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- ★ Yvonne Miller King - Caregiver of the year.
- ★ Ethan Sabo - Growth and Renewal Award
- ★ Kim Beck - Ambassador of the Year (for the third consecutive year).
- ★ Fruitful Harvest - Community Pride Award.
- ★ Juliana Osornio, nurse at Cumby Collegiate ISD - Auxiliary Educator of the Year.
- ★ Julie Baxter, Secretary at Como-Pickton Junior High - Paraprofessional Educator of the Year.
- ★ Susan Cook, Sulphur Springs Elementary math teacher - Educator of the Year.
- ★ David Fowler, posthumously - Outstanding Agriculturist of the Year.
- ★ Judy Gilreath, The Dinner Bell Coordinator - Woman of the Year.
- ★ East Texas Physical Therapy - Small Business of the Year.
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THE MOUND, TEXAS POST OFFICE

Tumbleweed Smith

Postmaster Sherry Hopson knows the forty people who have boxes in the post office at Mound.

"I know them by name, I know their children, their grandchildren, their grandparents and maybe their great grandparents. I can even know the names of some of their pets." She has been postmaster ten years and watches the parade of life from her post office window.



Tumbleweed Smith

"We have a lot of chickens in Mound," says Sherry. "I sit here and I can look out and anytime there might be six, eight, ten, twelve chickens in the road, trying to get out of the road before a truck hits them. And with the chickens are the guineas. They entertain me. One day I looked out and here was a huge hog walking down the middle of the road and this high school kid was chasing it. It was an FFA project gone wild. He was trying to get that hog back in the pen. It was a real rodeo. And all this happened right here. I have to get out and see where the ambulance or fire truck goes because people will come in and ask where they went."

Sherry is a retired teacher and is at the post office only a few hours a day. "I'm here before eight AM and close at ten Monday through Friday. Saturday is my long day. I'm here before eight o'clock and close at eleven thirty." Sherry has a good time at her job and enjoys Mound, population 200, is near Gatesville. Mound got its name from a hill that was on full of cedar. When the cedar was removed the hill became known as the White Mound. There was a school and church near the mound. "Back in the 1800's they shared the same building."

There is a mail route out of Gatesville so some people have mail boxes on their property. Sherry gets mail from both services. She has had a post office box at Mound since 1962 when she and her husband married.

The Post Office is in the old Mound Depot Building built in 1926 when there were a lot of people coming and going to Mound by train. The post office was slated for closure but citizens rallied to keep it open.

"At that particular time, I was not the postmaster and did not work here. But I was a friend of the postmaster and she told me what was happening. So, I got a petition and went around to every house in Mound and to nearly every farm and ranch and got people to sign to keep our post office. And wouldn't you know it several years later here I am running the post office." When the previous post master left the position, she asked Sherry if she wanted to take it. Sherry said she would be glad to.

Apparently, people appreciate her. They bring gifts and leave them on the post office porch. One was a loaf of fresh baked bread and a jar of orange marmalade with a note that said "for Miss Sherry, our postmaster. Thank you."

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N	E	G	A	L	R	X	B	I	E	N	R	S	A	N	G	G	T
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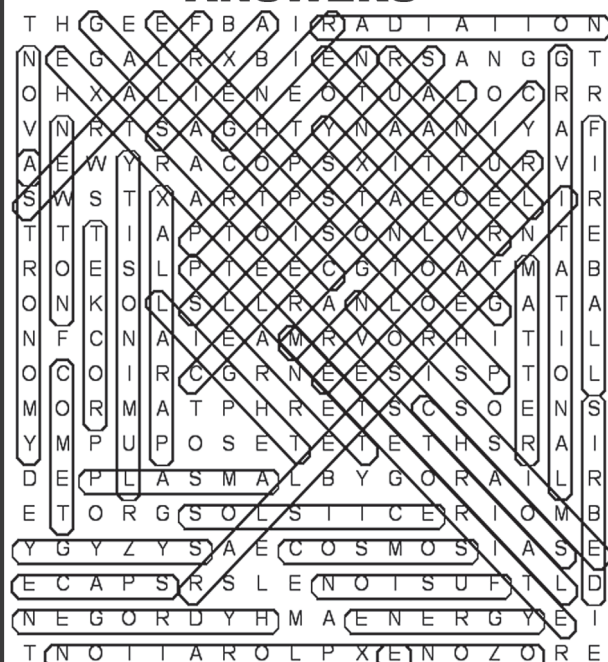
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ANSWERS



