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VOL. 17 ISSUE 848, May 26, 2016

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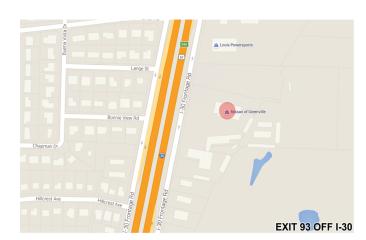
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I remember when my kids were graduating from Sulphur Springs High School. What a gloriously exhausting time for the whole family! Granny came up for the weekend of the ceremonies each time. Dad and Nancy met us at the stadium or the Civic Center, as the case might have been. Seemed we always had a house full of guests, kids and dogs. The one who was actually seen the least was the graduate! Pool parties and special occasions demanded attendance, and of course one must always be dressed in appropriately trendy attire. For a houseful of daughters, this can truly get to be an expense! But my pocketbook recovered over time, and there really isn't a single thing I would have changed about any of it. Graduation season brings a few tears along with an abundance of lifetime memories! Congratulations, parents and grandparents, also neighbors and teachers too, for a job well done!

Here's a few photos of Class of 2016 students from Hopkins County schools....these three schools will hold Commencement on Friday May 27, 2016.

Miller Grove ISD will graduate 21 students on Friday in Hornet's Gym. Valedictorian is Derek McCreight and Salutatorian is Jasmin Del Castillo.



Saltillo ISD has 17 students who will take the walk for their diplomas on Friday in the Kerry Garmon Memorial Gymnasium on the Saltillo Lions campus. Valedictorian is Paula

Boekhorst and Salutatorian is Miss Mason McGill.



Cumby ISD has a total of 21 seniors graduating on Friday May 27, 2016. Commencement will be held at 7pm on the Texas A and M University-Commerce campus in the Ferguson Building. Pictured is the Cumby Trojans Class of 2016.



Sulphur Springs ISD has a big class this year, 228 graduates. Sulphur Springs and the remainder of Hopkins County schools and Yantis ISD will hold graduation on the weekend of June

I recently spent an invigorating weekend in Dallas with daughter Jessica. We stayed at the Hilton Anatole where she was to attend a convention. John got called back to work at his oilrig job, so he couldn't attend. The Anatole is a major convention center and a massive 1700room hotel. I hadn't stayed there before, so I wanted a little history on this fantastic place. It was opened near the Market Center Complex in 1979 by Trammel Crowe, and at that time he called it the Loews's Anatole for a favorite restaurant of his in Copenhagen. It ballooned in 1984 with the addition of the Tower and an additional 700 rooms, ballroom, health club, shops and garden. That year, the hotel served as the headquarters for the Reagan/Bush staff during the Republican National Convention in Dallas in 1984. It came under management of Wyndham Hotels in 1995, which added more meeting facilities and held the title of largest hotel in the south until 1998. Management again changed in 2005 to Hilton Worldwide and another \$135 million dollars was invested with convention facilities, restaurants and bars. Today, the Anatole is rated Four Diamonds by Triple A Travel. It's decor seemed to be Modern/Asian throughout. I didn't see the two sections of the Berlin Wall housed there, but I hear you can view these as well as many other valuable and interesting objets'd art. While the overall atmosphere seems rather snooty at the Anatole, I did experience an act of humanity by a member of the overnight staff that I have to pass along to you. I awoke about 3am Saturday with one of those "sick headaches". I was unable to even rest my head on the pillow! In my haste to pack for the weekend, I had left my "necessary case" at home, so had no medication with me. Well, I paced the room for awhile while Jessica slept, trying to suffer in silence, but eventually she discovered my plight and we went downstairs for some fresh air. We walked for miles (!!) discovered my plight and we went downstairs for some fresh air. We walked for miles (!!) through this cavernous hotel to the main entry area and the gift shops but of course no shops were open at that hour. The lady behind the desk wasn't able to suggest anything, so we found a couple of soft chairs and sat down. I must have drawn the attention of a well-dressed older

bellman. He came over and discreetly asked if we needed anything. He came back with new bottles of Tylenol and Advil. He asked my preference and when I chose the Advil, he opened the packaging seal and dispensed two caplets into my hand. He was really an angel in disguise! Because of that simple act of kindness and compassion, not only was I able to get another blessed hour of sleep but enjoyed a nice breakfast and fell right into place with the other 5,000 attendees for the opening session of the Kyani "Team Fusion" convention!



