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VOL. 18 ISSUE 924, November 16, 2017

(In The Shade of The Courthouse)

903-885-9966



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I am thankful and blessed to live in Hopkins County, Texas. I've made my home here since 1985, and besides having a job in local radio for 30 years, I've also been privileged to be included in this publication for about a decade now. I've also had the blessing of producing a local country Opry-style show, the Reilly Springs Jamboree, for more than 20 years. It is held monthly and for the next show, set for November 18, two area artists will return to our stage to share the evening with the audience. These two are great friends and have appeared together numerous times while promoting their separate careers. I hope you will attend the show, but right now please meet these two exciting young artists.

Josh Davis



Elvis Tribute Artist

Josh Davis, originally from Reilly Springs, Texas is a natural born entertainer with a special love for the music, movies and mystique of Elvis Presley. He first began performing Elvis tribute music in nightly concerts staged at home, then as a teen began measuring his talent against other Elvis tribute artists across the nation. Josh won the People's Choice Award and took third place in Images of the King Contest during Elvis Week 2012 in Memphis. In 2015, Josh placed in the top three in several Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist preliminaries and that year, he earned first place out of the top 27 tribute artist finalists in Memphis, Tennessee. His hundreds of performances include concerts with The Blackwoods and The Coasters. He rehearses each day and strives to always improve as a vocalist. A gifted entertainer with a seasoned voice, Josh can also accompany himself with guitar in his tribute repertoire which includes Buddy Holly, Roy Orbison and other beloved music stars from the Rock'n Roll era. Today at age 23, he is managing himself from his new home in White Oak, Texas and invites old and new fans to check out his new website at www.joshdaviselvis.com

Billie Jo Sewell



Singer Songwriter

Billie Jo Sewell is a 26-year-old singer/songwriter originally from Emory, Texas. She was raised by her grandparents and began developing a big voice at an early age by singing gospel and country music, always with the dream of becoming a star. Today she resides in Lindale with her husband Coy Sewell and their six children (yours, mine and ours!). She works full time in corporate offices in Tyler while singing on weekends all over Texas and Oklahoma. Billie Jo has opened for artists such as Ray Price, Gene Watson, The Oakridge Boys, Justin Moore and Wade Bowen, has been featured at Choctaw Casino in Grant, Oklahoma and has frequently appeared with Josh Davis. In 2013, Billie Jo won the Texas Music Country Hall of Fame-John Ritter Showcase in Carthage, Texas, and recently placed among the top three during East Texas Idol. That win earned her a private audition with American Idol producers, and although she is not at liberty to discuss how that went, her family, friends and fans hold high hopes for the "big break" that will someday introduce Billie Jo to the world. She is now playing guitar and accompanying herself on acoustic sets. The November 18 concert will be her third performance on the Jamboree stage.

In this free country where we live, we can exercise our right to be publicly thankful and grateful to God. In neighborhoods and businesses, you'll see signs of "Blessed" and "Give Thanks" everywhere. Do you recall the simple children's song "Count Your Blessings"? Though simple, it contains timeless wisdom. "Count your many blessings, name them one by one. Count your many blessings, see what God has done". Let's stop and appreciate our countless blessings as we celebrate and observe the Thanksgiving season.

Til next week, I'll watch for you at the corral gate.

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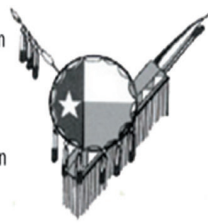
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HAPPY THANKSGIVING

What we're really talking about is a wonderful day set aside on the fourth Thursday of November when no one diets. I mean, why else would they call it Thanksgiving?

By Erma Bombeck



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5. Teach your kids to worship God alone and with others at church.
6. Teach your kids to be Christ like. Live their lives like Christ did teaching others to be saved.
7. Teach your kids great things await those who put their lives with Christ. Live according to his word.

