# HOUSTON DEAF SENIORS of TEXAS NEWSLETTER

Volume 7 | September 2006 | Issue 9

We are planning monthly field trips for Houston Deaf Senior Citizens

When the place and date are settled, they will be announced on each month of the newsletter

**September 8, 2006 (Friday) - Field trip to Lockhart, TX**

Library Gallaudet University

## Deaf-related Resources

# Frequently Asked Questions
# Deaf or hard of hearing persons in U.S. Civil War military service

(Excerpted 1/16/01 from the *Gallaudet University Deaf Biographies Index* database developed by Thomas R. Harrington, Gallaudet University Library)

**Berkeley, William Meade:** July 4, 1838-June 2, 1900

American -Teacher, soldier, military

Born deaf; graduated from the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind. Served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War, being wounded in action. Worked at the Staunton (VA) *Spectator* newspaper both before and after the Civil War. Teacher at the Virginia School, 1872-1900.

Reference: *Notable deaf persons*, p.195-196; *CAID proceedings*, 16th, p.310-11.

**Blount, John** - fl. 1865:

American - Soldier, military, teacher

Graduated from the Kentucky School for the Deaf. Served in the Union Army (state militia) during the Civil War; then became a teacher at the Kentucky School. His son was William Jacobs Blount (*q.v.*)

Reference: *Digest of the deaf*, Nov. 1939, p.24.

CONTINUE PART 4 NEXT MONTH

*From the Editor:*

Dear Subscribers and Friends,

In this month newsletter there is a lot of good news. I appreciate you sent us the news, pictures, etc. and I want to say thank you. Let's keep it up. Smile.

Enjoy your Labor Day weekend and safe trip.

Take care of yourselves and stay well.

*Audrey*

**Field Trip: Lockhart, TX – September 8, 2006 (Friday)**

Houston Deaf Senior Citizens will meet at Woodhaven Baptist Deaf Church, 9920 Long Point Rd, Houston, TX. Be there by 7:00 AM. The bus will depart at 7:30 AM.

Halfway – Stop by for restroom and drinks

10:00 AM – The Caldwell County Courthouse – No fee...We walk in to tour ourselves (business hours) unless there are court sessions. (approx: 45 min tour)

11:30 AM or 12 PM – Lunch at Sirloin Stockade Buffet Restaurant – SC $5.49+

1:30 or 2 PM – Emanuel Episcopal Church – No fee – donation accepted (approx: 30 min tour)

Halfway – Stop by for restroom and drinks

Arrive Woodhaven Church around 5:30 PM or so.

ATTN: If hungry for dinner/supper, you may want to go to the HHT Social at Galleria Mall Food Court at 5080 Westheimer Rd.

If you are interested in going on the field trip, please contact Audrey Leger at 281-437-6224 TTY/VP or Zelma Curbello at 713-941-3247 TTY before Sept 7th. Come and let's have fun together.
See you on the 8th.

**Houston Deaf Senior Citizens Newsletter**

**Editor**
Audrey Leger

**The Staff**
Roger Spivey
Zelma Curbello
Mary Jo Stevens
Thelma Jo Hays
*Nancy Krone*
Rochelle Simpson

**Temporary**
Margie Graham

Please send any news, information, jokes, pictures, recipes, sports or anything that you want to share with Senior Citizens.

**Please keep articles at 300 words or less, due to limited space in the newsletter.** Please note that the editor may, at her discretion, edit articles or news items for brevity and to correct errors. **The deadline is on the 15th of each month.** Items received after the 15th will be held until the next issue.

**NOTE:** Unpaid subscriptions are discontinued after three months. In order to serve you better, a reminder will be sent during the second month. The third month will be your last subscription.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us at
281-437-6224 TTY / VP / FAX or
E-mail us at **hdstnewsletter@yahoo.com**

**From Zelma Curbello of LOVE FUND**

Mary Jo Stevens & Mary Boeer, thank you for your generous donations to **LOVE FUND IN MEMORY OF BUBBA'S MOTHER, RUBY LORENZ.**

Anyone who wishes to donate **$$$** to **LOVE FUND or HDST NEWSLETTER FUND** should please make a check or money order payable either to **Houston Deaf Senior Citizens - Love Fund (or) HDST Newsletter Fund.** And mail to:

