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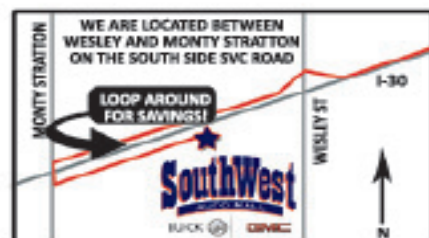


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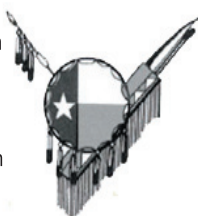
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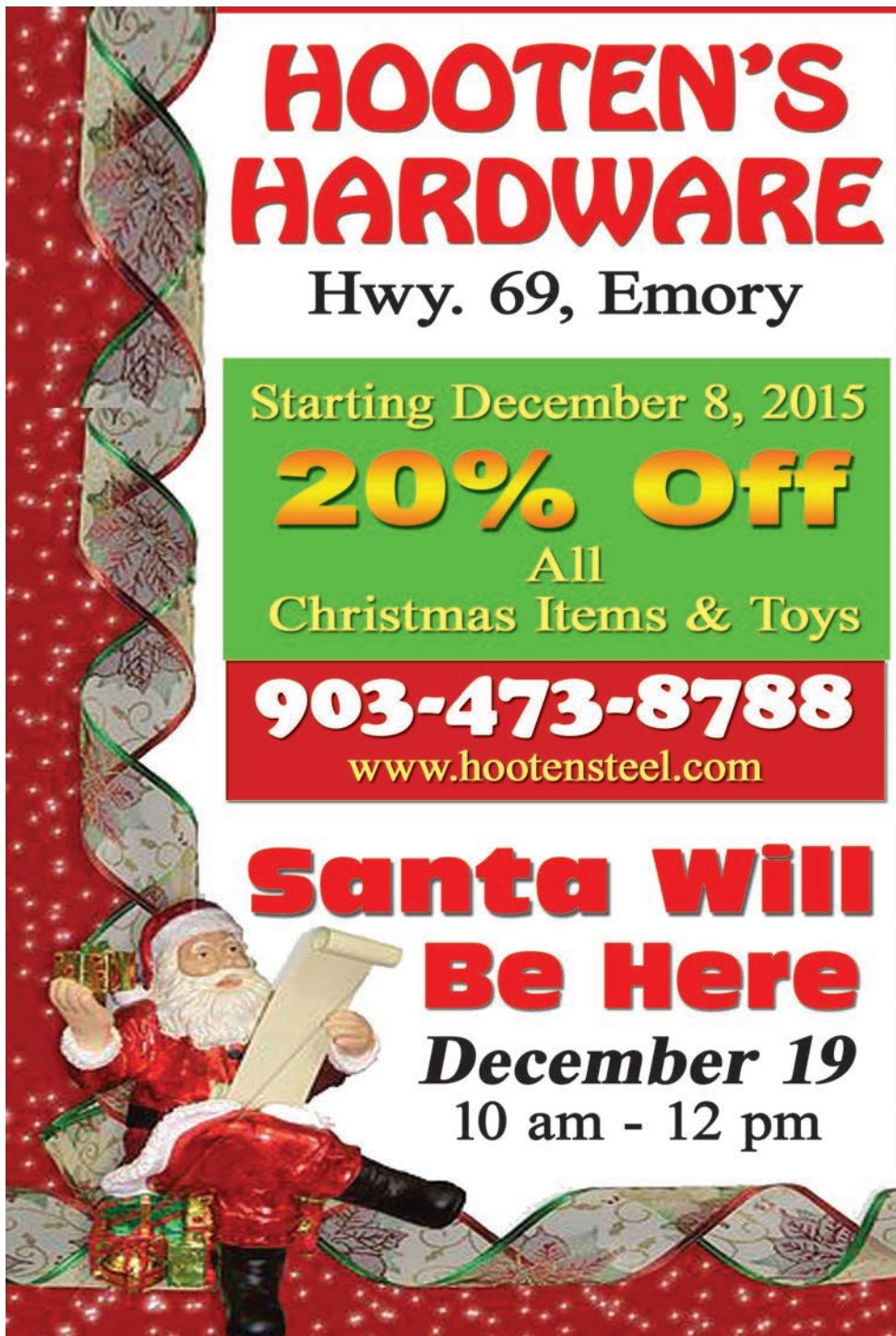
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At The Corral Gate



Growing up, I guess I liked dolls ok but I preferred ponies. Little girls (and some little boys) play with dolls along their path of development into adults. I certainly know some women (my mom included) who still hold a lasting affection for dolls. That group also includes Janie Godfrey, owner of Janie's Doll Museum, situated in the northern Hopkins County community of Old Tarrant.

