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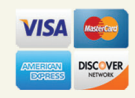


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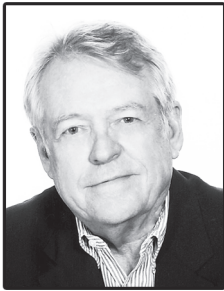
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THE QUEEN OF SIGNS

Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

"I'm known as Nana the banana pudding lady," says Nancy Doyle of Eldorado. "I make banana pudding for different occasions like for the high school football team when they have their team supper. And I make them for funerals, just whatever."

Nancy is also known as the hot cracker lady. "I take oyster crackers and put sea seasoning on them. They are hot and spicy sometimes. I try to watch how much cayenne pepper I use."

She is best known for making colorful decorative signs. "It started as a hobby while I was teaching school. As of right now I've made 1,130 signs. I write down each one on a yellow pad. I'm on my 34th yellow pad now." Some people ask her to make a sign. "Mostly with my big mouth I'll ask people if they want me to make them one. I love doing them. The smiles on their faces when I hand it to them are all the pay I need. Some people pay me money but I don't ask for it."

Her signs are all over Texas. "I sent some to New York, North Carolina, the Philippines and even to Uganda. They're everywhere."

The signboards are about 6 inches by 2 feet and she gets them at art supply houses.

"I don't saw and do lumber stuff. I paint the boards white unless they say they want a different color. Then I take each little letter, paint it and glue it to the board with Elmer's glue. Then I put little doo dads on them: butterflies, flowers, or stars. For teachers I put teacher stuff on them like the ABCs, 123s, apples, pencils and books. I always make a sign for the new elementary teachers. Because I taught those grades."

She considers making the signs a craft. "I have no art background. This does not take a whole lot of talent. I just paint and paste and decorate."

It takes her a couple of weeks to make a sign. She's been doing it more than 30 years. She has 200 colors to use in making a sign. All of her material for sign making is tucked away neatly in drawers and cabinets throughout her house. She has boxes of letters. She has just started making wooden letters a foot tall and decorating them. If a person's name is Susan she'll get a big decorated S.

"I usually have about 6 or 7 signs to do. Not long ago, I had 20 to do at one time. It was overwhelming but I got them done."

She made a sign for me.

"Well of course. I wasn't going to let you come here and not make you a sign."

She also gave me some spicy crackers and a big bowl of banana pudding. Both were world class.

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WORD SEARCH (Happy New Year)

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.

The remaining letters spell the name of a popular location for celebrating New Years Eve.

S	E	I	B	A	B	N	E	W	Y	E	A	R	S	E	V	E	Y
G	C	H	A	M	P	A	G	N	E	T	Y	I	M	N	S	T	T
E	N	S	S	U	E	T	H	C	D	A	N	C	E	D	R	H	R
S	Q	I	N	F	E	T	O	O	D	M	U	A	Y	O	E	I	A
E	F	C	G	F	I	N	A	S	L	S	U	E	R	F	K	R	P
D	H	E	F	N	F	R	R	R	R	I	A	S	E	D	A	T	S
A	I	U	S	E	I	A	S	E	B	R	D	N	I	E	M	Y	K
R	B	B	T	T	E	S	M	T	I	E	S	A	F	C	E	F	R
A	M	T	A	Y	I	A	N	N	O	R	L	A	Y	E	S	I	O
P	I	S	W	L	E	V	R	O	E	F	T	E	E	M	I	R	W
N	D	E	A	R	L	E	I	N	I	H	J	V	C	B	O	S	E
D	N	E	T	R	V	O	N	T	E	T	E	A	S	E	N	T	R
A	I	S	W	I	A	A	O	R	I	N	A	S	N	R	O	H	I
Y	G	Y	E	O	B	I	T	N	T	E	I	R	R	U	K	C	F
O	H	W	I	N	E	I	T	S	S	K	S	I	O	H	A	T	S
N	T	Y	L	I	M	A	F	N	O	I	S	A	C	C	O	R	T
E	T	S	A	E	F	S	N	O	I	T	U	L	O	S	E	R	Y
S	R	E	Z	I	T	E	P	P	A	Y	F	R	I	E	N	D	S

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CHAMPAGNE
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DANCE
DAY ONE

