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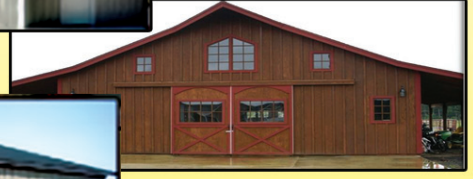
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Answers on Pg. 6

## THE IDLE AMERICAN

# Retailing at the Crossroads...

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

Retail wizard J C Penney would have been confounded by the tight-rope-walking required in today's world of retailing. He likely never dreamed of 140 JCP stores closing in one fell swoop.

Onward/outward/upward marked his insight. He credited a strong commitment to advertising for much of his chain's success.

He was often saddened, however, believing that half of his advertising budget was misspent. "Trouble is, I don't know which half," he admitted....

While technology lunges ever forward in the USofA, things haven't changed much down in the thicket, where my 104-year-old Uncle Mort lives. The countryside is currently abuzz with excitement about the decision to install a signal light at the intersection of two farm-to-market roads.

It'll be the only lighted signal for 20 miles in any direction, and the citizenry fears it might be terribly confusing, particularly if it has arrows blinking in red, green and yellow colors, 24/7.

Mort and the rest are relieved to learn the signal will not be "cutting edge." In fact, it barely rates being called "old-fangled." It has only four bulbs--one for each direction--and it blinks only in yellow. It will, as Mort puts it, "stay plugged in around the clock."...

He doesn't figure it will materially affect him. Mort doesn't travel far on his golf cart, and his speed wide open is about 20 MPH.

Once monthly, though, he passes through the intersection en route to the swamp for frog-gigging and frogleg-frying competition.

Mort says the gigging becomes routine, but the contest judge--once an employee at a NASCAR track--adds flair when announcing the frogleg-frying segment. "Gentlemen, heat yo' skilletts."...

During his early years of coaching, the late/great Paul (Bear) Bryant and a coaching buddy helped make ends meet by operating a dry-cleaning shop.

He said it was then he first realized things tend to come out even, both on and off the football field.

"If we'd been paid for all the cleaning bills, we'd have been rich," he drawled. "But if we'd paid for all the clothes we damaged, we'd have been bankrupt."...

My friend, Dr. Jimmie Nelson, a retired secondary professor who has been preaching for 71 years, is still at it. He, too, believes things tend to come out even. "I was never much of a golfer," he says. "In fact, I pledged to play 18 only holes every eight years. For a while, I was on course, but I've missed the last three or four cycles."

Several years ago, he traded his golf clubs for religious commentaries. "I groused about the trade for a while," he claims. "They were sorry books, but not as sorry as my golf game."...

Sometimes, though, things don't come out even--at least not in the minds of some egocentric athletes.

Upon hearing they were planning bobble-head doll likeness giveaways of an athlete at an upcoming game, he demanded changes.

"First of all, it shouldn't be a doll," he deadpanned. "It should be an action figure."...

We are put in our place in unexpected ways. At a long-ago speaking engagement, I was asked for the date and exact time of my birth. Simple enough, thought I, wondering why the introducer didn't request a bio. Soon, I would understand why.

"Our speaker this evening was born at 2 p.m. on September 7, 1937," the introducer said. "This means he's had 60 years, two months, one week, three days and five hours to prepare his remarks, so they ought to be good."

Less than 30 seconds had expired when he sat down. As I surveyed the audience, I felt woefully under-prepared. Time might have been better spent that day if I'd accompanied my Uncle Mort to the swamp. I'm not sure I would have been much of a hand at frog-gigging, but I could have joined the crowd in listening to the judge's unchanging instructions: "Gentlemen, heat yo' skilletts."...

Dr. Newbury is a speaker in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Inquiries/comments to: [newbury@speakerdoc.com](mailto:newbury@speakerdoc.com). Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: [www.speakerdoc.com](http://www.speakerdoc.com).

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## FAMOUS TEXANS

# Jaimie Alexander

An American Actress



Jaimie Alexander (born Jaimie Lauren Tarbush; March 12, 1984) is an American actress known for portraying Jessi on the TV series Kyle XY and Sif in the 2011 superhero film Thor, its 2013 sequel, Thor: The Dark World, and Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. Since 2015 she stars in the NBC series Blindspot.

