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Dr. Aaron Reneau, OD

OBITUARY

• **BILLIE CREEL**
LIBERTY - Billie Joyce Creel went to be with Jesus on Saturday, September 26, 2026, in Liberty. After 62 years of marriage, she was finally reunited with her loving husband Jakie at the gates of Heaven. Billie was born March 13, 1934, to James Allen Oliver and Charity Anne Snooks. Billie grew up living in Humble camps around Texas, mostly Tomball and Hardin. Her father was a superintendent for Humble, and Jakie went to work for him. Billie went to school in Tomball where she was a majorette, striking a stunning pose in her uniform and white boots. Billie worked most of her adult life. She was an impeccable bookkeeper. She worked for the Buchanan and Griffin family businesses in Liberty for years. Later, she and Jakie went into the trucking, construction, fertilizer and cattle businesses. She held a full-time job trying to accommodate Jakie's ever-evolving ventures, but they were a good pairing from God. Billie was a huge Houston Astros fan. She had numerous hobbies over the years, such as bowling, ceramics, stained glass, cross stitch, sewing and many more. She mastered them all! Her most satisfying had to be preparing one of her Easter or Christmas feasts for family and friends. It was the whole nine yards, complete with china, crystal and silver; those are some of the sweetest memories she provided for her family. Billie was the youngest of six children. Three of her brothers and sister preceded her in death, as well as her first great-grandson, Hunter Ethan Creel. Billie leaves behind a brother, Frankie Oliver; two sons, James Glenn Creel Jr. (Pam) and Kyle Wayne Creel Sr. (Diane); four grandsons,



Gordon Craig Creel (Amanda), Kyle Wayne Creel Jr. (Charita), Jeremy Glenn Creel (Kelli) and Joshua Alan Creel (Megan); step-grandchildren, Donny Holland, Kristi Holland and Jason Holland; great-grandchildren, Grayson Conner Creel, Paige Emilie Creel, Maggie Kate Creel; step-great grandchildren, Hannah Paris Orand, Charles Lyndon Tomlinson. Billie was a faithful member of Hardin Baptist Church where she served as director for the pre-school department, was active in Woman's Missionary Union and served on numerous committees. She also sang in the church choir. The family would like to thank Magnolia Place Health Care in Liberty for the compassionate care given to their mother, grandmother and great-grandmother over the years. A funeral service was held at 10 a.m., Thursday, October 1, at the Hardin Baptist Church. Interment followed at Hardin Chapel Cemetery.

G.R.A.C.E. INITIATIVE

MEALS on WHEELS

OF SOUTH LIBERTY

GRACE INITIATIVE MEALS ON WHEELS
LIBERTY - Liberty and Dayton seniors – are you 60 or older in need of a hot meal? GRACE Initiative Meals On Wheels provides home-delivered meals to eligible seniors who have difficulty preparing meals on their own. Sign up for Meals on Wheels by calling 936-641-2846.

Drivers are needed for all routes in the Liberty and Dayton areas. It only takes approximately 1.5 hours to deliver hot meals. Sign up anytime by calling 936-641-2846 or email holly@libertymeals.com.



Frankly Speaking –

Longhorns – A Team Again on the Move!

by Frank Jordan

We're not talking football here, but the Texas longhorn cattle breed itself.

Did you know in the 1920s the famous Texas longhorns nearly became extinct, having fewer purebred longhorn survivors during that time than the also endangered buffalo? A sad decline, considering at the end of the Civil War there were an estimated 5,000,000 longhorns in Texas, mostly wild and wily.

After a huge national beef-starved appetite occurred in 1867, the market for Longhorns exploded, nearly 10,000,000 of these amazing animals having been driven north from Texas on cattle drives to Kansas and Wyoming made famous in hundreds of movies and tales of cowboys.

Many credit the longhorn and the profits from the drives with saving the State of Texas economy when deeply depressed after the Civil War. The legend of the cowboy of the Old West was certainly born and flourished due to this period of longhorn prominence.

"They can go further without water and endure more suffering than the others." Sounds like

camels, but we are talking about the durable Texas longhorns as described by Charles Goodnight, the Texan who invented the chuck wagon for the long, hot, dusty trail rides north.

The longhorns have those huge horns up to an astounding 120 inches in spread, often with a menacing curl on the ends. Add long legs, lanky bodies, multiple coloration and tough feet. These bovine warriors lost little weight on a brutal cattle drive, able to survive on even cactus. And to encounter a longhorn bull on the trail created an event of confrontation with a mean adversary prepared to use his amazing speed, muscle and sharp horns to make you dead!

While traffic is horrible in Dallas now, during rush hour in 1873 a herd of over 1,000 Longhorns stampeded through the town of Dallas to the dismay of residents. I had the personal adventure of being among thousands of longhorns, the two-legged kind, that also stampeded nearly 100 years later through Dallas toward the Cotton Bowl for a Texas-OU football game. The four-legged herd was almost

certainly better-behaved without suffering from hangovers!

Returning to 1887, fencing, railroads, and controlled breeding for better-suited beef such as Herefords caused the demise of both the marketability and size of the Longhorn population. The Texas longhorn stock slowly dwindled to almost extinction, until in 1927 a small herd was collected by the U.S. Forestry Service and stationed in, can you believe, Oklahoma.

