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Tumbleweed Smith

“This is Napoleon’s saddle,” says Charles Trois of Brady. “That’s his death mask, Napoleon’s death mask. These two big Amazon women, they were the front entrance to Coney Island back in its day.”

Charles is giving me a tour of his museum which he is building in the old Western Auto

building near downtown Brady.

“This clock is from the 1700s. It’s a hundred and four pounds of solid silver.” We came to a collection of Native American artifacts. “This is one of the best collections of tomahawks in the world, smoking tomahawks.”The items in his museum resemble collections in the Smithsonian. Valuable historic items are everywhere. Charles grew up in Philadelphia and had careers in art, music and real estate. He had some musical hits in the 60s. “We had everything from ’YUMMY, YUMMY, I GOT LOVE IN MY TUMMY, ONE TWO THREE RED LIGHT, to MONTEGO BAY. Lots of hit records.”

He traveled a lot. “I was in California, where a friend of mine was doing THE BEST LITTLE WHOREHOUSE IN TEXAS and he told me I would love Austin. I came in 1980 and it was wonderful,” Charles said with a chuckle. “I just slowly kept moving toward the hill country. And finally ended up in Brady.” On his way to Brady, Charles and his wife established the Trois resort near Fredericksburg.

He bought a city block in Brady to house some of his collections. “I like the little town. I wanted to get away from the cities. I’m building a museum which sounds kind of crazy to have valuable stuff in a small town but my motto is build it and they will come. I wanted to get away from all the insanity. So, I wanted to come to the center of Texas. Eventually, this museum will represent the evolution of civilization through all the battles, all the wars, how mankind has progressed.”

Charles used his artistic ability to create dioramas, displaying dinosaurs. He painted the floor in the huge building. The outside of the building is a dark brown stucco, made to look like stone.

“Right now, I have two rooms that are almost finished. The next one will house the world’s largest cap gun collection. Then I’m going to knock down the building behind this one, build a three-story structure, connect them all and the museum will finally come together.” Charles gives private tours.

He has some rare guns. “I have the largest collection in the world of western gun and holster rigs. The old-time stuff. Some of the rare art pieces in the museum include works by Van Gogh, Picasso, Salvadore Dali, Modigliani, Degas and Renoir. A lot of the major museums wanted a lot of the pieces that I have, but I wanted to keep everything right here.”



Tumbleweed Smith

Miscellaneous



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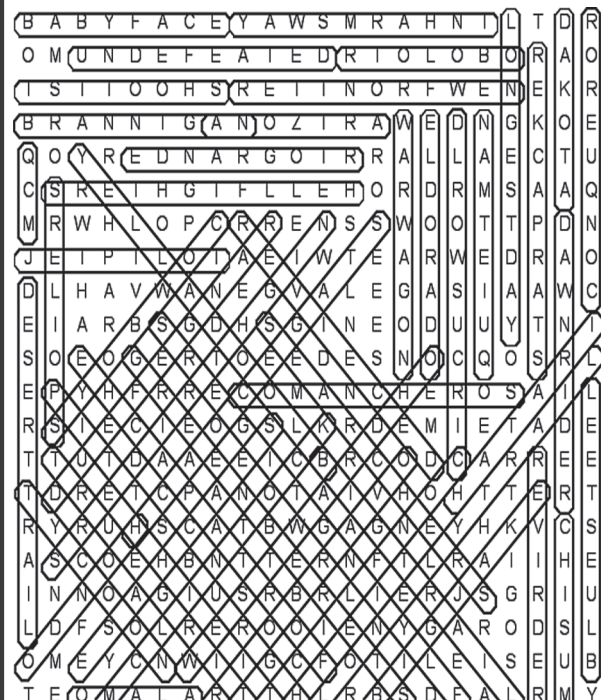
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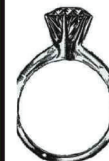
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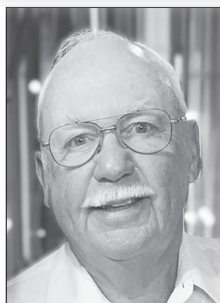
Obits



WEST OAKS FUNERAL HOME

500 Hillcrest Dr., Sulphur Springs, Tx. 75482

<http://www.westoaksfuneralhome.com>



Jerry Porterfield

Jerry Paul Porterfield was born in Sulphur Springs, Texas on August 19, 1945, to Claude and Pauline (Johnston) Porterfield. During his childhood, the Porterfield's lived all over the southern United States due to his father's job as a welder with Chicago Bridge and Iron. The family returned to live in Sulphur Springs where Jerry graduated high school in 1963. He resided in Sulphur Springs for the remainder of his life.

