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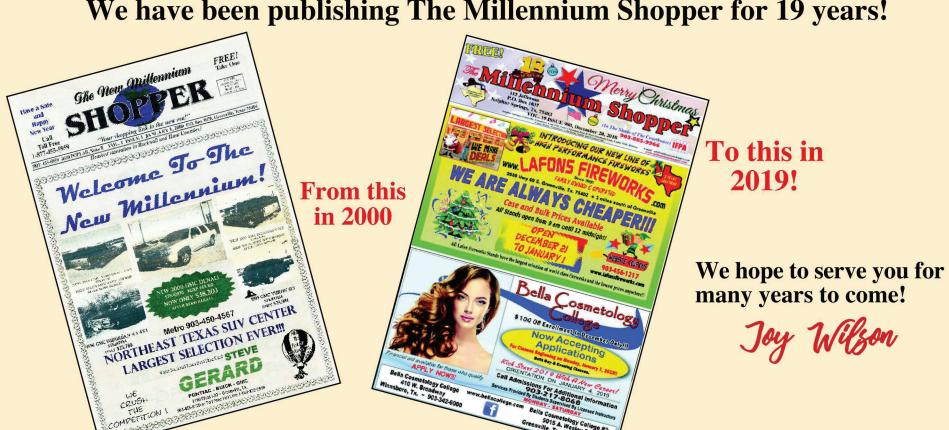
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A wedding was my reason to visit the Charleston Community in Delta County during the week between Christmas and New Year's. The couple was Dillon Lisle and Sara Hernandez, and they were married on December 28 at Charleston Sky. It's a lovely, large performance/event center located there, which is new enough that owners Kevin and Lisa Carter have scheduled a ribbon-cutting with the Hopkins County Chamber of Commerce at noon on January 9, 2019. Carol Lowrey, a talented Cooper-area retailer brings her creative touch to the venue's team Carol assists with the wedding-planning services which are part of the offerings of Charleston Sky.



After the wedding, I drove around charming Charleston. It's a farming community with a water tower, a cemetery, a cafe called "The Hub", and at least one prominent church along it's main road, FM 895. According to the Handbook of Texas, Charleston was founded in 1854 by some settlers from Charleston, South Carolina who named their new home after their old one. The community was originally a part of Hopkins County, with a post office established in 1857 and a school district organized ten years later. Then in 1870, the large territory was divided up, and that's when Charleston became a part of the new Delta County whose county seat, Cooper, helped attract business and citizens to the outlying communities. By 1884, Charleston boasted 250 residents, wagonmaking three cotton gins, several stores, two

enterprises, a flour mill, a sawmill, a gristmill, a church and a school. Population continued to grow until it peaked at 400 persons in 1892. An odd bit of history, on May 19, 1910 near Charleston, a 500-pound meteorite fell to earth during the passage of Halley's Comet, bringing some publicity to the community.





The Charleston United Methodist Church was formed in 1917, according to a wooden sign displayed in front of the church. The tall, white wooden church looks beautifully preserved with a welcoming porch and magnificent bell tower above a high peaked roof. According to a web search, an English speaking congregation of 83 members meets there with pastor Janita Lyn Phillips.

I did not have the chance to go inside The Hub or meet the owners, but it looked like the central gathering place for everyone. There's a small community park behind The Hub, consisting of playground equipment, a basketball goal and a volleyball sand court. The town Christmas decorations were

still up, giving the feel of a proud little community happy to be just off the beaten path. The one thing about Charleston I could not explain, however, was the yellow sign below. I just never saw a roadway sign like it. Have you? But I'm sure our mutual friend, Eddie Trapp, will have the story next time I run into him. Til then, let's reflect on our blessings and try to bless others to the capacity we have been given, as this momentous year gets it's legs under it. I will be watching for you at the corral gate!



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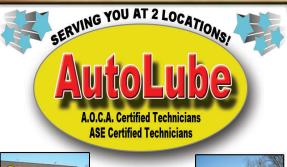
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**Grace Berger** 

Mrs. W. Grace Berger, age 87 of Mt. Vernon, passed away on Sunday, December 30th, 2018 at her home in Mt. Vernon. She was born on April 17th, 1931 in Baytown, Texas to the late Bowman Messer and Edmae Garvin Messer. She was a housewife and member of MVT Oasis Fellowship.

