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# Corral Gate

Across Hopkins County, there is a variety of native soils. Quite a bit of our county is sandy land, and a lot of it is prairie. My back yard is a fairly fertile, dark soil that was probably prairie once upon a time. I have come to believe that the vegetable gardens planted in sandy land fared better through our "monsoon" season than other types of soils did. I know of a garden in the sand at Brashear that is going great guns! Here's a picture of one of a dozen cabbage plants, taken about two weeks ago. This cabbage actually got a lot bigger and fuller than this picture shows, and it finished it's life cycle as part a lovely meal alongside a skillet of cornbread just this past weekend. The meal also included a wonderful plum cobbler, also from Hopkins County-grown fruit. At my mother's suggestion, I took the skins off the plums but left the seeds in the fruit. She was right, the flavor was excellent. You just had to be cautious of the seeds when eating it! I wish I'd taken a picture of the cobbler, but it's just a sweet 🛭 memory now





Beautiful Cabbage!

I'm not a full-fledged gardener, I'm only a dabbler. The same with quilting. I just dabble, but still manage to turn out one or two simple quilts each year. I had put together a baby quilt that needed to be finished in time for a grandbaby's expected arrival. Back in May, I took it with me to let the new mom have a little of the experience. So, with my direction and her sisters' help, Angela assembled the lining, batting and top, then did the basting, tacking and hemming. The quilt was mostly in pink and when they were younger. I like to think Angela likes it, possibly more than the expensive "store-bought" baby bedding that she's received as gifts. She said she may use it

little Ava Barnes is expected any day now!





I am making a point of treasuring time with my mother these days. I go and pick her up from her apartment on weekends and bring her to my house. Although she is not nearly as capable or quick as she once was, she is still willing and eager to offer help with cooking, jelly-making, sewing, and even gardening. Really, at age 91, she is

more of an "armchair consultant" than a working partner. I had hoped that once she became a Hopkins County resident, she would like the idea of entering the Ms. Hopkins County Senior Classic" pageant, so I could "show her off". But it is not to be, for she doesn't really like crowds. She's a plain, ole Texas gal from the country. What she likes is fishing with a cane pole, or spending a sunny spring day at home with the windows open, or rocking a grandbaby to sleep, or enjoying a home-cooked country dinner with a glass of sweet tea. Add a homemade coconut cake or a chocolate pie, and she feels positively rich! My mother is easy to please and comfortable to be around. I hope I can be that pleasant when I reach her stage of life. And I've got plenty to learn from her yet!



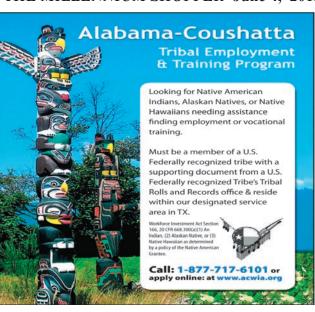
As we enter Summer 2015, let's look for the simple, good things that life has to offer. And let's be appreciative for them right here, where we are! I have a feeling that one day, we will remember each pleasure as more like a treasure. Until next week, I'll watch for you at the corral gate!

### Word Search

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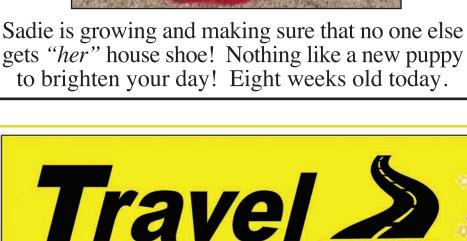
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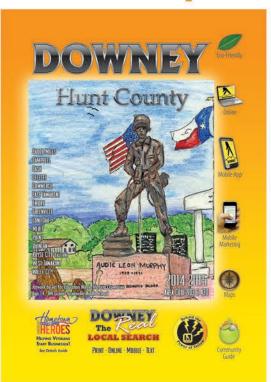
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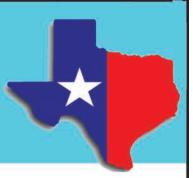
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Film & Television



Matthew Staton "Matt" Bomer (born October 11, 1977) is an American actor. He made his television debut with Guiding Light in 2001, and gained recognition with his recurring role in the NBC television series Chuck as Bryce Larkin. He played the lead role of a con-artist in the USA Network series White Collar from 2009 to 2014. Bomer won a Golden Globe Award and received a Primetime Emmy Award nomination for his supporting role as Felix Turner in the HBO television film The Normal Heart (2014).

