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#### THE RESTORED PALACE IN SPUR



**Tumbleweed Smith** 

Tumbleweed SmiWhen the Palace Theater in Spur closed in the 1970s it ended up belonging to the chamber of commerce, which offered to sell it to the county historical commission for ten dollars. The commission accepted the offer. They took a survey of citizens to see if they were interested in seeing the theater restored. They got a positive, enthusiastic response. "The Palace was

**Tumbleweed Smith** a positive, enthusiastic response. "The Palace was built in 1929," says Harry Bob Martin, Spur historian. "When we got it in 2007 the roof was falling in, bricks were falling off of it. It was just a wreck. It leaked like a sieve when it rained. We had no money."

Harry says the historical group got busy raising money for the huge remodeling job. They sold memorial bricks for forty dollars and got some grant money. "In six weeks we raised \$36,000."One of the first things they wanted to do was to restore the big Palace sign on the building. They hired a sign company in Abilene to do the work. It was a big event when the lighted sign was turned on. "The whole town was standing in the street in front of the theater. When they turned on the sign it blew the street lights out. The power company got it fixed right quick. We put it on a timer and it comes on every night. That was the beginning of our restoration effort."

The last movie Roy Rogers made, McIntosh and PJ, was filmed around Spur. The city has a very active homecoming event every year when graduates of Spur High School return for a big weekend of reunion and celebration. It's open to all classes. At one homecoming the historical commission rented some projection equipment and a screen and showed McIntosh and PJ in the Palace Theater.

"After the showing a guy was walking out and came up to me and said what a great event that was. He had graduated from Spur in 1964 when the theater was still showing movies. He asked me what was next for the theater. I told him it was just a dollar thing now and we were short on funds. He asked me if \$50,000 would help. I said yeah."

The man controlled funds for an entity that awarded grants and told Harry to apply. That man ended up contributing \$100,000 to the rebuilding of the Palace. There were other grants and fundraisers. After the building was completed, the commission looked into digital projection equipment. "We took bids and bought some at a good price. Then we started looking for a screen. We built a steel frame for it. That was \$1,500. I found the screen that's up there now at Charley's Movie Screen Company in Michigan. I bought it online for a little over \$600. It's 28 feet wide."

The theater now has stage presentations and movies. "We charge five dollars for an adult ticket. Three dollars for a child."

I had the pleasure of performing my new one-man show OUTRAGEOUS WOMEN OF TEXAS CHARATER at the Palace.

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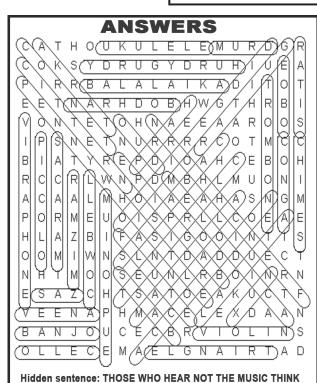
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#### Lynda Kay Griggs

Lynda Kay Griggs, age 79, of Sulphur Springs, Texas, passed away Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at Christus Mother Frances Hospital in Sulphur Springs. A Celebration of Life for Lynda will be held at a later date.

Lynda was born on December 21, 1944 in Cooper, Texas to Homer and Ruby (Phillips) Blevins. She married Howard Griggs in Sulphur Springs in 1981. Lynda was a dental assistant for over 20 years and loved her job and the opportunities it presented to meet so people, many of which became long-time friends. Lynda enjoyed painting with oils and creating beautiful artwork, including seascapes, that will be cherished by family and friends for years to come. She was a very active member of the Southside Church of Christ and will be missed by all who knew her.

She is survived by her daughters, Sherri James of Sulphur Springs, TX; Stephanie Hudson of Arlington, TX; son, Jason Shaw of Fort Worth, TX; stepsons, Ken Griggs and wife Sherry, Jeff Griggs and wife Laura, Mitch Griggs and wife Andrea; grandchildren, Jered Whitten, Anthony Smith, Scott Hudson, Jr., Harley Hudson, Tracee Shaw, Jonathan

Shaw, Leah Griggs, Dawn Griggs, Jordan Griggs, Justin Griggs, Tara Griggs, and Price Griggs; great-grandchildren, Savannah, Ava, Kevin, Andreas, and Isabella; sisters, Sandi Wallace of Sulphur Springs, and Tonya King of Mabank; and numerous nieces and nephews. Lynda was preceded in death by her parents, Homer and Ruby Blevins; husband, Howard Griggs; mother who raised her, Clara Blevins; sisters, Jo Ann Harrison and Barbara Middlebrook; brother, Ronnie Blevins; and granddaughter, Jessica Griggs.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Southside Church of Christ, 1208 S Davis Street, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482.



#### Garry Ray Strickland

A funeral services for Garry Ray Strickland, age 64, of Commerce, TX was held at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at West Oaks Funeral Home with Bro. David Burns officiating. Interment followed at Brashear Cemetery with Danny Pompa, Jeff Strickland, Cody Tally, Delbert Miller, David Petty and Jeff Miller serving as pallbearers. Paul Garrett and Kade Millsap served as honorary pallbearers. Visitation was held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Monday, March 25, 2024 at West Oaks Funeral Home. Garry passed away on Saturday, March 23, 2024 at his home. He was born on September 5 th 1959 in Commerce. TX, the son of Delton Strickland and Mary Lawler. Garry was a member of Brashear Baptist Church. He married the love of his life Regina Millsap Strickland on April 25, 1980 in Cumby, TX. She survives along with his two daughters, Krystal and husband Chad Reed of Cooper and Ashley and husband Casey Smith of Sulphur Springs,

grandchildren, Lexie Reed, Logan Wright, Rylie Reed, Bryson Wright and Brooklyn Smith. Mom and step-dad, Mary and Jerry Lawler of Commerce, brother and sister-in-law, Jason and Jaime Lawler of Commerce, Brother-in-law and sister-in-law Bart and Lisa Millsap of Alba, TX and multiple nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father Delton Strickland and grandparents.