DECORATIONS
END OF DECEMBER
EVENTS
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FATHER TIME
FEAST
FESTIVITIES
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FIRST OF JANUARY
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Answers On Page 3

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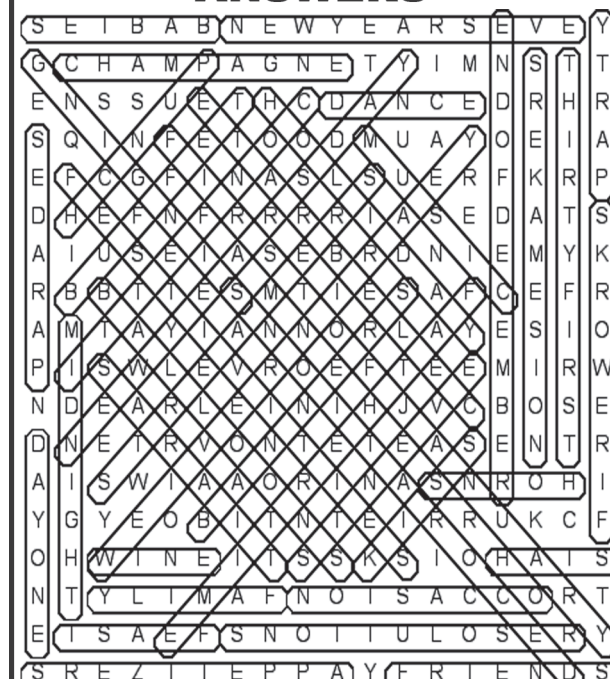
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Sam Stewart

Funeral services for Sam Stewart, age 79, of Birthright, Texas will be conducted at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, January 2, 2025 at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Cody Stewart officiating and Don South assisting. Visitation will be held at 9:00 a.m., one hour prior to the service. A masonic graveside service will follow at North Hopkins Cemetery with Chris Childers, Jeremy Herman, Rodney Harred, Tommy Long, Junior Horton and Tony Coffman serving as pallbearers.

Sam passed away on Saturday, December 28, 2024 with his family around him. Sam was born on April 14, 1945 in Texarkana, Arkansas the son of Samuel Bryan Stewart and Martha Lou Brown Stewart. He married Charlene Minty on January 16, 1975 in Rockwall, Texas. Sam and Charlene owned and operated April Showers in Sulphur Springs. Sam was a member of Birthright Methodist Church. He was a member of the Sulphur Bluff Masonic Lodge #246 and Scottish Rite. Sam grew up in Maud, TX and moved to Skidmore, TX when he was a freshman in High School. He graduated from Skidmore and attended Texas A&I which is now Texas A&M in Kingsville, TX. He moved to Garland, TX in 1963 and worked for Varo, Inc. for over 15 years.

In addition to his wife Charlene, Sam is survived by his son, Cody Stewart and wife Janna and granddaughter, Kalan Stewart all of

Sulphur Springs, TX.

Sam was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Bennie Foster. Memorials may be made to the North Hopkins Cemetery in Sam's name at 128 S. Davis St., Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482 Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com.



Goldie Wilma Darlin

Graveside services for Goldie Wilma Darlin, age 93, of Sulphur Springs will be conducted at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, January 2, 2025, at Martin Springs Cemetery with Bro. Doug Holt officiating. Grandchildren and great-grandchildren will be serving as pallbearers. Visitation will be held from 11:30 to 12:30 on Thursday, January 2, 2025, at West Oaks Funeral Home.

Goldie passed away on Saturday, December 28, 2024, at her home just hours before her 94th birthday, surrounded by her family. Goldie was born on December 29, 1930 the daughter of Thomas Jefferson Haney and Clara Alice Sanders Haney. Goldie married A. B. Darlin on December 14, 1946, in Hopkins County and he preceded her in death. Goldie worked for Munves Manufactory as a seamstress for 11 years. She was an active member of Grace Family Church and demonstrated remarkable devotion to her faith. Her participation in church activities yielded invaluable life lessons. Her most cherished family memory was the surprise celebration of her 90th birthday, where she relished being the center of attention. Goldie loved to fish and was very well known for pulling pranks on her family. She enjoyed playing Skip bo and was quite the accomplished 42 player. She enjoyed participating in 42 tournaments with her son and grandchildren, all of whom she taught. Her sons and

grandchildren represented her most prized accomplishments.

