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**VOL. 19 ISSUE 973, November 1, 2018**

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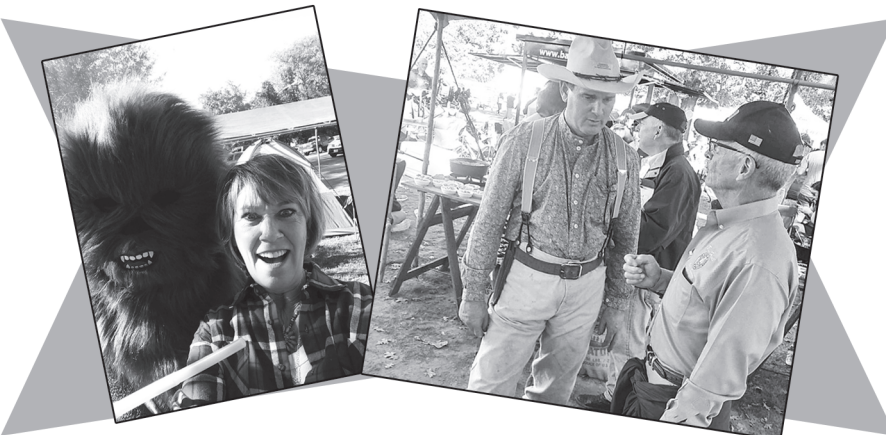
I haven't missed many trips to the Hopkins County Fall Festival and Stew Contest over my 30 years here. This time, I was only able to make a rather quick pass through the stew grounds and I had to skip entirely my most favorite part... the Household Arts Contest ...where all the jams n jellies and canned tomatoes, sewing projects and monster size pumpkins are displayed. But, even through abbreviated, my visit to "our county fair" was gratifying. There are still country people who like their neighbors and appreciate things that make sense and do some good.



We had over 170 pots of stew, another record year. 100 of those, or about 75%, were chicken stew. The one bowl I sampled was from a hearty pot of beef stew, stirred with a boat paddle. I think I saw fewer elaborately-decorated stew sites this year, but I didn't pause at every site. I mostly just waved at old friends and kept walking because I was in a hurry, though I couldn't help but stop to talk with a couple of new cooking teams. Both had strong family support in evidence. One had their grandmother in a rocking chair, overseeing the preparations. I like seeing that kind of family unity. Another was a young family who are new in business here. They jumped right in to this biggest event of the year, and were loving every minute of it. Another "newbie" to the Stew is the pastor of a local Baptist Church who recently moved to Sulphur Springs. He and his wife are embracing the culture of Hopkins County, and putting their Christian enthusiasm to work at their church. He's suggesting that we all pledge "30 Days of Giving" during November. From where I sit, I can see proof that there's a lot of good going on here!



Funny how the Stew brings our community together. There's something communal about a pot of stew and a campfire. It welcomes us in, and answers something primitive in us. We belong. As the kids run around and play, and the old folks sit and visit together, bonds are strengthened and new connections made. The Stew Contest is approaching 50 years of history. Of course, the tradition is much older, brought forward by our ancestors and placed into new, capable hands. May our traditions last another 50 years for our great-grandkids and their families to enjoy!



Before we meet again next week, we will have returned to "normal" time and been ushered into the season of giving thanks. Hey, why wait? Let's be thankful every day, for waking up, for sitting down to a meal, for our health and a measure of wealth. "Count your many blessings, see what God has done!" Til next week, I will watch for you at the corral gate.

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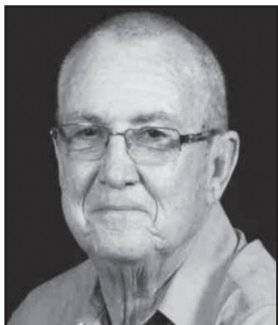
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# Obits



## Charles "Dwayne" Richard

A Celebration of Life for Charles "Dwayne" Richard, age 74 of Sulphur Springs, TX, was held at League Street Church of Christ on Saturday, October 27, 2018 at 1:30 pm. Dwayne passed away on Thursday, October 25th after a battle with Alzheimer's and cancer.