Jerry worked at Rockwell International while earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics and Physics from East Texas State University. He continued employment with the company upon completion of his education, transitioning from the machine shop to systems programming and administration.

Jerry joined Sulphur Springs Country Club and discovered a love for the game of golf. It was there that he met Orville "Sarge" Moody, and the two developed a deep friendship. Because of Sarge's success as a PGA tour player, Jerry was able to accompany him on trips to Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. These experiences were the highlights of Jerry's life.

During his retirement years, Jerry enjoyed playing golf regularly with his group at Sulphur Springs Country Club, spending time with his best friend, Joe Clair, and hanging out with friends at the local VFW. His family is forever grateful for those who filled his days with good times.

After a brief illness, Jerry succumbed to a brain tumor and passed away on February 2, 2025. A memorial visitation will be held at West Oaks Funeral Home on Thursday, February 13, 6-8pm.

Jerry is preceded in death by his parents, Claude and Pauline Porterfield, brother, Ronnie Porterfield, and sister-in-law, Delores Porterfield Mays. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Jay and Amber, grandchildren, Castleton, McCleary & Noelle, sister and brother-in-law, Lisa & Doug Skelton, and several nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to: East Texas A&M University Alumni Association Scholarship Fund at <https://www.tamuc.edu/lionalumniassociationem/> Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com



Betty Gideon

A funeral service for Betty Gideon, age 93, of Sulphur Springs, Texas was held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, February 3, 2025 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home in Sulphur Springs with Rev. Fred Randles officiating. Interment followed at Restlawn Memorial Park with Chasen Westbrook, Larry Barthlow, Bud Billups, Keith Brice, Jeff Orwosky, Reggie McMullen, and Javier Nieves-Arce serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers included Bob Gideon, Glenn Friddle, James Cross, Eddie Kistenmacher, and David Kistenmacher. Visitation was held one hour prior from 10:00-11:00 a.m. at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Ms. Gideon passed away at Carriage House Manor on Wednesday, January 29, 2025.

Betty Grace Gideon was born on September 16, 1931 in Sulphur Springs, Texas to Edward A. and Mary Grace (Rowell) Kistenmacher. She married Hoyt W. Gideon at the East Grand Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas on April 3, 1954. Betty obtained a business degree at East Texas State Teachers College. She was a member of the

Marpessa sorority and looked forward to attending their annual reunions. Betty loved playing tennis and was a member of the Sulphur Springs Ladies Tennis Association. She also enjoyed playing bridge and crafting with her friends. Betty and Hoyt were fortunate to travel all over the world through his insurance business. Betty was a long-time member of the First Baptist Church of Sulphur Springs.

Betty is survived by her children, Gail Westbrook (Charles) of Sulphur Springs, Texas and Jane Lawrence (Paul) of Kingsport, Tennessee; grandchildren, Ashly Westbrook, Chasen Westbrook (Elizabeth), Alyssa Lawrence, Andrea Lawrence, Javier Nieves-Arce, and Stephanie Nieves-Arce; and great-grandchildren, Harper Westbrook, Aubrey Westbrook, and Maven Westbrook.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Edward A. and Mary Grace Kistenmacher; husband, Hoyt W. Gideon; son, Jeffrey W. Gideon, and brother, Edward Kistenmacher, Jr. (Billie).



Donald Meeks

A graveside for Donald Meeks, age 68, of Como, Texas will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 8, 2025 at Greenpond Cemetery in Como, Texas. Visitation will be held prior to the service from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home in Sulphur Springs. Mr. Meeks passed away in Bonifay, Florida on Tuesday, January 28, 2025.



L.J. Massey

A funeral service for L.J. Massey, age 82, of Sulphur Springs, Texas was held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home in Sulphur Springs, Texas. Interment followed at Tira Cemetery. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service from 10:00-11:00 a.m. at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Mr. Massey passed away at Rock Creek Nursing Home on Thursday, January 30, 2025.

Obits Continued



O.D. Bales

Memorial service for O.D. Bales, age 88, of Sulphur Springs, Texas will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 8, 2025 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home in Sulphur Springs with Buddy Wiggins officiating. There will be no formal visitation. Mr. Bales passed away at Sulphur Springs Health and Rehabilitation on Sunday, February 2, 2025.

