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I think I will always remember the summer of 2018 because of this photograph....my friend Vivian and I posing during a ceremony on the lawn of her home, just a three-block walk from Celebration Plaza close to the heart of my adopted hometown.

In the small towns of Northeast Texas, historic homes beautify the landscape and edify the population. Many historic homes and buildings bear a symbol of state significance in the form of a Texas Registered Historic Marker. However, only structures of architectural integrity can receive the highest honor, as a Texas Recorded Historic Landmark. In Hopkins County just two locations bear that designation; the Hopkins County Courthouse and now, the Ashcroft House at 333 College Street in Sulphur Springs.



Local historian and Sulphur Springs City Councilman John Sellers is Hopkins County Marker Chair for the Texas State Historical Commission, and served as emcee of the event. His remarks, taken from a journal of the home's construction, mention that it took 17 men to install the six tall columns at the entryway. The interior design boasted a circular foyer, a sweeping grand stairway, an elevator and hand-painted wallpaper imported from France. During the 1950's, one of Hopkins County's most celebrated talents, Forest Gregg,

occupied an apartment at the residence when he transferred from a county school to Sulphur Springs High School in order to play on the football team. All fifteen rooms and grounds at the 333 College Street address have been lovingly restored to original grandeur.

MAMAHAHAHA

and dlege been ginal n Day

Dedication Day

Montie and Vivian previously owned homes in the Munger Place Historic District in Dallas and on Lake Ray Hubbard at Rockwall. During their working careers, both were math professors with Vivian teaching at Eastfield College and Montie at SMU. Years ago, the couple became members of the Hopkins County Genealogical Society as Vivian's family has deep roots in the Saltillo Community. Not to stand still for long, Montie is now working on two more historical research projects, the Old Saltillo Cemetery and the Jefferson Road which linked Sulphur Springs to Northeast Texas and Louisiana prior to the founding of the Texas Highway Department in 1917.

Time to count our blessings and recognize the good happening around us! Til next week, I will watch for you at the corral gate.

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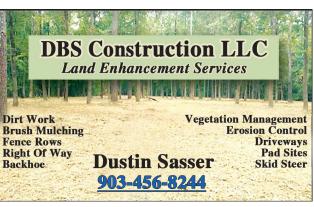
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Obits



Jarrod K. Friddle

Funeral service for Jarrod K. Friddle, age 40, of Sulphur Springs will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Friday, July 13, 2018 at League Street Church of Christ with Honorable Robert Newsome officiating. Interment will follow at Gafford Chapel Cemetery with Paul Robertson, Ray Embro, Austin Newsome, Ryan Johnson, Antwone Young and Chris Winters serving as pallbearers and Kyle Nichols, Jason Moore, Kevin Bailey, Lonnie Taylor, Chad Ross, Louis Lufkin and the Burn Barrel Crew serving as honorary pallbearers. Visitation will be held from 6 to 8 P.M. on Thursday, July 12, 2018 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Mr. Friddle passed away Monday, July 9, 2017 at CHRISTUS Mother Frances Hospital in Sulphur Springs.

Jarrod Kyle Friddle was born on October 1, 1977 in Tyler, Texas, the son of David Friddle and Opal Price. He married Carrie Katchinska on June 23, 2012 in Commerce, Texas. Jarrod's passion for helping others compelled him to become a police officer. He was an amazing husband, father, son, brother and friend. His

children were his whole world.

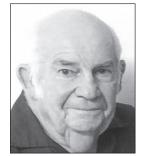
He is survived by his wife, Carrie; children, Lyla Friddle, Mason Friddle, Jackson Friddle, Braden Katchinska and Allison Katchinska; parents, David Friddle and wife, JoDana, Opal Price; brothers, Joel Friddle and wife, Karmon, Kurt Cargile and wife, Sarah, Chris Winters and wife, Mandy; nephews, Jordan Friddle, Kason Cargile, Landry Moss; niece, Mackenzie Putnam; parents-in-law, Ronnie & Carmeletia Winters; aunts, Mary Robinson and Deborah Penkava and husband, Paul.

Jarrod was preceded in death by his grandparents, RV and Margie Price, James Duval Friddle and wife, Shirley; niece, Jayla Friddle.



Bradley Allen Vaughn

Memorial service for Bradley Allen Vaughn, age 34, of Sulphur Springs, will be held at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, July 14, 2018 at Morning Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. There will be no formal visitation. Bradley passed away on Sunday, July 8, 2018. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.



David Cleburn Northcutt

Funeral services for David Cleburn Northcutt, age 85, of Emory will be held at 2:00 pm, Saturday, July 14, 2018 at First Assembly of God Church in Emory, with Bro. Monte Parker officiating. Interment will be at Smyrna Cemetery. Visitation will be Friday, July 13, 2018 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm



Pat Butler

Funeral service for Pat Butler, age 86, of Sulphur Springs, will be conducted at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, July 12, 2018 at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Andy Wright officiating. Interment will follow at Restlawn Memorial Park. Visitation was held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 11, 2018 at West Oaks Funeral Home. Pat passed away on Sunday, July 8, 2018 at his residence.

