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**FLAG DAY**  
June 14!

See  
**Enola Gay**  
on Page 2!



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# Enola Gay Mathews Receives The Highest Award Given To A Woman From The State Of Texas

By Joy Wilson



One of my closest friends was honored this week as a Yellow Rose of Texas recipient. That sounded fabulous to me, and well deserved! And so I wondered what that meant, on behalf of Enola Gay Mathews, a local radio celebrity and someone known as a friend to all in our town and county. I googled it and here's what I found out.

Inside the Hopkins County Courthouse on Monday June 8, 2020, by Hopkins County Judge Robert Newsom and before a packed courtroom, Enola was presented with The Yellow Rose of Texas Award as well as a

Hopkins County proclamation. The Yellow Rose of Texas is actually a commission given by the Governor. According to my search, it is an honorary commission conferred by the Governor of Texas to Texas women for exceptional community service. It was inaugurated in 1957 by Governor Allan Shivers, to be given in honor of those who have demonstrated outstanding volunteer and community service. Since 2015, Governor Greg Abbot has conferred the honor to more than 400 Texas women, "under the laws of Texas with all rights, privileges and emoluments appertaining to said office". It is the State's highest honor for women. With all that said, I agree that my friend deserves it!

More than ten years ago, I asked Enola if she would write a regular weekly column for this publication. She accepted, and because of her love of Western music and lifestyle, she called it "At the Corral Gate". Through



the article, she has taken readers to the Bob Wills Day Festival in Turkey, Texas, to a rowdy Greenville, Texas, concert by Ray Benson and Asleep at the Wheel, and to the streets and points of interest in Cowtown, Fort Worth, Texas. And even before that, back in 2001, when she visited Washington DC and attended the Black Tie and Boots Ball of George W. Bush, she brought the sights and her to horse auctions and farmers markets and, once, to the home stables of world-famous Clydesdales. When she rides

in parades as a member of the Hopkins County Sheriff's Posse, she shares photos of the mounted posse. With her, we've toured the lovely and genteel Matador Hotel located near the mighty Matador Ranch, as well as the Supply House Store located on the 4 Sixes Ranch at Guthrie, Texas where "horses with a history" are raised. That quaint retail offers everyday items plus luxuries ranging from tailored goods to fresh fruit, and is a functioning old-fashioned general store! During Enola's years of association with the Academy of Western Artists, she

was a presenter as well as a recipient of honors and awards at that glitzy Ft. Worth showcase. When Winnsboro, Texas, started their first Cowboy Poetry Gathering in 2019, she was asked to marshal the impressive talent lineup of poets, storytellers and musicians.

In an ongoing role with the Ms. Hopkins County Senior Classic Pageant, a prestigious recognition and celebration of "the changing face of aging", she shares her creative skills with Karon Weatherman to shine a spotlight on the talented and deserving population of senior-age women in Hopkins County, Texas. And there's more! For a decade, her fundraising Crockpot Chili Contest each winter financed the summertime National Day of the American Cowboy and provided dutch oven cooking, live Western music and gun-fighter re-enactments for the entertainment of all who attended. Basically from 1990 til 2020, Enola's spirit of volunteerism

has placed her as a judge of parades, pageants and cooking contests and as a moderator of local political forums. In another forum, her fondness for live music, especially Western and country, allowed her to host fledgling musicians and established artists on her own stage, the Reilly Springs Jamboree since 1995. That's when she revived the once-popular local country stage show that had gone by the wayside. Today, she sings and performs along with her band *Running Creek* and invited guests on a monthly basis, and entertains in an oldies duo with Mike Shing as *Sentimental Journey* for parties and seasonal events. And these are just some of the things I can remember that Enola has stepped forward to do in our community.

I want to personally thank Judge Robert Newsom and Hopkins County Commissioners, Karon Weatherman, Enola's children and many friends who were present to share her joy, and to the merchants who donated flowers, coffee and donuts, and other services for the occasion. I'm happy to celebrate Enola Gay Mathews as a Yellow Rose of Texas because she represents the loving and caring women of our state who generously extend their unique talents and skills for the betterment of the communities where they live.



