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"It gets bigger every year," says Derek. "I love history and with the ghost tour, my goal initially was to present history in a way so we could market to the younger generation. We

Tumbleweed Smith have a lot of young people that come to town. So, history with hauntings makes history a lot more interesting. We do have some haunted places for sure."

Derek developed the tour.

"It took about ten years. It wasn't easy. It's kind of like writing a book. You do research, look up things, check for accuracy, then look for more information about the place or the ghost. Then you've got to find a way to make it interesting.

"We rent the jail from the county and at the end of the tour we take people to the old jail built in 1885. There's something going on in that old jail. Some people record sights and sounds while in the jail. We encourage this because people on the tour will play the recordings for other people.

"They go in there and take videos and photos of some of the unexplainable things and I tell them to send them to us because it helps us market the tour. They get some really crazy stuff on video and audio." He has three other tour guides for the ninety-minute tour.

"I may pick up another tour guide in the spring because it gets really busy over spring break and of course the summer is busy. I have a tour at 8:30 PM Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Each tour guide has a group of about 30 people that they take on the tour. Once that 30 spot fills out we'll add another tour at 9:30."

Derek is a musician and tours as a George Strait impersonator.

"I have a George Strait tribute band and we go all over the country doing shows. I worked at a theater here and the general manager told me I looked like George Strait. So, we started it there and a couple of guys from Houston came in. One of them was Mark Chestnut's manager. He told me I could take this show to Houston and get real busy there. That was in 2014. So, in 2015 we started booking shows and we've been busy ever since."

He spent some time as a lead guitarist in Nashville. He's also a chainsaw artist.

"I make eagles and bears, things like that. That's really why I moved here. I had a little shop on Main Street, an outdoor store. I did that for fourteen years until Whataburger moved in and kicked me out. Now I carve them in my back yard and sell them in Luckenbach."

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



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### ***Faye Pereira Obituary***

Funeral Services for Faye Hudson Pereira, age 63 of Sulphur Springs, Texas will be at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at West Oaks Funeral Home with Bro. Brit Fischer officiating. Richard Brantley, Haygen Potts, Kayden Burns, Freddy Guante, Johnny Bryant, and Mark Howell will be serving as pallbearers. Visitation will be two hours prior to the service at 11:00 a.m. Interment will follow the service at Sulphur Springs City Cemetery. Faye passed away on April 19, 2025, in Plano, Texas.

Faye was born on November 14, 1961, to Vendal and Anna Williams Hudson in Dallas, Texas. She worked for Fidelity Express for over 19 years. Faye considered her nieces and nephews as her own and was considered their mom in every way that mattered.

She is survived by her loving husband, Joe Pereira; nieces, Anya Howell and her husband, Mark, Ashley Brantley and her husband, Richard, and Emilie Guante and her husband, Freddy; one nephew, Justan Stubblefield; great-nieces and nephews, Kayden Burns, Haygen Potts, Haddie Mae Brantley, Lily Howell, Macie Stubblefield, Everlie Guante, and Nash Guante.

Faye was preceded in death by her parents, Vendal and Anna Hudson, one brother, Larry Hudson, and two sisters, Kaye Stubblefield and Ann Nell Morgan.



### ***Larry Clinton Gamblin***

A memorial service for Larry Clinton Gamblin of Sulphur Springs, Texas was held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 19, 2025 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home in Sulphur Springs, Texas.

Larry Clinton Gamblin exchanged his 85-year-old worn and weary body for a new one Thursday, January 30th, 2025. Larry was a loving, humble and Godly husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend to all of us throughout his life. Along with his love for God, family and friends, Larry loved this country, and the land God created, with tremendous blessing of working the soil, planting and watering seeds and the increase God gave from that diligent desire to provide for his family in this earthly life.

Larry was born July 31, 1939 on South Davis Street in Sulphur Springs, Texas, to Clinton Payne and Janna Lou Allen Gamblin. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother-in-law, Winston Waggoner.

Larry is survived by his loving wife, Alice, son Gregg and wife Tammy, of Mt Vernon, Texas, daughter Cami and husband Ken Scheid of Gilmer, Texas. Papa Larry is also survived by grandchildren Will Gamblin (Ashlynn), Rynn Gamblin, Danielle Chambless, Joseph Scheid, Phillip Scheid (Sarah) and great-grandchildren Stetson Gamblin, Anna and Owen Scheid.

Larry's love for the land began as a very young child as he rode in a wooden crate atop a two-row cultivator while his dad and mom farmed 45 acres of cotton near Sulphur Springs. Larry attended schools in Seminole and Odessa before moving with his family to Dimmitt, Texas in 1955, where he began school at midterm as a sophomore. At that time, he lived 15 miles south of town and he rode the school bus for a short time, along with a girl named Alice Waggoner, who would later become the love of his life. Larry and Alice were high school sweethearts and they were married on June 12, 1958, after Alice graduated high school and Larry attended Texas Tech University during his freshman year.

