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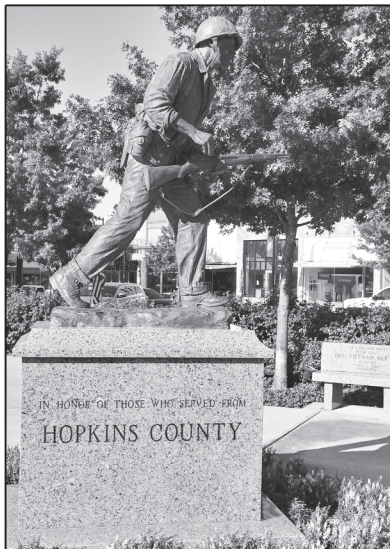


# At The Corral Gate



I hope you took notice and drank in the benefits of small-town living this Memorial Day holiday. Small-town living in Hopkins County is really pretty great most all the time, and though we always need things, like more money and a good rain, we actually get by in pretty good fashion. I spent the Memorial Day weekend largely alone. Now, don't feel sorry for me!! That's exactly what I wanted to do so that I could get some work done around my house and yard. I guess it was during the quietest, hottest part of Sunday afternoon that I glanced around my neighborhood and noticed the flag up across the street, and the cars parked down the curb where they were putting on a family barbecue...and the feeling came to me that this is what America is about!! The freedom to own your home and raise your family. The freedom to have a day off work. The freedom to gather at church or on our downtown square. The freedoms that many Americans have given their lives for. It was suddenly startling to me that we take all this for granted!

That day, I finally got the porch painted while there were no little feet pattering across it. (I expect the next wave of grandchildren to arrive here in June). I worked in my flower garden and hung out sheets on the clothesline and drank a glass of tea in the yard with my mother. I drove downtown and noticed my friends Johnny and Judy Oler re-working their church's flowerbed. I viewed a silent but stirring message that awaited anyone at the Veterans Memorial, with 240 crosses and a wreath placed there by a local veterans organization. Mr. Chapin's garden yielded turnips, beets, squash, greens and onions that I took home for supper. It shouldn't be hard to see that my weekend was as peaceful and fulfilling as you could ask for, and my wish is that yours was too. We are blessed to be Americans!



If you display an American flag, go ahead and keep it on display. We have Flag Day on June 14 and of course, the Fourth of July is coming! The downtown Independence Day concert in Sulphur Springs should be Saturday June 30 by the NE Texas Symphony Orchestra. Meantime, let's count our blessings, stay cool and lift our prayers for rain as our farmers and the creatures of the pastures and the woods really need it. Til next week, I will watch for you at the corral gate.

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6:00 am - 9:00 am weather permitting

**12 Noon "Opening Ceremonies" Ribbon Cutting Downtown Square**

\*Hot Air Balloon Rally and Glow Shannon Oaks Church  
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm weather permitting

**Sat. June 9, 2018**

\*Hot Air Balloon Rally and Flight  
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Dairy Festival Parade \*10:00 am Leave from City Park down Connally to Square and down Gilmer to Lee St back to the Park

Jr. Dairy Show \*10:00 am Civic Center Arena

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# FAMOUS TEXANS

## Ladybird Johnson

President Lyndon Johnson's Wife



Claudia Alta "Lady Bird" Johnson (née Taylor; December 22, 1912 – July 11, 2007) was an American socialite and the First Lady of the United States (1963–1969) as the wife of the 36th President of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson. She also served as the Second Lady of the United States from 1961 until President John F. Kennedy's assassination in 1963.

Notably well-educated for a woman of her era, she proved a capable manager and a shrewd investor. After marrying Lyndon B. Johnson in 1934 when he was a political hopeful in Austin, Texas, she used a modest inheritance to bankroll his congressional campaign, and then ran his office while he served in the Navy. She bought a radio station, and, later, a television station which generated revenues that made the Johnsons into millionaires. As First Lady, she broke new ground by interacting directly with Congress, employing her own press secretary, and making a solo electioneering tour.

Johnson was an advocate for beautifying the nation's cities and highways ("Where flowers bloom, so does hope"). The Highway Beautification Act was informally known as "Lady Bird's Bill." She received the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honors bestowed upon a US civilian.

