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A CHEERLEADER FOR READING

Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

Kathy L. Murphy of Hawkins has been promoting book reading for a quarter of a century. She started a book club called THE OFFICIAL INTERNATIONAL PULPWOOD QUEENS AND TIMBER GUYS BOOK CLUB that became one of the largest in the world. She says the main focus is promoting authors, books, literacy, the arts and reading. Members get together every New Years Day and visit with authors. They try to meet in person, but the last couple of years they met on Zoom.

"You know I started this crazy little book club in my hair salon book store back in Jefferson, Texas called BEAUTY AND THE BOOK in 2000. "

She is a wild child and got plenty of attention.

"Back in the day, when I first got started, we did everything from Good Morning America, Oprah Winfrey and the Wall Street Journal which, by the way, still contacts me every once in a while. I think that's just absolutely amazing."

She has written a few books and is working on two children's books. Kathy has a full time job with a non-profit, is attending UT Tyler, working on a masters degree in Art History, Yep, she paints too.

"I felt like to be a better artist, a better American, I needed to know more history. The funny thing about art history is you can learn more of the untold story through paintings and art and architecture than any other study in the world."

Kathy is 68. Most of her friends are retiring.

"I wake up every morning, raring to go. Working hard is the best therapy in the world. I can't retire. I've done this my whole life because it was my passion. I can't say that I've grown rich, but I've grown rich in friendships."

She is curious. While she was vacationing in Florida, she ran into a bunch of Viet Nam Veterans and interviewed them for her podcast and video channel.

"They couldn't figure out who I was. I think my hair was purple at the time. They were all former helicopter pilots and high-ranking veterans who were sitting around telling stories. They were from all over the country and I just had to interview them.

"The military have a base there in Pensacola and it's where the Blue Angels practice flying. The craziest thing I did while there was parasailing. My cousin Cindy talked me into it. I was scared to death. We went up in the air behind the boat and there was a Blue Angel coming right at us. I realized we were in their air space. It actually flew below us. We got a picture of it going underneath us. That's how high we were. That was a lifetime experience I'll never forget, to be flying in the sky with a Blue Angel."

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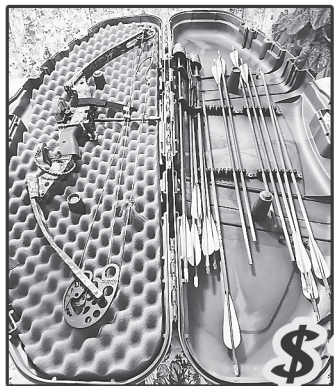
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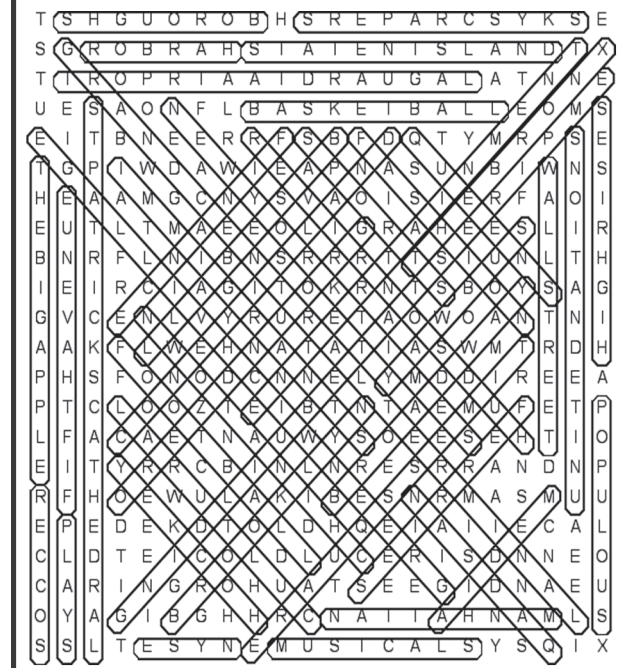
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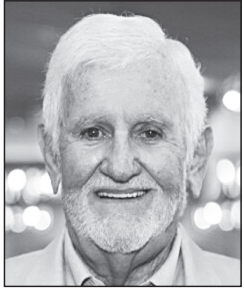
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Johnny McAfee

July 12, 1942 — September 22, 2024

Funeral service for Johnny McAfee, age 82, of Saltillo, Texas will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at Shannon Oaks Church in Sulphur Springs, Texas with Jeff Harris officiating. Interment will follow at Old Saltillo Cemetery. Visitation was held from 5:00-7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home in Sulphur Springs, Texas. Mr. McAfee passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Sunday, September 22, 2024.

