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OBITUARY



• **MOZELLE PRATER**
DAYTON - Mozelle (Wid) Louise Dunn Prater, a longtime resident of Dayton Retirement Center, has been lifted up and is now with her Jesus. The world just lost a phenomenal woman, but Heaven just gained a very special angel. Mozelle was born in Fouts, Texas, on April 6, 1928, to Auzy Otto and Katie Norine Spraker Dunn. She was the first daughter of three boys and four girls. On December 8, 1944, she married Andrew William Prater. They became parents to Nila Goldberg, Lavina Rollins and Vicki Parks. Her family was blessed to have her for 98 years and 6 months. When asked what contributed to her longevity, she always answered “I owe it to my Jesus and Dr. Callens.” He recently said she was a stealer of kisses and hearts and that she was everything light in the world. He is right. Mozelle is survived by Nila, Lavina, Vicki and husband Steve; grandchildren, Bill Rice Jr., Tammy Coats Wood, James Coats, Chris Walker, Chandler Parks, Chelsea Parks; 10 great-grandchildren; nine

great-great grandchildren, and her sister, Dee Hendrick. She is preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Ricky, Danny and Andrew Dunn; sisters, Sunny Latz, Rose Holt; granddaughters, Alicia Rose Coats, Karyn Karleen Day; nieces, Karen Lynn Holt, Cheryl Diane Holt, Katie Dugat; sons-in-law, Billy Rollins and Jay Goldberg. Mozelle had a lifetime of stories that family never tired of hearing. She was kind, smart, independent, funny, generous, loving and the most non-judgmental person. She was as beautiful on the inside as she was on the outside. She loved her family more than her life. She was 4’11-1/2” of spunk and she will be missed every day. She was a member of Greater Faith Apostolic Church. Services were Friday, October 9, 2026, at 3 p.m. at Pace-Stancil Funeral Home in Dayton with Pastor Steve Vickery officiating.



Mozelle Prater recently with her three-week-old great-great-grandson Bennet Lincoln Beck. Vickie’s daughter described it as “The Circle of Life in a Photo.”

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Frankly Speaking –

Napkins – Then and Now

by Frank Jordan

Sometimes we “spin a tale” or talk about the difficulty of “making ends meet,” but what do either of these have to do with a “napkin?” What is a napkin anyway? What is a napkin ring really for? Who came up with these mouth wiping things anyway that always fall out of your lap at the worst time? What is the proper napkin when shoveling in barbecue and ribs with sauce dripping out of the corner of your mouth? Read on and resolve your lack of napkin knowledge!

In Texas we often use a paper towel or two to sop up the excess barbecue grease or sauce off our hands and faces, but is this just another evolution of what we call “napkins?” Most remember a mother’s

order, “Use your napkin and wipe your mouth!” Now in our home a napkin was paper and not linen, except on Christmas and Easter, and could have a picture on it ranging from a kitten to a Dixie cup.

Have we always had something around when we eat to keep our faces clean while protecting our clothes and the tabletop? In Roman times, large cloth napkins known as “mappae” were spread over the couch as protection from food taken in a reclining position. Could it be a napkin used during a meal in a recliner today should also be called a mappae? You carried your own mappae to a meal away from home and when you started home your mappae was folded over and filled with leftovers from the meal.

Pct. 4 concludes narcotics investigation

LIBERTY COUNTY - On Tues., October 6, the Liberty County Precinct 4 Constable’s Office concluded a narcotics investigation by executing a felony arrest warrant for Floyd Eugene Baker, 50, of Liberty. Baker was targeted for investigation after Precinct 4 received information that he was selling methamphetamine.

Precinct 4 investigators began a covert investigation, which led to Baker meeting with and selling methamphetamine to an undercover peace officer.

A sworn probable cause affidavit was prepared and presented to Liberty County Precinct 4 Justice of the Peace Judge Larry Wilburn who issued a felony warrant, Delivery of a Controlled Substance in Penalty Group 1, 4g-200g, a First-Degree Felony, for Baker’s arrest.

Baker was placed into custody at a residence located in the 500 block of County Road 193 in Raywood. Baker was arrested without incident and transported to the Liberty

County Jail for incarceration.

All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Constable Robby Thornton asks anyone with information regarding narcotics trafficking to contact local law enforcement or the Precinct 4 Constable’s Office at 936-258-4711 or by email at robby.thornton@liberty-countytx.gov

All tips received will remain confidential.