The Brick House, Lady Bird Johnson's birthplace and childhood home in Karnack, Texas

Claudia Alta Taylor was born on December 22, 1912 in Karnack, Texas, a town in Harrison County, near the eastern state line with Louisiana. Her birthplace was "The Brick House," an antebellum plantation house on the outskirts of town, which her father had purchased shortly before her birth. She is a descendant of English Protestant martyr Rowland Taylor through his grandson Captain Thomas J. Taylor, II.

She was named for her mother's brother Claud. During her infancy, her nursemaid, Alice Tittle, said that she was as "purty as a ladybird". Opinions differ about whether the name refers to a bird or a ladybird beetle, the latter of which is commonly referred to as a "ladybug" in North America. The nickname virtually replaced her first name for the rest of her life. Her father and siblings called her Lady, and her husband called her Bird—the name she used on her marriage license. During her teenage years, some classmates would call her Bird to provoke her, since she reportedly was not fond of the name.

Nearly all of her maternal and paternal immigrant ancestors arrived in the Virginia Colony during the late 17th and early 18th centuries, likely as indentured servants, as were most early settlers in the colony. A native of Alabama, her father had primarily English ancestry, and some Welsh and Danish. Her mother was also a native of Alabama, of English and Scottish descent.

Her father, Thomas Jefferson Taylor (August 29, 1874 – October 22, 1960), was a sharecropper's son. He became a wealthy businessman, and owned 15,000 acres (6,070 ha) of cotton and two general stores. "My father was a very strong character, to put it mildly," his daughter once said. "He lived by his own rules. It was a whole feudal way of life, really."

Born Minnie Lee Pattillo (1874–1918), her mother loved opera and felt out of place in Karnack; she was often in "poor emotional and physical health." When Lady Bird was five years old, Minnie fell down a flight of stairs while pregnant and died of complications of miscarriage. In a profile of Lady Bird Johnson, Time magazine described Lady Bird's mother as "a tall, eccentric woman from an old and aristocratic Alabama family, liked to wear long white dresses and heavy veils and scandalized people for miles around by entertaining Negroes in her home, and once even started to write a book about Negro religious practices, called Bio Baptism." Her husband, however, tended to see blacks as "hewers of wood and drawers of water," according to his younger son.

Lady Bird had two elder brothers, Thomas Jefferson Jr. (1901–1959) and Antonio, also known as Tony (1904–1986). Her widowed father married twice more. His second wife was Beulah Taylor, a bookkeeper at a general store. His third wife was Ruth Scroggins, whom he married in 1937.

She was largely raised by her maternal aunt Effie Pattillo, who moved to Karnack after her sister's death. Lady Bird also visited her Pattillo relatives in Autauga County, Alabama, every summer until she was a young woman. As she explained, "Until I was about 20, summertime always meant Alabama to me. With Aunt Effie we would board the train in Marshall and ride to the part of the world that meant watermelon cuttings, picnics at the creek, and a lot of company every Sunday." According to Lady Bird, her Aunt Effie "opened my spirit to beauty, but she neglected to give me any insight into the practical matters a girl should know about, such as how to dress or choose one's friends or learning to dance."

Lady Bird was a shy and quiet girl who spent much of her youth alone outdoors. "People always look back at it now and assume it was lonely," she once said about her childhood. "To me it definitely was not. I spent a lot of time just walking and fishing and swimming." She developed her lifelong love of the outdoors as a child growing up in the tall pines and bayous of East Texas, where she watched the wildflowers bloom each spring.

When it came time to enter high school, Lady Bird had to move away and live with another family during weekdays in the town of Jefferson, Texas, since there was no high school in the Karnack area. (Her brothers were sent to boarding schools in New York). She graduated third in her class at the age of 15 from Marshall Senior High School in the nearby county seat. Despite her young age, her father gave her a car so that she could drive herself to school, a distance of 15 miles each way. She said of that time, "It was an awful chore for my daddy to delegate some person from his business to take me in and out." During her senior year, when she realized that she had the highest grades in her class, she "purposely allowed her grades to slip" so that she would not have to give the valedictorian or salutatorian speech.

