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**VOL. 19 ISSUE 950, May 17, 2018**

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By 1914 the town had two banks, three cotton gins and a newspaper and some 35 other businesses. Ten years later, it's growing school system was teaching all twelve grades, had 500 students and a total population of twice that many. Sadly however, it was also about the time of it's height that the town began a general decline. Throughout the decades to follow, population rose and fell but still averages about 800 persons today.

Old Railroad Track



Old Celeste Street (1905-1909)

Today's water Tower In Celeste

Civic pride is in plain view however, with a small roadside park, some really beautiful colorful brick wall art downtown, and an interesting cemetery. Their school basketball team is called the Celeste Blue Devils, and a billboard along the highway labels it "Small Town with a Big Heart". Perhaps the biggest claim to fame of Celeste, Texas is that war hero and movie star Audie Murphy once lived there. He attended the Celeste school until he dropped out after the eighth grade to help support the family.



Wall Painting in Celeste



Audie Murphy



Cemetery Sign

On my quick pass through the town, I did not get to sample any places to eat or shop, but if you have some time on your hands, I'm sure there are many more interesting points to this friendly little town, not too far from here.

Did you ever hear of the Happy State Bank? Or The Town Without a Frown? Keep reading here...more fascinating trivialities about nearby Texas places are bound to show up. Til we meet again, let's keep counting our blessings and treating our neighbors as we would ourselves. And honk when you go by the corral gate!

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**Are you caring for someone with memory loss?**

**Join "Terrific Tuesdays"**

a Sulphur Springs Respite Care Program for seniors with memory loss.

This program is open to everyone with Alzheimer's or dementia. It gives the participants an opportunity to spend each Tuesday meeting new friends and participating in cooperative activities.

It also gives the caregiver a few hours to run errands and to take care of personal healthcare needs, etc. knowing that their loved one is well taken care of in a safe and enjoyable environment.

**The cost is \$20 each Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and that includes lunch!**

"Terrific Tuesdays" meets at The First United Methodist Church Family Life Center at 301 Church Street, Sulphur Springs.

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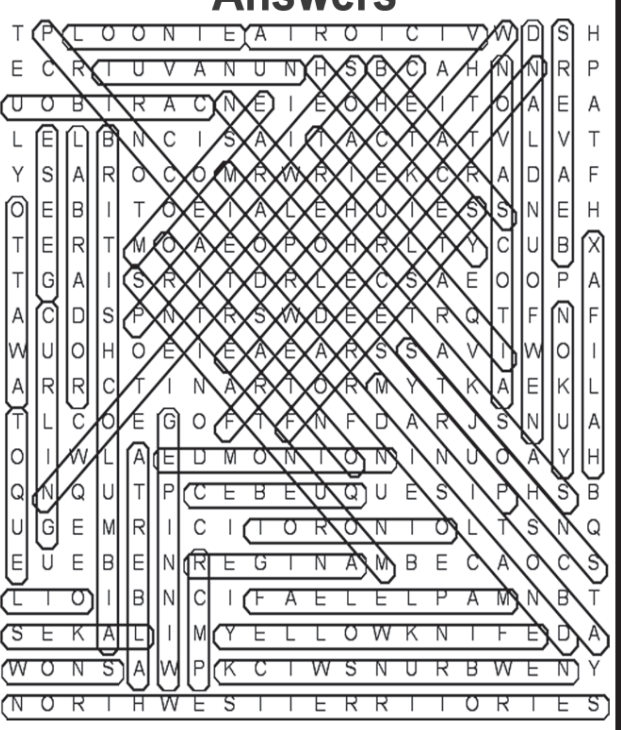
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**IT'S HARD TO RIDE A PIG**

**Tumbleweed Smith**

GW Baker lives in the Sabine County community of Brookeland.

"I was raised on Six Shooter Street in Jasper. It was actually named McQueen Street but when I grew up it was so wild they named it Six Shooter Street. It was a sawmill town. I wouldn't trade it for any place in the world."

His initials stand for George Washington. GW says he was a good kid.

"When the neighbors would have company, they'd go hide their kids and come over to our house and borrow me."

He and his neighborhood friends found different ways to have fun.

"When I was about five or six years old, before I started to school, the Davises lived down the road from us and they had a bunch of kids. They had a hog pen with a great big sow in it. Mama told me not to go near that pig because it would give me hookworms. Well my buddies and I got to arguing about who could ride that sow. I said I could ride it. So I climbed over into that muddy pen with that sow and it was like trying to ride a greased pig. I'd stay on it for a few seconds and that old pig would throw me off and I'd get back on it. That happened several times and I ended up with that old blue mud all over me you know, pig stuff. I started walking up Six Shooter Street back to the house, knowing that I would probably die. You've got to remember I'm just a little kid. I've been over in that pig pen and I know I've got those hookworms and they're gonna kill me. Mama had warned me.

