

# THE LIBERTY GAZETTE

Vol. 66, No. 12

Liberty County's Only Home-Owned Newspaper

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

## AGENDA

**LENTEN FISH FRY**  
**DAYTON** - The Knights of Columbus and Catholic Daughters of St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church will be hosting their annual fish fry for the last Friday of Lent, March 27. They offer dine-in or drive-thru options from 5-7 p.m. that night at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 806 S. Cleveland Street. Plates are \$13 (cash/check) or \$15 (card) and include fish, fries, coleslaw, hush puppies and dessert.

**HOLY WEEK EXPERIENCE**  
**LIBERTY** - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints invites the community to join them on Friday, March 27, at their chapel, 331 Vera Lane, from 6-8 p.m. for the following activities: an immersive Holy Week experience featuring thoughtfully designed room displays highlighting each day of Holy Week; and a hanging Easter egg hunt for all ages, intentionally designed to be accessible for individuals with special needs and those who use wheelchairs.

**RAYWOOD'S BIG EASTER GIVEAWAY**  
**RAYWOOD** - It's an Easter celebration in a big way Sat., March 28, from 12-1 p.m., when Doris Lang Ministries, along with family and friends, hosts Raywood's Big Easter Giveaway at the Old School Gymnasium. There will be free Easter treat bags for ages three through teens. Limited quantities of free bags of groceries will be given out with a one bag limit per household. A Sunday school skit will be performed and door prizes will be up for grabs. All giveaways are on a first come, first served basis and children must be accompanied by an adult to receive free gifts. For more information, contact Doris at 512-762-2610.

**MEDICARE ASSISTANCE**  
**LIBERTY** - On Thurs., April 2, a service regarding Medicare eligibility and benefits comes to the Liberty Municipal Library. Zeldia Earvin, a benefits counselor with the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Area Agency on Aging, will be at the library from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1-3 p.m. She will explain the difference between traditional Medicare and Medicare Advantage Plans (Medicare Part C), and provide information Part D prescription plans available to beneficiaries. The service is offered at no cost to area seniors. The Liberty Municipal Library is located at 1710 Sam Houston Street. Call the library at 936-336-8901 for more information.



The Dayton Noon Lions came together and put on a great food fest last week with their annual Pancake Supper at the First Baptist Church in Dayton. From left are Lions Betty Williamson, Larry Harris, Becky Till, Susan Giberson and Dei Dei Parks.

## Legion to honor Vietnam veterans, March 28

**DAYTON** - To honor our local Vietnam War Era Veterans, American Legion Dayton Memorial Post 512 will be serving a free lunch to all Vietnam

War Era Veterans from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m., Saturday, March 28, 2026 at American Legion Dayton Memorial Post 512. Spouses are invited.

## Volunteers needed for Linney-Acie cleanup, Saturday

**DAYTON** - The Linney-Acie Cemetery Association, a nonprofit organization, invites volunteers to a community cleanup day on Saturday, March 28, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. as neighbors come together to help care for the cemeteries.

The cemeteries are the resting place of many local families, including hundreds of veterans who served our country.

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Sunday, March 29, is observed as National Vietnam War Era Veterans' Day. On this day, a special tribute is paid to the 9 million Americans who served during the Vietnam War Era, to the over 58,000 names memorialized on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., and to those who never received the recognition they deserved when they returned to America

from that War. Throughout the country, American Legion Posts, Sons of the American Legion Squadrons, Auxiliary Units and Legion Riders Chapters are supporting efforts to honor these Vietnam War Era Veterans.

Please RSVP by contacting Post Commander Monica Coughlin at 936-346-3112 or 1st Vice Commander Jerry Kilion at 936-402-0741. American Legion Dayton Memorial Post 512 is located at 2315 Hwy. 146 S., next to Palms Memorial Cemetery.

## Moon Tree featured at next DHS meeting

**DAYTON** - Dayton Historical Society's monthly meeting will feature Daytonite Janette Goulder-Frick as guest speaker. The public is cor-

dially invited to come and hear an interesting program on Monday, March 30, at 6 p.m. at Parker Hall.

