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At The Corral Gate



Texas Legend Bob Wills!!



Good News, Texans, the Bob Wills Legend continues! The truth is, it will always continue! Through the music and entertainment tradition he created, Bob's realm of influence continues to journey far beyond the borders of Texas. For many of us, Bob Wills and Western Swing is music to our ears. Back in 2011, Western Swing was named the Official State Music of Texas by Texas Senate resolution, representing the proud spirit and heritage of our state.

Ray Benson, founder of the premiere Western Swing group "Asleep at the Wheel", met but never actually got to talk with Wills in person. In an interview with Evan Smith for Texas Monthly, Benson described the meeting. "I went up to Dallas to see him in 1973. He was making what would be his last record, which we had helped put together with United Artists, our label at the time. We drive up there, we go in, and he's in a wheelchair. He's kind of slumped over. They said, "Look, he'll talk to you tomorrow. He's very tired." And they took him back to his room. That night he had a stroke and went into a coma, and he died eighteen months later. So I met Bob Wills, but I never got to talk to him". It was this near-miss event that served as the catalyst for the triumphant stage play "A Ride With Bob" which Benson wrote, produced and took on tour in the Spring of 2005 to mark Bob Wills' 100th birthday. "A Ride With Bob" uses the premise of a surreal meeting on a tour bus to frame what that conversation might have been like.



Bob Wills onstage in wheelchair, 1973

In this make-believe meeting which formed the basis of the play, Benson continues "We talk about how Asleep at the Wheel has carried his music on - and the disillusionment I've sometimes had in trying to keep it going," Benson says, noting the difficulties both his and Wills' acts faced in "reconciling" swing and jazz within a resistant country music format. "He had the same conflicts we had, but he always stood his ground and got his way because he was Bob. One thing we both had in common, we always had a bus".



It is of note that James Terry, evening announcer at KSST Radio in Sulphur Springs, can boast that his father A.H. "Aussie" Terry was one of Wills "Texas Playboys" and is included in a classic post-war promotional photo. You can see Aussie next to the last on right, standing beside the man in the suit. His widow Joy Terry resides in Sulphur Springs with James.



Bob Wills band and bus in 1945

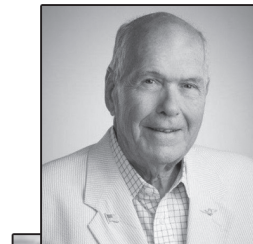
Yes, this vintage form of music will survive, as there is a movement to get more youth involved in Western Swing performance. Among several more now, the Bob Wills Swing School launched in July 2010 sponsored by the Bob Wills Foundation. Its aim is bringing more talented youth to the genre. Many bands such as Leon Rausch and The Texas Playboys, Billy Mata and the Texas Tradition's and Bobby Flores and the Yellow Rose Band invite young talented musicians to join them on stage during performances. Hopkins County's own Fiddlin Jack Phillips is one of these youth whose natural talent is being embraced by the established Western Swing bands today. Young Jack was invited to appear with one of them at the Grand Ole Opry on July 21, 2018. What a ride this young man's career is already taking him (and his parents Mark and Allison) on!



Jack Phillips 2017

Fans of the Reilly Springs Jamboree's early days may remember Lou Erck, who was a KSST announcer during the 1950's and one of the founders of the long-running local opry. Lou Erck passed away this summer after having lived a long satisfying life in the hotel business and in music interests. He made history here, and fans of the Jamboree continue to appreciate his foresight and long reach as a champion of country and folk music. Thanks for the memories, Lou!

Lou's last visit to the Jamboree in 2014 with radio's Bill Bradford, Tom Perryman and Enola Gay



Lou Erck



Speaking of the Jamboree, come out to it's home, the Reilly Springs Community Center, on Saturday August 18 at 6pm for the Blackwood Quartet plus local artists Buddy and Ina Gore, and Bill Owens. It will be a night of great gospel memories! Til next week, have some lemonade, watermelon or ice cream and savor the flavor of summer before it's gone!

I'll watch for you at the corral gate.

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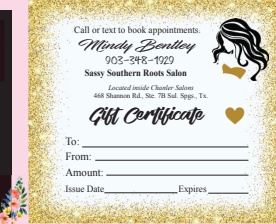
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The Senior Prom held at the Sulphur Springs Senior Citizens Center was held on Saturday night, July 28. The building was packed with seniors to enjoy a great meal provided by Karon Weatherman and volunteers made up mostly of her family.

The theme was "Somewhere over the rainbow" and featured tables and walls decorated in bright colors to represent the the kingdom of OZ.