Charles "Dwayne" Richard was born on July 25, 1944 in Ada, OK to Charles James Richard and the former Era Mae Goodpasture. He graduated from Latta High School in 1962 and enlisted in the US Navy in 1966. He married Sandy Standridge on April 28, 1966 and after their marriage, Dwayne was stationed at Point Mugu Naval Air Station in CA where he served on the USS Hornet and sailed the world during the Vietnam War. While in the Navy, Dwayne also received training as a radar and tower air traffic controller. After his enlistment, he returned to Ada, OK to finish school at East Central College with a Bachelor's degree in Science. Dwayne was hired in 1973 by the FAA and moved to Great Falls, MT to start what would

become a 22-year career as an air traffic controller. He moved with the FAA to Salt Lake City, UT before settling down in Quartz Hill, CA in 1978. He retired as an area manager from the Palmdale ATC Center in 1995. In 1991, Dwayne also invested in a small reptile business which grew over the years. Snakes were surprisingly a big business and in his retirement he travelled all over the US to various snake shows. He loved to relax with his family in an overwater bungalow in Moorea, Tahiti and on yearly house boating trips to Lake Powell. Dwayne was a member at the League Street Church of Christ since his baptism in 2006.

He is survived by his wife Sandy Richard; son Jason Richard and his wife Molly and children, Lily, Burke and Daphne of Long Beach, CA; daughter Kristi and her husband Colonel David Henshaw and daughters Madilyn and Morgan of Arlington, VA; daughter Jessica and her husband Adam Bright and son Preston of Bayfield, CO; sister Martha Penisten and her husband Jerry of Moore, OK; sister-in-law Lesa Irick of Sanger, CA; brother-in-law Rick Standridge and his wife Charlene of Washington, UT; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorials can be made to the Alzheimers Association at [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org) and to the League Street Church of Christ Youth.

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



## Jack Counts

Memorial Service for Jack Counts, age 76, of Sulphur Springs, TX was held at 2:00 P.M. on Sunday, October 28, 2018 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Chapel with Jerry Savage officiating. Visitation took place one hour prior to the service. Jack passed away on Thursday, October 25, 2018 in Dallas.

Jack was born on March 25, 1942 in Stanford, TX to Clyde and Bobby Counts. He attended Midwestern University in Wichita Falls. Jack married Anita Sewell in 1991. He served 20 years in the Army National Guard. Jack retired from the Texas Highway Patrol in 1998 after 30 years of service. Jack was a member of League Street Church of Christ.

He is survived by his wife, Anita; daughters, Diane Verchio and Angela Carr and husband, Brad; grandchildren, Joey and Gracie Verchio, Braden, Trenton and London Carr; nephew, Tony Sewell and wife, Holly and their children, Lilly and Brock; brother-in-law, Troy Sewell, numerous other family and friends.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents; son, Leon Counts; brother, Bill Counts.

The family would like to request that memorials be made to the Hopkins County Veteran's Memorial at PO Box 533 Sulphur Springs, TX 75483.

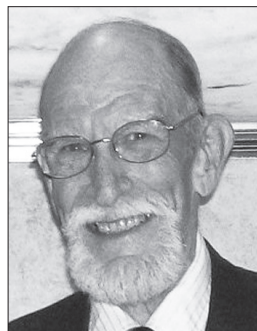
Arrangements were under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

## Priscilla Joy Clegg

Priscilla Joy Clegg, age 26 of McKinney, passed away on Sunday, October 28th, 2018 in Frisco. She was born on July 12th, 1992 in Mt. Pleasant to Brandon Clegg and Denise Wilkins. She was baptized at the age of 10 and loved animals and enjoyed working as a Kennel Tech.

She is survived by her mother, Denise Wilkins and husband Jesse of Sunset, Texas; father Brandon Clegg of Houston; sister, Elizabeth Clegg of McKinney; grandparents, Ralph and Guyla McFarlin of Pickton; grandmother, Betty Clegg of Sulphur Springs and two aunts, Devora and Deanna McFarlin both of Winnsboro.