Goldie is survived by her sons Benny Darlin and wife Jeannie of Sulphur Springs, Danny Darlin and wife Carol of Yantis, grandchildren, Kristi Brewer and husband Brandon, Wendy Forbes and husband Jason, Chad Darlin and wife Stacey, Kimberly Burnett and husband Cole and Krystal Darlin, great-grandchildren, Spencer Brewer and wife Jaci, Braylea Brewer, Benjamin Brewer, Lawson Forbes, Bryson Gillespie, Bayleigh Gillespie, Braxton Darlin and Brynlee Darlin, Addison Burnett, Hudson Burnett and Heston Burnett.

In addition to her husband she is preceded in death by her parents, sisters, Jessie Lucille Waller, Virgie Leola Coleman, Dessa Pearl Haney, brothers, Clarence Haney, Earl Ellis Haney, Leslie Doryn Haney, Thomas Dewey Haney, Grady Troyce Haney.

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



Anna Catherine Rholes Bessonett January 22, 1962 — November 30, 2024

Visitation for Anna Catherine Rholes Bessonett, age 62 of Sulphur Springs, Texas was held on Monday December 30, 2024 from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home in Sulphur Springs, Texas. Ms. Bessonett passed away on November 30, 2024 at Christus Mother Frances — Sulphur Springs.

Anna was born on January 22, 1962 in Sulphur Springs, Texas to David Ray Rholes Sr. and Frances Willene Johnson Rholes. She was a graduate of Sulphur Springs High School. She worked at the Lee Jeans Factory in Sulphur Springs as a young adult. Anna later went to work for Ocean Spray. She worked there from 1991 to 2013. She loved her work family at Ocean Spray. She gained many friendships working there over the years. When Anna was younger, her family often went to the family lake, Camp David. Lots of memories were made there. Some included going out on the boat, fishing and fish-frys. Anna was known for her kindness and compassion towards those she truly loved. She enjoyed being a mother to her daughters, Ashlie and Kinzie, and especially being Nana to her granddaughter Alliah. Some of Anna's hobbies included planting and growing flowers, making stained glass pieces and going to 90s Rock concerts. Anna will always be known for her bright blue eyes and beautiful long hair. Anna was a member of First Baptist Church Sulphur Springs and a graduate of the Sulphur Springs High School, class of 1980.

She is survived by her daughters, Ashlie Brooke Sewell and Kinzie Paige Bessonett; granddaughter, Alliah Brooke Sewell and brother, David Ray Rholes Jr.

Anna was preceded in death by her parents and sister, Mary Elizabeth (Rholes) Barnes.

In lieu of flowers, the family ask that you consider a donation to Mental Health America.

Dr. Dietz Retires Again



Dr. Dietz retired in 2010 and again in 2024. Dr. Dietz's father was one of five children during the depression and was only able to attend one year of college so education was stressed in the Dietze home. Whether it was medical school, law school or another industry, the family valued fulfilling the education required to succeed.

Spending only one year at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Dietze quickly moved to the University of Texas at Austin for pharmacy school. Although that one year at Southwestern

played an important part in Dietze's story. He became friends and fraternity brothers with Jerry Jennings, who would attend medical school with Dr. Dietze and become a radiologist himself. It was his roommate from Southwestern that invited a young Dietze to a fraternity party. His former roommate's wife had arranged for him to meet a young lady. That night, Bill Dietze met Peggy. Although from West Texas, the two hit it off and she became Mrs. Peggy Dietze. Dietze knew that he had to have a way to pay for medical school. Thus he

shifted focus to become a pharmacist. He attended medical school in Galveston, he worked nights and weekends in a local pharmacy. This strategy allowed him to earn a living and still be able to put forth the work it took to be successful in medical school.

After completing medical school in 1967, Dr. Dietz joined the Army and interned at Fyzsimons Army Hospital in Denver. From there, he went to Brooke Army Medical in San Antonio for specialty training in ear, nose, and throat (ENT). The University of Texas at San Antonio medical school had just opened. There he served almost a year in residency. Then he was stationed at Fort Hood as the ENT physician for three more years. While there, Dietze reconnected with Dr. Jennings, who'd gotten out of the Army a year earlier and moved to his hometown of Sulphur Springs to begin his radiology practice. Recalling his time in the Army, Dietze said, "The Army was a blessing. We formed lifelong friendships." Those friendships would lead him to Sulphur Springs.

