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**VOL. 25 ISSUE 1245, April 17, 2024**

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## A FIREMAN WITH A PHD

### Tumbleweed Smith

Dr. Texas Ruegg got his first name from his great great grandmother.

"The family was moving from Tennessee, traveling by covered wagon," he says, "and my great great grandmother was born in the back of that wagon right as they crossed the border into Texas. To commemorate that, they named her Nancy Texas Arnett. And so down the family tree I get the Texas name."

### Tumbleweed Smith

He lives at Nesbitt, a small place northwest of Marshall. He's a fireman there. Texas has a good education. "My undergraduate and graduate degrees are in business then I went on to earn my PhD in higher education administration and leadership."

He spent twenty years in college and university administration and resigned to start a brewery in Marshall.

"I've been home brewing for about twelve years. It was always a passion and kind of a dream to one day open a brewery. We purchased a building downtown on the square and basically gutted it and started over. That building had been where Dr. Pepper was bottled and distributed. We found out that the building was actually the first fire station in Marshall. It was built in 1871. My great great grandfather G. W. Rains was one of the founding members and was a board member of that fire department. I had no idea anyone in my family had any fireman background. So full circle. I'm a lieutenant in the Nesbitt fire department and serve as public information officer.

His fellow firemen helped build the brewery. A stair railing is made of fire hose. There is no fire pole.

"When you mix alcohol and a fire pole, we just thought it wasn't a good idea for us to have a pole in the building." The brewery is named Rueggenbach.

"We have two bars, one on the first floor, one on the second floor. Folks can come have a beer, hang out, visit with friends, and enjoy live music. We really want it to be a community gathering spot."

He has seven tanks for brewing.

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# Obits

### Edward Love Ardis

Edward Love Ardis was surrounded by friends when he went to be with his Lord on April 6th. Eddie was born on August 5, 1947 to Lewis and Thelma Ardis. He graduated from Sulphur Springs High School and then attended East Texas State University now Texas A & M at Commerce. He earned his BS degree. He worked for a brief time for Texas Instruments in Richardson, Texas. Later he was an equal owner of All World Travel founded in 1971 in Richardson, Texas.

Eddie earned his Eagle Scout badge and later was assistant scout master of a boy scout troop. Eddie was a member of the First United Methodist Church

of Sulphur Springs. He was a fun loving person and always enjoyed his many, many friends. Eddie never met a stranger. He helped many friends throughout these many years. He enjoyed country western music and cars. Eddie was very fond of his many dogs. He worked during high school and college with his Uncle B Ardis at the Mercury House on Davis Street.

Eddie is survived by many nieces and nephews and a host of friends. His family would like to extend a very special tribute and thanks to Terri Griner, Winston Perkins and Michelle Brumfield who provided exceptional service to Eddie over these almost eight years. They enabled him to stay at home and have the best of care. They were truly a part of his family.

Visitation was held Wednesday evening April 10th from six to eight at West Oaks Funeral Home. Graveside services were held Thursday, April 11 at 11:00 A.M. at the City Cemetery with Red Cross, Johnny Cross, Taylor Cross, Johnnie Gibson, Bobby Griner and Gordon Payne serving as pallbearers. Bro. Tommy Johnston and Bro. C. J. Duffy officiated.

### Diane Snyder Ross

Mrs. Diane Snyder Ross, 80, of Sulphur Springs, TX, passed away April 10, 2024, in Sulphur Springs. She was born May 22, 1943, in Burbank, CA, to Glenn E. and Florence Elnora Skelton Snyder. Diane lived most of her life in Sulphur Springs. She was preceded in death by her parents, Glenn Snyder and M.R. (Rowe) and Florence Flemens; and brother, Robert Lee Snyder. Survivors include her two daughters, Terisa Ray and husband George of Sulphur Springs, TX, and Beverly Walker and husband John of Pittsburg, TX; two brothers, Ray Flemens and wife Phyllis of Sulphur Springs, TX, and Norman Flemens and wife Julia of Las Vegas, NV; five grandchildren, Shannon Pennington and husband Kevin, Kelly Burnett and husband Brandon, Stephanie Glidewell, Brandon Ashby, and Leah Bellows; twelve

great-grandchildren. An informal come and go visitation for Diane was held 2-4 p.m., Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at Gafford's Chapel.



