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Enola Gay

Once in awhile I don't even have to leave the corral gate to get a country-and-western story for this article. Often, the stories come to me and almost write themselves. Besides dealing with some of my favorite things like music and cowboy role-models, it's also a tribute to a couple of great folks you may already know.

Congratulations to Hopkins County's Buddy and Ina Gore and Psalms 100 for being the 2016 recipients of the "Joe Paul Nichols" Lifetime Achievement Award. It was presented to them at the annual convention of the International Country Gospel Music Association, which honors the best of the best in the country-gospel music genre. And as you know, behind every award is a story, or two or three! Buddy and Ina's story wouldn't be complete without including country-gospel artist and friend Joe Paul Nichols and the ICGMA organization.



Buddy Gore of Psalms 100

Ina DeLozier always loved to sing gospel music, and she had a group called Psalms 100 in the 1970's even before her husband Buddy joined the band in 1982. During part of that time she was working at KPLT Radio in Paris and co-produced The Red River Jamboree. That's where she met Joe Paul when he played in the Tony Douglas "Shrimpers" Band. They remained friends over the years. Later, Joe Paul formed his well-known touring band and called themselves "Joe Paul Nichols and His Five Pennies." He recorded both country and gospel music and later joined the ICGMA membership where he was an active member and later inducted into the ICGMA Hall of Fame.

He also loved Western Swing music, performing at fairs, rodeos, conventions and dances all over the country. He performed at the Reilly Springs Jamboree, the Big D Jamboree and other oprys. However, Joe Paul was a Christian first and a musician second, and although he sometimes performed in venues where alcohol was served, he was never known to take even one drink. During much of his adult life he served as Music Minister at his church in Jacksboro, Texas, the same church he was raised in and that his father was pastor. His musical career and ministry yielded hundreds of country and gospel songs, some of which he had written. He remained active with his church and the ICGMA after he lost his singing voice due to ALS and cancer, until his death in 2011.

Because of his contribution to and dedication in the preservation of Christian Country Gospel Music, the Joe Paul Nichols Lifetime Achievement Award was created the following year.

According to Buddy Gore, they are pleased and honored to accept the prestigious award. Since 1982, Buddy and Ina have been members of the ICGMA organization. It originated in Texas, founded in 1956 by Billy Thompson with co-founders Billy Holcomb and Wendy Duvall. In 2010 the Convention was moved to West Plains, Missouri, home of singers Porter Wagoner and Norma Jean. Dan Duncan who owns a TV station in West Plains is the current president.

Psalms 100 has received other recognition as Vocalists, Band, Promoter, Songwriter and Song of the Year awards. Today, they have a new home base for their Psalms 100 Gospel Opry concerts. It's the McClanahan Life Center in Emory, Texas, located behind House of Prayer on FM 515. You can enjoy country-gospel music on the third-Saturday of each month at 6:30pm.

Until next week, I'll watch for you at the corral gate. Honk when you go by, and watch for children getting off the school bus. School is starting! For your spare time, here's some country wisdom to ponder.

"When cultivating corn with a tractor, keep one eye on the corn row, one eye on the cultivator, one eye looking for stones and one eye on the fence at the end of the field"... "look down when walking in the cow lot"... and about the farmer who recently won the lottery and was asked what he would do with the money, he replied "I'll just keep on farming til the money runs out".

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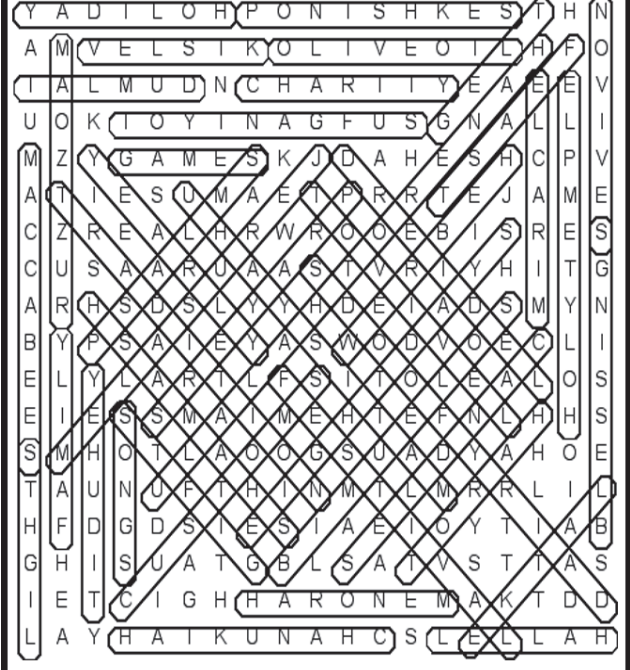


