

Entertainer Rides American Mustang On 1,000-Mile Journey To Honor Deceased Friend

Winston Hall and wife Donna, along with Durango Bobwire, a four-year old American Mustang, and Hart, their dog, spent the night in Hart last week on their way to Estes Park, Colorado, where they hope to arrive in late May.

The Pulse editor, Neoma Williams, caught up with Winston last Friday morning on TX194 on their way to Dimmitt.

The trip is to honor Winston's friend, Jonathan Avitia. Avitia died in March 2013 at age 31 following a battle with extragonadal germ cell tumor, a rare form of cancer. Avitia had told Hall that he wanted him to have his saddle and black hat after his death.

When Jonathan died, Hall got the saddle from Avitia's parents' home in Gatesville, Texas. He had promised Jonathan that he would ride from the family ranch in Gatesville, where Winston also grew up, to Wind River Ranch near Estes Park,

Colorado, where the two of them had spent summers wrangling at a Christian guest ranch.

Before his stay in Hart, Hall had made a stop in Floydada and Plainview, and spent a couple of days in Lockney when Durango developed a sore back. He and Durango make about 20 miles a day, then rest a day or two.

Durango Bobwire is the offspring of a mare caught wild in the Nevada desert. The four-year old was born in a Bureau of Land Management holding facility and has a neck brand to prove his origins. The woman who owns Durango Bobwire heard about Hall's journey for Jonathan and contacted him and told him she'd loan the horse for the journey, as he would be the "perfect horse" for such a trip.

Donna is always nearby in a support van, along with Hart. She blogs about their journey at journeyforjonathan.blogspot.com. The blog on Wednesday was

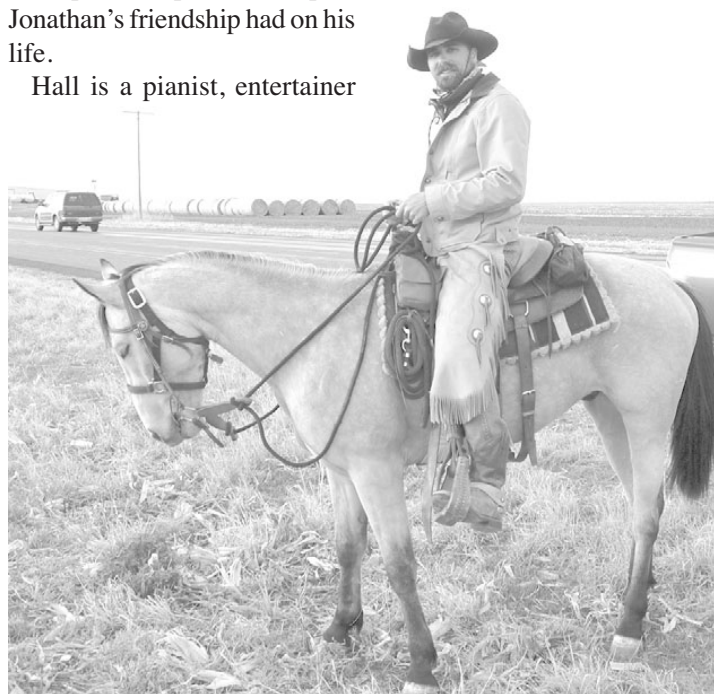
about their stay in Dimmitt and Hereford. They saw the Italian Prisoner of War Chapel before going to Hereford.

After the journey ends, Hall plans to write a memoir about the trip and the profound impact Jonathan's friendship had on his life.

Hall is a pianist, entertainer

and vocalist. He calls Shreveport, Louisiana, home, and has a website: winstonhallmusic.com

He's known for his raucous energy, soulful ballads, improvisation and eclectic musical



Winston Hall on Durango Bobwire.

style. Hall often teams with acclaimed bassist Chris Allen when performing. (www.chrisallenbass.com.) Hall's music is available for download on iTunes and cdbaby.com.

Hall's songwriting abilities have not gone unnoticed. In 2008, his Paul Simon-influenced "Syringa" was selected by Oasis Recordings as one of 21 songs to be included in its Acoustic Radio Sampler. Additionally, in 2012, the rowdy sing-along, "Goodbye NOLA," was named one of two finalists in the John Lennon Songwriting Contest presented by the New Orleans Jazz Contest. Hall co-wrote the song with Donna Chance.

Hall began his musical journey by starting piano lessons at the age of five. After graduating from Angelo State University in 2004 with a journalism degree, Hall eventually relocated to Nashville, Tennessee, to pursue a songwriting career. During his stint in Nashville, he continued to Page 10

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