In 1936, author J. Frank Dobie, oilman Sid Richardson, and rancher Graves Peeler assembled a State of Texas Longhorn Herd of 20, now residing primarily at Fort Griffin State Historic Site about 40 miles northeast of Abilene, TX, and numbering about 250.

The longhorn has returned to popularity, headed by the University of Texas mascot, BEVO. Russell Fairchild and others brought the breed back to the Liberty County area in significant numbers years ago. Travelers in many Texas locations can again see colorful and majestic grazing herds of these living tributes to our Texas history.

Only in 1969 did the sixty-first Texas Legislature officially recognize the State of Texas Longhorn Herd. Frankly speaking, in many ways these magnificent animals represent the spirit of Texas itself, defying the odds for survival, while maintaining an identity unique in history symbolizing pride in rugged individualism in a world seemingly dedicated to sameness for all

TRNWR Appreciation Day, Saturday

DAYTON - The Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge (TRNWR) Appreciation Day and World Migratory Bird Day will take place Saturday, October 10, beginning at 9 a.m. The public is invited to join the Friends of the Trinity River Refuge (FOTRR) for a fun and educational day at the beautiful Champion Lake Public Use Area to show their appreciation and support for the

Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge (TRNWR)

The event is free for children and adults. Activities include The Big Sit Bird Count, hosted by the Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club. This is a dawn to dusk event. The World Migratory Bird Day public event will be held from 9 a.m. until noon and will include interpretive booths and stations, nature and birding walks and a self-guided "Scat" Trail. A Pollinator Garden activity will also be included and is presented by the Lower Trinity Basin Texas Master Naturalists.

The Champion Lake Public Access Area is located at the end of CR 417 (from Dayton travel 10 miles south on FM 1409, turn left on CR 417). For more information, visit the Friends of Trinity River Refuge website at friends-of-trinity-river-refuge.org/events-activities-1.



WOOD STORK

LAS hears report on summer reading

DAYTON - Lambda Alpha Sigma met in the home of Lois St. Pé at 6 p.m., September 8, 2026. After welcoming everyone, President Shirley Sisk led members in the reading of the Club Collect and in the pledges to the American and Texas flags.

Nine members were present. Updates were given on those absent. In the absence of Secretary Sherry Sikes, President Sisk read the minutes of the May meeting. During the business session the minutes were approved, and the treasurer's report was filed.

Vice President Carolyn Parsons explained that Linda Hohn, her co-vice president, was absent due to a meeting of the water board, of which she is secretary/treasurer. Carolyn passed out the pages for the 2026-2027 club book. She then proceeded to go through each month, noting hostesses, programs and program leaders. Corrections were made to members' personal information as needed.

As President Sisk began the report on the summer reading program for Sherry Sikes, she shared the detailed calendar of events for that period. The theme for the Summer Reading Program was "Color Our World." The total number of patrons registered was 239, which included 57 adults, 31 teens, 77 in the Reading Club, and 74 in the Read 2 Me group. The total number of those completing the program was 70. That included

12 adults, 7 teens, 28 Reading Club, and 23 Read 2 Me.

The total expenditures were covered by donations from Friends of the Library, the City of Dayton, and a grant from HEB. The Summer Reading Program staff gratefully acknowledged the gifts.

During the 20-day event, prizes were awarded weekly, with five prizes given each week for the first three weeks, and 13 prizes given each week for the final week. The finale was attended by program participants with a door count of 120. Grand prizes were a Kindle for the adult, a bean bag for the teen, two Dino Lego sets for the Reading Club, and a Little Tykes car with plushy dinosaur for Read 2 Me. The library staff was well pleased with the success of the program and has already begun planning for next year.

Shirley made note of the upcoming 25th anniversary of 9/11 and asked members to share their memories of that fateful day. Carla Weaver brought a recorded interview her son, Colonel Andrew Weaver (Ret.), had made with the Armed Forces about his experience. He was working in Washington at the time, and his office was in a building across the river from the Pentagon. (To hear Andrew Weaver's interview, go to https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=pZSaKK6lBB8)

The meeting adjourned and members enjoyed refreshments provided by Lois and co-hostess, Margie Meade, who was unable to attend, due to Chuck's health problems.

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CITY OF DAYTON UTILITY PAYMENT ONLINE PORTAL

DAYTON - You can now pay your City of Dayton utility bills fast and easy online. Visit cityofdaytontx.com and navigate to the Utility Billing Payment Portal. You will need your account number. All card payment will include a 3% transaction fee. For additional information, call 936-258-2642, Option 1. The utility billing office hours are Monday through Friday from 8-5 p.m.

Angus Association welcomes Flores

Larkyn G. Flores of Liberty is a new junior member of the American Angus Association®, reports Mark McCully, CEO of the national organization with headquarters in Saint Joseph, Missouri.

Junior members of the Association are eligible to register cattle in the American Angus Association, participate in programs conducted by the National Junior Angus Association and take part in Association-sponsored shows and other national and regional events.

The American Angus Association is the largest beef breed association in the world, with more than

21,000 active adult and junior members. Visit NJAA.info for more information about the National Junior Angus Association.

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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.



FBC DAYTON RECEIVES DONATION

Memorial Baptist Church of Baytown, North Campus, on Hwy. 146, had a recent food drive, among other projects to reach out in the community to share God's love. First Baptist Church of Dayton was blessed to be the recipient of the over 450 items collected. This will help feed Dayton residents at the monthly food pantry, held on the second Tuesday of each month. The generous donation was very much appreciated.

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.

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

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