**HDSC - Love Fund**
**C/o Mrs. Zelma Curbello**
**9623 Tiltree**
**Houston, TX 77075-4042**

**OR**

**HDST Newsletter Fund**
**C/o Audrey Leger**
**P. O. Box 664**
**Missouri City, TX 77459**

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Betty Falke, Christine McKinnon, Lennie Morton, Hazel Richard, and Rochelle Simpson thank you for your hearty support donations **to HDST Newsletter.**

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Subscription is a great gift for your loved family or friends

**NEW SUBSCRIBERS:**

Paul & Patricia Bussard
Ann Hornbeak
Dorothy Johnson
Linda Smith

Dorothy Johnson's subscription gift given by Sandra Barnes-Smith.

Linda Smith's subscription gift given by Nancy Morris.

*Sandra and Nancy,* thank you for your hearty gifts.

**WELCOME SUBSCRIBERS:**

Welcome back
Pauline Corum
Mildred Crenshaw
Peggy Miller
Damon Wright

**RENEWALS:** Thank you for your renewal:

Rita DeVries
Audrey Edgley
James E. Ford Sr
Ben & Laverne Harmon
Shirley Jackson
Yvonne Killegrew
Ellen Konoski
Joyce Mansell
Helen & Fred Sellars
Nimm H. Shelton
Sandra Barnes-Smith
Bob & Jane Wood

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY**

3 – Ethel Chappel
4 – Happy Labor Day
9 – Lennie Morton
9 – Beatrice Smith
14 – Mary Ella Redman
20 – Tommy Wells
24 – Daril Williamson
28 – Josephine Davis
29 – J. Travis Sessions

**SEPTEMBER 11, 2006**

HONOR OF WTC

**SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARY**

**9-6-1958**
Richard & Joan Brubaker

*Congratulations 48 Yrs!!*

**Woodhaven Baptist Deaf Church**

**September 5, 2006**
Pip Meeting &
19th Anniversary

**September21, 2006**
SC meeting & potluck

**ASL SOCIAL**
**September 1, 2006**
Dimassi's Mediterranean Buffet
Houston, TX

**SC FIELD TRIP**
**September 8, 2006**
Lockhart, TX

**HHT SOCIAL**
**September 8, 2006**
Galleria Mall
Food Court
Houston, TX

**SC BUSINESS MEETING**
**September 13, 2006**
MMSC
1475 West Gray
Houston, TX

**SC SOCIAL MEETING**
**September 27, 2006**
MMSC
1475 West Gray
Houston, TX

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**September 1, 2006 (Friday)**

**ASL Social** will be at **Dimassi's Mediterranean Buffet, 5064 Richmond Ave, Houston, TX 77056** from 5 PM to 9 PM. Let's come to meet & enjoy chatting with your old and new friends. Any questions please e-mail to Earl Johnson at **ejohnson127@houston.rr.com.**

**September 5, 2006 (Tuesday)**

**Positive Interaction Program (PIP)** will hold a meeting 7:00 PM at Woodhaven Baptist Deaf Church, 9920 Long Point Rd, Houston. The presentation will be: Victim Services Information for Victims and Family Survivors of Violent Crimes. A member of the HPD Victim Services Unit will give their presentation. Interpreter & captioning will be provided. After the presentation they will celebrate the 19th Anniversary of the Deaf PIP. Refreshments will be served compliments of Evelyn Autry. Let's join and celebrate with them.

**September 8, 2006 (Wednesday)**

Houston Deaf Senior Citizens will have a field trip to Lockhart, TX. We meet at **Woodhaven Baptist Deaf Church**, 9920 Long Point Rd, Houston, TX at 7:00 AM. Hope you can join us. It's sure to be enjoyable. (See editor page 2, for more information).

**September 8, 2006, Friday**

**Houston Hand Talk Social** will be at **Galleria Mall Food Court, 5085 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77056** from 5 PM to 9 PM. Let's come to meet & enjoy chatting with your old and new friends. Any questions please contact Roger Spivey at **spivey39@Yahoo.com.**

**September 9, 2006 (Saturday)**

**Houston Black Deaf Advocates** will have Fried Chicken Dinner at MacGregor Park, 5225 Calhoun Rd, Houston, TX from 10 AM until dark. Dinner price: a plate $5.00, bottled water $1.00 and soda 50 cents. For more information contact Essie Smith at **essie_smith@tmail.com**.

