

Check your hearing this October

Protect Your Hearing Month promotes hearing awareness

National Protect Your Hearing Month runs for the rest of October, and Georgetown audiologist Melanie McQueen hopes that local residents will direct their attention to hearing health.

"The reason we want to bring awareness to noise-induced hearing loss is that not only is it non-reversible, it's also avoidable," she said.

Dr. McQueen said 31 million people nationwide are affected by hearing loss related to noise, which she defined as happening after prolonged exposure to loud sounds. This can stem from noise from machines, lawn mowers, shooting guns, or listening to loud music through earbuds.

Luckily, she said, there are ways to protect your hearing.

"For earbuds, we use the 60/60 rule: don't listen at higher than 60 percent of the volume capacity for longer than 60 minutes."

For other situations in which someone might be exposed to prolonged loud noises, she suggested using foam earplugs that can be purchased from most grocery stores. In cases where

one's work exposes them to continued loud sounds, custom fitted hearing protection can be purchased through centers like the Livingston Hearing Aid Center in Georgetown.

Another reason to prevent noise-induced hearing loss is that it can affect anyone, regardless of age.

"Hearing loss can happen at any time during your life," she said. "We're certainly seeing a lot more young teens and children coming in with hearing loss that was preventable."

Some signs that hearing loss may already have occurred are if you are finding yourself asking for repetitions, are having trouble following conversations, or are experiencing a ringing or buzzing in your ears.

In the spirit of protecting your hearing this month, Dr. McQueen encourages residents to get their hearing checked to monitor if any loss is already happening, and consult with audiologists about future protection.

"We need to be proactive about our hearing before it's too late," she said.

— By Kate Thurmond

Gloria "Sue" McGrath Sprinkel Adams

Gloria "Sue" McGrath Sprinkel Adams died in the company of family after a lengthy struggle with Parkinsons on September 25, 2021, at the age of 78.

Sue is survived by her husband Tam Adams, son Mike Sprinkel, step children Rene Tausch, Mark Sprinkel, Sharon Mitchell and Daniel Adams, her sister Angela Hooper, and her brother Dave McGrath. She is preceded in death by her son Shawn Sprinkel, her parents Harry and Carolyn McGrath, and her first husband, Ros Sprinkel.

Sue was born on December 17, 1942, in Alexandria, La. She began high school at Fair Park in Shreveport, La., later graduating from Greenwood High in 1960. She attended business college and worked for a time at Barksdale Air Force Base, where she met her future husband. She married Ros in 1965. The newlyweds moved from Shreveport and swept the nation west to east while in the Air Force. Together they had two sons, Shawn and Mike. In the '70s they moved back to her home in Louisiana to be with family and raise the boys. Later, she went back to school and earned a degree from Northwestern in Nursing then served as an R.N. in Shreveport. Both later retired to Marble Falls, Texas.

After Ros' passing in 2003, she met and married Tam Adams in 2017 and continued to live in Central Texas until her



death.

Sue loved to be in the presence of others and hear their stories. She enjoyed her friends and cherished the moments shared together. The consummate hostess, she always enjoyed entertaining friends and family in her home. An active and dedicated member of First United Methodist Church Marble Falls, she loved her Bible study group deeply and the work she was able to accomplish with her friends at Friends of Hospice.

All are welcome to participate and contribute stories and pictures to Sue's online memorial. All of us would love to hear your best memories from so many wonderful decades spent with Sue. Please check back for info on in-person memorial to be held at First United Methodist Marble Falls. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to The Michael J. Fox Parkinson's Foundation. The family would like to thank all of the wonderful staff at Brookdale assisted living in Georgetown, who cared so beautifully from their hearts for our sweet mom and special friend and helper Gloria Escobar.



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Don Arlie Stubblefield



Lake Travis one evening, Don was visited by the Holy Spirit.

