

FRIDAY NIGHT, NOV. 1ST

FIDDLE CONTEST BEGINS 6 PM @TEXAN THEATER, 2712 LEE STREET, DOWNTOWN BIG BALL IN G-TOWN DINNER & DANCE @ CADDO CREEK EVENT CENTER, 3648 CR 2132, DOORS AT 5:45 PM BBQ BUFFET DINNER AT 6:15 PM, PAULINE REESE 7:30 PM BOB WILLS' TEXAS PLAYBOYS DIR. JASON ROBERTS 8:30 PM

SATURDAY DAY, NOV. 2ND

FIDDLE CONTEST 9 AM TO 6 PM @ TEXAN THEATER, 2712 LEE STREET DOWNTOWN BOB WILLS HERITAGE MEMORBILIA DISPLAY @TEXAN THEATER, 2712 LEE STREET, ALL DAY FARMERS MARKET VENDOR SHOPPING & FOOD TRUCKS & SWAG OPENS AT 9 AM, 2205 LEE STREET TEXAS STEEL GUITAR DEMOSTRATION @FARMERS MARKET, 9 AM TO 11 AM

FARMERS MARKET OUTDOOR STAGE, 2205 LEE STREET

(FREE ATTENDANCE, BRING LAWN CHAIR, ADULT BEVERAGES SOLD ON SITE BY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE)11 AM TO 12 PMTHE WESTERN FLYERS12:20 PM TO 1:30 PMHOT CLUB OF COWTOWN1:50 PM TO 3 PMTOMMY ALVERSON BAND3:20 PM TO 4:45 PMDAVE ALEXANDER'S BIG TEXAS SWING BAND

SATURDAY NIGHT, NOV. 2ND

GREENVILLE MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM, 2821 WASHINGTON STREET, DOWNTOWN GREENVILLE, TEXAS CO-HEADLINER CONCERT, DOORS OPEN 6:30 PM , SHOW 7:30 PM, TICKETS AT SHOWTIMEATTHEGMA.COM

GARY P. NUNN

BOB WILLS' TEXAS PLAYBOYS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF JASON ROBERTS PAULINE REESE AND SPECIAL GUESTS

PAGE 2

TRYING TO RIGHT A WRONG.



Tumbleweed Smith

John Ballew of Saginaw grew up in the Panhandle town of Memphis where his grandfather was a bootlegger. John wrote a book about his colorful grandfather titled THE HALL COUNTY GANGSTER, RAYMOND BALLEW. Since there is no newspaper in Memphis anymore, John puts stories about his hometown on Facebook. He's kind of the

Tumbleweed Smith Memphis newsboy and has a big following.

John likes to write about his hometown. His latest book, Hall County: The Greatest Generation is about how black soldiers were treated during WWII. During the war the US army had a black blood supply and a white blood supply.

"They were both red, but they separated them."

The Hall County veteran's annual about servicemen from Memphis was published after the war.

"During the war, Hall County was gung ho. There was a serviceman from Hall County in every major battle. The book came out and they were all proud. All the white soldiers had a picture in the book, along with their name, parents names, what they did in High School, who they married, where they served, what medals they had and when they got out. There was a whole little section for each person, each white guy and there were only white guys in the 900 pages of the book. On the very last page, there was a section that read 'and the Negro soldier also served.' There were 38 names listed with no pictures, no description, no anything.

I'm not real bright, but I considered that systemic racism in 1947. They weren't even aware that that's what it was. That's just the way it was back then. Some of those black soldiers had very responsible positions and served just like the white guys.

For the past two years I've been doing my best to find out all I can on those 38 soldiers that just had their names in that book. So far, I've found about three quarters of them and what I found was just a few pictures. The black culture didn't take pictures and the Memphis Democrat newspaper didn't go over the hill and take pictures of them. They took pictures of the white guys coming home, but they didn't take any pictures of the black guys, there's no picture of the black guys in the Democrat.

I went to the individual, I've been to the army bases, I've been to the National Archives, and I've been to museums and libraries. I got the most help when I went to the homes of the black veterans families. Some of them had pictures of their veterans. I found enough to fill a little blurb on each one of those 38 people, where they served, what they did and when they came home. I also found out when they died."

John's Facebook page is: Memphis on the Red. He has an archive of historic photographs from Memphis.

"There's a Memphis on the Mississippi and a Memphis on the Nile, but the Memphis on the Red beats them all by a mile."

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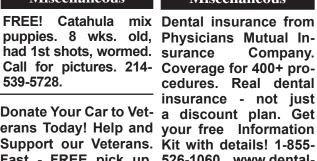
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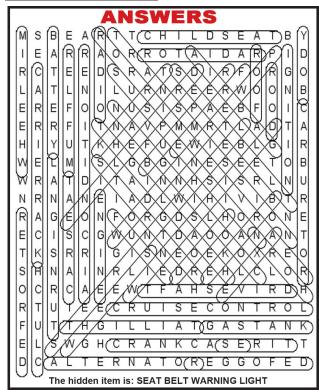
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PAGE 3

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PAGE 5



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Mary Elizabeth Sparkman Watkins

Mary Elizabeth Sparkman Watkins of Pine Forest, Texas gained her wings on Sunday, October 20, 2024, surrounded by her family. Mary was born on February 5, 1933 in Como, Texas to Luke and Winnie (Dowdy) Sparkman. She married R.A. Watkins on December 20, 1948 in Tyler, Texas. After R.A.'s service to our country, they moved back to Texas and purchased the family dairy farm. She worked side by side on the dairy farm in addition to sewing clothes for her many clients and her two daughters.