When I visited Janie, she explained the history of almost every doll which has a permanent place there. The oldest of Janie's dolls (Antique, 100 years or older) are quite fragile. Some of the vintage (50 years or older) can be handled, and with others she can demonstrate the silky life-like hair, tiny hand-painted teeth or jointed limbs which allow some dolls to actually walk. Here is a pair of dolls from Poland and Germany that are over a century old. Also pictured are some Presidential character dolls including members of the JFK family.



Here are three examples of dolls with hard heads, hands and feet and cloth bodies. The two ladies are china head dolls, dressed in the most elegant costume of their day. Their hair, though painted on, is elaborately styled, in contrast to earlier dolls with flat, plain hair styles. The doll wearing the straw hat has a tin head and bears a "Minerva mark".



Some fairy tale characters became popular dolls. This elaborate Little Black Sambo with tigers and tree in 1930's era. More modern are these Raggedy Ann and Andy Valentine dolls made by a doll artist. Other character dolls in Janie's collection include Dorothy from The Wizard of Oz, Barbie, Superman, Batman and Babe Ruth. Here you see Scarlett O'Hara in her picnic dress, Rhett Butler and his mistress Belle Whatley from Gone with the Wind.



Janie's Novelty collection includes a game of cards between ventriloquist dolls Charlie McCarthy and Mortimer Snerd. Mr. Peanut, an advertising model, looks on. Howdy Doody is expected to take a seat in the New Year. This top-hinged miniature stage once belonged in a WWII-era classroom. The teacher changed the set for each scene and her voice for each character. It was a cultural classroom tool that fascinated children and adults alike.

You can spend hours in this little "gem" and never know everything about the dolls in Janie's Doll Museum. Open Thursdays thru Saturdays 10am til 4pm, it's only \$3.50 each for the personal guided tour. Ask about group tours and the meeting/tearoom you can book. Find it on Highway 19 North just 9 miles from the Sulphur Springs post office or phone 903-885-3956. Plan a visit very soon!



Let's look back at Christmas 1945. WWII had ended, and President Truman was hastening to get troops home to their families. It was to be the biggest Christmas celebration America had ever seen! "The U.S. military launched 'Operation Magic Carpet' to get tens of thousands of GI's in Europe and Asia home for Christmas. At home, the Army and Navy launched 'Operation Santa Claus' to process those returning GI's. Bus and rail depots were jammed and airports became clogged. Many grateful citizens drove soldiers thousands of miles to their homes demonstrate Christmas spirit. Churches were crowded with people praying for loved ones' return or with gratitude".

That's a picture of America that brings a lump to one's throat! (from the book Christmas 1945, the Greatest Celebration")

Til next week, I'll watch for you AND Santa at the corral gate!

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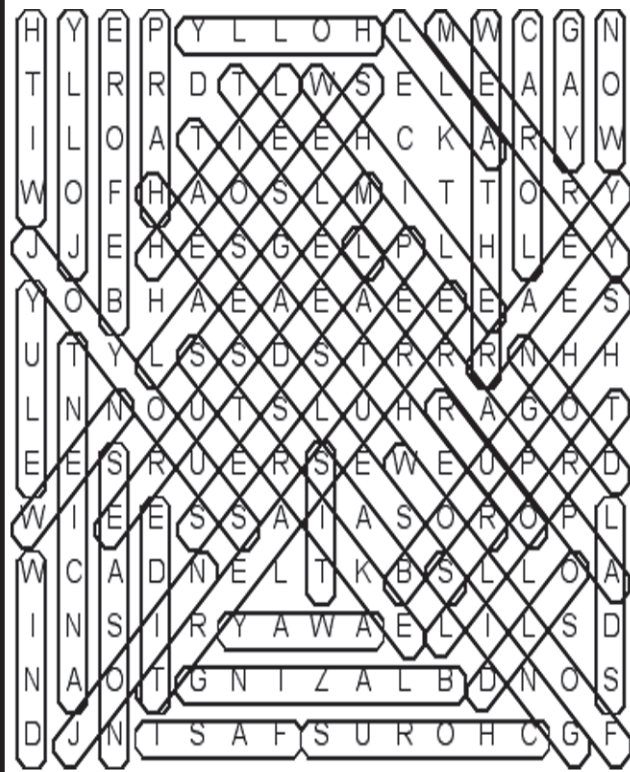
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A WEEKEND IN MOUNTAIN COUNTRY

Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

I spent a day in Terlingua, the Temple of Chilidom. Got to visit with John Holroyd, the new owner of La Kiva, the well-known watering hole just above Terlingua Creek. He has made some grand improvements to the place, which once used a black pot for a urinal. John hails from Yorkshire, England originally and migrated to Oklahoma 30 or so years ago. He is retired now and has been a frequent visitor to the desert country. He was a friend of the previous owner of La Kiva, Glen Felts, who died last year. La Kiva stayed closed for 6 months and John didn't want to see it turn to dust, so he bought it. He stayed closed another year to do the refurbishing. The bar is open now and the restaurant will open soon with gourmet pizzas, brisket and other menu items. He has a barbeque cooker than can handle 1,000 pounds of meat. All the kitchen equipment is state of the art.

I also interviewed Lauren Stedman who has Menagerie Press in Terlingua. She makes exquisite invitations, business cards and other printed items using old-fashioned letterpress equipment and high-grade papers. She is a graphic design artist and her creations go all over the country.

I also met a genuine DIVA. Diane Wysocki is a member of Women Outdoors Worldwide, a group of women who shoot guns, slingshots and bows and arrows. They also do fly-fishing. All members are called DIVAs. They promote shooting safety and have worldwide shooting competitions. The organization's headquarters is in Dallas.

The next day I went to Alpine and visited with Dr. Paul Will, chair of the Meat Science department at Sul Ross who teaches a course called Sausage Manufacturing. It's a two-week course beginning January 4. Students of all disciplines flock to the course, where they can earn 4 semester hours credit. "I give them 25 pounds of meat and some seasoning and teach them how to make sausage," he says. "Then they make their own sausage using family recipes or whatever. At the end of the course we have a contest to see who has the best sausage according to a panel of judges."

I visited my friend Jim Glendenning who had just returned from a month long 26,000 mile trip around the world. He knows how to travel. His entire transportation bill was \$1,800. He walked to the train station in Alpine, took an overnight train to Los Angeles where he boarded a plane for London. On his circle of the globe he made five stops along the way, then took the train back to Alpine and walked home.

The new managers at the Holland Hotel are Marcus and Nicole Van Winden, who met on a Holland-America cruise ship. He was a chef; she was cruise director. He is from Holland. It was only natural that they end up managing the Holland Hotel. I went to Marfa and visited with Mayor Dan Dunlap. He told me about the new 4-story hotel being built downtown and a new 5 million dollar art installation due next year at Chinati. Lots of stuff going on in the mountain country along the border. Tumbleweed Smith loves to hear stories. Contact: ts@tumbleweedsmith.com

The Pilot Club of Sulphur Springs
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Tickets can also be purchased at the door on the day of the brunch.

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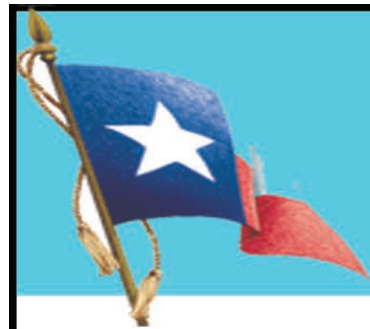
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Norah Morahan O'Donnell

American print and television journalist.



Norah Morahan O'Donnell (born January 23, 1974) is an American print and television journalist, currently serving as the co-anchor of CBS This Morning, a position she has held since July 2012, when she replaced Erica Hill. Before that, she spent one year as Chief White House Correspondent for CBS News in Washington, D.C., after moving to the network from NBC. She is also the substitute host for CBS' Sunday morning show, Face the Nation.

Early life:
O'Donnell was born in Washington, D.C., the daughter of Francis O'Donnell, a doctor. Her parents are both of Irish descent. When Norah was 3, her family moved to San Antonio, Texas, where she graduated from Douglas MacArthur High School. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy and a master's degree in liberal studies from Georgetown University.

Career:
O'Donnell initially served as staff writer for Roll Call, where she covered Congress.