I don't often stray far from home, and now I remember why! Dallas is nice to visit once in awhile but I sure wouldn't want to live there!

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

# **WORD SEARCH**

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MY SACRIFICE

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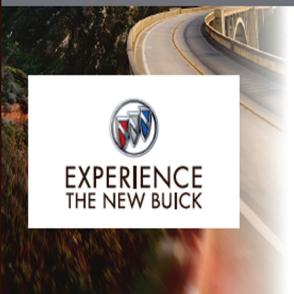
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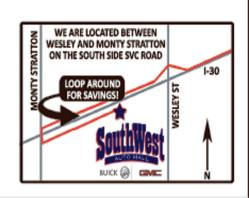
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# The Sulphur Springs Summer Concert Reading Band

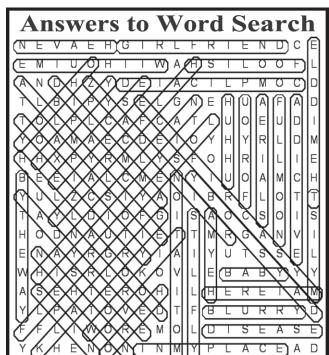
Will begin their second season on June 6th at 6:00 PM at the ROC (across the street from First Baptist Church). Rehearsals will be every Monday from 6-7:30 PM, and is open to all band members, current or past. If you need an instrument, contact the conductor - Richard Shanks at 832-444-8834. If you cannot make every practice, come for the ones you can. Rehearsals will go for 6 weeks. Last summer there were 20 in attendance; two grandfathers sitting by their grandchild! Music to be played are for your pleasure of "being in band, again!" Level of difficulty will be from moderate-to-easy. Current school band members can keep up their playing and past band members can enjoy "making music with a band, again!"

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# TRAFFIC ON THE BANKHEAD IS INCREASING

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**Tumbleweed Smith** 

The Bankhead Highway is the first all-weather transcontinental highway in The United States. It stretches from Wash ington, D.C. to San Diego, California. It is named for US Representative John Hollis Bankhead of Georgia, a leader in the national road-building project. He was responsible for the Federal Aid Road Act of 1916, which created the Bankhead Highway along southern states.

In 2009, the Texas legislature designated the Bankhead a

Texas Historic Highway because some lawmakers felt the highway was in danger of being forgotten. The highway covers 850 miles in Texas, all the way from Texarkana to El Paso. The State Historical Commission began a series of projects to promote the cultural and economic benefits of the highway to cities along its route.

To get things rolling to celebrate the Bankhead's 2016 centennial, Dennis Boots of Denton commanded a convoy of vintage military vehicles along the entire route, from DC to San Diego. It was a project of the Military Vehicle Preservation Association and took three years to plan. A total of 45 vehicles made the trip along with half a dozen support vehicles. They stopped in several Texas cities to cheering crowds, flag-waving students and appreciative veterans.

Sisters On The Fly, a group of fun-loving women who travel around the country pulling tiny trailers, crossed Texas on the Bankhead in April.

That same month owners of antique vehicles took a 4-day Bankhead drive from Texarkana to Odessa. Fifty vehicles left Texarkana and half of them make it all the way. Members of the Antique American Independent Auto Association own the vehicles. Dale Truitt of Commerce organized the trip. "These drivers come from Louisiana, Oklahoma and all over Texas," he says. "The trip has been an action-packed riot. We've had high school bands, flag corps, refreshments, kids jumping up and down and all kinds of welcoming ceremonies in cities along the way. It's like the 4th of July every day. We've got cars from the teens through the fifties. Some of these cars people have never heard of. I drive a 55 Studebaker."