"I thought about stopping at my Aunt Inez's house to ask her what to do for them. She had come up with a remedy for my brother Bobby's Chicken Pox. She sat him outside the hen house and shooed the chickens over. The old rooster landed on him and liked to peck a hole in his skull. He still has a place on the top of his head where that rooster worked him over trying to cure the Chicken Pox. I went on to the house and of course got a whipping. But I did ride that pig and didn't get hookworms."

GW served in Viet Nam in 1967 and 68. His military experience inspired him to write a poem entitled A SOLDIER'S BATTLEFIELD. As I sit alone on this battlefield, my will is to live and not to kill. The sun is setting and the evening shadows come alive. I must try to live. I must survive.

With a hiss and a pop of a parachute flare I strain my eyes to see what's there.

Then I'm awakened with a blast and a scream.  
It's the nurse waking me to say it was just a dream.  
She might be right but I lived another day and survived last night.

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## Peyton Dietze and Sarah Harper Named Valedictorian and Salutatorian for the Sulphur Springs Class of 2018

Sulphur Springs High School Principal Derek Driver has announced the Valedictorian and Salutatorian for the Class of 2018. Peyton Dietze, with a 4.28 GPA, was named valedictorian and Sarah Harper, with a 4.25 GPA, was named salutatorian.

Peyton, daughter of Jason and Jill Dietze, local grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. Bill Dietze, will attend Baylor University and major in accounting. She has served as class president her sophomore, junior, and senior years. She is a two year member of National Honor Society and served as president this year. She is president of the SSSH Key Club and has been a member for four years. She is secretary of the National Technical Honor Society and a two year member. She has been a cheerleader for four years. A FCCLA member for three years, she was a Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Camper her junior year. Peyton is a member of the Hopkins County Chamber of Commerce High School Leadership Class, Heart's Queen Nominee her junior and senior year, and a senior nominee for Most Thoughtful, Most Friendly, Most Likely to Succeed, and Prom Queen.



Peyton Dietze and Sarah Harper

Sarah, daughter of Nathan and Liz Crouch and Jaime and Amy Harper, local grandparents Charles Dawson, Joe and Monica Crouch, Gail Dawson, Dallas and Sandy and Pat Harper of Vidor, formerly of Sulphur Springs, will attend Austin College and continue her education pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy degree. Her University Interscholastic League honors include: One Act Play, All-Star Cast district, bi-district, and Honorable Mention Area; Prose, fourth place in district, sixth place in region; Spelling, individual second place in District and advancing to State as a spelling team member. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Chamber of Commerce High School Leadership Class, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Theatre Club, Key Club, and Officer of the International Thespian Society.

### National Skilled Nursing Care Week will be May 13-19, 2018

In skilled nursing care centers across the country each person has a unique story to tell. If you take the time to listen to how life's most significant events, relationships and experiences have shaped who others are today, you'll cultivate a shared sense of purpose and deeper understanding of your center and the surrounding community. Narrating one's life story can be an enriching experience for both the story teller and the listener. The National Skilled Nursing Care Week centers will collect life's most treasured moments to celebrate every individual's personal narrative. The theme, "Celebrating Life's Stories" pays homage to the diverse set of perspectives that residents, families and staff bring to everyday interactions. From May 13-19, 2018, centers will be encouraged to collect narratives on each individual's most significant life events, relationships and experiences to cultivate a shared sense of purpose at the center and in the surround community.



In search of a new dairy food contest, local Extension Agent Johanna Hicks and food committee members who like the TV show "Chopped" decided to fashion a similar contest for this year's Hopkins County Dairy Festival. It will be held on the morning of Saturday June 16, 2018, in an outdoor setting in front of the Civic Center sound stage. Space is limited to eight 4-person teams, and entry fee is \$40 per team. Get your cooking team together and your application in quickly! Application deadline is May 31, but the eight slots are expected to fill before then. You can call for details at 903-885-3443.

Team contestants will need to bring nothing except their favorite knives for slicing and dicing. All cooking and blending equipment, dishes and all food ingredients will be provided. Each team will be provided with a set of ingredients for each of three rounds of preparation. No recipes will be provided, so that's where the team's creativity and versatility come in! Each team's food preparation site will be situated under a canopy. (Team members may dress as they like, or they can go all out with matching team wear and team names.) The three rounds are: snack/appetizer, main dish and dessert, and each round's preparation and presentation has a time limit. Judges will briefly interview the teams about how they formulated their entries after each round. As rounds progress, some teams will be eliminated as winners advance. Prizes and gift cards will be awarded to the one team named "Whipped" Champion, and all the teams will take home prize bags and keepsake rosettes.

Download an application and rules of play at [hopkinscountydairyfestival.com](http://hopkinscountydairyfestival.com) or at [hopkins.agrilife.org](http://hopkins.agrilife.org). Printed applications and rules of play are available at the Agrilife Extension office and at the Southwest Dairy Museum.



John Sellers, Mayor of the City of Sulphur Springs, Texas, has proclaimed May 18, 2018, as *Put On Purple Day* throughout the city and urges all citizens to support the cause of raising awareness of Lupus.



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