He was born on July 22, 1931 in Sulphur Springs, TX, the son of John Hester and Texalena Stone Butler. He was the owner of Desoto Janitorial Supplies. He married Jo Beth Alexander on June 7, 1952 in Dallas, TX. She preceded him in death on May 24, 2011. Pat was a member of Posey Baptist Church.

He is survived by sons, James Butler, Wes Butler and wife Lesia, daughters, Debbie Simonton and husband David, Brenda Hobbs and husband Darrell, grandchildren, Stephanie Weaver, Shelby Robertson, Teri Morgan, Melissa McCoy, Betty Jo

McDowell, Jenny Winter, Brady Butler, Sheila Harwell, Brandi Rhudy, Brooke Doughtie, Jordan Hansen, Elizabeth Butler, 23 great-grandchildren, brother, Frankie Butler, and sisters, Nell Stewart, Glenda Shanks and husband Richard, and Linda Haney and husband Jimmy.

In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by his parents, brothers, Billy, Marshall, and James, sisters, Tessie and Sue, and daughter-in-law, Gay Butler.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Posey Baptist Church, 4620 FM 71 W, Sulphur Springs, Texas, 75482.



Robert Coleman

Robert Coleman, age 31 of Winnsboro, passed away on Tuesday, June 19th, 2018 in Tyler. He was born on August 12th, 1986 in Longview to Virginia Coleman Bessey. He had lived in the communities of Longview and Ore City before settling in Winnsboro. Robbie worked with the local dairies delivering supplies and providing equipment repair.

He is survived by, his mother Virginia Coleman Bessey and Tommy Dillard of Longview; grandmother Ellie Bessey of Merrill, Wisconsin; daughter, Addison Jane Coleman of Longview; sister, Brandy Baldridge and husband Billy of Winnsboro; brothers; Kevin Bessey and wife Kendra of Houston, Quentin Trautner and wife Stephanie of Winnsboro; aunt, Jackie Spier; uncle, Eddie Story and his wife Donna, uncle, Danny Dunn and his wife Sandra; Nephews, Chance, Kason, Cayman; nieces, Laney, Kinley, Clara, Coralee; cousins Jennifer, Jimmy, Donnie, Cheyenne and their family's second family; Steve and Twila Olive, Wendy and Morris Landrum, and the Jongsma family, Lacey Walker, Tara Instine of White Oak. Robbie's greatest

passion was going to fish and he would drop everything to go fishing and camping. He never met a stranger and could talk to anyone or anything. Always known as a man who would help and give to anyone that asked, Robert Steve Coleman, Jr. is still helping others, through the gift of Organ and Tissue Donation. Arranged through the Southwest Transplant Alliance, Robbie was able to help more individuals even after his death. Robbie's family takes great comfort in knowing, a twinkle in someone's eye, a smile from a child, a bear hug from someone who has received an organ transplant, may very well be the ongoing legacy Robbie has left. This gift was arranged through Southwest Transplant Alliance, 5489 Blair Road, Dallas, TX 75231

Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, July 14th, 2018 at Beaty Funeral Home-Winnsboro 816 W. Broadway Winnsboro, TX 75494 at 2:00 pm.

THE IDLE AMERICAN

ROTTEN DAY....

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

In my case--and this is

quentially, I "flubbed." One nowadays, aren't they all? would think I'd never traveled before....

The account deserves a

ics suggest.

when our judgment--in cer- of dollars a day with this Rentals."... tain moments when efforts one (Call it "Henhouse," or are squeezed to save a few some other unlikely name).

"Ya can't fix stupid." It's a "start at the very beginning," en route to the airport should afternoon before our flight. I across the street. "There's waited, two more people throated" and typed with Denver, I scanned computer apologetic voice expressed. the 6 a.m. flight to Dallas. shaky fingers--I plead guilty. websites. "Aha," thought "But, your contract will be Checking out at 3:15, all we

Making sure I had the rent- TURN. bucks--is sorely lacking, I reasoned that it would be at al contract in tow, we promaybe totally absent. Se- an "off-airport" location, but ceeded to Dallas. My wife 3:15 a.m., we had almost for us," saying such happens On "take-off day"--in the that?" I mumbled that it was car return. -a telephone call received firmation," perhaps a truth darkness, after noting the it was full two hours earlier,

> down the Fox bus, paying not to be found. little attention to other than

gets and Avises and Hertzes car majors," Fox should be glasses in his rental car. We and Enterprises gleamed in the sunlight. Fox, in back, had a "Sanford and Son" appearance, but hey, we all have to start somewhere, right?....

