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VOL. 18 ISSUE 903, June 22, 2017

(In The Shade of The Courthouse)

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I experienced a "Mountain of Love" at the God Bless America Jamboree this weekend at Reilly Springs, Texas. Organizers and audience alike were blessed for the talent onstage was as good as a Branson show. Dion Pride is a vibrant young man, well known in country music as a kind of 'tribute artist' of Charlie Pride, performing his dad's golden country hits while introducing his own original music to the fans. Dion is a high-energy performer who keeps the audience clapping in rhythm as well as laughing to his on-stage antics with the band. He belted 'Chrystal Chandeliers" and 'Is Anybody Goin' to San Antone" in the original style, adding "Snakes Crawl at Night", "I'm So Afraid of Losing You Again" and many others. I know most of the audience knew the words because everybody sang to "Kiss and Angel Good Morning"! But possibly his best-loved song of the evening was "Kawliga", the ballad of the stone-faced drugstore Indian and the Indian maiden in her beads and braids. Dion's live performances of this song definitely call for audience participation, with lots of drum beat rhythm perfect for the simple joy of clapping and and swaying. Then he develops the story, holding the notes an unbelievably long time and adding lots of coyote yips in the chorus. It really took me back to when I first remembered hearing the song! Dion got up close and personal with us, as he was wired to roam the auditorium and sing to individuals. He made Charley Pride's songs spring to life again for many of us there. He added a few of his own original works which speak of love and good will and hope. This second-generation performer is obviously a happy man, content with who he is and proud of where he comes from, taking the expected to an unexpected level and delighting us time after time! He worked wonderfully with the Jamboree's Sunshine Band, even getting Roger Reed worked into a jammin' session with him!



Another very talented performer who brought his own share of the audience was Larry V. Davis of Cumby as Mark Twain. After a 50 year career, he continues to share the wisdom and wit of the America's favorite storyteller. Mr. Davis got his start as a student of Boles Home when he performed as a singer on Boles fundraising tours. Starting at age 26, he began to portray Mark Twain professionally across the nation while also working as a writer and journalist. Davis commented that at one time he wore a white wig when costuming for Twain, but he has now aged into a natural resemblance to photos of American humorist. You probably have favorite Mark Twain quotes but one of the perennial best is "Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it".



Opens for Dion's concert were Kadie Lynn of Kemp and Don Woods Jr. of Yantis. Don's management company actually brought a film crew from ION Network's "Crossroads" music program, and they recorded the entire Jamboree in addition to filming a panel discussion with Don about his recent appearances at Nashville's Fan Fest and CMA Universal stage. Now with merchandise lines and a new CD project in the studio, look for Don Woods Jr's higher profile in his bid for getting country music's nod of approval. Best of luck, Don!



There's a lot going on around us! Get out there and enjoy the flavor of America in our small towns and communities....you never know what you'll discover in your own backyard! Til next week, I will wave Old Glory and watch for you at the corral gate!

