



### AGENDA

#### RED, WHITE & BOOM

**LIBERTY** - Begin your Independence Day celebration early when the City of Liberty hosts its annual Liberty Independence Day Celebration on Friday, July 3. The celebration will take place at the Liberty Municipal Park with vendor activities taking place from 5-9 p.m. At 9:15 p.m., all lights will be turned out at the park to allow for a spectacular view of a dazzling fireworks show that will light up the night sky. Interested in becoming a vendor? Applications are available on the City of Liberty website at [cityofliberty.org](http://cityofliberty.org).

#### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**DAYTON** - This summer travel along on the road to adventure! The "Roman Road" is the theme of this year's Vacation Bible School at Trinity Baptist Church (FM 1960 across from Thrif-Tee Food Center). VBS takes place July 13-16 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. All children in K4-6th grade are invited to enjoy four fun-filled days of songs, Bible lessons, crafts, games, snacks, contests and prizes. Come along for a great time. For more information or to pre-register, call the church at 936-681-8161. Registration will also be available July 13-16 starting at 8:30 am.

#### FBC FOOD PANTRY

**DAYTON** - Dayton First Baptist Church Food Pantry will hold its next food distribution Tues., July 14, from 9-11:30 a.m. The pantry will only be able to serve those with a Dayton 77535 zip code; proof of residence will be required. This will be a walk-in pantry, so please park and come into the food pantry entrance on the north side of the Family Life Center on Nelson Street. Picking up for others will not be allowed except under dire circumstances. The food distribution will be available the second Tuesday of each month.

#### ANNUAL GIVEAWAY

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church invites all area families to a FREE clothing (all sizes), household items and backpack giveaway. This event will be Thursday, July 23, through Saturday, July 25, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. Mt. Calvary is located at 2988 Hwy. 105 East (three miles East of Moss Hill). For more information, call 936-346-6244.

## July 4th Hometown Celebration in Dayton, Saturday

**DAYTON** - Area families won't have to travel out of town to celebrate our country's 250th birthday when the Trinity Valley Chamber of Commerce presents its July 4th Hometown Celebration. A full slate of family-friendly festivities are planned for Sat., July 4, beginning at 6 p.m., with activities centered around the Dayton Community Center, 801 S. Cleveland. This is a free community event.

Events include a bicycle parade and the public is encouraged to join the fun. Just decorate your bicycle, tricycle, wagon or whatever, in a patriotic fashion or any design and join the procession. Spectators are invited to watch from along the parade route.

At the community center, there will be activities for kids and adults, and food trucks will be on-site to serve up some delicious foods and tasty treats.

Then, get set to watch the sky light up as a dazzling fireworks display explodes across the night sky. Bring your lawn chairs and your patriotic spirit and enjoy the celebration in your own hometown.

For more information or to get involved, call 936-258-6630 or email [communitycenter@daytontx.org](mailto:communitycenter@daytontx.org). To participate, sign up at [forms.gle/Qp73KqZhwjcyh3hn9](http://forms.gle/Qp73KqZhwjcyh3hn9).



**DON NEYLAND SWORN IN**  
Left to right: Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Jimmy Belt, newly-sworn in Municipal Judge Don Neyland and Daisetta Mayor Cindy Burchfield.

## Don Neyland sworn in as Municipal Judge

*Submitted by Andrew McClusky*

**DAISETTA** - The City of Daisetta is proud to welcome one of its own back into public service as Don Neyland was officially sworn in as Municipal Judge during a special called meeting of the Daisetta City Council.

For many in Daisetta, Don needs little introduction.

A lifelong resident of Daisetta, Neyland began his law enforcement career right here in his hometown with the Daisetta Police Department after graduating from the Harris County Sheriff's Office Police Academy in 1989. He later joined the Liberty County Sheriff's Office, where he built a distinguished career spanning more than three decades.

Throughout his more than thirty years with the Sheriff's Office, Neyland served in numerous roles,

including Patrol Deputy, Patrol Sergeant, Captain of the Criminal Investigations Division, and ultimately Chief Deputy. In that position, he helped oversee daily operations of one of the county's largest departments, working alongside deputies, investigators, emergency responders, and community leaders across Liberty County.

After more than 33 years in law enforcement, Neyland retired in 2022 as Chief Deputy of the Liberty County Sheriff's Office, leaving behind a legacy of professionalism, integrity, and dedication to public service.

His service to the community has extended beyond law enforcement. Neyland has also previously served the citizens of Daisetta as a city councilmember, continuing a lifelong commitment to helping improve the town he has always called

home.

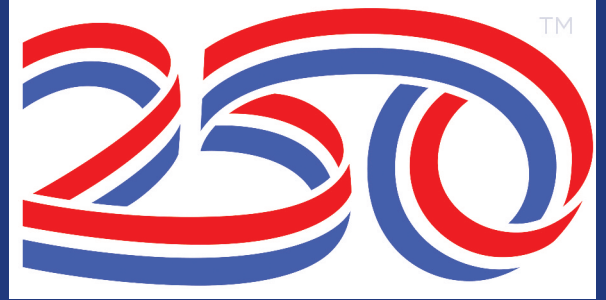
Mayor Cindy Burchfield administered the oath of office during the council meeting. Judge Neyland's wife, Melissa, was present for the occasion, as was Liberty County Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Jimmy Belt, making the evening especially meaningful.

"There are not many people who can say their public service journey started in Daisetta and, decades later, are still finding ways to serve the same community," said Mayor Burchfield. "Don has spent his life serving others. His experience, character, and dedication to this community make him exceptionally qualified to serve as Municipal Judge."

In a small town like Daisetta, public service is often measured by years of showing up when your

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## AMERICA



## July the Fourth became national holiday in 1941

by Kevin Ladd

**LIBERTY** - Various known as the Fourth of July and Independence Day, July 4th has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution (1775-83).

In June 1776, representatives of the 13 colonies, then fighting in the revolutionary war struggle, gathered in Philadelphia to consider a resolution that would declare their independence from Great Britain. On July 2, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later its delegates adopted the Declaration of Independence.

This historic document was drafted by Thomas Jefferson, who would later become the nation's third president. From 1776 until the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with typical festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues.

The tradition of patriotic celebrations became even more widespread after the War of 1812, in which the United States again faced Great Britain. In 1870, the U.S. Congress made July 4th a federal holiday; in 1941, the provision was expanded to grant a paid holiday to all federal employees. Over the years, the political importance of the holiday would decline, but Independence Day remained an important national holiday and a symbol of patriotism.

Three American presidents have died on this day. John Adams, the second man to serve as president, and Jefferson, his rival and successor, both died on July 4, 1826 – the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The men had become bitter opponents during the early 1800s, but they later patched up their differences.

President James Monroe died five years afterward on July 4, 1831.

### DAISETTA COMMUNITY CENTER GRAND OPENING POSTPONED, NEW DATE FORTHCOMING

Due the inclement weather on Wednesday, June 17, officials with the City of Daisetta made the decision to cancel the grand opening and ribbon cutting of the new Daisetta Community Center. Officials are planning to reschedule the event at a future date and more information will be forthcoming.



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