Bomer has also featured in supporting roles in such films as the 2005 thriller Flightplan, the 2011 science fiction thriller, "In Time", the 2012 comedy-drama, "Magic Mike", and the 2014 supernatural-drama, "Winter's Tale". He starred in the Dustin Lance Black play 8 on Broadway and at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre as Jeff Zarrillo, a plaintiff in the federal case that overturned California's Proposition 8. Bomer is married to the publicist Simon Halls with whom he has three children.



**Matt Bomer** 

Bomer was born in Webster Groves, Greater St. Louis, Missouri, one of three children born to John Bomer, a former Dallas Cowboys draft pick, and his wife, Sissi (née Staton). He grew up in Spring, Texas, a suburb of Houston. Bomer attended Klein High School in Spring, Texas, with fellow future actor Lee Pace. Pace and Bomer both acted at Houston's Alley Theatre, a non-profit theatre company. In 2001, he graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

After graduating, Bomer moved to New York City, where he won the role of "Ian Kipling" on All My Children. From 2001 to 2003, he portrayed the role of Ben Reade on another daytime television soap opera, Guiding Light. He starred as Luc, Tru's (Eliza Dushku) ill-fated love interest, in Tru Calling (2003-2004), a supernatural, science-fiction television series on the Fox television network. Bomer appeared on North Shore (2004-2005), a primetime television soap opera, as well as in "Flightplan" (2005), a thriller film with Jodie Foster. In the slasher film "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre": "The Beginning" (2006), Bomer portrayed Eric, a Vietnam War veteran who is driving across Texas to re-enlist after his brother is drafted. The brothers run afoul of Sheriff Hoyt and are taken captive by the Hewitt family. He co-starred in Traveler (2007), a short-lived midseason replacement television series which premiered on ABC on May 30, 2007. He had a recurring role, as Bryce Larkin, on Chuck. On October 23, 2009, Bomer began starring in White Collar, which chronicles the partnership between a con artist, Neal Caffrey (Bomer) and an FBI agent, Peter Burke (played by Tim DeKay). Buddy TV ranked him first on its list of "TV's Sexiest Men of 2011" and third in 2012.

In September 2011, Bomer starred in the Broadway debut of Dustin Lance Black's play, 8, a staged re-enactment of the federal trial that overturned California's Proposition 8. In March 2012, he was featured in the Wilshire Ebell Theatre production as well, portraying Jeff Zarrillo, one of the plaintiffs in the trial. In October 2011, Bomer appeared in the science fiction thriller film In Time, in which he played a 105-year-old man, Henry Hamilton. In 2012, Bomer starred as Ken, a male stripper, in the feature film "Magic Mike". In 2014, he appeared in science-fiction black comedy film Space Station 76, directed by Jack Plotnick. He had a supporting role in the 2014 adaptation of Winter's Tale, directed by Akiva Goldsman.

In June 2013, Bomer was ranked at no. 2 on Logo's Hot 100 list, which is based on the votes of readers of the AfterEllen.com and TheBacklot.com. Bomer was the list's highest ranked man, behind only Jennifer Lawrence. In August 2013, it was announced that Bomer will provide his voice in the animated feature B.O.O.: Bureau of Otherworldly Operations for release in June 2015. In September 2013, it was announced that Bomer will play Montgomery Clift in a biopic about the Hollywood star.

Bomer has been married to publicist Simon Halls since 2011. The couple have three sons, including a set of twins, via surrogacy. He first publicly acknowledged that he was gay in 2012, when he thanked Halls and their children during an acceptance speech for his Steve Chase Humanitarian Award. Also in 2012, Bomer was given an Inspiration Award for his work at the GLSEN Awards.

Bomer, a practitioner of Transcendental Meditation since his early 20s, in 2013 stated his support for the work of the David Lynch Foundation.

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Funeral services for Lee Ann Keller, age 58 of Austin, formerly of Sulphur Springs will be held at 11:00 a.m., Friday, June 5, 2015 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Interment will follow at the Yantis Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Thursday, June 4, 2015 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Mrs. Keller passed away on Sunday, May 31, 2015 at Christopher House in Austin.

### **Lucille Throgmorton**

Lucille Throgmorton, of Fairlie, passed away on Sunday, May 31, 2015 at her residence. Arrangements are pending with West Oaks Funeral Home

### Linda Barnes

Linda Barnes, of Sulphur Springs, passed away on Sunday, May 31, 2015 at Sunny Springs Nursing Home. Arrangements are pending with West Oaks Funeral Home.

### Larry L. Riley

Funeral service for Larry Lee Riley, age 66, of Sulphur Springs will be held at 2:00 p.m., Friday, June 5, 2015 at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel. Visitation will be held 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. prior to service at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel.

Larry Riley passed away on June 1, 2015 in Paris, TX.

Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home

### Eric Bernard Mack

Eric Bernard Mack, age 57, passed away Monday, June 1, 2015 at Hopkins County Memorial Hospital. Arrangements are pending with West Oaks Funeral Home.



### Billy Jack Broyles

Graveside services for Billy Jack Broyles, age 70, of Brashear, will be held Saturday, June 6, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at Mt. Zion Cemetery, with Pastor David Burns officiating. No formal visitation will be held.

Billy Jack passed away on Sunday, May 31, 2015 at his residence.

He was born the son of Cecil E. Broyles and Opal Oleta Sloan on January 21, 1945 in Commerce. He was a graduate of Commerce High School.

Survivors include son, Kelly Broyles, and wife Gayle, of Sulphur Springs; sister, Betty Speights, and husband George, of Cumby; two granddaughters, Jordan and Taylor, of Sulphur Springs; 3 nieces and nephews, Tammy Sanchez of Cumby; Eddie Speights and wife, Laurie,

of Cumby; and Cindy Dillard, and husband Brad, of Roxton; and several great nieces and nephews

### Tommy G. Brandenburgh

Funeral services for Tommy G. Brandenburgh, age 67 of Powderly, were held Friday, May 29, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at Tapp Funeral Home with Pastor Billy Norris officiating. Interment followed at Old Tarrant Cemetery with Calvin Fleming, Jerry Fleming, Donny Berry and Billy O' Brian serving as pallbearers.

Visitation was held Thursday May 28, 2015, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Tapp Funeral Home.

Tommy passed away, May 26, 2015 at Paris Regional Medical Center in Paris.

He was born the son of Thomas H. and Bessie (Ishmael) Brandenburgh on December 20, 1947 in Little Rock, Arkansas. He married Mary Katherine Mosher on March 5, 1966 in Sulphur Springs.

Survivors include wife, Mary; son Thomas Brandenburgh and wife, Lisa, of Reno; daughter, Rosemary Michel and husband, Tod of San Antonio; and five grand-children, Staton, Landon, and Mason of Paris; and Zachary and Jacob of San Antonio.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and brother, Johnny Merle Brandenburgh.

### Toni Lynn Allbritton

Toni Lynn Allbritton, 52, of Winnsboro, passed away on Wednesday, May 27, 2015 in Winnsboro, TX. Arrangements are pending with West Oaks Funeral Home

### Gloria Walker

Gloria Walker, 63, of Pittsburg, died Tuesday, May 26, 2015, in Pittsburg.

Memorial services were held at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 30, 2015 at Bates-Cooper-Sloan Chapel in Mount Pleasant with Bro. John Cooper officiating under the direction of Bates-Cooper-Sloan Funeral Home of Mount Pleasant.

Mrs. Walker was born on Nov 22, 1951 in Sulphur Springs to Charlie Henry and Dottie May Patterson Walker. She was a restaurant manager.

She is survived by her husband Roger Walker of Pittsburg; four daughters and son-in-laws Melanie and Gary Townshend; Tanya and Jon Anderson; Sherri and Rickey Howard; and Jennifer and Aaron Baxter; 14 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and a brother and sister-in-law, Bill and Jerry Walker; two sisters and brother-in-laws; Cathey and Lonnie Tulley, and Mary Lou and Jimmy McCoy; and two sisters, Jody Griner and Cary Walker.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Charlie Henry and Dottie May Patterson Walker.

There will be no formal visitation.

## **Uncle Mort on aging**

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

On a night when sleep was termilk daily assured living fitful, I caught the tail-end of until age 100," I said. "But a TV talk show. A guy quoted he died at 85." my Uncle Mort, who believes drinking buttermilk daily is countered, "He didn't drink the secret of his longevity.

Of all the claims I've heard Mort make—and there are many—none I recalled involved buttermilk.

First thing the next morning, I called my 102-year-old TV....

"The guy quoted me correctly, nephew," he answered. "Actually, I've drunk a pint of buttermilk daily for more than 40 years." Scrambling, I told him I'd never heard of friend, and Brownwood his drinking buttermilk, daily or otherwise. "Maybe you should have asked," he said sharply.

"I did hear once of a guy who believed drinking but- columns in the Fort Worth

"See what I mean?" Mort it long The water of 38 years has flowed under the bridge since I "stole" a hearse. Surely the statute of limitations has kicked in by now, thus this confession.

I am NOT, however, adthe "victim" of yet another Groner Pitts prank. Friends who knew this merriest of morticians--who reigned in Brownwood for a half-century--also were "victimized" from time to time.

Yet, I never had a better (TX) never had a greater ambassador. And thousands who followed his antics for late George Dolan's daily

Star-Telegram never lacked for laughs. Many were often ensnared in his webb of tomfoolery. I'm probably the only "victim," however, to "steal" a hearse—one partially owned by Pitts himself....

