suffering from multiple illnesses and wounds throughout his service, Murphy became one of the most praised and decorated soldiers of World War II. He is credited with killing 241 enemy soldiers.

After the war, Murphy embarked on a 21-year acting career. He played himself in the 1955 autobiographical film *To Hell and Back*, based on his 1949 memoirs of the same name, but most of his roles were in Westerns. He made guest appearances on celebrity television shows and starred in the series *Whispering Smith*. Murphy was a fairly accomplished songwriter. He bred quarter horses in California and Arizona, and became a regular participant in horse racing.

Because Murphy had what would today be described as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), then known as "battle fatigue", he slept with a loaded handgun under his pillow. He looked for solace in addictive sleeping pills. In his last few years, he was plagued by money problems but refused offers to appear in alcohol and cigarette commercials because he did not want to set a bad example. Murphy died in a plane crash in Virginia in 1971, shortly before his 46th birthday. He was interred with military honors at Arlington National Cemetery, where his grave is one of the most visited.

## EARLY LIFE

Murphy was born on 20 June 1925, in Kingston, a small rural community in Hunt County in northeastern Texas. He was the seventh of twelve children born to Emmett Berry Murphy (1887–1976) and his wife Josie Bell Murphy (Killian; 1891–1941). The Murphys were sharecroppers, of English, Irish, Scots-Irish, Scottish, and German descent. Although Murphy's birth date is listed as 1924 in his enlistment papers, his biographer David A. Smith concluded that he was born in 1925, based on statements made by his *To Hell and Back* co-author David McClure, his California driver's license, and by Murphy himself.

As a child, Murphy was a loner with mood swings and an explosive temper. He grew up in northeastern Texas around the towns of Farmersville, Greenville, and Celeste, where he attended elementary school. Murphy dropped out of school in fifth grade and got a job picking cotton for a dollar a day (equivalent to \$21 in 2022) to help support his family; he also became skilled with a rifle, hunting small game to help feed them. After his mother died of endocarditis and pneumonia in 1941, he worked at a radio repair shop and at a combination general store, garage and gas station in Greenville. Hunt County authorities placed his three youngest siblings in Boles Children's Home, a Christian orphanage in Quinlan. After the war, he bought a house in Farmersville for his eldest sister Corinne and her husband, Poland Burns. His other siblings briefly shared the home. The loss of his mother stayed with Murphy throughout his life. He later stated: "She died when I was sixteen. She had the most beautiful hair I've ever seen. It reached almost to the floor. She rarely talked; and always seemed to be searching for something. What it was I don't know. We didn't discuss our feelings. But when she passed away, she took something of me with her. It seems I've been searching for it ever since."

## MILITARY CAREER:

Murphy had always wanted to be a soldier. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, he tried to enlist, but the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps all turned him down for being underweight and underage. After his sister provided an affidavit that falsified his birth date by a year, he was accepted by the U.S. Army on 30 June 1942. According to his biographer David A. Smith, Murphy acknowledged his birth date was falsified at his enlistment in a 1950 interview with the *Austin Statesman*: "'The doctor back home couldn't remember exactly when I was born,' he said with a smile, 'so I was 18.'" After basic training at Camp Wolters, he was sent to Fort Meade for advanced infantry training. During basic training, he earned the Marksman Badge with Rifle Component Bar and Expert Badge with

In January 1944, Murphy was promoted to staff sergeant. He was hospitalized in Naples with malaria on 21 January and was unable to participate in the initial landing at the Anzio beachhead. He returned on 29 January and participated in the First Battle of Cisterna, and was made a platoon sergeant in Company B following the battle. He returned with the 3rd Division to Anzio, where they remained for four months. Taking shelter from the weather in an abandoned farmhouse on 2 March, Murphy and his platoon killed the crew of a passing German tank. He then crawled out alone close enough to destroy the tank with rifle grenades, for which he received the Bronze Star with "V" device.

Murphy's first Purple Heart was for a heel wound received in a mortar shell blast on 15 September 1944 in northeastern France. His first Silver Star came after he killed four and wounded three at a German machine gun position on 2 October at L'Omet quarry in the Cleurie valley. Three days later, Murphy crawled alone towards the Germans at L'Omet, carrying an SCR-536 radio and directing his men for an hour while the Germans fired directly at him. When his men finally took the hill, 15 Germans had been killed and 35 wounded. Murphy's actions earned him a Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster for his Silver Star. He was awarded a battlefield commission to second lieutenant on 14 October, which elevated him to platoon leader. While en route to Brouvelieures on 26 October, the 3rd Platoon of Company B was attacked by a German sniper group. Murphy captured two before being shot in the hip by a sniper; he returned fire and shot the sniper between the eyes. At the 3rd General Hospital at Aix-en-Provence, the removal of gangrene from the wound caused partial loss of his hip muscle and kept him out of combat until January. Murphy received his first Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster for his Purple Heart for this injury. After he ran out of ammunition, Murphy rejoined his men, disregarding his own injury, and led them back to repel the Germans. He insisted on remaining with his men while his wounds were treated. For his actions that day, he was awarded the Medal of Honor. The 3rd Infantry Division was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for its actions at the Colmar Pocket, giving Murphy a Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster for the emblem.



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