A commentator for the NBC News Today Show, Chief Washington Correspondent for MSNBC, and from September 2003 to May 2005, the White House correspondent for NBC News, O'Donnell was also a contributing anchor for MSNBC Live, and a rotating news anchor on Weekend Today. O'Donnell has done reports that have appeared on numerous NBC News broadcasts, including NBC Nightly News, The Today Show, Dateline NBC, and MSNBC. O'Donnell has also filled in for Chris Matthews as host of Hardball with Chris Matthews and was a regular pundit for The Chris Matthews Show. She also co-hosted the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade on WNBC since 2007.

Since joining CBS, she has filled in for Scott Pelley on the CBS Evening News multiple times, the first being October 10, 2011.

Washingtonian Magazine has named O'Donnell as one of Washington's 100 most powerful women. O'Donnell has also been named to Irish American Magazine's 2000 "Top 100 Irish Americans" list.

O'Donnell became a co-anchor on CBS This Morning in fall 2012, replacing Erica Hill.

Career timeline:
1994-1996: Panelist, Youngbloods (show) National Empowerment Television - 1999-2011: NBC News/MSNBC - 1999-2011: Washington Bureau correspondent - 1999-2011: Weekend Today rotating news anchor - 1999-2011: MSNBC Live fill-in anchor - 2000-2011: Dateline NBC contributing correspondent
2003-2011: NBC News White House correspondent - 2005-2011: MSNBC Chief White House correspondent - 2011-present: CBS News
2011-2012: Chief White House correspondent - 2011-present: CBS Evening News fill-in anchor - 2012-present: CBS This Morning co-anchor
2011-present: Face the Nation fill-in host and correspondent

Personal life:
O'Donnell lives in Washington, D.C. with her husband, restaurateur Geoff Tracy (owner of D.C. restaurant, Chef Geoff's), whom she married in June 2001. On May 20, 2007, Norah and Geoff became the parents of twins, whom they named Grace and Henry. Their third child, daughter Riley Norah Tracy, was born on July 5, 2008; O'Donnell noted that her daughter's first name had been suggested by Tim Russert, who died three weeks prior to Riley's birth. O'Donnell and her husband Geoff Tracy made a cookbook for parents titled Baby Love: Healthy, Easy, Delicious Meals for Your Baby and Toddler, released on August 31, 2010.

Awards:
O'Donnell won the Sigma Delta Chi Award for Breaking News Coverage for the Dateline NBC story "DC In Crisis," which aired on the night of September 11, 2001.

She also won an Emmy for NBC News' Election Night coverage in 2008.

Criticism:
O'Donnell was heavily criticized by conservatives for her interview of a Sarah Palin supporter attending a book signing. While speaking with people in the line, O'Donnell pointed out the obvious inconsistency of Palin supporter Jackie Seal's wearing a shirt against the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, which Palin supported. Several conservative hosts and bloggers, most notably Glenn Beck, criticized O'Donnell for the interview.

In April 2010, O'Donnell implied that Newt Gingrich made racist comments at the Southern Republican Leadership Conference when he criticized Barack Obama with a basketball reference. Gingrich said: "What we need is a president, not an athlete. Shooting three-point shots may be clever, but it doesn't put anybody to work." In response to the criticism, Gingrich said, "The left is becoming a parody of itself ... she immediately said that must be a racist comment. It's relatively hard to go from 'we need somebody who is a good president more than somebody who shoots three-point shots' to 'that must have been racist.'"

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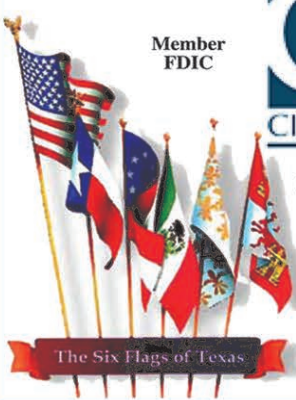
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Obits

Johnny Earl Palmer

Born: June 20, 1930 - Died: December 15, 2015

U.S. Veteran, Johnny Earl Palmer, 85, of Commerce passed away on Tuesday, December 15, 2015, in Greenville.

Visitation will be held on Friday, December 18, 2015, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Jones-Walker & Son Funeral Home in Commerce.

Graveside services will be held on Saturday, December 19, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. at Shiloh Cemetery in Klondike.

Max Johnson

Funeral arrangements for Max Johnson of Dike are pending with Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Mr. Johnson passed away on Tuesday, December 15, 2015, at his residence.

