

Obituaries

Leonard Neal Thompson
Leonard Neal Thompson, 71, of Altair, passed away Sunday, March 4, after a long illness. He was born September 2, 1935 in Van Zandt County to Emory and Ara Thompson.

As a young man, Leonard served six years in the U.S. Navy.

After leaving the Navy, he became a flight instructor in Houston, and flew as a corporate pilot for Parkwood Mobil Homes, based in Elkhart, Indiana.

He then became a crop duster and flew rice and other crops in Colorado and Matagorda County.

After retiring from the air, he went to school and was taught to drive an 18-wheeler and drove for North American, Eagle Concrete, and finally Great Southern.

He was a member of the Rock Island Full Gospel Church in Rock Island.

Leonard was preceded in death by his mother and father; and by his sisters, JoNell and Jimmie Joy Luke Thompson.

Survivors include his wife of 48 years, Norma Jean Thompson of Altair; his brother, Jesse Thompson of Canton; four children, Gale and Mike Thompson of Garwood, Dale Thompson and Debbie McGregor of Waco; nine grandchildren, Stephanie Strack, Cody Thompson, Kristen Thompson, Kevin Thompson, Rebecca Thompson, Natalie Thompson, Kyrbie White, Victoria Green and Gracie McGregor; two grandchildren, Harleigh and Kayla Mae Strack; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held at the Rock Island Full Gospel Church on Thursday, March 8.

The family asks that memorials be given to the Rock Island Full Gospel Church Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 232, Rock Island Texas 77470.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.



Augusta "Gus" Nance
Augusta "Gus" Nance, 86, of Houston passed away Monday, March 5 in Houston.

She was born September 5, 1920 in Navaro, Italy.

Survivors include her husband, Alyvorn Alton Nance of Rock Island; two sisters-in-law, Jeanette Nance of Rock Island and Juanita Nance of Cold Springs; nieces; nephews; great-nieces; great-nephews; and a host of loved ones and friends.

Funeral services were held Friday, March 9 at 10 a.m. from Full Gospel Church in Rock Island with Pastor Herb Beyer officiating. Interment followed in Myrtle Cemetery in Rock Island. Arrangements were under the direction of Eagle Lake Funeral Home in Eagle Lake.

Pallbearers were Kenny Nance, Keith Nance, Greg Miller, Max Girndt, Billy Mayes and Bob Rainosek.

Honorary pallbearers were Cody Nance and Ray Lee Jackson.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.



Beatrice Torres
Beatrice Torres, 57, of Eagle Lake passed away Wednesday, March 7 in Katy.

She was born July 29, 1949 in Eagle Lake, the daughter of Florentino and Macaria Garza Sosa.

Preceded in death by her parents; two sisters; and three brothers; survivors include her husband, John Torres; daughters, Jo Ann Castillo and husband, Jesus, and Angel Lynn Torres; sons, John Rene Torres and fiancée, Bianca Cantu, and Ryan Allen Torres all of Eagle Lake; sisters, Mary Munoz of Eagle Lake, Margaret Casares of Houston; brothers, Joe Sosa of Houston, Leandro Sosa of Rosenberg, and Damasio Sosa of Houston; brother-in-law, Wayne Moore of Houston; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were held at 7 p.m., Friday, March 9, at the Eagle Lake Funeral Home with Rev. Joe and Mercy Fling officiating.

Rosary was recited at 7 p.m. at the funeral home with Carmela Elizondo presiding.

The family later held a private burial. Arrangements were under the direction of Eagle Lake Funeral Home.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.



Prairie Chicken Tours Slated

Personnel at the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge (APCNR) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service volunteers will be conducting special guided tours of the refuge during the 13th annual APC Festival, April 14 and 15.

The celebration was conceived in 1995 through cooperative efforts from the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce, Houston Audubon Society, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in an effort to enhance the awareness of this imperiled bird.

The entrance to the refuge is on FM 3013, about 6.5 miles northeast of Eagle Lake. The first lek tour leaves promptly at 7 a.m. with tours leaving after that time as vans fill up.

Additional guided tours begin at 10:30 a.m., 12 p.m., and 1:30 p.m. on both Saturday (April 14) and Sunday (April 15). The early morning tours have a chance of possibly seeing Attwater's

prairie chickens on the "booming" grounds, but there is no guarantee.

All tours will take visitors into an area that is normally closed to the public and will touch on such topics as refuge management techniques, prairie chicken recovery efforts, and coastal prairie ecosystem issues.

Tours are expected to last less than two hours, and will begin at the refuge Visitor Center.

The refuge is hosting additional events as well. Birdwatchers, whether experienced or beginners, can enjoy a walking tour from 8:45 to 10:30 a.m. each day.

Following the walk, hop on a van and tour the refuge's Teal Marsh and Pintail Marsh from 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. each day. These guided tours will be led by experienced birders Doris Laughlin and Jane Meldahl.