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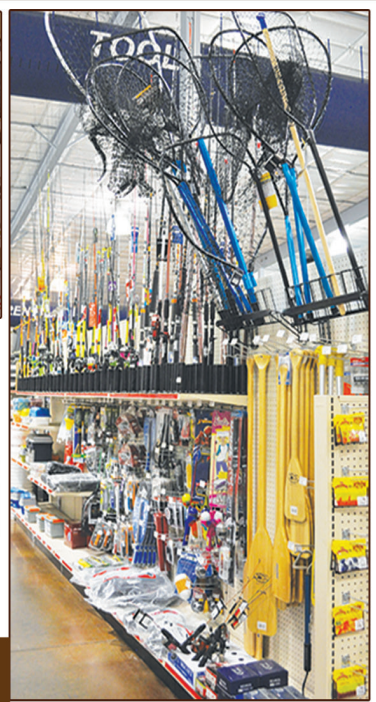
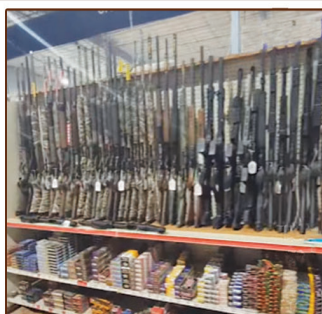
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# Obits



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### **Thurman Littlefield**

A funeral service for Thurman Littlefield was held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, April 12, 2024 at West Oaks Funeral Home with Bro. David Burns officiating. There was a visitation from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 11, 2024 at West Oaks Funeral Home.

Thurman Littlefield, 84, earned his heavenly wings Sunday, April 7 with his wife Patty by his side at Carriage House Manor. Thurman was born August 19, 1939 in Hopkins County to A.C. "Babe" Littlefield and Frauline Horne Littlefield. The family resided in the Peerless community for many years while he and his siblings attended North Hopkins school. He was the youngest of seven children and spoiled rotten by his three older sisters and three brothers.

Thurman is survived by his wife Patty with whom he shared 38 years, including the 10-year courtship while they both worked for Associated Milk Producers, Inc at a time when marriage between employees was not allowed. They married September 25, 1994 shortly after he retired from his 35-year career with AMPI. Together they both dedicated over 75 years of service to the dairy farmers throughout the southwest US.

A man with integrity who treasured his friends, he was often a source of guidance for younger people in the community who often came to him for a listening ear. After retirement he enjoyed the farm life on his tractors baling hay and working with his Beefmaster cattle that were spoiled as if they were children.

Thurman is survived by his wife, son Don Littlefield of Irving, sister Vergie Allen of Paris along with friends and extended family including the Justin Ashby family (wife Letitia, daughters April and Shannon along with their families).

He was preceded in death by his parents, twin son Dan, brothers C.M. "Bunny" Littlefield, Bill Littlefield, Frank Littlefield, sisters Helen Harris and Ardith Lucky along with several special nieces and nephews.

Special friends honoring Thurman as pall bearers included Danny Williams, Garry Hammonds, John David Jetton, Roy Neatherly, Jared Walker and Barry Walker. Arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. [www.westoaksfuneralhome.com](http://www.westoaksfuneralhome.com)



### **Opal Lee (Coleman) Penny**

Opal Lee (Coleman) Penny spent her life in service to her family, friends, and thousands of patients during her career in healthcare. Serving others was the central theme of Opal's nearly 95 years until her death April 3, 2024.