Beautiful baskets of goodies were raffled off with the money dedicated to the new building fund. Plus local merchants and organizations donated door prizes.

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Obits



Carry Leaford Walker

Funeral services for Carry Leaford Walker, age 82, of Rowlett, TX were scheduled for 10:00 AM on Wednesday, August 1, 2018 at Tapp Funeral Home with Brother Jimmy Henry officiating. Pallbearers included Jason Tully, James Griner, Chris Byars, Al Roberts, Matthew Peyton and Randy Byars. Interment followed at Greenwood Cemetery. A visitation was scheduled for Tuesday, July 31, 2018 from 6:00 to 8:00 at Tapp Funeral Home. Mr. Walker died on July 29, 2018 at The Park in Plano, TX.

Carry Leaford Walker was born on September 1, 1935 in Pickton, TX, the son of Charles Henry Walker and Dottie Mae Patterson. He married Lois Marie Byars in 1954. She preceded him in death. Mr. Walker was a truck driver in the oil field industry and a member of the Caney Baptist Church.

Survivors include daughter: Donna Feagin and husband Ernest of Rowlett; sons: Roy Walker and wife, Brenda of Richardson, David Walker and wife, Patsy of Fairfield and Ronnie Dean Walker and wife Nelfa of Lewisville; grandchildren: James Compton, Clayton Johnston, Asheley Birchfield, Bradly Walker and Amber Hicks; great grandchildren: Tristan and Tyson Compton, Jhett and Skylar Hicks and Brady Birchfield; Brother: Billy T. Walker; sisters: Jody Griner, Mary Lou McCoy and Cathey Tully.

Preceded in death by; parents: Charlie and Dottie Walker; brothers: Ernie Lester, Edgar Rayford, Royce Merrell, Lester Charles, Cleon Rex and Toyce Clay; sisters: Luddie Jewel, Lila Elizabeth, Violet Edith and Gloria Mae. Tapp Funeral Home was in charge of Arrangements.



Carl Lillie Shaw

A funeral service for Ms. Carl Lillie Shaw, age 89, of Tyler, was scheduled for Wednesday, August 1, 2018 at 11:00 AM at the East Caney Missionary Baptist Church with the Pastor Rudy Ellis officiating. Interment followed at the East Caney Cemetery. Serving as pallbearers will be Quon Clayton, Keenan Clayton, David Nelson, Leo Shaw, Kenneth Shaw and Kelvin Harris. A visitation was held at Tapp Funeral Home Tuesday, July 31, 2018 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM.

Carl Lillie Shaw was born in Sulphur Springs on February 3, 1929, the daughter of Earl Lennox Williams and Dellie Tolliver Williams. Ms. Shaw worked as a cook for the Country Club as well as the hospital and several nursing homes in the area and was a member of the East Caney Missionary Baptist Church. She passed away Friday, July 27, 2018 at Reunion Plaza in Tyler, TX.

Survivors include, daughters: Netra Shaw of Greenville and Ruthie Nelson of Tyler; son, Joe H. Sims of LA, CA; brother: Arvis "A.W." Williams and wife, Betty of Gladewater, TX; sister, Mardell Clayton of Sulphur Springs.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers: Andrew Lee Williams, Earl Walter Williams and Richard Williams; sister: Savannah Williams Jerry.



Doretha Kay "KK" (Clements) Hawkins

Doretha Kaye "KK" (Clements) Hawkins, 50, of Cooper, TX, passed away at her home on the morning of July 21st, 2018. She was born August 23rd, 1967, to Weldon Clements and Katherine Vliet in Yakima, Washington. She is survived by her husband and best friend, Russell Hawkins; mother, Katherine Vliet; three children, Tiffany Luman of Cooper, Steven Hawkins and Wife Samantha of Seminary, Miss., and Larissa Hawkins of Cooper; five grandchildren, Carmen, Mariah, and Christian Howard of Cooper, and Evlynn and Audrey Hawkins of Seminary, Miss.; five siblings, Richard Waldrep, Gary Waldrep, Sheila Waldrep Krecek and Welda Clements White, all of Sulphur Springs, and Robert Muse of Ladonia, Texas; multiple nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews. She also had two fur-babies she loved, Feona and Caesar.

She was preceded in death by her father, Weldon Clements, and three brothers, David, Steven and Kenneth Clements.

Doretha donated her body for research in hopes that they can study all the multiple birth defects she was born with. We know the answer already. God gave her to us for a reason. She made life colorful. When she was born they broke the mold. To say

she loved her family is an understatement.

The passion she had for nursing went without saying. She loved her patients and cared for them as if they were her own. She gave her all; 100 percent or nothing. Thanks to her husband, he made her life complete. He took her to fulfill her bucket list; she went parasailing and swimming with the dolphins.

