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VOL. 19 ISSUE 954, June 14, 2018

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 We all remember Memorial Day, the Fourth of July and Labor Day as flag-waving holidays for Americans. But how many of us remember Flag Day? Dating back to June 14, 1777, Flag Day came about as an act of the Continental Congress, later was proclaimed a holiday in 1916 by President Woodrow Wilson, and made into a National Holiday (not a Federal Holiday) in 1946 by an act of Congress. So, let's celebrate Flag Day by putting up an American flag on your yard or building. Actually, when one person displays the flag, it often causes others to do the same, and before long, you've got a whole block of proud flag-waving neighbors. Wouldn't that be a great thing to see? Oh, and once you've got the flag up, go ahead and leave it in place through the 4th of July.

In Sulphur Springs, the Dairy Festival Parade was last weekend, and myself and fellow Sheriff's Posse member Jimmy Harris got to ride in the parade and carry the colors. What a privilege! Jimmy became a Posse member about 5 years ago, and has been a great asset to the mounted patrol because he always has a good horse and loves to ride anytime.



He was an Ag teacher in his career, and still is but mostly as a substitute now since he "officially" retired. No matter where Jimmy goes, he runs into somebody whom he used to teach from Miller Grove to several other county school districts, and no matter their age, they still call him "Mr. Harris".



We now have new royalty in Mary Ivey, the newly crowned Ms. Hopkins County Senior. Mary and her husband Loyd love to go white water rafting and zip lining. That's the way that 70-year-olds like Mary are changing the image of the senior woman! Of course she spends plenty of time being a regular mom and grandmother too. Senior Pageant this Fall, and in parades and at ribbon-cuttings all year. Hail, Queen Mary! We think you are going to have a lot of fun! This coming year will be a big one as she will represent Hopkins County in the Ms. Texas ribbon-cuttings all year.



The outgoing Ms. Hopkins County Senior, Patsy Crist, still holds one crown until September. That's when she will give up her Ms. Texas Senior title. Representing the Senior woman in both Hopkins County and the State of Texas, Patsy has been an excellent representative in beauty, talent, graciousness and class. She is never afraid to speak up for "doing the right thing" and the power of prayer, too. Thank you Queen Patsy!

The next royal head to be crowned is that of 2018 Dairy Festival Queen. Will it be Kaitlyn Ferrell, Cameron Horton, Alexis Lopez, Harley McLarry, Abbie Peckham, Caitlyn Williams, Cassidy Winborn or Lucia Yanez? 2017 Queen Jaci Reed will bestow the crown during the Coronation Pageant on Saturday June 16, 2018 at 7pm in the SSISD Auditorium. See you there!



Let's fly our flags and count our blessings as Americans with the freedom to enjoy small town living and all it's benefits. Til next week, I will watch for you at the corral gate.

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A woman called Sonora Smart Dodd was an influential figure in the establishment of Father's Day. Her father raised six children by himself after the death of their mother. This was uncommon at that time, as many widowers placed their children in the care of others or quickly married again. Sonora felt that her father deserved recognition for what he had done. The first time Father's Day was held in June was in 1910. Father's Day was officially recognized as a holiday in 1972 by President Nixon.

Father's Day is a celebration honoring fathers and celebrating fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society. Our country celebrates it on the **third Sunday of June.**

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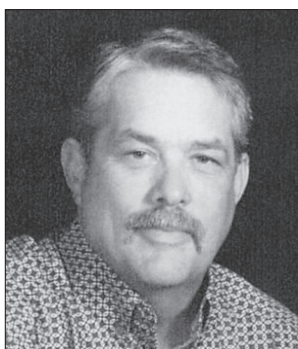
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Obits



