

# THE LIBERTY GAZETTE

FLAG DAY  
JUNE 14

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## AGENDA

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**DAYTON** - South Dayton Baptist Church will host Vacation Bible School, June 22-26, from 5:30-8 p.m. This year's theme is "Illumination Station" where kids explore how light reveals who He truly is. Students who have completed Pre-K through eighth grade are welcome to attend. Dinner will be served. The church's physical address is 4691 FM 1409. For more information, call 361-815-2147.

### BOTTLED WATER DRIVE

**LIBERTY CTY.** - In a community effort to provide Dayton firefighters with much needed hydration during the very hot summer months, the public is encouraged to bring bottled water or Gatorade and drop them off at the Dayton VFD Station #1 at 1001 Bill Moreau Dr. Your donation of bottled water helps our firefighters stay hydrated and our community stay strong during emergencies, training and long days of service. The hard working volunteer men and women who protect your lives and property greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness.

### THE HARMON LEGACY

**WALLISVILLE** - Discover the story behind a treasured Chambers County family in The Harmon Legacy available now from Chambers County Museum or the online bookstore at wallisvillemuseum.com. Readers will journey through the history of the Harmon family and the renowned Harmon Saddle Shop. Printed on premium 100-lb. glossy paper, this richly illustrated volume is more than just a book - it's a wonderful coffee table keepsake to be enjoyed and shared for generations. Purchase price is \$35; a \$3 fee will be added to credit card purchases.

### MEDICARE BENEFITS COUNSELOR

**DAYTON** - On Wed., June 10, Benefits Counselor Zeldia Earvin with the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Area Agency on Aging will be at the Jones Public Library from 1-3 p.m. to meet one-on-one with disabled and older Texans. She will provide information regarding traditional Medicare, Medicare Advantage Plans (Medicare Part C), and Part D prescription plans that are available to seniors. This service is offered on a first come first served basis free of charge to area seniors. The Jones Public Library is located at 801 S. Cleveland Street. For more information, call the library at 936-258-7060.



Digging a hole like this is no small task with our heat and humidity, but experienced gentlemen like these make it look easy. The job at hand is to connect up a water line to a nearby church from the water main (above photo, red connection at right), where a needed sprinkler system is planned for the structure. In the photo at left we see Dayton Plumbing's guys Peanut with his back to us, Ray kneeling on the dirt and Zane standing nearby. In charge of the exacting work with the excavator but not shown is Sparky, oh-so-carefully working around a couple of buried fiber optic lines.

## FLB announces officer, supervisor promotions for 2026

**LIBERTY** - First Liberty Bank has announced the promotion and appointment of officers and supervisory staff for 2026, as approved by its Board of Directors. These appointments reflect the bank's continued commitment to strong leadership, organizational performance, and long-term service to the communities it serves.

"These promotions reflect the depth of talent within our organization and the commitment our team members demonstrate every day," said Kelly D. Stretcher, President and Chief Executive Officer. "Each of these individuals contributes in meaningful ways to our customers and internal operations and plays an important role in advancing the Bank's strategic objectives."

The following individuals were promoted or appointed to officer and supervisory positions:

### Charles Bolds - Senior Vice President, Senior Mortgage Officer

Charles Bolds has been promoted to Senior Vice President and continues to serve as Senior Mortgage Officer. With nine years of service at First Liberty Bank, Bolds brings extensive mortgage lending experience and a customer-focused approach that has made him a trusted resource for homebuyers throughout the Bank's market area.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Bolds is actively involved in the community. He was named Hardin Citizen of the Year in 2024 and currently serves on the Hardin ISD Board of Trustees. He also received the Emerging Leader Award from the Texas Bankers Association in 2025, recognizing his leadership within the industry and his commitment to service.

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### MEALS ON WHEELS

**LIBERTY COUNTY** - Do you have time to lend a hand for others? Meals on Wheels of Southeast Liberty County is in need of volunteers in all of their service areas. Drivers are needed for all routes and it only takes 1.5 hours to deliver hot meals to area seniors. If you have time to lend, call 936-641-2846.

