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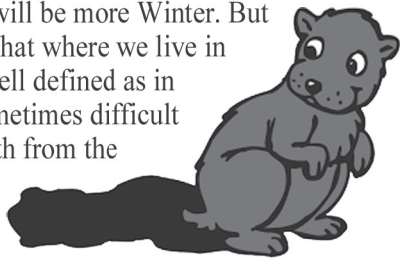
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At The Corral Gate



Enola Gay

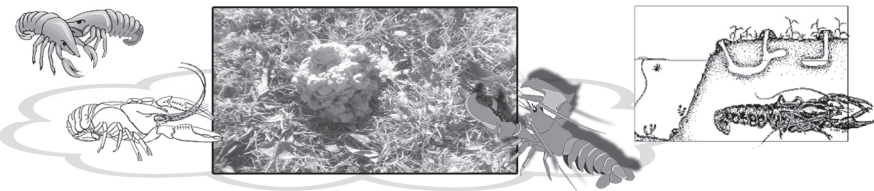
Signs of spring all over....I'm sure you have seen a few too. Surely this is False Spring....even the Groundhog says there will be more Winter. But he is in Pennsylvania. Most of us realize that where we live in Northeast Texas, the seasons are not as well defined as in other places across America. Thus it's sometimes difficult or the seeker of knowledge to tell the truth from the falsehood. Seems that applies to other subjects besides weather too.



Chaenomeles X Superba

Have you seen these flowers blossoming? According to my mother, the flowering Japonica is the first glamorous sign of Spring. It's coral-colored flowers present a fabulous, welcome splash of color to a drab, winter-beaten landscape. The woody shrub is a native of China, and grows here in sun or shade. A round, scented fruit follows the coral flowers.

Does anyone recognize this? I found several of these homely structures in a damp ditch near the Interstate. I spent many childhood times trying to catch the creatures that build these. Do you know what they are?



This time of year is often uncertain for weather. It's also uncertain as to one's outdoor work which in earlier generations in America, could affect an entire family's health, food supply and livelihood. Persons too ill or aged to get around were often victims of the cruel late-winter's cold and wet when pneumonia was (and still is) a killer of the infirm. Loneliness during the dark days and long nights added to their load. This poem by Robert Frost was included in his Mountain Interval, a collection of poems concerned with human tragedy and fear, and his reaction to the complexities of life and the ultimate acceptance of one's burdens. An Old Man's Winter Night was published in New York in 1920.

An Old Man's Winter Night

All out of doors looked darkly in at him
 Through the thin frost, almost in separate stars,
 That gathers on the pane in empty rooms.
 What kept his eyes from giving back the gaze
 Was the lamp tilted near them in his hand.
 What kept him from remembering what it was
 That brought him to that creaking room was age.
 He stood with barrels round him—at a loss.
 And having scared the cellar under him
 In clomping there, he scared it once again
 In clomping off, and scared the outer night,
 Which has its sounds, familiar, like the roar
 Of trees and crack of branches, common things,
 But nothing so like beating on a box.
 A light he was to no one but himself
 Where now he sat, concerned with he knew what,
 A quiet light, and then not even that.
 He consigned to the moon,—such as she was,
 So late-arising, to the broken moon
 As better than the sun in any case
 For such a charge, his snow upon the roof,
 His icicles along the wall to keep;
 And slept. The log that shifted with a jolt
 Once in the stove, disturbed him and he shifted,
 And eased his heavy breathing, but still slept.
 One aged man—one man—can't fill a house,
 A farm, a countryside, or if he can,
 It's thus he does it of a winter night.

This poem is in the public domain.

Daylight Savings Time begins March 12, and the first day of Spring is March 20. A proverb says "no matter how long the winter, Spring is sure to follow!" So, with that truth stated, let's march ahead! Til next week, I'll watch for you, at the corral gate.

