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OBITUARIES

• **CHERYL ALEXANDER**

KENEFICK - Cheryl Kaye Alexander was born in Pasadena, Texas, on October 17, 1968, to parents Edward Alexander and Shirlene Wright Alexander. She passed away in Baytown, Texas, on August 26, 2026, at the age of 57. Cheryl was preceded in death by her father, Edward Alexander. She is survived by her mother, Shirlene Alexander; sister, Kelley Alexander; brother, Jimmy Alexander; children, Christopher Alexander and wife Robyn, Amanda Alexander, Bridget Bundick and husband Darrok; grandchildren, Melissa Alexander, Charlotte Kelley, Riley Bundick, Tyler Bundick, Carter Bundick, Oliver Bundick, Makenzie Alexander, Christopher Alexander, Jr., and Makayla Alexander. A memorial service will be held Saturday, September 26, at 1 p.m. at Kenefick Southern Baptist Church with Jeff Day officiating.



• **SHIRLEY BURNEY**

SHIRLEY LOUISE HARRINGTON Burney, 92, of Liberty, Texas, passed away on September 8, 2026. Shirley was born on December 22, 1933, in Crowley, Louisiana, to Mr. and Mrs. Talasmar Harrington. She spent the past 35 years as a resident of Liberty and was formerly a long-time resident of Beaumont. Shirley was a member of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Liberty and was also a member of the quilt club in Dayton. Caring for others came naturally to Shirley. She was always looking after the people around her and found fulfillment in helping and providing for those she loved. Professionally, Shirley worked as an accountant and spent many years working for a credit union in Beaumont. Shirley was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 26 years, V.E. Burney; and her siblings, Clifford Harrington, Wilford Harrington, and Herbert Harrington. She leaves behind to cherish her memory her son, Wendell J. Prejean and wife Gayle Prejean, along with other loving family members and friends.



A visitation and funeral service were held for Shirley on Friday, September 11, 2026, at Pace-Stancil Funeral Home in Dayton. Burial was at Oakdale Cemetery in Daisetta, Texas.

LIBERTY GAZETTE

936-336-6416

SHC welcomes cowboy historian

LIBERTY - The Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center (SHC), part of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC), invites the community to get ready for the Trinity Valley Exposition (TVE) Fair and Rodeo by celebrating a Texas tradition, the cowboy, with real-life cowboy, author and historian J. L. "Jim" Hodges at 7 p.m. on Thurs., Sept. 24. As part of the event, Center staff will offer a special viewing of historic images, records and artifacts related to Gulf Coast cowboys.

Hodges' program on "The Great American Cowboy: From Egypt to the Present" will explore the ancient roots of cowboys and their early days in the Gulf Coast region, along with sharing his personal

experiences as a Texas ranch hand and horse trainer. Cattle ranching has been a vital part of the Texas economy since the early 18th century, but few know about its storied past in deep Southeast Texas.

Jim Hodges was a horse trainevr and open-range cowboy by age 11. Hodges co-curated the Bryan Museum's Coastal Cowboys exhibit and is the author of multiple books. After the program, there will be a book signing for those interested in purchasing copies.

This event is part of SHC's commemoration of America's 250th anniversary in 2026. The program is free and open to the public. No registration required. Contact the Center at (936) 336-8821 or samhoustoncenter@tsl.texas.gov for more information.



Frankly Speaking –

A Young and Beautiful Memory – Faron Young

by Frank Jordan

The country music great, Faron Young, had a big hit that in many ways described his life, "Live Fast, Love Hard, Die Young and Leave a Beautiful Memory!" You may not remember Faron Young, but most would recognize his original blockbusters in "Four Walls," "It's Four in the Morning" and one of my favorite titles, "I Miss You Already and You're Not Even Gone."

That title ranks right up there with "If I Said You Have a Beautiful Body Would You Hold It Against Me" by the Bellamy Brothers and "Drop Kick Me Jesus Through the Goal Post of Life" by Bobby Bare. But I digress.

Faron Young appeared in five B-Western movies including his first in which he played a sheriff. From that point on in his career, he was known as the "Singing Sheriff," although Young was far from a sheriff in life and preferred to be known as a "honky tonker."

The career of this fascinating star spanned 30 years, beginning at the age of 20 on the Louisiana Hayride in 1951 where he was discovered by another country great – Webb Pierce. Elvis Presley made appearances with Faron Young on Louisiana Hayride and Grand Old Opry and then, in Denver in 1956, Faron appeared on

stage with headliner Elvis Presley. They remained good friends.

After an initial hit in 1952, Faron Young was drafted for the Korean War where he took the place of Eddie Fisher (one of Elizabeth Taylor's many husbands) on tour for the Army as the first Country and Western artist in that role entertaining the troops.