All the vehicles are in pristine condition. They're beautiful. Kelly Sullivan of Texarkana was in a 1940 Oldsmobile coupe with 53,000 actual miles. "I'll never forget this experience," she says. "When I talk about my fondest memories, this is going to be one of them. The receptions we have had in small towns have been phenomenal."

Perhaps the most unusual car making the journey was a 1932 Graham. "Drives like a brand new car," says the owner. The oldest and largest vehicle was a 1915 Packard, a 7-passenger touring car.

"Before the Bankhead, we were driving on dirt and dust," says Dale. "After the highway was established, we were seeing roads made of brick and concrete. The Bankhead Highway was a tremendous boon to cities along the highway."

Contact Tumbleweed at ts@tumbleweedsmith.com.

# Obics



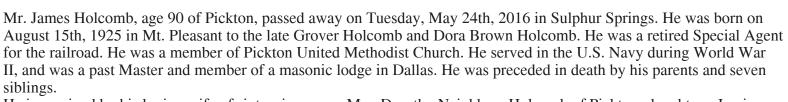
## **Elizabeth Hutchins**

Funeral service for Ida Elizabeth Hutchins, age 93, of Emory, will be held Saturday, May 28, 2016, 2:00 PM, at Emory Church of Christ. Jerome Savage and Paul Foley will conduct the service. Burial will follow in Colony Cemetery. Visitation will be at the church from 1:00 - 2:00 pm on Saturday.

Mrs. Hutchins was born Jan. 28, 1923, in Dickens, to Lonnie Artemas and Carrie Lee McWhorter Hickman. She married Edward Denton Hutchins, in Houston, on June 14, 1941. She was a homemaker and a member of Emory Church of Christ

Survivors include: Son: Micheal Hutchins (Sandra) of Mesquite; Daughter: Linda Junker (Harry) of Meridian; Granddaughter: Joy Wingo (Nathan); Grandson: Brian Hutchins (Yaquan); Great-grandsons: Matthew and Benjamin Wingo Great-granddaughter: Elizabeth Lin Hutchins. Preceded in death by: Parents; and Husband on May 3, 2016.

## James Holcomb



He is survived by his loving wife of sixty-nine years, Mrs. Dorothy Neighbors Holcomb of Pickton; daughters, Jamie Gatto and husband Rick of Ovilla, Karen Grier and husband Glen of Red Oak; five grandchildren, and eleven greatgrandchildren.

Visitation and funeral services will be held at Pickton United Methodist Church on Friday, May 27th, 2016 with visitation beginning at 1:00 pm, followed by the funeral at 2:00 PM, Bro. Henry Suche officiating, interment will follow at

New Pickton Cemetery in Pickton, with Mike Turner, David Grier, Derek Grier, Randy Bullock, Danny Anderson, David Smith serving as pall-bearers.

# James "Jim" Edward Rooks



Memorial Services for James "Jim" Edward Rooks, age 70 of Sulphur Springs were held Friday, May 20, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church – Sulphur Springs with Rev. Pete Adrian officiating. Reception followed the service in the Fellowship Hall.

Jim passed away Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at his residence. He was born on October 7, 1945 in Paris, the son of Jess Edward and Katheryn Louise (Carroll) Rooks. He married Nancy Joan Bunch in 1968. He worked for the Texas Department Human Services for 17 years, then for the State Comptroller's office in Tyler for 7 years. He later was a sales representative for Sulta Manufacturing in Sulphur Springs. Jim also worked for Medicine Chest Institutional Division and then managed the Sulphur Springs Country Club Golf shop before retiring to enjoy his grandsons. He found joy in serving as

a sound engineer at First United Methodist Church, He was a member of the Sulphur Springs County Club and an avid golfer. He was a charter member of the North East Texas Choral Society; served in the U.S. Air Force, serving during the Vietnam conflict; graduated from Paris High School in 1964 and East Texas State University in 1969.