**September 10, 2006 (Sunday)**

**Illuminations Arts** will have **Hand Held Tales, 'Deaf Celebration'** 2:30 PM at **Borders Books, 3025 Kirby, Houston, TX 77098.** Bring your family and friends to join and enjoy. For more information see the News page 6 for the details.

**September 13, 2006 (Wednesday)**

Houston Senior Citizens will have a business meeting at **Metropolitan Multi-Service Center** at 1475 West Gray, Houston from 9 AM to 1 PM. Let's attend the meeting and afterward enjoy chatting with friends!

**September 21, 2006 (Thursday)**

Houston Deaf Senior Citizens will have a fellowship and potluck at **Woodhaven Baptist Deaf Church** at 9920 Long Point from 9 AM to 1 PM. If you wish to bring a covered dish, please contact **Gertrude Sessions** at **(281) 447-7575 TTY** or **Jenice Wells** at **(281) 442-8015 TTY** and let them know what you will bring.

**September 22, 2006 (Friday)**

**ASL Social** will be at **Baybrook Mall Food Court, 500 Baybrook Mall, Friendswood, TX 77546** from 3 PM to 9 PM. Let's have fun! Come over to meet & enjoy chatting with your old and new friends. Any questions please e-mail to Earl Johnson at **ejohnson127@houston.rr.com**.

**September 23, 3006 (Saturday)**

**Illuminations Arts** presents a deeper look at Theatrical Interpreting Workshop: **Get On Stage 2!** Saturday, 9 AM – 5 PM with presenters: Susan Jackson and Brian Kilpatrick.
So you have had a taste of the limelight and are looking for more? Then this is the workshop for you. The second installment of the Get on Stage workshop series will take a closer look at the new art form of theatrical interpreting and bring ASL to the stage. Some of the items covered during Get on Stage, 2! will include; Interpreting Situations relating to Theatrical Interpreting, Give & Take, Philosophical Frame, What is Interpretation, Role-Play, Visualization; RID and BEI CEUs pending. The cost will be $85.00; Student with I.D. $45.00. To register now, contact the Illuminations Arts office at 713-529-6909 (TTY/ VP) or 713-529-6910 (V/ FAX) or by e-mail at **illuminarts@sbcglobal.net** or **click workshop registration**.

**September 27, 2006 (Wednesday)**

Houston Senior Citizens will have a social meeting at **Metropolitan Multi-Service Center** at 1475 West Gray, Houston from 9 AM to 1 PM. Let's join with friends and have fun!

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## Labor Day

In September 1882 Central Labor Union held its first Labor Day celebration in New York City, in honor of the entire workforce.

In 1884 the first Monday of September officially became Labor Day and over the years it has been celebrated with parades, fireworks and festivals; slowly losing its political connotations and becoming an unofficial end of summer holiday.

Labor Day is devoted to no man, living or dead, to no sect, race or nation.

*--Samual Gompers, founder and president of the American Federation of Labor*

## In Remembrance of WTC and the Heroes
## September 11, 2001

Even though it has been nearly five years since 9/11, "World Trade Center" still brings back the terrible feelings of that day like it just happened; the tragedy of the twin towers collapsing and thousands of innocent people dead. They are in our hearts and prayers forever.

Those firefighters, policemen, military personnel and people who saved others are really brave and heroes. They touch our hearts.

We in the United States will never forget and will always honor our heroes.

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# NEWS

**Illuminations Arts presents Hand Held Tales - Stories in ASL and English:** Email from Illuminations Arts staff

Come and have fun with us as we celebrate Deaf Heroes and Deaf Culture Featuring stories and poems written by or about Deaf individuals Sunday 2:30 PM, September 10th at Borders Books, 3025 Kirby, Houston, Texas 77098. Storytellers: Brian Kilpatrick & Randy Thuesen.

Hand Held Tales are performed in both American Sign Language and spoken English for people of all abilities and all ages. Performances of Hand Held Tales at Borders Books are free and open to all.

Stories Open up Worlds...Experience a Story!

Alisa Wells, Director of Hand Held Tales: 713-529-6910 (Voice/Fax); 713-529-6909 (TTY/ VP); www.illuminationsarts.org.