### Early life

Alexander was born in Greenville, South Carolina, and moved to Grapevine, Texas when she was four years old. She is the only girl in a family of five children. Alexander first got into acting in grade school, where she took theater for fun. Alexander stated that she was actually kicked out of theater when she was in high school because she could not sing, so she instead went into sports. When she was 17, she substituted for a friend at a meeting with a scouting agency and she met her manager, Randy James, who sent her some scripts. After her graduation from Colleyville Heritage High School, a year and a half later, she moved to Los Angeles to pursue acting.

### Career

Her career was launched in 2003, when she was cast in the leading role of Hanna Thompson in the low budget award-winning film The Other Side. According to the movie's commentary, she was originally at the audition to help out by reading against the male actors, but the director Gregg Bishop decided to cast her in the leading role after hearing her perform the lines. Alexander's second role was in the movie Squirrel Trap where she played Sara, the love interest of the main character, David, who is a socially introverted genius portrayed by Keith Staley. This was soon followed by a guest appearance in It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia, where she portrayed a femme fatale in the role of 'Tammy', who through a combination of seduction and threats manipulates one of the main characters. She also has a small part in an episode of Standoff.

From there she proceeded to more significant roles. She appeared in the series Watch Over Me where she portrayed the controversial character of 'Caitlin Porter'. In 2006, she had her first lead role in the horror film Rest Stop where she portrayed 'Nicole Carrow', a girl who escapes from home and goes on a trip with her boyfriend, which is unexpectedly interrupted at a rest stop by a deranged serial killer. In 2007, she had her second lead role, also in a horror film. In Hallowed Ground she played 'Elizabeth Chambers', a girl stranded in a small town inhabited by a sect that plans to use her as a vessel for the rebirth of their founder. In both movies, her character is a strong character who fights back against her aggressors.

Her most famous role so far was that of 'Jessi' on the ABC Family television show Kyle XY. She portrays a troubled, show off girl with superhuman powers who is trying to find her way in the world, with increasing cooperation and eventual romance with her male counterpart Kyle. Her role generated a large fan base hoping to see a spin-off show for her character. She also has had guest roles on the show CSI: Miami where she played 'Jenna York', a flight attendant involved in a murder case; and in Bones where she played 'Molly Briggs', a student connected to the victim of the episode.

In September 2009, it was reported that Alexander would portray Sif in the live-action superhero film, Thor, directed by Kenneth Branagh and released in May 2011. She reprised the role in the sequel Thor: The Dark World, released in November 2013. She reprised the role twice in special crossover guest appearances on the TV series Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. on March 11, 2014 and again on March 10, 2015.

In July 2010, it was reported that Alexander had been cast in the independent comedy-drama film, Loosies co-starring Peter Facinelli and directed by Michael Corrente. In October 2010 it was reported that Alexander joined the cast of Nurse Jackie in a sizeable story arc as Jackie's (Edie Falco) wild, immature sister-in-law, Tunie Peyton. In 2011, she joined the cast of Covert Affairs for three episodes of the second season.

Alexander appeared in the 2013 film Savannah directed by Annette Haywood-Carter, about Ward Allen (Jim Caviezel), a real-life early 1900s aristocrat who starts an unexpected partnership with Christmas Moultrie (Chiwetel Ejiofor), a freed slave. Also in 2013, she portrayed deputy sheriff Sarah Torrance in The Last Stand, alongside Arnold Schwarzenegger.

In 2015, Alexander began starring as Jane Doe in the NBC series Blindspot.

### Other projects

Alexander has done a photo shoot with her co-star Matt Dallas from Kyle XY for the photographer Tyler Shields.

She also appeared in a Matthew Perryman Jones music video of the song "Save You" released in September 2009.

In 2010, Alexander appeared in a web series for MSN entitled Ultradome produced by Milo Ventimiglia. In the series Alexander portrayed Han Solo in battle against Indiana Jones for the title of best Harrison Ford character.

