



2017-18 Winter Edition

# Cal Farley's Alumni Newsletter

"It's not who you are or where you've been, it's where you're going that counts." –Cal Farley

## ***Our Results Will Speak the Loudest!***

Sometimes it is hard to come up with the right words to express how I feel. This is one of those times because I'm torn. Torn over a burning desire to defend and to promote more loudly than ever the incredible work we are doing at Cal Farley's, while facing with an open mind reports of men from years passed who did not fare so well as boys at Boys Ranch.

This is difficult, because we care so much about the good, hard working people who built the foundation upon which we work today, a foundation necessary to fulfill our worthy Mission.

We are witness to the accomplishments of so many men and women who attribute their successes in life to experiences as children at Boys Ranch and their relationships with caring adults... many of whom are still around and very dear to us today.

This makes the chatter surrounding reports of abuses so tough to hear and so much harder to be objective about.

But, ignoring or being defensive about it serves no useful purpose... ultimately, our sense of control (and integrity) comes naturally through the manner in which we respond.

So we listen, we learn, and hopefully some healing comes out of this; on the part of the men who are airing their grievances, and on the part of Cal Farley's, past and present...

And, our results will speak the loudest!!

My ability to sleep at night comes through my faith and confidence in the work we are doing now. Knowing that we are doing our best at Boys Ranch today to provide a safe and secure place for children. That we have processes in place for our children and their families to air their grievances and fears, perceived or otherwise, and that we invite the discerning eyes of others to come into our midst and evaluate our realities against our perceptions... we can stand the questioning.

I couldn't be more proud of Boys Ranch and Boys Ranch Independent School District at this moment, largely because of those who direct, work in, and support these endeavors... keep on minding the store and doing what you do best.

I hope and pray during this New Year that you will continue to take pride in being a part of Cal Farley's, in our relationships with our boys and girls as well as with our peers; in our value added to this mission, our excellence, and our professionalism as we work through this tough time... it'll be okay.

Thank you all, Dan



<http://calfarley.org>

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All submissions and comments should be received NO LATER than March 31 to make it into the 2018 Spring edition of the Alumni Newsletter.

**Newsletter**  
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## **2018 Calendar**

Dallas Gathering  
Feb 17  
Memphis Gathering  
March 16-17  
BR Graduation  
May 26  
Texas/Oklahoma Gathering  
June 9

(See Alumni website for Gathering details)

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## Condolences



**Guy Hardy**  
Boys Ranch 76-80  
January 14, 2018  
Burnett, TX



**Stuart Gurley**  
Boys Ranch 77-78  
January 11, 2018  
Mesquite, TX



**Steve Phillips**  
Boys Ranch 58-60  
December 29, 2017  
Amarillo, TX



**Craig Cavanaugh**  
Boys Ranch 01-02  
December 14, 2017  
Amarillo, TX



**Cecil Wetzberger Jr**  
Boys Ranch 58-61  
December 14, 2017  
Brush, CO



**Devin Rodriguez**  
Boys Ranch 03-04  
November 22, 2017  
Denver, CO



**Joe Ben Shreve**  
Boys Ranch 57-64  
October 31, 2017  
Amarillo, TX



**Donald Corn**  
Boys Ranch 01-03  
April 28, 2017



**Jerry Swatosh**  
Boys Ranch 79-83  
September 13, 2005  
Wichita Falls, TX

## PRAYERS

Jerry Stapleton

Prayers for **Matt Wilkinson** (76)  
on the recent loss of his wife and  
daughter.

Sympathy is offered up for  
**Murray Junod** (93) on the recent  
passing of his wife.

Please help lift **Mona Williams**  
(BR staff) up on the loss of her son,  
Michael.

Prayers for **Guy Finstad**, who just  
lost his sister.

## Alumni Support Services

*Kim Reeves*  
806-322-2531  
kimreeves@calfarley.org

## Alumni Support Services

Kim Reeves

### Sam Tennyson

Sam Tennyson began working as a Youth Worker at Boys Ranch in August 2017. Sam supervises, mentors and cares for boys and girls of all ages on the campus. Prior to his employment at Boys Ranch, he was working as an automotive mechanic in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. The money was good but Sam said there was something missing from his life – happiness. He said there was a feeling that he should be doing something else, giving back in some way. “Giving back” because Sam too, grew up at Boys Ranch. “My family thought I was crazy for leaving a high paying job to go back to the campus and work with kids”. His response to their concerns was simply, “I want to go back to BR and work because I want to be happy in life. I want to help other kids who were in my situation. Plus, I just care about that place – it’s home.”



