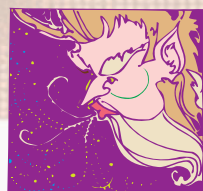


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Obits



Ronnie Gene Buffington

Ronnie Gene Buffington, age 74, of Emory, passed away Sunday, January 3, 2016 at ETMC in Tyler.

A Funeral service is scheduled for Thursday, January 7, 2016, 2:00 PM, at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home Chapel in Emory. Bro. Bill Cooper, Jr. will officiate. Interment will follow at Woosley Cemetery. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service from 1-2 PM, at the funeral home.

Ronnie was born on March 12, 1941, in Wichita Falls to Thomas Doyle and Goldie Ola Williams Buffington. He married Carolyn Joyce Kelley in Durant, OK on July 19, 1968. Ronnie worked most all his life as a self employed painter. He was a member of the Christian faith and of Union Bower Assembly of God Church in Irving.

Survived by: Wife; Carolyn Joyce Buffington of Emory Son; Joshua Andrew Buffington of Fruitvale, 3 Brothers; Joe Et-och (Louise) of Wichita Falls; Thomas Benton Buffington (Cheryl) of Emory; and Emory Dean Buffington of Arlington, 3 Sisters; Dorothy Dean Tharp (Richard) of Cosby, TN; Shirley Ann Cooper (Bill) of Irving; and Sandra Kay Elms of Irving, Grandchildren; Bree' Anda Harris; Hunter Harris; and Presley Harris, Preceded in death by: Parents; 1 Daughter: Wendy Rebecca Buffington Harris in 2012; 1 Brother: Billy Doyle Buffington; 2 Sisters: Helen Louise Porter and Norma Jean Vaughn; 1 Son-in-law: Brute Harris in 2012

Reba Crowson

Reba Crowson, age 63, of Dike, TX, passed away Monday, January 4, 2016 at her residence.

Arrangements are pending with West Oaks Funeral Home.

Robert Clay Cooper

A Memorial service for Robert Clay Cooper, 52 of Sulphur Springs has been scheduled for Thursday, January 7, 2016 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at Tapp Funeral Home. Mr. Cooper passed away Monday, January 4, 2016 at Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler

Robert Isa'ako Lee Pyle

Funeral services for Robert Isa'ako Lee Pyle, 2 month infant, will be conducted at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, January, 9, 2016 at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will follow at Brown Cemetery. Visitation will be held 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. prior to service. Baby Robert passed away Friday, January 1, 2016 at his residence in Edmond, OK.



Patsy Weir Templeton

Funeral services for Patsy Weir Templeton, age 79 of Cooper, formerly of Sulphur Springs were held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at Tira United Methodist Church with Rev. David Larkin officiating. Interment followed in the Tira Cemetery with Haden Warner, Robert Templeton and Lane Templeton serving as pallbearers. Visitation was held on Monday, January 4, 2016 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Patsy passed away on Friday, January 1, 2016 at Rock Creek Health and Rehab. She was born on August 2, 1936 in Tira the daughter of Harm and Johnnie Lois (George) Weir. Patsy was a homemaker and of the Methodist faith.

Survivors include her three daughters, Mary Templeton of Smyrna, TN, Carol Templeton of Smyrna, TN and June Templeton of Franklin, TN; one son, Robert Templeton and wife, Cherie of Cumby; grandchildren, Haden Warner, Erin Clark and Lane Templeton. She is preceded in death by her parents and one brother, Jack Weir.



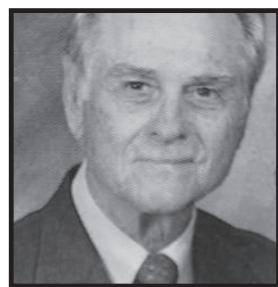
C.B. Ainsworth

A Funeral service for C.B. Ainsworth, age 71, of Point, was scheduled for Tuesday, January 5, 2016, 10:00 AM, at First Baptist Church of Point, with Bro. Zachary Honzell officiating. Interment followed in Hooker Cemetery. Visitation was held Monday evening, January 4, 2016, 6:00-8:00 PM, at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home in Emory.