Faith was the third and final passion in his life. For more than 10 years he sought to know more about the Gos-

pel and to find a church home. His talent for recall of facts and detail again served him well. His search culminated in approximately 1990 when he became acquainted with a like-minded Christian, and became a member of a close and true church family, Burnet Bible Church. Then began the happiest years of his life. The pastor of the church, Stephen Hopkins, writes:

"In the 1980s Don came under conviction from various passages of Scripture that he needed to attend to the plight of the unborn. He is known by many as the man who stood for 17 years every Saturday morning in all weather for hours praying and offering counsel to unwed mothers in Austin. He has been gratefully thanked by many young mothers over the years for his presence, and has been blessed to hold their children in his arms, treasuring the fruit of his labors.

"In the 1990s Don began to study reformed theology especially favoring the works of internationally known pastor and theologian, Dr. R.C. Sproul. Don listened to Dr. Sproul's sermons at length as he lay in his last illness.

"Don held tenaciously to the doctrines of grace, the five Solas, and the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith.

"He was also a passionate supporter of the nation of Israel.

"In 2004 Don was ordained an elder of Burnet Bible Church in Burnet, Texas, where he served that flock faithfully until the day of his death."

He leaves behind a flock of grieving church members, his younger sister Cynthia Beth "Betty" Lebo of Hondo, and Betty's daughter Angela of Leander; and his younger brother, Billy Ray Stubblefield of Georgetown. A large extended family is spread across Texas and the rest of the Country.

Don's last audible words were "To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord."

A committal service has previously been held for close family and friends. A memorial service is planned for early next year when it is hoped the pandemic will allow a gathering of the church and Don's extended family to celebrate his life.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.cookwaldendavisfuneralhome.com for the Stubblefield family.

Don Arlie Stubblefield was born to Miller Stubblefield and Grace Baker Stubblefield on September 9, 1938. He died Sunday, October 10, 2021. He was a child of God and a dedicated student and disciple of the teachings of Jesus Christ. He was 83 years old.

His parents were both descendants of pioneer families of Williamson County and he was a sixth-generation Texan. The night they were married in 1937, they got in an automobile to drive from Liberty Hill to the West Texas town of Fort Stockton. Not long after, in September of 1938, their first born, Don, was born. His sister, Cynthia Beth "Betty" was born a year and three months later. Their baby brother, Billy Ray, did not arrive until nine years later. Life in Fort Stockton was full of close friends comprised of the remarkably good people who made up the town's population.

Don was a good student and a crack shot with a pellet gun (he inherited excellent marksmanship from his father). While strong-willed, he generally avoided trouble, chose mostly good companions, and maintained excellent grades. The first passion of his life was sports. Baseball was his favorite pass time. He was a dedicated Brooklyn Dodgers (as they were then called) fan. He knew baseball statistics in great detail, using his amazing recall for facts and figures. In the field, he became a great asset at second base and shortstop, playing for various amateur teams.

In 1956, however, he experienced the traumatic loss of his father to an extended bout with lung cancer. His mother Grace, a very devoted wife and homemaker was left at the age of 45 with three children to raise and no wage-earner in the home. She wisely decided to return to Williamson County, where her extended family was close. Don attended his senior year at Georgetown High School. Due to his recent transfer into the school district, he was not deemed eligible to be the valedictorian of his class, though his grade average was sufficient.

After graduation, college was beyond reach financially, so he entered the workforce. Working at a number of jobs he also attended Durham's Business School where he discovered a talent for accountancy. He eventually went to work for the state comptroller in the newly-created sales tax division. He served there twenty years.

During this time his interest in baseball waned and bowling became his primary game. His determination and drive led him to extensive successful league play and a closet full of trophies.

The second passion in his life developed in the '70s. Politics. Enough said about that.

The most significant event in his life occurred in the late 1970s. Alone in his home above

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Michelle Hondius Van Gessel Dwyer

Michelle Hondius Van Gessel Dwyer passed away on Friday, October 15, 2021, in Georgetown, Texas, at the age of 96.