Many remember Don Gibson for his classic, "Oh Lonesome Me," but one of Gibson's first successes in the music business was having Faron Young record his now oft-recorded hit, "Sweet Dreams." Did you know Willie Nelson wrote "Four Walls," a million selling gold record first

recorded by Young? A youthful Kris Kristofferson also received a career boost from writing, "Your Time's Coming" for Faron Young.

Faron Young was unfortunately a brawler and heavy drinker, but the primary occupation of this unique performer and multi-talented man was singing his songs with his band, "County Deputies." Young was also founder of the Music City News, one of the longest running publications in country music.

The Singing Sheriff's band ironically included the country outlaws Roger Miller and Johnny Paycheck! Want news you can lose? The cat owned by Frieda in the "Peanuts"

comic strip was named "Faron," after Faron Young who was "admired very much" by "Peanuts" writer and illustrator Charles Schulz.

His last big seller, "It's Four in the Morning" (a new day is dawning) was among Faron Young's 41 top ten hits in his career. He was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in the year 2000.

Frankly speaking, while handsome, incredibly talented with a voice that sold millions of records, and a part of C&W history, there was sadly a not-so-beautiful part of Faron Young's life. I met Faron Young after his performance at the Trinity Valley Exposition when his career was in decline, together with emphysema and prostate cancer diagnosed.

An inebriated Faron Young standing alone under the grandstands was barely responsive to my comments of appreciation for his talent and career. Young suddenly smiled, looked me in the eyes and said, "Son, just like the song says, you've got to live fast, love hard, die young and leave a beautiful memory." Fulfilling his philosophy of life, Faron Young tragically died soon after our meeting, committing suicide at the too-young age of 64 in 1996 while leaving forever a beautiful memory and career.



Discover My Big Book of Texas with author/illustrator C.S. Jennings

AUSTIN - Join the Texas Center for the Book on Wednesday, Sept. 23, from 10-10:30 a.m. for a fun virtual discussion with children's book author and illustrator C.S. Jennings. His new picture book, My Big Book of Texas, celebrates the Lone Star State.

C.S. Jennings is a Texas-born (seventh generation!) author and illustrator whose books combine humor, adventure and curiosity to inspire young readers. A former animator, Jennings created the Pet Shop Racers graphic novel series and the picture book WHOA, PANDA! With My Big Book of Texas, he celebrates the wildlife, landscape, people and traditions that make Texas unique. Following the in-

terview, Jennings will do a live (virtual) Q and A with attendees.

This webinar is free and open to the public. Register

at: www.tsl.texas.gov/tx-bookchat.

The Texas Center for the Book's #TXBookChat series has provided a plat-

form for discussions with authors, librarians and literary professionals since 2020. These informal events offer a quick look into different aspects of the state's literary world while bringing together voices and perspectives. For more information, and to view videos of past events, visit the website at www.tsl.texas.gov/tx-bookchat.

One of 50 state centers affiliated with the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, the Texas Center for the Book is under the direction of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. For more information contact Michele Chan Santos at mcsantos@tsl.texas.gov or visit tsl.texas.gov/centerforthebook.



C.S. JENNINGS

TVCC accepting nominations for board of directors

LIBERTY-DAYTON - The Trinity Valley Chamber of Commerce is now accepting nominations to fill three Board of Director seats starting in 2027, each for a three-year term (2027-2029). Two of these seats will be reserved for nominations of Member Investor representatives located in the City of Liberty and/or surrounding communities and one will be reserved for nominations of a Member Investor in Dayton.

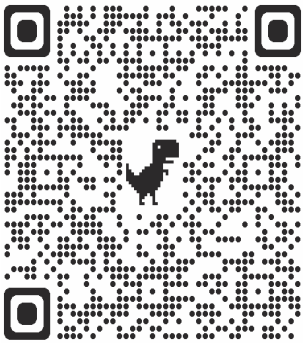
To serve on the TVCC Board of Directors, the nominee must either be a Member Investor in the chamber or work for a company/organization that is. Each nominee must agree to serve a full

three-year term (2027-2029) and be an active participant at board meetings, luncheons and other chamber events. Before making your nomination(s), please make sure you have verified that your nominee wishes to be nominated.

You do NOT need to be a Member Investor in the Chamber to submit a nomination for a board seat. You DO need to be a Member Investor to serve on the Board of Directors and to cast a vote for the final slate of 2027 board nominees. The final slate of 2027 board nominees will be sent out only to Member Investors for a vote at a later date.

Nominations will be

accepted up until 11:59 PM on Thursday, September 24. Use the accompanying QR code to submit your nomination(s). Nominations emailed or phoned into the chamber will NOT be accepted.



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