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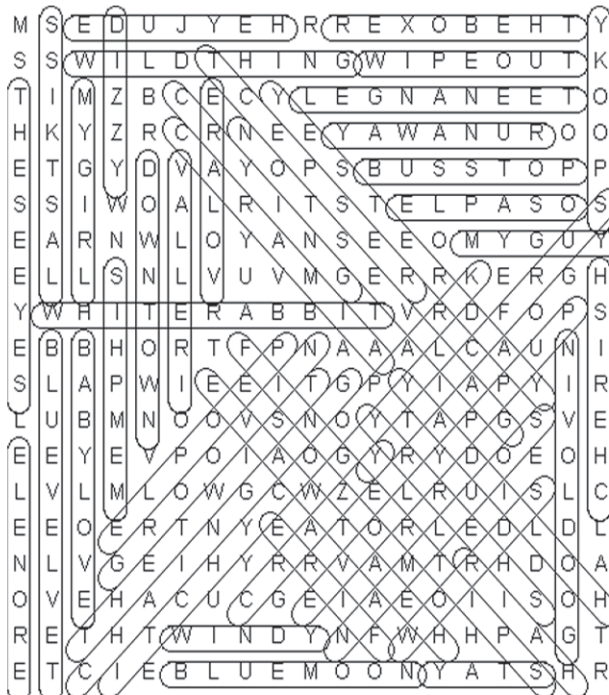
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Answers to Word Search



FROM VIET NAM WITH LOVE

Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

Dr. Paul Bennett of Sulphur Springs was an Army dentist in Viet Nam. Occasionally he worked on civilians. Just a few weeks before leaving Viet Nam, he had a Vietnamese civilian as a patient. Her name was Thuan.

"I met him in 1972," says Thuan. "It was at a hospital in Saigon. He worked on my teeth."

Both found each other fascinating and they had a couple of meals together. They became friends. Paul left Viet Nam in 1972, but brought memories of Thuan home with him.

"I really couldn't get my mind off this lovely young lady I met just before I left Viet Nam," says Paul, who established a dental practice in Sulphur Springs after leaving the Army. "I dated, but couldn't get serious about anybody because I was thinking of Thuan."

Thuan had worked for some American companies in Viet Nam and came to the US in 1975. "When I stepped on American soil for the first time, that was the happiest day of my life," she says. She got a job with a bank in California.

"I couldn't get this man off my mind," says Thuan. "I thought about him all the time for years. I decided to try to find him and one of my friends told me that I could look him up through the American Dental Association. So that's what I did."

Paul said he had a call one day his office. "My receptionist told me there was a call from someone named Thuan. I never even knew that she got out alive. I talked to her and she said she would be flying to Phoenix. I told her that if she would go on and fly to Dallas I would take her out to dinner and we could get caught up on each other. So when she walked off the airplane I said 'I lost you one time I'm not going to lose you again.'"

They were married three months later and last year celebrated their 38th wedding anniversary.

"We had a connection," says Thuan. "I knew I was in love with him. He didn't know it because I didn't tell him. And he was in love with me and never told me. Then six years later we met and the feelings were still there. He could never forget about me and I could never forget about him."

Thuan thinks she's very fortunate. "When I moved here, the people were very kind to me. They immediately accepted me. I got my realtor's license and went to work selling real estate and helping Paul in his office. I got to know many people. When we retired, I got invited to join all sorts of clubs and organizations."

"We think we're very blessed," says Paul.

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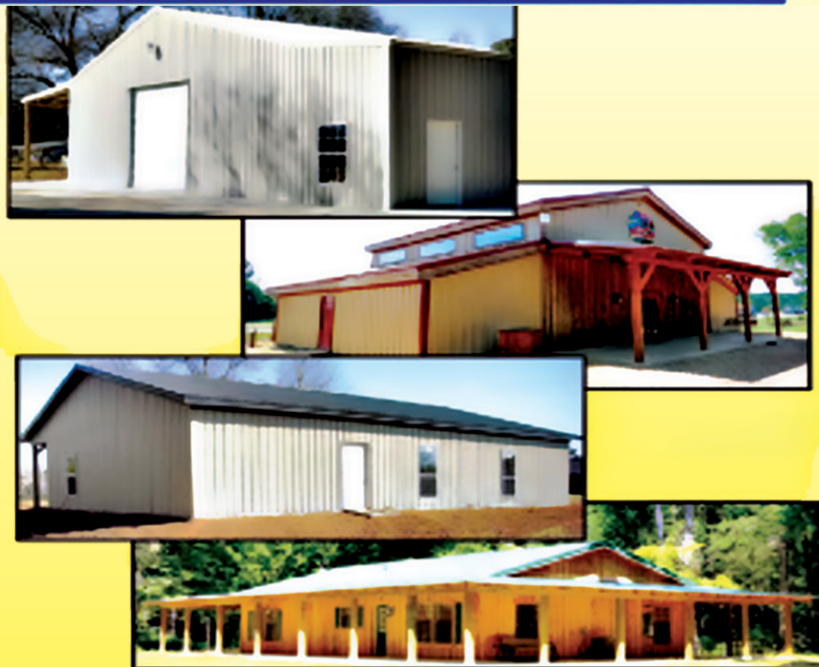
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 YESTERDAY

