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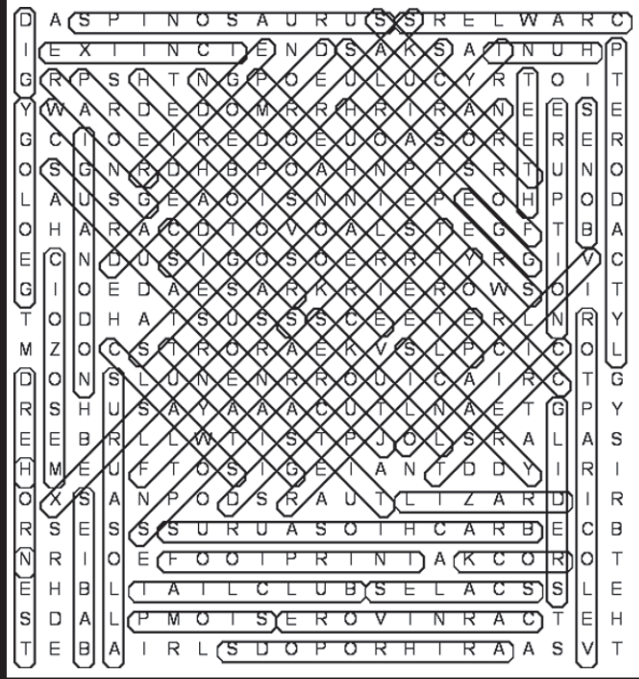


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MEMORIES OF HOSS CARTWRIGHT
Tumbleweed Smith



Joe Harris of Brownwood grew up in O'Donnell and was a classmate of Dan Blocker, best known as Hoss Cartwright on the Bonanza TV series. The two stayed friends until Dan died in 1972. Joe was a pall bearer at Dan's funeral and burial in DeKalb, Texas where he was born.

"Dan was always fun and easy going," says Joe. "He was full of mischief and was always playing pranks. He wasn't a comedian but was the most comical person I've ever seen. That was his nature. Wherever he was, there was always a lot of laughter."

Dan earned a master's degree in theater from Sul Ross State University in Alpine where he worked part time as a rodeo performer and bouncer in a bar. His education was interrupted while he was a soldier in Korea. He was a highly decorated sergeant and was awarded a Purple Heart and several medals for bravery. After graduation he got a job teaching high school English and drama in Sonora. He taught there in the mid fifties, then went to Los Angeles where teachers were paid more.

"He took a group of his students to a television studio where they were filming Gunsmoke," says Joe, "James Arness, one of the stars of the show, noticed Dan with his easy-going manner and big size and asked him if he would consider doing some bit parts that he could do on Saturday mornings. Dan jumped on it in a minute."

His first role was wiping off a bar. He was on just a few seconds. Joe says everybody in O'Donnell was watching TV that Saturday night when Gunsmoke came on the air. Because the part was so tiny, Joe told Dan that he cold have played the part himself.

"Dan brought a lot of attention to O'Donnell that had never been there before. Dan's dad had a store and it's now a museum with a Dan Blocker room."

The second time Dan was on the show he had a speaking part. He had 5 words: 'which way did they go?' Joe says Dan was paid \$10,000 for that scene. Dan kept getting offers to act and quit teaching.

Once while Bonanza was at its peak in popularity Dan went to visit Joe in Denver City, where Joe was setting up a cable TV service. "He drew such a large crowd I had to take him to a gas plant that had a gate and security guards. He visited with everybody at the plant."

Although Dan was best known for Bonanza, he also played with some big movie stars like Frank Sinatra in Come Blow Your Horn and other stars in other movies.

"I never saw Dan act," says Joe. He was always just being himself." Dan died in 1972 at age 43. The Bonanza series ended the following year.

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Last week, I showcased my family's visit to the Flying W Guest Ranch. Well, I had so much fun that guess what, I went back again the very next weekend. They were having a public event that sounded like fun. And it doesn't hurt that I have 3 daughters and 5 grandchildren also living along Route 66 in Elk City, almost halfway between Oklahoma City and Amarillo. The event was called "Run the Ranch" and it was a Crossfit rough-terrain 5K on the property, mapped to expose runners to steep rises, fairly deep gulleys and a shallow lake which was to be crossed on foot. I traveled the trail on horseback, as I had left my running shoes at home!

