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At The Corral Gate


By **Enola Gay** 

Rain, and /or the lack of, changes the face of everything out here in the West. Across Hopkins County, there are several different types of soil. Some types drain better than others. Among the challenges we've faced as April came to a close were postponed sports and ballgames (fields too wet) and postponed yard mowing (ground too wet) and delayed garden planting (fields too wet). The only thing it hasn't been too wet for has been fishing! Do fish mind if the lake is too full? We've gotten reports that Cooper Lake reached full, and a bit over during the final week of April. I drove across Lake Lavon on May 2, and lo and behold, it was WAY UP! During the past several years, taking Highway 380 to McKinney, you and I have seen Lavon as only a dry lake bed. Hallelujah!




Lake Lavon from Hwy. 380 Bridge

A backloged activity that's just now getting underway again is setting new gravestones in the cemeteries around NE Texas. In Spring, lots of the older cemetery associations will hold a Memorial Day for families with loved ones buried there. And at most of the traditional services, persons newly interred there will be named and celebrated with a family member telling a bit about their life. This spring, the headstones for those persons may or may not yet be in place due to wet conditions in the cemetery yard. You know, the placing of that final statement of a person's life is actually a solemn task, a purposeful job for someone both sensitive and strong, and good with a shovel, level and tape measure. I want to give a salute all those nameless workers who care for the graves of other people's loved ones. They keep our cemeteries respectable and attractive. At Reilly Springs, the cemetery happens to be elevated and situated on sandy land, so it was one of the first in Hopkins County to become dry enough to set stones (and finally dry enough to mow!) on sunny May 4.



Bankston Memorial Monuments crew at Reilly Springs Cemetery.

Everyone who keeps horses has a vet bill to pay now and then. I stopped out at Dr. Norris' Veterinary Services on Loop 301 in Sulphur Springs to say howdy and settle up, and had the opportunity to see Dr. Reilly there too. He had also stopped in to see J.D. It's rare to catch any vet with clean hands and boots when there's work to be done, much less two of them at once! So I asked the guys to pose before joining the rest of the staff out in the "hospital" barn. As you might imagine, there's decades of training and experience combined in this pair of servants!



Dr. J.D. Norris and Dr. David White.



Veterinary Services Clinic




Tina



Jane

I proudly announce the news that my long-time friend, entertainer Josh Davis, has qualified for the Ultimate Elvis International contest to be held during Elvis Week in Memphis, Tennessee in August 2015. As a first-place winner in the Biloxi, Mississippi "I.P." competition on May 2, Josh now advances to the "Caddillac" of contests for an ETA. That's Elvis Tribute Artist, if you didn't know! Although performing and perfecting his voice and delivery for almost a decade, Josh has only recently begun to enter competitions, learning the ropes and gathering numerous second and third-place wins. Now he has his first Gold, and he is still on Cloud Nine!! If you see Josh in his Mustang driving around Sulphur Springs, give him a thumbs up! He's got a full summer of shows, including his very own "Aloha from Hawaii" concert re-creation this July on his home stage. Continue watching this young man!



Josh Davis, ETA

As May comes into her full bloom, let's bloom where we are planted, and I'll watch for you at the corral gate!



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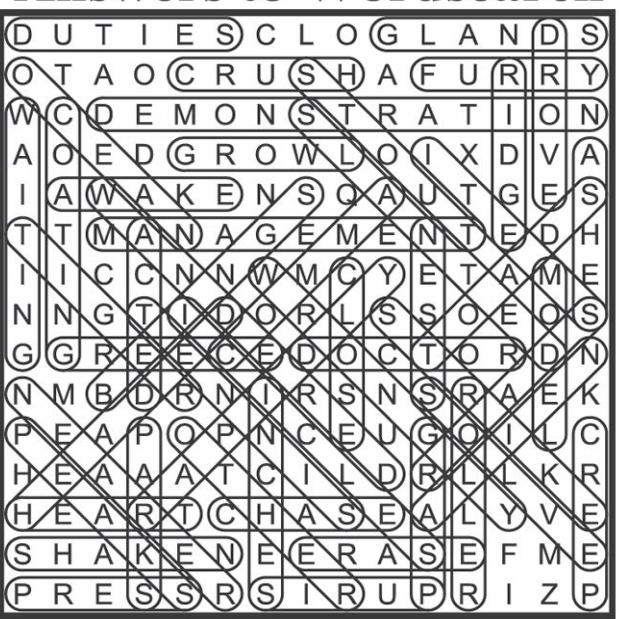
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Tumbleweed Smith

We left home around 7:30 last Saturday morning and drove to Guadalupe Mountains National Park where we had an appointment to interview artist in residence Victoria Meyer. She records natural sounds and uses them to create music.

Our route was through Pecos and Orla. Huge mistake. If you're going to the park, go through Van Horn and head north on highway 54, one of the most scenic highways in Texas.

