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VOL. 19 ISSUE 972, October 25, 2018

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Hats Off to the Jamboree! It was a pure pleasure to hear some good music (besides my own yodeling!) by the young and the seasoned musicians who are "Keepin it Country". The old schoolhouse has a stage full of this caliber of country talent during the Reilly Springs Jamboree Anniversary/Homecoming show's celebration of it's 63rd year. Since 1956, it's Hopkins County's original country music venue! Here's some highlights from the show!

During the first hour, Jacoby Smith and Moonlight Twang opened up with high energy and lots of Merle, George and Johnny. Their segment ended with an encore demanded by the audience!



Jacoby Smith & The Moonlight Twang Band

Roger Reed and the Jamboree house band backed up the next three hours of singers and guest musicians. Talent included Dude and Diane Brown and their friend from Missouri, Jerry Stevenson, a renowned George Jones Tribute Artist. Looking and sounding just like the star, Jerry's in his 70's now but does a FABULOUS presentation of "the Possum" and is beloved to audiences across the nation all the way to the White House!



Jerry Stevenson



We had not one, but two fiddles in the band!! Veteran player Eric Tully asked 13-year-old Jack Phillips to join him onstage right off the bat. It was quite mellow watching the interplay between these two who took turns soaring on the traditional tunes and showcasing each other's talents!

Eric Tully & Jack Phillips

Longtime Nashville resident Alina Tatum Sanders has returned to home to Hopkins County, making her new home with husband and sons as well as stepping back onto the stage of her early venue, the Reilly Springs Jamboree. She made this truly a Homecoming! A large contingent of family attended and her kids loved the Cakewalks.

Alina Tatum



Dude and Diane Brown of Missouri are country artists with Buddy Dees and the Cruisers Tribute Show. Long-time friends of Gary Jones of Mt. Vernon, the awesome couple sneaked away to Texas to perform Hank Williams and Loretta Lynn hits during the Anniversary/Homecoming Show

Dude Brown

Bagota, Texas Gospel singer Shawn Tully shared the stage with Jack Phillips of Hopkins County and with Zac Clifton, an ascending traditional country artist from the Houston area. Zac will headline the Jamboree in February 2019!



Jack Phillips, Shawn Tully and Zac Clifton



Don Woods of Yantis is a true country talent seeking "discovery" nationally, an essential part of the Jamboree, and a frequent performer at NE Texas festivals, benefits and dances.

Don Woods

From Yours Truly, it's always a pleasure entertaining with the Jamboree's core band; Gary Jones on lead guitar, "Uncle Bill" on drums and Roger Reed playing bass. Singing "This Cold, Cold War With You" with twin fiddles was a special treat!

Enola Gay



To the core band, guest musicians, volunteers and family helpers, the Reilly Springs Directors, kitchen staff and our photographer Jan Massey, here's a Hats Off! to you!!! And until next week, find me at the corral gate watching the season change, so be sure to honk and wave as you pass by!

Classified

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Obits

John Alvic Neal

Funeral service for John Alvic Neal will be held Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2018, Shady Grove Baptist Church at 2:00 pm. Bro. Wayne Wolfe will officiate. Burial will follow service in Hooker Cemetery. Visitation will be held Tuesday evening, 6:00–8:00 pm at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home.

John passed away unexpectedly at his residence in Lewisville, Monday morning. He was 34 years old. John was born Feb. 21, 1984, in Hopkins County Hospital, to the parentage of Troy Clifton and Mary Lou Gaston Neal. He worked as an EMT in the Colony area.

Survivors include: Mother: Mary Neal of Emory Brothers: Cliff Neal (Holly) of Saltillo; Larry Neal (Paula) of Saltillo; and Tommy Neal (Linda) of Sulphur Springs; Michael Newby of Lone Oak; Matthew Newby (Cindy) of Lone Oak; Jason Jones “a very special brother” of Lewisville Niece: Jordyn Robertson Nephew: Hayden Newby Numerous other loving family and friends Preceded in death by: Father; and sister, Donna Chester.



Malvern Malachi “Eppie” Elmore

Malvern Malachi “Eppie” Elmore was born September 6, 1938 to Harold and Elsie Ridgell Elmore of Prescott, AR. He passed away October 21, 2018 after a lengthy illness.

He is preceded in death by his parents, one brother, Tommy, and wife of 58 years, Lou Elmore.