When Sam was placed at Boys Ranch, he was failing in school, relationships with family were strained, he was full of anger and a self-proclaimed “hell-raiser”. Sam didn’t think about the future or school or what his life might look like tomorrow. When Sam was placed at Boys Ranch, one of the biggest changes was having a daily routine. He said it was strange to be going to school every day but began to realize there was life after childhood and he better start preparing for it. “I wasn’t used to being around teachers who actually cared. I learned to work, go to school and began to think about college. The relationships he developed began to have an impact on him as well.



Trust was difficult for Sam but time after time, incident after incident, Sam’s houseparents supported him. He remembers, “Their support was unconditional and they always had my back.” Houseparents, teachers, coaches as well as other staff members provided guidance, safety and purpose for Sam. Now, as an employee he is providing that same support for current residents. “It’s tough to watch kids when they’re struggling. I know what they’ve been through and what they’re feeling. When I see that, I reach out to them and tell them I understand because I’ve been there. It’s amazing when you really care and show the kids respect, that you’re not just there for a paycheck, the difference it makes in that relationship.”

(continued, see **SAM**, page 4)

### Your Cal Farley family is here to help you in many ways.

**Alumni Support Services** is a department specifically dedicated to:

- Assist alumni with case management
- Educational scholarship needs
- Housing
- Independent living skills
- Referrals for counseling and other mental health services.

**The Alumni Association** is a fraternal support group offering the opportunity for fellowship and camaraderie. For information regarding upcoming events and other services provided by the Alumni Association, please refer to their website at [calfarleyboysranchalumni.org](http://calfarleyboysranchalumni.org)

Though separate entities, Alumni Support Services and the Alumni Association work closely together. Please remember, we’re here to help.



## Cal Farley's Boys Ranch Alumni Association

[www.calfarleysalumni.com](http://www.calfarleysalumni.com)

Cal Farley's Boys Ranch  
Alumni Association  
PO Box 9435  
Amarillo, TX 79105

facebook Cal Farley's Boys Ranch Alumni  
Bobby Sarpalius, Exec Director  
[cfbraa@gmail.com](mailto:cfbraa@gmail.com)  
817-739-6590

### Dallas Gathering

The Annual Dallas Gathering will be held again at the Haggard Party Barn in Plano on Saturday, February 17th. Specifics (to date) are:

Date: Saturday February 17th

Location: Haggard Party Barn: 5948 McKamy Trail, Plano, TX

Time: Start gathering around 6 p.m. Start serving around 6:30 p.m.

Food: Steaks prepared by Crazy Cowboys (alias Brad Powell)

Cost: \$25/couple; \$15/individual; \$10/child (12 & under)

Reservations: Necessary if you want to eat: [cfbraa@gmail.com](mailto:cfbraa@gmail.com); (817)739-6590

Blind auction (see items on website)

50-50 Gun Raffle drawing will be held at the event.

LIVE STREAMING on Facebook page!

**Spread the word and make your reservations.**

### ---It's A New Year

#### Bob's Bear



Bobby Sarpalius (67)



Lots of Cal Farley's press as we start the new year, and most of it about BR in the old days. Facebook has a lot of activity and that is certainly a good tool for communicating. I've had to do a lot of deleting as we have a couple of rules for our Facebook page:

- 1) Keep it relatively clean and 2) No personal attacks.
- I really appreciate people using Facebook to keep others informed.

Much has been said about experiences at BR from a few decades ago that were abusive and destructive. Mr. Adams, the CEO of Cal Farley's, has come out in the paper and on the news expressing his heartfelt sorrow for alumni who had those kinds of experiences. Cal Farley's has made it clear that it was those kinds of experiences that have driven many of the dramatic changes from the way it was in the *old days* to the way the Ranch is *today*. Everyone has an opinion on whether changes are bad or good. But the priority of safety for children has made it a very different place.

Furthermore, Cal Farley's remains home for a whole lot of us who didn't have any place else to call home. Cal Farley's sees ex-ranchers as part of the family. As such, Cal Farley's cares for ex-ranchers. Cal Farley's does not take the needs of present or former residents lightly and they can help in providing the positive help you may need. Through them, you will find a receptive, concerned and helping family to respond to your situation. Still providing that shirttail to hang on to. We are a blessed family.

