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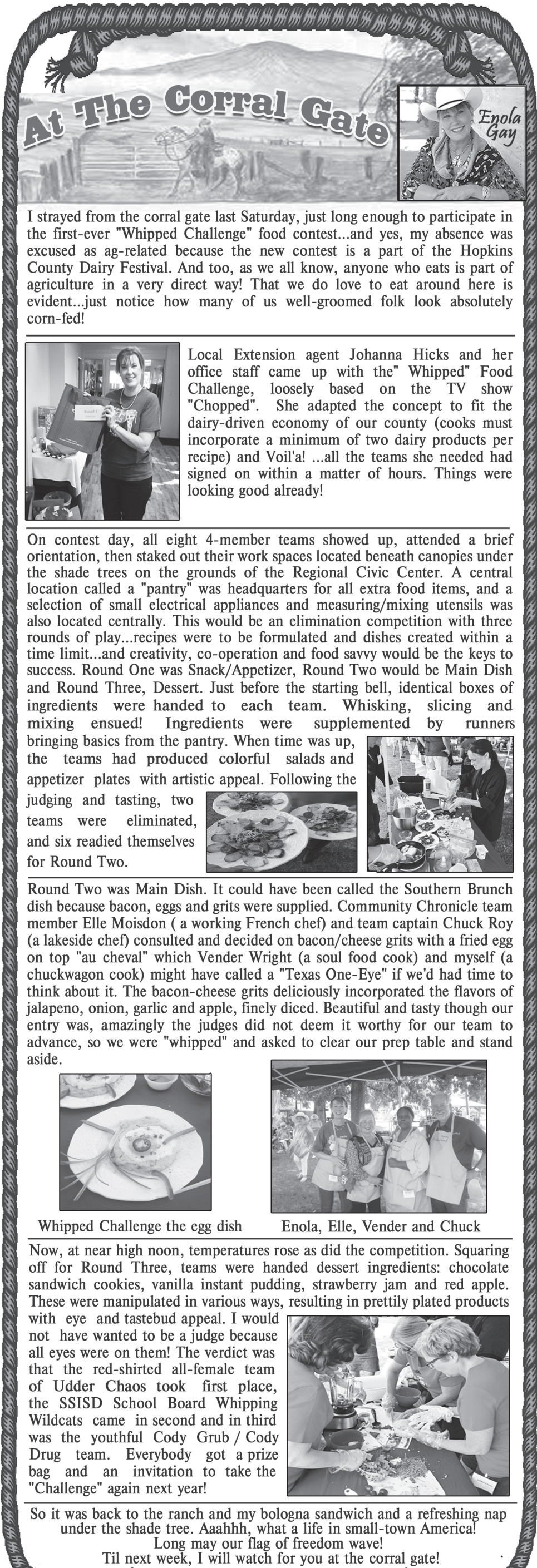
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At The Corral Gate





I strayed from the corral gate last Saturday, just long enough to participate in the first-ever "Whipped Challenge" food contest...and yes, my absence was excused as ag-related because the new contest is a part of the Hopkins County Dairy Festival. And too, as we all know, anyone who eats is part of agriculture in a very direct way! That we do love to eat around here is evident...just notice how many of us well-groomed folk look absolutely corn-fed!





Local Extension agent Johanna Hicks and her office staff came up with the "Whipped" Food Challenge, loosely based on the TV show "Chopped". She adapted the concept to fit the dairy-driven economy of our county (cooks must incorporate a minimum of two dairy products per recipe) and Voil'a! ...all the teams she needed had signed on within a matter of hours. Things were looking good already!

On contest day, all eight 4-member teams showed up, attended a brief orientation, then staked out their work spaces located beneath canopies under the shade trees on the grounds of the Regional Civic Center. A central location called a "pantry" was headquarters for all extra food items, and a selection of small electrical appliances and measuring/mixing utensils was also located centrally. This would be an elimination competition with three rounds of play...recipes were to be formulated and dishes created within a time limit...and creativity, co-operation and food savvy would be the keys to success. Round One was Snack/Appetizer, Round Two would be Main Dish and Round Three, Dessert. Just before the starting bell, identical boxes of ingredients were handed to each team. Whisking, slicing and mixing ensued! Ingredients were supplemented by runners bringing basics from the pantry. When time was up, the teams had produced colorful salads and appetizer plates with artistic appeal. Following the judging and tasting, two teams were eliminated, and six readied themselves for Round Two.