Larry's love of agriculture and the fact that the area around Dimmitt, Texas was a farming-based community made it easy for him to choose that profession for 12 years, before selling the farm equipment and moving his family to Sulphur Springs, Texas. In 1974 Larry was elected chairman of the Hopkins County Dairy and Beef Producers Association and he was instrumental in representing dairymen in Washington D.C. at USDA Congressional Hearings.

Larry enjoyed being an active member of the Hopkins County Genealogical Society for several years. Other activities he loved and enjoyed were hunting and working with horses. He was a faithful member of the body of Christ and worshiped and served with the League Street church of Christ congregation.



### ***Jeffrey Johnson Obituary***

Memorial service for Jeffrey Scott Johnson, age 61 of Yantis, Texas will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at First United Methodist Church in Sulphur Springs, Texas. Jeff passed away on April 13, 2025, in Sulphur Springs, Texas.

Jeff was born on April 2, 1964, in Sulphur Springs, Texas to James Scott and Patricia Johnson. Jeff graduated from Sulphur Springs High School in 1982. During High School he developed a love for music through band where he was an accomplished saxophonist. He enjoyed marching, symphonic and jazz bands and served as Drum Major during his Senior Year. Jeff carried his passion to Texas Tech where he was in the Texas Tech Goin' Band. He also spent a summer traveling and performing with Drum Corp International (DCI). While in college, Jeff became a member of the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. He received his bachelor's degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management in 1990. Jeff spent his professional career in Restaurant Management working with companies to grow and

expand franchise restaurants throughout Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma.

Jeff's passions involved enjoying Texas Rangers baseball and most other sporting events, fishing, golf, and scouting. Jeff was a third generation Eagle Scout in Troop 69 in Sulphur Springs. Both of Jeff's sons also became Eagle Scouts. As part of Jeff's scouting experience, he backpacked Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico with several scouts from around the country.

He is survived by his sons, Alexander Scott Johnson of Titusville, Florida, and Zachary Lee Johnson (Cass Gonzalez) of Lubbock, Texas. Other survivors are his mother, Patricia (Pat) Johnson of Yantis, Texas and brother, Jay Johnson (Bryan Howell) of Dallas, Texas, and his beloved dog, Buster. Jeff is also survived by his Uncle and Aunt, Larry and Sarah Harrison of Junction, Texas, Aunt, Linda Harrison of Lavernia, Texas and many cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his father, James (Jim) Johnson and grandparents, Graydon and Nell West Johnson and Lloyd and Dorothy Harrison.



# Community rallies around injured Yantis ISD student

Students at school districts throughout the Northeast Texas region rallied Thursday to show support for a Yantis baseball player recovering from a spinal injury. Local businesses and individuals too launched into action upon learning of Wade Batchelor's accident and successive surgery.

Saturday, while preparing for prom on April 12, Batchelor was involved in an accident which required spinal surgery. He is reported to be paralyzed from the belly button down, and has a long road of recovery ahead. YISD reported when noting the #WADE-THRUTHESTORM campaign to show support for the youth and family and help them.

Batchelor is a junior at Yantis ISD, where he's attended school since pre-kindergarten and where his mother is employed as the junior high/high school secretary.

"Wade is a GOOFY kid that will find buttons of yours to push that you didn't even know existed. He is so stinking smart and witty beyond belief. Wade works hard for what he has and takes a lot of pride in the silver truck of his. He is also the type

of kid that will come up to you after a pep rally and say "Miss, I washed my hands, can I hold Colby?" and you comfortably hand your baby off to him. Him and Jax have become really good friends to the point that they have undertaken quite a few adventures together (LOL)," Lauren Hudson McDonald stated in a social media post about Batchelor, who she has taught since he was in 7th grade.

While typically competitors on the field, when tragedy of this nature occurs, Northeast Texas schools and communities pull together to offer support and where they can. Many neighboring districts as well as those that compete against Yantis in sports and academics share the campaign logo and encouraged those who wanted to participate to wear blue April 17 to show support for Wade Batchelor and his family. A number of area businesses and individuals also posted images of their teams wearing blue in support of Batchelor and his family #wadethruthestorm. Many have shared links and flyers for fundraising information for Batchelor as well. Many districts immediately follow-

ing the announcement of Batchelor's injury publicly offer via social media their thoughts and prayers.