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Obits



Robert "Bob" Eugene Leerskov

Memorial service for Robert "Bob" Eugene Leerskov, age 70, of Sulphur Springs, TX, will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Friday, November 17, 2017 at League Street Church of Christ, Sulphur Springs, TX with Buddy Wiggins officiating and Steve Cook assisting. Friends and loved ones will be received immediately following the service. Mr. Leerskov passed away on Monday, November 13, 2017 in Oklahoma.

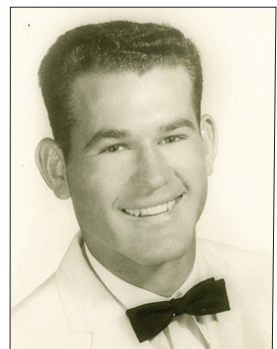
Robert Eugene Leerskov was born on February 23, 1947, in Talequah, Oklahoma, the son of Robert Andrew and Luella (King) Leerskov. He married Phyllis Taylor. Robert graduated from Oklahoma State University with a Civil Engineer Degree and retired as Assistant State Director for the Natural Resource Conservation Service. He was a Mason and a Shriner. Robert was also a member of League Street Church of Christ.

He is survived by his wife, Phyllis; sons, Kevin Leerskov, Jason Leerskov and wife, Christi; grandchildren, Keith Leerskov and wife, Brittany, Ryan Leerskov, Kaytlyn Leerskov, Landon Leerskov, Waylon Crawford, Trisha Linville; great grandchild, Addilyn Leerskov; sister, Beve Cowan and husband, curly; niece, Cara Cowan Watts; nephew, Brett Cowan; numerous other family.

Robert was preceded in death by his parents.

Memorials can be made to the American Diabetes Association, online at www.diabetes.org or P.O. Box 15829, Arlington, VA 22215.

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



Donald Lee Moore

Donald Lee Moore, age 80 of Winnsboro, passed away on Saturday, November 11, 2017 in Winnsboro. He was born on November 23, 1936 in Wheeler to LeeRoy Moore and Ila (Baird) Moore. Donald was a retired Inspector with Nordstrom Valve Company in Sulphur Springs, a member of Pine Street Baptist Church and loved his bird dogs, 56 Chevy and family. He was preceded in death by parents, Lee Roy and Ila Moore. He is survived by, wife, LaNeitta Moore, of Winnsboro; daughter Sharon Lee and husband Russell Acker of Winnsboro; son, Stephen and his wife Kim Moore of Sulphur Springs; brother Dale Franklin Moore of Sulphur Springs; sister Laquita Joy Hankins of Winnsboro; five grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren.

Visitation was held on Monday, November 13, 2017 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Beaty Funeral Home-Winnsboro 816 W. Broadway Winnsboro, TX 75494. Funeral Services were held on Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at Beaty Funeral Home-

Winnsboro at 2:00 pm, Bro. Charles Ethridge officiating, interment followed at Harmony Cemetery in Winnsboro, with Weldon Watkins, Lynn Shelton, J.C. Vanginault, J.D. Acker, Mike Gibson, John Patrick serving as pallbearers.

For those that desire memorials may be directed to the American Cancer Society.



"Junior" Walter Lee Potts, Jr.

"Junior" Walter Lee Potts, Jr., age 80, of Brashear, passed away Sunday, November 12, 2017, at Baylor Heart Hospital in Plano.

The funeral service was held on Tuesday, November 14, 2017, at 11:00 AM, at South Liberty Baptist Church in Sulphur Springs. Visitation was 1 hour prior at 10:00 AM. Interment followed in South Liberty Cemetery. Bro. Tim Potts and Bro. Halston Potts officiated.

Junior was born in Dougherty on February 15, 1937, to Walter Aaron and Gladys Nina Daugherty Potts. He married Edna Earl Pool in Hopkins County on April 10, 1956. Junior retired from Kansas City Southern Rail Road after 21 years. He was a member of South Liberty Baptist Church of Sulphur Springs.