The earliest participants spied deer, cattle and even turkeys in the morning stillness. In total, about 30 runners took the hour-long course and after passing through the finish-line tent, they headed down Main Street for breakfast and other refreshments. After resting up a bit, live music, a hilarious DJ and afternoon horseback and 4-wheeler rides were arranged for their fun and relaxation.. It was a good way to acquaint a new cross-section of people to the joys of the Flying W Guest Ranch. Oh, and there's also a dozen nice guest cabins and several RV hookups available. My intention here is to suggest a future trip to this little treasure of a place! As the year goes on, there will be wagon and buggy rides and campsite cookouts with entertainment planned. Families are especially invited to experience the wholesome and fun old west atmosphere. Hunters and fishermen are also going to love what they discover on this 1,200 acre property in Western Oklahoma. Here's a contact number 580-277-1304.



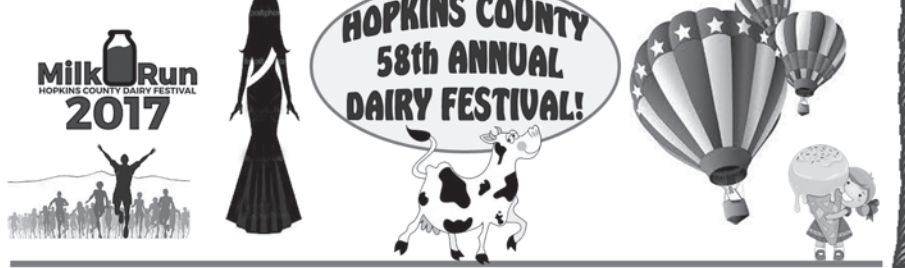
Richey Rodriguez,
Local Celebrity DJ
Takes A Ride, Not A Run!



On June 1, I attended my granddaughter Samantha's high school graduation. I wanted to give her the pearls I had bought for her in Mexico earlier this year. I thought she would love the gift, and I was right! She accepted them graciously and had to put them on right away. If course, she got a few cards containing checks and cash from her extended family, as well as a scrapbook of the first 18 years of her life, which I think was her favorite present of all. Samantha Hanna Zapata was the 471st of the 473 graduates of Grapevine High School to cross the stage for her diploma!



In Hopkins County, we annually honor the positive impact of the Dairy Industry with the Dairy Festival during June. The 58th annual festival is going on June 9-17. It's full of ice cream and hot air ballooning, a Milk Run, and a parade, and a milking contest in which the maids-a-milking later participate in a beauty pageant! It's a unique event that makes Hopkins County special! This year's theme is "It's Your Moo-ve". Come have some fun!



Til next week, I will be counting my blessings and watching for you at the corral gate!

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Obits



Jeana Bob Romans

Memorial service for Jeana Bob Romans, 77, of Commerce, will be held at 2:00 p.m., Friday, June 9, 2017 at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Joe Hall and C.J. Duffey officiating. Inurnment will follow at Cumby Cemetery. Honorary pallbearers will be Justin Morris, Ty Romans, Matt Romans, Dustin Ragsdale, Tanner Romans, Wrylee Romans, Brayden Romans, and Keller Romans. Visitation will be from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Thursday, June 8, 2017 at West Oaks Funeral Home. Mrs. Romans passed away on Monday, June 5, 2017 at Sulphur Springs Health and Rehab. She was born on August 11, 1939 in Commerce, TX, the daughter of Robert and Bernice Roan Holder. She was a homemaker all her life and also worked as a bank teller for 15 years. She married

Willie Romans on January 18, 1958 in Commerce. He survives. In addition to her husband she is survived by sons, Wesley Romans and wife Julie of Paris, Richy Romans and Leanne Longshore of Commerce, daughter, Shanna Morris and husband Randy of Bullard, grandchildren, Justin Morris, Kortni Toon, Kaydi Ragsdale, Ty Romans, Matt Romans, Audra Romans, Tanner Romans, Claudia Romans, Wrylee Romans, great-grandchildren, Halle Toon, Brayden Romans, Hagen Ragsdale, Taylor Romans, Quinn Romans, Wyatt Morris, and Keller Romans. She was preceded in death by her parents. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children at 2222 Welborn Street, Dallas, Texas 75219. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com

Mary Frances Hicks

Graveside services for Mary Frances Hicks, age 76, of Dike will be conducted at 11:30 a.m., Friday, June 9, 2017 at Connor Cemetery. There will be no formal visitation. Mrs. Hicks passed away Tuesday, June 6, 2017 at her residence.



