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#### **A CAR STEALING PREACHER**

Tumbleweed Smith

Tumbleweed Smith

Jim Thompson is a frog gigger and snake hunter in Sulphur Springs. He is a popular guy and always has a story to tell. He spent some time on the radio.

"I was a professional loudmouth for 24 years," he says. "I even got a degree in how to be a professional loud mouth."

His preacher daddy once stole a car. It was all a mistake.

"It's one of the funniest things I can remember. My daddy was the brand-new Church of Christ preacher here. He was a very sober minded and upright kind of fellow and never wanted to set a bad example.

"One day he decided he needed to go to town for something. Well, he got in mama's little 4-door baby blue 1965 Nash Rambler and drove to town. He went into whatever store he needed to visit, walked around town for a while, got back in the car, cranked it up and drove it home. He parked it in the carport and went in the house.

"About 30 minutes later he went back to the carport for something, looked at that car and just froze. He was dead still. The car had whitewall tires on it. He knew that his wife's car didn't have whitewall tires.

"He got back in it, drove back downtown and sure enough, in the exact same spot where he had got in the car that spot was open. So he parked the car back where he got it. He noticed that three spaces down was his wife's car. It looked exactly the same as the car he had driven home except for the tires.

"He was just standing there shaking his head wondering how something like this could happen. There was a used car salesman named Roy Stubblefield who had watched all of this happen. Roy, bless his heart, may he rest in peace. He's probably up at the pearly gates right now trying to sell Saint Peter a used car. Anyway, Roy was standing there and he walked over to daddy and said, 'so you steal my car and bring it back. Was there something about it you didn't like?'

"Daddy was all flustered and told Roy he didn't know it was possible for him to steal that car. He said 'I stuck my key in your car that looked just like mine and it started and I drove it home, not knowing it was somebody else's car.'

"Come to find out they checked into the situation and discovered those two cars were absolutely identical even down to the key. Except Roy's car that he had taken from his used car lot had whitewall tires on it.

"Well, for 20 or 30 or 40 years I would run into Roy Stubblefield in town and he'd say 'well, Jim how's that car stealing preacher daddy of yours?'

"It couldn't have happened to a nicer fellow. My daddy wouldn't have never stolen a toothpick, much less a car. He did it without even thinking."

Dr. Greg Bower and staff congratulate the 2025 Como-Pickton High School graduating seniors!

Good luck to each of you!



#### WORD SEARCH (Flowers)

Find and circle all of the flowers that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message - a quotation from Romeo and Juliet. DER Α С R O Е  $\Box$  $\mathsf{D}$ **ALSTROEMERIA PANSY** CORNFLOWER **GOLDEN ROD** PEONY **AMARYLLIS** DAFFODIL **HEATHER PETUNIA ANTHURIUM** DAISY **HOLLYHOCKS** ASTER DELPHINIUM HYACINTH ROSE **SNAPDRAGON BABY'S BREATH** FORGET-ME-NOT **HYDRANGEA** STATICE **BELL FLOWER FOXGLOVE** IRIS

Answers On Page 3

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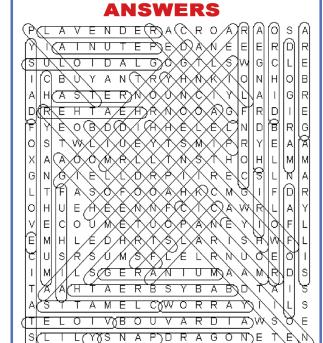
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The hidden sentence is: A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME WOULD SMELL AS SWEET

PAGE 4

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#### Donald Hopper, Sr.

A funeral service for Donald Hopper, Sr., age 73, of Sulphur Springs, Texas was held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, May 19, 2025 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home in Sulphur Springs, Texas with Bro. Craig Stuart and Bro. Robbie Caldwell officiating. Interment followed at Peerless Cemetery with Kaden Evans, Darin Deaton, Carson Deaton, Zach Stewart, Jon Hopper, and Jahbiv Estrada serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were Tommy Sanderson and Donald Hopper, Jr. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service from 10:00-11:00 a.m. at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Mr. Hopper passed way at Rock Creek Nursing and Rehabilitation in Sulphur Springs on Thursday, May 15, 2025. Donald Frank Hopper, Sr. was born on November 19, 1951 in Sulphur Springs, Texas to John Jack and Joycelyn (Jackson) Hopper. He married Barbara Ann Scott in Sulphur Springs on March 16, 1973. Donald worked as a dairyman and at the M&F Feed Company. He was also retired from Hopkins County Precinct #4. Donald loved the outdoors,

wild animals, hunting, and had plenty of hunting stories to share with friends and family. He was a member of the Davis Street Baptist Church.

