

## WORDS AND SOUNDS

#### **Tumbleweed Smith**



I started my newspaper column thirty-eight years ago. This is column number 1955. I started it because the editor and publisher of the Big Spring Herald came to my office and said: "You've got a lot of good information about Texas on your radio program and you need to share it with our readers." I told them I'd be glad to oblige and asked if it would be ok if I

**Tumbleweed Smith** syndicated the column to other newspapers. They said that would be fine. So I started my column. The first one was about a trip to see wildflowers down highway 71 out of Brady.

Sometimes the column expresses my thoughts but mostly it's about things I run across in Texas: history, folklore, small towns, unique events, characters and storytellers, the same material I use for my radio program. August first marks a big anniversary for my radio program, The Sound of Texas. It's the beginning of my fiftysixth year of doing the daily radio show. I've done 14,301 episodes since August of 1969.

I started the program because I felt reporting on the real Texas was not being purposely ignored but just overlooked. I had a nine-year career in radio and television news working in Big Spring, Houston, Columbia Missouri and Des Moines, Iowa. I covered hard news and interviewed presidents and other influential people, but what I liked most was doing features about everyday people doing unusual or interesting things.

When I interviewed and eleven year old blind girl, her enthusiasm and zest for life came through so beautifully on the interview that NBC radio wanted to air it on their weekend series called Monitor. That was the beginning of a six-year stint with NBC radio, sending features about cowboys, rattlesnake hunts, musicians and characters. I got to wondering if Texans would enjoy hearing about themselves on a daily basis so I got five three minute programs ready and sent them to sixty-five west Texas radio stations inviting them to buy the series. One station replied. I was thrilled. I had a network, KHEM in Big Spring and KZZM in Littlefield. I quit my news job and hit the road selling my radio program to stations and doing interviews. It was a good time to start the series, the decade of the sixties had been rough and I wanted to do something that made people feel good.

Initially the program was called Tumbleweed because it's such a strong west Texas symbol. I went statewide with the program in 1970 and started using the name Tumbleweed Smith. Smith is my middle name. I appreciate the stations that air the series, the newspapers that carry the column and especially listeners and readers who send me suggestions about interview topics. It still feels like I'm just getting started. Equipment and technology have changed but the people have not. Texas is a big state with a lot of fun people and I want to meet as many as possible. Thanks for reading and listening!

#### THE MILLENNIUM SHOPPER August 7, 2024

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**Answers On Page 3** 



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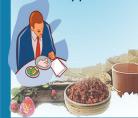
JOY OF HOPE, INC. is presenting a community sing gospel concert on Saturday, August 24, 2024 at 3:00 pm in the Civic Center, 1200 Houston St., Sulphur Springs, Tx. Admission will be free. Donations will be accepted for the JOY OF HOPE, INC.

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### Jimmie Lee Evans

A graveside service for Jimmie Lee Evans age, 82, of Sulphur Springs, Tx was held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 30, 2024, at Ridgeway Cemetery with Bro. Brian Pennington officiating. James Evans, Jim Evans, Cody McCord, Mark Cline, Clinton Cline, Jacob Wilcox, and Matthew Archer were serving as pallbearers. There was a visitation one hour prior to the service at the cemetery. Jimmie passed away on Thursday, July 25, 2024, in Sulphur Springs, Tx.

Jimmie was born on August 31, 1942, to James and Opal Chastain in Dallas, Tx. She married James Evans on September 26, 1956, in Dallas, TX. Jimmie was a homemaker and adored spending time with her family. She was a devoted Christian and attended League Street Church of Christ for many years, in her younger years she taught Sunday School. Jimmie loved Christmas and was known to climb her roof to put lights up on her house. She was a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great grandmother.

She is survived by her sons, Bennie Wayne Evans and his wife, Mary Elaine and Billy Charles Evans and his wife, Vickie; grandchildren, Misty Nicole Cline and her husband, Clinton, Cody McCord, James Wayne Evans and his wife, Macy, Jimmy Carroll Evans and his wife, Eloise, and Tabatha Wilcox; great-grandchildren, Markham Cline, Elise JoLynn Evans, Lainey Rodriguez, Harley Archer, Hannah Wilcox, Matthew Archer, and Jacob Wilcox; Great-great grandchild Nova Rodriguez, sister-in-law, Doris Chastain.