Mr. Ainsworth passed away Saturday, January 2, 2016, at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas.

C.B. was born on December 30, 1944, in Point, to Cothurn William and Frances Ruth Williams Ainsworth. He married Patricia Irene Box in Point on July 6, 1963, she preceded him in death in 2012. He worked many different jobs for City of Point and for Rains County. He was a member First Baptist Church in Point and also of Point Volunteer Fire Department.

Survivors: Mother: Frankie Ainsworth of Emory; 3 Sons: Dale Ainsworth (Sherry) of Point; Kevin Ainsworth (Teri) of Salem, OR; and Rodney Ainsworth of Point, 2 Brothers: Robert Ainsworth (Kathy) of Point, and James Ainsworth (Susan) of Point, 3 Grandchildren: Corey Ainsworth, Kyle Ainsworth and Josh Ainsworth, 2 Great-grandchildren: Luna Ainsworth and Klark Ainsworth.



Raymond Odell Clifton

A Funeral service for Raymond Odell Clifton, age 88, of Point was scheduled for Monday, January 4, 2016, 2:00 PM at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home Chapel in Emory. Rev. David Diller officiated. Interment followed in the Emory City Cemetery. Members of the Masonic Lodge served as pallbearers. Visitation was one hour prior to the service on Monday, at 1:00 PM, at the funeral home.

Mr. Clifton passed away Friday, January 1, 2016, at Hopkins County Memorial Hospital in Sulphur Springs.

Raymond Clifton. Raymond was born on August 2, 1927 to John Robert and Zella Ratliff Clifton. He married Barbara Nabors in Longview on July 18, 1976. He retired after 35 years from Ford Motor Company and then after working another 20 years, he retired again from Rains County Hardware. He was a long time member, over 60 years, of Mars Hill Masonic Lodge #1440 of Emory, where he served as Treasurer for some 20 years, making him the longest serving officer in the lodge. He served as Worshipful Master of the lodge and was also awarded the Golden Trowel Award.

Survivors: Wife: Barbara Clifton of Point Daughter: Jeannie Cox, and husband, J.D., of Atlanta, TX, Son: Steven Haupt, and wife, Kim, of Point, 2 Brothers: Wayne Clifton, and wife, Kay, of Rockport, and Fred Clifton, and wife, Janie, of Emory, 3 Grandchildren: Lindsie Peters, Casey Cox, and Amanda Butler, 1 Great-granddaughter: Hadley Butler, Numerous nieces and nephews and a host of other loving family and friends.

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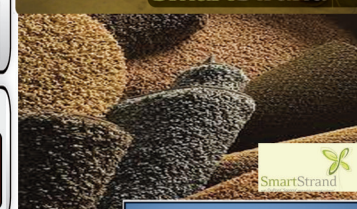
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Mark Alexander Ballas, Jr. (born May 24, 1986) is an American dancer, choreographer, singer-songwriter, musician, and actor.

Ballas is a professional ballroom dancer on the ABC program *Dancing with the Stars*. He began competing on the show in the fall of 2007. He was nominated for an Emmy for Outstanding Choreography in 2011. He is also a singer/songwriter/musician and released his first solo CD *HurtLoveBox* in March 2011.

Ballas was born in Houston, Texas, the son of dancers Corky Ballas and Shirley Ballas (née Rich). His paternal grandparents were of Mexican, Spanish, and Greek background, and his mother is English, originally from the United Kingdom. His paternal grandfather, George Ballas, was the inventor of the Weed Eater lawn-trimming device.

Ballas attended Rosemead Preparatory School in South London, and was in the same year as acclaimed British ballet dancer Max Westwell of the English National Ballet.