Johnny Mack McAfee was born on July 12, 1942 in Mt. Vernon, Texas to Allison Woodville and Obera (Davis) McAfee. He married Patsy Ann Collins in Mt. Vernon, Texas on August 26, 1965. Johnny was a coal miner for many years and enjoyed fishing and hunting. He looked forward to his Thursday morning breakfast with his buddies from the coal mine. He liked barbequing for Emily's Place, always had a well-maintained garden, and enjoyed spending quality time with his

grandkids every chance he got.

Johnny is survived by his wife, Patsy McAfee of Saltillo, Texas; son, John Mark McAfee and wife Bambi of Sulphur Springs; daughter, Kelli Tarver and husband Jason of Frisco; grandchildren, Abby Wright and husband Hunter of Cooper, Savanna McAfee of McKinney, Heather Bowen of Sulphur Springs; Aubri Tarver of Frisco, Emmi Tarver of Frisco; great-grandchildren, Tinsley, Hays, Jax, Keaton, Everlee, Marlee; brother-in-law, Mark Collins of Sulphur Springs; niece, Traci Collins and wife Sunney of Dallas; and nephew, Taylor Collins of Austin. He was preceded in death by his parents.



K.C. Gentry

K.C. Gentry, age 52 of Mount Vernon, Texas, passed away at his residence on Saturday, September 14, 2024.

KC was born to Bobby and Patricia (Taylor) Gentry on August 1, 1972, in Lone Star, Texas. He was employed at Pilgrims.

He is survived by his mother, Patricia Tucker; his sons, Richard and Katie Gentry, and Zachary Gentry; siblings, Mark Gentry and Andi Davis.

K.C. is preceded in death by his father, Bobby Gentry; and his step-mother, Debbie Gentry.

A memorial service was scheduled for Sunday, September 22, 2024, at 2:00 PM at Sam B. Harvey Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Nathan Mayfield officiating.

Services were entrusted to Sam B. Harvey Funeral Home. Online condolences maybe made at www.samharveyfuneralhome.com.



Felix Sanchez

Felix Sanchez was called home on Thursday, September 19, 2024. He passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family.

Domingo Felix Sanchez was born on March 28, 1972 to Domingo Sanchez and Crescencia Hernandez. Felix was known as a great businessman but will always be remembered as an even better person. He not only earned your business but also gained your trust and friendship. The best father, grandfather, son, brother, uncle, and friend anyone could ask for. Felix took pride in loving and protecting his entire family and left behind a legacy he was very proud of. A true angel on Earth called home too soon.

Felix is survived by his mother, Crescencia Hernandez; children, Felix Sanchez, April R. Sanchez, Vanessa Cedillo, Gael R. Sanchez, Haylee Wommack; siblings Reyna G. Sanchez, Bridget Y. Nelson, and Andres Hernandez Jr; grandchildren, Noah Guerrero, Sinai Guerrero, and Leilani Ruiz; nieces, Everleigh Nelson, Shelley Campos, Genesis Cordova, Arantxa Campos, Kash A. Garrett; great-nieces/great-nephews, Olivia P. Santos, Jade J. Rodarte, Oskar L. Nieto, and Axel A. Santos.

He was preceded in death by his father, Domingo Sanchez; and brother, Rodrigo Sanchez.

Felix never met a stranger, always had a smile and many jokes to share with everyone. He brought so much joy, and showed kindness, compassion, generosity, and grace to each and every person he encountered. He lived life with purpose, led by example, and loved to the fullest. He walked a narrow path with the intention to make God and his family proud and did just that with every step he took. A man of many talents, there wasn't anything he couldn't do or anything he didn't do well. He was Superman, tough as steel with a heart of gold. As a result of his friendly, loving, and generous personality, he was loved by many. There are just no words that could ever be perfectly formed to describe him. Words could never do him justice. Family and friends are invited to celebrate his life and share their stories. Visitation will be held from 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 25, 2024 until 5:00 p.m. Friday, September 27, 2024 at the family home located at 300 Keith Street, Mt. Vernon, Texas. The Funeral will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 28, 2024 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home in Sulphur Springs, Texas with Devron Doss officiating. Interment will follow at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Mt. Pleasant, Texas.

