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OBITUARIES

• JAMES TURNER

Mr. James Turner was born on September 24, 1934, in Liberty, Texas. He attended the segregated West Liberty Schools and graduated as Valedictorian of Liberty Training High School in 1954 after taking time off to support his family.

A gifted scholar and athlete, he earned academic and athletic scholarships and later received his bachelor's degree from Texas College. Mr. Turner began his teaching and coaching career in the West Liberty Schools. While pursuing his master's degree at Texas Southern University in 1966, he met his classmate, Ms. Dorothy Robbins. They married in 1968 and shared nearly sixty years together. Their union was blessed with one son, Dedric James. Known to generations as "Coach T," Mr. Turner played a significant role in the integration of Liberty ISD and served as an educator, coach, and assistant principal for 45 years. He was honored as Teacher of the Year more than nine times and recognized by the University Interscholastic League for academic excellence. His influence shaped thousands of students. Services were held Saturday, April 4, at The Auditorium at the San Jacinto School, 1629 Grand Avenue. Viewing: 9:00-9:45 a.m. Celebration of Life: 10:00 a.m. Interment: Sterling White Cemetery, Highlands, Texas. Arrangements: Barkley Memorial Funeral Home, Houston.

• KRAMER "Catfish" CAUDLE

LIBERTY - Kramer Anthony "Catfish" Caudle, 73, of Liberty passed away on February 21, 2026. Born on January 6, 1953, in Baytown, Texas, Kramer lived a life deeply rooted in his Texan heritage and the values instilled by his family. A proud graduate of Barbers Hill High School in



Mont Belvieu, Texas, Class of 1972, Kramer went on to pursue a career as a pipefitter. Following in the footsteps of his grandfather, Leonard O. Chance, he took up the trade with a sense of duty. While pipefitting provided for his needs and livelihood, Kramer often joked that it was a "necessary evil" that interfered with his true passions. Kramer found joy in life's simpler pleasures. He inherited his love for vegetable gardening from his grandfather Leonard and spent countless hours cultivating his garden with care and dedication. Fishing was another pastime close to his heart; he explored the waters of Chambers and Liberty counties with enthusiasm and skill. Known affectionately as "Catfish" by friends and neighbors, Kramer's nickname reflected both his love for fishing and the camaraderie he shared with those around him. Faith played a part in Kramer's life. He accompanied his father, Jack B. Caudle, to various churches across denominations. These wayward moments of worship were cherished times of connection between father and son, offering gentle guidance that left a lasting impression on Kramer. Kramer is survived by his son, Kevin Caudle; his brother, Rick Caudle; nieces, Melanie Pearson and Allison Caudle; nephews, Jack A. Caudle, Dewey Townsend, Dylan Caudle, and Drew Caudle; his sister, Debbie Robinson and her husband Tommy Robinson; nephew, Thomas Robinson; and his devoted companion of 14 years, Julia Snyder. He was predeceased by his son, Kelly A. Caudle; parents, Jack B. Caudle and Juanita Chance Caudle, and brother David L. Caudle. Kramer's legacy is one of resilience, challenge, humor, and an appreciation for life's simple joys. His memory will live on in the hearts of those who knew him best - family members who shared in his laughter and friends who called him "Catfish." May those who loved him find comfort in their memories during this time of loss. Kramer is interred at Fairlawn Cemetery in Liberty.

SHC, DAR hosting Family History Day, April 18

LIBERTY - The Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center (SHC) presents its annual Family History Day with presentations and hands-on help from the Texas Society Daughter of the American Revolution (TXDAR) on Saturday, April 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come learn about the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), why women join and how DAR resources can help both men and women uncover

overlooked patriots. You may have one or more Revolutionary patriots in your family and this session will walk you through the resources available that help you explore your connection to these ancestors. Presenters will also share information about the DAR's E Pluribus Unum Committee and specialty research group.

In addition, Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) reference staff will

San Jacinto Day Celebration at Battleground historic site

AUSTIN - Texas has a story worth celebrating. The Texas Historical Commission (THC) is hosting a series of events at its historic sites that bring that history to life for families, history buffs, and curious visitors of all ages.

