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## LATEXO'S FUNNY MAN

**Tumbleweed Smith** 

Roger Greer lives in Latexo, a small town near Crockett in east Texas. He has a unique sense of humor that people seem to appreciate.

"When I hear Cancun I think of fast food, not a resort." He had an uncle called Toad. "I didn't know his name was Otis until I was about forty. When he got angry, he'd swell up like a toad from When I was about four years old

Tumbleweed Smith frog. When I was about four years old, he kneeled down beside me and told me that if I would drink horse milk, I could see the wind. I believed that until I think it was sometime last week."Roger had a troublesome car. "It was an '81 Diesel Chevette, the only vehicle a Volkswagen Beetle could outrun. When I drove it, people pointed at it and snickered. Some just shook their head in sympathy."

Roger loves characters. "Characters just make life so much better. They seem to make sure the earth stays in its orbit and keep us grounded."

He is a pastor in Latexo. He had some experience in radio. "My mother told me to go down there and get a job. So, I did. The owner's son was a blast. He showed me how to turn on the transmitter and said 'if sparks fly out when you flip the switch, don't get alarmed. That's a good thing. It means you're on the air.'"

One of the turntables used to play records was slow. "It could make Dolly Parton sing bass."

That station was in Many, Louisiana. He was master of ceremonies for an event in a nearby town. "It was the first annual Hot Tamale Festival in Zwolle, which is about ten miles away. Like all good festivals they had a beauty pageant. I wasn't sure just what to call the winner so I said over the PA system, here she is Miss Hot Tamale. Some ladies in town didn't like the sound of that so years after that they called her the Tamale Festival Queen."

He worked for the US Forest Service for a while. "These guys would drive a brown pickup truck so the tobacco juice stains wouldn't show."

Later on, he had some big radio jobs: network newscaster, worked with Focus on the Family, was a popular personality on a Houston radio station near the place where he pastored a church. "My church was right across from Bush airport. I always wanted to paint on the roof of the church the phrase 'Keep praying, you're not on the ground yet.' The planes flew right over the church."

Roger always adlibbed a bunch of funny stuff on the radio and once the owner of the station asked Roger at what age babies stopped using pacifiers. He replied "I don't know, Tom. I'm still using mine."

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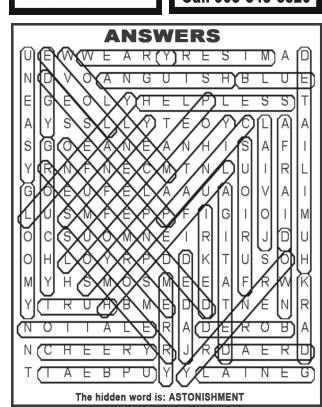
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#### William "Bill" Zahn

Funeral Services for William "Bill" Zahn, age 84, of Sulphur Springs, Texas will be at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, June 1, 2025, at Our Savior Lutheran Church with Rev. Mark Elliott officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at 1:00 p.m. Interment will follow the service at Sulphur Springs City Cemetery. Bill passed away on May 23, 2025, in Tyler, Texas. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.



### Keaton Brooks Wright

May 30, 2018 — May 24, 2025

Funeral service for Keaton Brooks Wright, age 6, of Sulphur Springs, Texas, will be at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home in Sulphur Springs, Texas. Interment will follow at Oaklawn Cemetery in Cooper, Texas. Visitation will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 27, 2025. Keaton Wright passed away in his home on Saturday, May 24, 2025.



#### Michael "Mike" McCool

Memorial service for Michael (Mike) Robert McCool, age 64, of Sulphur Springs, Texas will be held at 2:00 pm on Monday, June 9th at West Oaks Funeral Home in Sulphur Springs, Texas with John Portwood officiating. Mike passed away on Monday, May 19, 2025, in Sulphur Springs, TX.

Mike was born on June 9th, 1960, in Sulphur Springs, TX at Hopkins County Memorial Hospital to Billy Bob and Kay Beaty McCool. Mike graduated from Sulphur Springs High School with the Class of 1978 and was a Sales Representative at "Give Me the VIN" car company.

Mike loved the outdoors. His favorite activities were playing golf and fishing. His favorite memories were fishing with his grandfather Daddy John and playing golf with Dallas Cowboy football player Ed "Too Tall" Jones.

Mike is survived by his mother, Kay McCool of Sulphur Springs, Texas; son, Matison McCool and wife Shannon of Albuquerque, NM; sister Kim McCool of Yantis, TX; sister Karen McCool Moreland and husband Terry of Sulphur Springs, TX; nephew Jonathan Moreland and wife Marisha of Sulphur Springs, TX; nephew Jake Moreland of Sachse, TX; niece Jennifer Moreland Virgel of Sulphur Springs, TX; granddaughter Maren McCool of Albuquerque, NM; and numerous great-nephews and great-nieces.

He was preceded in death by his father, Billy Bob McCool.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.



#### Barbara Ann Ballard

December 28, 1936 — May 20, 2025

A private family burial was held at Restlawn Memorial Park for Barbara Ann Ballard, age 88, of Sulphur Springs, Texas. Ms. Ballard passed away at her home on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

Barbara Ann Ballard was born on December 28, 1936 in Sulphur Springs, Texas to Ferris and Bertha (Phillips) Wyatt. She married Mickey M. Ballard in Sulphur Springs, Texas in 1959. She worked 35 years at Rockwell International as a master scheduler. She was very career-minded, was dedicated to her work, and was well respected by those that worked with her. Growing up, she took great pleasure in competing in basketball games. She enjoyed working in her yard and had beautiful flower beds each year. Barbara was a member of the First United Methodist Church.

Barbara is survived by her daughters, Dianna Friddle and Laura Ballard both of Sulphur Springs, Texas; grandchildren, Brian Friddle (Whitney), Leslie Friddle, and Tyler Ballard (Hannah); great-grandchildren, Elizabeth Friddle, Toki Friddle, and Samatha Friddle; brother, William Wyatt (Joyce) of Irving, Texas; nephew, Gary Wyatt (Lana); and niece, Melissa Flanagan (Kevin). She was preceded in death by her parents, Ferris and Bertha Wyatt and husband, Mickey Ballard.

Brielle Rose Griffin

A private graveside service for Brielle Rose Griffin, of Ouitman, Texas will be held at Restlawn Memorial Park.

Brielle is survived by her parents, Mary Katherine and Joshua Andrew Griffin; brothers, Kaelum Andrew and Asher Shilo; sisters, Arabella Kimberly and Adaline Mae; grandparents, Rodney and Kimberly Reece, and Darla and Peter Griffin; great grandparents, Jerry and Judy Crites; great grandma, Mary Ann Reece, and uncles, Jacob Reece, Preston Reece and Daniel Griffin.



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