Jimmie was preceded in death by her parents, one brother, Sonny Chastain and granddaughter, Marissa Evans Archer.

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



### Roger Feagley

Funeral service for Roger Feagley, age 68, of Sulphur Springs, Texas will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 8, 2024 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home with Shane Carrington and Tom Sellers officiating. Interment will follow at Restlawn Memorial Park with Allen Cavender, Vipul Gupta, Ted Baxley, Mike Reid, Chad Jones, and Jeremy Jones serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers will be current and past board members and employees of the Sulphur Springs / Hopkins County Economic Development Corporation. Visitation will be held two hours prior from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Mr. Feagley passed away at Christus Mother Frances Hospital in Sulphur Springs on Sunday, August 4, 2024.

Roger Wayne Feagley was born on May 11, 1956 in Littlefield, Texas to James Wilbren and Billie Jean (Yeary) Feagley. He married Tammy Feagley in Mansfield, Texas on September 25, 1982. Roger was a 3rd generation firefighter where he began as a volunteer and was hired in 1977. He was the first paid firefighter for Mansfield and was their first paramedic in 1978. Roger played football and baseball and graduated from North Texas University with a bachelor's degree in planning. He graduated

from the National Fire Academy, was a graduate of EDI, and served as President of the Tarrant County Firefighters Association. He also served on the Texas Economic Development Board, the Workforce Solutions of Northeast Texas Board, and the Board of NeTec. Over the years, Roger coached peewee football and little league baseball. He was also involved in Special Olympics and served on the Board of the Texas Girls Choir. Roger was a member of the Southside Church of Christ, was active in the Cub Scouts as a child, and was a published author.

Roger is survived by his wife, Tammy Feagley of Sulphur Springs; son, Ryan Feagley and wife Valarie of Sulphur Springs; daughter, Robyn Feagley Cavender and husband Allen of Talladega, AL; grandchildren, Brayden Feagley, Caleb Feagley, Roland Cavander, Aidan Cavender, Brendan Cavender; brother, James "Jimmy" Feagley, Jr and wife Lisa of Reno (Azle), Texas; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and other family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Billie Jean Feagley; sister, Ellen Darlene Feagley; and grandson, James Wyatt Feagley Cavender. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider a donation to Scottish Rite for Children, 2222 Welborn Street, Dallas, TX 75219 or michaelsmemories.org for fallen firefighters.

## Marta Gregory



Graveside service for Marta Gregory, age 58, of Sulphur Springs, Texas was held at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, August 5, 2024 at Restlawn Memorial Park Cemetery with Mike Eason and Ray Glenn Jordan officiating. Visitation was held from 9:00-11:00 a.m. on Monday, August 5, 2024 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Mr. Gregory passed away on Thursday, August 1, 2024. Marta Rae Vliet-Gregory was born on February 21, 1966 in Wayne County Michigan to Eugene and Linda (Martin) Vliet. Marta spent many days at rodeo events which she loved. She was also an active member of a local Bunco group for many years. Marta was a loving Mother and Grandmother and raised lots of kids. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Marta is survived by her daughters, Kassandra "Kassie" Smith and husband Sam, Michelle Pogue and husband Logan, Somer Gregg and husband Daniel; former husband of 34 years, Cephis Wayne Gregory; grandchildren; Samantha, Gregory, Lynnli, River, Bryar; siblings, Sherri and Mark Baker, Todd Gorton, Scott Gorton; nieces and nephews, Shana and Eric Klade, Tarren

and Alex Moore, Justin Gorton, Jessica Gorton, Bryce Gorton, Brena Gorton, Presley and Landon Cummins. She is preceded in death by her parents, Eugene and Linda Vliet; siblings, Michelle Ballard and Brandi Vliet. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider donating to the Donna Gayle Memorial Scholarship at City National Bank (CNB). THE MILLENNIUM SHOPPER August 7, 2024





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