Round Two was Main Dish. It could have been called the Southern Brunch dish because bacon, eggs and grits were supplied. Community Chronicle team member Elle Moison (a working French chef) and team captain Chuck Roy (a lakeside chef) consulted and decided on bacon/cheese grits with a fried egg on top "au cheval" which Vender Wright (a soul food cook) and myself (a chuckwagon cook) might have called a "Texas One-Eye" if we'd had time to think about it. The bacon-cheese grits deliciously incorporated the flavors of jalapeno, onion, garlic and apple, finely diced. Beautiful and tasty though our entry was, amazingly the judges did not deem it worthy for our team to advance, so we were "whipped" and asked to clear our prep table and stand aside.

Whipped Challenge the egg dish Enola, Elle, Vender and Chuck

Now, at near high noon, temperatures rose as did the competition. Squaring off for Round Three, teams were handed dessert ingredients: chocolate sandwich cookies, vanilla instant pudding, strawberry jam and red apple. These were manipulated in various ways, resulting in prettily plated products with eye and tastebud appeal. I would not have wanted to be a judge because all eyes were on them! The verdict was that the red-shirted all-female team of Udder Chaos took first place, the SSISD School Board Whipping Wildcats came in second and in third was the youthful Cody Grub / Cody Drug team. Everybody got a prize bag and an invitation to take the "Challenge" again next year!



So it was back to the ranch and my bologna sandwich and a refreshing nap under the shade tree. Aaahhh, what a life in small-town America!
Long may our flag of freedom wave!
Til next week, I will watch for you at the corral gate!

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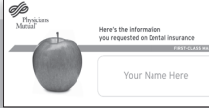
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Obits



Melvanda (James) Smith

Funeral services for Melvanda (James) Smith, age 79, of Sulphur Springs, were held at 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 19, 2018 at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Garry Jordan officiating and Cody Lee assisting. Interment followed at Shiloh Cemetery in Delta County with Steve Smith, Mason Smith, Andy Lowen, Cody Lee, Kenny Smith and Jason Davis serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were Willie Joe James, Mike Smith, Tracy Smith, Randy Smith, Rickey Joe James and David James. Visitation was held Monday, June 18, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at West Oaks Funeral Home. Melvanda passed away on Friday, June 15, 2018 at CHRISTUS Mother Frances Hospital in Sulphur Springs.

She was born on September, 5, 1938 in Delta County the daughter of Prentiss James and Bernice (Moore) James. She was raised by her aunt and uncle, Roy Lee and Juanita Moore after the death of her parents. She married Charles Smith on March 8, 1958 in Commerce, and he survives. Melvanda worked at City National Bank for 53 years, and was assistant Vice President.

She loved her banking job and also loved her crafting. Melvanda was a member of Calvary Baptist Church.

In addition to her husband Charles, she is survived by daughter, Yvonne Lowen and husband Andy of Sulphur Springs, son, Steve Smith and wife Sherri of Sulphur Springs, brother Willie Joe James of Cooper, sisters, Frances Louise Wilson of Centerville, Rosa Lee Gregory of Holliday, and Joyce Davis of Klondike, grandchildren, Cody Lee and wife Kelli of Sulphur Springs, Maci Smith of Austin, Mason Smith of Sulphur Springs, great-grandchildren, Uriah Lee, and Paisley Lee.

She was preceded in death by her parents and grandson, Wesley Ryan Peugh. Arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.



Billy Mack McCormick

Graveside service for Billy Mack McCormick, age 77, of Dike, will be held 3:00 P.M. Thursday, June 21, 2018 at Oaklawn Cemetery in Cooper, TX with Johnny Anderson officiating. Pallbearers will be Cliff McCormick, W.O. McCormick, Mikey McCormick, Hadenn Townsend, Kelton Jeter, Forrest Jeter, Jeff Kuykendall. Visitation was from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. Wednesday, June 20, 2018 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Mr. McCormick passed away Tuesday, June 12, 2018 at Trinity Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler.