Lee Roy Steed

Funeral services for Lee Roy Steed, age 54, of Sulphur Springs was conducted at 2:00 p.m., Monday, June 11, 2018 at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Wilton McMorris officiating. Interment followed at Miller Grove Cemetery with Brad Sisco, Archie Lindley, Reese Blevins, Matt Bell, Chris Penson, Chuck Skaggs and Lee Pogue serving as pallbearers. Visitation was at 1:00 p.m., one hour prior to service time. Lee passed away on Thursday, June 7, 2018 at his residence. Lee was born on January 12, 1964 in Sulphur Springs the son of Durwood Steed and Carlyne Vannoy Steed. He married Sandra Watts on June 24, 1995 in Miller Grove and she survives. Lee was a welder by trade and of the Baptist faith. In addition to his wife Sandra, he is survived by one daughter, Ashley Washburn and husband Scott of Sulphur Springs, step-daughter, Stacey Barrett and husband Jimmy of Sulphur Springs, step-sons, Chris Voorheese and wife Lori of Sulphur Springs, Corey Voorheese and wife Christi of Van, sister, Debra Hoover and husband David, granddaughter, Sara Washburn, step-grandchildren, Sydney Washburn, Sadie Washburn, Breck Barrett, Brooke Barrett, Bryce Barrett, Valori Voorheese, Carson Voorheese, Callie Voorheese, Sara Voorheese, Catelynn Voorheese and Peyton Voorheese, one niece, and two nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Carla Berry. Arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.



Earl D. Manning

Funeral services for Earl D. Manning, age 84, of Sulphur Springs will be conducted at 11:00 a.m., Friday, June 15, 2018 at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will follow at Reilly Springs Cemetery. Visitation will be at 10:00 a.m., prior to service time. Earl passed away on Monday, June 11, 2018 at Legend Health Care and Rehab in Greenville. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.



Dorothy Davis

Funeral services for Dorothy Davis, age 87, of Winnsboro have been scheduled for 11:00AM Thursday, June 14, 2018 at Tapp Funeral Home Chapel. A visitation will be held 1 hour prior to the service. Ms. Davis passed away Tuesday, June 12, 2018 at Sulphur Springs Health and Rehab. Tapp Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



David Clements

Funeral service for David Clements, age 61, of Sulphur Springs, Texas will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Friday, June 15, 2018 at Triumph Christian Center with Kevin Brown officiating. Interment will follow at Posey Cemetery with Jason Davis, Robert Reese, Buddy Daehn, Mike Morganson, John Springfield, Steve Arden and Travis Carr serving as pallbearers. Visitation will be held from 6 to 8 P.M. on Thursday, June 14, 2018 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Mr. Clements passed away on Saturday, June 9, 2018 at Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas, TX.

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

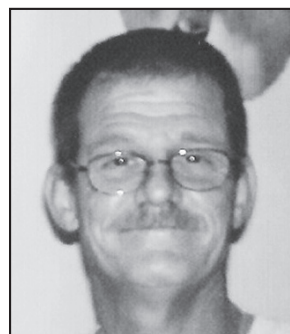


Jeffery Eugene Dixon

Funeral services for Jeffery Eugene Dixon, age 59, of Sulphur Springs will be conducted at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, June 14, 2018 at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Dwight Drake officiating. Interment will follow at Reilly Springs Cemetery with Glenn Dixon, Ken Blanton, Robert McKenzie, Jordan Dixon, Chuck Bond, Larry Golightly, and Bobby Lee Simms serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers will be Justin Bann, Jeff Sanderson, John Dixon, Jeffery Dixon II, Tommy Dixon, Cory Bowen, Clyde Lee, Jesse Bowen and Joseph McCann. Visitation will be at 1:00 p.m., one hour prior to service time. Jeff passed away on Saturday, June 9, 2018 at his residence.

Jeff was born on February 17, 1959 in Paris, TX, the son of Bobby Floyd Dixon and Linda Jane Vaughan Dixon. He married Joyce Bowen on April 27, 1996 in Hugo, OK. She survives. Jeff was a Master Carpenter and of the Baptist faith.

