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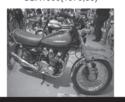
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LOOKING FOR ALLIGTOR EGGS

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The blades of the helicopter started with a soft whirr, then became a whomp whomp which dissolved into the usual helicopter clatter as the aircraft headed skyward. The pilot is Dusty Holt of Holt Helicopters in Uvalde. He is taking two of us over marshes near the Anahuac National Wildlife Preserve. The person with me is Herbert Oreschnigg who is diligently looking for alligator nests.

He and Dusty have been doing this for eleven years. Dusty's dad did it before he joined the company after college. Herbert

hires the Holt company a week at a time to hunt for the nests in late summer. They are hard to spot. They look like a hunk of hay that has washed up near a small lagoon. "They look a lot like muskrat nests," says Herbert. As we fly low over the marshes, I hear Dusty or Herbert say, "muskrat" when they see a clump of hay.

Herbert's partner in the enterprise is Clay Dean. "We got the bright idea of doing this about 25 years ago. We started stumbling thru the marsh together and figuring out how to collect alligator eggs. We locate the nests first. Doing it from the air is best. Alligators don't like to build nests where you can find them easily, so they're located in river bottoms, canal banks, marshes all areas that are difficult to get to."

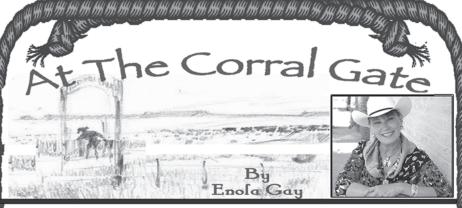
After they spot a nest they'll mark it on a GPS graph which allows then to come back to it later. "We'll have the co-ordinates laid out on a map, which we print, to guide us, then we'll go back on the ground to get to the nests. Sometimes we'll drop a marker from the helicopter when conditions are favorable to do that. We get to the nests the bet way we can, using airboats, ATV's, whatever it takes to get to them."

Herbert says they often carry a basket of hay to the nests. "Sometimes there's not much vegetation and the alligators make nests out of mud and sticks so there's a lot of fire ants. We take the eggs from the nest and put them in the fresh hay. The average number of eggs in a nest is around 30, but I've found as few as 5 and as many as 60. They're about the size of a grade A chicken egg. The baby alligators are wrapped around the membrane inside the eggshell and they just unwind once they're out. They're about 8 inches long when they hatch."

Once the eggs are collected they are placed in an incubator to hatch. The young gators are then dispatched to farmers who raise them for their hides and meat. Most of those farms are in Louisiana. Herbert and Clay know of only two other alligator egg collectors in Texas. It is a limited fraternity.

Alligator moms don't like the idea of their eggs being taken. They are very protective. "Sometimes we run," says Herbert. "Sometimes we have to keep her away with a pole or rope her and tie her to a tree or ATV, just anything to keep her off of us." Herbert has been bitten twice. Clay says the most dangerous part is the equipment, having problems with the helicopter or airboat. "It gets a little hairy sometimes."

Tumbleweed Smith travels Texas and finds fascinating, fun folks. Contact him at ts@tumbleweedsmith.com



If you do not have a 4th-quarter calendar that's big enough to write all your social appointments on, you'd better get one soon. And tape a September calendar onto it. We are already off and running into a major-ly busy time of year as 2015 comes of age. Here's just a few dates I'd like to share with you.

September 11, Patriot Day. Do you recall where you were on September 11, 2001? You are not alone in remembering the catastrophic 9-11 terrorist attack on the United States. Embedded in the memory of everyone who watched the news coverages is the heroism of the first responders. Over 400 of these brave men and women lost their own lives in rescuing victims, fighting fires, assisting wounded and upholding order amid chaos. Not to be forgotten are citizens who also rose to serve that day. This year, Friday, September 11, is Patriot Day, an official day of remembrance. Plan to take part in honoring those who serve...local first responders, fire, law enforcement, and emergency medical personnel. We thank them for their ongoing dedicated service here at home. They are "our" American heroes!

Local Patriot Day events include: A Pancake Breakfast between 8:30 and 10:30am on September 11, at Sulphur Springs Health and Rehab, 411 Airport Rd, to celebrate and appreciate the work of all of our community's first responders.





Lone Star Heritage Quilt Guild Show Sept.18, 19. Sharon Feldt may have arrived in NE Texas only lately, but she wasted no time in getting involved in worthy causes that are also lots of fun. Sharon is the Special Exhibits Chair for the 2015 Lone Star Heritage Quilt Guild Show. She's getting the word out that over 150 vintage and heirloom quilts will be displayed in the 2-day show in Sulphur Springs at the First Baptist Church "The R.O.C." center at 115 Putman Street near downtown. This year's theme is "Texas, Deep in the Heart". The

Quilt Show will be open on Friday, September 18, from 9am til 5pm, and on Saturday, September 19, from 9am til 3pm. Admission is \$5 person, with children under 12 admitted free with paid adult. You can also see which quilts took top prizes this year, and view the Special Exhibit vintage sewing machines. There will also be door prizes and vendor booths open to visitors. The Lone Star Heritage Quilt Guild is a long-standing local organization dedicated to the heritage and future of quilting. To find out more, go to sulphurspringstxquilts.com