Michelle was born January 3, 1928, in San Diego, California, to Wil-

helm Hondius Van Gessel and Fredrika Hondius Van Gessel and was the eldest of five girls. She married James Doddridge Dwyer on November 25, 2000, who preceded her in death in 2016.

She was a graduate of USC with a master's degree in engineering. She was an accomplished cello player, and was part of a string quartet while at USC. She worked for North American Aviation, as an engineer for many years. After her retirement, she later worked as a real estate agent. One of Michelle's great joys was playing golf.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, Wilhelm and Fredrika Van Gessel.

Michelle is survived by step-daughters: Rosalind Custard and husband Robert of Lovettsville, Virginia, Jennifer Cook of Eugene, Oregon, Deborah Linski and husband Michael of Amherst, Illinois; step-son, James Cameron Dwyer and wife Suzanne of Arlington, Texas; and sisters: Irma Betourne and Cassandra Kersting along with several nieces, great-nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Dwyer will be laid to rest at Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery, 11463 State Highway 195, in Killeen, Texas. Services will be held privately.

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Obituaries may be e-mailed to obit@wilcosun.com Monday at 5 p.m. for the Wednesday paper, Thursday at 5 p.m. for the Sunday paper.



Naval Junior ROTC cadet Elijah Darling, 16, front, joins other cadets for annual inspection held Thursday at East View High School. Elijah's older brother Andrew, 18, is the commanding officer. Their sister, 14-year-old Lavella Darling is also a cadet.

Georgetown NJROTC cadets pass review

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is a lieutenant colonel stationed at Fort Hood and who recently returned to his Georgetown home after a year's assignment in Kuwait. Grandfather Pete flew helicopters during two tours of duty in Vietnam, and grandmother Jill describes herself as a "proud military brat" whose father served 30 years in the military and who lived around the world during his postings.

The Darlings' road trip from Warren Center, Pennsylvania, was epic.

"It was a pedal-to-the-metal kind of drive," Ms. Darling said, "but we wouldn't have missed it." Accompanying them was their son, Keith.

GISD's NJROTC students attend Georgetown, Richarte, and East View high schools. The program is based at EVHS, and its commander is retired Major David Arjona, U.S. Marine Corps.

Parent Julie Zenisek



Naval Junior ROTC cadet Chief Petty Officer Avery Zenisek, a Georgetown High sophomore, is ready for annual inspection held Thursday at East View High School. The cadets are students at East View High, Georgetown High and Richarte High.

has been president of the battalion's booster group for 10 years. She has three children currently in Liberty Battalion, and she said NJROTC "makes students amazing leaders of their community and teaches them respect and core values."

Ms. Zenisek said the battalion's India Platoon was named the honor platoon in Thursday's Military Inspection.

In recent State competition, the Liberty Battalion took second place in the overall and in the Navy rankings. Battalion cadets

placed in the following events, earning trophies:

- Personnel Inspection - First Place
- Unarmed Regulation Drill - Third Place
- Armed Regulation Drill - Second Place
- Push-Ups - Second Place
- Curl-Ups (Sit-ups) - Second Place
- 100-meter Relay Race - First Place
- Academics - Third Place

The competition, the Hill Country Challenge, was held October 2 and was hosted by Smithson Valley High School. More than 15 JROTC units (Navy and other services) attended.

The Navy JROTC Area 10 State Championship Field Meet will be hosted by the Commanding Officer Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets in College Station in February.

Information about GISD's Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps can be found at www.georgetownisd.org/Page/5181

Faith Darling kisses her son, Commanding Officer Andrew Darling, 18, during the Naval Junior ROTC annual inspection. At left is Andrew's sister, cadet Lavella Darling, 14.



Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Alyssa Howard, with the Naval recruiting office in Georgetown, conducts inspection.

PHOTOS BY ANDY SHARP