Answers on pg. 2

THE IDLE AMERICAN Granddads and Hurrahs... Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

Most grandfathers--with little or no provocation--are happy to expound with inflated views of their grandchildren.

One boast of a long-ago granddad caused guffaws as it blew believability to shreds. Proud of quadruplet grandsons--vaunted players on a championship football team--he went overboard with praise.

"These boys are tough," he'd begin. His friends could complete the unchanging litany. "Each one is so tough he can whip the other three..."

This said, to be Jerry Jones the Grandfather these days would call for considerable tight-rope-walking. And, to be his grandson, John Stephen Jones, wouldn't be the easiest challenge, either.

Think of it from the standpoint of this 17-year-old. Within a period of 50 days, this Highland Park High School junior has been quarterback of a state championship football team, scored both touchdowns en route to a 17-6 win over Temple and named player of the game on offense. Whew! What can he do for an encore as a senior?

And consider these occurrences, all within a matter of weeks: First of all, he and his fellow Scots won the state football crown at AT&T Stadium, the world-renowned facility that fulfilled the dream of his grandfather. Then came Jerry's induction into the National Football League's Hall of Fame. Finally, John Stephen's coach, Randy Allen, received the NFL's Don Shula Award, presented annually to the nation's

top high school coach....

I've never met the owner of the Dallas Cowboys, his son Stephen or his grandson. However, I'll sign up with the millions of fans who recognize the Cowboys' owner for his vision, business acumen and flair for keeping the pro game in the limelight. (That the Dallas NFL franchise is worth approximately 30 times what Jones paid for it says much.)

I have had the pleasure, however, of knowing Coach Allen since 1986--the same year he succeeded legendary Coach Gordon Wood at Brownwood High School and I became president of Howard Payne University a few blocks away. What he does, says and believes reveal clearly who he is. I have never known a finer coach or a stronger Christian gentleman who redefines humility daily. He influences young men in far more important ways than winning football games....

As notable as his winning the Shula Award from the NFL this year was his winning the 2014 Grant Teaff Award from the National High School Coaches' Association. It acknowledges Christian character. Only two Texas coaches have ever won the Teaff Award. The other was the late Gordon Wood in 2000....

To achieve true greatness in life, the young Jones--already known for leadership skills immersed in humility--must glean the best lessons both from his family and from his coaches.

So doing, he can go far, NOT as the ultimate player, or even the ultimate citizen.

We've heard the term "greatest" used with abandon with all the folderol associated with Super Bowl LI. At Super Bowl VI when Duane Thomas played in the Cowboys' 24-3 victory in New Orleans--he heard the word "ultimate" too many times. He doubted Super Bowl VI being the ultimate game. "If it is the 'ultimate game,' why are they going to play it again next year?..."

I'll not describe anyone or anything as "ultimate." What do I know?

Three men in hats come close, however. All are associated with "Big D." Coach Allen wears a snappy Fedora, as did the legendary Tom Landry.

The other was late surgeon, Dr. Marvin Knight--every inch the tall Texan pacing the sidelines in his trademark Stetson. One of West Texas' first orthopedic surgeons, he was still performing surgeries on players in his late 70s. He spent "retirement years" on his sprawling spread near Muenster. Then, players came to him for surgeries at Muenster General Hospital. That's a whole 'nuther story, worthy of detailing later. He, like late Dallas sportswriter Blackie Sherrod who wrote often about him, was an alumnus of Howard Payne University....