After graduating from high school in May 1928, Lady Bird entered the University of Alabama for the summer session, where she took her first journalism course. But, homesick for Texas, she stayed at home and did not return for the fall term at Alabama. Instead, she and a high school friend enrolled at St. Mary's Episcopal College for Women, a strict Episcopal boarding junior college for women in Dallas. It influenced her to "convert to the Episcopal faith," although she waited five years to be confirmed.

After graduating from St. Mary's in May 1930, Lady Bird toyed with the idea of going back to Alabama. Another friend from Marshall was going to the University of Texas, so she chartered a plane to Austin to join her. As the plane landed, she was awed by the sight of a field covered with bluebonnets and instantly fell in love with the city. Lady Bird received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history with honors in 1933 and a second bachelor's degree in journalism cum laude in 1934. She was active on campus in different organizations, including Texas Orange Jackets, a women's honorary service organization, and believed in student leadership. Her goal was to become a reporter, but she also earned a teaching certificate.

### Health problems and death:

In 1986, while attending a funeral, Lady Bird fainted and entered St. David's Community Hospital for observation. She also injured her left knee in a fall the day before her hospitalization.

In 1993, Lady Bird's health began to fail. In August 1993, she suffered a stroke and became legally blind due to macular degeneration. In 1999 she was hospitalized for a fainting spell. In 2002, she suffered a second, more severe, stroke, which left her unable to speak normally or walk without assistance. In 2005, she spent a few days in an Austin hospital for treatment of bronchitis. In February 2006, Lynda Johnson Robb told a gathering at the Truman Library in Independence, Missouri, that her mother was totally blind and was "not in very good health."

Funeral service for Lady Bird Johnson. Nancy Reagan, Rosalynn Carter, Jimmy Carter, Laura Bush, Bill Clinton, Hillary Clinton, (second row) Caroline Kennedy, Barbara Bush, Susan Ford Bales, Maria Shriver, and Patricia "Tricia" Nixon Cox attended, representing eight other presidents.

In June 2007, she spent six days in Seton Hospital in Austin after suffering from a low-grade fever. At 4:18 PM (CDT) on July 11, 2007, she died at home of natural causes at the age of 94, attended by family members and Catholic priest Father Robert Scott.

At the funeral service, her daughter Luci Baines Johnson gave a eulogy, saying, "A few weeks before Mother died, I was taking visiting relatives to the extraordinary Blanton Art Museum...Mother was on IV antibiotics, a feeding tube, and oxygen, but she wasn't gonna let little things like that deter her from discovering another great art museum. What a picture we were -literally rolling through the museum like a mobile hospital."

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Billie Ruth Standbridge

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Billie Ruth!!!

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No gifts...just bring a tip for Pitty Pat and enjoy his music!



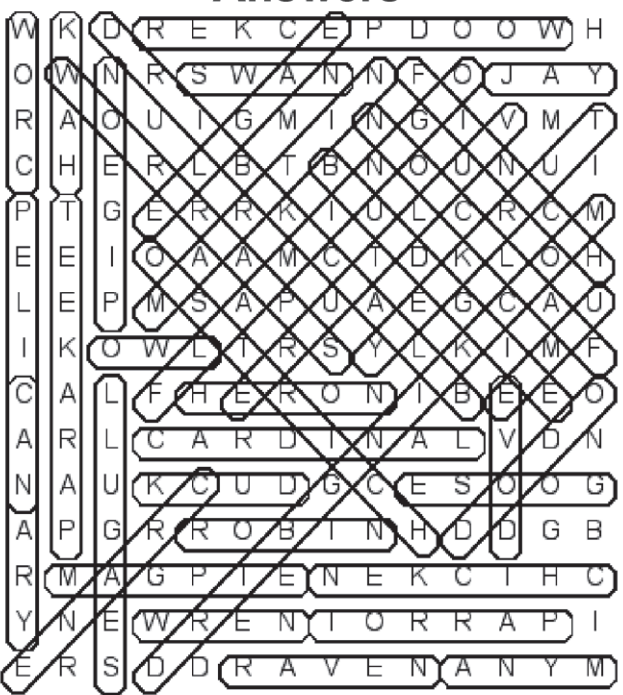
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## BE CAREFUL PUTTING ON GARDEN GLOVES

### Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

Terry Taylor of Alpine has some serious complications from a black widow spider bite he got last August while working in his back yard. He is still struggling with it.

