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PAGE 2

BRET'S ECLIPSE PARTY

Tumbleweed Smith

Bret Cali has the general store at Bend, a small place near the Colorado River south of San Saba. It has beer and music and the flavor of Luckenbach. "Some people say it's the new Luckenbach," says Bret. "It's kind of hard to find, like Luckenbach. Hondo Crouch, who owned Luckenbach, said if you

Tumbleweed Smith can't find it you're not supposed to be there."

Bret's entrepreneurial talents have taken him all over the world in several different types of endeavors, including a landscaping company in England. This time it's throwing a big eclipse party the first weekend in April at Lometa, not far from Bend. "I'm calling it The Sun Festival," says Bret. "It's at the Lometa Fair Grounds, about 80 to 100 acres. I have plenty of clean portapotties, a big sound crew and quite a few awesome artists who will be performing Friday, Saturday and Sunday before the total eclipse on Monday the 8th of April. Ray Wylie Hubbard will appear at 8 PM Sunday night. I'm trying to mix up the music a little bit because these people are from all over the world so I've got reggae, world music and of course some Texas country. There won't be any music during the eclipse."

The center of Texas is considered prime viewing for the eclipse and tons of activities are planned for the millions of visitors who are expected to come to the area. "['m making sure the people who come to my event have everything they need on site so they won't have to leave. That includes a variety of food and plenty of ice. We'll have all sorts of vendors. Goods and services in all of these areas are going to be wiped out. Cars are going to be backed up on all the roads. Getting to places will be very difficult. Security is going to be tight with two helicopter staging areas. We're right next to Lampasas, one of the epicenters for viewing. NASA has named it one of the prime areas. All hotel rooms in Lampasas were booked two years ago. I was real lucky to get the festival grounds. I'm not expecting a wild crowd. I want to keep it relaxed and not overcrowded. We'll probably have some people sitting around a fire playing guitars in the evening. The park itself is beautiful."

Bret has staged musical events most of his adult life, so he knows what's involved. He's planning on at least a thousand people showing up. "I'm charging half or less than half of what other people are charging. For one person, camping for two nights, seeing all the shows and everything it's \$250. I'm giving the city half of that."

The stage is at the bottom of a hill so the viewpoint to watch the bands is ideal. Musical groups scheduled to appear in Lometa are Two Tons of Steel, The Paul Logan Band and Gus Clark on Friday; The Bode Barker Band, Thomas Michael Riley, Ryan Glenn and The Honky Tonk Heat plus The Lampasas All Stars on Saturday; Ray Wylie Hubbard, Watusi World Music and Round The Roots Riddim on Sunday. Joe King Carrasco and Rochelle and the Sidewinders will perform after the eclipse on Monday. In addition there will be open jams daily and nightly. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own instruments. The Lometa Regional Park is on US Highway 183 in Lometa.

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Answers On Page 3

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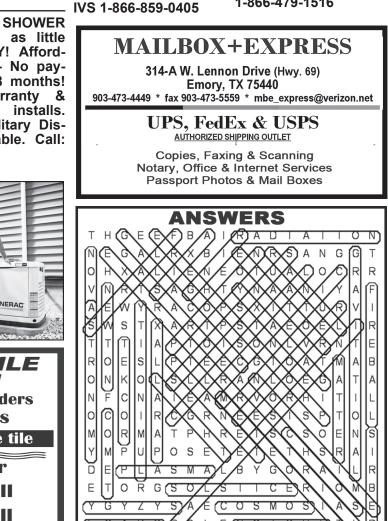
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The hidden message is: THE BIG BANG THEORY WAS FIRST

PROPOSED BY GEORGES LEMAÎTRE

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Mary Bonham February 15, 1928 - March 27, 2024

Mary Bonham, age 96, of Sulphur Springs passed away peacefully at her home on March 27, 2024 surrounded by her family. A memorial service was held Monday April 1st at 2:00pm at West Oaks Funeral Home, 500 Hillcrest Dr., Sulphur Springs, Texas. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service starting at 1:00pm. Mary Louise Spencer Bonham was born February 15, 1928 in Hopkins County to Johnny and Annie Kitts Spencer. The 3rd of 5 children, Mary grew up and stayed in her community always working, starting as a beauty operator on Oak Avenue. She had three children with her first husband Bill Adair, the first being stillborn, Rhonda, and then Billy Ray. Tragedy struck when they lost their youngest child, Billy Ray, at the age of 7 in 1968. Mary later married Sam Bonham joining him in business in the Sulphur Springs Parts Company and later Sam and Mary expanded the J-B Weld Company across the United States. Sam passed away in 1989, but Mary never slowed down, bringing her daughter Rhonda into the business as they expanded the company worldwide. Mary remained active

in the business until it was sold in 2009. Mary excelled in anything she did, whether it was business, horse racing, cracking and selling pecans or philanthropy, and in later years quilting. The namesake of the local Kid's Kingdom playground, Mary's donation and foresight has provided tens of thousands of kids a safe and fun place to play at the local Buford Park. Although Mary worked at an early age instead of continuing her own education, she was adamant that higher education was imperative to success. She established several scholarship funds for Hopkins County students as well as endowments at Texas A&M University-Commerce (TAMU-C) to help students pursue their dreams. Her philanthropy at TAMU-C earned her an honorary doctorate degree with the university. Mary was named Citizen of the Year, a Hopkins County Healthcare Foundation Gala chair, as well as numerous other awards. Mary impacted many lives in the Hopkins County community. Mary was of the Baptist faith and a long time member of Lake Highlands Baptist Church.