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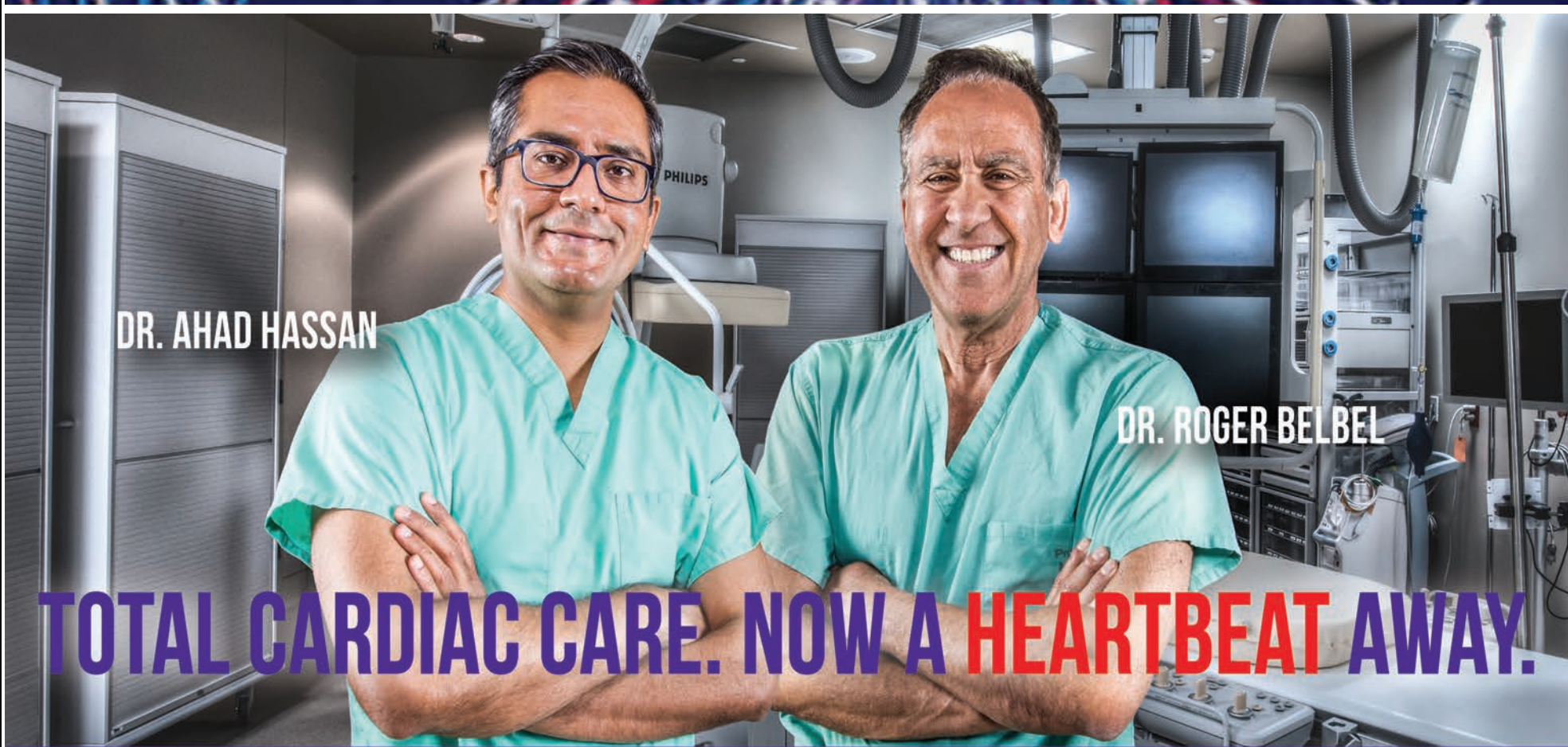
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# Obits

## Lee Wise

Mr. Lee Wise, age 46 of Quitman, passed away on Monday, June 19th, 2017. He was born on August 24th, 1970 in Grapevine, TX to Jerry Thomas Wise and Wanda Gail Norton Meyer. Mr. Wise worked as a MIT Specialist with Standard Aero, was a former member of the Mustang Club, founder of the the Winnsboro Cart Speedway, Salutatorian of Union Hill High School class of 1989, served in the U.S. Navy during Dessert Storm on the USS New Orleans, and was preceded in death by father, Jerry Thomas Wise.

He is survived by, mother, Gail Meyer and husband Thomas of Perryville; wife, Frances Stout of Quitman; sons, Tommy Gene Thompson of Sulphur Springs; Michael Joseph Stout of Quitman, Zachary Thomas Wise of Las Vegas; brother, Guy Thomas Wise and wife Heather of Quinlan; sister, Laura Gail Cosby of Plano; one grandchild, Vayne Issac Thompson; nieces and nephews, Amy Michelle Kennemer, Elizabeth Renne' Cozby, Britton Thomas Wise and Devin Skyler.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, June 22nd, 2017 from 9:00 am to 10:00 am at Beaty Funeral Home-Winnsboro 816 W. Broadway, Winnsboro, TX 75494. Funeral Services will be held on Thursday, June 22nd, 2017 at Beaty Funeral Home-Winnsboro 816 W. Broadway, Winnsboro, TX 75494 at 10:00 am, Rev. Ronny Spence conducting, interment will follow at Perryville Cemetery in Winnsboro, with Tommy Thompson, Michael Stout, Britton Wise, Guy Wise serving as pallbearers.