A retired employee of Boeing's Space Exploration Division in Clear Lake, Goulder-Frick will be speaking about Stuart Roosa and his Moon Tree project of which a tree was planted at Dayton's Community Center in 2022. An informational plaque will be placed by the tree at the community center to commemorate Arbor Day in April.

As the eldest son of Apollo 14 mission astronaut and pilot Stuart Roosa, Chris Roosa became familiar with Dayton since his parents were friends of Daytonites Bob and Mary Beth Jamison. The Roosa family visited Dayton on multiple occasions.

Janette's interest in the subject stems from having worked in Boeing's space exploration division for 10 years as an information systems project manager in Clear Lake, where she managed a staff of software engineers, reported project status to NASA management and made business trips to Cape Canaveral as needed.

Parker Hall is located behind the Old School Museum at 111 W. Houston Street.



MARY JANE RIPKOWSKI

## Ripkowski passes away peacefully

Mary Jane Hartel Ripkowski passed away peacefully on March 14, 2026 at the age of 98. She lived her entire life in Liberty County, where she touched the lives of countless residents as a teacher, drill team sponsor, drivers education instructor, volleyball and track coach, and devoted family matriarch.

Mrs. Ripkowski left this world surrounded by family in her home of 63 years, on the same block where she lived for 90 of her 98 years, in the town she could never leave.

She was widely known in Liberty as "Mrs. Rip," while friends and family called her Janie. But the name she wore most proudly was "MeMe," bestowed upon her by her many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and more nieces and nephews than she could count.

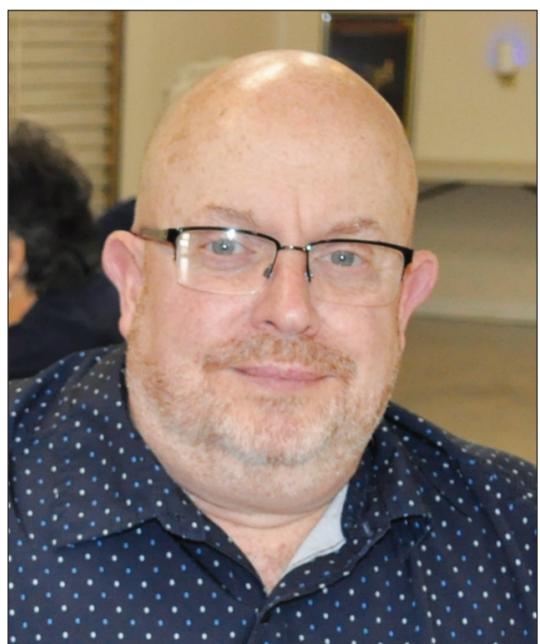
Fittingly born on Thanksgiving Day - Nov. 24, 1927 - Janie was perhaps happiest each fall when family and friends gathered at her home on Milam Street to celebrate Thanksgiving and mark another of her many trips around the sun.

Janie spent her early childhood in a white frame house in Hull, Texas. She was the oldest child of Arthur John "Artie" Hartel, Jr., a successful country banker known for lending people money from his own pocket, and Blanche Riviere Hartel, a school teacher, community volunteer and accomplished musician.

In Hull, where Mr. Hartel was president of the Hull State Bank, Janie and her two younger siblings, sister Joe Ann Hartel Root and brother A.J. "Jack" Hartel III, began their lifelong love of football as fans of the Hull-Daisetta Bobcats. After their father became president of the First Liberty National Bank in 1939, the family moved into the red brick home at the corner of Milam and Trinity in Liberty and became lifelong Liberty Panther fans.

Janie adored her younger siblings and often admitted she followed their lead - except when it came to their somewhat wilder habits. Try as they might, Jack and Joe Ann never convinced Janie to drink or smoke cigarettes with them. She stayed true to her principles throughout her life. She never drank "that devil water," never smoked, and

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## BURLEIGH NAMED DAYTON POLICE CHIEF

At the Dayton City Council meeting on Monday, March 16, Shane Burleigh officially became the city's new police chief. Burleigh has served as interim police chief for the past year and has been with the Dayton Police Department for 20 years.

936.336.6471



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