

# THE LIBERTY GAZETTE

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Liberty County's Only Home-Owned Newspaper

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

## AGENDA

### FISH FRY FUNDRAISER

**DAYTON** - The Dayton Volunteer Fire Department is serving up some delicious fried fish fillets with fries, hushpuppies, coleslaw and all the fixings on Saturday, May 2, beginning at 11 a.m. until they sell out. Plates are \$15 payable by cash, check or card and of course donations are always accepted and greatly appreciated. Drive thru pickup is available. Come out and show your support for those dedicated fire fighters.

### MEDICARE ASSISTANCE

**LIBERTY** - On Thurs., May 7, a service regarding Medicare eligibility and benefits comes to the Liberty Municipal Library. Zelda 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.

### SINGO BINGO

**DAYTON** - Are you ready to play a fun and exciting musical spin of the traditional game of Bingo while you support a worthwhile cause? It's Singo Bingo benefitting South Liberty County Meals on Wheels and it's coming to the Dayton Community Center, Saturday, May 16, at 6 p.m. featuring DJ Mark. For tickets, call 936-641-2846 or 832-527-4442.

### AUTHOR MEET & GREET

**DAYTON** - The Jones Public Library and Friends of Jones Library invite the public to meet authors Lagin King and Nicole Krashin at an Author Meet & Greet, Saturday, May 16, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the library's Kid Zone. Come hear the authors' stories, do a craft and enjoy a snack. The library is located at 801 Sam Houston.



### ALPHA WRIGHT HENDERSON INDUCTED INTO DISD WALL OF FAME

Dayton ISD's Wall of Fame Induction Ceremony, held April 14, honored longtime educator Ms. Alpha Wright Henderson for her remarkable 44-year career in education and lasting impact on students and community. Her legacy of service, leadership, and dedication continues to inspire generations, both inside and outside the classroom.

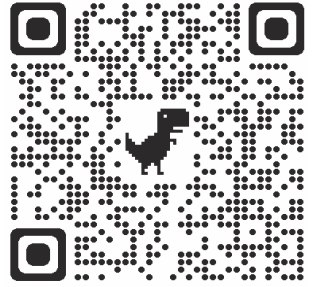
Pictured (l-r): Thomas Payne, DISD board president; Gerald Kolarik, former DISD board member; Alpha Wright Henderson, honoree; Dr. Travis Young, DISD superintendent; Greg Hayman, former DISD superintendent; Dr. Luke Chachere, DISD board vice president; Chris Shumaker, DISD board member.

### Election day voting to be conducted Sat., May 2

**LIBERTY COUNTY** - Election day voting will be conducted Saturday, May 2. City elections will be held in Ames, Cleveland, Dayton and Liberty. School board elections include Cleveland ISD, Dayton ISD, Devers ISD, Hardin ISD (general and special election), and Hull-Daisetta ISD. WCID No. 1 and WCID No. 5 will hold elections for directors.

Liberty ISD also will hold a bond election for a proposed \$26 million bond for the construction of a new multipurpose gym/educational facility at the high school. If approved, the bond would result in a tax rate increase of 8.22 cents per \$100 of valuation.

For voting times and locations, visit [co.liberty.tx.us](http://co.liberty.tx.us). The QR code below will direct you to the sample ballot for your precinct.



## Fun for all at Daisetta's Mayhaw Festival, May 1-2

**DAISETTA** - The Mayhaw Festival is two days of fun-filled, family event in downtown Daisetta, May 1-2. The festival offers numerous contests, cookoff competitions, basketball and volleyball competitions, mayhaw jelly and baking contests, domino competition, craft and food vendors, a grand parade, and a street dance.

The festival kicks off Friday, May 1, with festivalgoers finding plenty of craft and food vendors offering a variety of foods, arts and crafts and much more. It's sure to be a smokin' good time when the pits fire up for the barbecue cook-off as cooks show off their best skills at the grill. See the festival website for entry information. Also on Friday, festival attendees are in-

abled to participate in some friendly washer and cornhole competitions. Contact Colton Hudnall at 936-346-7896 to join the fun.

Get ready to kick up your heels at the Mayhaw Festival Street Dance. George Dearborn and Branded will be back on stage for the second time at 8 p.m. If you like good classic country music this is the place to be. Tickets are \$10 (sold at the gate) and \$5 for a cooler.

How about showing off your baking skills or your best homemade jelly? The annual Jelly and Baking Competition takes place from 1-6 p.m. at the First Baptist Church. Classifications, fees and entry forms are avail-

able on the festival website or contact Rachel Webb at 936-334-5159.

On Saturday, the grand parade begins at 10 a.m. and travels through downtown Daisetta along Hwy. 770. Food and craft vendors will once again be tempting visitors with a variety of goods and services all day. If dominoes are your game, take part in the domino tournament, which gets underway following the conclusion of the parade. Bring a partner and have some fun. Contact Curtis Johnson at 936-334-3345.

If basketball is more your game, registration for the 3-on-3 basketball tournament begins at 8 a.m. at the Hull-Daisetta

High School gym. The volleyball tournament will also take place on Saturday with registration at 9 a.m. also at the high school gym. Contact Seth at 936-402-0498 regarding information on either tournament.

The festival mission is to bring life, energy and commitment back to the community by hosting community events that will ultimately support local projects throughout the community and school, as well as help to fund local students' higher education.

For complete festival information, entry forms and more, visit the website: [hdmayhawfestival.org](http://hdmayhawfestival.org), or visit the Facebook page.

### Senior Box Food Distribution, April 30

**LIBERTY** - This month's Senior Box Food Distribution Program will take place Thurs., April 30, from 8-10 a.m. at Liberty VFW Post 5621. The commodities from the USDA/TDA are distributed through the Houston Food Bank. No new applications are being accepted at this time.

To qualify, senior applicants must be age 60 or above and will be subject to verifying their age, residence and household income. Those unable to make

the distribution, can designate a person for pick up. This person must present a written letter (dated and signed) along with a form of the recipient's ID (copy/picture of your ID or apple/food bank card) giving permission for pick up. The designated person must also bring their ID for verification.

The Liberty VFW Post is located at 1520 N. Main Street. For more information, call or text Mike at 936-955-8250.

### Former Hardin AFS student returns

Ilkka Kempainen and his wife Tiina, natives of Finland, stopped by last week to visit with longtime friends from Liberty, Charles and Joann Wiggins.

Back in 1975-76 Ilkka was a foreign exchange student with the American Field Service and spent a year at Hardin High School as part of that program. He lived with Bowen and Louise Cain and their children, Gary, Randy and Candy in Moss Hill during this time, experiencing a full-immersion in East Texas culture and language. Ilkka admits that he hasn't maintained his old fluency in saying, "y'all" but it probably wouldn't take long for him to get right back to it.

Ilkka and Charles and Joann met when the Wiggins installed a sauna at their home. Charles learned about Ilkka's home country and invited the young

man to have a look at the newly-installed sauna. Ilkka pronounced the sauna authentic and very nice; an appropriate certification was designed and affixed thereto. Ilkka and the Wiggins remained friends over the many years since.

Following the return to his hometown Oulu in Finland, Ilkka attended university there, receiving a masters degree in production economics. After an illustrious decades-long career involving IT integration, Ilkka spent the last eight years working in acquisitions and divestments worldwide. He has now semi-retired, working only a few days a week as needed.

Ilkka's wife Tiina is a nurse, currently in charge of 40 midwives at one of the big hospitals in Oulu.

As many Finnish folks

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(L-R): Charles Wiggins with visiting friends from Finland, Tiina and Ilkka Kempainen

936.336.6471



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