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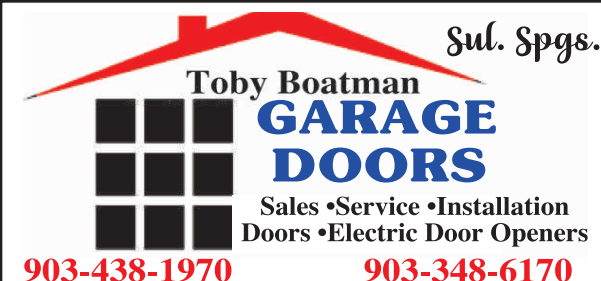
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Larry Lane Walls

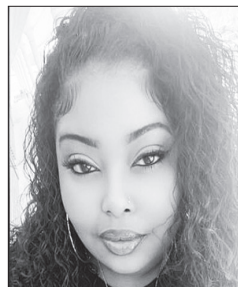
Larry Lane Walls, 77, of Sulphur Springs, passed away Wednesday, February 12, 2025, surrounded by his family and friends. Larry married Keitha Kirkpatrick on September 22, 1978. She was not just the love of his life, but they were truly soul mates. Together they raised three lovely daughters, Lindsey, Tracey, and Audrey, who gave them eight grandchildren who knew him as Dad Dad.

Larry also loved music and was a very talented guitarist and singer. He shared this love of music with his wife, children, and grandchildren. That love connected them with an even closer bond as a family. His songs will remain forever and alive in their hearts.

He is survived by his wife, Keitha Walls; his daughter, Lindsey Smith and her daughters Chloe and Charlize Smith; daughter, Tracey Walls and her children, Conner, Wade and Ruby; daughter Audrey Lively and husband Jacob Lively, grandsons Cason Lane Walls and Canaan Cash Lively and granddaughter, Asia LaRay Lively; brother, Joel Dan Walls and his wife Susan Walls, and nephews Daniel and Elliot Walls; and so many uncles, aunts, cousins and friends who he loved and who loved him.

Larry's absence leaves a void that can never truly be filled, but his legacy of love, strength, and laughter will live on in the lives of those he touched. His family will carry forward his lessons, his stories, and his unshakable spirit. A man like Larry Walls does not simply pass—he remains in the hearts and memories of those who loved him. His music will still play, his stories will still be told, and his love will never fade. Rest high on that mountain, High Roller. We love you much more than we will ever be able to say.

The family invites all their relatives, friends, fellow pickers and former band members to join them in a celebration of Larry's life on Sunday, February 27th from 1-5 pm at: The Cottage 1737 County Road 2301 in Sulphur Springs. (At the intersection of County Roads 2301 and 2300.) All musicians are encouraged to bring their instruments and be ready to jam. Food and beverages will be served and anyone that wants to can bring a dessert.



Starkeisha Wright

Star was born January 01, 1990, to Ralph and Lisa Wright. She was a member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. She was employed at Saputo Foods.

Star was a beautiful soul in and out who left this world far too soon. She was preceded in death by her father Ralph Wright.

She leaves to mourn, her mother, Lisa Wright; sister, Brittany Wright (Cody); brother, Jeremy White (Shaun); three nieces, London, Paris, and Jerzi; one nephew, Kingston who she loved dearly. Her grandmothers, Madgaline Wright and Velma Ruff; and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Visitation will be Friday, February 21, 2025 at 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Green Leaf Mortuary, 200 Putman Street, Sulphur Springs, Texas, TX 75482.

Funeral Service will be Saturday, February 22, 2025 at 1:00 PM at Morning Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Fuller Street, Sulphur Springs.

Helen Sapaugh August 24, 1938 — February 17, 2025

Funeral service for Helen Sapaugh, age 86, of Sulphur Springs, Texas will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at First Baptist Church in Sulphur Springs. Interment will follow at Restlawn Memorial Park. Visitation will be held prior to the service from 1:00-2:30 p.m. at the church.

Ms. Sapaugh passed away at Christus Mother Frances Hospital in Sulphur Springs on Monday, February 17, 2025.