She had achieved and done more in her 50 years that any could imagine and to be considered disabled, a label she threw out the window. Some who are healthy have not accomplished some of the things she did.

Doretha loved those grandbabies. She will be greatly missed by the ones whose lives she touched.



William S. "Billy Sam" Elliott

Funeral services for William S. "Billy Sam" Elliott, age 75, of Sulphur Springs, were held at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, July 29, 2018, at West Oaks Funeral Home with Bro. Charles Moore officiating. Interment followed at Mt. Zion Cemetery with Mike Blount, Ronnie Branscome, Mike Broyles, Bob Carpenter, Jim Gilbert, John Icenhower, Charles Snell, and Key Walker serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were Max (Poss) Baxter and James Jones. Visitation was held from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Saturday, July 28, 2018 at West Oaks Funeral Home. Billy Sam passed away on Thursday, July 26, 2018 at his residence. He was born on June 4, 1943, in Sulphur Springs, the son of William S. "Bill" and Marguerite Gilbert Elliott. He was a lifetime member of First United Methodist Church where as a youth he obtained the Boy Scout Rank of Life and as an adult served on the administrative board. He worked for Nordstrom Valve as a safety director for many years. He was CEO of the Hopkins County Chamber of Commerce for 15 years. He married Rickie Carpenter on November 19, 1964, at Wesley

Methodist Church in Greenville, TX; she survives. In addition to his wife, he is also survived by sons, William S. "Trey" Elliott III of Paris, Richard Joel Elliott of North Lake, grandson, William S. "Will" Elliott, IV of Paris, and sisters, Sherry Elliott Baxter and husband Max of Sulphur Springs, and Annada Elliott Jones and husband James of Sulphur Springs. He was preceded in death by his parents.

An active community leader, Billy Sam served as president of the Sulphur Springs Independent School District Board of Trustees and president of the Hopkins County Dairy Festival. He served as a member of the Sulphur Springs Fire Department and Rescue Unit, Assistant Cub Scout Master of Pack 69, president of SSHS Wildcat Band Boosters, chairman of the Hopkins County Heritage and Museum Association, member of Hopkins County Civic Center Board, member of the ARK-LA-TEX council of Governments. In 1983 Billy Sam was honored as Hopkins County Citizen of the Year.

Personally, Billy Sam enjoyed traveling with Rickie and their sons. From San Francisco to Washington DC, from South Dakota to Big Bend National Park, from Yellowstone to the Great Smokey Mountains, the adventures he provided created a lifetime of memories.

Memorials may be made to Mt. Zion Cemetery Association, 16256 TX Hwy 11 W, Cumby, TX 75433. Arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.

Back-To-School and Marriage Education

By Johanna Hicks

August is here, and your Texas A&M AgriLife Hopkins County Extension Office is buzzing with activity! Other than the Back-to-School Fair, County 4-H Achievement Banquet, "Certified Judges' Training for Fairs, Festivals, and Events" which will all take place in August, I want to remind everyone that on August 25, the last Together in Texas Marriage Education workshop for 2018 will be held.

Together in Texas is a state-recognized marriage education program. This workshop is provided three times every year – February, May, and August. The workshop provides engaged couples, married couples, or seriously dating couples with sound advice and useful information on building a strong marriage foundation. Through videos, group and couple interaction, and hands-on activities, couples learn ways to improve communication, resolve conflict, and effectively manage resources of time and money. Here is a brief synopsis of the segments provided in the workshop:

- Marriage Expectations: Have you discussed who will do the cleaning, cooking, gathering the trash, grocery shopping, mowing, car care, bill paying, etc.? This session takes a look at expectations that individuals bring to the marriage, whether spoken or unspoken. How many, if any, children do you want to have? How will childcare be handled? This and much more are covered in this important segment.

-Communication: You have probably heard about books written on the different ways men and women communicate...and it's true! This fun segment will help couples understand how each person communicates. Neither way is wrong – just different! We'll also take a look at the importance of making sure that what you are communicating is completely understood. Different words have different meanings in a relationship. We'll particularly look at the words "fine" and "nothing." The comical video sketch hits the nail on the head when it comes to how easily misunderstandings can get in the way!

- Conflict Resolution: This is perhaps the most important segment of the day. Conflict is inevitable, but how couples handle the conflict makes all the difference. We'll go through a process using a hypothetical conflict, and allow couples to work their way through it, while both discuss what they can do to solve the problem. Once we realize how both parties contribute to the problem, the solution is also found by both of the working together for a solution.