**Events at TSD**

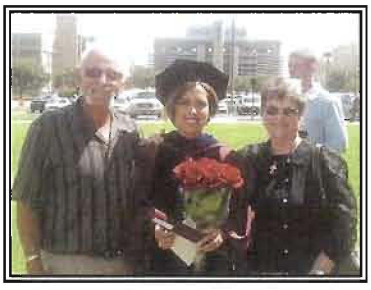
Texas Latino Council of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing's 2006 Conference September 14 – 17, 2006. The performance: *ASL Story Telling* (Manny Hernandez) *and Magic Show* (Sammy Ruiz) will be shown at TSD Auditorium, 1102 S. Congress Ave, Austin, TX 78704 7 PM Friday September 15th. That will be good experience for the Deaf community, interpreting training programs and schools. Admissions: Registered Conference Participants (Combo ticket): FREE; Adults: $10.00 and Children under 18: $5.00. For more information contact Ann Horn at **Ann.Horn@dars.state.tx.us**.

**Z.X. & Dorothy Curry:** Submitted by Arthur Craig

August 15. -- I went to see the Currys a little while ago. Mrs. Dorothy Curry is in Spring Branch Health Care Center, 8955 Long Point and Mr. Z.X. Curry is in Spring Branch hospital. Dorothy looked pretty good. Not sure she recognized me, but smiled and signed "I love you." She was in a wheel chair eating lunch. Z.X. was out of his room. A sign said he was having a colonscopy. The other day when I went by he seemed to have clear mind and feel pretty good. Not sure why he is still there. I will go back and visit him.

I'm sure they would enjoy your visit.

*Arthur*



**Dr. Corinne Montalvo Valadez**

Dr. Corinne Montalvo Valadez, daughter of Mario and Charm Montalvo, received her Ph.D. from Texas A&M University on August 11, 2006. She received her degree in Educational Curriculum and Instruction with a major in Multicultural, International, and Urban Education.

Mario and Charm are very proud of their daughter. Congratulations Dr. Valadez and the Montalvos!!

**Short News** by Patricia "Patty" Bussard

My husband, Paul and I have lived in Montgomery for the past 15 months. We enjoy Texas and being close to our grandchildren. We have also finished building a new house. We have not quite settled down, but right now we're putting off making tables and adding two rooms: it's too hot here. Texas is a lot hotter and humid than in Florida.

**Nancy Morris's Vacation Trip through 6 States and 1 Country**

I left on June 25th by plane to Salt Lake City, Utah with 3 other friends. We went sightseeing at Brigham Young's Historical place. After a delicious supper, we watched a performance by 5 young adults. The next day, we boarded a bus for sightseeing at the Great Salt Lake and downtown Salt Lake City. Then, we headed for Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Next day, we boarded our bus and headed to Jackson Hole, Wyoming. That evening, we went to a Ranch for a ride in a Covered Wagon into the mountain to eat dinner there. Then, we had entertainment with songs. The woman there sang, "How Great Thou Art" and I sang along with her in signs.

The next day, we left for Butte, Montana where we stopped at Yellowstone Park and saw Grand Teton Park, too. Old Faithful Geyser was still spraying water in the air. The next day, we were headed to Spokane, Washington going through Lake Coeur d'Alene. This is a beautiful town.

The day after that, we stopped at Penticton, British Columbia for sightseeing and to visit Grand Coulee Dam. We arrived at our *Holland America Lines* ship. We stopped at Skagway, Alaska to ride a Floatplane. Next, we stopped at Juneau, Alaska to go shopping in this small town and watched July 4th parade. We took a train ride up into the mountain to arrive in Canada. After getting off the train, we got on a bus to go to a mining camp where we mined for gold. We then stopped at Ketchikan for a boat ride. Our final stop was in Vancouver, Canada where our bus was waiting, from there we went to Seattle, Washington for sightseeing.

On the final day, we flew back home to Houston and the HEAT! It was a great trip and I enjoyed it all.