Fundraiser Rodeo for St. James Catholic Church. Local businessman Oscar Aguilar keeps a lot of irons in the fire, and his love of rodeo is one of them! A Mexican Rodeo event will be held this weekend in Sulphur Springs as a fundraiser for St. James Catholic Church. While not a full-scale Mexican-style rodeo with all the athletic events, this will be a start for Sulphur Springs entertainment and a launching pad for future shows. Plan to take a seat in the Hopkins County Civic Center arena enjoy the music and the Folkloric dances, horse-dancing demonstrations and trick roping displays. There will be authentic



Oscar Aguilar announces

Mexican foods like tacos and tortas with brisket cooked on site, and handmade snow cones and frozen fruit treats that all ages will like. American-style bull riding starts at 3pm featuring local Mexican riders. The Mexican-style steer-tripping event (like bulldogging using the tail, not the horns) begins at 6pm. Food and entertainment will go on into the evening. Admission at the gate is \$10 person age 13 and up, and free for anyone age 12 and under. Food costs are \$5 per plate and individual items at \$1 each. For details, contact Oscar Aguilar at 903-243-0446 or contact the Civic Center at 903-885-8071.

So Long to Eddie Trapp's articles...Time Changes Everything.

Long-time friend and Delta County neighbor Eddie Trapp has announced he will no longer be posting a weekly article for print and on-line readers. He says that at age 69 and after 1400 articles, he feels like that's enough. I heartily disagree! Actually, I can hardly imagine what life will now be like without a weekly installment of On the River. Since 1988, Eddie has kept a journal of his frequent fishing, hunting and canoeing trips, mostly in and along but not limited to the South Sulphur River. Back then, he was a young man who enjoyed success and several life-threatening scrapes in the course of having fun in the great outdoors. He became much-loved as an Ag teacher and bus driver who always took a special interest in the kids. After raising a family, he and his wife Jean got to take

a number of adventure trips to wild places in the U.S. and they also took numerous floating trips along the Red River over the years. Eddie says he's had a lot of good dogs and one real good wife, plus the privilege of having published the first 1300 of his stories in bound volumes that are accessible to anyone who can read. The most recent 100 stories, well, he's getting those published too. It looked like a good time to quit, and he closed his final article this way: "As for now, it is goodbye, and I hope to see you 'on the river' ". Contact Eddie at etrapp327@hotmail.com or by mail at 261 CR 1197, Cooper, Tx 75432

> Til next week, I'll watch for you at the corral gate!

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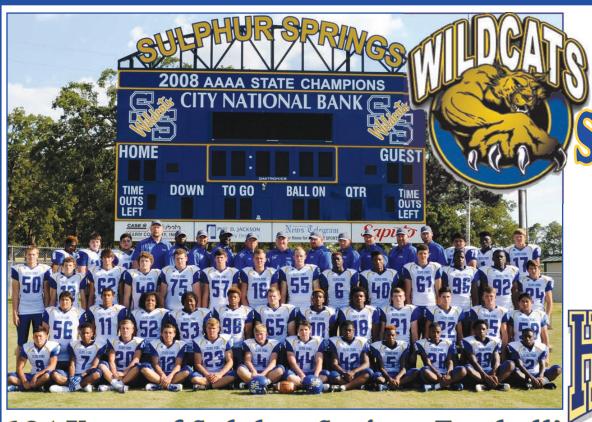




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Direct **Disarm Dislike** Earth **Elbows Exact Extremely Flame** Glued Goats Grassy

Greys

Grows

Identity India **Jigsaw** Knelt Loyal Mummy **Noise** Onion **Opposed**

Pause

Poked

Rapid

Reduced

Sense Shall Songs Spins Stolen Strong Suffix These They'd **Thief** Whose Woman Wrong





Arts & Music

September 19th - Blandelles on Celebration Plaza September 26th - Cole Risner on Celebration Plaza

Other Activities

September 10th - The Freedom Ride Motorcycle Rally September 12th - 2005 Class Reunion - Main Street is closed. Sidewalks are open

September 17th - Lights of Life Style Show September 18th and 19th - Annual Quilt Show

September 26th - Blue Santa Motorcycle Rally @ Redneck Roadhouse

September 26th - 3rd Annual Hopkins County "Walk Like MADD"

October 2nd @ dark - Lights of Life Half Marathon Movie on Celebration Plaza - Forrest Gump

October 3rd - Lights of Life Half Marathon October 3rd - Main (Private Event)

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Obics



Bernice Dawes

Bernice Dawes, Ph. D., age 72, passed away Thursday, September 3, 2015, at her residence in Cumby. She was born in Lamar County, on June 26, 1943, the daughter of John Tom and Musa Tennie (Dunham) Dawes. Ms. Dawes was an Occupational Therapist. She actively attended Community Bible Studies and worked for the Civil Service Department of Defense.