Survived by: Wife: Edna Potts of Shirley; 2 Sons: Tim Potts (Barbara) of Shirley and Jim Potts (Tanya) of Miller Grove; Daughter: Kim Potts (K.D.) of Daugherty Community; Brother: Leroy Potts (Carolyn) of Emory; Grandchildren: Jace, Halston, Niki, Mat, Chet, Kaci, Haley, and Shelbi; Great-grandchildren: Riley, Maddox, Jack, and Aria; Numerous other loving family and friends;



J.B. Garner

J.B. Garner, 89, of Saltillo, TX, passed away surrounded by family on Saturday, November 11, 2017.

James Bell Garner was born in San Angelo, Texas, on December 26, 1927, to Emma Brickly Garner and AB Garner. He celebrated over 66 years of marriage to Jimmie Nell Mays Garner. JB was a World War II veteran serving in the United States Army. He was a member of Saltillo Baptist Church, a member of the Mount Vernon V.F.W Post 3992; and, he was also an avid golfer. JB was a people person who never met a stranger. He will truly be missed.

Survivors include his wife, Jimmie; his daughter, Allison Helm of San Diego, CA; his brother, BJ (Pete) Garner of Odessa; and, his three sisters: Beatrice Henry of Houston, Patsy Decker of Menard, TX. and Betty Teagarden of Grand Junction, CO.

A graveside service was held on Tuesday, November 14, 2017, at 10:00 A.M. at Stouts Creek Cemetery of Saltillo, Texas,

with Bro. Terry Bryan officiating.

Honorary pallbearers were: Dan Humphrey, Jones Roberts, Bob King, Jason Mays and Rusty Mays.

In lieu of usual remembrances, the family requests that donations be made to the Saltillo Baptist Youth Fund, P. O. Box 175, Saltillo, TX 75478.



Mary Alice Deverell

Mary Alice Deverell, age 83 of Winnsboro, passed away on Saturday, November 11th, 2017 in Tyler. She was born on June 2nd, 1934 to Jerry Birdsong and Annie Bamburg. She was the Co-Owner of Deverell Drilling Supply, as well as a member of First Baptist Church of Winnsboro.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Billy Bob Deverell, a sister, Margie Morgan; brother, Roy Birdsong; sister, Frances Conine.,

She is survived by, a son, Billy Don Deverell and his wife Debbie of Yantis; a daughter, Vicki and her husband Daryl McElyea of Winnsboro; brother, Doyle Birdsong of Tyler; grandchildren, Chad McElyea, Janet Hale, Matthew McElyea, Donna Deverell, and B.J. Deverell, as well as eleven great grandchildren.

Visitation was held on Monday, November 13th, 2017 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Beaty Funeral Home-Winnsboro 816 W. Broadway Winnsboro, TX 75494. Funeral Services were held on Tuesday, November 14th, 2017 at Beaty Funeral Home at 10:00 am, Chad McElyea and Bro. Dan Hubbell officiated, interment followed at Lee Cemetery in Winnsboro, with James Ray, Dillon McAdoo, James Evans, Joshua Hale, Justin Hale, and Casey Abell serving as Pallbearers; Honorary Pallbearers are Louis Ray, Dawson Hale, Jason Hale, Christopher Greenwood, Charles Conine, Jerry Conine, Kenneth Bailey, Galen Birdsong.

THE IDLE AMERICAN

Long Distance, Information...

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

Early in the 66-year marriage of church and family. Dr. and Mrs. Seale T. Cutbirth, Leaning on common sense, she was named "Mrs. Texas." deep Christian faith and unending energy, the family physician in Brownwood, the 88-year-old physician was remembered for done. Typical days began before contributions to his community, the rising of the sun, ending long