Bobbie Ann Askew

May 18, 1940 ~ February 15, 2025 (age 84)

Funeral Service for Bobbie Ann Askew will be at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, February 21, 2025 at the League Street Church of Christ with Bro. D.J. Barnes officiating. Interment will follow the service at Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

Bobbie passed away on February 15, 2025 in Sulphur Springs, Texas.

Billy Thomas Bailey

July 11, 1939 — February 13, 2025 of Sulphur Springs

A private service will be held at a later date for Billy Thomas Bailey, age 85, of Sulphur Springs, Texas. Mr. Bailey passed away on Thursday, February 13, 2025.

The family respectfully requests that no flowers be sent. A donation to a charity of your choice is preferred.

AMERICAN! Famous Singer



Charlie Pride

Country Music Singer, Musician/Guitarist,
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Charley Frank Pride (born March 18, 1934) is an American country music singer, musician/guitarist, recording artist, performer, and business owner. His greatest musical success came in the early to mid-1970s, when he became the best-selling performer for RCA Records since Elvis Presley. During the peak years of his recording career (1966–87), he garnered 52 top-10 hits on the Billboard Hot Country Songs charts, 29 of which made it to number one. He has appeared with country music star Brad Paisley and was featured in the 2016 CMA Awards.

Pride is one of the few African Americans to have had considerable success in the country music industry and one of only three (along with DeFord Bailey and Darius Rucker) to have been inducted as a member of the Grand Ole Opry. He was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2000.

In 2010, Pride became a special investor and minority owner of the Texas Rangers Major League Baseball club.

EARLY LIFE

Pride was born in Sledge, Mississippi, one of 11 children of poor sharecroppers. His father intended to name him Charl Frank Pride, but owing to a clerical error on his birth certificate, his legal name is Charley Frank Pride. Eight boys and three girls were in the family. He married Rozene Cohan in 1956.

CAREER

When Pride was 14, his mother purchased him his first guitar and he taught himself to play. Though he loved music, one of Pride's lifelong dreams was to become a professional baseball player. In 1952, he pitched for the Memphis Red Sox of the Negro American League. He pitched well and in 1953 signed a contract with the Boise Yankees, the Class C farm team of the New York Yankees. During that season, an injury caused him to lose the "mustard" on his fastball, and he was sent to the Yankees' Class D team in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Later that season, while in the Negro Leagues with the Louisville Clippers, another player (Jesse Mitchell) and he were traded to the Birmingham Black Barons for a team bus. "Jesse and I may have the distinction of being the only players in history to be traded for a used motor vehicle," Pride mused in his 1994 autobiography.

He pitched for several other minor league teams, his hopes of making it to the big leagues still alive, but the Army derailed this. After serving two years in the military, he tried to return to baseball. Though hindered by an injury to his throwing arm, Pride played three games for the Missoula Timberjacks of the Pioneer League (a farm club of the Cincinnati Reds) in 1960, and had tryouts with the California Angels (1961) and the New York Mets (1962) organizations, but was not picked up by either team.

Pride's singing ability soon came to the attention of the team manager, who also paid him to sing for 15 minutes before each game, which increased attendance and earned Pride another \$10 on top of the \$10 he earned for each game. He also played gigs in the local area, both solo and with a band called the Night Hawks, and Asarco asked him to sing at company picnics. His job at the smelter was dangerous and difficult; he once broke his ankle. He routinely unloaded coal from railroad cars, shoveling it into a 2,400 °F furnace while keeping clear of slag, a task which frequently gave him burns. In a 2014 interview, Pride explained, "I would work at the smelter, work the swing shift and then play music," said Pride. "I'd work 11-7. Drive. Play Friday. Punch in. Drive. Polson. Philipsburg."

Between his smelter job and his music, he made a good living in the Helena area. He moved his wife and son to join him and they lived in Helena until 1967, purchasing their first home there, and with their children Dion and Angela being born at the local hospital. The Pride family moved to Great Falls, Montana, in 1967, because Pride's music career was taking off and he required quicker access to an airport. The family ultimately left Montana and moved to Texas in 1969. In a 1967 interview with the Helena Independent Record, Rozene commented that the family encountered minor racism in Montana, citing an incident where they were refused service in a restaurant and another time when a realtor refused to show them a home, but she felt that the family endured less racism than she saw leveled against local Native American people, whose treatment she compared to that given to black people in the South. Pride has generally spoken with fondness of the near-decade he spent there. "Montana is a very conservative state...I stood out like a neon. But once they let you in, you become a Montanan. When the rumor was that I was leaving. They kept saying, 'we will let you in, you can't leave.'"