OLD SCHOOL MUSEUM MUGS

DAYTON - Earn your very own Dayton Old School Museum mug by presenting a program historical in nature to the Dayton Historical Society or purchase one outright from the museum for \$10. If you have a program you would like to share, Caroline Wadzeck at cwadzeck@hotmail.com. The museum, located at 108 W. Houston Street. Hours are Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is free.

Don’t know when we switched to “doggy bag.” They don’t even sound alike!

Why do they call it a napkin? When mappa, meaning cloth, was carried into Old French, the “m” became an “n,” producing nappe. In the 13th century the suffix “kin” was often attached to words to add the sense of small, so now you know napkin means small cloth. Does that apply to kinfolk?

King Charles VII in 1422 started the formal use of napkins. Damask linens were spun into elegant napkins that had woven illustrations that literally told a story; thus the derivation of the phrase, “To spin a tale.” By the sixteenth century, napkins were an accepted part of fine dining.

The diaper, an English word for napkin from the Greek word “diaspron,” was a white cotton or linen fabric woven with a small, repetitious, diamond-shaped pattern. My question is why don’t napkins have sticky tabs today like modern diapers to keep them from sliding off your lap? Just wondering.

The usage of a fork in England in the eighteenth century brought neatness to dining and reduced the size of the napkin to 30 inches by 36 inches – still huge! King Louis XV of France about 1725 introduced place settings using multiple utensils for dining in his modest Palace of Versailles of 721,000-plus s/f on 2,014 acres, also using individual napkins folded length-wise as they still are today.

In 1774 men wore stiffly starched ruffled collars, including when dining a napkin tied around the neck which required tying together where connected and thus the phrase, “to make ends meet.” Linen was considered more valuable than furniture to the settlers of the early American Colonies. Records indicate in 1698, George Washington’s great grandfather

VOLUNTEER AT MAGNOLIA PLACE

LIBERTY - Would you like to make someone happy and be rewarded with smiles? Magnolia Place Health Care is looking for caring volunteers, individuals or groups, who can play a musical instrument, such as a guitar, etc, or who can sing to entertain the residents. There is also a need for volunteers to play games, call bingo, help lift spirits, and assist with activities and crafts. If you the time to volunteer, call 936-336-8844.

proudly inventoried 10 old Virginia cloth napkins.

In the U.S., monograms were placed on linens, silver and crystal in lieu of a coat of arms. Napkin etiquette demands napkins are never scented. Do not ever place your napkin on a chair. When excusing yourself from the table, place the napkin to the left side of your place setting. Why? You don’t want to stain the chair fabric. Don’t know why you couldn’t if your chair is plastic or vinyl though.

Napkin rings were used to identify an individual’s napkin. After each meal your personal fabric napkin would be replaced in your napkin ring until used again. I assume they got washed every once in a while. Paper napkins became popular in 1931 when Scott Paper introduced them to the American market.

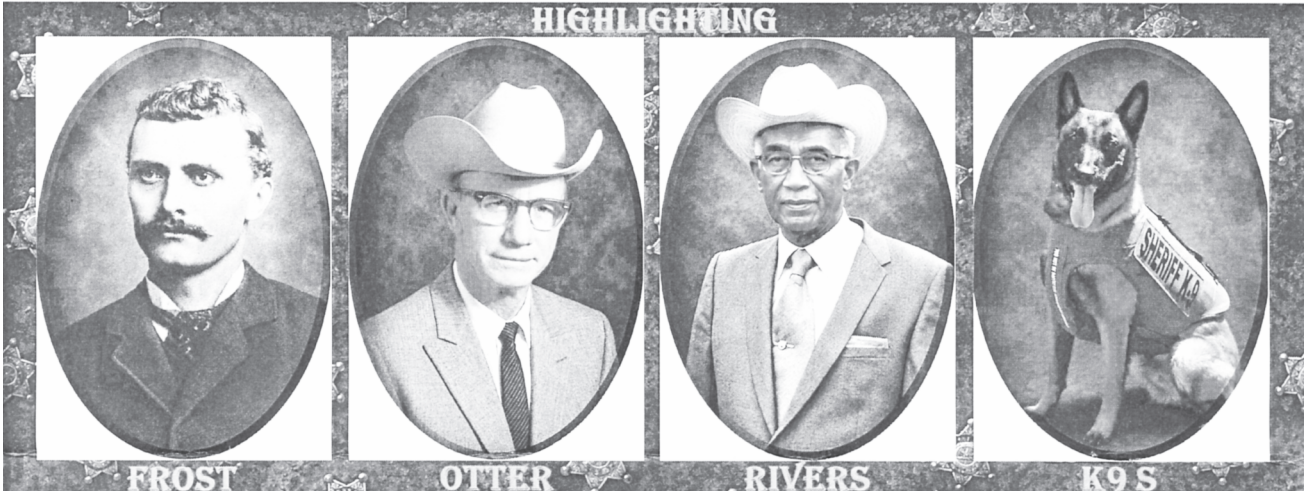
Paper towels aren’t considered proper yet, but if you’ve got to eat a bunch of ribs in sauce or take a big ole bite of juicy sausage, those tiny little paper squares just aren’t enough. Frankly speaking, my suggestion to be proper, just use a diaper with tabs and as a bonus it won’t slide off your lap!



