

## LETTER FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

**JULY IS HERE AND THE HEAT IS ON!** It is so hot outside, I saw a cup of coffee boiling just sitting on the picnic table. Now that is hot!

The Fourth of July is right here on us. We celebrate the independence and freedoms of this great country again at this time. It has been 242 years since the Declaration of Independence was signed by our forefathers. How grateful we are for their persistence and stubbornness to create their own country. We celebrate that Spirit again this year on July 4.

July 4 is also the birthday of my best friend's dad, Jack. Jack would have been in his upper 80's this year if he was still with us. For many years, the week of July 4th, I would travel with my friend and his family up to a camp we had all purchased together in East Texas on Cow Creek. I never knew why it was called Cow Creek, but I presume at some point, someone saw cows in the creek. Just a guess. And that creek was always freezing cold. It came from an underground spring about a mile

upstream from us, and even on the hottest July day, that creek was freezing cold. It would take your breath away every time you jumped into it.

So, the tradition went on for many years that on the 4th of July, we all traveled to the camp to enjoy time together. We did the traditional family thing, too, on that day. We grilled burgers and hot dogs, had potato salad and beans, and ice-cold watermelon that we had rolled off into the creek for a couple of days prior to eating it. That cold creek would really cool off that watermelon to just the right eating temperature. I remember just how good that juicy red melon was with the juice dripping down off our hands as we would eat it. And watermelon was one of Jack's favorite things. The 4th of July, watermelon, and Jack – they all seemed to go together.

We spent many fun times up at Cow Creek. We made lots of great memories there. We watched the nieces and nephews grow up on the creek and

now take their kids there to enjoy. We would grill outside during the day and have a campfire burning each night. We would fish for Sun Perch in the creek by walking down the middle of the creek and fishing the edges under the overhanging trees. We would canoe around and splash everyone we could. We would float the creek in old tire inner tubes and be so sunburned you couldn't stand to touch it. I could go on and on about the great times we had there on the creek. But we seemed to always have the best time during 4th of July when the entire group of family and friends were there. Go make some great memories with your families this year on the 4th of July!

*Kevin W. Garriga*

**ADMINISTRATOR**


SOUTHERN KNIGHTS  
SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY



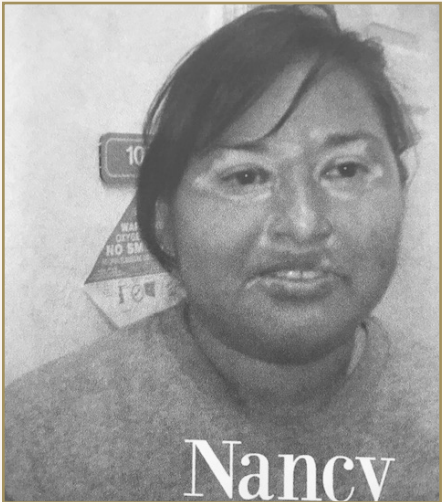
# Activities and Shenanigans: Photo Highlights



TEAM MEMBERS OF THE MONTH



Resident Choice: Skylar



Administrator Choice- Nancy



# Activities and Shenanigans



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## Supporting our Ghost Riders Platoon

Nothing makes the heart happier than to help someone! GIVE MORE THAN YOU GET! The Big Hats have BIG Hearts!



## THE HISTORY OF FIREWORKS

The history of fireworks is as colorful as the flashes of light that they emit. China is recognized as the birthplace of fireworks; however, the exact date of its invention, as well as the discovery of gunpowder (an important element used in fireworks) is greatly debated by historians.

Some say that it goes as far back as 2,000 years ago, while others peg it at a much later time during the Middle Ages.

China mainly used fireworks for entertainment purposes. The first firecrackers were bamboo tubes filled with gunpowder which were then thrown into a fire.

The loud noise that these firecrackers—and other subsequent fireworks—emitted was believed to drive away evil spirits. That is why the Chinese usually use them to usher in a new year.

Use of fireworks eventually spread westward, first to the Middle East then later on to Europe. The first recorded use of fireworks in Europe was sometime during the 13th century.

The Europeans also began developing fireworks. They studied it closely and even had schools built specifically for that purpose: one was in Italy while the other was in Nuremberg, Germany.

Today, fireworks continue to be a significant part of major celebrations such as the New Year and Independence Day.

**SOUTHERN KNIGHTS**  
SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

27919 Johnson Rd  
Tomball, TX 77375

PHONE: 281-351-8575

FAX: 281-351-1129

[www.SouthernKnightsALC.com](http://www.SouthernKnightsALC.com)

## OUR STAFF

**KEVIN GARRIGA**  
Administrator

**SHAWNA PLATOW**  
Business Office Manager

**SUSAN GUTIERREZ**  
Resident Care Manager

**DANGEL "DEE" OWENS**  
Director of Sales and Marketing

**JOHN REILLY**  
Dietary

**ROBERT YANDELL**  
Maintenance

**DENISE CORVIN**  
Activities Coordinator

  
**RIDGELINE**  
MANAGEMENT COMPANY

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## Activities and Shenanigans

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