O.D. Bales was born on June 26, 1936 in Willis, Oklahoma to Orey and Nadine (McAlister) Bales. He married Wanda Lou Brown in Kermit, Texas on October 15, 1960. After serving in the Navy, O.D. worked as an oil field technician, then owned a construction company, and lastly a wrecking company here in Sulphur Springs on I-30. He was a member of the Church of Christ.

O.D. is survived by his daughters, Kathy Riley and Cynthia Lee (Clyde) both of Sulphur Springs, Texas; grandchild, Casey Riley; great-grandchild; Caiden Lewis; brother, Dan Bales of Burkburnett, Texas, sisters, Patricia Reu and Lavada Hayes both of Burkburnett, Texas, sister, Devoda Davis of Moore, Oklahoma; brother Wes Bales of Edmond, Oklahoma; former wife & friend, Wanda Bales of Sulphur Springs, Texas; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Orey and Nadine Bales; and brothers, Lavell Bales, Tom Bales, and Travis Bales.



Jeff Herndon

October 6, 1961 — January 28, 2025

A graveside service for Jeff Herndon, age 63 of Sulphur Springs, Texas was held at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, February 1, 2025 at Brigham Cemetery in Campbell, Texas. There was no formal visitation. Mr. Hendon passed away on January 28, 2025.



Johnny Edward Jordan

Johnny (JJ) Edward Jordan, 81, of Cumby, Texas, passed away peacefully on January 28, 2025, after a courageous battle with Alzheimer's disease. He was surrounded by his loved ones who cherished him dearly.

JJ was born to Beatrice Fant Jordan and D.L. Jordan on October 3, 1943, in Pittsburg, Texas. He married the love of his life Susan on September 7, 1985. Together they shared a beautiful and devoted marriage of nearly 40 years.

He lived a life of service, adventure, and devotion to his faith and family. A proud veteran of the United States Air Force, JJ served his country for 22 years, 6 months, and 8 days with honor and commitment. During these years he earned the respect of those he served alongside and retired with the rank of Master Sergeant. After his military career, he moved to Cumby to help take care of his family. It was at this time that he began his next career of 23 years as an aircraft mechanic at Raytheon/L3 until his retirement in 2010.

JJ embraced life with the same spirit of dedication, pursuing his passions and living a simple but fulfilled life. He was a man of deep faith, finding inspiration and comfort in reading his Bible. His retired days were often spent with quiet reflection, and his unwavering belief guiding him throughout his journey. He had a great fondness for riding motorcycles, getting into trouble with his grandkids, taking the service road, and watching westerns. His happiest moments were spent outdoors, taking "walkies" with his loyal companion, Coach, a trusted four-legged friend who was always by his side. Their bond was one of pure joy and a laidback mindset. Great comfort is found in knowing they are reunited once again.

He is survived by his wife, Susan; his children, David Jordan and wife Christy of Dawsonville, Georgia; Mandy Burns and husband Jason of England; Emma Hudson and husband Jason of Cumby, Texas and Cheryl Driver of England; sister Judy Jeter and husband Jerry of Cumby, Texas; brother-in-law and sister-in-law Barney and Tina Robey of England and Michael and Julie Ruffles of England; and numerous nieces and nephews; and his favorite furry friend, Squeaky, the cat. He was the proud Papa to his grandchildren, Lauren McDonald and husband Colton, Jaxon Hudson, Ashlyn Hudson, and Jackson Evans; and his great-granddaughter Colby Lynn McDonald.

He is preceded in death by his parents; brother, Jimmy Jordan; sister, Joyce Cozzens; brother-in-law, Bernie Murray; and niece, Kelly Gaines.

A funeral Service was held on Saturday, February 1st, at 10:00 a.m. at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home in Sulphur Springs, Texas. Interment was at Cumby Cemetery with Jason Hudson, Jaxon Hudson, Colton McDonald, Jackson Evans, Jeff Hudson, and Jon Hudson serving as pallbearers. Visitation was held from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Friday, January 31, 2025, at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. His family finds comfort in knowing he is at peace, and he always said he was not afraid to die as he knew where he was going and it would be ever so grand.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association in JJ's memory.



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Valentine's Day, also called Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine, is celebrated annually on February 14. Originating as a Western Christian feast day honoring one or two early saints named Valentinus, Valentine's Day is recognized as a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and romantic love in many regions around the world. In modern times, it is an occasion to shower your loved ones with gifts, chocolates and flowers!



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