Dr. Newbury is a speaker in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Inquiries/comments to: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872 Website: www.speakerdoc.com.

Obits



Steven Dee Vickery

Funeral services for Steven Dee Vickery, age 40, of Sulphur Springs were conducted at 11:00 a.m., Monday, February 6, 2017 at League Street Church of Christ with Rev. Mike Eason officiating. Interment followed at Sulphur Springs City Cemetery with Chris Vickery, Bobby Vickery, David Vickery, Ron Irby, Scott Moss, Aaron Hohenberger and Chris Hammons serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were The Colony Fire Department and the Hopkins County Fire Department. Steven passed away on Thursday, February 2, 2017 at Heart Hospital Baylor in Plano.

Steven was born on December 30, 1976 in Sulphur Springs the son of Powell Vickery and Ann Perkins. He married Cheryl Champagne on June 17, 2000 in Sulphur Springs. She survives. Steven and his family went to Cross Spur Cowboy Church and he was a firefighter for The Colony Fire Department.

In addition to his wife Steven is survived by his children, Bryson Vickery, Ethan Vickery, Owen Vickery and Madison Vickery, father, Powell Vickery and wife Sherry of Sulphur Springs, mother, Ann Perkins May of Sulphur Springs, brothers, David Vickery and wife Dee of Reno, Bobby Vickery and wife Carley, Chris Vickery and wife Jenna, Chanse Fite and wife Brandi all of Sulphur Springs, sisters, Shelley Adair and husband Justin, Kim Vickery all of Sulphur Springs, Jana Johnson of Oklahoma, Anna Hines of Irving, Tara Owens and husband Mike of Dallas and Kelley Haley and husband Bobby of Sulphur Springs, father and mother-in-law John Bailey Champagne and wife Kim of Sulphur Springs, sister-in-law Kristin Champagne Fogus and husband Justin of Sulphur Springs, along with numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

A scholarship fund in Stevens name has been set up by the class of 1998 at Guaranty Bank or you can send donations to Sulphur Springs Administration office, Attn: Casey Wright Redfern, 1200 Connally Street, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482

Arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.



Norma Jean Fry

Funeral services for Norma Jean Fry, age 52, of Sulphur Springs will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 9, 2017 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Chapel with Rev. Bruce Stinson Officiating. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service.

Ms. Fry passed away Wednesday, February 1, 2017, at Christus Mother Frances Hospital, Sulphur Springs. She was born June 1, 1964 in Dallas, Texas to Steve Bartley and Christine (Workman) Westbrook. Norma is survived by her husband, Greg Vance; daughter Rebecca Lay; Son, Timothy Vance; grandchildren, Haden Smith, Harley Smith, Dakota Chancellor, Lonnie Chancellor, Cayden Young, Anna Flanagan, Tristen Lay; sisters, Margaret Maxwell and Roberta Westbrook.

Norma was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Roy, Joe and Robert Westbrook and her sister, Etta Westbrook.

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



Jerry Milburn Fuller

Graveside services for Jerry Milburn Fuller, age 79, of Dallas, Texas were at 12:00 P.M. on Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at Restlawn Memorial Park Cemetery with Rev. Steve Clark officiating. There was no visitation.

Mr. Fuller passed away Saturday, February 4, 2017, at the Rehabilitation and Wellness Center of Dallas. He was born on August 24, 1937 in Cooper Texas to Milburn Alvin and Margarette Lucille (Dunn) Fuller. Jerry was of the Methodist faith and a retired program director for a radio station.

He is survived by his sons, Scott and wife Jana Fuller, Ron and wife Jill Fuller, Jim and wife Cheryl Fuller; grandchildren, Jared Fuller, Brittany Billings, Kayleigh Goode, Jordyn Fuller, Cutter Fuller and Sydney Fuller; great grandchildren, MaKenna

Fuller, Hattie Billings, Lucy Billings, Lucas Goode and Lane Goode.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents.