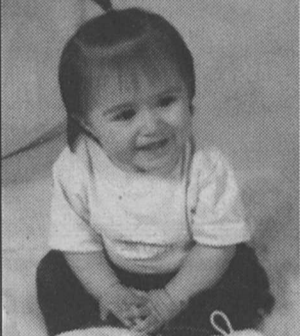
For the native plant and wildflower enthusiasts, a special afternoon walking tour from 1 - 2:30 p.m. will bring visitors "up close and personal" with many of the native prairie grasses and flowering plants.

The Native Plant Society's Kathy Burris will lead this walk on Saturday and Sunday and give those involved a greater appreciation of the coastal prairie ecosystem.

All the walking and driving events will begin at the refuge Headquarters. Food and drinks will also be available for purchase from the Tom Waddell Outdoor Nature Club, which is the Refuge's Friends Group. All events are free of charge.

Those interested in learning more about the festival should contact the APCNR at 979-234-3021, ext. 18.



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Happy Birthday!
March 15

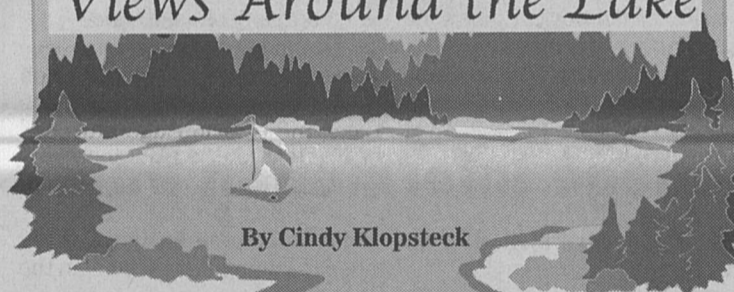
Love,
Mom and Laci
and Family

Belated Happy 13th Birthday "Chach"

"I've brought you up the best way I know how. The rest is up to you."
-Proverbs 22:6

Views Around the Lake



By Cindy Klopsteck

"It is no measure of health to be well adjusted to a profoundly sick society." —Krishna Murti

Parts of society - mainly celebrity - have seemed profoundly sick in recent weeks with updates of actors in and out of rehab, celebrated persons publicly displaying dysfunctional behavior and, worse yet, public feuding of who gets legal possession of bodies or estates after death.

If we were NOT appalled and repelled we would feel there is something wrong with us as a society. After the Anna Nichole Smith debacle, we were all relieved to hear she was finally buried.

But then, after all this we - as uncelebrated people - return our thought to the everyday, mundane matters or consciously turn our deeper thoughts to higher considerations - the Lenten season, our soldiers serving around the world, or just the simplicity of a friend in need.

As long as there is balance... At least that's what I always tried to tell my daughters: the good with the bad. When I see one of them pouring over a celebrity magazine, I take comfort in knowing a literary novel that is read at bedtime is on the same coffee table.

For every celebrity entertainment program they view on TV, I know they are just as apt to consult the program guide for a classic movie or the travel or cooking channels.

Surfing the channels the other day, I was informed by a very slick, colorful advertisement that "Extreme Celebrities" is now a regular show on cable.

From the quick shots, it appears the viewing will be at an

extreme level. A new series entitled "Dirt" shows the, hopefully exaggerated, world of media chase for any kind of celebrity gossip - especially if it's dirty.

The balance for good may be seen in another type of extreme, "Extreme Makeover Home Edition", which shows a more generous human side in helping families in need of a good home.

Certainly, the media feeds our frenzy for celebrity facts, and now the internet is getting into the race.

There's now an internet-based celebrity game modeled after Fantasy Football.

In the world of Fantasy Celebrity League, players use strategy and their celebrity acumen to select four female stars, four male stars, one celebrity couple and one TV show and bet their selections can accumulate points to put them ahead on competition with other internet players.

The more their celebrity selections are making headlines, on magazine covers, or on talk shows, the more points they receive.

Some participants were interviewed stating how they daily check tabloid headlines, TV programs, internet postings, etc. for which stars are the immediate media darlings.

So much for living in the real world...

But it is all in the balance, remember? I sat by the TV and watched the red carpet roll out for the Oscars, but I also am still pouring over John Steinbeck's "East of Eden". Balance.

"I always try to balance the light with the heavy - a few tears of human spirit in with the sequins and the fringes." —Celebrity, but also volunteer and activist, entertainer Bette Midler

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Stress and Your Teeth

Stressed out? You may be grinding your teeth in your sleep. If your jaw hurts when you wake up, see your dentist.

You may be taking out everyday stress on your jaw - perhaps in your sleep. Grinding your teeth (called bruxism) can break or wear them down.

Even more serious is the harm it can do to your jaw joint (the temporomandibular joint). Tooth grinding is probably the most destructive dental habit that adults can have.

If you grind your teeth while asleep, you may be unaware of the problem, so watch out for these symptoms: pain when chewing, a tired jaw upon awakening, and unexplained headaches.

Treatment may include a night guard that you wear while sleeping to protect teeth from the effects of grinding and dental restoration to improve the bite.

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