She is survived by two daughters, Teresa Pritchett of Cleburne, and Gina Root of Houston; brother, Shelvy Dawes; sister, Tommie Jean Dickerson; grandchildren, Alexander Dickerson, George William Pritchett, Angela Pritchett, Valerie Moore, Laurie Pritchett, Michael Root and Stephanie Root; great-grandchildren, Skyler Moore, Tara Moore and Lily Dickerson.

She is preceded in death by her parents and sister, Janet Hall.

Mary Smith

Funeral arrangements for Mary Smith, age 95 of Sulphur Springs are pending with Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Ms. Smith passed away Monday, September 7, 2015 at Autumn Wind Assisted Living in Mineola.

Bobby Clifton

Arrangements pending at this time with Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Beuna Irene Carter

Funeral service for Beuna Irene Carter, age 90, formerly of the Rains county area, were held at 11:00 am, Wednesday, at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home Chapel.

Visitation was at 10:00 am.. one hour prior to service time.

Interment followed in Clifton Cemetery. The Ministers conducting the service were: Wayne Darty, Charles Carter, and Ryan Ivey.



Patsy Jo Murray

Graveside services for Patsy Jo Murray, age 78 of Edgewood, were held at 12:00 p.m., on Saturday, September 5, 2015 at Pleasant Grove Cemetery with Bro. Charles Rawlinson officiating. Visitation was one hour prior to service, at the cemetery. Patsy passed away on Wednesday, September 2, 2015 at Canton Oaks Nursing Facility. She was born in Arbala on March 10, 1937, the daughter of Joe and Ollie (Seymore) Pierce. She married John Murray, Jr. on June 12, 1954 in Rockwall. She was a homemaker and a member of Willow Springs Baptist Church.

Survivors include: sons, Rick Murray of Cooper, Michael Murray of Grand Prairie and Clint Murray of Edgewood; daughter, Penny Hill of Fort Worth; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.



Loys Levil Nash

Funeral services for Loys Levil Nash, age 51, of Sulphur Springs were conducted at 12:00 noon, Saturday, September 5, 2015, at the Lord's Way Church of God in Christ, with Pastor Timothy Sharp officiating. There was no formal visitation. Interment followed at Mel Haven Cemetery in Sulphur Springs with David Hunter, Mario Thomas, Terry Mosley, Robert Franklin, Damon Nash, Gregory Debase, Cedrick Wright and Michael Kelly serving as pallbearers. Honorary Pallbearers were Michael Porter, Richard Corona, Randolph Spraglin and Rodney Brady. Mr. Nash passed away on Tuesday, August 25, 2015 at his residence. He was born on July 28, 1964 in Sulphur Springs, TX, the son of Alfred Nash and Sybil F. Fletcher Ransom. He graduated in 1982

from Sulphur Springs High School, and was employed by Cannon Craft for many years, and was employed at Saputo for 17 years. He is survived by brothers, Timothy Ransom, George Ransom, Dizzy Ransom all of Sulphur Springs, Johnny Nash of Fort Stockton, and Olan Nash of Amarillo, and a sister, Abbie Nash of Mesquite, Goddaughter Bridget Harrison, also by a host of nieces, nephews, great nieces nephews, and great-great nieces and nephews, cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers, Tommy Ransom, Lorenza Ransom, sisters, Quencie Ransom, Belinda Ransom Thomas, nephew Jerry Ransom, and step father Willie Smith Jr. Arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com



Ellis B. Patrick

Ellis was born in Commerce on February 4, 1958, to Susie Mobley Patrick and Jack Donald Patrick. He was a self employed mechanic. He really enjoyed working with his tools, building engines, also drag racing, motorcycles, classic automobiles and old school music.

Ellis was a very proud grandpa and a dedicated and loyal friend, and will be missed by all who knew him.

Survivors include his daughter, Angela Denise Patrick of Commerce, his son, Brian Ellis Patrick of Snyder, TX., his son, Jordan Christopher Patrick of Commerce, his grandsons; James Ellis Prothro, of Commerce and Jacob Ray Patrick, his granddaughters; Brianna Marie Patrick, of Cooper, and Tandalyn Shance Patrick, of Sulphur Springs. He is also survived by his siblings; Harry Eugene Patrick, of Sulphur Springs, and his sister, Linda (Wendy) Holley, of Greenville.

He was preceded in death by his parents; Jack and Susie Patrick, and his three brothers; Jack D. Patrick Jr., Kenneth Donald Patrick and Gary Lynn Patrick.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date.



In the immediate aftermath of the attacks, President George W. Bush, proclaimed Friday September 14, 2001, as a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for the Victims of the Terrorist Attacks on September 11, 2001.

A bill to make September 11 a national day of mourning was introduced in the U.S. House on October 25, 2001, by Rep. Vito Fossella (R-NY). The bill requested that the President designate September 11 of each year as Patriot Day. The bill passed the Senate unanimously on November 30. President Bush signed the resolution into law on December 18 and on September 4, 2002, Bush used the authority of the resolution to proclaim September 11, 2002, as the first Patriot Day.

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