



The following individuals are proudly serving the United States of America in the Armed Forces. The Chandler, Brownsboro, Moore Station, Murchison and Lake Palestine communities are proud of you! For those who are serving overseas, we await your safe return.

If you know of someone in the military, whose primary residence is in the BISD, please let us know so we can recognize them.

- Paul Avritt
- John Bass
- Brian Bailey
- Ryan Barnes
- Heather Beall
- Jeramy Becton
- Casey Berry
- Ben Bevans
- Justin Brown
- Donald Burk
- Jonathan Cannon
- Robert Carian
- Joshua Cason
- Robert (Mikey) Clary
- Aaron Clover
- Casie L. Coplan
- Danny Cowart
- Jeff Crosby
- Andy Dalton
- Philip Daniel
- Johnathan Daniels
- Jessica Delaney
- Doug Dickerson
- Mike Dunklin
- Brandon Edwards
- Joshua Fowler
- Gregory Geske
- Michael Gideon
- Greg Giger
- Donnie Goines
- Nicholas Gould
- Josh Grant
- Joseph Paden Guerra
- Edmond Hargrave
- Jayandra Hare
- John (Duce) Harber III
- James Michael Hendrix
- Cedric Herring
- Daniel Herron
- Detro Hightower
- Nathan D. Huff
- Aaron Colby 'AC' Humphries
- John Charles Hunter
- Don Inbody
- Matt Irwin
- Michael Isbell, Jr.
- Ryan Steven Jackson
- Joshua Johnson
- Scott Joiner
- Eric Jones
- Bobby Jordan
- Daniel Kidd
- Jesse Kidd
- Lucas Killmeyer
- David Klaus
- Richard Lafayette
- Sam Laymance
- Robert Leed
- Oran Lewis
- Christy Loper
- Sean Lynch
- Raul Macias
- Dusty Mayer
- Jerry Mayse
- Andrew McIntosh
- Tim McMurtray
- Jason Meador
- Chris Munch
- Beau Nation
- Anthony Neeland
- Adam Newell
- Sarah Oliver
- Patrick Ormiston
- Douglas Owen
- Robert Payne
- Jordan L. Parker
- Chad Peyton
- Zach Peyton
- Joseph Pearson
- Joshua Phillips
- Jordan Phillips
- Dusty Pool
- Coy Powell
- Jamie Rainwater
- Austin Rhodes
- Nicholas Robran
- Ashley Rogers
- Matthew Seda
- Jeremiah Shafer
- Angus Smith
- Cory Smith
- Luke Smith
- Michael Spencer
- Jared Staggs
- Christopher Stanton
- Emitt Swafford
- Whitney E. Sykes
- Joe Taylor
- Timothy Taylor
- Jacob Thomas
- Drew Thompson
- Deanna Thornton
- Jim Tippen, Jr.
- Jerry Tucker
- Chad Vickers
- Clay Wade
- Tim Wagner
- Christopher Wagoner
- Joe Wangler
- James Weaver
- Jacob Welch
- Shawn Werchan
- Marc Westbrooks
- Josh Wheeler
- Jamie Willard
- Lelia Williams
- Timothy Williams
- Teresa Wilson

To add a name to this list, or have a name taken off please call or email: The Statesman - 903-852-7641 statesman@embarqmail.com

## 'Watercolors Made Easy' subject at Kappa Pi meeting

by Lynda McQuaid

Barbara Faye Beard prepared "hands-on art activities" with her program titled "Watercolors Made Easy" for the Kappa Pi Chapter meeting Thursday, March 6 at 2 p.m.

After showing some of her watercolors of the lake, her dog, and some tomatoes, she explained some of the techniques for working with watercolor pencils. On the tables with the brushes and watercolor pencils, she had displayed samples.

She explained how to use a light box or a window to trace a pattern; but to save time, she gave each member a piece of watercolor paper with the pattern already prepared. Members shared the watercolor pencils, colored their tomatoes, and then painted them with water, bringing out the beautiful watercolors. Even those who confided they had no artistic talent enjoyed learning about the process.

The meeting was held in the home of Barbara Faye who



Members of the Kappa Pi Chapter, left to right, Lindy Goode, Lou Brown, Fay Blackwell, Naomi Bledsoe and Benita Carver enjoy hand on art activities.

prepared refreshments with co-hostess Lindy Goode. Sandwiches, nuts, chips, apple pie with ice cream, and a special recipe of Hawaiian punch were served.