Top Row left, Clay Bounds, Bobbi Rowland, Enola Gay Mathews, Garland Hayes, Grandchildren, Twins Cypress and Bo Garst, and Brother Dakx.



Karon Weatherman with Enola Gay Mathews



Enola Gay Mathews in Dairy Festival Parade



Enola Gay Mathews with Judge Robert Newsom



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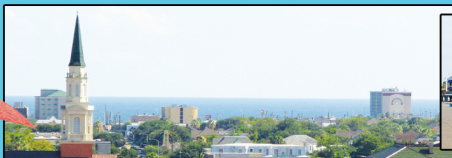
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# Galveston

## Historic Area of Galveston

Galveston is a coastal resort city and port off the southeast coast on Galveston Island and Pelican Island in the U.S. state of Texas. The community of 209.3 square miles, with a population of 47,743 in 2010, is the county seat of surrounding Galveston County and second-largest municipality in the county. It is also within the Houston–The Woodlands–Sugar Land metropolitan area at its southern end on the northwestern coast of the Gulf of Mexico.

Galveston, or Galvez' town, was named after the Spanish military and political leader in the 18th century: Bernardo de Gálvez y Madrid, Count of Gálvez (1746–1786), who was born in Macharaviaya, Málaga, in the Kingdom of Spain. Galveston's first European settlements on the Galveston Island were built around 1816 by French pirate Louis-Michel Aury to help the fledgling Republic of Mexico fight for independence from Spain, along with other colonies in the Western Hemisphere of the Americas in Central and South America in the 1810s and 1820s. The Port of Galveston was established in 1825 by the Congress of Mexico following its independence from Spain. The city was the main port for the fledgling Texas Navy during the Texas Revolution of 1836, and later served temporarily as the new national capital of the Republic of Texas.

During the 19th century, Galveston became a major U.S. commercial center and one of the largest ports in the United States. It was for a time, Texas' largest city, known as the "Queen City of the Gulf". It was devastated by the unexpected Galveston Hurricane of 1900, whose effects included massive flooding and a storm surge which nearly wiped out the town. The natural disaster on the exposed barrier island is still ranked today as the deadliest in United States history, with an estimated death toll of 6,000 to 12,000 people. The city subsequently reemerged during the Prohibition era of 1919–1933 as a leading tourist hub and a center of illegal gambling, nicknamed the Free State of Galveston until this era ended in the 1950s with subsequent other economic and social development.

Much of Galveston's economy is centered in the tourism, health care, shipping, and financial industries. The 84-acre University of Texas Medical Branch campus with an enrollment of more than 2,500 students is a major economic force of the city. Galveston is home to six historic districts containing one of the largest and historically significant collections of 19th-century buildings in the U.S., with over 60 structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places, maintained by the National Park Service in the United States Department of the Interior.

Indigenous inhabitants of Galveston Island called the island Aúia. Though there is no certainty regarding their route and their landings, Cabeza de Vaca and his crew were shipwrecked at a place he called "Isla de Malhado" in November 1528. This could have referred to Galveston Island or San Luis Island. During his charting of the Gulf Coast in 1785, the Spanish explorer José de Evia labeled the water features surrounding the island "Bd. de Galvestown" and "Bahia de Galvestown". He was working under the orders of Bernardo de Gálvez. In his early chart, he calls the western end of the island "Isla de San Luis" and the eastern end, "Pt. de Culebras." Evia did not label the island itself on his map of 1799. Just five years later Alexander von Humboldt borrows the place names Isla de San Luis, Pte. De Culebras, and Bahia de Galveston. Stephen F. Austin followed his predecessors in the use of "San Luis Island," but introduced "Galveston" to refer to the little village at the east end of the island.