A Memorial Service will be held on Friday, November 2nd, 2018 at Beaty Funeral Home-Winnsboro 816 W. Broadway Winnsboro, TX 75494 at 1:00 pm, Bro. Mike Tillery and Bro. Gregg Hansen conducting.



## Frank James Penny

Frank James Penny passed away after a battle with kidney disease and Alzheimer's on October 26, 2018 at the age of 84. He was born on June 12, 1934, in Sulphur Springs, TX, son of the late Leona Hyde Penny and Woody Penny. He attended Sulphur Springs High School before serving in the U.S. Navy. He married Lois Small on June 19, 1965 and resided in Irving, TX. They were married for 53 years. He worked as a helicopter mechanic for 30 years before retiring to Sulphur Springs and then eventually moving to Lubbock. His favorite pastimes were enjoying girls' high school basketball and travelling with his family. Those left to cherish his memory include his wife, Lois and daughter, Dawn Cepica, both of Lubbock; a sister, Barbara Bradley and husband, Don, of Holly Lake Ranch, TX; brother-in-law, Wade Small and wife Dianne of Emory, TX; close friend, John Clements of Lubbock and several nieces and nephews, cousins and friends.

The visitation was on Wednesday, October 31, 2018 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the Abbey Chapel at Restland Funeral Home. A funeral service followed at 12:00 PM in the Abbey Chapel. Graveside took place after the funeral in the Court of Holy Family in Restland Cemetery.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Restland Funeral Home and Cemetery, 13005 Greenville Avenue, at Restland Road, Dallas, Texas 75243.



## Brenda Rains

A private memorial service for Brenda Rains, age 68, of Sulphur Springs, will be held at a later date. Brenda passed away on Wednesday, October 24, 2018 at Christus Mother Frances, Sulphur Springs, TX.

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

THE IDLE AMERICAN

First Words at Last Rites....

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

If ordered to stop and think, opposition to the edict would emerge quickly. There'd be protests, fist-shaking, social media barrages and other assorted demonstrations, like lines drawn in sand.

"You can't make us stop and think," some would growl. Such angst might remind many of violinists playing while Rome burned to the ground.

The growing gulf between thinkers and non-thinkers must instead become an ocean of growing understanding on important topics which should draw us together. One such topic is patriotism. We have several calendar dates denoting patriotism, and one approaching on Sept. 11 is Patriot Day. That 9/11/2001 date--marked the beginning of Americans' keen awareness of terrorism. The clear call is for all Americans--military or otherwise--to be patriots when our freedom is at stake....

Such awareness should result from lessons learned during World War II. Sadly, too few details were shared by combatants--even with closest family--because many who fought on foreign soil simply couldn't speak of the atrocities that sometimes were just one rifle swing away. Authenticating their repeated

battles, however, were nightmarish screams in the night, when daytime clarity of mind kept memories hidden.

One such combatant was H. C. Pruett, whose National Guard outfit was mobilized for World War II. He, and thousands of others 18 or younger, was a member of the battle-tested 36th Infantry Division.

The heroic acts of this Brown County native they called "Skinny" earned him his country's Silver and Bronze Stars. For the remaining 35 years of his life, however, he simply didn't talk about the war. Nor did he ever own a firearm again--or roam the fields as a hunter--as he had done as a youth....

He was just 59 when death came his way. Thankfully, some of his fellow servicemen attended the funeral. They told Skinny's family about his repeated acts of bravery, often when the platoon he eventually led was greatly outnumbered.

One spoke of their confidence in Pruett. "Even though there was an officer present, and Skinny hadn't yet gotten sergeant stripes, we voted to stick with him, even as our landing craft neared battle-torn Italy. If he went, we'd go; if he got down, we would, too," he said. "We knew who'd get us through."

As they neared the beaches of Salerno in

September, 1943--nine months before the US invasion of Normandy--artillery fire filled the air. Pruett took charge when the landing craft operator lowered the landing gate 200 yards from shore. He knew many would drown if they left the craft so far from shore. Brandishing an Army pistol to emphasize his intent, he ordered the operator to "take us as close as you can, or I'll shoot." The guy complied....