Billy Mack McCormick was born September 16, 1940 in Greenville, TX, the son of W.O. McCormick and Mable (Wright) McCormick. He married Diane Truelove, in Dallas, TX on September 9, 1968; she survives. Mr. McCormick was a bulldozer operator at the Thermo Coal Mine and worked for D.L Lennon Construction.

Billy was known by all as a hard worker, who would go the distance to support his growing family. He enjoyed vacations to Beavers Bend in Oklahoma with his wife and children. The trip became an annual tradition and is the center of many memorable moments for his kids and grandkids.

Billy Mack is survived by his wife: Diane McCormick; daughter: Meredith Kuykendall and husband Jeff; sons: Cliff McCormick, W.O. McCormick, Shane McCormick, and Mikey McCormick; grandchildren: Kelton Jeter, Forrest Jeter, Hadenn Townsend, Allyiah Kelsi, and Alex McCormick. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother Clifford McCormick



Margaret King

Mrs. Margaret King, age 77 of Winnsboro, passed away on Monday, June 18th, 2018 in Winnsboro. She was born on November 6th, 1940 to the late Garner Hill Stokley and Clara Jones Stokley. She was a homemaker and loving mother to her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was a member of Cross Roads Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by parents, brothers, Donald Stokley, Manuel "Joe" Henry and son-in-law, Kirk Walker.

She is survived by her husband, Robert King of Winnsboro; daughter, Rhonda Walker of Sulphur Springs; sons, Mike King and his wife Kim of Winnsboro, Rodney Lewis King and his wife Carrie of Texarkana, brother, Kenneth Stokley of Winnsboro; seven grandchildren, Heather Bolt, Justin King, Lee King, Kyle King, Cort Walker, Chelsey Sabatino, Brett King; nine great grandchildren, Lexi, Nathan, Kyleigh, Aden, Kaiden, Asher, Addison, Carmine, Harmony and one great grandchild on the way.

Visitation was held on Wednesday, June 20th, 2018 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at Beaty Funeral Home-Winnsboro 816 W. Broadway Winnsboro, TX 75494. Funeral Services followed at 4:00 pm, Rev. Ken Goodson conducting. Interment was at Smyrna Cemetery in Winnsboro, with Lee King, Justin King, Kyle King, Cort Walker, Brett King and Chris King serving as pallbearers.



Rev. Charles James Rawlinson

Funeral services for Rev. Charles James Rawlinson, age 83, of Sulphur Bluff, Texas were held at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, June 19, 2018 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Chapel with Rev. Robert Burns and Tony Hurley officiating. Interment followed at Fairview Cemetery with Richard Wayne Rawlinson, Chad Brooks, Charlie Brooks, Chandler Brooks, Joshua Narvaez, Brendan Greer, Jeff Acker, and Mike Womack serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were Carter Wayne Rawlinson and Brock Ezra Brooks. Visitation was held from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. on Monday, June 18, 2018 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Rev. Rawlinson went to his heavenly home Friday, June 15, 2018 at his home surrounded by his family.

Rev. Charles James Rawlinson was born August 27, 1934 in Sulphur Bluff to William Tandy Rawlinson and Elzada (Reed) Rawlinson. In 1956, he married Shirley May Murray; she preceded him in death. He married Peggy Ann Whitten in 1975; she preceded him in death. He later married Judy Diane Cox Mitchell on January 1, 2012; she survives. Bro. Charles attended

Sulphur Bluff School until the age of 16 when he had to drop out so he could go to work to support his family because his father had fallen ill. He later completed his education and attended Criswell Bible College where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Ministry. He became a licensed minister on April 7, 1971 at Boles Memorial Baptist Church and was ordained as minister at Park Missionary Baptist Church on March 5, 1975. He served as pastor of four churches in his 50+ years of ministry. He was pastor of Park Springs Baptist Church in Dallas for 21 years, after which he never thought he'd preach again because of throat cancer surgery. However, God was not finished with him. He then ministered at Rockdale Baptist Church for four years, Independence Baptist Church for five years, Martin Springs Baptist Church for five years, and returned to Independence Baptist Church for an additional ten years until God called his servant home.