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ALPACAS IN THE TEXAS MOUNTAINS

Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

Heidi and Scott Wasserman both teach at Sul Ross State University in Alpine. When they're not involved in academic pursuits, they take care of a number of dogs, chickens, alpacas and donkeys on their acreage near town.

"I have one donkey that was born here," says Heidi. "She owns the place and is like the ranch manager."

They got the donkeys first.

"We got a free donkey who arrived pregnant and now we have five donkeys. They're all special and each one has its own personality. We have one giant donkey from France that was used on farms to pull plows and do things that tractors do now."

They saw their first alpaca at a fair in Michigan in 2001.

"You see an alpaca you're automatically enamored with them. I've wanted one ever since. We didn't get any until we put down roots here. We've lived here longer than we've lived any place else. We got our alpacas in 2012."

They have nine alpacas now. Heidi calls them ambassadors for kids. "We do field trips and host kids birthday parties. We bring them out and the kids get hands on and take adorable pictures. Wonderful things happen when you put kids and animals together."

The animals are popular around Alpine.

"Chewbacca is an old mammoth donkey who's nineteen or twenty years old. He carries Mary at the live nativity every year. We did a trunk or treat for a church around Halloween and we dressed our grey alpaca up as Count Alpacula. I did a valentine promotion last year and called it 'alpaca your present.' The alpaca we used has a registered name of 'Dubadee-doo-dah.' So Dubadee-doo-dah and I delivered Valentine's Day presents to people. We went to a hair salon and a school. A policeman saw us walking an alpaca down the sidewalk. He just shook his head and smiled."

A store on the premises carries alpaca items imported from Peru.

"They produce a hollow fiber that has thermal properties like a thermal window with two panes of glass. You can have something that's very lightweight but really really warm."

Heidi and Scott took me to the barn where an alpaca and a chicken seemed to be carrying on a conversation. Interesting sounds around their place. The donkeys bray real loud. They love their animals and have no intentions of selling them.

"It's funny," says Heidi. "We draw people in with the alpacas. People are really curious about them. But people leave loving the donkeys."

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

On Matters of Reflection and Prayer...

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

May artists of the world be tender--brushes poised to capture on canvas their impressions of a troubled world.

For the rest of us, though, perhaps the closest we can come to artistry is to spin life's color wheel, praying its arrow will land on blue, remaining there for a while. People of goodwill are of like mind: With all that is being sorted out--in Dallas and throughout the land--law enforcement personnel are on the front line. They forge ever forward, working extra hours when many of us would prefer going back to bed, pulling the covers over our heads, wishing the world to go away....

When ugliness and hate boil over, men and women of blue are there. Sometimes ultimate sacrifices--like those made by the five officers in Dallas--cause us to reflect deeply on their worth.

That defenders of peace are able to remain calm in the chaos erupting without warning seems miraculous enough. That they keep coming back for more in a profession whose parameters of danger balloon ever larger seems even more unbelievable. It is what "blue do."

Much is made about what matters. Yard

signs of opposition to bullying first appeared a year or so back. "Kindness Matters," they proclaimed. Kindness does matter. Surely it is an admonition we all can claim, in attitudes of reflection and prayer. ...

With assumed agreement that life matters--as does death--may we then commit to reflection and prayer. Someone said, "Yesterday is history, and tomorrow is hope. Today is getting from one to the other as best we can." May our attitude about the living of this day--and all future days--abide in the belief that the same God who has intervened in the affairs of humankind throughout history remains in charge....

When first learning of the Dallas mayhem, I thought of a challenging song from the 1950s--Let There Be Peace on Earth. The words "and let it begin with me" are included in all five stanzas. (Please consider reviewing the lyrics, reflecting on the message of the song's entirety.)

Unless we embrace a renewal of our faith in the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, we're all subject to drowning in a growing ocean of tears. The opportunity to renew such a bedrock belief lies within each of us....