RISE TO MUSIC FAME

While he was active in baseball, Pride had been encouraged to join the music business by country stars such as Red Sovine and Red Foley, and was working towards this career. In 1958, in Memphis, Pride visited Sun Studios and recorded some songs. One song has survived on tape, and was released in the United Kingdom as part of a box set. The song is a slow stroll in walking tempo called "Walkin' (the Stroll)".

He played music at clubs in Montana solo and with a four-piece combo called the Night Hawks during the time he lived in Montana. His break came when Chet Atkins at RCA Victor heard a demonstration tape and got Pride a contract. In 1966, he released his first RCA Victor single, "The Snakes Crawl at Night". Nashville manager and agent Jack D. Johnson signed Pride. Atkins was the longtime producer at RCA Victor who had made stars out of country singers such as Jim Reeves, Skeeter Davis, and others. Pride was signed to RCA Victor in 1965. "The Snakes Crawl at Night" did not chart. On the records of this song submitted to radio stations for airplay, the singer was listed as "Country Charley Pride". At this time, country music was a white medium. Jack made sure that no pictures of Charley were distributed for the first two years of his career, to avoid the effects of Jim Crowism. Pride disputes that the omission of a photo was deliberate; he stated that getting promoters to bring in a black country singer was a bigger problem: "people didn't care if I was pink. RCA signed me... they knew I was colored.

Soon after the release of "The Snakes Crawl at Night", Pride released another single called "Before I Met You", which also did not chart. Soon after, Pride's third single, "Just Between You and Me", was released. This song finally brought Pride success on the country charts. The song reached number nine on the US country chart.

HEIGHT OF HIS CAREER

The success of "Just Between You and Me" was enormous. He was nominated for a Grammy Award for the song the next year.

In 1967, he became the first black performer to appear at the Grand Ole Opry since harmonica player DeFord Bailey, who was a regular cast member of the Opry from 1925 through 1941, and made a final appearance in 1974. Pride also appeared in 1967 on ABC's The Lawrence Welk Show. In 1975, he was one of the stars of Bob Hope's Stars and Stripes show emceed by John Davidson and filmed in front of a live audience in Oklahoma City to celebrate the United States Bicentennial.

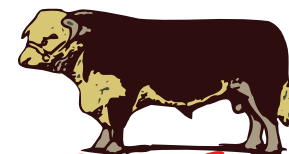
Between 1969 and 1971, Pride had eight single records that simultaneously reached number one on the US Country Hit Parade and also charted on the Billboard Hot 100: "All I Have to Offer You (Is Me)", "(I'm So) Afraid of Losing You Again", "I Can't Believe That You've Stopped Loving Me", "I'd Rather Love You", "Is Anybody Goin' to San Antone", "Wonder Could I Live There Anymore", "I'm Just Me", and "Kiss an Angel Good Mornin'". The pop success of these songs reflected the country/pop crossover sound that was reaching country music in the 1960s and early 1970s, known as "Countryopolitan". In 1969, his compilation album, The Best of Charley Pride, sold over one million copies, and was awarded a gold disc. Ultimately, Elvis Presley was the only artist who sold more records for the RCA label than did Pride.

Pride sang the Paul Newman-directed film Sometimes a Great Notion's main soundtrack song "All His Children" in 1970. The film starred Newman and Henry Fonda and received two Oscar nominations in 1972. Charlie Pride died, December 12, 2020 at the age of 86 from covid.

Courtesy of Wikipedia.



2025 Hopkins County



NETLA Market Show & Sale

Thursday-Saturday, February 20-22, 2025

Sale of Champions Saturday, February 22 at 1:00 p.m.
Hopkins County Regional Civic Center in Sulphur Springs

The Northeast Texas Livestock Association is trying to give our young people the incentive, learning and business experiences to grow into future leaders for this county. By raising a market animal, students learn responsibility and success. Your support during the Sale of Champions will enable these outstanding young people to continue their participation, fund their indebtedness and help send many to college. Without your support, this program fails so please attend this sale and support our young people of Hopkins County!

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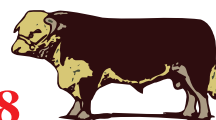
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