Pruett and others endured much, including hunger, atrocities, failing weapons, hand-to-hand combat, loss of limbs and disease. And many paid the ultimate price.

This is but one account of military heroes. If our national moral fabric is to be restitched, we must honor sacrifices--then and now--recommitting to true patriotism. At the flutter of a flag, playing of the National Anthem or even the drawing of a breath, surely we should be grateful. All of these are "part and parcel" of the massive debt we owe to Skinny Pruett and his kind who kept freedom alive. Let us first be patriots--reasonable people committed to working out differences in a climate of civility.

I appreciate friends like Tommy Pruett, who was gracious to

share stories about his dad--accounts he'd never have known if comrades hadn't shared "war-time accounts" at the funeral of this blue-collar American hero. Skinny did what he could for as many as he could as long as he could, in both war and peace. He's the kind of man Tom Brokaw wrote about in his book, The Greatest Generation....

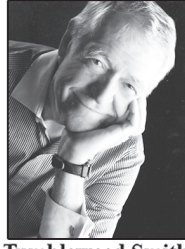
Dr. Newbury is a former educator who "commits speeches" round about. Comments/inquiries to: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com Twitter: @donnewbury. Facebook: don newbury.

TIME CHANGE Sunday Nov. 4th FALL BACK

Answers crossword puzzle grid with words filled in.

HALFTIME PLAY BY PLAY

Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

"The Bulldog Band moves from right to left on your radio dial. As it approaches midfield it goes through a series of alternating right and left maneuvers to the rear and that sets up the band for a turn. They're still in full step, marching five yards apart. Now the band goes into a series of diagonal moves, changing direction from left to right. Then a series of slip-throughs that puts the band back into company front."

That's the way halftime sounds if you're listening to a broadcast of a high school football game on KGAS radio in Carthage. While Jerry Hanszen is describing the action, listeners hear the band's music in the background, sometimes in the foreground.

"You know you've got the first quarter, the second quarter, then there's halftime," says Jerry. "There are a lot of moms and dads there at the stadium to see the ballgame, but there's also a lot of moms and dads there to see the halftime. So for those who listen on the radio, I provide the play by play of halftime. We talk about the countermarches, the flanks and the turns and the music they're playing and all of that, and I try to give a very accurate play by play. We have wireless mikes that we put down on the field and we do our best to pick up the quality of sound that the crowd is listening to."

Jerry, who owns the station, is certainly qualified to call halftime. "I started out as a high school band director, did that for a while, got out of high school band directing and decided I would sell band instruments. I went to Beaumont, Texas and worked for a music company traveling the southeast Texas area calling on schools. I had the chance to work with high school bands getting ready for marching or performance contests. These days a friend of mine and I now video and stream the entire marching contest for parents back home who can't get to the contests. It's a fun thing to do. I've enjoyed every bit of it."

Years ago Jerry used to go with the previous owner of the station to broadcast the games.

"The best seat in the house is in the press box. So I'd carry equipment to the press box, then help him set up for the broadcast. He did the game and I did the halftime. When he decided to sell the station I bought it because it seemed like it would be something I'd enjoy. I've enjoyed it about 30 years now."

The Carthage Football Bulldogs have won the state championship six times.

"I've had the opportunity to broadcast all those championship ballgames and it has been a pleasure to do so. I'm a Bulldogs fan. At games, an announcer calls the plays. I do the engineering and halftime." Displayed prominently in Jerry's office is a case with six championship rings.

"Players really get them, but every once in a while they'll let somebody not as special as the players have one for memory's sake."

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**2018 Sulphur Springs**

**Wildcats**



**WILDCAT SCHEDULE 7:30 p.m.**

|                                     |                               |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sept. 7-Lovejoy -Here               | Oct. 12-Ennis-There           |
| Sept. 14 -Terrell HomeComing - Here | Oct. 19-Corsicana-Here        |
| Sept. 21-Royse City - There         | Oct. 26-Greenville - There    |
| Sept. 28 -OPEN                      | <b>Nov. 2 - Kaufman -Here</b> |
| Oct. 5 -Forney-Here                 | Nov. 9-N. Forney - There      |



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