He is survived by his wife; daughter, Anne-Michelle Penson and husband, Dave of Sulphur Springs; two grandsons, Gage Penson and Rafe Penson all of Sulphur Springs; sister, Carol Rooks of Paris; sisters-in-law, Christi Hardy and husband, Mark of Ft. Worth, Vicki Stallings and husband, Terry of Colleyville and Dr. Annette Horne of Sulphur Springs; nephews, Nathan Stallings of Colleyville, Matthew Stallings and wife Maygie of Little Rock, AR and Jay Hardy of Shema, Japan and nieces, Jessika Brock and husband Geoff of Philadelphia, PA, Abby Foreman and husband Nick of Carrollton, Julie Davis and husband Trevor of Wylie and Leslie Forshee and husband Bryan of Sulphur Springs

### **Dominic Austin Ayala**



Funeral Services for Dominic Austin Ayala, (his family and friends also called him "BooBoo" "Titch" "Chico" "Mijo" and "Indio") age 6 of Yantis were held Tuesday, May 24, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. at Lake Fork Baptist Church with Bro. Perry Crisp officiating; with Michael Carrasco, Mark Carrasco, Matthew Crayton, Nathan Crist, Juan Ayala and George Ayala serving as pallbearers. There was no formal visitation.

Dominic passed away Saturday, May 21, 2016 at his residence. He was born on March 10, 2010 in Sulphur Springs the son of Juan and Tammy (Gonzales) Ayala. Dominic was in Kindergarten at Yantis Independent School District. He loved being outdoors, fishing and hunting; loved animals and Dinosaurs; and his favorite color was blue.

He is survived by his parents; brothers, Matthew Crayton; Mark Carrasco; Michael Carrasco; sister, Monica Gonzales; grandparents, Rhoda and Willie Gonzales and Jose and Gloria Ayala; aunts, Rachel Gonzales; Tina Crist; Maria Ayala;

Angie Ayala; Destiny Garces; uncles, Nathan Crist; George Ayala; Jose Ayala, Jr.; niece, Mia Crayton and cousin (Baby) Kyler Austin and numerous others.

### Mona Belle Randall

Graveside services for Mona Belle Randall, age 82, of Sulphur Springs, were conducted at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, May 22, 2016 at Shooks Chapel Cemetery. Mona passed away on Friday May 20, 2016 in Sulphur Springs.

Arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home

### **Jason Austin**

Memorial services for Jason Austin, age 66, of Brashear have been scheduled for 1:00 P.M. Saturday, May 28, 2016 at Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses with Durwin Hohhertz officiating.

Jason Austin was born in Paris, Texas on November 4, 1949, the son of Charlie Austin and Ola Maude (Miller) Austin. He married Jeanette Crain in Fort Worth on January 26, 1984. She preceded him in death in 2015. He was a concrete worker and truck driver and a U.S. Navy veteran serving in the Vietnam era. Mr. Austin passed away May 20, 2016 in Sulphur Springs.

Survivors include, three sons, Abel Austin and wife Jessica of Brashear, Waylon Underwood of Cumby and W.L. Underwood of Fort Worth; two daughters, Terra Dotson and husband Darin and Marley Herrera and husband Jesus all of Sulphur Springs; nine grandchildren, Tripp Austin, Violeta Herrera, Juan Herrera, Kenna Dotson, Mikayla Dotson, Dalton Dotson, Xavier Underwood, Jacob Underwood and Hannah Underwood; two brothers, Jimmy Austin and wife, Sharon of Hugo, OK and Jerry Austin of Paris; two sisters, Myra Simmons and Charlene Austin both of Paris.



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