He is survived by two sisters, Martha and Cat, three sons-Alan Elmore and his wife, Nell; Johnny and his wife, Melissa; Steve and his wife, Ashley; 5 grandsons-John and his wife Christa, Zane and his wife Tiffany, Jarret and his wife Chelsey, Kai, and Keltyn; 2 granddaughters-Hannah and Gem; 1 great grandson Roper; two great granddaughters-Scarlett and Paikas; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends.

Most people who knew Eppie thought Eppie was his name. Eppie was the nickname his mother gave him at a young age because he was always getting into trouble just like the character in the children’s book Epaminondas and His Auntie .

Eppie supported his mother and siblings after the death of his father when Eppie was 16 years old. That experience led to his life long career in construction. He built the current Winnsboro City Hall and the auditorium of the Winnsboro Church of Christ where he has been a member for over 40 years and served as a deacon for 35 years. He has built numerous homes for people and has touched many lives. Camp Deer Run was one of his loves. He made sure that his children and grandchildren had the opportunity to attend CDR to deepen their faith and strengthen their relationship with God.

Eppie made it into history books in 1957 when he was one of the Arkansas National Guard assigned to protect the Little Rock Nine during the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School.

He enjoyed being outdoors, hunting and could tell many stories regarding some of his “coon and deer hunts”. Visitation was held Wednesday, October 24, 2018 at the Winnsboro Church of Christ from 10:00 am to 11:00 am with memorial services following at 11:00 am.

Gracie Marie Dyer

Gracie Marie Dyer, 77, of Talco, TX went to be with her Lord and Savior on October 20, 2018. She was born on September 18, 1941 in Bogota, TX to C. B. Bullard and Myrtle Allie Sloan Bullard Mrs. Dyer was a loving homemaker that had a passion for sewing, collecting rocks and attending traditional Indian dances and festivals, she had a love for spontaneous adventures which she shared with her husband and family.

She is preceded in death by her parents; brother, Charles Lee Bullard; two sisters, Mary Lois McAfee and Geraldine Easley; grandson, Brody Dyer. She is survived by her loving husband of 59 years, Charles Dyer; sons, Kenneth Dyer and wife Cindy of Mount Vernon, James Dyer and wife Regina of Quitman, TX; daughters, Tena Shelton and husband Kenny of Three Rivers, TX, Gala Brenton and husband Brad of Mount Vernon, Mary Dyer of Winnsboro, TX; grandchildren, Bo Dyer and wife Bobbie, Aaron Dyer and wife Randee, Kaleb Dyer and wife Myra, Heather Wiggins and husband Tony, Trey Clark and wife Heather, Stephanie Gerdes and husband Joey, Brody Clark, Joseph Shelton and wife Christina, Rachel Dunham, Elisabeth Brewer and husband Nathan, Rebekah Shelton, Charity Flores and husband Jacob, Blake Barker and wife Erica, Kassie Cervantez and husband David, Christopher Barker, Brandon Hicks, Jared Turner and wife Tammy, Brandon Dyer, Scotty Dyer and wife Melissa, Clayton Dyer, Nicki Dyer, Dakota Gauck and wife Samantha, Shayna Gauck; thirty three great grandchildren. She was blessed and will be greatly missed.

Visitation was scheduled for Tuesday, October 23, 2018 from 10 – 11 AM at Lake Chapel Church. Service followed the visitation and was officiated by Bro. Kenny Shelton, Bro. L.D. Baxley and Bro. Jason Blankenship. Pallbearers are Bo Dyer, Clayton Dyer, Joseph Shelton, Blake Barker, Dakota Gauck, Steve Hanes; Honorary Pallbearers are Aaron Dyer, Christopher Barker, Kaleb Dyer, Trey Clark, Brody Clark, Brooksey Crow, Jimmy Crow, Scotty Dyer, Brandon Dyer, Brandon Hicks, Jared Turner. Interment followed the service at Hagensport Cemetery.



Kelly Sutton

Funeral service for Kelly Sutton, age 76, of Brashear, were held at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, October 23, 2018 at Calvary Baptist Church in Sulphur Springs with Bro. Gary Jordan officiating and interment followed at Shirley Cemetery. Visitation was held from 6 to 8 PM on Monday, October 22, 2018 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Mrs. Sutton passed away on Friday, October 19, 2018 at her residence in Brashear.