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Sat, August 20, 7pm - 9pm - Michael Booth and Amanda Pruitt on Celebration Plaza, 100 Church St, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482.
Fri, August 26, 6pm - 8pm - Made to Lead Workshop Series. Family Life Church, 1400 TX-301 Loop, Sulphur Springs. Register @ <http://www.familylifechurch.com/madetolead/>
Fri, August 26, 8pm - 10pm - Pokemon 2000 Movie @ Celebration Plaza at Dark.
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Obits



Mona Tess Douglas

Funeral service for Mona Tess Douglas, age 88, of Emory, were held on Wednesday, 2:00 pm, August 17, 2016, at the Church of Christ in Emory, Richard Kellum officiated. Interment followed the service in Turner Cemetery. Visitation was Tuesday evening, 6:00-8:00 pm, at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home Chapel. Richard Kellum officiated.

Mrs. Douglas passed away on Monday, Aug. 15, at Christus Mother Frances Hospital of Sulphur Springs. She was born in Bend, August 21, 1927, to Ward and Gladys Smallwood Lewis. Mona married Wayland Wayne Douglas, in Hico, on Sept. 5, 1945. She was a homemaker and her family was her priority. Mona was a member of the Church of Christ in Emory.

Survivors include:

Son: Wayne Douglas (Theresa) of Emory; Grandchildren: Keri Bangs; Kristi Sisk; and Kevin Douglas; Great-grandchildren: Kyra, Kash, Kylar, Krislynn, and Kolt; Sisters' Georgia Mason of Dallas; Reba Porter, of Commerce, and Pondra Jennings of Mesquite; Numerous other loving family and friends

She was preceded in death by her parents; and her husband, in 2008.



Billie Jo Newsom

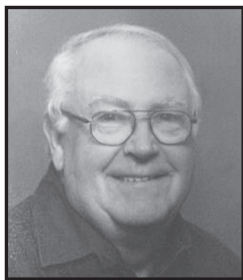
Funeral services for Billie Jo Newsom, age 91 of Sulphur Springs, will be held Thursday, August 18, 2016, at 10 am at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home with Robert Newsom officiating and Jack Newsom Jr. assisting. Interment will follow at Liberty Cemetery in Purley, with Cade Newsom, Cole Newsom, Joel Newsom, Jon Newsom, Philip Kincaid, Jacob Hathcoat, Andrew Hathcoat, Jay Shearer, Peyton Howard and Jackson Newsom serving as pallbearers. Visitation was held Wednesday, August 17, 2016, from 5-7 pm at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Mrs. Newsom passed away Monday, August 15, 2016 at her residence, in Sulphur Springs. She was born April 21, 1925 in Breckenridge, Texas, the daughter of Fred and Velma (Dalton) Tibbles. Billie Jo married Jack Paul Newsom on May 1, 1948 in Cumby. He preceded her in death in 2000. She graduated from East Texas State Teachers College in Commerce, and

retired from teaching after 29 years. In 1944, she worked for the Navy Department in Washington DC. Billie Jo was a member of Wesley United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Newsom is survived by her sons, Robert Newsom and wife Robbie, of Sulphur Springs; Jack Newsom Jr. and wife Vicki, of Sulphur Springs; daughters, Millie Nylan and her late husband Bill, of Como; Vickie Hathcoat and husband James, of Sulphur Springs; grandchildren, Philip Kincaid; Stacie Shearer and husband Jay; Jacob Hathcoat; Andrew Hathcoat and wife Lorelei; Lt. Col. Joel Newsom and wife Amy; Maj. Jonathan Newsom and wife Maci; Brooke Howard; Cole Newsom and wife Erica; Cade Newsom; Great-grandchildren, Sydney Shearer; Madi-lynn Newsom; Jackson Newsom; Hannah Newsom, Joshua Newsom; Joel Daniel Newsom; Abigail Newsom; Jedediah Newsom; Noah Newsom; Anna-Claire Newsom; Peyton Howard; Rhett Newsom; Hayden Krecek; Gavin Williams; Preslie Hoy; and Savannah Hines.