The road between Pecos and Orla has been severely damaged by oil field trucks, which are everywhere. Potholes are inches apart along the right side of the highway. They're fairly easy to avoid if you don't have a truck in front of you. If you do, you're bound to run into some and damage your tires.

We got to the park a little after 10 o'clock in the morning. We gained an hour going into Mountain Time. Victoria Meyer is a very trusting soul. We had never met, but she agreed to let us buy her lunch in Dell City and then tour some galleries. That's right. Galleries. In Dell City, a place with less than 400 residents. But what residents they are. They are smart, talented, highly educated, resourceful and hard working.

Our guide for the gallery tour was Laura Lynch, one of the original Dixie Chicks. Now she's into mining the mountains for materials used in manufacturing sophisticated equipment like smart phones. When we met her at the first gallery, she apologized for wearing work clothes. She had been busy that morning refurbishing a house. In the past five years she has updated half a dozen homes in Dell City and rents them to people visiting the park. Susan and I stayed in one of them. It had pink walls.

After the first gallery we all had lunch at the Spanish Angels café, the only eating place in town. I had the best huevos rancheros I've ever tasted. Then we toured all the homes Laura had restored (one had her string bass she used to play) and visited another gallery, which had photographs the size of billboards.

Late in the day we took Victoria back to the park so she could get ready for a presentation she was to make that evening. Artists in residence are required to leave some work behind. Her offering was a four-minute piece of music.

Between the time we took Victoria back and the time for her presentation, Susan and I took a small hike near the visitor's center. Since there was no restaurant close, we enjoyed some wine, cheese and crackers in the car (it was chilly).

Victoria is a tenured professor at Webster University in St. Louis and teaches sound design, a relatively new field. She has 115 majors studying with her. In the presentation she explained how she recorded birdcalls, running water and a thunderstorm and then used those recordings to mix with music she created using drums, flute and an ancient stringed instrument. Fascinating stuff.

We left the pink apartment at 7 o'clock Sunday morning and headed home through Van Horn where I had a Texas waffle at the El Capitan Hotel coffee shop.

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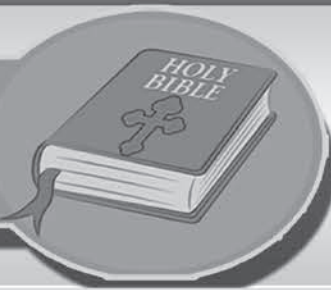
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OBITUARIES



James F. McCaffrey

Jim (aka Bubba, Big Jim) McCaffrey, 74, of Abilene, Texas, passed away on Sunday, April 26, 2015, in Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene, Texas.

Jim was born in Philadelphia, Pa., on Oct. 23, 1940, the sixth child of Joe and Mary (Lynch) McCaffrey's 10 children.

He moved to Monett, Mo., in 1952, and graduated from Monett High School in 1959. He started his working career at Vaisey-Bristol, which later became Jumping-Jack Shoes. Jim moved to Temple, Texas, and began working with Friend Tire Company, and in 1976 opened his own tire company, J & R Tires, in Sulphur Springs, Texas. He moved back to Monett in 1990 and began working with his brothers at Grande Tire. He never met a stranger, and had a special gift of selling tires!

Jim married Rosemary Harrison on April 25, 1964. She survives. Other survivors include his two daughters, Laurie McCaffrey, and son-in-law, Jose Yanez of Abilene, Texas, and Mary Hill of League City, Texas, and son, Mike McCaffrey, and daughter-in-law, Melissa, of League City, Texas, all formerly of Sulphur Springs, Texas; grandchildren, Kolby, Casen and Logan Yanez, Makenzie, Hudson and Harrison Hill, Kelly Keys and Cori, Cade, Christin and Carter McCaffrey; and great-grandchildren Kabri and Kai. Surviving of the "ten J's" are: Joe McCaffrey, Jack McCaffrey, Joyce Tinklebaugh, Jean Heinly, Jay McCaffrey, Jeff McCaffrey and Joel McCaffrey; with Jerry McCaffrey and Joan Gavin pre-deceased.

Jim loved to fish, enjoyed cooking and loved all sports. He enjoyed coaching his son's summer baseball team, and was known for his sharp tongue! Many summer nights you would find him across the street from the baseball field, sitting in his blue truck, after being ejected from a game. A memorial service is being planned in Monett, Mo.

Wanda Aline Clark Griffin



Private services for Wanda Aline Clark Griffin, age 84 of Sulphur Springs are to be held at Restlawn Memorial Park with Rev. Fred Lewis officiating.

Wanda went home peacefully to be with Jesus on Saturday, May 2, 2015 at her residence.

She was born in Seminole, OK on January 17, 1931. She married Bobby Gene Griffin on December 4, 1952 in Seminole, OK. They were happily married for sixty-two years.