At the age of 11, he earned a full-time slot at the Academy, as well as earning a full scholarship to the college. In 2005, he was awarded "Performer of the Year". He then moved on to win championships at The British Open to the World, The US Open to the World, and The International Open to the World. With his former partner Julianne Hough, he won the Junior Latin American Dance Championship and the gold medal at the Junior Olympics.

Ballas' mother, an award-winning Latin American dancer, was recently featured on *Dancing with the Stars*.

As an actor, Ballas played the lead role of Tony in the musical *Copacabana* and was the lead dancer in the UK national tour of the Spanish musical *Maria de Buenos Aires*. He was also the understudy for the role of Ritchie Valens in the UK national tour of *Buddy, The Buddy Holly Story*. Ballas played an extra in *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* as part of the Hufflepuff House. In October 2008, Ballas made a guest appearance on the season premiere of *Samantha Who*. In September 2010, Ballas had a guest appearance on his former *Dancing with the Stars* partner Melissa Joan Hart's new series, *Melissa & Joey*.

Dancing with the Stars

On the fifth season of *Dancing with the Stars*, Ballas was partnered with Cheetah Girls star Sabrina Bryan. On October 30, 2007, the pair was voted off the show. They have been the only couple invited back for an exhibition dance. Ballas' partner for season 6 of *Dancing With The Stars* was Olympic Gold Medal-winning figure skater Kristi Yamaguchi. They won the series. On August 25, 2008, ABC announced the cast of the seventh season of *Dancing with the Stars*, with Ballas paired with reality television star Kim Kardashian. They were the third couple eliminated, finishing in eleventh place, on September 30, 2008. For the eighth season of *Dancing with the Stars*, Ballas was paired with Olympic gold-medal winning gymnast Shawn Johnson, winning that season's competition on May 19, 2009. He was partnered with actress Melissa Joan Hart for the show's ninth season. They were voted off in week six and came in 9th place. For season 10, Ballas was partnered with actress Shannen Doherty. They were the first couple eliminated, on March 30, 2010. Despite that, Shannen & Mark hold a higher average than a few celebrities who lasted longer than them. For season 11, Ballas was partnered with Bristol Palin, daughter of former Alaska governor and U.S. Vice Presidential candidate Sarah Palin. They made it to the finale and finished in third place. For season 12, Ballas was partnered with Disney Channel star Chelsea Kane. They made it to the finals where they finished in third place. For season 13, Ballas was partnered with reality star Kristin Cavallari where they were the 3rd couple eliminated finishing in 10th place. For season 14, he was partnered with Classical Singer Katherine Jenkins. They made it to the finale where they finished as the runners-up, losing to Donald Driver & Peta Murgatroyd. For season 15, he returned with season 11 partner, Bristol Palin. In week 7, he danced with former partner Shawn Johnson because her partner, Derek Hough suffered a neck injury. He was paired with two-time Olympic champion Aly Raisman for season 16. Since season 16 had four couples reach the finals for the first time, Aly and Mark were able to become finalists. On May 21, however, they were eliminated at the beginning of the show landing them in fourth place. For season 17, he was paired with singer Christina Milian. They were the 4th couple eliminated despite receiving high scores and good comments from the judges. For season 18, he partnered with Full House actress Candace Cameron Bure. The couple made it to the finals and ended in third place. For season 19, he partnered with Duck Dynasty star Sadie Robertson and finished in 2nd place behind Alfonso Ribeiro. For season 20, he was paired with star of *The Hunger Games* film series Willow Shields. The couple was shockingly eliminated in week 7, finishing in seventh place despite receiving high scores throughout the season. For season 21, he was partnered with actress Alexa PenaVega. They were eliminated in week 9 (despite being at the top of the leaderboard that week) and finished the competition in 6th place.