Family requests memorials be made to Heritage Christian Counseling Center, 212 Connally St., Sulphur Springs, TX 75482



Ben D. Walker

Military Graveside Services for Ben D. Walker, age 80 of Sulphur Springs, were held Tuesday, August 16, 2016, at 11 a.m. at Restlawn Memorial Park with J.L. Rogers officiating. Visitation was held Monday, August 15, 2016, from 6-8 p.m. at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Mr. Walker passed away Sunday, August 14, 2016 at Rock Creek Health and Rehab. He was born January 30, 1936 in Big Spring, TX the son of Ben Elzy and Alma Marie (Kirby) Walker. He married Mary Ann Collins on December 20, 1952 in Colorado City, TX. She preceded him in death in 2002. Ben served in the United States Army; he was also a mechanic and of the Pentecostal Faith.

Mr. Walker is survived by his son, David Walker and wife Sara, and son Roy Dunn; daughters, Cathy Chapman and Pauline Morris; grandchildren Hunter Walker, Haydan Walker, Angela Thomas, Jason Rasco, Desinee Rushing, David Dunn, Christi Cotten, Bonnie Jones, J.L. Rogers, Lori Johnson, Roy Dunn, Jr., Justin Morris; 18 great-grandchildren; brother, Larry Walker; and aunt, Teresa Kirby.

He is preceded in death by his son, Kenneth Dunn; brother, Jimmy Walker; and 3 grandchildren.

Family requests memorials be made to Ben D. Walker Funeral Fund at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home or charity of your choice.



Neva Nell Shook

Funeral services for Neva Nell Shook, age 80, of Commerce were held at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 16, 2016 at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Bro. Brock Mitchell and Rev. Jean Ayers officiating. Interment followed at Shiloh Cemetery with Jake Shook, Robert Shook, Dakota Shook, Cole Shook, Clay Shook, Josh Pannell, Kerry Rumbaugh, and Cody Shook serving as pallbearers. Visitation was held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Monday, August 15, 2016 at West Oaks Funeral Home. Mrs. Shook passed away on Friday, August 12, 2016 in Rowlett.

She was born on December 9, 1935 in Campbell, TX, the daughter of Dewey Radican and Tenney Lee Hammonds Bailey.

She married Robert Lee Shook and he preceded her in death. She was a dedicated mother and homemaker. Mrs. Shook is survived by sons, Ricky Shook and wife Sandy of Kilgore, Mark Shook and wife Carolyn of Avenger, Jeff Shook and wife Renee of Commerce, and daughters, Robbie Rucker and husband James of Rowlett, Paula Cruz and husband Rene of Sachse, and Laura Pannell and husband Carey of Commerce, sister, Dorothy Bradshaw of Wills Point, brother, Bill Bailey and many nieces and nephews. She also has 23 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren. She also loved her faithful dog Lucy.

John Knight

Mr. John Knight, age 92 of Winnsboro, passed away on Saturday, August 13th, 2016 in Winnsboro. He was born on October 25th, 1923 in Jacksonville, TX, to the late Grover Knight and Vada Parks Knight. He married the former Mona Kay Turner on June 21, 1947, and she preceded him in death on October 24, 2006. Mr. Knight was also preceded in death by his parents; brother, Grover Earl "Honk" Knight of Gladwater, and sister, Dorothy Williams of Johnson City, TN. He is survived by, sons, Mark Knight and wife Betty Ann of Winnsboro, Bart Knight and wife Kelly of Winnsboro; daughters, Leslie Caviness and husband Ralph of Chandler, Cindy Tinney and husband Roger of Winnsboro, and Mitzi Moss and husband Sammy of Winnsboro; thirteen grandchildren; twenty-two great grandchildren and one great great grandchild. Visitation was held on Monday, August 15th, 2016 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am at Beaty Funeral Home-Winnsboro 816 W. Broadway Winnsboro, TX 75494. Graveside Services were held on Monday, August 15th, 2016 at Lee Cemetery Highway 37 S. Winnsboro, TX 75494 at 11:00 am, with Stan Knight, Austin Turner, Lance Tinney, Chance Tinney, Cobey Knight, Josh Moss serving as pallbearers.