- Money Management: Often times, couples state that money is the number one source of conflict. Actually, control is the problem. We'll explore money management in a way that is simple, yet very effective. Couples need to realize that small leaks can sink a mighty ship. Small money leaks here and there can leave a feeling of concern. Couples will explore income versus expenses and find a way to manage their resources to the

fullest. The bean game adds fun to this segment – how many beans will you have left, if any?

- Goals and Dreams: This is my favorite segment! All couples need to have dreams and goals. Do you know what you want your marriage to look like 5, 15, 25 years or more down the road? What are the goals your relationship, your family, your career? We'll hear from couples who have been together for years, and learn the secret of their success.

If this sounds like something you would like to attend, please call our office. As of this writing, three couples are signed up, but we have room for more! Here are the details again:

- When: Saturday, August 25

- Where: Hopkins County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office, 1200 W. Houston, Sulphur Springs

- Time: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

- Cost: no charge! Even better is the fact that engaged couples will receive a certificate to save \$60 (the state portion) when applying for a marriage license at the County Clerk's office.

-Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Please call 903-885-3443 to sign up so adequate preparations can be made.

Cooking Well with Diabetes

If you would like information on recognizing carbohydrate foods, reducing sodium and fat in the diet, increasing fiber, and celebrating with diabetes, you might be interested in attending this 4-lesson series, scheduled for September. Watch for

details coming soon, but you can add these dates to your calendar: Mondays and Thursdays, September 10, 13, 17, and 20. Two times are being offered to accommodate everybody's schedules – 1:30, repeated at 6:00 p.m. Classes will be held at the Hopkins County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office. Cost is \$25 for the entire series. Please call 903-885-3443 if you have questions or would like to sign up.

Closing Thought

Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. – Albert Schweitzer

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THE MILKY WAY OVER FORT DAVIS

Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

If you've been to Fort Davis on a night when the moon is barely visible, you know that when you look skyward you see the Milky Way in all its radiance. Fort Davis is one of the darkest spots in the United States so you get a good glimpse of the stars at night. They really are big and bright.

The darkness is one reason the McDonald Observatory is located just outside of Fort Davis. Scientists from all over the world go there to do research. Residents of Fort Davis are mindful of the need to keep the area dark and seldom use their bright lights while driving at night. All lighted areas in the town have covers on them to make sure the light goes down, not up.

The observatory is one of the main tourist attractions in Fort Davis. On Tuesday, Friday and Saturday nights, visitors go there for star parties where they peer through strong telescopes and listen to informal lectures about the stars. Marc Wetzel is an education specialist at McDonald. "We're a little bit higher than Denver, Colorado. Here our elevation is about 6,500 feet. We're at a high altitude in a remote area. If you looked at a map of nowhere, we're right in the middle of that map.

"At the McDonald Observatory we are studying amazing things. We can measure distances to galaxies and can even find planets around other stars. We can determine the expansion rate of the entire universe here. It's truly a gem. We have one of the largest telescopes in the entire world and one of the biggest efforts to study the universe and address some of the most fundamentally amazing questions that we've had for the length of time humans have been on earth. If you've never seen the Milky Way before, you can see it plainly here in all its glory without using any amplified device.

"I convey the night sky and all the amazing things about it to young children. Try to explain a black hole to a third grader. I train elementary, middle and high school teachers how to teach astronomy in the classroom. We have great evening programs that are really popular and we just try to have the best time looking at the night sky and interpreting what people are seeing.

"There are so many opportunities to make a connection with nature here and understand what we see when we look at the dark sky."

Nearly 100 people work at the observatory. There are residences in the complex and some employees live in Fort Davis. Night time is not the only time people can go to the observatory. It also studies the sun and offers information programs about the ball of fire.

The observatory, located on Mount Locke 16 miles from Fort Davis, is owned by the University of Texas. It was made possible by the bequest of William Johnson McDonald, a Paris, Texas banker in hopes that astronomers would find ways to forecast weather, thus helping farmers far ahead of planting time. Mount Locks is named for the rancher who donated land for the observatory.

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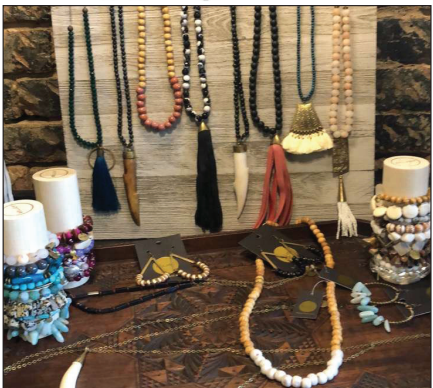
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