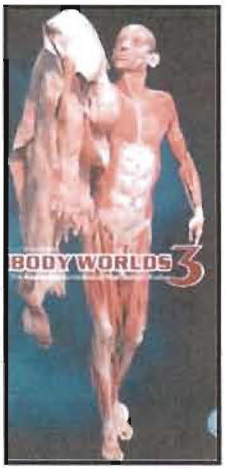
**Luncheon at Woodhaven Baptist Deaf Church:**

The Deaf Senior Citizens had a luncheon including a birthday cake for Officer James Sobota at Woodhaven Baptist Deaf Church Thursday, August 17th. Seventeen Senior Citizens and seven people from church joined together for lunch. That was real nice. Church members worked so hard to clean out the other side of the room where the luncheon took place all morning and they did a splendid job. Glad that they joined Senior Citizens for a good lunch.

They presented Officer James Sobota a nice birthday card. Thelma Jo Hays made him a German Chocolate cake (his favorite) with two candles "4 – 8" (See picture). Evelyn Autry presented him a cute vase with alphabetic manual all around with markers, pen, pencils, letter opener, ruler and scissors for his office.

He was very delighted to get them for his birthday and of course he was real surprised that we celebrated his 48th birthday. He turned 48 years old Friday, the 18th. He took some of the cake home for his wife and daughter. He had to work on his birthday! He e-mailed Evelyn Autry that the birthday was the best he ever had. We all are glad that he enjoyed the happy day.

**Houston Deaf Senior Citizens' Field Trip**




They went to the Houston Museum of Natural Science Wednesday, August 2nd and toured an interesting, amazing Body Worlds 3. The anatomical exhibition of real human bodies is presented in partnership with Baylor College of Medicine and The Lester and Sue Smith Foundation, more than 200 authentic specimens, including individual organs, transparent body slices. They enjoyed to learn something new and never before seen whole body plastinates.

Here are the details: The entire bodies that have been submitted to Plastinization, the revolutionary polymer preservation method invented by Dr. von Hagens in 1977, (the culmination of the German Scientist and physician's 30-year career in anatomy), his groundbreaking method of halting decomposition and preserving the body after death for medical study (text taken from the Houston Museum of Natural Science website).

Two pictures are shown here: The man's body shown is 9 years old. The skin is peeled off before putting it in the polymer and then putting in the plastic to be dried. It took 3 years to prepare the horse with the same polymer and plastic. Amazing!

**Weekend Trip:** Submitted by Zelma Curbello

Gus and I went to Ennis, TX to visit Martha & Andy Beckham included spent at night there on August 12th.

On August 13th we all went to Ft. Worth, TX for a big surprise 80th Birthday Party for H.C. Collins at Vance Godbey's Restaurant on 8601 Jacksboro Highway. He was so surprised to see many Deaf friends there. He had thought it was only a family gathering. There was a good crowd at about 65 people and we all had a great time.

It was so good to see our old friends again.

**Three News:** Submitted by Tennie Sessions

July 7th. Mary Ewald walked to the La Vista Retirement Community Center with her friend. We gave her a Farewell Party. She was surprised and smiled at us. She got many cards and gifts. The refreshment was very nice. We miss her after she moved to Ft. Worth. Now she is happy to live in Westchester Plaza (an assisted living place for the Deaf). She lived in Houston for many years.

July 21st Dale Hovinga was stunned and cried as he entered La Vista Retirement Community Center at lunch. All of us applauded him and he was in good spirits. The reason is that he was an advisory who has helped the Deaf community. He got a big Farewell card after we had signed it. We won't forget his kindness to us. The lunch was delicious. The cake was covered with white icing and written in green color "Goodbye, We'll Miss You" and decorated with yellow flowers and green leaf, on each corner of the cake, also green on the edge. He didn't want to miss saying "Thanks" and "Goodbye" to each of us before he left with his wife, Sharon. We miss him so much.

The second week of August 2006 Glynn & Alma Whittemore moved back to Houston metro. They love their home in Pasadena - "Home Sweet Home". We miss them very much because they are very friendly. We always remember them, because they talked very nicely to everybody at the La Vista Retirement Apts.

**Senior Carjacking:** Received email from a friend

This is a true account as recorded in the Police Log of Sarasota, Florida.

An elderly Florida lady did her shopping and, upon returning to her car, found four males in the act of leaving with her vehicle. She dropped her shopping bags and drew her handgun, proceeding to scream at the top of her voice, "I have a gun, and I know how to use it! Get out of the car!" The four men didn't wait for a second invitation. They got out and ran like crazy.