#### Barbara Bradley

Barbara Bradley of Sulphur Springs, Texas, at the age of 73 went to her Heavenly home on March 24th, 2024, after an extended battle with health issues. She was born to Sam Kyser Fowler and Mary Louise Atwell Fowler in Crenshaw County, Alabama. She is survived by two sisters, Betty Baum, and Mary Bolding; her children, Melinda (Carl) McDonald and Michael (Jennifer) Barron; her grandchildren Anna Nicole (Pierce) Parker, Kallie (Tyler) Lightbody and Griffin (Elissa) Barron; her great-grandchildren Brooklynn, Adi Jo, Beckham, and Amberleigh. She was preceded in death by her parents, her brothers, Sam Jenkins Fowler and Bill Fowler and her sister Joyce Garner.

Barbara held tightly to faith, family, and friends. After meeting her, it wouldn't be very long before she mentioned one of her grandchildren or great grandchildren who affectionately called her Nina. When stepping into her room, you could

clearly see that faith and family were two constants in her life. From the many pictures of her grandchildren and great grandchildren to the devotionals she kept by her bed, you could see that she surrounded herself with the things she held most dear. Others who had the opportunity to know her, experienced the devotion that came with being acquainted with her. She will be deeply missed by all those she left behind. However, she is experiencing, firsthand, the glorious details of how beautiful Heaven truly is.

A graveside service will be held at Sulphur Springs City Cemetery at 7th St, W California St., Sulphur Springs, TX 75482 on Wednesday, March 27th, 2024, at 10:00 am. West Oaks Funeral Home and Jason Connor of Trinity Harvest will be officiating.

"Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them." - Psalm 139:16

## Totaleclipsesstx.com

The Solar Eclipse of 2024 website. Check it out for more information.

# TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE APRIL 8, 2024 SEATTLE DENVER DALLAS DALLAS DALLAS MIAMI LOS ANGELES LOS ANGELES

#### By Amanda Tredway

\_Not long ago, a couple from Seattle, Washington, visited the Hopkins County Chamber of Commerce office, asking where eight people could stay the weekend of April 5-8, 2024. They are coming to Sulphur Springs for the eclipse and also coming will be six others from across the United States from Belgium.

They have no connection to Hopkins County other than they want to be on the center line for the total solar eclipse.

We have always thought Sulphur Springs was a great local gathering spot. On April 8, it will be an international attraction.

If the predictions that we are hearing are correct, we could see the population of Hopkins County double for this celestial event. It's not a matter of if visitors will come, it's just a matter of how many thousands will be here.

"Astronomy Magazine" lists Sulphur Springs as the eighth best place in North America to watch the eclipse -- not the eight-best in Texas or even in the U.S., but in North America.

If anyone tells you this isn't a big deal, they are misinformed. People come from literally across the world to be on the eclipse centerline. And, the centerline will run straight through Sulphur Springs on April 8, 2024.

We have one of the longest viewing times in the nation. We have close proximity to DFW and Love Field airports and we are smack dab in the middle of the eclipse centerline.

For visitors, we say, come enjoy Hopkins County hospitality.

For our local citizens, the Eclipse 2024 Committee is saying gear up and get ready.

On April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse will carve a narrow path of totality from southwest to northeast across 13 U.S. states. It will start in southwest Texas and continue through Sulphur Springs which is on the centerline of the path of totality.

The total eclipse will start at 1:42 p.m. and last for 4 minutes, 27 seconds. Only eight other spots in the US will have a longer viewing time, all are in Texas: Sulphur Springs has the best weather annually on April 8 of any place on the centerline. The length of the visual eclipse lessens as it moves northeast, so Texas is the optimal viewing location.

By comparison, the last total solar eclipse in the U.S. was 2017. A small town in Oregon, Madras, was positioned in the same scenario as Sulphur Springs, it is 100 miles from Portland and is mostly rural. The eclipse was on a Monday, same as in 2024. Madras is served by three state highways, but no interstate. The Madras area had between 40,000 and 50,000 visitors that weekend, depending on where you draw the boundaries. So, that's what we are preparing for.

Committees dealing with safety and infrastructure issues have been meeting for the last 18 months. Restaurants, schools, churches and retail stores have been informed as to what is coming and they are preparing. Information can be accessed through one website.

Our website is TotalEclipseSSTx.com which will serve as the primary information dissemination tool for the event. It will be the clearing house for all eclipse related activities and events, including local places to stay, eat and visit.

You can contact us or find events at TotalEclipseSSTX.com.

Restaurants and businesses which are normally closed on Sunday and Monday plan to be open those days.

Most school districts in the county plan to take Monday, April 8, 2024, as a school holiday, since the eclipse starts at 12:25 p.m. and ends locally at 3:08 p.m. We have about 300 hotel rooms in Sulphur Springs, along with several RV parks, and those are full. Signature Solar has purchased 50,000 special glasses that are available at the county schools or at the Chamber of Commerce. The total eclipse is coming, so join us on the centerline.



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