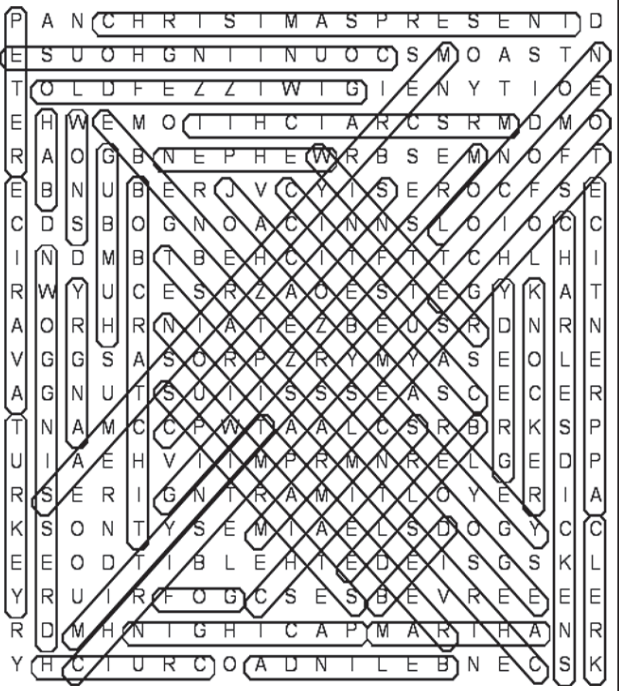
after it surrendered to darkness. More than once--when time was of the essence--he performed neurosurgery while consulting with specialists in major medical centers by telephone, sometimes when the surgery was in progress....

This beloved doctor served for 35 years, even making house calls. He was team physician for Brownwood High School football teams, and still found time for numerous other contributions to schools, church and community. A 50-year deacon in First Baptist Church, he loved the outdoors, and always looked forward to annual Wyoming trips for hunting, fishing and camping.

He and wife Betty Sue had four children. She and three children survive, as do nine granddaughters and 10 great-grandchildren.

Most men would shrink at the prospect of being the husband of "Mrs. Texas." Not Dr. Seale T. Cutbirth. He was "Mr. Greatness" to all who knew him....

Answers



A GIRL WITH A TRUMPET

Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

Kelley Fletcher of Sulphur Springs is a tall girl who plays trumpet. In junior high school, she liked the sound the band director produced when he played his trumpet. So she decided to learn how to play the instrument.

"I picked up that trumpet and played a note and it came out immediately and the band director Mr. Wood told me I'd be great on trumpet. Forty-two years later I'm still torturing people who hear me play."

Kelley says she is still trying to become a good trumpet player.

"I think most trumpet players will say they are always becoming, because you never feel like you master the instrument."

In high school she made it to state playing a trumpet she got at a pawnshop. As a reward, her father gave her a professional instrument.

"He came in the house one day and he had bought me a Bach Stradivarius, one of the pro-line trumpets. To have one of those that I could call my own was real exciting."

She has some idols. Harry James tops the list.

"He's such a heart player. When I hear him play I feel something. He puts a lot of emotion in his playing and he's a master musician."

Kelley has played professionally thirty-one years and taught band on high school and college levels for twenty-eight of those years. Now she has her own band. Last July she got to perform at home with a full orchestra on the Sulphur Springs Square.

"I was blessed with the opportunity to actually have an arrangement written for me with orchestra. It was a medley of Harry James tunes. It had a big ending, then a bigger ending and it was so exciting and all the people on the square were very kind and applauded. I was on cloud nine because hearing a full orchestra behind me with strings and everything was a thrill."

I met Kelley at the First Baptist Church in Sulphur Springs. It's a large complex of buildings and when I started asking people about where to find the female trumpet player they all pointed me in the right direction. When I first saw her in a hallway she was holding her trumpet, which gave me the feeling it's never far away from her. We went to the choir room and didn't even bother to close the door. I recorded her playing and Kelley's trumpet sounded all over the church.

Kelley has a wonderful sense of humor and is always making jokes about her height. She's over six feet tall. When she was performing in the square with the orchestra the audience gave her a standing ovation. I complimented her on that.

"Well they didn't have chairs," said Kelley.

Our Family....



Bottom row: McCleary, Noelle, Sadie and middle row: Amber, Brandy, Finn, Mimi and back row: Castleton, Jay, Theresa, Colton, Kathleen, Pop, Jay and Austin.

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