As his time in the Army was winding down in 1973, Dietze planned to return to his hometown of Victoria to set up a practice. Knowing this, Jennings made a fateful call to invite his friend for a family visit in Sulphur Springs, it was fall. The leaves were turning, and the autumn air had just a slight chill. Dietze felt a pull to the Northeast Texas town. It was unlike his home in the south or his wife's home in the west. Jennings ask Dietze to visit the hospital, then led by Glenn Kinley. A week later, there as an offer made to have Dietze come to Sulphur Springs. Sulphur Springs just happened to be looking for new specialists to expand their services. Dietze was slow to accept the proposition because the hospital did not have the required instruments that were needed for his specialization. It was too far. It was too much of a new start. All of the reasons to not come to Sulphur Springs were laid out. Yet every single time, Kinley and the hospital would step up to make it work. New instruments were purchased. New facilities were planned. Reassurances were given. By January of 1974, Dietze committed. When

asked about that fateful decision, he stated, "If you want to make God laugh, make your own plans." God certainly was laughing.

His father, a practical man, asked him, "Have you lost your mind?" Dietze had saved enough from the army to live on for only four months. He ended up borrowing from the State Bank more than his father could even imagine! As a conservative south Texas farmer who went through the Depression, that didn't make much sense to him. Dietze stated, "Looking back, I could always understand his concern." Adding to his dilemma, he had no office building! Thus, he had to borrow enough to build an office space, also.

During these times was when he met Joe Bob Burgin, who managed the medical clinic. Burgin faithfully watched over the construction of the office. There was no way I could have done this without Burgin's help," Dietze stated.

For the next 26 years. Dr. Dietze was the ear, nose, and throat specialist for the Sulphur Springs and Hopkins County community. Retiring in 2010, he thought that he would slow

down and enjoy time away from medicine, but the needs of the community pulled him back.

Sulphur Springs needed a wound care clinic. Partnering with Dr. Robert Shackelford, they orchestrated the set up of the clinic. Stepping in when needed. Dr. Dietze provided leadership to the clinic for 14 years. "The only reason I was able to work there all those years was because of the excellent nurses and personnel I was able to work with. They made it all work for me," Dietze said.

It takes a special person to love their community enough to serve for 50 years in any capacity. This is especially true of a physician and of Dr. Dietze in particular. The lessons he learned in his hometown of Cuero, honed in Galveston, polished at Fort Hood, and displayed in Sulphur Springs make Dr. Bill Dietze a testament to not only the health care of Hopkins County but to all aspects of our community.

Editors note: I was Dr. Dietze first Rhinoplasty patient after his coming to Sulphur Springs.



In the Gregorian calendar, New Year's Eve, also known as Old Year's Day, is the evening or the entire day of the last day of the year, 31 December. In many countries, New Year's Eve is often celebrated with dancing, eating, drinking, and watching or lighting fireworks. Some Christians attend a watchnight service. The celebrations generally go on past midnight into New Year's Day, The First of January.

Happy New Year!
Here's to a wonderful 2025!

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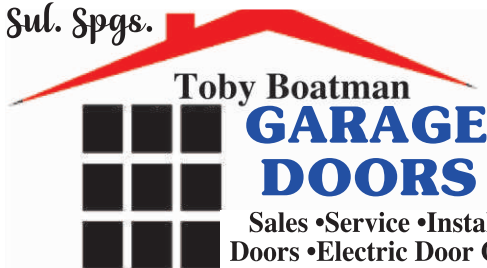


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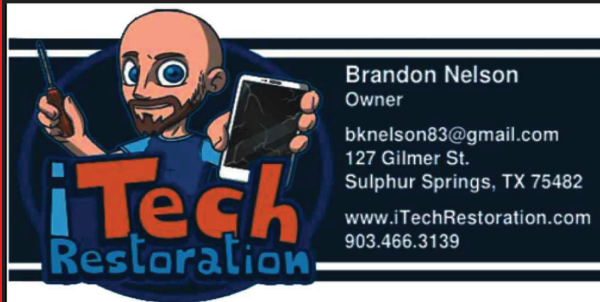


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