500 Hillcrest Dr., Sulphur Springs, Tx. 75482

Mary is survived by her daughters, Dianna McGregor (Eddie) and Doris Humphrey both of Pine Forest; grandchildren, Jason McGregor (Marika), Brian Humphrey, Jon McGregor (Diana), and Amanda Walker (John). great-grandchildren, Nigel and Liam McGregor, Kennedy and Jax Walker, Georgia McGregor, Chloe Fisher, and Dalton and Dylan Melvin; five great-great-grandchildren; and sister, Edna Pinnell of Crockett, Texas.

She was preceded in death by her husband, R.A. Watkins; parents, Luke and Winnie Sparkman; siblings, Dorthy Housewright, J.P. Sparkman, Bobby Sparkman, Billy Sparkman, and Ruth Bain.

Graveside will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 23, 2024 at Pine Forest Cemetery. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service from 10:00-11:00 a.m. at Pine Forest Church of Christ.

Arrangements are under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. The online register can be signed at www.murrayorwosky.com



Lance Lester January 6, 1962 – October 19, 2024

A funeral service for Lance Lester, age 62, of Sulphur Springs, Texas will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 23, 2024 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home in Sulphur Springs, Texas with Jerry Lester officiating. Interment will follow at Donelton Cemetery, Lone Oak, Texas with Zach Lester, Michael Lester, Jerry Lester, Chris Lester, Cody Lester, and Buddy Williams serving as pallbearers. Luis Martinez will serve as Honorary pallbearer. Visitation was held from 7:00-9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 22, 2024 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Lance Whitfield Lester passed away peacefully on October 19th at CHRISTUS Mother Frances Hospital surrounded by friends and loved ones. Born on January 6, 1962 to Wayne and Shirley Lester in Dallas Texas. He was the oldest of 5 siblings. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1980. He married the love of his life Carol Ann Lester in 1995.

Lance is survived by his wife, Carol Ann Lester of Sulphur Springs, his son, Zachary Lester and wife Lauren Lester of Greenville; son, Michael Lester and wife Ashley Lester of Greenville; daughter, Sharon Sheffield of Dike and son Cody Lester of Campbell. Also, his grandchildren, Skylar Sheffield, Foster Sheffield, Baillee Sheffield, Ryker Sheffield, Caitlin Lester, and Nora Lester. Additionally, he

is survived by his mother, Shirley Lester of Greenville; sister, Daisy Huntington of Greenville; brother, Jerry Lester of Lone Oak; brother, Chris Lester of Granbury and sister, Triena Darden.

He is preceded in death by his brother, Philip Lester and his father, Wayne Lester.

Lance worked for Time Warner for 20 years at the time of his death he was employed by the Hopkins County Sheriff's Department.

Lance was fiercely intelligent, kind, and compassionate. He was Loved and admired by everyone he encountered. A beacon of light that will continue to shine beyond repose within everyone he loved.



Mike Fite October 18, 1947 – October 14, 2024

A memorial service for Mike Fite, age 76, of Sulphur Springs, Texas will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, October 25, 2024 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home with Bro. Bob Neal officiating. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service from 1:00-2:00 p.m. Mr. Fite passed away at Christus Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler, Texas on Monday, October 14, 2024.

Michael James Fite was born on October 18, 1947 in Sulphur Springs, Texas to Cecil Monroe and Ruby (Hayes) Fite. He married Chris Ann Parrish in Las Vegas, Nevada in 2005. Mike proudly served his country in the U.S. Army. He was a Dairy Farmer in the 1980's and also worked as a framer, plumber, and in the construction business.

Mike is survived by his wife, Chris Fite; son, Shane Fite and wife Heather; daughter, Jessie Givens; grandchildren, Tanner Fite, Chase Fite, Alli Fite, Breana Wooten, and Aisen Givens; great-grandchildren, Landrie Fite and Copelyn Klika; stepsons, Ryan Costley, Christopher Costly, and Nicholas Costly; step-grandchildren, Jackson Costly and Haley Costly; brother, Larry Fite and wife Nancy; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Cecil and Ruby Fite; sister, Bobbie Neal; son, Justin Fite; and grandson, Brayden Wooten.



Grace Hawkins September 21, 1947 – October 14, 2024

A funeral service for Grace Hawkins, age 77, of Sulphur Springs, Texas was held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, October 18, 2024 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home with Jason Lindley officiating. Interment followed at Mel Haven Cemetery with Jarred Dunlap, Marcus Johnson, Broderick Godbolt, Shane Stotts, Roderick Godbolt, and Johnny Wright serving as pallbearers. Mrs. Hawkins passed away at her home in Sulphur Springs on Monday, October 14, 2024.

Grace Jo Wade Hawkins, born on September 21, 1947, in Sulphur Springs, Texas, peacefully passed away, leaving behind a legacy of love, strength, and kindness. The daughter of Earnest Wade and Essie Lee Ford, Grace grew up in Sulphur Springs, where she graduated from Douglas High School, forging lifelong friendships and memories.

Grace married the love of her life, Oliver Lee Hawkins, on August 21, 1967. They were blessed with 2 sons, Rodney Hawkins, Jameison Hawkins (Melissa), and adoptive daughter, LaTonya Hawkins.

THE MILLENNIUM SHOPPER October 23, 2024