In addition to his wife Joyce, he is survived by his mother, Jane, sons, Jeffery Dixon II and wife Keisha of Dike, Jesse Bowen of Anna, Cory Bowen and wife Mallory of Caddo Mills, TX, daughters, April McKenzie and husband Robert of Cash, Leslie Blanton and husband Ken of Campbell, brother, Glenn Dixon and wife Natasha of Sulphur Springs, sister, Linda Dixon Butler and husband Mike of Greenville, grandchildren, Jordan Dixon, Justin Vann, Mya Vann, Danielle Vann, Hope Dixon, Tressie Dixon, Tristen Brown, Jalen Bowen, Kason Bowen, Logan Bowen and Blake Bowen. He was preceded in death by his father Bobby, and brother, Bobby John Dixon.



J.J. Huddleston, Jr.

Memorial services for Jackie "J.J." Huddleston, Jr., age 55 of Alba, Texas, were held 3:00 PM Monday, June 11, 2018 at Bright Star Baptist Church in Alba, Texas with Brother Billy Smith and Brother Jerry Jackson officiating.

"J.J." passed away on Friday, June 8, 2018 at Medical City Plano. He was born on August 16, 1962 in Sulphur Springs, Texas the son of Jackie and Wanda Wright Huddleston, Sr. He grew up farming with his hero and grandfather, Lyndel Huddleston. He became a carpenter for many years before becoming the lead tire technician at E Tex Tire in Emory. His hobbies included hunting, camping at the river, carpentry work, and riding his razor through the neighborhood. He married Judy House on February 13, 1993. They had three children, a nephew they called their own, and eight grandchildren that he loved dearly.

"J.J." is survived by his wife, Judy; daughters, Sharyse McDowell and husband, Dakota of Alba, Texas and Larissa Duarte and husband, Ray of Emory, Texas; son, Jack Slatter and wife, Sonya of Emory, Texas; nephew, Ken Pruitt of BonAqua, Tennessee; grandchildren, DezaRay. Kaden, Alyssa, Hunter, Buck, Emma, Kari and Raygun; his parents; mother-in-law, Lounell House; two brothers, Danny Mac Huddleston and wife, Shelley of Alba, Texas and Charlie Wright and wife, Lisa of Seagoville, Texas; sister, Joyce Hogue of Alba, Texas; and special friends of over 30 years, Joe House and Chris Fletcher. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, C.L. and Lorene Huddleston; and nephew, Wesley Pruitt.

THE IDLE AMERICAN

Tomorrows and Yesterdays...

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

In his 40-year career as a National Weather Service meteorologist, he spent most of his time predicting the near future. As a retiree, he's studying "the far back," immersed now in learning of a much-ballyhooped highway a century ago.

Genesis of the latter of Fort Worth's Dan Smith began with a bike ride on abandoned pavement between Aledo and Weatherford, and discovery of an old "Bankhead Highway" street sign.

His head swimming with questions, Smith began his research, fascinated by one Asa Rountree, an Alabaman. Rountree pushed for construction of the nation's first coast-to-coast, all-weather highway. By both "hook" and "crook," he slithered into gatherings he organized in many states. He managed to "keep the pot bubbling" for a southern highway from Washington, D. C., to San Diego, California....

With buddies in D. C. and community leaders along the proposed road who didn't want to be left out, Rountree survived schemes that often promoted the highway, but always fattened his personal coffers.

Riding the coattails of Alabama Senator John H. Bankhead--author of 1916 legislation promoting "good roads"--Rountree was relentless and tireless. He promoted good roads when many thought they could "make do" with trails, since few folks

owned automobiles, any way.

Opponents pointed out that even Henry Ford opposed federal involvement in road construction. Adversaries never "ponied up" to the idea that mountains of moolah should be expended to benefit postal delivery, the military and bicyclists....

A newspaperman, Rountree was undaunted; he knew how to draw a crowd.

At the 1919 gathering to promote what later would be called the "Broadway of America," 2,000 people gathered in Mineral Wells, TX. This meeting provided a big "push" for Texas' 900-mile stretch of the 3,000-mile route. (Much of the Texas portion of the Bankhead now constitutes parts of Interstate Highways 10, 20 and 30.)