Donald is survived by his daughters, Tammy Hopper, Kelly Deaton (Darrin), Karen Estrada (J.R.); son, Donald Hopper Jr. (Lora) all of Sulphur Springs; grandchildren, Hannah Stewart (Zach), Morgan Deaton, Madison Orozco (Alfredo), Carson Deaton, Kaden Evans, Makayla Evans, Isabella Chamness, Salem Estrada, Javin Estrada, Aniken Estrada, Hanna Estrada; great-grandchild, Braxton Stewart; sister, Suzie Hopper Jones, and brother, Johnny Royce Hopper.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jack and Joycelyn Hopper and wife, Barbara Hopper.

Arrangements were under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

The online register can be signed at www.murrayorwosky.com



#### Lenora Lee Byers

September 23, 1933 — May 15, 2025

A graveside service for Lenora Byers, age 91, of Sulphur Springs, Texas was held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at City Cemetery with Christopher Adams, Gus D'Antonio, Samuel Hammons, Ryan Holland, Zachary Holland, Curtis Maples, and Daniel Wasilowski serving as pallbearers. Ms. Byers passed away at Carriage House Manor on Thursday, May 15, 2025.

Lenora Lee Byers was born in Sulphur Springs, TX on September 23, 1933. Her parents, Bevley Marvin Thurman and Georgia Beal Allen Thurman, preceded her in death. She had one brother, Mike Thurman, and wife, Vickey. Ms. Byers is survived by two children: Rickey Lee Holland (and wife, Karen) and Amy Shannon Hammons (and husband, Danny); five grandchildren: Amber Michelle D'Antonio (and husband, Gus), Crystal Shay Maples (and husband, Curtis), William

Christopher Adams (and wife, Stephanie), Kathlene Daniel Wasilowski (and husband, Daniel), and Samuel Ryan Hammons. She also leaves behind 11 great-grandchildren: Ryan Holland, Alexis D'Antonio, Emma D'Antonio, Dillon D'Antonio, Zachary Holland (wife, Emily), Cody Maples, Tristan Maples, Madeleine Adams, Charlotte Adams, Brody Wasilowski, and Cole Wasilowski; and 2 great-great-grandchildren, Onyx and Grace. She is also survived by special nephew, Logan Thurman (wife, Didi) and their children" Allie, Mattie, & Spencer. She was a lifelong member of First United Methodist Church.

Ms. Byers owned and operated her beauty shop in Sulphur Springs for fifty years. Her customers became lifelong friends and were often considered more like family than customers. She was an avid reader and even set up an impromptu library within her business that customers contributed to, maintained, and regularly patronized. She was successful business owner and a dedicated mother grandmother, aunt, & sister. She loved fiercely and kept track of every birthday, anniversary, graduation and holidays. She was committed to always recognizing the achievements of her family members and was ultimately the most enthusiastic fan in every crowd. She was every team's personal "Mimi". She had a natural beauty and style that she maintained until the very end. She always wanted her hair styled and her nails painted. She was the best holiday baker and the greenest thumb in the family. She loved watching old westerns, Walker, Texas Ranger and especially professional wrestling. (The latter which produced a lifetime appreciation for WWE among some of her grandchildren.) She was a large personality that held a heart more sensitive than she wanted to admit. Her presence was undeniable and there will be a huge void in the lives of those that loved her.

Although her family is broken-hearted, there is comfort knowing that her body & spirit are no longer weakened — and that she will be eagerly waiting until her family is reunited again.



Let's take time to remember all of the soldiers who have valiantly defended our freedom in all wars and conflicts, suffered injuries and made the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of democracy. May we treasure the rich heritage of freedom they have fought so bravely for.





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