Kelly was born in Huntsville, TX on May 14, 1942 to Barnett J. “Pat” Patterson Sr and Helen Senter Patterson. She married Richard Sutton in Southmayd, TX on November 30, 1963. She is survived by her husband, Richard Sutton; daughter, Beverly Stone and husband Keith of Como; sons, Buddy Sutton and wife Genea of Sulphur Springs, Stephen Wayne Sutton and wife Sharon of Como, and Jordan Justice Sutton of Brashear; 13 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren; sisters, Sharron Patterson Gibbons and Beverly Patterson Savage.

Kelly was preceded in death by her parents, brothers, Barnett J. “Pete” Patterson Jr., Ben Hugh Patterson and David Jeffrey Patterson.

Arrangements were under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home

Laura Grace Davis

Funeral service for Laura Grace Davis, age 39, of Sulphur Springs, were held at 2:00 P.M. on Friday, October 19, 2018 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Chapel. Interment followed at Sulphur Springs City Cemetery. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service. Laura passed away on Sunday, October 14, 2018 in Sulphur Springs. She was born on October 25, 1978 in Longview, to James Davis and Kay Smith.

She is survived by her children, Summer Wyatt, Dakota Wyatt, and Denver Wyatt; father, James Davis (Debbie); sisters, Tammy Ricketts, Jamie Butler (Cody), Meredith Dodd (Brian), Ashley Taylor, Julie Davis, Elizabeth Davis, and Michelle Rigby (David); brothers, Matthew Davis (Anna), Gary Davis, Jr. (Chasity), and Jimmy Buckholt; aunts, Linda Prosis (JD) and Sylvia Hand (Dale); uncles, Gary Davis, Sr. (Donna) and Henry Davis (Linda); and many nieces and nephews. Laura was preceded in death by her mother, Kay Smith; brother, Mark Davis; and uncle, Robert Davis. Arrangements were under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home

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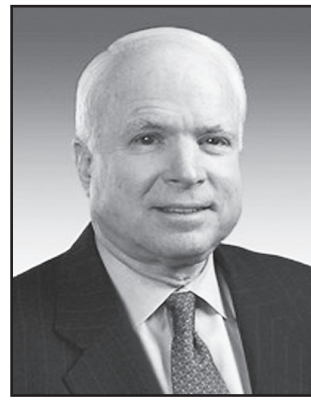
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THE IDLE AMERICAN
Giants Who Wouldn't Pull Rank...

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury



Erma Bombeck



John McCain

umn topic, I often muse, "How would Erma handle it?" (I know; her garment hem would go untouched if it depended on me to emulate her work.) For example, with Senator John McCain's death following Aretha Franklin's passing just nine days earlier, I think Erma would have found ways to lighten national mourning with touches of humor that in no way denigrated their great lives.

Writers and broadcasters covered both funerals in great detail. Somehow, I think Erma would have had a tongue-in-cheek comment about Aretha's funeral procession that included 120 pink Cadillacs (inspired by her hit song, "Freeway of Love"). "Hmmm," the columnist might have noted. "Maybe that explains the 'CLOSED TODAY' signs on the doors of 120 Mary Kay distributors."

"What-Would-Erma-Have-Written?" topics are at center stage every two years at the Erma Bombeck Writers' Workshop. Featuring top writers, it is held at the University of Dayton, honoring the memory of one of the all-time great writers.

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Dr. Newbury is a former educator who "commits speeches" round about. Comments/inquiries to: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com Twitter: @donnewbury. Facebook: don newbury.

Sometimes, selfless decisions are made without fanfare, and come to light years later. We're running short on noble decisions of late, but two made by decades ago by two prominent Arizonans are worth calling to mind.

Senator John McCain's death last month caused much reflection on his life of service to country, including his imprisonment in Viet Nam for more than five years. When captors realized his prominence, they saw great public relations value in releasing him soon after imprisonment, with much fanfare. He immediately refused, indicating that he would wait his turn.

Late columnist Erma Bombeck, a "favorite daughter" of Arizona during the final 25 years of her life, made a similar decision a quarter-century later....

Gravely ill with a kidney disease, she had the opportunity to move "up the list" on the transplant list, thanks to her celebrity status.

She'd have no part of it, vowing to wait her turn. When that time came,

months later, she was in a weakened condition, and her body rejected the transplant. One of the world's wittiest persons whose columns brightened millions of lives, was dead at 69.

McCain's decision in 1968 resulted in four more years of imprisonment and degradation. Erma's decision was made in 1996 robbed readers of smiles. She could coax more grins from a column of 400 words or so than anyone I've ever read....