STORIES FROM THE GLASSCOCK COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

I had fun when I was the keynote speaker at the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission's annual meeting recently. It took place in Garden City, the county seat of Glasscock County. The county judge, Kim Halfmann introduced me. But before she got to the introduction, she told the crowd, "Tumbleweed has a hat that has pins on it from places where he's made a speech. Glasscock County does not have a line item in the budget for pins, but I made him a special one." She presented me with a clothespin with the words Glasscock County written on it in red ink. It now has a prominent place on my hat.

The county is named for George Washington Glasscock, who was a partner with Abraham Lincoln in the flatboating business in Springfield, Illinois. He moved to Texas when he was 24 and became a landowner and state legislator. He donated land for the county seat of Williamson County. The county seat, Georgetown, is named for him.

Glasscock County is located between the Pecos and Concho rivers and has 1,250 residents. The courthouse, built in 1910, is being restored at county expense. "A lot of the younger citizens are showing interest in the restoration and asking questions about the history," says Alan Dierschke, county treasurer. The removal of paneling has revealed some unique stenciling on the walls.

The courthouse used to have eight coal burning fireplaces. "We're going to restore the three that were in the upper floor. There was a big pile of coal in the back of the courthouse. People would go out there with a bucket, fill it with coal and bring it in."

For years the courthouse had no heating or air conditioning. A district judge changed that. "He was holding court on a hot day. The windows were open and the lawn guy was mowing the lawn, making so much noise that the judge couldn't continue court. The next commissioners court meeting he ordered the district courtroom to have central heat and air."

This is the second courthouse in Glasscock County. The first one was built in 1894. It had two stories: one for the jail, the other for county offices. After the move into the present courthouse, the jail went unused for seven consecutive years. Then someone required a trip behind bars. "The jail hadn't been used in such a long time that a mesquite tree had grown up in front of the door to the jail. In order to put the prisoner in there the prisoner had to cut down the mesquite tree before he could go in."

The original name of the town was Gardner City. "A guy named John Gardner was a prominent citizen here and had the first store. When it came to have a post office, Gardner City was proposed but the postal department thought Garden City would be a better fit."

Garden City high school has won the state championship in 6-man football twice in recent years. The mascot is a bearkat. "We haven't quite figured out what a bearkat is."

Tumbleweed Smith loves to hear stories. Contact: ts@tumbleweedsmith.com

THE IDLE AMERICAN

A Sporting Scout...

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

One doesn't hear much about dares anymore, and rarer still are "double dog dares." Well, Stephen-

chael--also a scout leader--to render her hairless. During the 10-minute "shearing/cheering session," Michael manned the clippers; the youngsters gleefully "backslapped and high-fived." Debbie smiled through it all, remembering popcorn sales netted just \$4,000 when the fund-raiser began several years ago.

Two cubs led the way in '15--each with sales of about \$3,500. The campaign netted almost \$29,000, and folks are wondering how she'll challenge the now 85-member pack come August....

Life has been much about scouting for the couple since their son, now 24, was a first-grad-

er. And their daughter, 20, fell right in at age 6 as well.

Cheering the scout leaders on are grateful parents, as well as members of the sponsoring Kiwanis Club and the United Electric Cooperative, whose community room the pack uses monthly.

With five state football championships since 1993, the community is accustomed to backing the Stephenville High School Yellow Jackets on Friday nights. These days, however, Stephenville is abuzz with excitement about youngsters in grades 1-5 "bulldog-determined" to meet sales challenges. Would that such community spirit and generous support of worthy causes rub off on the rest of us....