In 2011, Alexander reunited with writer/director Gregg Bishop for The Birds of Anger for NBCUniversal G4Films. The film was based on the best-selling mobile game, Rovio's Angry Birds, told in the style of the 1963 film The Birds by Alfred Hitchcock.

### Personal life

Alexander began dating actor Peter Facinelli in 2012 after they met on the set of Loosies. They became engaged in March 2015. In February 2016, Alexander and Facinelli announced they had called off their engagement.

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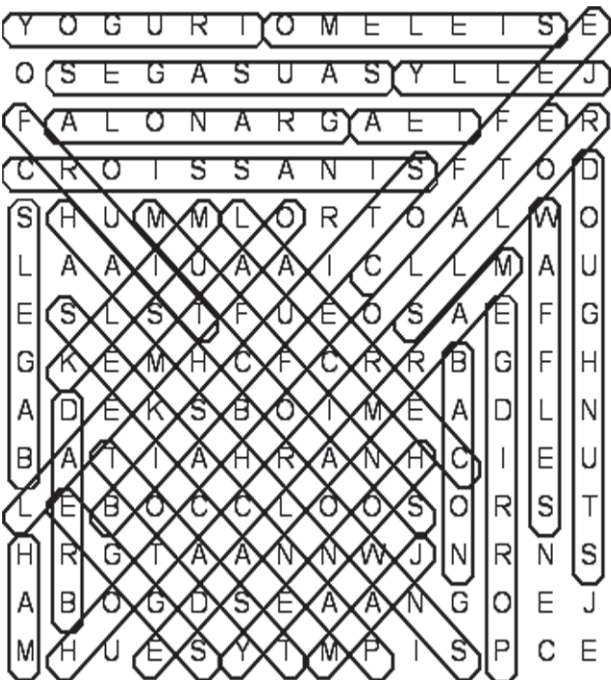
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Bryan and his wife Stacie bought the orchard eleven years ago. "The main crop that we grow here are Galas. And our Galas are a little bit smaller and a little bit paler than what you find in stores. We call them Lone Star Little Sugars. The climate here allows our apples to stay on the tree a little bit longer, so they get a lot more sun and come out a little bit sweeter than other people's apples. Our other varieties are Jonathan, Fuji, Goldina and a few other varieties we're experimenting with."

Before buying the orchard, Bryan had worked for a number of companies in big cities. "I've always wanted to do something else besides living in the big cities and working for big companies. I ended up in Dallas and that's where I met the lady who became my wife. This came up for sale so we hopped on it."

He says growing apples is a lot of work. "We joke about this being our retirement, but we're working harder than ever. We're all about agriculture and tourism so we're at the mercy of the weather. On a great year we're thinking about how awesome and successful we are. Then another year will come by and the weather won't be so nice. That's when we start to wonder about what we're doing."

The apples are harvested in the summer. "People call us all the time in October and they're wanting to pick apples. We are very far south here in Texas, so our apple-picking season is in July and early August. So if you want to pick apples, call us in June to find out what the crop is going to look like. Plus, people can check our website, lovecreekorchards.com. I advise you to come in the early morning to pick apples. It's real hot at 2 PM in July and August."

The business is year round. In the fall the place is covered up with people and pumpkins. Families go there to take pictures of their kids in a huge pumpkin patch. The pumpkin event is one of the hill country's largest attractions.

In downtown Medina, the Hutzlers own The Apple Store and Patio Cafe. "We've got our five-pound apple pies. They've been written up in several magazines and have been voted the best apple pie in Texas. We have apple jellies and jams, apple turnovers and strudels, which we make in the store. We only sell one flavor of ice cream and that's apple from our own recipe. We sell gallons of it every single day. Texas Monthly calls our hamburger among the best in Texas."

Several motorcycle riders from San Antonio and Austin go to Medina for what they call a pie run. "It's a great reason to hop on your motorcycle and drive out here. We love it when car clubs come out, especially the classic car clubs."



