





BOUTIQUES / RESTAURANTS / SHOPS / MUSEUMS / MURALS

TAWANNA'S BUSINESS ADVENTURES



my first company."

Tumbleweed Smith

"To keep my mind going I have to be doing stuff,' says Tawanna Fields of Dallas, "because I don't like to be bored," She learned how to cook while taking home economics courses at Amarillo High School. "I didn't go to college. I moved to Dallas at 18 years old right out of high school, moved in with a cousin and started

She had \$200 she had saved while working at Braum's in Amarillo. In Dallas she went to Sam's and bought \$150 worth of food essentials and started preparing plate lunches of chicken tetrazzini, green beans, corn, a piece of chocolate cake and a roll that she tried to sell at car dealerships "They said no every time I went in. On about the 5th try, the manager of a car dealership bought a plate of food and so did a policewoman customer. They both raved about the food. Then the policewoman asked Tawanna if she could cook for 250 people. Tawanna said yes. That was the start of TAWANNA 'S KREATIONS 'N MORE CA-TERING. Then she started selling barbeque.

"I was everywhere," she says. "Beauty shops, barber shops, parking lots nightclubs at night, I was making 4 or 5 thousand dollars a day. Then I started really diversifying." She started a house cleaning business, had a bunch of vending machines, a couple of restaurants, had 11 dump trucks to help out at disasters all over the south. Then a man told her he would give her \$5000 to haul something to Oklahoma City. "I found out it was a very long light pole. So I ended up buying a seven dually trucks and seven forty feet long gooseneck trailers and we started hauling freight to 48 states."

Tawanna had a fleet of Amazon trucks delivering goods all over East Texas. She owns BLACK DIAMOND TRANS-PORTATION that takes celebrities all over Dallas and beyond.

"I have 24 black Suburbans, 2 Cadillac Escalades, 3 Mercedes Sprinter vans and 1 party bus."

She wrote a book and gives entrepreneurial brunches. "I tell people how to start a business or take their business to the next level. Then I give them my resources that have made me successful. I have these at the first of the year every year."

One thing that got her on the road to success was while she was working at Braum's. She worked there all 4 years she was in high school, had keys to the store and was the store leader, opening and closing the business every day. She worked even on her days off. She got a raise but it was an increase of only pennies per hour. That's when she decided she didn't want to work for anyone else. She wanted to be her own boss, work when she wanted and make as much money as she could. She cried and prayed all the way during the long drive from Amarillo to Dallas.



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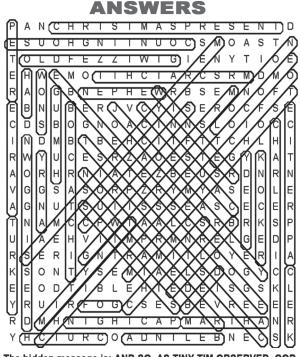
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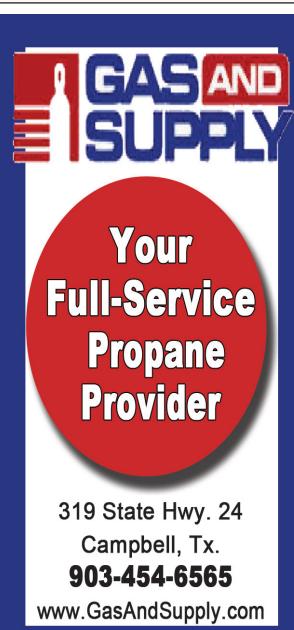
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Roberta Winona Newsome

Roberta Winona Newsome, age 98, passed away on Saturday, December 14, 2024 at her residence with her loving family around her. Roberta was born on February 8, 1926 in Hopkins County, the daughter of Martin Jones and Effie Stephenson Jones. Roberta was a homemaker who loved taking care of her family.

