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OBITUARY

• CAROLYN LaCOUR LeNORMAND

LIBERTY - Carolyn LaCour LeNormand, 84, of Liberty, passed away peacefully alongside her daughters on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at Magnolia Place Nursing Home in Liberty. Carolyn was born June 23, 1941, in Liberty, to Howard and Katie Thomas LaCour. She was a graduate of Hull-Daisetta High School class of 1959, and went on to receive her Bachelor's Degree in Education from the University of Texas at Austin in 1963. Carolyn was beloved by the community - shaping the hearts and minds of countless second grade students through her 49 years in education at Liberty ISD. Each year, her students looked forward to the chance of being a part of her famous Christmas school play, The Runaway Presents. She was a lifelong member of the Methodist Church. Carolyn was most often seen working in her yard alongside her husband,



Thurman and spending time with her cherished fur baby, Kimber. She enjoyed cooking, as well as spending time by her pool watching the hummingbirds in the spring and summer months. Carolyn will be remembered for the unconditional love she had for her family. Anyone who knew Carolyn knew her proudest accomplishment was raising her two granddaughters. She was preceded in death by her parents, Howard and Katie Thomas LaCour; husband of 58 years, Thurman James LeNormand; brother, Michael Enoch LaCour, and her beloved fur baby, Kimber. She is survived by her son, Daron James LeNormand; daughters, Shelby Lynn LeNormand and husband Brett Fregia, Jordan Nicole LeNormand; grandchildren, Lacie Brooke Coleman, Caitlyn Rose Coleman, Zane Michael Coleman, Jonathan Joseph Coleman; great-grandson, Eren James Fregia who affectionately called her "Cookie;" brother, Ray LaCour; sisters, Miriam Fatheree, Kathi LaCour; daughter-in-law, Bess Coleman, and her beloved fur baby, Millie. In addition, she leaves behind numerous other loving family members, friends, and students. A funeral service was held Saturday, June 6, at 12:30 p.m. in the chapel of Allison Funeral Service in Liberty with Pastor Jose Flores officiating. Burial and committal was in Fairlawn Cemetery in Liberty. Honoring the family as pallbearers were Brett Fregia, Bill Griffin, Robert Ives, and Tom Hendrix.

LIBERTY GAZETTE
936-336-6416

Parker graduates from UCA

CONWAY, AR - Reese Parker of Hardin graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations from the University of Central Arkansas during May commencement ceremonies held Thursday and Friday, April 30 and May 1, in the Farris Center on campus. Approximately 1,200

undergraduate and graduate degrees and certificates from the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; College of Business; College of Education; College of Health and Behavioral Sciences; College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics; and the Graduate School were awarded.

Virtual event with author Erickson

AUSTIN - The Texas Center for the Book is pleased to announce a special #TXBookChat webinar on Wed., June 10, at 10 a.m. In this free, virtual book event, beloved Texas author John S. Erickson will discuss his autobiography, Small Town Author, and the inspiration behind his timeless Hank the Cowdog series. Readers of all ages are invited to register at www.tsl.texas.gov/tbookchat.

Small Town Author, published by Texas Tech University Press, is Erickson's autobiography, sharing his journey from the small town to the big city and back again. Erickson's

Hank the Cowdog series has sold more than 10 million copies worldwide and are many students' first chapter books. Hank the Cowdog: The Case of the Poison Toad, continues Hank's adventures with his sidekick Drover, on their ranch in West Texas.

Books are available at your local library and at bookstores in your community. Texas Talking Book Program patrons may also check out Hank the Cowdog: The Case of the Poison Toad from the TBP collection. For more information, visit www.tsl.texas.gov/greatread-texas.

TVCC planning July 4th Celebration

DAYTON - Area families won't have to travel out of town to celebrate our country's 250th birthday when the Trinity Valley Chamber of Commerce presents its July 4th Hometown Celebration. A full slate of family-friendly festivities are planned for Sat., July 4, with activities centered around the Dayton Community Center, 801 S. Cleveland. This is a free community event.

Events include a bicycle parade and the public is encouraged to join the fun. Just decorate your bicycle, tricycle, wagon or whatever, in a patri-

otic fashion or any design and join the procession. Spectators are invited to watch from along the parade route.

At the community center, there will be games to enjoy, live music and food trucks will be on-site to serve up some delicious foods and tasty treats. Then, get set to watch the sky light up as a dazzling fireworks display explodes across the night sky. Bring your lawn chairs and your patriotic spirit and enjoy the celebration in your own hometown.

For more information, contact the chamber office at 936-257-2393.

SHC, Texas State Library to celebrate Independence Day

LIBERTY - The Texas State Library and Archives Commission invites the community to celebrate Independence Day early and come out to the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center (SHC) on Saturday, June 27, for a fun-filled and free patriotic event commemorating the country's 250th birthday. Doors open at 10 a.m. with an ongoing slate of family-friendly attractions and activities until 3 p.m.

Crafts for kids, engaging presentations from guest speak-

ers, documentary film viewings, storytime for the little ones and other entertainments are planned, as well as self-guided tours of the historical buildings on the grounds for guests of all ages. Members of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas will provide craft demonstrations and information on tribal history. Guest speakers include Thomas Jackson, Dr. Carolina Castillo Crimm, and Larry and Barbara Stevens.