While living in Levelland, she worked as a secretary for an oil company and a bank. After returning to Sulphur Springs, where she lived since 1963, she worked at Flowerland Florist and Johnson Ice Cream Co, as well as being a member of the First Baptist Church. Wanda was also a graduate of Bowlegs High School and Draughon's Practical Business College of Oklahoma City. Her hobbies included ceramics, sewing, gardening and traveling.

Survivors include her husband, Bobby Gene Griffin; one son, Faron Griffin and wife, Paula of Montgomery; one daughter, Karla Griffin of Sulphur Springs; five grandchildren, Rodney Griffin, Angela Lozano, Natalie LeMier, Jessica Pope and Amber Griffin; five great-grandchildren, Charlotte, Avery, Adeline and Harper Griffin and Griffin LeMier.

Arrangements are under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Hugh Francis Wilemon

Funeral service for Hugh Francis Wilemon, 76, of Sulphur Spring, TX will be conducted at 4:00 p.m., Thursday, May 7, 2015 at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel.

Visitation was held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Wednesday May 6, 2015 at West Oaks Funeral Home.

Mr. Wilemon passed away on May 3, 2015 at the VA Hospital in Dallas.

Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.

Carol Ann Ivey



A funeral service for Carol Ivey, age 68 of Mt. Vernon were conducted at New Beginnings Fellowship Baptist Church at 3:00 p.m., Monday, May 4, 2015 with Rev. Paul Pogue officiating. Interment followed at Sulphur Springs City Cemetery with Mike Garner, Kenny Ivey, Jeremy Garner, Justin Garner, Kholson Ivey, and Jagger Garner serving as pallbearers.

Carol passed away Friday, May 1, 2015 at Trinity Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler.

She was born in Pasadena, TX on September 23, 1946, the daughter of James William and Mozelle (Locke) Boatright. She married Kenneth Ray Ivey on January 12, 1979. He preceded her in death in 2014. She was a pharmacy technician and a member of New Beginnings Fellowship Baptist Church.

Survivors include: sons, Mike Garner and wife, Tammy of Mt. Vernon, Kenny Ivey and wife, Keesha of Sulphur Springs; grandchildren, Jeremy Garner, Justin Garner, Chelsea Garner, Braylee Garner, Kholson Ivey, Katelin Ivey, Kenzie Ivey, and Kaycee Ivey; great-grandchildren, Abbie Garner and Caleb Garner.

She was preceded in death by her parents; son, Brad Garner; brother, Archie Boatright and sister, Loretta Cunningham.

Arrangements are under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Jimmy Wayne Green

Jimmy Green 74, of Cumby passed away Saturday, May 2, 2015 at his home surrounded by family.

Jimmy was born in Commerce on April 10, 1941, to Mary Catherine Litterell and Raymond Loyd Green. He was a professional Tanker Truck Driver for over 43 years. On June 2, 1958, Jimmy married his beautiful bride, Wanda Jane Freeman. He had many awards through his work. Jimmy enjoyed gardening and yard work, camping, fishing, wood working, but enjoyed nothing more than spending time with his family. He was a member of Cumby Church of Christ.

He is survived by his wife Wanda, his two daughters: Pattie Marlar (David), of Alba and Darlene Pickle (Terry), of Cumby, his grandchildren: Jeremy White of Mississippi, Jennifer Lawwill of Cumby, Clay Pickle of Greenville, Magan Pickle Kaczor of Princeton, Melissa Pickle of Cumby, Makayla Pickle of Cumby, his great-grandchildren: Ally White, Ana White, Naevah Martin, Taylor Ortega, Erica Ortega, Kymberly Lawwill, Zachary Pickle, Zaiden Pickle and his great great-grandson, Ian Kaczor. He is also survived by his siblings: Jerry Lee, Ronald Lloyd, Michael Bruce, Ricky Neal, Melba Ann, Peggy Lynn and Pamela Ruth.

He was preceded in death by his parents Raymond and Mary Green, his sister Lynda Sue St. Clair, his nephews and his niece.

Visitation was held on Tuesday, May 5, 2015, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Jones-Walker & Son Funeral Home in Commerce.

Funeral Services was held on Wednesday, May 6, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. at Jones-Walker & Son Funeral Home Chapel, with Brother David Gibson officiating. Pallbearers were Daniel Romans, Bubba Green, Jason Lawwill, Clay Pickle, Danny Kaczor and David Straham. Honorary Pallbearers were Ronny Anderson, IM Mills and Jeremy White. Interment will be in Cumby Cemetery, in Cumby Texas.

In Lieu of flowers the family is requesting that donations be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 560089 Dallas, TX 75356.

Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous

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All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again. Just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing: they miss someone very special to them who had to be left behind.

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You have been spotted and when you and your special friends finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved heads and you look once more into the trusted eyes of your pets, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you'll cross the Rainbow Bridge together.



JJ 2015



Pop, MiMi and JJ
2015