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

Calvin "Butch" Shotwell

Funeral service for Calvin "Butch" Shotwell were held at 2:00 pm, Tuesday, Feb. 7. 2017, at Emory Baptist Church. Bro. Robert Burns officiated. Visitation was one hour prior to service time. Interment followed the service in Emory City Cemetery. Butch passed away Friday evening, Feb. 3 at his residence.

He was born Dec. 13, 1946, in Dallas, to Calvin Melburn and Billie Ruth Parker Shotwell. He served his country in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. Butch was a carpenter by trade. He was of the Baptist faith.

Survivors include: Daughters: Belinda Shotwell of Royce City, and Nicole Smith (Monty) of Dallas, Mother: Billie Shotwell of Emory, Sisters: Pamela Minor (Mark) of Sherman, and Sylvia Chadwick (Chad) of N. Richland Hills, Jackie Shotwell (Patricia) of Kaufman and Steven Shotwell (Cindy) of Combine. Grandchildren: Steven Sanchez, Reagan Smith, and Sidney Smith, Mother of Butch's daughters: Barbara Shotwell. Preceded in death by: Father; Daughter, Cara An Delmae in 1994; Brothers, Tony Shotwell and Larry Shotwell, Sr.

Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Billy Ray Childers

Funeral service for Billy Ray Childers, age 77, of Grand Prairie, formerly of Point, were held on Wednesday, 2:00 pm, Feb. 8, 2017, at Clarks Chapel Church of God. Bro. Nathan Bounds officiated. Interment followed at Lynch Cemetery. Visitation was one hour prior to service time at the church. Billy passed away in Arlington Memorial Hospital on Friday night, Feb. 3.

He was born Feb. 6, 1939, in Commerce, to Benjamin Franklin and Sarah Elizabeth Johnson Childers. He married Linda Kay Cason in Edgewood on Nov. 23, 1957. Billy was a certified welder and owned and operated a welding business.

Survivors Include: Wife: Linda Childers of Grand Prairie, Daughters: Tina Childers of Waco and Deena Green (Bill) of Golden, CO, Son: Brian Childers (Amber) of Grand Prairie, Sisters: Rachel Brown of Emory; Patricia Buck (Danny) of Newnan, GA; Debra Elliott (Don) of Canton, Brothers: Jorney Childers (Georgia) of Canton; and Ronnie Childers (Pam) of Gorman, Grandchildren: Casey, Tiffany, Sara, Corey, Carson, and Ben, Great-grandchildren: Kameron, Emmett, Novie. Preceded in death by: Parents.

Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Carrie P. Ellis

Carrie P. Ellis, age 92, of Carrollton, TX passed away on Monday, February 6, 2017 at Vista Ridge of Lewisville.

Arrangements are pending with West Oaks Funeral Home.



Romantic Ideas for Valentine's Day...

1. Make a book about why you love your spouse and why you are thankful for him/her.
2. Take your sweetie on a scavenger hunt. The last item should give instructions that lead to your Valentine's Day activities.
3. After a candlelight dinner for two at home watch a romantic movie.
4. Surprise your spouse with a special getaway together-maybe at a bed and breakfast.
5. Give your wife a dozen roses. On each stem attach a note for a future date.
6. Fill a large box with helium balloons and special gifts for Valentine's Day. Example: new sleep shorts for him, nightie for her.
7. Order food from a take-out restaurant and have a picnic for all the Valentines in your family at home in the living room floor.
8. Weather permitting, watch a romantic movie on your deck or patio.
9. Hide little heart candies in your spouse's shoes, coat, car, etc. Let the children and grandchildren help.
10. Fill a jar with Valentine candy and notes for your spouse. Notes could express your love and respect.
11. Surprise your spouse by taking a vacation day from work and enjoy Valentine's Day at home and do things together.
12. Make a special "14 Reasons I Love You" Valentine's Day breakfast for your sweetheart. On his/her plate, leave a letter listing 14 reasons that you love him/her.
13. If possible, send a card postmarked in a town that has a romantic name such as Loveland, Colorado, Valentine, Texas or Romance, Arkansas.




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