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Dr. Aaron Reneau, OD



So many happy smiles to see at the Dayton ISD Special Education Winter Dance last Thursday.

Updated Property Tax Information Now Available for Texas Taxpayers

New and updated property tax information has just been compiled by Liberty County Appraisal District and is available now to assist taxpayers. This property tax information is current and covers a wide range of topics, such as taxpayer remedies, exemptions and appraisals, and has information for select groups, such as disabled veterans and persons age 65 or older.

“Whether you are a homeowner, business owner, disabled veteran or taxpayer, it’s important you know your rights concerning the property tax laws,” said Lana McCarty, Chief Appraiser of the Liberty County Appraisal District. “You can contact us about any property tax issues with full confidence that we will provide the most complete, accurate and up-to-date information available to assist you.”

This includes information about the following programs.

*** Property Tax Exemptions for Disabled Veterans** - The law provides partial exemptions for any property owned by disabled veterans or surviving spouses and surviving children of deceased disabled veterans. Another partial exemption is for homesteads donated to disabled veterans by charitable organizations at no cost or not more than 50 percent of the good faith estimate of the homestead’s market value to disabled veterans and their surviving spouses. The exemption amount is determined according to percentage of service-connected disability. The law also provides a 100 percent homestead exemption for 100 percent disabled veterans and their surviving spouses and surviving spouses of U.S. armed service members killed or fatally injured in the line of duty.

*** Property Tax Exemptions** - Non-profit organizations that meet statutory requirements may seek property tax exemptions and must apply to their local appraisal district by a specific date. Child-care facilities; medical or biomedical property; businesses that receive tax abatements granted by taxing units; ship inventory out of Texas that may be eligible for the freeport exemption; store certain goods in transit in warehouses that are moved within 175 days; construct, install or acquire pollution control

property; own and operate energy storage systems; convert landfill-generated gas; or store offshore drilling equipment while not in use may also be eligible for statutory exemptions.

*** Rendering Taxable Property** - If a business owns tangible personal property that is used to produce income, the business must file a rendition with its local appraisal district by a specified date. Personal property includes inventory and equipment used by a business. Owners do not have to render exempt property such as church property or an agriculture producer’s equipment used for farming.

*** Appraisal Notices** - Normally, taxpayers receive a notice of appraised value from the appropriate local appraisal district. The city, county, school districts and other local taxing units use the appraisal district’s value to set property taxes for the coming year.

*** Taxpayer Assistance Pamphlet** - This Comptroller publication explains in detail the functions of a taxpayer liaison officer, how to protest a property appraisal, what issues the county appraisal review board (ARB) can consider and what to expect during a protest hearing. The publication also discusses the option to request limited binding arbitration to compel the ARB or chief appraiser to comply with a procedural requirement and the options of taking a taxpayer’s case to district court, the State Office of Administrative Hearings or regular binding arbitration if the taxpayer is dissatisfied with the outcome of the ARB hearing.

*** Homestead Exemptions** - A homestead is generally defined as the home and land used as the owner’s principal residence on Jan. 1 of the tax year. A person who acquires property after Jan. 1 may receive the residence homestead exemption for the applicable portion of that tax year immediately on qualification for the exemption if the preceding owner did not receive the same exemption for that tax year. A homestead exemption reduces the home’s appraised value and, as a result, lowers property taxes. Applications are submitted to the appropriate local appraisal district.

*** Productivity Appraisal** - Property owners who use land for timberland production, agri-

cultural purposes or wildlife management can be granted property tax relief on their land. They may apply to their local appraisal district for an agricultural special appraisal which may result in a lower appraisal of the land based on production, versus market value.

*** Residence Homestead Tax Deferral** - Texas homeowners may postpone paying the currently delinquent property taxes due on the appreciating value of their homes by filing a tax deferral affidavit at their local appraisal district. This tax relief allows homeowners to pay the property taxes on 105 percent of the preceding year’s appraised value of their homestead, plus the taxes on any new improvements to the homestead. The deferral postpones the remaining taxes, with interest accruing at 8 percent per year but does not cancel them.

*** Property Tax Deferral for Persons Age 65 or Older or Disabled or Disabled Veteran Homeowners** - Texans who are age 65 or older or disabled, as defined by law, or who qualify for a disabled veteran exemption may postpone paying current and delinquent property taxes on their homes by signing a tax deferral affidavit. Once the affidavit is on file, taxes are deferred, but not cancelled, as long as the owner continues to own and live in the home. Interest continues to accrue at 5 percent per year on the unpaid taxes. You may obtain a deferral affidavit at the appraisal district.

*** Protesting Property Appraisal Values** - Property owners who disagree with the appraisal district’s appraisal of their property for local taxes or for any other action that adversely affects them may protest their property value to county’s ARB.

*** Informal Meetings** - Property can request an informal meeting with appraisal district staff to try and resolve their disputes prior to attending ARB hearings.