“Looking back on it I have to speculate on some of it because I just don’t remember. I was working in the yard early in the morning. I had to go in the house so I took my work gloves off and laid them on the ground. I was in the house just about 5 minutes. When I came back I put on my right glove first and felt some stinging. I thought some fire ants had gotten into the glove and they were hurting me. So I mashed my left hand against my right hand, which still had the glove on it, with the intention of crushing those fire ants, killing them. I didn’t think a whole lot about it except my right hand started heating up. It felt like fire. Then my left arm started heating up and so did my legs. I went into the house and knew I was in trouble. Every muscle in my legs and arms was blue and was shivering. So I pressed my emergency device I was wearing. EMT’s came and took me to the hospital. That was on the 18th of August and I have no recollection of anything until in September. I was totally out of it. My doctor told me I died.”

The spider bit Terry between his forefinger and middle finger, right in the “v” between them. He wonders if he got more poison by putting pressure on the bite area when he tried to crush what he thought were fire ants. He was in the Alpine hospital five weeks and doesn’t recall anything that happened during most of that time. Some people say he became belligerent.

“One nurse told me I really put up a fight and offered to show me the bruises I gave her. I had been having flashbacks to Vietnam for years and the only thing I can guess is that I didn’t want those Viet Cong to get hold of me. The doctor told me I really raised cane and hurt people, including my daughter. Then I came out of it after almost 4 weeks without knowing what was happening. The first thing I remember is this woman talking to me in Spanish. She worked with me a few days, kept talking to me. All that supposedly happened comes to me from somebody else because I don’t remember anything. That’s part of my life I don’t know anything about. They gave me anti-venom to help with the recovery. That was as rough as the spider bite itself. It took 60 days to get rid of the anti venom.”

Terry walks with 2 walking sticks now. “A rehabilitation group in Alpine, the Agave Girls, helped me about 3 months, teaching me to walk again.”

Terry is a retired entomologist and knows about black widow spiders. “Sometimes they have a red hourglass on them, sometime they don’t.” Terry provided insects of all kinds to museums and universities all over the world. I asked him if he thought that spider bite was retribution for all the bugs and creepy crawly things he handled for decades. He chuckled and said “well, I put enough of them in alcohol, preserving them.” His daughter Lisa has the spider in a plastic bag.

# URGENT+CARE

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# Obits



## Dana Ruth Wilcher

Graveside service for Dana Ruth Wilcher, age 85, of Sulphur Springs, Texas will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, May 31, 2018 at Restlawn Memorial Park Cemetery with Jerry Savage officiating. There will be no formal visitation. Mrs. Wilcher passed away on Monday, May 28, 2018 at Sunny Springs Nursing Home, Sulphur Springs.

Dana was born on November 10, 1932 in Francis, Oklahoma, the daughter of Wayland and Zettie Woodard. She married Glen Wilcher on August 12, 1950 in Sulphur Springs. He preceded her in death in 2005. Dana was a letter carrier for the USPS for 32 years. She was a member of the League Street Church of Christ, a Sunday school teacher and a dedicated gardener.

She is survived by her son, Norman Wilcher and wife, Keisha of Como; grandchildren, Karmon Bain and husband, Brandon, Cherish Schepp and Lexi Schepp; six great grandchildren; sister, LaVelle Middleton of Point; brothers, Dwain Woodard and Bruce Woodard. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Glen; brother, Clifford Woodard.

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



## John Roland Griggs

Graveside services for John Roland Griggs, age 79, of Richardson, Texas will be held on Friday, June 15th at 11:00am at Restlawn Memorial Park in Sulphur Springs, TX. Services will be officiated by John's nephew, Mitchel Griggs. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Mr. Griggs passed away on Sunday, May 13, 2018.

John was born on October 21, 1938 in Sulphur Springs, Texas, the son of Howard "Chappel" and Sybil Griggs. John, Roland as his childhood friends knew him, graduated from Sulphur Springs HS in 1956 and later graduated from East Texas State University. He was in the National Guard and served during the Vietnam War. For many years, he owned a small business specializing in natural foods. John had an infectious laugh and loved to make sure everyone around him was enjoying his jokes and stories that he loved to tell. He was also known for his ability to play basketball, where on the court, size meant nothing to him. He referred to himself as Semi-Tall. He will be greatly missed.