One of the sure signs of Springtime is that the Ag students and their livestock projects come out, and those eye-catching blue FFA jackets. In Hopkins County, the Junior Market Livestock Show and Sale was scheduled for February 23-25 where over 300 animal projects would be exhibited. Some of the young exhibitors also enter their projects in big-city shows like Ft Worth, San Antonio, Houston and Austin. Let's meet a few of the local future farmers and ranchers who, early on, learn the value of saying "thank you" to those who help them along the way, like NETLA buyers and sponsors. Members of NETLA (Northeast Texas Livestock Association) sponsor the Junior Market Sale of Champions, which in 2017 is expected to yield more than \$350,000 in college scholarship money for students. These photos are from the NETLA Buyers Luncheon held on February 23, 2017 at First Baptist Church in Sulphur Springs and sponsored by Hopkins/Rains County Farm Bureau.



Emcee Yvonne King introduces FFA officers



FFA members greet and serve diners



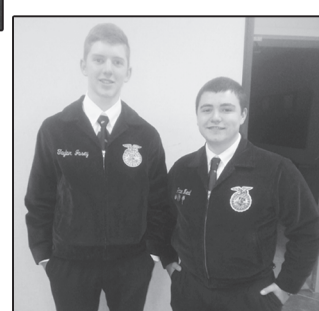
Seniors Hannah Caudle and Candace Earp, Miller Grove FFA



Senior Josh Couch, Vice-President of SSSH FFA



Sisters Penelope and Esperanza Deeterding of Infinity 4-H serve diners



Seniors Taylor Josey and Jace Neal, Sulphur Bluff FFA



Cumby FFA Seniors Hunter Cash and Shealy Wells with Miller Grove's Grant Earp and Cheyenne Gray



Sophomore Kayleigh Brewer and Freshman Carol Nabors, Como-Pickton FFA



Savannah Allen, 8th grade member of Infinity 4-H

Good luck and safe travels are wished to all the Ag students. Some of them will seek educations and careers in the agriculture industry, our nation's largest employer. Others use their seasons of raising livestock projects as learning experiences for life. It's all good! Til next week, I'll watch for more signs of Spring, and keep an eye out for you at the corral gate!



# Obits



## Barbara Formby

Graveside Service for Barbara Formby, age 77, of Sulphur Springs were held at 11:00 A.M. on Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at South Liberty Cemetery with Rev. Daniel Lewis officiating. There was no formal visitation.

Barbara passed away Monday, February 22, 2017 at Wesley House – Memory Care. She was born on September 29, 1939 in Dallas, TX, the daughter of Robert Bailey and Helen (Orr) Dry. She married Jerry Wayne Formby. She was a member of the Arbala Methodist Church and retired secretary at Hopkins County Abstract.

Mrs. Formby is survived by her son Michael Formby and wife, Lori and one granddaughter, Jacqueline Ann Formby. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and son, Mark Formby.

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



## Larry David Mays

A Memorial Service to celebrate the life of Larry David Mays will be held March 4, 2017 at Pickton United Methodist Church in Pickton, Texas at 11:00 a.m. Reverend Henry Suche and Reverend David Mays will officiate. He passed away February 12, 2017 in Winnsboro, Texas.

Larry was born April 22, 1947 to Thomas B. Mays and Edith Miller Mays in Sulphur Springs, Texas. He attended school in Pickton, TX and graduated in 1965. Larry served in the United States Army, 5th Special Forces Group as a Green Beret. He served in Vietnam. He worked for Mays Trucking Company and Moolah Transport, until retirement. He spent his retirement years watching the Dallas Cowboys, the Texas Rangers, spending time with his children, grandchildren and fishing as much as the weather permitted.

He is survived by his children: Wayne Mays of Quitman, Misti and Billy Huie of Winnsboro, Charles (Chuck) Mays of Pickton, and Stormie Vance of Winnsboro; grandchildren: Kelsey Huie, Kolton Huie, Braydon Vance, Payzlee Essl and Kendall Busby. He is also survived by three brothers, two sisters and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Larry is preceded in death by his parents; a brother, James Paul Mays and a sister, Marilyn Mays Odom.

Interment in New Pickton Cemetery.

## Howard Thompson

Howard Thompson, age 80 of Winnsboro, passed away on Sunday, February 26th, 2017 in Winnsboro. He was born on November 11th, 1936 in Mineola to the late Howard Thompson and Pauline Thompson. He attended Southern Methodist University and graduated in 1965, with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He retired after 30 years with the Teledyne Geo Tech Corporation, where he worked as an Electrical Engineer. While at Teledyne Geo Tech Corporation, he helped design and put in operation the strong motion equipment which registered and monitored earthquakes in various fault zones all over the world.