Ronda Clayton

Funeral service for Ronda Clayton, age 45, of Sulphur Springs, TX will be held at 2 P.M. on Thursday, June 8, 2017 at St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church, Sulphur Springs with Pastor Troy Young officiating. Interment will follow at St. Luke Cemetery. Ronda passed away on Saturday, May 27, 2017 at her residence in Sulphur Springs.

Sherry Laronda Evette Clayton was born on August 9, 1971 in Sulphur Springs, the daughter of Larry and Pamela (Johnson) Clayton. She was a member of St. Luke Church and was a C.N.A.

She is survived by her daughter, Shatobia Clayton; sisters, Tammy Clayton and Temeshia Harris; brother, Brandon Harris; three grandchildren; two nieces and one nephew.

Ronda was preceded in death by her parents and brothers, Larry and Arthur Clayton

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

Charles Wayne Hoffman

Graveside services for Charles Wayne Hoffman, Jr. will be held Friday, June 9, 2017 at 10:00 AM at Pickton Cemetery. Visitation is scheduled from 6:00 to 8:00 PM on Thursday, June 8, 2017 at Tapp Funeral Home

Mr. Hoffman passed away at his home in Pickton on Sunday, June 4, 2017.

Floyd Joslin

A Memorial Service for Floyd Joslin, age 83, of Sulphur Springs, has been set for 2:00PM on Saturday, June 10, 2017 at Tapp Funeral Home Chapel with Jerry Clements officiating. No visitation has been scheduled.

Floyd Joslin was born on June 3, 1934, the son of William Frank and Bertha Lee (Massey) Joslin in Tira. He was married to Mary Ellen Lunsford, who preceded him in death in 2014. Floyd was a retired dairy farmer and was of the Baptist faith.

Survivors include, 2 sons, Roger Joslin and Malcolm Joslin both of Sulphur Springs; 3 daughters, Debra McGary and husband Donny, Joan Booth of Sulphur Springs and Roxanne Ennis and husband David of Winnsboro; 13 grandchildren; 31 great grandchildren; 4 great, great grandchildren; sister, Eva McMahan; numerous nieces and nephews.

Mr. Joslin was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Mary Ellen; 11 brothers and sisters.



John Silvestri

Memorial Service for John Silvestri, age 77, of Emory were held at 2 P.M. on Wednesday, June 7, 2017 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Chapel in Sulphur Springs, Texas with Chaplain Pat Cooper officiating. Visitation was held on Tuesday, June 6, 2017 from 5 to 7 P.M. at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Chapel. John passed away on June 2, 2017 at his residence.

Arrangements were under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home



Rev. Roy Lee Dittmar

Rev. Roy Lee Dittmar, 79 of Greenville passed away at his home surrounded by his family.

Rev. Dittmar was born on February 23, 1938, in Seminole, OK, to Rev. Franklin Leroy (Roy) Dittmar and Grace Irene Streeter. He was the retired pastor of Mount Zion Church in Commerce with 30 years of service. He was also a retired Jailer at the Hunt County Detention with ten years of service. Over the course of 58 years in the ministry, Rev. Roy Lee served as a pastor or an associate pastor in eleven churches within Texas and Oklahoma.

On August 14, 1962, he married Velma Barber in Cherokee, OK.

Rev. Dittmar was preceded in death by his wife, Velma (Barber) Dittmar; his son, Randy Leroy Dittmar; his parents: Franklin Leroy and Grace Irene Dittmar; his sisters,: Juanita Pogue and Lorraine Gambrell.

Survivors include his sons: Rodney Dittmar and wife Renee of Dallas and Gordon Dittmar and wife Tania of Greenville; his daughter, Ralonda Dittmar of Brea, CA; his grandchildren: Randy Dittmar (Rachel) of San Antonio, Amanda Dittmar of Lynwood, WA, Ian Dittmar of Dallas, Rebekah Dittmar of Dallas, Jabin Cutshaw and Dominique Ashley both of Greenville; his great grandchildren: Shane Dittmar and Juliahna Dittmar both of San Antonio; his sister, Ada Mae Hill of Bakersfield, CA; and, many beloved in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins and many others who adopted Roy Lee as their Dad/Granddad.

The family has suggested that in lieu of usual remembrances, contributions can be made to Gideons International Association, Hunt County Baptist Association, the Red Cross and Little Kids Rock organization.

Visitation was held on Monday, June 5, 2017, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Jones-Walker & Son Funeral Home.

Funeral services were conducted on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Commerce with Bro. Rodney Williams officiating.

Interment followed at Mount Zion Cemetery

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