## Carol Ann Rawdon

Mrs. Carol Ann Rawdon, age 77 of Winnsboro, passed away on Tuesday, June 20th, 2017 in Winnsboro. She was born on August 4th, 1939 in Dallas to the late Walter Willard Murdock, Sr. and Kathryn Inez Murdock. She married Billy W. Rawdon Sr. on August 18, 1956 and her preceded her in death on July 11, 2007.

She is survived by son, Bill Rawdon, Jr. of Kemp; daughter, Cheryl Rawdon of Winnsboro; grandchildren, Brian Rawdon of Tyler and Megan Howard and husband Tarrell of Pittsburg and three great grandchildren, Trishelle, Jacorria and Tristian; Brother, Walter Willard Murdock Jr. of Cedar Hill and sister,, Mary Jo Bradley of Cedar Hill.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, June 22nd, 2017 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Beaty Funeral Home 816 W. Broadway Winnsboro, TX 75494. Graveside Service will be held on Friday, June 23rd, 2017 at Purley Cemetery at 11:00 am, Bro. Richard "Nub" Brown conducting.

## Sabrina Walker

Mrs. Sabrina Walker, age 50 of Alba, passed away on Sunday, June 18th, 2017. She was born on March 11th, 1967 in Long Island, NY to the late Peter Gleixner and Lisa Ida Reese McFarland. Mrs. Walker was a clerk with the Wood County Treasurers Office.

She was preceded in death by step-father, Guy McFarland; step-sister, Bonnie Morris and step-brother, Chuck McFarland.

She is survived by mother, Lisa Ida Reese McFarland of Winnsboro; daughter, Kandice Lee Hand of Winnsboro; son, William Jacob Walker of Quitman; brother, Mark Gleixner of Austin; nephew, Colton Gleixner of Austin, and one grandchild, Emma Grace Hand.

Memorial Services were held on Wednesday, June 21st, 2017 at Beaty Funeral Home-Winnsboro 816 W. Broadway Winnsboro, TX 75494 at 6:00 pm, Rev. Dan Hubbell conducting.



## Virginia Joyce Hall Porter

Funeral service for Virginia Joyce Hall Porter, age 71, of Sulphur Springs, were held at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 21, 2017 at Morning Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with Dr. H. B. Nash, Sr. officiating. Interment followed at East Caney Cemetery with Kevin Evans, Bryan Vaughn, Larry Evans, Rodney Hall, Kevin Rape, Kevin Rape, Jr., Bryan Evans, and Jacquathan Hall serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were Richard Hall, Fred Harris, Ravis Thomas, Donald Hall, Willie Porter, David R. Hunter and Anthony Johnson, Sr. There was no formal visitation. Virginia passed away on Friday, June 16, 2017 at Trinity Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler.

She was born on September 30, 1945 in Hopkins County TX, daughter of Arthur Hall and Mattie Mae Wilkerson. Virginia married Sam Porter, Jr. on April 13, 1962 in Hopkins County. He survives. She worked for Canon Craft as a lead person for over 25 years and was of the Baptist faith. Virginia enjoyed cooking and spending time with her children and grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by sons, Bobby Ray Porter and wife Renea, and Michael Dwayne Porter, daughters, Karmon Lynn Porter Fralin and husband Anthony Fralin, Sr., and Jana Kay Porter, all of Sulphur Springs, grandchildren, Anthony Fralin, Jr., Katia Fralin, Justin Porter, Draylon Porter, Jerry W. Wilkerson, Jr., Britnee Porter, Whitney Porter, Keistan Edwards, and Delisia Smith, brother, Bobby Joe Hall, sisters, Helen R. Wright, Margie Williams, Evelyn Rose Harris, and Patricia A. Vaughn, and a host of great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, daughter, Barbara Porter, grandson, Darius Trevon Porter, brothers, Billy, Fred, Lee, Richard, and Travis Hall, and sisters, Lena Faye Hall, and Annie Marie Hall Johnson.

Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.