Mr. Thompson was a Baptist and was preceded in death by parents; four half sisters, and step-mother, Frankie Thompson.

He is survived by, wife, Donna Thompson of Winnsboro; daughters, Tracy Walvoord and husband Kyle of Longview and Jori Thompson of Dallas; step children, Jay Daniels, Julie Daniels, Jeffrey Daniels and John Daniels; three grandchildren, Travis Walvoord, Austin Walvoord, Parker Walvoord, one great grandchild, Beckham Walvoord; and the mother of his children, Ruth Meadlin Thompson of McKinney.

Memorial Services will be held on Saturday, March 4th, 2017 at Beaty Funeral Home-Winnsboro 816 W. Broadway Winnsboro, TX 75494 at 10:30 am, Rev. Uris Robertson, Jr. and Dr. Ray Thompson conducting.



## Della Maud Dalby Icenhower

Graveside services for Della Maud Dalby Icenhower, age 87, of Sulphur Springs, TX, were held at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at DFW National Cemetery with Bro. Fred Lewis officiating. There was no formal visitation. Pallbearers were Heath Icenhower, Jack Curtis, Jerry Dan Icenhower, Joe Bullard, Larry Davenport, and Darell Tipps. Honorary pallbearers were Tony Nix, Conner Curtis, Kelsey Curtis, Garrett Icenhower, and Johnathan Dalby. Della passed away on Thursday, February 23, 2017 at Hopkins Place in Sulphur Springs. She was born on July 18, 1929 in Dalby Springs, TX, the daughter of Clarence W. Dalby and Sarah Della Young Dalby. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Education with a major in History and Literature from North Texas State University, her Master's Degree of Education from East Texas State and her public school Librarian Certification from North Texas State. She was a member of the Mansfield Retired Teachers, a life member of Delta Kappa Gamma, and a member of the Ft. Worth, Autumn Trails and Dallas Model A Ford Clubs. She was also a

member of the First Baptist Church of Sulphur Springs. She received an award from the City of Mansfield, Texas and was placed on the Wall of Honor, an intermediate school in Mansfield was named for her, Della Icenhower Intermediate, Mansfield ISD. She taught at Pewitt ISD in Omaha-Naples, at Lufkin ISD, at Travis School at Rosebud ISD, Borger ISD, Fritch ISD, Childress ISD, and Mansfield ISD. She married James Robert Icenhower on June 3, 1951 in Dalby Springs, TX. He preceded her in death. She is survived by son, John Dalby Icenhower and wife Jana of Sulphur Springs, grandchildren, Melissa Anne Curtis and husband Jack of Boerne, TX, Heath Michael Icenhower and wife Carla of Allen, TX, great-grandchildren, Conner and Kelsey Curtis, Garrett Icenhower, and sister, Margaret Dalby Fowler. In addition to her husband she was also preceded in death by her parents, brothers, Billy Fountain Dalby, Clarence W. Dalby, Jr., and sister, Virginia Dalby Messer. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Gideons International, P.O. Box 1155, Sulphur Springs, Texas 75483 or the Model A Ford Foundation, 6647 West Kennedy Rd., Peotone, Illinois 60468. Arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.



## Bobbie Nell Moore

Bobbie Nell Moore, 79, of Commerce passed away in McKinney on Thursday, February 23, 2017.

On March 26, 1937, she was born in Campbell to Ruby Sullivan and Robert Watson.

Survivors include her son, Lester Lee Moore; her daughter, Ruby Hudson; her step-daughter, Kay Hollis; her granddaughter, Melinda Crowe; her great-grandchildren: Ashley Stillman and Austin Crowe; and, her great great-granddaughter, Alida Stillman.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Lester R. Moore, her parents, and her infant brother.

Graveside services were conducted at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28, 2017, at Rosemound Cemetery with Bro. Terry Bryan officiating.

Visitation was held on Monday, February 27, 2017, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Jones-Walker & Son Funeral Home.



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