Bro. Charles is survived by: wife, Judy Rawlinson; sons, Charles Richard Rawlinson and wife, Treva, of Venus, TX, Jimmy Don Rawlinson of Sulphur Bluff, John William Rawlinson of Alvarado, TX; step-son, Richard Wayne Greer of Dike; daughter, Terry Lynn Rawlinson Brooks of Alvarado, TX; step-daughters, Corlis Barrigan and husband, Kurt, of Grand Prairie, TX, Jennifer Lee Delz and husband, Mark, of Spring, TX; twenty grandchildren; twelve great-grandchildren; sisters, Nancy Emerson of Paris, TX, Helen Starrett and husband, Doyle, of Sulphur Springs, Betty Alexander of Achille, OK; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by: his parents; grandson, John Eakins; two brothers; two sisters; and nephews, Tommy Starrett and Billy Emerson. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

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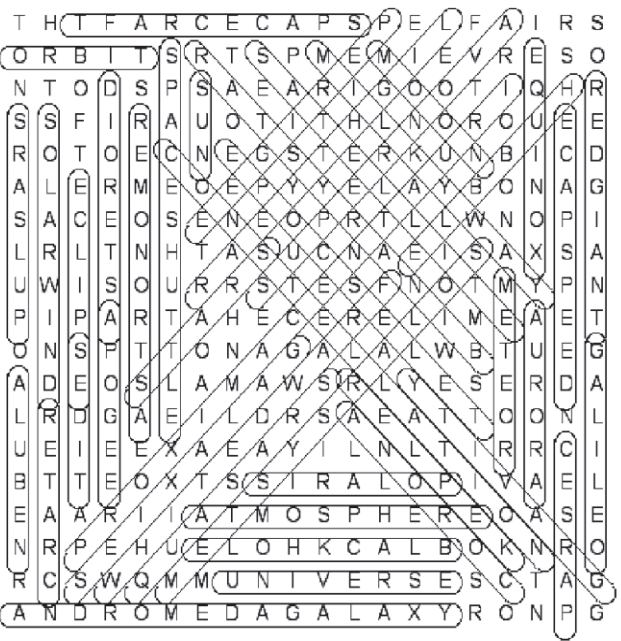
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THE IDLE AMERICAN

As the World Darkens....

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

When the word “culture” is heard these days, one does well to think of buttermilk, whether or not it “does a body good.”

Even though our understanding of buttermilk is exceedingly vague, it seems degree-worthy when compared to our comprehension of current world culture that is cratering all around us.

Throw life like a bloated paintball against the canvas--be it global or otherwise--and the resulting image seems void of discernment. Warm “fuzzies” are not to be gleaned from sky images. There’s no resemblance to childhood memories of spotting of

bunnies in the clouds. More likely, we imagine rough-edged question marks. Or, maybe lumbering vehicles--veering off course with wheels falling off--as dark clouds loom....

Values guiding civilizations for centuries are kicked to the side. The world hurries aimlessly, and what is hoped to be better turns out to be worse. Dorothy and her buddies found it easier to find Emerald City on Oz’s yellow brick road than do we who encounter dead ends and detours on life’s highway. Frustrations loom.

We are quick to expect perfection from others with little effort to improve ourselves.

Truth seems hard to find, and we are torn--if truth is pursued at all--between accounts in mass media and the fast tracks of social media. We’ve heard many references to “double-edged swords.” Cuts today are at least in triplicate....

To sharpen focus, I’ll choose one topic this day--the growing use of technology in officiating professional and collegiate sports. Oh, unquestionably it often can be counted on to “get it right,” but at a great cost.