Mary is survived by her daughter Rhonda Young and husband Chad, grandchildren; Keith Shing and husband Bobby, Kristin Potts and husband Kerry. Great-grandchildren; Kennedy Potts (Braxton Curliss), Kate Potts (Ty Lopez) and Max Calhoun-Shing, as well as step-granddaughter; Sara Young. Mary is also survived by one brother; Charles Spencer and wife Glenna, sister-in-law Jaquie Spencer, longtime companion, Jack Moore, along with a host of very special cousins, nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews. Mary was preceded in death by her parents, one stillborn son, one son Billy Ray, her husband of 20 years Sam Bonham. She was also preceded in death by her siblings; RoseEnix, Ola Worsham, J.W. Spencer Jr.

A private graveside service will be held at New Hope Cemetery with Ben Worsham, Dusty Worsham, David Gideon, Ray Glenn Jordan, Lee Pogue, and Logan Pogue serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers are Carl Bryan, Ronnie Charles, Tom Johnson, and Heath Hyde.

The family requests in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the New Hope Cemetery, 2155 County Road 4708, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482. Arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home in Sulphur Springs. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com

Kay Bomar June 7, 1937 — March 28, 2024

A funeral service for Kay Bomar, age 86 of Dike, will be held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, April 13, 2024, at League St. Church of Christ with Jerry Savage officiating. Visitation will be held one hour before the service. The interment will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 14, 2024 at Robert Lee Cemetery in Robert Lee, TX. Mrs. Bomar passed away peacefully at home on Thursday, March 28, 2024.



Vicki Lynn Lytle September 12, 1963 - March 28, 2024

A graveside Service for Vicki Lynn Lytle age, 60, of Cumby TX was held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at Bethel Cemetery in Franklin County, TX with Bro. David Burns officiating. Vicki passed away at her home surrounded by her loved ones on Wednesday, March 28, 2024. She enjoyed reading, crocheting and she loved spending time with her family especially those grandkids.

Vicki is survived by her loving husband, Mike Lytle; mother, Billie Kear; sons, Justin Lytle (Regina Null) and Alan Rivers (Pepper); daughters, Nikki Vaughn (Mitchell) and Michelle Clark (Kevin); brother, Dale Pace (Wanda), 13 grandchildren as well as numerous nieces, nephews and extended family.

She was preceded in death by her father, Windell Kear, one aunt, Earline Romine and her grandparents. In lieu of flowers the family request that donations be made to help with funeral arrangements or a charity of your choice.



SULPHUR SPRINGS SOLAR ECLIPSE GUIDE! Sulphur Springs

Article by Sarah Dicus

It is almost time for the anticipated Great American Eclipse, April 8th. Visiting Sulphur Springs, Texas for the total solar eclipse? There are PLENTY of amusements in our community to make you feel at home. Here's what's happening to peak your "Celebrate the Centerline" weekend:

Community Players, Inc. delivers a deviously devouring good time of song, dance, and Audry 2 in Little Shop of Horrors ONLY at Main Street Theatre. You can catch this show of botanical world domination April 5 and 6 at 7pm or a 2 o'clock matinee on Sunday, April 7.

Speaking of plants, and those that don't eat us, Sulphur Springs Church of the Nazarene is holding its annual Plant Sale on April 4-6 during daylight hours.

Crafters and community artisans of the fancy and fantastic assemble at the Venue at 219 for an elegant and festive shopping experience for Total Eclipse Market, April 6-8, 9:30-6:30pm.

The Mayor of Sulphur Springs would love to take you on a historical walk around our community. Join History by Foot, 10am, April 6th at Celebration Plaza. Tickets are \$15 in advance, or \$18 at the event. Tickets are limited. Please visit History by John Facebook page for more information.

Saturday, April 6th, come hang out downtown for dining, shopping, and The Total Eclipse Concert series, live at Celebration Plaza, featuring a lineup of outstanding local music talent. Bring chairs, blankets, family, and friends. Show is free, starts at 1pm, & plays all day!

You are invited to bring your lawn chairs and families to Celebration Plaza, and join First Baptist Church for an evening of worship and message April 7th, beginning at 6pm.

Cravers Community Garden wants to hang out with you for a whimsical eclipse watch party, April 8th beginning at 10am. Click on CraversTX Facebook page for ticket information and registration.

Our municipal Airport will be hosting a pilot fly-in watch party, April 8th. Please call our airport to register plane and passengers. (903) 885-4911

Split Decision and Sherry's Shack adds live music and fab lunch specials for their pasture Eclipse Watch party, beginning 11am. Don't forget your chairs!

Deep Routes Coffee hosts a caffeinated watch party Eclipse Day, April 8 from 8am-3pm

Heritage Park and Museum will be open all weekend to all, and will celebrate on the centerline with a watch party, on April 8 with concessions. And again. Don't forget your lawn chairs.

Make sure you pick up eclipse glasses and commemorative eclipse swag at any of our amazing local businesses and don't forget to check out Total Eclipse Sulphur Springs TX website for parking, and events information.

So everyone, come hungry, come excited, come hang out with us! And for the Love, don't forget your lawn chairs! The clock is ticking down and down to a spectacular future historical moment and we can't wait to experience it with You, here in Celebration City!

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