Grace was preceded in death by her parents, one sister, Loretta McDaniel and one brother, Robert "Bob" Messer. She is survived by her husband of almost 70 years, John David Berger Sr., sons, John David Berger, Jr. of Mt. Vernon, Bobby Berger and his wife, Alice of Mt. Vernon; daughter, Joyce Kirby and her husband, Edward of Mt. Vernon; seven grandchildren, five great grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, January 5th, 2019 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am at MVT Oasis Fellowship. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, January 5th, 2019 at MVT Oasis Fellowship at 11:00 am, Bro. Bobby Berger conducting, interment will follow at Purley Cemetery.



**Mary Shores** 

Funeral service for Mary Shores, age 82, of Sulphur Springs, will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, January 3, 2019 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Chapel with Pastor Tom Friday officiating. Interment will follow at Weaver Cemetery with Rusty Goldsmith, Jamie Goldsmith, Dean Shores, Keith Johnson, Corey Brown and James Wisdom serving as pallbearers and Michael Cagle and Bobby Rhoades serving as honorary Pallbearers. Visitation was held from 6 to 8 P.M. on Wednesday, January 2, 2019 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Chapel. Mrs. Shores passed away on December 29, 2018 at Sulphur Springs Health and Rehab, Sulphur Springs, TX.

Mary was born in Weaver, TX on September 7, 1936 to William and Miley Wisdom. She was a homemaker and member of Weaver Baptist Church.

She is survived by her sons, William Shores and wife, Kim, Jerry Chester, Alan Chester and wife, Avo; daughter Betty Goldsmith; 12 grandchildren, 28 great grandchildren; 2 great grandchildren; brother, Wayne Wisdom.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Eldon Chester; husband, Richard Shores; son, Troy Chester; granddaughter, Amy Brown; eight brothers.

Arrangements are under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home



#### **Alan Parris**

Funeral service for Alan Parris, age 49, of Saltillo were held at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, January 1, 2019 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home with Matt Neese officiating. Interment followed at Weaver Cemetery with Robert Hoover, Kevin Hoover, Anthony Harris, Colby Hoover, Dalton Hoover, Chase Carr and Nolan Garmon serving as pallbearers. Visitation was held from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. on Monday, December 31, 2018 at Murray Orwosky Funeral Home. Mr. Parris passed away on Friday, December 28, 2018 at Trinity Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler.

Alan was born on May 24, 1969 in Mt. Vernon to R.L. and Bobbie Parris. Alan worked for Franklin County Water Supply.

He is survived by his sons, Cody Parris and wife Kacie and Zachary Parris and wife, Cayce; grandchild, Elijah Parris; brothers, Ronnie Parris, James Parris, Richard Parris; sisters, Barbara Parris and Susan Wren.

Alan was preceded in death by his parents and brother, David Parris.



#### **Dorothy Eaton**

Graveside services for Dorothy Eaton, age 88, of Sulphur Springs were held at 11:00 A.M. on Wednesday, January 2, 2019 at Seymore Cemetery with Shane Carrington and Roy Childs officiating and with Dylan Hilbun, Dakota Roberson, Jimmy Wallace, Mylon Wallace, Jason Felkner, and Josh Pawlik serving as pallbearers. Visitation was held one-hour prior at 10:00 A.M. at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Mrs. Eaton passed away on Saturday, December 29, 2018 at her residence.

Dorothy was born on September 1, 1930 in Hollis, OK to Floyd Clifton Robbins and Mary Clark. She was the owner of Eaton Interiors where she was an interior decorator and continued her amazing seamstress and decorating projects throughout her life. She was raised in her faith at the Seymore Church of Christ, and later worshipped at the Commerce

Church of Christ and Southside Church of Christ.

She is survived by her daughter: Julie Bailey; son: Timmy Wallace; grandchildren: Dorothy Julia Howard, Randy Joe Wallace, Mylon Wallace, Josh Pawlik and Jason Felkner; great grandchildren: Angie Felkner, Savannah Felkner, Dylan Hilbun, Dakota Roberson and Bentlee Wallace.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents; son: Floyd "Randy" Wallace; grandchildren: Justin Daniel Pawlik, Robert Benjamin Wallace, Kristin Carol Hilbun and Mary Lynn Wallace; great granddaughter: Jaylie Anne Felkner; sister: Louise Douglas and brother Jimmy Robbins.