In addition to the scheduled program of events, visitors may



Frankly Speaking -

Old Glory

by Frank Jordan

Is "Old Glory" a name for all U.S. stars and stripes flags, or a specific and real U.S. flag, or both?

Both! The actual "Old Glory," a huge weather-beaten American flag over 200 years old, now resides in the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. "Old Glory" is our most venerated historical American flag and, together with Francis Scott Key's Star-Spangled Banner, are our most famous patriotic symbols for the United States of America. When we refer to American flags today, we often describe a U.S. flag as "Old Glory," but in fact there is only one original "Old Glory."

Few know the true story of "Old Glory" so let's return to the second decade of the 19th century, to the birth in Salem, Massachusetts, in 1803 of William Driver, soon to be U.S. sea captain extraordinaire. William Driver was a dashing and skilled young man, who at the incredibly young age of 21, was commissioned as a master mariner and given command of the whaling ship, "Charles Doggett."

That's impressive, but what does it have to do with a famous patriotic flag? "Old Glory" was a sturdy 10'x17' flag presented to the newly commissioned Captain Driver after being designed and home-sewn by his mother and her friends in 1824 to fly from the mast of Captain Driver's ship.

The story is told when Captain Driver first raised the flag up the mast of the "Charles Doggett," he lifted his hat in salute, exclaiming when seeing the grand banner flying in the wind, "My ship, my country, and

my flag, 'Old Glory!'" The name stuck and "Old Glory" flew proudly during Captain Driver's two-decade career as an American seaman who sailed as a ship captain from Gibraltar to India to China and throughout the South Pacific.

Captain Driver wrote regarding "Old Glory's" meaning and importance, "It has ever been my staunch companion and protection. Savages and heathens, lowly and oppressed, hailed and welcomed it at the far end of the wide world." Then, in 1837, Driver at age 34 retired to Nashville, Tennessee, from seafaring, raising a family of nine children with his second wife after his first wife had died.

According to daughter, Mary Jane Roland, Captain Driver in Nashville flew "Old Glory" on holidays "rain or shine." The enormous flag designed for a large ship required a unique display system in which Captain Driver stretched a rope on a pulley from his home attic window to high up in a locust tree across the street. In 1860, the Captain and his family repaired the 36-year-old flag having endured 20 years at sea, sewing on an additional 10 stars, with the Captain himself appliquéing a small white anchor in the lower right corner to signify his seafaring career.

Captain Driver gave his daughter, Mary Jane Rowland, "Old Glory" as a gift, on July 10, 1873. After Captain Driver's passing in 1886, "Old Glory" in 1922 was presented as a gift to President Warren G. Harding, who in turn gave it to the Smithsonian for permanent preservation and residence.

Captain Driver said it best, "This is my old ship flag 'Old Glory'; I love it as a mother loves her child; take it and cherish it as I have always cherished it; for it has been my steadfast friend and protector in all parts of the world - savage, heathen and civilized." Frankly speaking, "Old Glory" the flag continues to remind us of our heritage as a nation and a people who have sacrificed and died for the freedom of others both in the United States and the savage, heathen and civilized around the world.

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CLOTHES/FOOD PANTRY OPEN SATURDAY

LIBERTY - The clothes and food pantry ministry of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church is open every Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The pantry offers food and clothing free of charge to all those in need who qualify. The pantry is located in the ministry building across from the Liberty-Dayton Regional Medical Center Hospital, next to the hospital helipad. Clothing donations are always accepted. For information, call Sister Williams at 409-208-1073.

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TEXTMYGOV

LIBERTY - TextMyGov makes it easier than ever for Liberty residents to get information and report issues right from their phone. Whether you want to check trash pickup days, report a pothole, or receive important city alerts, TextMyGov puts helpful information at your fingertips 24/7. To get started, text libertytx to 91896 where you will be directed how to sign up. TextMyGov helps you stay informed about emergencies, closures, and city updates or get quick answers without waiting on hold. If you need help getting started or just want more information, call city hall at 936-336-3684.

Notice of Public Hearing on Liberty County Appraisal District Budget and Reappraisal Plan

The Liberty County Appraisal District Board of Directors will hold a public hearing on a Proposed Budget and Reappraisal Plan for the 2027 fiscal year.

The public hearing will be held on **June 25, 2026**, at 9:30 A.M. at the Taxpayer Services Office located at 303 Fannin St., Liberty, Texas.

A summary of the appraisal district budget as follows:

The total amount of the proposed budget.	\$ 5,370,724
The total amount of increase over the current year's budget.	\$ 203,183
The number of employees compensated the proposed budget.	<u>41</u> (full-time equivalent)
The number of employees compensated the current budget.	<u>42</u> (full-time equivalent)

The Appraisal District is supported solely by payments from the local taxing units served by the Appraisal District.

If approved by the Appraisal District Board of Directors at the public hearing, this proposed budget will take effect automatically unless disapproved by the governing bodies of the county, school districts, cities, and towns served by the appraisal district.

The Reappraisal Plan will take effect upon approval of the Appraisal District Board of Directors.

A copy of the Proposed Budget and Reappraisal Plan is available for public inspection in the office of each of those governing bodies. A copy is also available for public inspection at the Appraisal District.

Liberty Church of Christ

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



Bryant Perkins, Minister