The lady, somewhat shaken, then proceeded to load her shopping bags into the back of the car and got into the driver's seat. She was so shaken that she could not get her key into the ignition. She tried and tried, and then it dawned on her why... For the same reason she did not understand why there was a football, a Frisbee and two 12 packs of beer in the front seat!

A few minutes later, she found her own car parked four or five spaces farther down. She loaded her bags into the car and drove to the police station to report her mistake.

The sergeant to whom she told the story couldn't stop laughing. He pointed to the other end of the counter, where four pale men were reporting a car jacking by a mad, elderly woman described as white, less than five feet tall, glasses, curly white hair, and carrying a large handgun.

No charges were filed.

If you're going to have a Senior Moment, make it a memorable one!!!!!

**Deaf Actress**

The series "Jericho" will be on TV this fall on Wednesdays 8 PM with **update** for exactly date for first show coming up in FALL from: **http://www.cbs.com/primetime/jericho/.** Deaf actress, Shoshannah Stern will be act as Bonnie Ricmond.

Shoshannah Stern, along with her brother and sister, represents the fourth generation of a deaf family. She grew up in Fremont, California, attending the California School for the Deaf, where her parents worked and her two siblings also attended.

Stern attended Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., the only Liberal Arts University for Deaf People in the world. There she pursued her love of theater, winning numerous awards for her performances. During the winter recess of her senior year at Gallaudet, she was asked to audition for a guest-starring role in the series "Off Centre." She flew to Los Angeles and subsequently won the role. This led to guest-starring roles in "Providence," "Boston Public," "ER," and "The Division." With her recurring role on "Weeds" and lead role in JERICHO, Stern currently holds the distinction of being the only deaf actor in history to have significant roles in two primetime television series during the same season.

On the stage, Stern originated the role of Susan in "Open Window" at the Pasadena Playhouse. Her feature film credits include "The Last Shot."

Stern was born in Walnut Creek, California. Her birth date is July 3.

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**DeafDigest Gold Edition - August 6, 2006**

Barry Strassler, Editor

**News of the Week**

DeafDigest congratulates three deaf Britons (Gerry Hughes, Jeff McWhinney and Mark Robertson) for successfully traveling across the Atlantic Ocean via yacht. It is claimed they became the first deaf yachtsmen to achieve this feat.

Gerry, by the way, crossed the Atlantic Ocean all by his lonely self in 2005. He is just repeating this act with fellow deaf yachtsmen.

**DeafSportsHistory**

Year 1970 - the Gallaudet football team calls themselves "The Dirty Thirty". The team had 65 candidates sign up to play but when practices began only 30 showed up, and it was reduced to 26 because of defections.

"The Dirty Thirty" bonded the team with the entire Gallaudet student body as a symbol of rallying affection.

Because of injuries, the roster dropped below 20 players at one point during the season - yet the players continued to fight throughout the season.

**The Deaf Behind The Scenes In Hollywood**

Hollywood is a huge industry and we have a number of deaf people working behind the scenes. For every Marlee Matlin that we see on the screen, there are some deaf people in a list of Hollywood-related jobs, ranging from the mail room and up.

One of these people is Amy Wong Edwards who works as Special Effects artist for Disney.

She was written up in a past edition of CSD SIGNews.
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# REST IN PEACE

## OBITUARIES

**Patti Ross Broussard, 56,** of Kountze, died Thursday, July 20, 2006 at Village Creek Rehabilitation and Nursing Home in Lumberton.

A native of Dallas and resided in Kountze since 1983, Patti was an assembler for Southern Avionics Company until her long illness in 2003. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Beaumont, Deaf Chapel for many years.

Her grandfather, Cecil M. Brooks; her son, Willie W. Broussard III; her step son, William M. Broussard; and her very best friend, Margaret Jackson Jones preceded her in death.

Mrs. Broussard is survived by her husband of twenty-six years, Willie W. Broussard, Jr. of Kountze; her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Ross, Jr. of Dallas; her son, William Terry turner III of Austin; daughters, Mirna Dea Broussard of San Antonio, Virna Lea Broussard and Laura Sue Broussard both of Dallas.