At the time, country roads morphed into "highways" when they were even slightly improved from dirt. The addition of gravel was an upgrade, since for many miles in West Texas, asphalt and concrete would not be used in Bankhead highway construction until the 1930s. Back then, the usual width was eight feet....

A Floridian, Smith is a graduate of Florida State University. Even as a 7th grader, he was fascinated by the weather. As a high school student in Miami, he always managed to undertake science projects

involving the weather.

He credits mentors--as well as great strides in weather forecasting technology--for his ongoing keen interest in meteorology.

When he contacted Washington figures concerning the early national highway system, Smith was sent a box with hundreds of documents. He seemed to have an "interest shift," from the weather out there to construction of an historic highway "back there."...

Now, he welcomes opportunities to speak at civic clubs, churches, universities, museums and other venues. He's a fan of town and county museums, having spoken at many of them. He considers the W. K. Gordon Center, near Thurber, as one of the best. He describes these museums as "jewels in the necklace of what was once the Bankhead highway."

In 2013, he published The Bankhead Highway in Texas. It has been heralded for its authenticity and old maps, as well as substantial humor, some likely unintended.

When assigned to the National Weather Service in Birmingham, he forecast the first snow storm he had ever seen. He remembers colorful descriptions of tornados. One excited woman said, "It 'flang' pigs out of that truck, and they went flip/flopping through the air." One guy exclaimed, "If a tornado hits Tuscaloosa, look out Birmingham!"...

ham!"...

I'll be privileged to hear Smith when he addresses senior adults at our church. We'll learn more about the highway that used to be.

He'll speak of tourist courts and service station billboards bragging about "comfortable restrooms for women."

Oh, well. At least there was no issue about which comfort stations should be used by whom....

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

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Answers

STORIES FROM BILLY

Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

Billy Langford has lived in or near Carthage all his life. "My parents were share croppers.

I grew up on a farm owned by a judge. I went to a school that had one teacher. The school was called Potlicker and had 21 students in the whole school."

Living conditions were primitive.

"We lived in a two room shack that had a tin roof. It was used tin. Had holes in it. When it rained my mother would go get pots and pans and put them on the bed to keep the rain from wetting the bed. She knew where to put them.

"Our house had a wood floor and she washed it. The floor had cracks in it. We had a few old hens that stayed under the floor. They'd be scratching around under there and would get wet when mother washed the floor."

Billy spent a lot of time with his grandfather.

"We'd go to town on Saturdays. The newest car he ever had was a 1936 Terraplane made by Hudson Motor Company. Roads were terrible. The county was broke and had no money to work the roads. People couldn't pay their taxes because they didn't have any money. Before we could go to town on Saturday we had to work on the roads. We'd fill up holes with dirt to try to keep from getting stuck in the ruts and the clay

"When we got to town on Saturday afternoons, my grandfather usually gave me a nickel. I'd take that nickel and go to Billy Grimes's ice cream parlor and get three dips of orange pineapple ice cream for a nickel. That's where my money always went.

"One time one of my grandfather's farmer friends, Mr. Carl Marcum came up to me, pulled out his pocketbook and said 'Billy Boy, do you have any money?' I told him I did. He asked me to show what I had and I pulled out my buffalo nickel and showed it to him. He pulled a dime out of his pocketbook and said he would trade his dime for my nickel. I had never had a dime. It's too small for me. I thought it was like trading a big piece of cake for a smaller piece. So I didn't trade with him. He told my grandfather about what happened. On the way home that evening my grandfather told me that if I had traded with him I could have had two nickels. I remembered that."

Mr. Langford became a successful businessman and civic leader in Carthage. He says the lessons he learned as a boy about taking care of money guided him through all his business dealings, using truth and honesty as his guidelines. Growing up he was not afraid of hard work. As a teenager he heard about a construction job at Beckville about 15 miles away. His family had no car so he got up at 4 o'clock in the morning and started walking, getting to the job site about 10 o'clock. When the man in charge found out the youngster had walked all that way he hired Billy. The man lived in Carthage so Billy got to ride to and from work with him.

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