The island's first permanent European settlements were constructed around 1816 by the pirate Louis-Michel Aury to support Mexico's rebellion against Spain. In 1825 the Congress of Mexico established the Port of Galveston and in 1830 erected a customs house. Galveston served as the capital of the Republic of Texas when in 1836 the interim president David G. Burnet relocated his government there. In 1839, the City of Galveston adopted a charter and was incorporated by the Congress of the Republic of Texas. The city was by then a burgeoning port of entry and attracted many new residents in the 1840s and later among the flood of German immigrants to Texas, including Jewish merchants. Together with ethnic Mexican residents, these groups tended to oppose slavery, support the Union during the Civil War, and join the Republican Party after the war.

The city of Galveston is situated on Galveston Island, a barrier island off the Texas Gulf coast near the mainland coast. Made up of mostly sand-sized particles and smaller amounts of finer mud sediments and larger gravel-sized sediments, the island is unstable, affected by water and weather, and can shift its boundaries through erosion.

The city is about 45 miles southeast of downtown Houston. The island is oriented generally northeast-southwest, with the Gulf of Mexico on the east and south, West Bay on the west, and Galveston Bay on the north. The island's main access point from the mainland is the Interstate Highway 45 causeway that crosses West Bay on the island's northeast side. A deepwater channel connects Galveston's harbor with the Gulf and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. According to the United States Census Bureau, the city has an area of 209.3 square miles, of which 41.2 square miles are land and 168.1 square miles, or 80.31%, are water. The island is 50 miles southeast of Houston. The western portion of Galveston is referred to as the "West End". Communities in eastern Galveston include Lake Madeline, Offats Bayou, Central City, Fort Crockett, Bayou Shore, Lasker Park, Carver Park, Kempner Park, Old City/Central Business District, San Jacinto, East End, and Lindale.

Since the early 20th century, Galveston has been popularly known as the 'Oleander City' because of a long history of cultivating Nerium oleander, a subtropical evergreen shrub which thrives on the island. Oleanders are a defining feature of the city; when flowering (between April and October) they add masses of color to local gardens, parks, and streets. Thousands were planted in the recovery following the Hurricane of 1900 and Galvestonians continue to treasure the plant for its low water needs, tolerance of heat, salt spray and sandy soils. This makes them especially resistant to the after-effects of hurricanes and tropical storms. Galveston is reputed to have the most diverse range of Oleander cultivars in the world, numbering over 100, with many varieties developed in the city and named after prominent Galvestonians.

The Galveston County Daily News, founded in 1842, is the city's primary newspaper and the oldest continuously printed newspaper in Texas. It currently serves as the newspaper of record for the city and the Texas City Post serves as the newspaper of record for the County. Radio station KGBC, on air from 1947 to 2010, has previously served as a local media outlet. Television station KHOU signed on the air as KGUL-TV on March 23, 1953. Originally licensed in Galveston, KGUL was the second television station to launch in the Houston area after KPRC-TV. One of the original investors in the station was actor James Stewart, along with a small group of other Galveston investors. In June 1959, KGUL changed its call sign to KHOU and moved their main office to Houston. The local hip hop name for Galveston is "G-town."



# Obits



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### ***Sandra Joan Stewart Parker***

Graveside services for Sandra Joan Stewart Parker, age 84, of Sulphur Springs, were held at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at Ridgeway Cemetery with Rev. Steve Cook officiating.

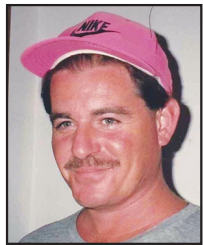
Pallbearers were Seth Stout, Tyler Stout, Spencer Thurman, Blake Stewart, Adam Stewart, and Mike Parker. Honorary pallbearers were Keith Stewart, Tony Stewart, Spencer Hinkle, David Robinson, and the Wesleyean Sunday School Class.

Visitation was held from 12:00 noon to 5 p.m., Monday, June 1, 2020 at West Oaks Funeral Home. Sandra passed away on Saturday, May 30, 2020 at her residence.