For more information about these programs, contact Liberty County Appraisal District at (936) 336-5722. Information is also available on the Comptroller’s Property Tax Assistance Division’s website at comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/.



Frankly Speaking –

Peeping at a Naked Goody-Goody is a No-No!

by Frank Jordan

who, regarded it as a miracle, thereupon granted Coventry a Charter, confirming it with a seal.”

The naked truth is the Benedictine monastery was henceforth constructed for the benefit of the poor. The unconfirmed rumor is chocolates were passed out among the people in celebration! The townspeople had agreed to not look at Lady Godiva as she passed by, but Tom the Tailor violated the pact and peeped to see the lovely nude lady. The scandalous tailor thus entered history as the original peeping Tom!

Little Goody-Two-Shoes: Margery Meanwell was the young girl first described as “little-goody-two-shoes.” She was the heroine in the nursery tale titled “The History of Little Goody Two-Shoes” published in 1765 by John Newbery. After her parents died, she was so poor she had only one shoe but,

through a friend of the local clergy, she got a new pair of shoes. She ran among the local people crying out, “Two shoes,... see two shoes!” Only about 1930 did a “little-goody-two-shoes” begin to refer to a person that was smugly virtuous instead of a child heroine.

Loose Cannon: Why do we call a person who is unpredictable to the point of causing trouble if not controlled a “loose cannon?” Wooden warships of past centuries were armed with cannons for battle. These cannons when fired had tremendous recoil and if not secured properly by ropes, could cause extensive damage when fired on a ship deck, particularly in rough seas.

Lock, stock and barrel: We today refer to “getting the whole thing” as “lock, stock and barrel.” The phrase refers to a complete musket (not a rifle), which

has a lock, a stock and a barrel. The lock or flintlock was the firing mechanism. The stock was the wooden butt of the gun as it is today, while the barrel was the cylindrical tube on a musket through which the bullet fired.

Note that a rifle, in contrast to a musket, has helioid (coiling around a fixed point) grooves in the barrel, which cause a bullet to rotate and be more accurate in flight toward its target. In fact, the word “rifle” is derived from the French verb, “rifler” meaning to scratch (a groove) or scrape.

Frankly speaking, the moral of this story is if you see a nude lady who’s a goody-two-shoes riding a horse through town naked, don’t be a peeping Tom, because the community is intolerant of such a loose cannon—lock, stock and barrel. Now go, be proud and a better person through education!

Harris seeks sixth term as Liberty County Treasurer

Kim Harris officially announces her candidacy for reelection as Liberty County Treasurer, seeking a sixth consecutive term of trusted financial leadership, proven experience and faithful service to Liberty County taxpayers.

A Certified Public Accountant and Certified Investment Officer, Kim brings decades of experience in accounting, auditing, investments and human resources. Her professional background includes work with the former global accounting firm Arthur Young & Co. and other respected local CPA firms, providing the expertise necessary to ensure responsible financial management.

First elected in 2006 with the endorsement of the Republican Party of Texas, Harris has

served as County Treasurer with a commitment to accuracy, accountability and transparency. Her focus has remained on protecting taxpayer dollars, maintaining sound investment practices and ensuring that pub-



KIM HARRIS

lic funds are managed with integrity.

Raised in Liberty, Kim is the daughter of Herbert and Katherine Carr, who were also lifelong residents of Liberty County. After graduating from Liberty High School, Kim obtained a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from Texas A&M University, where she received multiple honors including the Academic Excellence Award and the Distinguished Student Award. She then earned her license as a Certified Public Accountant in 1991.

She has been married for 33 years to Liberty businessman Matt Harris. Born and raised in Dayton, Matt is the son of well-known and respected Dayton residents, Joe and Frances Harris. Kim and Matt have three children. Deeply rooted in the community, Kim has served on the Board of Directors and as Treasurer for the Liberty Municipal Library, on the Finance Council for Immaculate Conception Church, in leadership roles with the Liberty Garden Club and as a softball coach for the Liberty Youth Baseball Association.

Kim Harris respectfully asks for the continued support and trust of the voters as she seeks reelection as Liberty County Treasurer.

Bowles named to Dean’s List


EAST STROUDSBURG, PA - Brianna Bowles, a marketing major from Liberty is among the 1,965 students have been named to the Dean’s List at East

Stroudsburg University for the Fall 2025 semester of the 2025-2026 academic year.


Students eligible for the Dean’s List must have achieved a 3.50 grade point average (GPA) or higher and be enrolled full-time.

Christian Olige graduates with BBA degree

WICHITA FALLS, TX - Local student Christian S. Olige graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration, Management, from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls in Fall 2025. Midwestern State University graduate students must meet all requirements as prescribed by the faculty and administration.



Liberty Church of Christ



Bryant Perkins, Minister

Join us this Sunday for Bible Classes for all ages at 9 a.m. and stay for Worship at 10 a.m.

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We meet Sunday night at 5 p.m. and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

• • • • •

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