The "pro's pro" among kin to share what I'd heard on mitting guilt. Instead, I was morticians, he had fitting first and last names (Groner? Pitts?). Even his initials (GAP) pointed to the grave. The Cleburne native conducted funerals with utmost dignity. To the Brownwood community, he was "Uncle Groner," the "go to" guy counted on by several hundred grieving families annu-

> During slack time, howthree decades through the ever, he was helping college students...or assisting others who'd reached rope's end

(maybe striking out in Austin or Washington DC)... Wesley St, Greenville. or co-signing bank notes... or—maybe this should head \$1400 the list—plotting his next Hyundai shenanigan.

first enrollment at Howard TrackSideMotorcars. TrackSideMotorcars. Payne University. Though 15 years my senior, he was a fellow "trooper" in the Texas National Guard, and best man when Brenda and I married in Alpine almost 49 years ago. I was privileged to speak at his funeral in 2004. Upon his death, thousands of "Groner Pitts stories" were shared, locally and beyond....

Admittedly, I was an accomplice during many of his escapades. Yet, many times when pies were thrown toward him, they coated my face instead.

That's the way I choose to remember the day I "stole" the hearse. Had it happened today, I might have gone down in a hail of bullets, or, short of that, endured the indignity of arrest, the messiness of finger printing, the ordeal of a trial, etc.

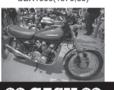
I might never have been a university president, but likely could have remained the "PR flack" at Tarrant County College, because my boss, Dr. Joe B. Rushinga classmate of Groner's at Howard Payne-might have ruled in my favor. He KNEW Pitts well, and sometimes was a co-conspirator. It was indeed an era not unlike "Mayberry, RFD."...

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### **GRADUATION TIME**

**Tumbleweed Smith** 



**Tumbleweed Smith** 

Every once in a while I'm asked to be the speaker at a high school graduation. I love doing that because I've seen some colorful and different events. The graduates are always in a good mood and make a terrific audience.

Borden County High School in Gail asked me to speak at a baccalaureate service, something I had never done before. Baccclaureate is defined as a sermon to a graduating class.

The word sermon sort of scared me. Then I looked up that word. A sermon is defined as a religious discourse or a speech on conduct or duty. That made me breathe a little easier.

When I posted on my Facebook page that I was going to be speaking at a religious service, I received a note from someone telling me they could not make the baccalaureate service but wanted to know if I was going to be preaching the following Sunday.

I delivered the speech to the receptive fourteen graduates, their families and friends, who were there to let the youngsters know they are appreciated. The class of 2015 at Borden County High School has helped fill the already crowded trophy cases with awards in academics, the arts, athletics and agriculture. It was an honor to speak to such an accomplished class. The school campus is impres-

I told the group to depend on divine guidance in some of their big decisions and to listen to the still small voices that come to us in strange times and places. I mentioned some of my own experiences in getting an education and heading out on life's journey.

Each graduate was given a large envelope containing my latest CD and a list of things that make for a successful life titled TUMBLEWEED'S RECIPE FOR HAPPINESS. Here are some of them: be a friend, help somebody, do what you love, don't be greedy, live in a place where you feel good, don't forget God, be thankful, whistle, smile, phone home, attend your high school reunions, make no small plans, ignore hassles and disappointments, listen, think, read, learn, be open to possibilities, concentrate on leaving a legacy of accomplishment, enjoy the view, learn another language, see as much of the world as you can, look at the big picture, meet as many people as you can, respect the rights and beliefs of others, take care of your teeth, don't interrupt, wave at children on school buses, keep your promises, guard your reputation, marry only for love, be community minded, be silly sometimes, don't be bashful, sing in the shower, be generous, don't gossip, don't expect money to make you happy, be forgiving, say thank you and please, dress nicely, stop blaming others, never give anyone a fruitcake, do nice things anonymously, vote, remember that peace, health and love are the real signs of success, be an example, be truthful and caring, enjoy homemade cookies, take a nap, show up, laugh.

The graduating class of 2015 at Borden County High School in Gail, Texas is extremely talented and intelligent. Most of them are entering college as sophomores.

Tumbleweed Smith is a historian, folklorist, and humorist who loves Texas and Texans. Contact him at ts@tumbleweedsmith.com

# **Answers to Word Search** (C) H A N G∕E) G R A P H) H (P) S) S | E TYR/I/K/E)G/R/A B/S /E)(C/O/M| M/A) Ν G) Y (O B G



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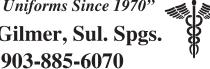
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