She was born on March 29, 1936 in Oakland, TX, the daughter of Willis and Susie Edith Casey Stewart. Sandra and her husband owned and operated City RV Center. She was a member of Wesley Methodist Church.

She is survived by daughters, Tina Stout and husband Robert of Sulphur Springs, Didi Thurman and husband Logan of Sulphur Springs, brothers, Rick Stewart and wife Rebecca of Holly Lake, Ronnie Stewart and wife Betty of Mesa, AZ, and grandchildren, Seth Stout and fiancée Megan McCoy of Sulphur Springs, Tyler Stout of Sulphur Springs, Spencer Thurman of Sulphur Springs, Allie Thurman of Sulphur Springs, Mattie Thurman of Sulphur Springs.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James Oliver Parker, her parents, brother, Dwight Stewart, and father and mother in laws, Freeman and Carrie Parker. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Wesley United Methodist Church, 614 Texas St., Sulphur Springs, TX 75482. Arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. [www.westoaksfuneralhome.com](http://www.westoaksfuneralhome.com)



### ***Thomas Mark Ramey***

Thomas Mark Ramey, 63, of Sulphur Springs, Texas passed away June 1, 2020. He was born September 28, 1956 to Peggy Jo Myre Ramey and the late William Carl Ramey. Mark was born in Houston and raised in Sulphur Springs. He graduated from Sulphur Springs High School, attended East Texas State University in Commerce and received his degree in dentistry from the University of Texas Dental School in Houston. Thomas opened his dental practice in Dallas and served his patients for 15 years. In school, Mark was an exceptional athlete, and his love for sports carried on through his sons. Mark never missed a game that Jordan or Jared played in.

He is loved and will be missed by his mother Peggy of Sulphur Springs; sons Jordan Ramey of Leander, Texas and Jared Ramey and wife Chelsea of Sulphur Springs; grandchildren Kyler and Kam Ramey of Sulphur Springs

Visitation was held Saturday, June 6th from 10:00am-12:00pm at First Baptist Church Sulphur Springs in the chapel. There will be a private family memorial service in lieu of a public funeral.

### ***Rex Hargrave***

Rex Hargrave, 80, went to his eternal rest on June 3, 2020 at Meadow Lake Senior Living in Tyler, Texas.

He was born in Sulphur Springs, Texas on February 10, 1940 to Johnnie B. and Fay Watkins Hargrave. He married Elisabeth Janhsen in 1972. Their lives have been blessed by two caring daughters and four precious grandchildren. Rex worked with the V.F. Corporation for 38 years. Before his retirement in 1999 he served as plant manager for the H.D. Lee Company in Sulphur Springs and Lebanon, Missouri. After his retirement he enjoyed golfing with friends. Rex was a lifelong member of the Methodist church.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Beth. Also surviving are his daughters: Melissa Day and her husband, Chris; Kelley Garles and her husband Andy. His grandchildren, Rex Day, Gracie Day, Madeline Garles, and Jaxon Garles were especially dear to him.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

A private family burial service will be held. Memorials may be made to the Tira Cemetery Association. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home of Sulphur Springs, Texas.

### ***Diane Gladys Courson***

Diane Gladys Courson went Home to be with the Lord on Thursday May 28th ,2020. It was sudden and unexpected, but the Lord said it was time. Mom was a loving mother and 'gamma' to her two daughters, five grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. She made friends easily and made many through her years of employment in Sulphur Springs with Sand Point and Ocean Spray. Those were people and times she remembered fondly.

Diane was born in Seattle Washington, on November 30th ,1941, to Carl and Polly Norman. She married J.L. 'Jack' Courson in San Diego California, while he was stationed there as a Marine, on August 20th ,1963. After his time had been served in the military, they moved back to Como Tx, where Jack was from, and raised their two daughters there. Those left behind to cherish her memories are her brothers, Jim Norman and wife Tammy, David Norman, her sisters, Jill Norman, Colleen Koch, daughters, Donna Berry and husband Ronnie, Jamie Carpenter, granddaughters, Randall Smith and husband Jared, Kasi St John and husband Justin and their children Benton and Clayton, grandsons, Beau Carpenter, Eric Urda and his children Presley and Lexton, Miranda Hume and her husband Kobi and their son Joseph. Diane is also survived by many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband Jack, her parents and her two brothers, John and Bob Norman.