### Last Chance for 50 FOR 50!

Last chance to get your 50 chances to win 50 guns and support the Alumni Association at the same time. If you haven't purchased your ticket yet, contact

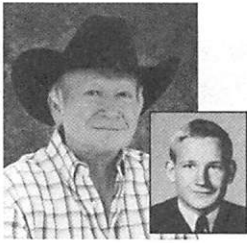
Tony Wade (806) 584-1029 or Bev Hall [sbhall94@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sbhall94@sbcglobal.net)

You may purchase tickets as long as they are available via credit card by contacting  
Bob Sarpalius (817) 739-6590.

**Drawing will be February 17<sup>th</sup> at the Dallas Gathering.**



## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Jimmie Boatwright (70)



We hope all Alumni and their families, wherever you are, and especially those in service to our Great country, had a Very Merry Christmas and are ready for a Great 2018!

First, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the service of an Alumni brother, Steve Phillips, who passed away December 29, 2017, he was 74. Steve and his loving wife Dot have made a great impact on the Alumni Association throughout the years, especially in the early formative years. Steve will be missed by all and especially by Dot and his family.

Dot and family are our Alumni family; we send them condolences and always welcome them to any functions.

I want to encourage all Alumni to remember to pay your Association dues. We do not send out bills, so we ALL have to put some effort into sending that \$20 a year, to support all of the good work the Alumni are doing. Now, it is even easier, you can get on the web site to pay dues! Click on the "Online Giving" tab at the top menu line. Be sure to check out the web site for news and events. You can also see some of the "good" those dues can do. If you think about all of the projects and good works done by those dues, that \$.05 (that is a nickel) a day goes a long way!

The Ranch of the past, has been taking a lot of negative press recently, the Ranch today is not the place it was in the past and many of the people have passed from this world and onto the next. Some of this negativity is only hurting the families left in this world and hurting the Ranch of today. I would like to offer anyone that has issues with the Ranch of the past to come for a visit; I will personally take you there. The whole world is not the same world it was in the past, we all learn from mistakes, we grow, we change, we progress on to a better world is the hope of all.

Wherever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your own Sunshine!

## Winstar for Scholarship Fundraiser

June 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> are the dates for three events to be held at the Winstar Conference Center and Casino.  
777 Casino Ave, Thackerville, OK 73459

- 1 – Scholarship Fund Raiser Golf Tournament – June 9 at the Winstar Championship golf course.
- 2 – Alumni Association Strategic Planning Retreat – June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 3 – Texas Oklahoma Gathering – June 9<sup>th</sup> evening.

More information will be available about these events on the website so keep checking it out.  
Mark the dates and make your plans. This is going to be a fantastic weekend.

**SAM** (continued from page 2)

When asked what advice he would give to parents placing their child at Boys Ranch, Sam offers this, "Have faith in the staff. There are so many good people here. Be patient with your child and let the staff do their jobs. The outcome will speak for itself." As for his own experience at Boys Ranch Sam says, "It was life changing. Without Boys Ranch I would have never finished high school and gone to college. And as for working day-to-day with children from similar circumstances Sam states, "I forfeited a little money to get back the joy in my life. I'm truly happy now." And that happiness continues to grow as Sam walks side-by-side with those younger versions of himself – guiding them, mentoring them and loving them. Thank you Sam for sharing your gifts of love and compassion with your brothers and sisters of Boys Ranch.

## CFBRAA Standing Committees

### Executive Committee

David Rodgers / davescorn@yahoo.com

### Development Committee

David Rattan / maxcackle@msn.com

### Finance Committee

Michael Rogers / gemrogers@embarqmail.com

### Membership Committee

Sherry Boatwright / rsher9@aol.com

### Scholarship Committee

Chuck Farrell / cnbfarrell@earthlink.net

### Crisis Support Committee

Dean Sharp / dean@deansharpconsulting.com

### Annual Reunion Committee

Tony Wade / shuronawade@yahoo.com

Cylinda Case / cylindacase@gmail.com

## Looking for BR Yearbooks!

They will be returned, unharmed and at no cost to you. I only wish to make a copy of them for my files.

If you have one (or all) of these books, please contact Cheree at [chereegilliam@calfarley.org](mailto:chereegilliam@calfarley.org) or 806/322-2645.

**1958, 1960, 1961 & 1962**