Arrangements were under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home



#### **Robert Lee Carpenter**

Funeral Service for Robert Lee Carpenter, age 83, of Sulphur Springs were held at 11:00 A.M. on Monday, December 31, 2018 at First Baptist Church, Sulphur Springs with Dr. David Hardage officiating and Rev. Fred Lewis assisting. Interment followed at Pleasant Grove (North) Cemetery with John Campbell, Ricky Berry, Joe Dan Kennedy, Clayton McGraw, Dustin Oliver and Dick Pogue serving as pallbearers. Visitation was held from 9 to 11 A.M. prior to the service at First Baptist Church. Mr. Carpenter passed away on Thursday, December 27, 2018 in Sulphur Springs, TX Robert was born on August 25, 1935 in Commerce, Texas to Robert Lee Sr and Mildred Carpenter. He married Barbara Ann Campbell on March 8, 1959 in the Mt. Sterling community. Robert served in the US Army. He worked for TxDOT. Robert was a member of First Baptist Church, Sulphur Springs.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara; sons, Jeff Carpenter and Mark Carpenter; daughter, Leann Oliver and husband, Dustin; grandchildren, Beau Carpenter, Kasi St. John, Jordan Oliver, Aubreigh Oliver, Matthew Carpenter, Rowdy Carpenter, John Carpenter, Nick Carpenter, Sarah Sheer-Bloyed; six great grandchildren; sister, Mary Ann Chapman

He will be remembered as being the best granddaddy ever!

Robert was preceded in death by his parents.

Memorials can be made to the Hopkins County Veterans Memorial, PO Box 533, Sulphur Springs, TX. 75483 or Beckham Baptist Church, 1879 County Road 4760, Sulphur Springs, Texas, 75482

Arrangements were under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home

## THE IDLE AMERICAN

# Geriatric Term Limits?...

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

pieces to elicit smiles-majority of them have SERVE THE RIGHT been "upbeat."

"Grinch," of course, is fictional; mine is backed up by cold, hard facts.

among retirees in the year 2000 included pro's and con's of long-term care insurance coverage. "After all, we don't want to be burdens on our children," was a comment So what? heard time and again....

My wife and I decided the pro's stacked up taller than the con's, and signed up in 2000 at a premium cost of \$422, to be paid each QUARTER. Ever-increasing premiums ruled, and billing was changed to monthly, probably because quarterly payments of \$3,000 seemed daunting. I'm not sure it makes much difference, however, since \$1,000 (or more) paid monthly seems challenging as well. And that's for knows what premiums will be exacted between now and the "sweet by

and by"? Anyway, that's the assessment of Continental Casualty Company, which perhaps provides pertinent "fine print" in the insurance policy. (Over the years, however, my tendency has been to read such "whereases" once over lightly.)

I admit this now, to my sorrow. Numerous letters informing us of "premium adjustments" (never "premium increases") are replete with full assurances that hikes are

For more than 15 years, lating health care costs. years, and 24% more I've attempted to write There are many other than three years. "blah, blah, blahs," one however faint--and/or to of which should be in case, all I know is that I inspire. I believe a great bold face type: "WE RE- DON'T KNOW.... TO INCREASE PRE-Not so with this one, MIUMS." One might many folks who are which may rank "down think the "powers that far wiser in the "whatthere" with the Grinch be" are peering sky- should-we-do" departthat stole Christmas. ward, wondering if the ment. A strong suggestion sky really is the limit....

> at our house. Granted, son can understand. notices of premium in-

letter announced a 95% the upcoming two years.

was the second-year hike of 70%....

Each letter offers options, one of which I have recently exercised. I terminated my policy, but all is not lost. I still qualify for long-term health insurance.... care coverage as far as the \$60,000 I've paid in premiums will take me.

the "here and now." Who coverage might last for a year or so.

junior, will retain her policy, for now, anyway. It is substantially less expensive, but another 95% "bump" in premiums will cause her to join the insurance cancellation list....

\*\*\*\*

With luck, of course, one might do well NOT to worry about longterm care.

Of people who reach age 65, only 40% are expected to enter a care facility. And once there, 44% stay less than one year; 30%, one-to-three

As is too often the

There are, of course, is to contact a financial planning professional. It is with fear and He or she can decipher Many conversations trembling that Conti- all the fine print, and nental Casualty Compa- convey pertinent inforny mailings are opened mation the average per-

> Consideration of insurcreases arrive "60 days ance topics invariably prior" to enforcement. causes me to think of my late parents, who were The biggest bombshell not introduced to insurcame early in 2016. The ance until obtaining basic home and vehicle cov-"premium increase" for erage during the final 40 years of their lives. In the Particularly stinging early going, of course, premiums were miniscule.