The San Jacinto Day Celebration on April 18 at San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site will be a day of fun, reenactments, and living history activities celebrating the anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto, which won Texas its independence from Mexico. Reenactors dressed in period clothing will make the epic events of April 1836 come

alive, and reenactments throughout the day will recreate the dramatic events that led to one of the most decisive and

AA, Al-Anon meetings Sunday evenings

LIBERTY - Are you or someone you know struggling with alcohol addiction? Find help and support at Alcoholics Anonymous. Meetings are held Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. in the main hall of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Anyone with a desire to stop drinking is welcome.



Frankly Speaking -

When Bad Expressions Aren't Really Bad!

by Frank Jordan

Did you know when you trash talk today you may be thinking one thing is being expressed, when the people who originated the phrase meant something else entirely.

As an example, the phrase "doing something half-assed" has nothing to do with a certain percentage of a human posterior! The term "half-ass" evolved from the expression, "half-adz" and you do know an adz is an axe-like tool with a curved blade used for shaping wood, don't you?

For those in early times who were willing to pay top dollar for a new fireplace, the mantle would be shaped using an adz on both the front and back side - the latter not being visible. If you wanted to save money, the specifications would only request construction of the front visible portion of the mantle, with the less expensive construction being known as a "half-adz" job. Not what you thought, was it?

In Britain long ago, guards often gave convicts pointless tasks like digging holes and then filling the holes in again. A meaningless task for those confined to cells involved a "screw" as the name for a handle attached to a vertical wheel with cups attached around the outer edge. As the handle was turned, the cups would scoop sand from a box at the bottom and dump the sand out of the cups back into the box below after passing the top and beginning to descend in a rotation. A totally useless process.

The prison guards sometimes would tighten the handle screw to increase drag of the wheel, making the required non-productive rotations assigned for a day of "screwing around" even more difficult. Calling something a "screw job" today refers to a task considered punishment yielding nothing worthwhile - a waste of time, the same meaning in essence as a century ago.

While in Britain, justice was usually by hanging or flogging in centuries past, there were some crimes for which you could "get nailed." For these crimes you would be taken to the hangman's gibbet, or scaffold, and nailed through the earlobe(s) from dawn until night. Ouch!

Getting your ears pierced was definitely done without an anesthetic and to be avoided! The origin of ear studs may have been concurrent, but a study for a different time. Women, for spreading malicious gossip, could also "get nailed" by a small spike driven through the tongue for the day, demonstrating neither malicious gossip nor tongue piercing is new.

On warships and in early fortresses, the cannon balls were made of iron, while the plate they were stacked on beside the cannon was made of brass and known as a monkey. In extreme cold the two metals, iron and brass, would contract differently as the temperature

dropped, with the carefully stacked piles of iron cannon balls shifting and falling due to the changing shapes of both the base and the cannon balls.

The phrase, "Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey," became a common expression with a military origin describing an actual action due to changing weather and having nothing whatsoever to do with animals that eat bananas!

Frankly speaking, today we use expressions with colloquial meanings of the moment, but often the history of our language is a fascinating adventure confirming words are an evolving substance of interest and intrigue. Sometimes even when we think we're talking trash, we're just "blowing smoke" - where did that come from?

("Blowing smoke" is sourced from a magician's use of smoke to create a diversion from what is actually happening.)

DPS reports three-vehicle fatal crash

LIBERTY COUNTY - The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is investigating a three-vehicle fatal crash that occurred on SH-99 near mile marker 774.

The preliminary investigation indicates that on April 1, 2026, at approximately 8:56 p.m., a 2018 Ford F-250 and a 2011 Lincoln SUV were traveling north on SH-99. A 2016 Ford F-150 that was traveling south on SH-99 crossed over the double-yellow line. The 2016 Ford F-150 sideswiped the back of the Ford F-250 and then struck the Lincoln SUV head-on.

The driver and single occupant of the Ford F-150, a 44-year-old male, was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The driver of the Lincoln SUV, a 17-year-old male, and passenger, a 39-year-old female, were both pronounced deceased at the scene.

The driver of the Ford F-250, a 33-year-old male, and four minor passengers

UPDATE - The driver of the Ford F-150 has been identified as Juan Hernandez Balderas, a 44-year-old male of Houston.

