

The DALLAS POST

50¢

Serving the communities of the Dallas and Lake-Lehman School Districts | www.mydallaspost.com

Her dream is for the birds

Wende DeOliverra has hopes of building conservation center

By CHRISTIE DELICATI
For The Dallas Post

Good things come to those who wait...and to those who have an adoring love for birds. That's the scenario for Wende DeOliverra, a 47-year-old residential real-estate appraiser from Dallas.

It's been years of imagining but now DeOliverra's dream of building a large-scale conservation center for rare and unusual birds is finally underway.

Amidst an 86-acre Back Mountain property sits a 5,100 square foot farm house where DeOliverra resides with her 24-year old son, Gino, also a real-estate appraiser, her companion Dave Brown, 40, and many birds.

In 1997, DeOliverra purchased her first bird, an Umbrella Cockatoo named "Woody." By October 2007, she was determined to pursue the journey that would put her one step closer toward turning her dream into a reality so she purchased enough property to secure her chance at building what she's named "Woody Acres Avian Conservation Eco-Center."

Woody Acres Avian Conservation Eco-Center is a not-for-profit zoological enterprise to promote avian and wildlife conservation, maintain and propagate certain rare and endangered avian species.

DeOliverra's love for rare birds developed when her son was a small



The future site of the Woody Acres Avian Conservation Eco-Center can be seen from the DeOliverra home.

CHRISTIE DELICATI PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

"People may not remember me after I'm gone but when my birds wind up somewhere else and are protected here in the United States - that will be my legacy."

Wende DeOliverra

child and she was looking for something to help create a bond between the two of them. She began exploring and researching rare birds on a whim and fell in love with cockatoos, as did her son who also plays a major role in the conservation project.

After working with endangered birds for 12 years, DeOliverra formed a breeding cooperative with the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) to import endangered species. The USFWS is the principal federal agency charged with protecting and enhancing the habitat of more than 800 species of birds that spend all or part of their lives in the United States.

Between her full-time job, caring for her family and her pursuing hobby, DeOliverra gets very little opportunity for rest.

"Cockatoos are not the easiest to deal with being that they are often loud and destructive and prone to human-like obses-

sive compulsiveness," DeOliverra said. "They need to be continuously stimulated and occupied."

According to DeOliverra, there are two different reasons for a project of this magnitude - first, the genetic management of endangered avian species and secondly, to expose the general public to rare and unusual birds and to provide bird goodwill ambassadors.

"Initially, the focus of this project did not include opening it to the public but I've come to realize that the birds and I give people a reason to support it," she adds. The plan is to open the conservation center to the public by 2010.

Endangered species of cockatoos don't come cheap and are valued anywhere from \$1,000 to \$30,000, based on the rarity of the bird. DeOliverra is now responsible for about 80 birds which have come from zoos or private importing parties once all U.S. government permits are obtained.

"The permit process is very crucial because back in 1992, the U.S. government seized the importing of parrot species in order to restrict the trade of wild caught parrots," says DeOliverra.

And that process is no simple task. In order to obtain such permission, a person must prove himself or herself worthy to the government by being a zoological enterprise or having worked with a specific species in the private sector which is how DeOliverra proved her worthiness. She indicates that few people realize all parrot species are considered endangered.

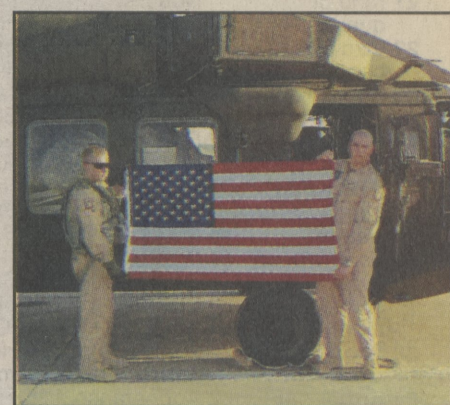
One of her greatest concerns is the estimation that, due to human encroachment, deforestation and the illegal trade in wild caught species, a number of species in residence at the center will become extinct in their country of origin.

DeOliverra stresses that the conservation project is not an animal rescue.

"My birds have an 80 to 90-year life span and are considered to be of the most intelligent and challenging species in the world," she said. "It is sci-

See BIRDS, Page 8

Wende DeOliverra gets a kiss from 'Orem Ishi,' her 2-year-old male cockatoo imported from Italy.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Spc. Matthew Mahoney, right, a native of Sweet Valley, serves as a Black Hawk crew chief with Company A, 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, Task Force XII. He is currently stationed in Baghdad.