I was an avid reader, and wrote her a grateful letter nearly 50 years ago.

A couple of weeks later, I was surprised to receive a note she no doubt wrote. It was typed on copy paper, and signed "Erma," with an editor's pencil.

Even in the short note, her humor was evident. "I apologize for being late writing to thank you for your letter," she said. "I'm nearly as far behind with my correspondence as I am with my laundry.".... "Those few words were "Erma to the core."...

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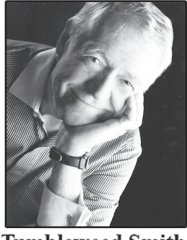
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BADGES FOR LAWMEN

Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

Kevin Johnson of Clarendon carves designs on silver. He'll take a small chisel and tap on it with a special hammer he made. He says most silversmiths and engravers make their own tools. After he is satisfied with the design, he'll polish it with another special instrument. He puts his work on bits, spurs, belt buckles and pistols. He is perhaps best known for making badges from five peso coins for law enforcement officers.

"All kinds," he says. "Anybody from our local or area sheriff's departments. I've probably made badges from every sheriff or deputy in the panhandle plus the rest of the state. I've done them for the secret service, FBI, United States Marshall Service, just all over. There is a limited number of people authorized to do badges for them. I'm lucky enough to be one of them."

He's a former high school and college basketball referee and did engraving in his spare time. His business increased when the local sheriff brought in a Texas Ranger.

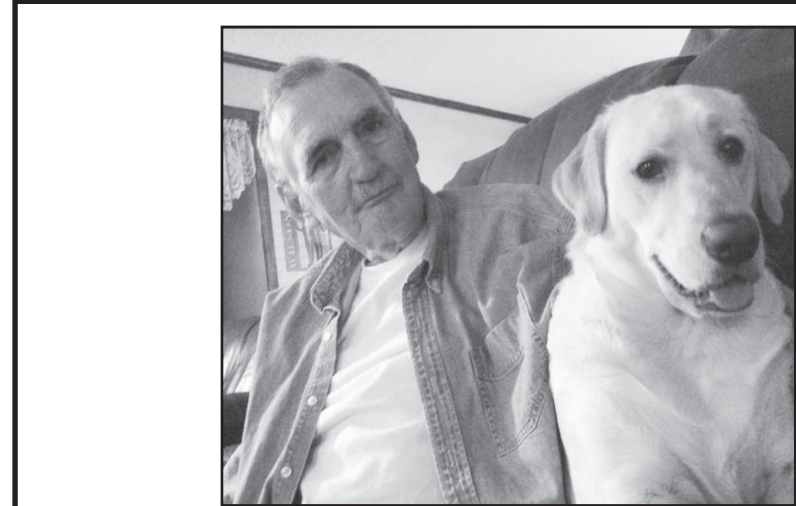
"He wanted me to do some custom work for him and he took what I had made to a company meeting and he showed some of his Ranger buddies what I had done and it just took off from there. I stopped being a referee to devote fulltime to my silversmithing. That really pleased my wife because that meant I wouldn't be traveling at night so much."

His badges are in great demand by law enforcement people all over the United States and beyond. He has sent his creations to England and Australia.

"I've done close to six hundred agencies, federal, state and local. I've also made dog tags for cowboy's dogs, just about anything you can think of. Some guys want me to put designs on handcuffs. I built a set of spurs for President George W. Bush. I keep a picture of those on the wall."

He works long hours in a barn studio behind his house. "I usually get out here about one o'clock after lunch and work until three or four o'clock in the morning seven days a week. I have to in order to keep up with the demand. That box over there has about fifteen hundred to two thousand orders. On some of the firearms that I've engraved, some people had to wait two to four years for me to get them done."

For relaxation he plays blues harmonica. He's quite good and gave me a short sample of his playing. Then he got out his guitar and played a tune on that. He keeps he instruments around to get him away from the tedious work. He got his musical talent from his mom, Abigail Johnson, who is a professional singer. Kevin is self-taught and does everything by hand. His studio is like a museum with pictures, old equipment and shelves full of interesting items. The walls are completely covered with his memorabilia.



Thank You

A big thank you to all you folks that sent texts, phone calls and especially your prayers during my extended stay in the hospital. Your thoughtfulness made Joy, Sadie and me feel so much better.

I didn't know most of you so that made all the messages special and I will never forget all the nice things that you passed along. Sadie and I are so glad to be home!

Jim "Pop" Wilson

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