The driver of the Lincoln SUV has been identified as Kenneth Burkhalter, a 17-year-old male of Cleveland.

The passenger of the Lincoln SUV has been identified as April Burkhalter, a 39-year-old female of Cleveland.

The uninjured driver of the Ford F-250 was 33-year-old James Matlock II of Baytown, and the four minor passengers that were not injured are aged 16, 16, 8, and 7.

describe the various genealogy tools available in Austin and Liberty. After the morning presentations and Q&A, DAR volunteers and TSLAC reference staff will be on hand to assist with family history research in the reading room from noon until 2 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public. To reserve your seat, please email samhoustoncenter@tsl.texas.gov or call 936-336-8821. Seating is limited.



JANETTE GOULDER-FRICK and CLAYTON BRACEY

DHS members get update on Moon Tree

DAYTON - This "Mug Shot" features Janette Goulder-Frick and Clayton Bracey after presenting an informative and interesting program to the Dayton Historical Society Monday evening, March 30, about Dayton's Moon Tree. Janette, who worked in Boeing's space exploration division in support of NASA for 10 years, told how Dayton came to receive the tree that was planted by the Society at Dayton Community Center in 2022 and its history with the Apollo 14 moon mission in 1971. She paused her talk to ask Clayton Bracey, owner of Precision Lawns, to talk about his role in planting and maintaining the Moon Tree since 2022. She then resumed her program, talking about the Artemis space mission Artemis II, which is scheduled to circle the moon. Artemis I revived the project of taking tree seeds into space which are then distributed around the country to be planted.

The public is cordially invited to attend the next Dayton Historical Society meeting on Monday, April 27, at 6p.m. at Parker Hall, located behind The Old School Museum.

FISH FRY FUNDRAISER

DAYTON - The Dayton Volunteer Fire Department is serving up some delicious fried fish fillets with fries, hushpuppies, coleslaw and all the fixings on Saturday, May 2, beginning at 11 a.m. until they sell out. Plates are \$15 payable by cash, check or card and of course donations are always accepted and greatly appreciated. Drive thru pickup is available. Come out and show your support for those dedicated fire fighters.

LIBERTY GAZETTE
936-336-6416

Boots, Bling, & Bandanas, April 25

DAYTON - Join CASA of Liberty and Chambers Counties for dinner, live and silent auctions, entertainment and an evening to benefit the ongoing work in support of children and families in crisis. The annual fundraising gala, Boots, Bling & Bandanas, will be held at the Dayton Community Center, Sat., April 25, from 6-11 p.m. Help put an end to child abuse by becoming a partner in the community and supporting this worthwhile cause.

Tickets are \$50/individual or \$500 for a table for 10. Sponsorship packages range from \$250 to \$5,000 with donations in any amount gladly accepted.

Donations for the silent and live auctions are currently being accepted and help raise funds to serve CASA's mission of advocating for the best interest of children who have been abused or neglected in the court system. Use the QR code to register. To arrange for pick up of auction items, call 936-334-9000.



Next TVCC luncheon Tues., April 14

LIBERTY - The public is invited to hear information on the Liberty County Career Taskforce at the next Trinity Valley Chamber of Commerce Monthly Luncheon set for Tues., April 14, at the Liberty Center, 1829 Sam Houston. Doors open for networking at 11 a.m. followed by lunch at 11:30 a.m. catered by

Brothers Catering BBQ. The luncheon is presented by Texas Workforce Commission.


Multiple sponsorship opportunities are available. Contact jazmin@trinityvalleycc.com or 936-257-2393 in Dayton or 936-334-7317 in Liberty to sponsor the luncheon and get your business noticed.

Dayton Art Show coming April 20-24

DAYTON - The Dayton Community Exhibition Art Show will open to the public April 20 through April 24 in the halls of the Dayton Community Center. In conjunction with the Art Gallery Wall at the Jones Public Library, visitors will view all mediums of art including paintings, drawings, photography, sculptures, mixed media, digital art and more.

There is no admission charge. All art types will be considered for the event for area artists that would like to participate. A closing reception will take place April 26 from 4-6 p.m. with refreshments provided by the Dayton Enhancement Committee.

For more information, call 936-258-6630 or community-center@daytontx.org.



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!

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