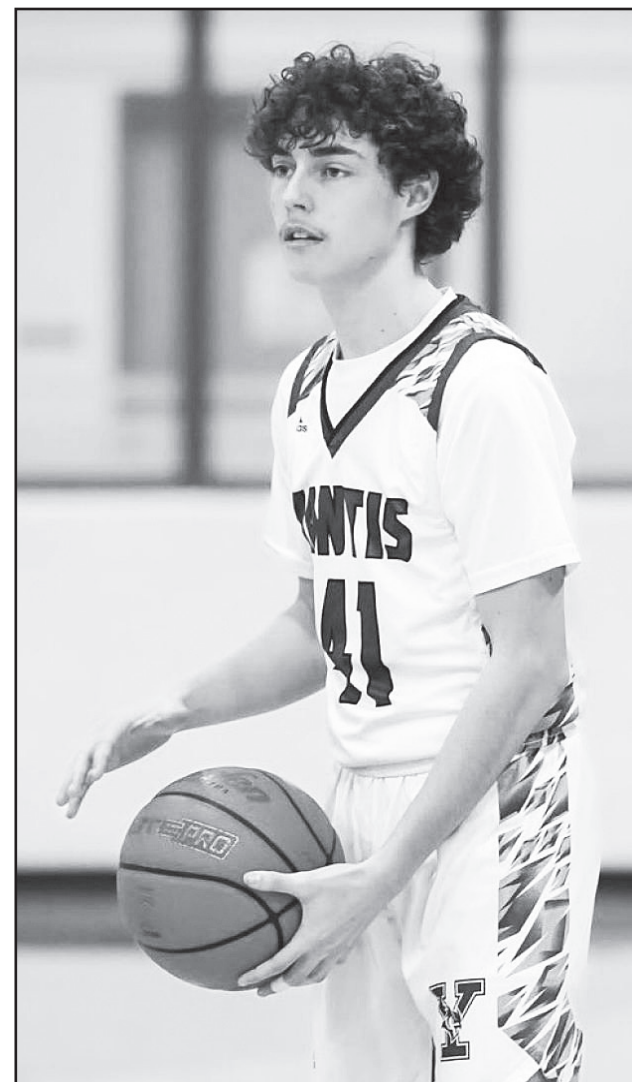
Tuesday evening, the Yantis Owls and Cumby See Trojans baseball teams came together before the first patch as one baseball family "in a powerful moment of prayer, standing united for Wade as he recovers." Yantis ISD noted doing so around the mound is a "reminder that while we may wear different jerseys, we stand together when it matters most."

JL Custom Designs is hosting a t-shirt fundraiser for Wade Batchelor. Shirts are \$18 for onsies and infant sizes, \$22 for youth extra small through youth extra large, and \$25 for adult small through extra large, \$27 for adult 2XL, \$28 for adult 3XL, \$29 for adult 4XL and \$30 for adult 5XL. All proceeds and any tips will go toward Batchelor's benefit fund. Shirts can be paid for through Cash App and Venmo (put Wade in the memo), in cash in person or checks payable to Jennifer Larkin. QR codes and forms with information are available on the JL Custom Designs and Yantis ISD Facebook pages, and shared by many oth-

ers on social media as well.

Payton Berry Mead is offering 5x5 inch car decals with a lime green ribbon, the color for spinal cord injury awareness, with #WADE-THRUTHESTORM and Psalm 107:29 on them, for \$10 through May 15. "Wearing a lime green ribbon can help raise awareness about spinal cord injuries and support those living with them," Meade noted in an April 15 Facebook post, where orders can be placed. All proceeds will go to Batchelor and his family. Meade also indicated decals can be made in blue or white upon request.

Yantis Cafe will be hosting a concert benefit May 18. The Murray Brothers band will begin playing starting at 3 p.m. The Yantis baseball team will be out in full force that day walking around with baseball helmets, asking for donations for Batchelor. The cafe will be serving hamburgers, cheeseburgers, chicken strips chips and drinks during the benefit, with 100% of the proceeds going directly to Wade Batchelor and family. Three gift baskets — a men's basket, a women's basket and a big ticket basket —



**Wade Batchelor, a junior at Yantis ISD, was injured in an accident and paralyzed from the waist down. These projects are to help the family and Wade thru these hard times.**

will be raffled off May 18. Yantis Cafe will be accepting gift certificates and big ticket items that can be included in the baskets. Those interested in donating to help Batchelor may message The Yantis Cafe Facebook page.

Monetary donations may also be made to the family at the City National Bank to the Wade Batchelor benefit account, via CashAPP to \$wadethruthestorm and

VENMO to @StaceyBatchelor1.

The Dollar General store in Yantis also has a jug on the counter to accept donations to help Wade Batchelor and his family.

Story courtesy of Sulphur Springs News Telegram.

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