ROTARIAN SPOTLIGHT RECOGNIZES JOHN GABLE

DAYTON - The Rotary Club of Dayton’s Rotarian Spotlight recognized John Gable for his commitment to business, youth and community service. Gable is a leader with Jelly!T, a Dayton-area technology company. He was recognized as the 2024 Dayton Chamber of Commerce Ambassador, 2025 Board Chairman of the Year, 2026 Trinity Valley Chamber of Commerce board member and board member of the Dayton Economic Development Corporation. A Dayton graduate, Gable has maintained strong ties to his hometown. His involvement in business, economic development, youth programs and community service demonstrates Rotary’s commitment to Service Above Self and the organization’s belief in being People of Action. The Rotary Club of Dayton meets each Thursday from noon to 1 p.m. at the Dayton Community Center and welcomes community members interested in learning more about Rotary and its work throughout the Dayton area.

HERITAGE DAY 2026



Chambers County Museum’s Heritage Day coming up end of October

WALLISVILLE - The Chambers County Museum at Wallisville will host Heritage Day 2026 on Sat., Oct. 31, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the museum grounds. This year the event will pay tribute to the men, women, and K9s “Behind the Badge” from the Chambers County Sheriff’s Office with special emphasis on Sheriff John Frost, Sheriff Louis Otter, Deputy Sheriff Herman Rivers and the

county’s K9 program.

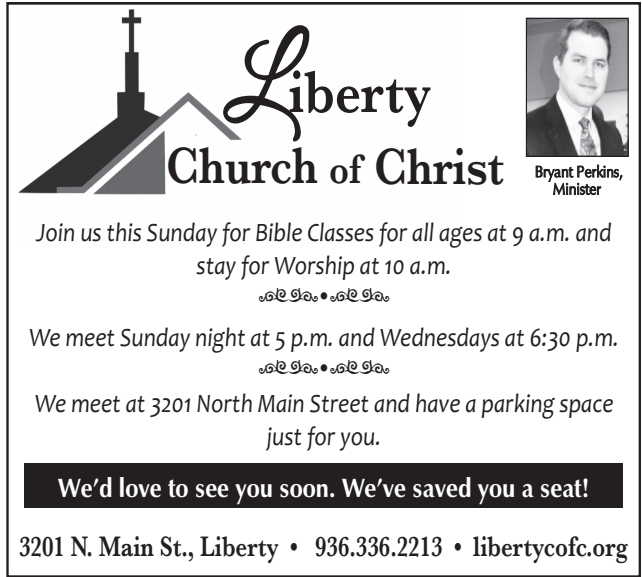
A full day of history, celebration and fun is in store. A ribbon cutting for the Memorial Paver Plaza will take place at 11 a.m. The plaza will be dedicated to the memory of John G. Middleton, museum founder. The family-friendly event will include a bounce house for the youngsters, and a kid’s hay play. Come hungry and enjoy a barbecue sack lunches, beef or

pork, for only \$15. Gumbo cooks are invited to put forth their best gumbo recipe in a gumbo cookoff. The live auction gets underway at 1 p.m. Bids in the silent auction will close at 2 p.m.

Winners of the drawing will be announced at 2 p.m. Tickets for the drawing which includes, art work, guns, knives and other items may be purchased for \$20 each or 6/\$100.

The museum is currently seeking support through sponsorships, auction items, or the purchase of prize drawing tickets and/or fish fry dinner tickets.

The museum is located at 20136 IH-10, Wallisville, Texas 77597. Contact the museum at 409-389-2252. Donations to the Wallisville Heritage Park Foundation, Inc., a Section 501c3 organization, are tax deductible.



Liberty Church of Christ

Bryant Perkins, Minister

Join us this Sunday for Bible Classes for all ages at 9 a.m. and stay for Worship at 10 a.m.

We meet Sunday night at 5 p.m. and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

We meet at 3201 North Main Street and have a parking space just for you.

We’d love to see you soon. We’ve saved you a seat!

3201 N. Main St., Liberty • 936.336.2213 • libertycofc.org