We expect too much from officials. Coaches and players make multiple mistakes, but we cut no slack for the refs. They can’t win, and their striped shirts are “hung out to dry,” left

flapping in the wind. TV controls too much, and comments that challenge amount to whistling in the wind. Suffice it to say that games are too long, emotional juices flowing in surging teams are interrupted and outcomes of plays--and even games--too often are in doubt for minutes. Much is sacrificed at the altar of instant replay....

Two cases in point--Dez Bryant’s “non-catch” in a 2015 NFL divisional play-off game, and a less-noted traveling call at a recent Dallas Mavericks’ NBA game.

The game official “on the play” when Bryant landed on the Green Bay one-yard line signaled “catch.” The call was overturned. Now, the NFL’s competition committee has decided that it was, indeed, a catch.

At the Mavericks’ game, a referee whistled “traveling,” but the lead official called a huddle of the three arbiters. About a minute passed before the arena announcer blared something about it being a “no call, due to an inadvertent whistle.” ...

Huh? A few thousand of us in the arena saw the same play, and it appeared that the player was “guilty as charged” by the ref nearest the play.

No matter what the other two officials thought they saw on the replay--be they right or wrong--one thing for sure is that the other official did

NOT inadvertently blow the whistle. He meant to blow the blamed thing, as he should have.

Someone said “the trouble with times like these is that there have always been times like these.” I disagree. Times are worsening....

We could start first with ourselves to “get life right.” Preoccupation with too much else causes aimless scurrying on roads leading nowhere. The Bible warns us about such.

The world yawns, as if assuming that “political correctness” will magically make everything right. Mac Engel, Fort Worth Star-Telegram writer, wrote volumes with one sentence in a recent column: “Mistakes are not to be rectified but crucified over and over again.”

This is not the first time crucifixion has been the choice of the masses. Let the guy devoid of sin hurl the first rock....

Dr. Newbury is a former educator who speaks throughout Texas and the Southwest. Comments/inquiries to: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com. Twitter: @donnewbury; Facebook, don newbury.

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TELEVISIONING THE GAMES

Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

Kevin Lewis is technical director for home game television broadcasts of the Mavericks, Stars and Rangers. He is the person who puts the picture on the screen. Occasionally he operates the jumbotron during Cowboy games.

“I stay busy. Thank goodness Dallas is a good market year round for sports broadcasters. Like last year baseball season ended and the very next day I had a Mavericks pre-season game. Sometimes I’ll do 3 sports in one week.”

The 30-member team that handles the broadcast is strictly professional. It all happens from a semi-trailer loaded with equipment. I’ve had the privilege of watching a broadcast and in my mind it’s a lot more interesting than the game itself. Every split second counts and the competent broadcasters stay alert for anything unusual.

“All of us have to be concentrating and on the same page at the same time. It is an exercise in intense concentration. And it lasts 3 hours or longer. We have to be there 6 hours before the game starts to get everything set up.”

Kevin does television broadcasts of college games all over the country. His favorite sport to broadcast is baseball.

“It’ll go real slow and all of a sudden it’s complete chaos. We’ll cut to the ball out in left field then to a runner running around the base then cut back to the left fielder throwing the ball then cut to the guy sliding into home and it all happens in 3 seconds. It’s crazy. We have 21 cameras covering a baseball game.”

Kevin says the broadcast crewmembers are frustrated athletes and big sports fans. Most of them played some sport in high school. Kevin was a swimmer. He says there are about a hundred media trucks in the country and he’s worked in dozens of them.

“I’ve been to every single American League baseball stadium in the country, most of the national league ballparks, been to almost every professional basketball and hockey arena. I have a collection of media passes from all of those. One day I’ll do something with them. Basically I get to hang out with my friends and watch sports.”

Kevin, who happens to be my son, has earned an Emmy for live sports television production. He’s been at his job 20 years and there have been some big changes.

“Back in the tape days when we wanted to play something back we had to stop the recorder and rewind it to the part we wanted to playback. We would miss some of the action. Now we can play back while we’re recording. When we went from standard to high density that was another big change. Just ahead is 4K, which has a picture 4 times sharper than high definition. You can already buy a 4K TV but there’s not much broadcast content right now. But there will be.”

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