Funeral service was held at 3:00 PM Sunday, July 23, 2006 at Broussard's, 1605 North Major Drive, Beaumont with burial to follow at Old Hardin Cemetery in Kountze. A gathering of family and friends was held from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM Saturday, July 22, 2006 at the Mortuary.

**Olga Barrera Escobedo** went to be with our Lord on August 2, 2006 surrounded by her loved ones. Olga was born September 2, 1932 to Josefa Garza and Jimmy Barrera of Falfurrias, Texas.

She was the oldest of three girls and is survived by her two sisters Gloria Salinas of Alice, TX and Estella Garza of Houston, TX and a half brother, Rogelio Brosse of Falfurrias, TX.

She is also survived by her husband of 52 years, Gilbert Escobedo, who she met while attending Texas School for the Deaf in Austin, TX; sons, Jose 'Joey' Escobedo and wife, Yolanda of Dallas, Paul Escobedo of San Antonio, Mark Escobedo of Houston, and James Escobedo of Dallas; grandchildren, Annie Jo Ferguson and husband John, Alexis, Elida, Rebecca and Eliza Escobedo.

She also leaves behind her great grandchildren, Jacob, Casey, and Alyssa Ferguson; her father-in-law, Aubra Ward of San Antonio and her sister-in-law Joanne Ward Barnwell and husband Robert 'Barney' Barnwell of The Woodlands, TX.

A memorial service was held 10:00 a.m., Saturday, August 5, 2006 at First Baptist Church of San Antonio, 515 McCullough. Ave. 78215.

Please visit www.mem.com. Roy Akers Zizik Kearns Funeral Chapels.

**Barbara "Button" Verspoor Burns, 44,** passed away Sunday, August 6, 2006.

Services were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 8, at OakCrest Funeral Home, 4520 Bosque Blvd. with the Rev. Gary Bone officiating and Rob Granberry, ASL Interpreter. Graveside services were held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, at Broaddus Cemetery in Broaddus, Texas. Visitation was from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday at OakCrest Funeral Home.

Barabara was born Sept. 19, 1961 in Bay Shore, N. Y. to Louis L. Verspoor and Carolyn Van Wyen Verspoor. She married Brent Allen Burns in Sayville, Long Island, N.Y., on Aug. 23, 1986.

Barabara graduated from Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. and received her master's degree from Western Maryland College.

Barbara was a teacher at Lake Air Middle School. She was a member of Columbus Ave. Baptist Church, Director of Hands for Him sign language choir, secretary of the Waco Deaf Club, member of the Deaf Christian Fellowship and a contributor to the Waco Christmas Celebration.

Barbara is survived by her husband, Brent Allen Burns; daughter, Rachel Burns; son, Jordan Burns

all of Hewitt; parents, Louis and Carolyn Verspoor of Winnabow, N.C.; brother, Keith Verspoor and wife, Amy of Mansfield, Ohio; sister, Sheryl White and husband, Daniel of Brockport, N.Y.; in-laws, Allen Burns and wife, Billie of Houston, Anne Baugh and husband, Hollis of Bacliff, Texas, sister-in-law, Catherine Riviera and husband, Jim, of League City, Texas; and several aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews and nieces.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Columbus Ave. Baptist Church, 1300 Columbus Ave. Waco, TX 76701 or the American Heart Association, 6801 Sanger Ave. Suite 102, Waco, Texas 76710

**PEDRO 'Pete' SOLIS, 52**, passed away Monday, August 7, 2006.

He is survived by his companion of 26 years Larry Galloway, his mother Trinidad, sister Connie, and brothers Henry & David.

A gathering was held Monday, August 14th from 6 to 7 PM @ Bering Memorial United Methodist Church in Houston.

## ON YOUR MIND

Questions and Answers

Consumer Reports on Health – June 2006

### Toothpaste-cancer connection

**Q.** Your January 2006 issue warned that triclosan, an ingredient in antibacterial soaps, produces a carcinogenic chemical when it reacts with chlorine in tap water. Do toothpastes containing triclosan present a cancer danger? –R.M., *New York City*

**A.** It seems unlikely. Pilot studies raising that cancer concern looked at soaps containing triclosan, not toothpastes. Evidence suggests that even with soaps, the amount of the carcinogen released is comparable to that normally found in some tap water. And the reactions documented in the most recent, widely publicized soap study require much more chlorinated water than you'd come in contact with when brushing your teeth. Triclosan in toothpaste thus isn't likely to be a concern, according to the study's author. The American Dental Association has also stated that a warning about the potential harm from soaps containing triclosan doesn't apply to toothpaste.