## James Wylie Birchfield

Funeral service for James Wylie Birchfield, age 81, of Sulphur Springs, were held at 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Robert Burns and Rev. Tim Potts officiating. Interment followed at South Liberty Cemetery with John Powell, Glenn Roach, Jim Glenn, Jeff Wilson, Milton Ragan and Mac Garrett serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were be Blake Birchfield, Bryan Oyler, Jose Fernandez, P. M. Leslie and Cody Travis as well as life time friends, J.W. and Elaine Ragan. Visitation was held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Monday, June 19, 2017 at West Oaks Funeral Home.

James passed away on Saturday, June 17, 2017 at Christus Mother Frances Hospital in Sulphur Springs. He was born June 14, 1936 in Sulphur Springs, son of Marion and Agnes (Amox) Birchfield. James married Edna Green on July 31, 1956 in Sulphur Springs. She survives. James was a dairy farmer and retired as manager of Shirley Water Supply.

In addition to his wife, He is survived by his sons, Howard Birchfield and wife Teresa of Sulphur Springs, Donald Birchfield and Teri, of Ben Wheeler, grandchildren, Amanda Oyler and husband, Bryan, Blake Birchfield and wife Asheley of both of Sulphur Springs, Devrie Fernandez and husband, Jose of Van, Breiann Leslie and husband, P M of Sulphur Springs, Raylie Travis and husband Cody of Canton, great grandchildren, Kyler Fernandez, Ava Oyler, Kennadi Fernandez, Delaney Travis, Ali Oyler, Corley Travis, Brady Birchfield, Weston Leslie and Cash Travis.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Marion Birchfield and Agnes, sisters, Ruth Birchfield, Dorothy Kennedy and Patricia Garrett.

Arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.

## Find It In The Classifieds!

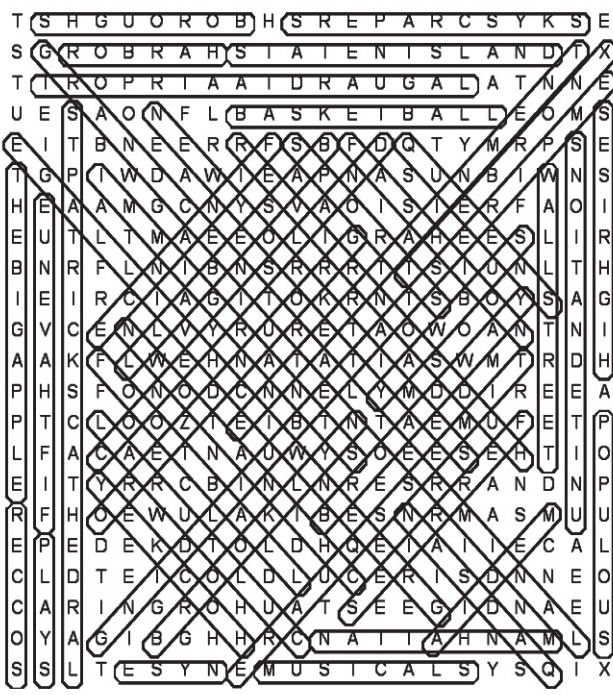
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## Answers to Word Search



## THE IDLE AMERICAN

# Uncle Mort and Goat Yoga...

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

Ostensibly, my 104-year-old Uncle Mort phoned to seek my opinion on a subject about which I know little--no, strike that--about which I know nothing. He was at an active wear store, trying to decide on the color of gear he should wear when he opens his 'goat yoga emporium,' down in the thicket.

"This fad is so new, I can make a 'killing' before too many others get in the game," he panted.

Thoughts swirled; I scarce could take them in. Immediately, I thought of the long ago rendition of Tom T. Hall, whose song

thrilled preschoolers know to teach. After all, he doubts if he should count on his goats to shoulder the whole load....  
\*\*\*\*

A few minutes later, I changed my tune. Mort explained how "goat yoga" classes are sweeping the nation mere months after the first one was offered in Oregon. "Goats have been handy to have around for mohair and milk for centuries," Mort claimed. "Who would have dreamed they'd be good at yoga, too?"

He figures they're going to be in high demand to help yoga enthusiasts reach relaxation states they never thought to be within reach.