Doris French Armstrong

Funeral services for Doris French Armstrong, of Richardson, are pending with Tapp Funeral Home. Mrs. Armstrong passed away on Friday, December 11, 2015 at Highland Springs in Plano.

Joe Weldon Haney

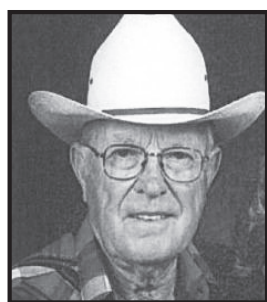
Joe Weldon Haney, 64, of Winnsboro, Texas, passed away on December 11, 2015, at his home in Winnsboro, Texas. Visitation will be held on December 19, 2015 between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. at Beaty Funeral Home in Winnsboro, Texas. A private memorial will be held at a later date.

Joe was born in Houston, Texas on January 17, 1951. He received his Associates Degree in Computer Science from Navarro College and his Bachelor's Degree in Business from Texas College.

Joe was married to Virginia Williams Haney on November 15, 1979; they were married 35 years. Joe joined the U.S Army at the age of 18 and was a proud Vietnam Veteran. He served as a school board member for Buffalo ISD for many years as well as Director of the Buffalo Volunteer EMS. He was named Buffalo's Man of the Year for all of his involvement and dedication to his community. After moving to Winnsboro, Joe worked as a Real Estate Broker for United Country in Winnsboro. He was a member of the Winnsboro Bass Club. Joe enjoyed fishing and spending time with his family and grandchildren.

Joe is survived by his wife Virginia Haney, son, Wayne Haney and wife Vee of Winnsboro, daughter Jennifer Huff and husband Glenn of Sterling, Alaska, daughter Jodi Cox and husband Matthew of Winnsboro, daughter Jayne Haney and fiancé Travis Huey of Mineola, Daughter Jordan Shirley and husband Blue of Winnsboro. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Justin Haney, Jannah Haney, Greyson Cox, Jenna Haney, Rhett Cox, and Jocelyn Cox. His surviving siblings are Willis Don Haney of Magnolia, TX, Verdell Haney Jr. of Lubbock, TX and Ricky and Debby Haney of Sugarland, TX. Joe is also survived by many nieces and nephews as well as a numerous other family members and friends.

Joe is preceded in death by his father, Verdell Haney, his mother, Deice Stone, his brothers, Larry Haney, David Haney, Bobby Haney.



Thomas "Red" Childers

Funeral service for Thomas "Red" Childers, age 90, of Emory, were held at 2:00 pm, Wednesday, Dec..16, 2015, at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home Chapel. Bro. Billy Smith officiated. Visitation preceded the service, at 1:00 pm. A private burial will be at Pilgrims Rest #1 Cemetery. Mr. Childers died Sunday morning at Senior Suite Care and Rehab.

He was born June 19, 1925, Emory, to Henry Hedrain and Sarah Rebecca Stephens Childers. Mr. Childers worked in aircraft manufacturing at LTV, now L-3, for many years. He was a cattleman, and pig farmer. He ran numerous head of cattle in his operation. He married Betty Adair in Emory. Serving as pallbearers will be: Josh Duncan, Billy Childers, Lynn Gilbreath, Brendan Gilbreath, David Gaston, and, Rob Killingsworth.

Survivors include: Brother: Jimmy Childers of Whitewright; Sister: Ruby Williams of Leonard, Special friends: Gary and Delores McAree, 3 Grandchildren: Lynn Gilbreath, Brendan Gilbreath, and Miranda Gotcher, 2 Great-grandchildren: Numerous other loving family and friends Preceded in death by: parents, wife, 1 step-son, Melvin Gilbreath; 2 brothers, Albert Childers, and Bufferd Childers; and 1 sister, Ruth Bradford.

Douglas Wayne Grubbs

Graveside services for Mr. Douglas Wayne Grubbs, 84, were conducted Wednesday, December 16th at 11 a.m. in Harmony Cemetery. Visitation was Tuesday 6-8 p.m. at Beaty Funeral Home in Winnsboro. Mr. Grubbs passed away on Saturday, December 12, 2015.

He was born on April 24, 1931, to the late A.J. Grubbs and Lillian Irene Chambers Grubbs. Mr. Grubbs was a retired business agent with Pipefitters Local Union #211. He was a member of the Houston Livestock and Rodeo Association; member of Pine Street Baptist Church, He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Ricky Wayne Grubbs; brothers, George Harold Grubbs, Bobby Don Grubbs and Gaston Paul Grubbs; sister Grace Whatley.