WORD SEARCH

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| BLACK ICE | HAIL | SEASON | SNOWBOARD |
| BLIZZARD | HEADBAND | SKATES | SNOWFLAKE |
| BOOTS | HIBERNATION | SKI DOO | SNOWMAN |
| CARNIVAL | HOCKEY | SKI PANTS | SNOWSHOES |
| CHRISTMAS | HOLIDAYS | SKIING | SOLSTICE |
| COLD | ICE FISHING | SLED | SOUP |
| EGG NOG | ICICLES | SLEET | STEW |
| FIREPLACE | KNIT CAP | SLIPPERY | STORM |
| FIREWOOD | LONG UNDERWEAR | SNOW CASTLE | SWEATSHIRT |
| FOG | MITTENS | SNOW PLOW | TOBOGGAN |
| FREEZE | OLYMPICS | SNOW SHOVEL | VACATION |
| FROST | PARKA | SNOW TIRES | WIND CHILL |
| GLOVES | SCARF | SNOWBALL | WOOL SOCKS |

Answers On Pg.6

At The Corral Gate



Readers, blessings arrive from all directions and in many forms, so we must always be ready with an open mind to receive them! That's a lesson I learned well this Christmas regarding the blessings of snow. Now, I've been a Grinch when it comes to frozen precipitation. I NEVER wanted snow, holidays or not.



It's messy and dangerous. A White Christmas? Bah! Humbug! (That was the old me, before 12-25-2015)

Elk City is a small town located along historic Route 66 in western Oklahoma. It's also the home of three of my daughters..Bobbi Jo, Jessica and Angela. It was also where I traveled along with Clay, his family and Jamie's four kids to celebrate the Christmas holiday weekend. I was able to soak up the company of my favorite people while enjoying four (4!) restful days awaiting the thaw from the Christmas Blizzard that affected Oklahoma in the final days of 2015.



The ice layer with 6" snowfall on top made for the unexpectedly extended stay at the homes of my grown children. Some kitchen wisdom ...count the diners yourself! When I asked the little youngsters (as opposed to the teens who never looked up from their cell phones) to go and get a head count of how many people to set places for, I got three different numbers. Was it 11? 14? or 17? I finally just got all the plates and forks we had and put them out on the three tables we had set up. When it was all said and done, the four days of big family meals just about exhausted the pantry and freezers as well as our appetites. Thank goodness, it was finally time to wave bye and go home!



Clay, Bobbi, Jessi, Panji



The Terrible Teens



Double Twin Trouble



Ava



Dakx



JJ and Jackson

Here's a date to mark in red on your 2016 calendar...
 the Reilly Springs Jamboree with Tony Ramey on Saturday January 16 at 7pm.
 Come hear this great Hunt County singer/songwriter and very nice guy showcased on the historic stage!

I want to close with a New Year's wish for you, one that I'll take to heart too. May 2016 be full of pleasant surprises, satisfying work and personal blessings. May your goals be realized and your prayers granted. May new horizons unfold as you rediscover the strengths within you and journey toward your dreamed destination. Honk as you go by the corral gate!

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Unlimited 4x4



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15 Chevy Silverado
2500 4x4 LTZ Duramax



STK# 9051A **\$52,990**

12 Buick Regal GS



STK# 9004A **\$19,990**

15 Chevy Traverse



STK# 3219P **\$28,990**

12 Chrysler 300C
V8



STK# C4319A **\$18,595**

10 Honda Odyssey



STK# C4299B **\$15,999**

14 Hyundai Santa Fe
GLS



STK# 8963A **\$23,990**

15 Mercedes Benz
C400



STK# 8903A **\$42,500**

13 Chevy Captiva
Sport



STK#8607B **\$16,295**

14 Chevy Cruze
Diesel



STK# 3213P **\$16,500**

13 Cadillac Escalade



STK# 3197P **\$42,500**

11 Toyota Highlander
LTD



STK# 9008A **\$24,500**

12 Nissan Juke
AWD



STK# 3208P **\$24,999**

13 Ford Mustang
GT 5.0 Premium



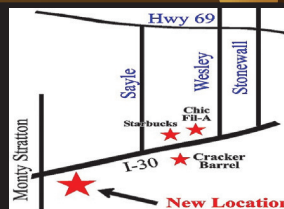
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