I Googled "goat yoga," and sure enough, Mort was "right on." It is becoming a national rage. He figures if he's going to offer classes, he'd best "get crackin'" on what he needs to

fect for yoga classes. "The only sounds here are from nature, except the rare times when lost motorists sit down on their horns, hopeful of being rescued (after admission to wives that the country road chosen 30 minutes ago perhaps isn't a shortcut)."

"When trees fall out in the pasture, I'm sure they wonder if any noise is made if there's no one around to hear it," he often says, wearing out a question posed decades ago.

My uncle, besides learning the "ins-and-outs" of yoga, is determined to "look the part," as well as develop jargon to hasten acceptance by yoga devotees. Now, he's buying limited gear, since he's coaxing Maude to start weaving outfits from mohair for him and class members. "She's ready to go, hoping to add some 'mohair money' to her milk jar."...  
\*\*\*\*

Mort believes his rural setting will be per-

## BRENHAM'S ANT STREET INN

Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

The Ant Street Inn is a 15-room boutique hotel in a historic downtown building in Brenham. "It was built in 1899," says Suzy Hankins, who owns the hotel with her husband Keith. "It had retail stores downstairs and offices and warehouses upstairs. In 1990, the founder of the inn bought the building, renovated it and turned it into the Ant Street Inn."

Suzy and Keith refer to their property as a bed and breakfast. Guests have a complimentary breakfast in the downstairs restaurant. Free coffee and Bluebell ice cream are available upstairs. Many of the upstairs rooms have doors from the state capitol building, which were acquired during the capitol's updating in the 1980's. Among other amenities each room has a folding lawn chair that guests can take to outdoor events in the area.

"Every Saturday night in July a different band will come and play on the square," says Keith. "They close off a downtown street and some guests come specifically to hear the band that might be playing that night." Suzy says some people come for the weekend and don't know about the concerts. "There's just not that many steps to sit on around the courthouse. Also with all the parades and festivals that happen in this area, guests seem to really appreciate those chairs."

The hotel is in the Ant Street Historic District. The lore is that early workers in the factory-type jobs in this area came and left together like a bunch of ants. Actually the hotel is on Commerce Street. Two blocks over is Baylor Street, which was once Ant Street.

Keith had been in the medical insurance business for 20 years. He and Suzy had always wanted to have their own business and six years ago they decided on the Ant Street Inn. "I was working in St. Louis at the time," says Keith. "When we were shopping for a property I had two criteria: it had to be in Texas and it had to support both of us. We didn't want to enter into a situation where one of us had to get a job to support the bed and breakfast. We looked at hundreds of properties and the Ant Street Inn fulfilled those requirements. A 4, 5 or if you're lucky a 7-room bed and breakfast wasn't going to generate the kind of revenue we knew we would need."

The Inn has a 4,000 square foot ballroom that is used for all kinds of events. "It can seat up to 250 people comfortably," says Suzy. "We do wedding receptions, banquets, anniversary parties, pretty much anything the mind can imagine. We can also move the walls around to accommodate small business meetings."

Since Brenham is between Austin and Houston, it gets travelers from those cities as well as visitors from other countries. "They're traveling from big city to big city," says Suzy, "and they stop in Brenham because they want an authentic Texas experience."

"The phrase we have coined is elegant sanctuary," says Keith.

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# Bois d'Arc 4th of July Celebration is coming up soon!

*The Greatest Fireworks Show In  
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## CELEBRATE WITH US ON SATURDAY, JULY 1, 2017

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Eddie Moore Sports Complex/Centennial Park,  
festivities begin at 6 p.m.

**Bounce House For The Kids!**



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**Hamburgers and Hot Dogs At the Concession Stand!**



**COMMERCE CHAMBER of commerce**

This year, we are offering vendor spaces for the festivities! If you or someone you know would like to be a vendor, Contact 903-886-3950 to have a vendor form emailed to you or go by The Chamber of Commerce.

We are looking forward to our annual fireworks on July 1 and hope you will help support this great community event! You can find the sponsorship information and form here: Sponsorship Pamphlet/Sponsorship form Call or go by the Chamber of Commerce office!

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