There will be a small private memorial to be held in Blue Ridge Tx at the end of this month.



# Behold, the Onion...

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury



Late Othal Brand, 20-year Mayor in McAllen, TX

Describing the onion as a "lowly vegetable" didn't set well with the late Othal Brand, for 20 years the McAllen, TX, mayor who cleared many hurdles during his 90-year earthly pilgrimage.

His beloved Rio Grande Valley is now a world center for vegetables in general and for onions in particular.

Ever restless and ever persuasive, Brand often lacked patience, his shirt sleeves already rolled halfway up to take on whoever or whatever stood in the way.

\*\*\*\*\*

Lesser figures might have "let onions be," but Brand always believed these veggies--pointed to regularly as reasons for bad breath and weeping--could be larger, sweeter and longer lasting if scientific minds were challenged.

He made frequent visits to Texas A&M University, where he provided cash for se-

rious research. Even though he prodded, it took a decade for the development of an onion whose sweetness trumped "bad breath" issues, and longstanding weeping at the chopping block morphed to tears of joy.

Industry leaders say that Brand's efforts unquestionably led to introduction of the Texas Super Sweet 1015 Onion. That's a mouthful, with the numbers indicative of the preferable date for planting, October 15.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dying at age 90 almost a decade ago, Brand might have had a "say" about use of onions at today's fast food places. Never turning down a challenge, Brand left his mark on "things good" in the Rio Grande Valley and throughout Texas. (Ever optimistic, he made a final "run" to become McAllen's mayor again at age 85, losing in a close race.)

I intend to get personal about most hamburgers made today. They are, as my friend David Gumfory maintains, "typically assembly line productions."

When Burger King introduced its promise to "make it your way" in 1974, I hoped it would restore a "yesterday tradition." It didn't.

\*\*\*\*\*

My wife wouldn't think of eating onions on a burger if she planned to be in the company of others within the next 72 hours. I feel generally the same way, but for 72 minutes.

We've compromised--a recommended recourse for marriages reaching 54 years and more.

Her approval is granted if I order GRILLED ONIONS on my burger; sometimes she even "dittoes" the order.

\*\*\*\*\*

So what's my beef? No matter which drive-through I'm in, there's no evidence of onions--in any form--inside my burger.

David, 40-year veteran owner of fast food places, recommends hamburger consumption during daytime hours for best results. "Yell into the speaker, hoping the manager is standing nearby and overhears."

Back in the day, he emphasized to his employees: "Our answer is 'yes.' Now, what was the question?"

\*\*\*\*\*

Not until our later elementary years did Dairy Queen come along. They were initially "walk-ins," with orders placed "eyeball to eyeball." With voice, facial expressions and sometimes friendly threats, we typically got EXACTLY what we ordered.

## Classified Ads cont.

### Miscellaneous

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a Sulphur Springs Respite Care Program for seniors with memory loss.

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**The cost is \$20 each Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and that includes lunch!**

"Terrific Tuesdays" meets at The First United Methodist Church Family Life Center at 301 Church Street, Sulphur Springs.

Contact Joyce McDonald at 903-243-5620 for more information.

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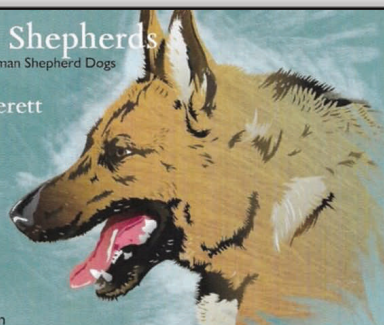
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