SV native keeps helicopters flying

Special to The Dallas Post

The UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter is the Army's primary form of air transportation - and also one of its fastest vehicles on, or above, the battlefield.

In order for these helicopters to successfully conduct air missions, they need knowledgeable and focused crew chiefs to watch over passengers, maintain the aircraft and watch for threats from the sky.

Such is the mission of Multi-National Division - Baghdad's Spc. Matthew Mahoney, a native of Sweet Valley, who said he never gets bored while flying because he has enough responsibilities to keep him busy.

Mahoney, who serves as a Black Hawk crew chief with Company A, 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, Task Force XII, loves his job because it keeps him constantly engaged.

"When we're flying, we're continually monitoring the cockpit to back up the pilots," he said. "We're also on the lookout for towers and other aircraft flying around Baghdad. On top of all that, we manage all the passengers in the back and we are constantly on the lookout for any threats."

Mahoney first started his military career in the National Guard as a maintenance professional, working on Black Hawks, only to later switch to active duty and crew the helicopters.

"I went on active duty after two years in the National Guard where I was a Black Hawk repairer," he said. "Initially, I wanted to become a pilot, but my recruiter convinced me to work on the helicopters to get some experience. When I went on active duty, I switched over to become a crew chief - and I am loving it."

Mahoney's leadership greatly values his technical expertise when it comes to the helicopters. They say he's the first soldier they talk to when they have specific questions about the inner workings of their Black Hawks.

"Mahoney is one of the best and brightest soldiers I've ever worked with," said Sgt. Brett Babin, a native of New Orleans, squad leader and crew chief with Co. A. "He has a wealth of knowledge when it comes to these helicopters, so he is a great resource to have on my team. If any of us have any questions about something, he is always there to help us out."

For his future, Mahoney is still unsure whether he is going to stay in the military, but knows he will continue to work with helicopters even if he decides to join the civilian workforce after his deployment.

"I plan on dropping my warrant officer packet if I decide to stay in the military after this deployment," he said. "If not, I still want to continue working with helicopters."

No matter what Mahoney decides to do with the rest of his career, Babin will support him every step of the way.

"I think he likes the maintenance side more than the flight side," Babin said. "I know he's been talking about getting out of the military and working as a civilian contractor, but I'd still like to see him stay in. I know he'll be successful with whatever he does."

Until then, Mahoney, the son of Bob and Colette Mahoney of Sweet Valley, will be crewing the "Death Dealer" as it carries cargo and passengers from place to place around Baghdad.

HARVEYS LAKE EVENT BRINGS MANY HOME



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Max Bassett, of Dallas, takes his turn in the wading pool during Harveys Lake Homecoming activities. For story and additional photos, please turn to page 3.

Ide family donates book

By REBECCA BRIA
rbria@timesleader.com

Members of the Ide family recently donated a book about their family genealogy to the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

Copies of the book also have been or will be donated to Dallas High School, Lake-Lehman High School, Misericordia University, the Osterhout Library and the Library of Congress.

"The Ide Book will be a wonderful addition to our local history collection," said Martha Butler, director of the Back Mountain Memorial Library. "It is really great that families are willing to share their history with the community. Having local history in the library adds a dimension to the library and helps support the history of the community. We have a small but often used local history collection."

A book on the Ide family history was originally published in 1940 and an updated version was printed in 1956. The new book is compiled by Ide family members Judith Smith Korfonta, of Virginia, and



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Shirley Smith, seated left, and Willis Ide, seated right, both treasurers of the Ide Family Reunion, make a presentation to Martha Butler, left, director, and Ron Moran, president, of the Back Mountain Memorial Library Board of Directors, of the compilation of their family history. The Ide family history began in 1799 when the Ides came to the Back Mountain and built a cabin on Idetown-Huntsville Road, opposite the Idetown Cemetery.

Sandra May Johnson, of Harveys Lake and Florida, a project that took them five years to compile. The book was published by Gary and Richard Ide, owners of a Dallas printing business called Green Button, Inc.

Highlights of the book include the Ide Code of Arms, Ide ancestry in England and Ide ancestry and homesteads in Massachusetts. Local Ide family lineage begins with brothers Nehemiah and Ezra Ide.

During the Revolutionary War, Nehemiah Ide fought in the Battle of Trenton where, it is believed, he promised his dying friend he would marry his fiancée, Mary. The young Ide supposedly kept his promise.

Nehemiah Ide came to the area from Attleboro, Mass. in 1799 with his eldest son, Elijah, and built a log cabin across from the present

See IDE, Page 10