John is survived by his son, Chad Griggs and wife, Marla of Frisco, TX; grandchildren, Colin and Meagan Griggs of Frisco, TX; sisters, Barbara Pittenger of Dallas, TX and Carolyn Clifton of Sulphur Springs, TX and many more loving family members.

John was preceded in death by his parents and brothers, Howard "Sonny" Griggs and Tommy Griggs.

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



## Linda Diane Meuir

Memorial service for Linda Diane Meuir, age 70, of Sulphur Springs, Texas will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Sunday, June 3, 2018 at Shannon Oaks Church, Sulphur Springs, TX. There will be no formal visitation. Linda went to heaven early Sunday, May 27, 2018 in Sulphur Springs, surrounded by loved ones.

All that knew her felt that she was the kindest, sweetest, most forgiving and understanding person they every knew. She was a survivor having lost two husbands and two children. She fought and beat cancer for 8 years until it returned. She was a loving mother, wife and grandmother.

Linda is survived by her son, Mike Dennis and wife, Holley Dennis of Sulphur Springs; grandchildren, Cody and Callie Dennis; sisters, Norma Sappington of Sulphur Springs and Jerrie Adams of Fort Worth.

She was preceded in death by her parents, JB and Stella Anderson; two sons, Jim Dennis and Cody Anderson; husbands,

James Dennis and Larry Meuir; siblings, Ruby Allen, Robbie Potter, Charles Anderson, Alice Ory and Joyce Barber.

Special thanks go out to Charlotte Hawkins who never left her side and to Legacy Hospice for the tremendous care, especially Fran.

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



## Johnny Ray Savage

Mr. Johnny Ray Savage, 61, of Commerce passed away on Sunday, May 27, 2018 surrounded by family at his home in Commerce.

He was born April 29, 1957, in Commerce, the son of Vernon Savage and Eddie P. Easter.

Johnny Ray was a truck driver by trade. This came after he proudly served two tours of duty for the United States Army where he obtained the rank of Sergeant.

On April 30, 1999 he married Terri Landry in Paris, Texas after a wonderful courtship and they shared life adventures for over 27 years. Johnny Ray loved to fish, talk (he could talk your ear off), ride his motorcycle and loved spending time with his friends and family. He was one of those people who never met a stranger and would share his thoughts with anyone.

He was a member of the Full Gospel Pentecostal Church of Commerce and also had close ties with the Friendship House

of Praise as well.

Johnny Ray is survived by his wife, Terri, children: Krystal Kay(Fat Head) Landry of Commerce, Cheryl Ann Landry of Elgin, Illinois, Jose J. Landry of Elgin, Illinois, Andrea Longoria of Homeland, California, Armando Longoria of Tacoma, Washington, Cindy Falcon of Tacoma, Washington and Maricza Reyes of Tacoma, Washington. Grandchildren: Andres, Oscar, Diego, Junior, Shaila, and Nelda Reyes; also, Teresa, Salina, and Lexus Former and Tysheed Former. Also surviving are five sisters: Gene Loise Smith (Bobby) of Commerce, Sandra Kay Savage of Dallas, Annette Savage of Commerce, Veddar Savage of Rowlett, and Sophia Savage of Garland, and three brothers: Ray Charles Savage of Dallas, Darrell Wayne Savage of Commerce, and Bruce Smith of Sulphur Springs.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Vernon Savage and Eddie P. Easter, a son, Johnny Ramirez, and a sister, Cynthia A. Savage.

Visitation will be held on Friday, June 1, 2018, from 6:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M. at Jones-Walker Funeral Home.

Service will be held on Saturday, June 2, 2018, at 11:00 A.M. at Mount Moriah Baptist Church of Commerce, with Pastor Dwight King officiating. Pallbearers will be Chuck Savage, Ryan Burrell, Cameron Savage, Jacorian Savage, Colby Savage, and Justin Savage.

Interment will be at the DFW National Cemetery with full military honors on Tuesday, June 5, 2018, at 12:30 p.m.

Arrangements are under the care of the Jones-Walker Funeral Home of Commerce.





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