> > I also think of late storyteller Bob Murphey, who told about a fellow who signed on for employment with a company providing group

Sure enough, the man fell ill, spending several At current rates, this days in the hospital. He smiled, confident that his "group insurance" My wife, a decade my would cover most of the

> He was stunned upon dismissal to learn that the policy covered noth-

"They claimed the policy pays only if the whole group gets sick," the guy lamented....

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

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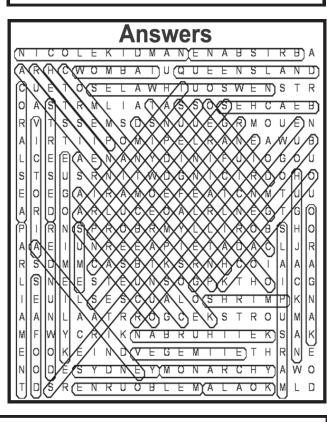
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#### HARRY CARVES MANGER SCENES

**Tumbleweed Smith** 



Tumbleweed Smith

Harry Seurkamp of Whitney enjoys his hobby of woodcarving. "It's very satisfying and very stress-relieving," he says.

"I do enter competition and go to various shows. Some

times people come up and say they'd love to learn how They ask me about tools. If they look like to do this. they're interested, I loan them 3 basic tools, a safety glove to keep from cutting themselves, and a leather strap like the old barbers used to use to sharpen their straight razors. I then give them a little book

I wrote on how to carve various things." He lets the people keep the tools, glove and strap for 6 months. "If they enjoy carving, I'll tell them where they can buy the tools. If they

don't enjoy the carving or can't handle it, they give the tools back to me and they're not out any money."

Harry's house is in a planned community on the outskirts of Whitney.

"The house is designed around my shop. I drew the plans and gave them to the architect and he pretty well followed them. It works great. I can enter the workshop from my office. I have air ducts and blowers to get the dust outside so it never gets in the house. I spend a lot of time in my workshop and have some wonderful equipment I've bought over the years. When I'm not carving I'm reading about carving. I have a large library of wood carving books and magazines.'

He is a member of the Texas Woodcarvers Guild that has a two-day show in Cleburne every April. There are also 5 days of teaching woodcarving to anyone who wants to learn. Most of them are older. He wishes more young people would find the hobby interesting but says most of them are electronic

He carves manger scenes.

"I have 15 students that I teach in our community. We have a church here called White Bluff Chapel. We had a Christmas Eve service one evening and there was no manger scene. So the following Christmas Eve I presented the congregation with a manger scene with Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus and promised them that I would give them a piece every year to add to this. At his point we have two shepherds, a cow, a donkey, the 3 Kings, the 3 gifts and 3 large camels. The camels were challenging. I have one that's standing, one that's semi-reclining and one fully reclining. I gave each of my students the opportunity to carve a sheep, so they have a hand in this, too. There's probably about 52 pieces in there right now."

The manger scene is on a 6-foot table. He made a stable with Velcro so all he has to do to put it up is snap the pieces together.

Harry is a retired druggist who was at a crafts show and saw some woodcarvers.

"They looked so contented, just carving some really beautiful pieces that looked like they belonged in a museum or gallery. I stood there a long time admiring their work and asking questions.



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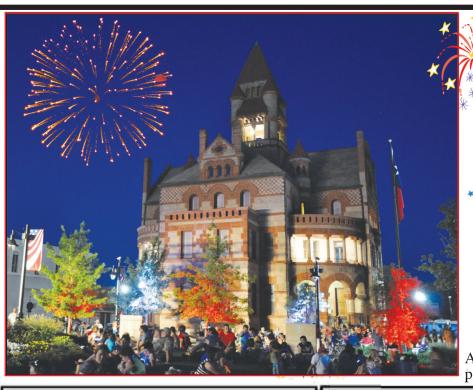


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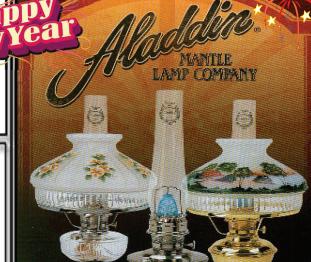
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