FAMOUS TEXANS "Chris" Kyle
Iraq War - Navy Seal

Christopher Scott "Chris" Kyle (April 8, 1974 – February 2, 2013) was a United States Navy SEAL veteran and sniper. Kyle served four tours in the Iraq War and was awarded several commendations for acts of heroism and meritorious service in combat. He was awarded one Silver Star Medal, four Bronze Star Medals with "V" devices, a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and numerous other unit and personal awards. Kyle was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy in 2009 and published his bestselling autobiography, American Sniper, in 2012. An eponymous film adaptation of Kyle's book, directed by Clint Eastwood, was released two years later. On February 2, 2013, Kyle was murdered by Eddie Ray Routh at a shooting range near Chalk Mountain, Texas. A former Marine with PTSD, Routh was found guilty and sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Kyle was born in Odessa, Texas, the first of two boys born to Deby Lynn (née Mercer) and Wayne Kenneth Kyle, a Sunday school teacher and deacon. Kyle's father bought his son his first rifle at 8 years old, a bolt-action .30-06 Springfield rifle, and later a shotgun, with which they hunted deer, pheasant, and quail. Kyle and his brother grew up raising up to 150 head of cattle at a time. Kyle attended high school in Midlothian, Texas, and after graduating, became a professional bronco rodeo rider and ranch hand, but his professional rodeo career ended abruptly when he severely injured his arm.

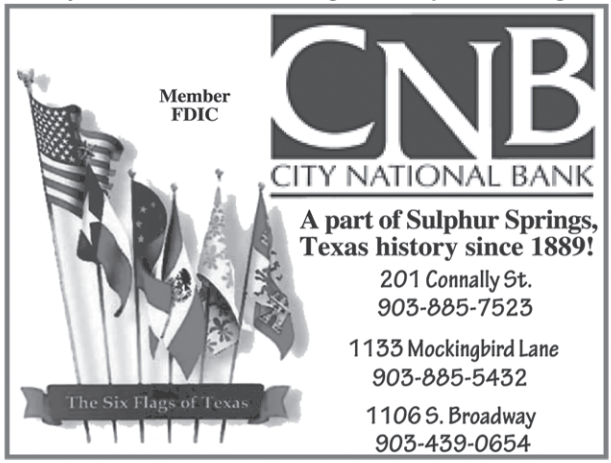
Military career
After his arm healed, Kyle went to a military recruiting office, interested in joining the U.S. Marine Corps special operations. A U.S. Navy recruiter convinced him to try, instead, for the SEALs. Initially, Kyle was rejected because of the pins in his arm, but he eventually received an invitation to the 24-week Basic Underwater Demolition SEAL school (BUDS), which he joined in 1999.

Assigned to SEAL Team 3, sniper element, platoon "Charlie" (later "Cadillac"), within the Naval Special Warfare Command, and with four tours of duty, Kyle served in many major battles of the Iraq War. His first long-range kill shot was taken during the initial invasion when he shot a woman approaching a group of Marines while carrying a hand grenade. CNN reported that the woman was cradling a toddler in her other hand. As ordered, Kyle opened fire, killing the woman before she could attack. He later stated, "the woman was already dead. I was just making sure she didn't take any Marines with her. It was clear that not only did she want to kill them, but she didn't care about anybody else nearby who would have been blown up by the grenade or killed in the firefight. Children on the street, people in the houses, maybe her child."

Because of his track record as a marksman during his deployment to Ramadi, the insurgents named Kyle Shaitan Ar-Ramadi (English: "The Devil of Ramadi"), and put a \$21,000 bounty on his head that was later increased to \$80,000. They posted signs highlighting the cross on his arm as a means of identifying him.

In his book, American Sniper, Kyle describes his longest successful shot: in 2008, outside Sadr City, he killed an insurgent sniper aiming at other members of the US military with "a straight-up luck shot" from his McMillan Tac-338 sniper rifle from about 2,100 yards (1,920 m) away.

Kyle became known as "The Legend" among the general infantry and Marines he was tasked to protect. The nickname originated among Kyle's fellow SEALs following his taking of a sabbatical to train other snipers in Fallujah, and he was sometimes called "The Myth".



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• Liability: Entrants and participants by execution of this entry form, release and discharge the Winnsboro Area Chamber of Commerce, Classic Car Cruise-In and The City of Winnsboro from any and all known or unknown liabilities, damages, injuries, judgement, and / or claims from any causes whatsoever, accidental or intentional, that may be suffered by any patron, entrant or participant and/or guest, to his/her person or property.

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