Lou Brown presided over the business meeting which included an update of home-bound members, the election

of new officers, voting for an achievement award winner, discussion about the Joint Tyler Chapters' meeting in May, the June State Convention, and the Area I meeting in August.

Four members will be representing the chapter at the Alpha State Convention.

## ★ Challengers needed

(Continued from page 1)

The three incumbents are Glen Vest, Mary Carnahan and Doug Shaffer.

The situation is similar in the city of Chandler.

Shirley Parmer, city secretary of Chandler, said only two of the three incumbents have signed on for another stay as councilmember.

"Ann Hall and Gene Giger have signed up," Parmer said.

The third position, councilmember Coy Ellis' position, has not yet been applied for. Ellis will not run for another term.

Just as in Brownsboro, the deadline for write-in applications is March 17, and these applications can be obtained from the Chandler City Hall office.

If no one signs up to fill

Ellis' position one of two scenarios can occur. The council can either appoint someone to fill this position or vote to have an election specifically to fill the position.

"I've never seen an election where no one signed up for a position in my time here," Parmer said of the possibility of an open slot. "It'll be a first for me."

The city of Murchison's election situation is slightly different. Instead of having three councilmember incumbents to elect or challenge, Murchison has two city council positions and the position of the city mayor.

Megan Harville and Lance West are the two who have signed up to fill the city council positions.

Sharon Chase, Murchison city secretary, said it is likely the city will not have an election.

"The mayor is outgoing and no one has signed up to fill the position," Chase said. Harville and West have received no challenges as of March 11.

Murchison mayor Larry Everett spoke of appointing someone to be mayor, Chase said.

Because Tuesday, March 11, was the last day for Murchison to order an election, the decision was made at the monthly city council meeting. The results were not available at the time of this paper's deadline.

Chase said she didn't know when the mayor's last day would be.

## The first Elvis impersonator

Former radio personality Norman Johnson of Nacogdoches holds a unique place in East Texas history: He was the first known Elvis impersonator.

A native of Gilmer in Upshur County, Johnson grew up in the Rosewood community, went to school at Harmony, and made his professional singing debut at the age of three during a bank's Christmas party, earning two dollars. At eight, he did his first live radio broadcast in Gladewater.

At the peak of Elvis Presley's music career, Johnson dressed up as the world's most famous rock n' roller and belted out Elvis songs all over East Texas and Louisiana. He was only fourteen at the time.

Betty Cook of the Gilmer Mirror remembers those days well: "I remember his pink slacks with a navy stripe down the sideseam of the legs. With his black hair combed back in the famous Elvis style, he made quite a good-looking Elvis. Maybe he didn't get quite as much attention as Elvis himself, but he certainly got his share."

Johnson performed an hour-long show each year at the East Texas Yamboree from 1954 to 1958 and worked on road shows with various Louisiana Hayride stars.

Johnson soon found himself performing with stars such as Jim Reeves, Johnny Cash, Ernest Tubb, Marty Robbins -- even Elvis himself.

During the early days of his career, Presley traveled all over Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas before he recorded "That's Alright, Momma," which shot him to stardom. By 1956, he was America's most popular singer.

Presley performed his first East Texas show at Gilmer, but Johnson didn't perform with Elvis until his second show at Hawkins.



By Bob Bowman

He recalls Elvis as "the most polite, clean-cut guy I ever met." He said Presley "was so different and unusual that the girls who came to see him went crazy when he performed."

Johnson said Presley originally wanted to be a gospel singer, but James Blackwood of the Blackwood Brothers said he wasn't ready for the big time. It may have been the worst assessment of talent in music history.

When Elvis died in 1977 at his home in Memphis, Tennessee, Johnson mourned his passing not only as a musician, but as a friend.

Johnson's own career is a potpourri of achievements: disc jockey, manager of radio stations, a pastor at Palestine, Beaumont and Houston, recorder of his own albums, recipient of seven Texas legislative proclamations, member of the Texas Radio Hall of Fame, a civic leader in Nacogdoches, and a founder of the Nacogdoches Community Coalition. This spring he will release a new CD titled, appropriately, "Old Rock and Roll Dude."

But all of these achievements are pale by comparison to his best-known role as the first Elvis impersonator.

(Bob Bowman is the author of more than 35 books about East Texas history and folklore. He can be reached at bob-bowman.com)

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