### Second-hand radiation risk

**Q.** I'm receiving radiation treatment for cancer. Does this expose my spouse or family to any danger? –E.E., *Wayne, NJ*

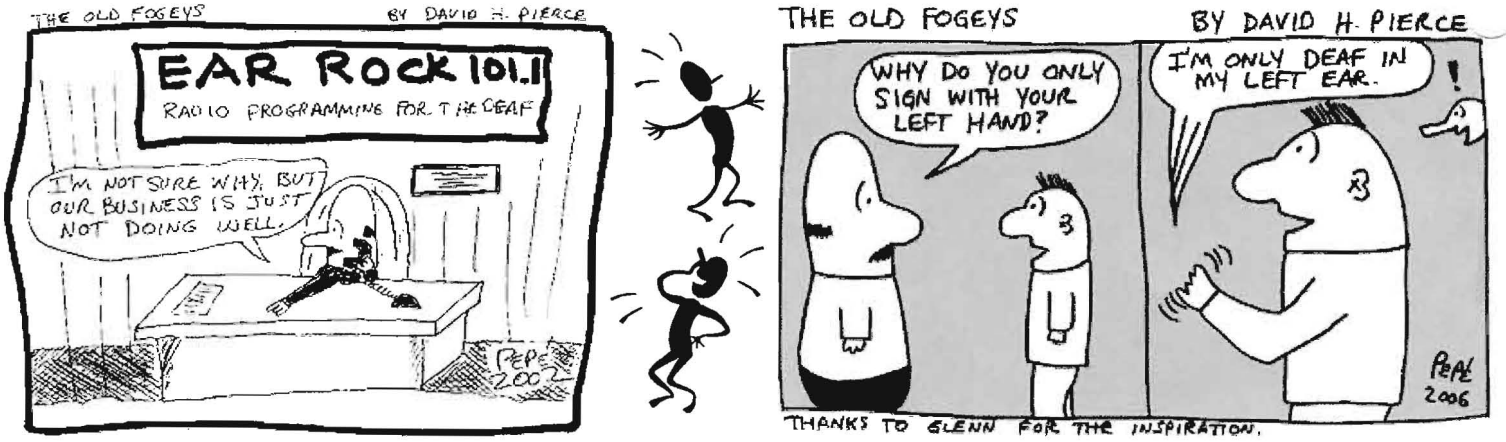
**A.** That depends on the treatment. External beam radiation, a common treatment in which you sit or lie in the path of an X-ray beam, doesn't pose any danger since that type of radiation ceases to exist after the exposure. Radioactive implants used for prostate cancer, on the other hand, do carry some risks, particularly to small children during the week or so after implantation. Your doctor may advise you to have no grandchildren on your lap. Radioactive drugs such as technetium, strontium, or iodine can cause you to emit radiation through your skin, feces, and urine. You may be advised to use eating utensils and towels separate from your housemates, avoid kissing and sex, and flush the toilet multiple times after use, in addition to avoiding contact with children or pregnant women. If you've had a recent procedure using a radioactive isotope, you may be questioned before boarding an airplane, so carry a note from your doctor.

### Soda: Bad to the bones?

**Q.** Can drinking too many soft drinks leach calcium from your bones? –B.W., *Oakland, GA*

**A.** The risk, if any, is slight. It's true that some soft drinks, particularly colas, contain phosphoric acid, an ingredient that can impair calcium absorption. But the amounts are modest compared with those in many common foods; other dietary sources or calcium supplements should easily offset any potential loss. The greater risk is from soda that contains caffeine. Too much caffeine may contribute to bone loss.

## LAUGHTER, THE BEST MEDICINE




### SENIOR HUMOR

Received email from a friend

A distraught senior citizen phoned her doctor's office. "Is it true," she wanted to know, "that the medication you prescribed has to be taken for the rest of my life?" "Yes, I'm afraid so," the doctor told her.

There was a moment of silence before the senior lady replied, "I'm wondering, then, just how serious is my condition because this prescription is marked 'NO REFILLS'."

# HOUSTON DEAF SENIORS of TEXAS

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