Please keep the word "sunlight" in mind. After a week at Crested Butte, we opted to drive back to Denver in the

line tossed about daily with as The Sound of Music lyr- have served as a warning. got a great Priceline deal for an active runway across the boarded, and we headed for "Henhouse Rental Car is a hotell just 15 miles from street," I answered. Turns the terminal, last to get off, Anticipating the need for no longer in business at the the Denver Airport, and we out, the "help line guy" was of course. an admission made "frog- a rental car after a flight to Denver Airport," a soothing, arose at 2:30 a.m. to make in Oklahoma City...... The sting is even greater I. "We can save a couple honored at nearby Fox Car needed to do was fill the car turn place, it looked like the with gas, then DRIVE TO place where they impound THE RENTAL CAR RE- cars. Our flight was "missed

Topping off the tank at The man at the counter "felt

stretch, but not an outright way well lighted to the Bud- but the needle had dipped a gets and Avises and Hertzes, bit in our wanderings. Upon arrival, we hailed but Fox? Hidden in a lair,

The smart phone went our luggage. It was a sun- dumb on us, but we weren't

When we found the reby a mile."

Brenda asked, "Who was two hours to find the rental quite often, "Did you bring the car back full of fuel?" vernacular of veteran fliers- simply our "rental car con- Off we went into a sea of he asked. I whimpered that matter?...

> "I'm gonna say it's returned full," he smiled....

We boarded the rickety ny morning, and we went frantic--not yet, anyway. van, where three others were straight to the rental counter. We called the help line, and seated. The driver started the It wasn't on the "main rent- the guy said if we were driv- engine, but a guy urged her al car street," where the Bud- ing in front of the "rental to stop; he had left his eye-

The lady at the Southwest counter could not have been nicer. "I'm gonna get you folks on our 9:30 flight," she promised. Maybe the tears on our luggage, "frogthroatedness" and shaky signature helped!

Whatever, when normal take-offs and landings come out even, does much else

Dr. Newbury is a former educator who "commits speeches" round about. Comments/inquiries newbury@speakerdoc. com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www. speakerdoc.com Twitter: @donnewbury. Facebook: don newbury.

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GUNS AND GRUB IN MASON **Tumbleweed Smith**



Tumbleweed Smith

I met Crockett Keller years ago when he had a place south of Mason that served food and entertainment. He reminded me a little bit of the cartoon character Yosemite Sam. Although Crockett didn't have a bushy red mustache, he did wear a hat with an 8 inch brim and a six shooter before it was legal to openly carry.

He still hears a hat with the huge brim. "People know me by my hat," he says. "When I don't have it on, they don't recognize me. I can go incognito."

He sells those hats at his combination gun store and restaurant on the Mason courthouse square. It has a unique name. "Keller's Store on the Square, Guns and Grub, Biscuits and Bullets." He opened it just over a year ago. Guns are in the front part of the store and the restaurant is in the rear. "We like for people to come and have a good time, create good positive energy, nothing negative."

The building has been a saloon, saddle shop and bakery. "It's a big place with a lot of history. It dates back to 1879. You can see bullet holes on some of these walls. We have chairs for 25 people in here not counting the couch."

He brought something new to Mason: fresh fish and oysters. "I go shopping on Monday. That's when I buy the oysters. You have to prepare oysters if you're gonna have gourmet oysters and I'm talking about oysters that are the best in the world. They have to re-hydrate themselves so I do that between Monday and Thursday night. We don't serve oysters Tuesday or Wednesday. They're not ready until Thursday night. But after 2 or 3 days they're all re-hydrated up, they're nice and fluffy and they're good." He serves oysters even in months that have no r in their name. "The r stands for refrigeration."

Mason gets lots of visitors and when some of them walk into the store, he says they have the same reaction. "They say, 'wow, guns and food. Who wudda thought.' Then after they have a meal of fresh fish they say, 'guns and good food, who wudda thought." I will say here without reservation the best striped bass I've ever had was at Guns and Grub. It was perfect. The texture and taste were superb. Next time I'm there I'm going to have oysters. The restaurant also offers shrimp, beefsteaks and pork. We had a ball with Crockett and other customers and stayed there way past closing time.

The store sells a variety of things "Of course we have guns and ammo, the big straw hats, some antiques, some art work from local artists who consign their pieces here, we sell photography and post cards, some jewelry, painted skulls, a few old clocks, just kind of a menagerie of interesting stuff."

Crockett spent ten years going to gun shows and likes the antique weapons. "I've had a couple of Gatling guns, I have one now. I have Spencer repeating rifles, an old Winchester that's a nice gun and I have some muzzle loading Kentucky rifles. He offers courses in gun safety and licensing. "It's like they said over a hundred years ago, you know. God created men and Samuel Colt made them equal."





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