She was born May 17, 1929, in Emory, Texas, to Robert S. and Cora Coleman. Opal graduated from Miller Grove High School in 1946 and immediately entered the healthcare field, working briefly as a school nurse in Sulphur Springs until moving to Dallas. During her high school years at Miller Grove, Opal was a standout basketball player, playing forward. At one point, she recalled making 100 consecutive free throws in a row without a miss. She married Milton Penny July 5, 1947, in Sulphur Springs and they were married 57 years until his death in 2004. Opal and her best friend Vernice Penny married brothers. Opal and Milton met on a double date, but not with each other. However, the couples exchanged dates and Opal and Milton would later get married. Opal began working at Baylor University Hospital in Dallas around 1950. She went through the hospital's X-ray

school and became head of the radiology department. She left briefly but returned to Baylor and worked at the hospital until her retirement in 1994. Milton also worked at Baylor until his retirement. Combined, Opal and Milton worked at Baylor for more than 50 years. Their daughter, Pamela, has also worked there for more than 35 years.

Opal and Milton lived in the Oak Cliff and White Rock areas of Dallas until moving to Forney in 1997. Opal and Milton were active in Baptist churches throughout their marriage. They were longtime members of Lake Highlands Baptist Church and she was a member of First Baptist Church in Forney at the time of her death. She was also a member of the Eastern Star, complementing Milton's 50-year tenure as a Mason.

Her career in healthcare fit Opal's personality perfectly. She loved serving others and working as a nurse and later in radiology enabled Opal to give selflessly. That was true of her family as well, feeding her family at every chance. Her selfless nature meant she willingly stayed up all night feeding drops to her granddaughter Sara's sick hamster.

Opal is remembered by her family and friends as a woman of class, always making sure her hair was just right and her jewelry perfectly matched her impeccable taste in clothes. And she was an independent person throughout her life, insisting on serving others rather than being served. She taught her children to take pride in everything they did and never procrastinate. She was constantly encouraging others, willing to listen to anyone without being judgmental. Along with being a voracious reader, Opal was an expert seamstress, making clothes for her family and mending for them. She also enjoyed her time at home, sitting in lawn chairs talking with her son and daughter.

Opal was preceded in death by her husband Milton; brothers Robert Joe, Clifford, and Bobby; sisters Willie Mae and Dorothy; two infant children, Deborah Ann and Stephen Wayne; and daughter-in-law Dalinda Penny.

She is survived by her son, David Penny; daughter Pamela Coker and husband Joe; granddaughter Sara Chatman and husband Jake; sister-in-law Dorothy Duncan; her lifelong best friend of more than 80 years, Vernice Penny; and several nieces and nephews.

Services for Opal Penny were Saturday, April 13, at Rest Lawn Memorial Park in Sulphur Springs. The family held a viewing at West Oak Funeral Home from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. followed by burial at 1 p.m.

Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. [www.westoaksfuneralhome.com](http://www.westoaksfuneralhome.com)

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*"Your near by  
fish fry!"*



Open  
**Friday & Saturday 3-9**

2327 FM 69 North  
903-945-2882

( 2 miles north of I-30 -Exit 131, Sul. Spgs.)



*This space  
could be  
yours next  
month!!*

Call Jan...

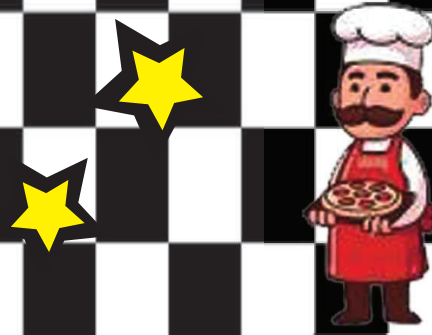
**903-243-5575**

*Dine in or drive thru!*



*Ask about our  
weekly specials!*

151 E. Industrial, Suite 100  
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**Pizza Inn®**

Daily buffet, salad and wings!  
Delivery & Carry-out

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We print  
menus!!

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Call Joy  
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If you can think it....  
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Prepay when ordering @ \$2.70 per Gal

**APRIL 19 - APRIL 29**

**County Fair**

Visit our website: [www.GasandSupply.com](http://www.GasandSupply.com)

Sulphur Springs  
**Spring MARKET**  
On Main St.

Saturday,  
April 20, 2024  
9 am to 4 pm

SPRING ITEMS INSIDE AND OUT  
CLOTHING • CRAFTS • DECOR  
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