She is survived by one son, William Penson and wife Jeanie of Sulphur Springs, daughter, Sarah Dunn and husband Marshall of Sulphur Springs, one brother, William Gene Jones, 8 grandchildren, along with numerous great grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and a host of friends. She was preceded in death by her husband Carl Newsome, sons, Gordon "Butch" Penson, and David Penson, 5 sisters and 2 brothers. A private graveside service will be held at Shooks Chapel Cemetery with Bro. Jim Moore Officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com



James Jones

James Jones loved jazz, reading the Wall Street Journal, chocolate, Arkansas, his dog named DOG, and walking. He was known on the east side of town for walking around the health department building on College Street while he read his newspaper. He was shy and was uncomfortable as the center of attention, but he was always willing to help others whether it be putting up Christmas lights on the buildings on the square, working for several years as the sound/lights tech for the civic center, putting out Christmas wreaths at City Cemetery, building floats, and helping family members with any projects in which they were involved. No one ever asked IF he wanted to help; it was just assumed that he would be there.

James was an active member of the local American Legion serving at various times as Commander, Vice Commander, and currently as treasurer. In the past he was a member of the Hopkins County Regional Civic Center Board and could cook a mean hamburger. Additionally, he worked with Sulphur Bluff Scholarship Foundation. He was a member of Sulphur Bluff Methodist Church. As a

youngster he belonged to his local Boy Scout troop, earning the Life and Order of the Arrow levels.

James was born August 16-17, 1936, Henderson, TX, to Frank H. Jones and Della Justiss Jones. The confusion as to the exact day was because one date was on the birth certificate and Miss Della claimed the other date. He always accepted Miss Della's version.

Because his dad worked in the oil business, they often moved, and the family wound up in the oil field at Sulphur Bluff where James and his sister Barbara Ann grew up. That community, and school, and his amazing parents molded my Jim and his sister into superior citizens. James graduated from Sulphur Bluff High School and from ETSTC with a BS degree in Industrial Design. Shortly thereafter, he was drafted and served his country for 2 + years in the Army.

James is survived by his wife Annada Elliott Jones: (They would have celebrated 48 years on December 17); niece Nancy Smith, of New Mexico, and special cousins, Gary Harrell(Lynn), Mary Pierce (Ed) of El Dorado, Arkansas, and cousin by marriage, Jimmy Gilbert (Susie), Darrell Baxter. Kim Baxter and David Baxter, Trey Elliott, and Joel Elliott.: Those relatives who paved the way for James are Frank and Della Jones, sister Barbara Ann Jones Smith, niece Kathleen Smith Sartin. AGathering in James' memory will be held at a later date.

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



Diana Gyer

A funeral service for Diana Gyer, age 70 of Dike, Texas was held at 2:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home with Judge Robert Newsome officiating with Pastor Mike Skelton assisting. Interment followed at Restlawn Memorial Park with Mike Skelton, Brandon Skelton, Steve Cooper, Tyler Cooper, and Mason Cooper serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were Ray Skelton, Wesley Fraizer, Cliff Randle, Marvin Randle, Don Randle, Randy Randle and Bo Potts. Visitation was held from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. on Monday, December 16, 2024 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Mrs. Gyer passed away on December 12, 2024 at her residence.

Diana was born on March 3, 1954 in Huntsville, Texas to William "Bill" and Linnie (Fraizer) Randle. She graduated from Nimitz High School before attending Tyler Junior College. Diana retired from the State of Texas on July 31, 2016, after 17 years.

She is survived by her son, Steve Cooper, and wife, Patricia; grandchildren, Lexi Cooper, Tyler Cooper, Mason Cooper; sister, Patricia Skelton and husband, Ray; four nephews; seven great niece and one great nephew.

Diana was preceded in death by her parents, Bill and Linnie Randle; sister, Carolyn Ashford; great-niece, Chole Ashford, and both sets of grandparents.



Larry "Gramps" Gibbs

Larry "Gramps" Gibbs, age 78 of Sulphur Springs, Texas passed away on December 9, 2024 at Sulphur Springs Health and Rehab. Larry was born on August 3, 1946 in Sulphur Springs, Texas to Amos and Gladys (Bangs) Gibbs. He was a truck driver. Larry loved horses. He use to do team roping in the rodeos. Larry was always having a good time and was the life of the party. He was a man of the Christian faith.

He is survived by his son, Jason Gibbs; daughter, Wende Gibbs; grandchildren, Maci Fowler and Laci Lamb; great-grandchildren, Jersey Fowler, Jabrie Fowler and Lennox Chester; brother, Lendy Gibbs.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents; grandson, Casey Chester; brother Lonnie Ray Gibbs and sister, Linda Sue Patrick.

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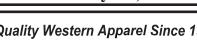
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