Galyean Insurance Agency celebrates 50-year business anniversary



Galyean Insurance celebrated its 50th anniversary this week with hors d'oeuvres, giveaways, and an open house and ribbon cutting Thursday, Sept. 19, for the business' new building, located at 306 North Davis St.

The business has seen a number of changes in its "50 years of excellence," and the president and founder reflected on those changes which helped build Galyean into the success it is today.

"I started from scratch," quipped Wayne Galyean in explaining his 50-year history as a small-town independent insurance agent and founder of Galyean Insurance Agency in Sulphur Springs.

Born and raised at Alba, Texas, in Wood County, he graduated high school, then, entered East Texas State University to pursue a business degree. Wayne and wife, Wanda, married before graduating college, and then their daughter, Kelly, came along. Their family was complete in

1972 with the birth of their other daughter, Kerry.

"I always wanted to be a salesman, and I never intended to teach," Galyean said.

However, his first 10 years of employment were as a teacher and vice principal in the Sulphur Springs school district.

"I had read somewhere that 32 is the average age that most successful men make their final career move. That opportunity came to me when I was 32. I took a chance on an offer to become an insurance agent, and I think it turned out to be a good choice," Galyean said.

After working for others, he opened his own agency in 1974. From the start, Galyean Insurance Agency has been located in downtown Sulphur Springs.

"It was once on Connally Street where Heath Hyde's law office is now, and realtor Glen Irvin and I shared the space," recalled Galyean. "We then moved to the corner of Connally and North Davis Street, across from today's Municipal Building, and over time, I purchased all four different spaces on that short block. The first homeowner's policy I sold was to my neighbor, Alton Grice on Merrell Drive. Dick Pogue bought his first life insurance policy from me. I guess I probably bought the first auto policy! I wish I knew the dollar amount of insurance benefits we have paid to the people of Hopkins County, who have been our customers over the years."

Galyean Insurance Agency now has five offices including Rockwall and Greenville.

"We opened in Rockwall and began producing business there. There are two in Sulphur Springs; our new location, and an office inside Alliance Bank downtown. Galyean entered the Franklin County market in 2003 by purchasing East Tx Insurance Company.

Jennifer Gregory has been with the agency for 39 of its 50 years. In that time, she has performed almost all the jobs within the agency, and currently serves as president. She began her career in insurance working for Blue Cross/Blue Shield right out of high school. In 1981, she, Gregory, her husband and brand new baby moved to Sulphur Springs, which she had called home ever since.

Later, when he had reached a plateau and had to buy business, he developed another useful approach.

"There seemed to always be an older gentleman who owned an agency, and I'd offer to buy his book of business," he said. "After he sold to me, I'd invite him to join me as a commissioned agent, and with no overhead, he could become very successful again, and I benefitted as well."

When asked about the acquisition by Alliance Bank 20 years ago, Wayne explained it this way.

"At one time, it was illegal for a bank to own an insurance business. It was in the 90s when that changed. One day I got a letter from banker Alec Bridges, offering to buy my agency if I was ever ready to sell," Galyean explained. "I thought about that for a few years. It was 2004 when I actually came up with a plan. I went into the bank and told Tom Sellers my idea, and we went upstairs to Bridges' office. We came to an agreement, and I ended up selling the agency to Alliance Bank in October 2004 on my 65th birthday. Then, I retired."

Today's Galyean Insurance Agency is high-tech but retains close ties with yesterday's personal service. Jennifer explained, "At Galyean Insurance Agency, we sell all lines of insurance. We are an Independent agency offering coverage through regional and national carriers, and can advocate for you when you have a claim. We sell personal, commercial, farm and ranch, and life and health policies. If it starts with I and ends with E, we sell it, and we stand behind it. Our motto is 'Protecting what matters to you,' and we truly care."

When asked what the future holds for her after 39 years on the job, she stated, "I'm gonna keep on working. I love my job, and the people I serve. Right now, insurance rates are stretched. We try to find ways to reduce those prices and let the people understand what they might select to give up and to understand the changes they wish to make to their policies. We do strive to save money for people by reviewing their accounts annually and remaining accessible to our customers."

Gregory expressed the excitement that she and the Galyean staff felt planning the 50th anniversary event held Thursday, Sept. 19, 2024.

"We are so excited about our new location! It was totally renovated for us by Alliance Bank and is perfect for our customers. The ribbon cutting at noon last Thursday by the Hopkins County Chamber of Commerce was also an Open House so everyone could get to know our new office at 306 North Davis Street in downtown Sulphur Springs," Gregory said.

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