Survivors include, daughter and son-in-law, Donna and Marc Barnett of Winnsboro; brothers, Mickey Grubbs and Johnny Grubbs, both of Winnsboro; three grandchildren, Christan Robinson and husband Bret, Lacie Monday and Blake Barnett; two great grandchildren, Kale Robinson and Macie Monday.

Linda Jo York

Funeral services for Linda Jo York, age 62 of Mt. Pleasant, were held at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home with Pastor Donnie Powers officiating. Interment followed at North Hopkins cemetery with Jacob Smith, Cole Smith, Ethan Busby, Landon Bass, Brian Arthur, Jack Cain, Adam Janes and Skyler Pruitt serving as pallbearers. Visitation was held from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Linda Jo passed away on Sunday, December 13, 2015 at Titus Regional Medical Center in Mt. Pleasant.

THE IDLE AMERICAN A Chicken Way Out...

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

At this “turkey time” of year, stories of chickens are decidedly in the background. Clucking is drowned out by gobbles. The mention of “clucking” brings to mind a vignette destined to become an urban legend, except for a sudden change of location to a pastoral setting where neighbors live acres apart.

Let the story begin. By any measure, my friend Les Paul Vernon is a champion. A wonderful Christian and model citizen, he is an optimist by nature, almost always prevailing on projects large and small.

A former Marine fighter pilot, Vernon is the “stuff” from where confidence and competence dwell. He and wife Melissa, along with three children, are living the American dream, much of it going swimmingly as planned.

Until a while back, anyway, when Les decided his children should learn at least a sliver of the farm life he had known during his youth in a bona fide rural community called Itasca. He would do so, thought he, with a small flock of, uh, urban chickens....

He spent days--yea, weeks--with “Dr. Google,” determined to provide accommodations which for chickens might be the “coop” de resistance! They would luxuriate in “cushiness” worthy of the same name chicken magnate Bo Pilgrim gave to his lovely estate—

Before celebratory parades line up, I want to confess to framing a misleading headline. When I mention “end of the lines,” I limit the meaning to the final lines written in this column for calendar 2015.

Wherewith, you may choose to respond with the same query the needle posed to the thread in the nudist colony: “Sew what?”

Featured in the year’s final column are three sets of totally unrelated memories, none of which is likely ever to be forgotten by the folks who were there....

Best memories know no time boundaries, and an Ethelyn Smith favorite dating back some 75 years. At Christmas time, she and her family regularly visited Uncle Milburn. She remembers him in a rocking chair, ridding himself of snuff residue with dead-eye aim at an old vegetable can that doubled as a spittoon.

She thought it gross, and, hoping to bring a smidgen of culture to the Ozarks, sent him a beautiful brass spittoon.

During the next Christmas visit, she expected to see it in use. No, it was dangling on a rope from the ceiling, accented by a large plastic flower. The old can was still in use. “I didn’t want to dirty up such a pretty brass piece,” the Arkansan explained....

WORD SEARCH

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Y O B H A E A E A E E E A E S
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| ALL | FOLLOW | MEASURE | TIDE |
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| BLAZING | HOLLY | OUR | WEATHER |
| BOUGHS | JOIN | PASSES | WHILE |
| CAROL | JOLLY | SEASON | WIND |
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Thursday, December 31, 5pm – 5am - Downtown on the Square/Main Street - Organization: Sulphur Springs Downtown Dining District. Comments: Make your reservations at one of the restaurants in the Downtown Dining District, and bring in the New Year with a Sulphur Springs Celebration!

Monday, January 4, 2016, 5:30pm – 6:30pm - Law Enforcement Dinner-Hopkins County Civic Center, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482. Law Enforcement recognition dinner at the Hopkins County Civic Center.

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Merry Christmas

There are very few people in the world today who do not know what the Christmas holiday is all about. Christmas, as we know it today, is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, which happened over 2000 years ago. The word "Christmas" translates to "Mass Of Christ". However, we can all be sure that the celebration of the Christmas holiday did not start right away. So how did the actual celebration of the Christmas holiday begin?

Believe it or not, many of the traditions that we observe during the Christmas holiday season began way before the birth of Christ. Exchanging gifts, decorating trees, and the burning of the Yule log were all winter traditions that began before Christ was born, but were eventually incorporated into the holiday that became known as Christmas and became part of Christmas history.

Merry Christmas!

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