### Prem H. Dalwadi - Senior Vice President, Information Technology

Prem H. Dalwadi has been promoted to Senior Vice President and leads the bank's Information Technology department.

During his 13 years of service at First Liberty Bank, Dalwadi has played a key role in strengthening the bank's technology infrastructure, enhancing cybersecurity, and supporting secure, efficient banking operations.

He was selected to participate in the Federal Reserve's Banking Organization Leadership Training (BOLT) program in 2024, reflecting his continued development as a leader within the organization and the broader banking industry. His leadership helps ensure that First Liberty Bank continues to operate reliably and securely as technology evolves and customer expectations advance.

### William Reid - Senior Vice President, Loan Officer

William Reid has been promoted to Senior Vice President and serves as a Loan Officer based in Mont Belvieu. With three years of service at First Liberty Bank, Reid is recognized for his relationship-driven approach to lending and his commitment to delivering tailored financial solutions to individuals and businesses in his market.

He is actively engaged in industry advocacy efforts that support community banking and works to stay informed on legislative and regulatory matters impacting the Bank and its customers.

### Melissa Ellis - Vice President, Loan Officer

Melissa Ellis has been promoted to Vice President and continues in her role as a Loan Officer specializing in real estate lending, based in the bank's Livingston market. Bringing four years of service to the bank, Ellis is recognized for her pro-

fessionalism, strong customer service, and attention to detail throughout the lending process.

Beyond her role at the bank, Ellis is actively involved in the community through volunteer service and outreach initiatives. She has supported organizations focused on housing, food assistance, and financial literacy, and has participated in community efforts such as food distribution events benefiting families in need. Her commitment to service reflects First Liberty Bank's emphasis on community involvement.

### Lonnie Delahoussaye - Banking Officer and Security Officer

Lonnie Delahoussaye has been appointed Banking Officer and serves as Security Officer. With six years of service at First Liberty Bank, Delahoussaye supports daily operations while helping ensure a safe and secure environment for customers and employees.

Throughout his tenure, he has gained experience across multiple operational areas of the Bank, including loan operations, mortgage, and accounting, providing him with a well-rounded understanding of the bank's internal processes and controls. In 2024, he received the John J. Hebert Volunteer of the Year Award from his local Knights of Columbus council.

First Liberty Bank congratulates these individuals on their well-deserved promotions and thanks them for their continued contributions to the Bank and the communities it serves.

### About First Liberty Bank

Founded in 1913, First Liberty Bank has served Liberty and the surrounding communities for more than a century. What began as a local bank built on personal relationships has grown into a trusted Texas-based community bank with a strong and expanding presence.

Today, First Liberty Bank operates 10 full-service locations, four Loan Production Offices, and a dedicated mortgage center, while remaining locally headquartered and committed to relationship-driven banking, sound financial solutions, and meaningful community involvement.



### SOME VOLUNTEERS GIVE THEIR TIME. OTHERS GIVE THEIR HEARTS

This year, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) recognized Dayton resident Cyndie Abshire for doing both, naming her a 2026 Outstanding Volunteer during Volunteer Appreciation Week.

On April 20, Cyndie received the agency's "Biggest Heart Award," an honor that reflects the compassion, generosity, and unwavering commitment she brings to serving children, families, and vulnerable adults. Through countless acts of kindness and service, she has become a trusted and valued part of the DFPS community.

DFPS works to strengthen families and communities while ensuring the safety and well being of those most in need. Volunteers like Cyndie help bring that mission to life, offering encouragement, support, and hope where it matters most.

Her impact extends far beyond the hours she volunteers. Through her caring spirit and servant's heart, Cyndie continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others and in the community she proudly calls home.

## Veterans' Health Fair, Thursday

**DAYTON** - A Veterans' Health and Resource Fair is scheduled for Thurs., June 11, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at American Legion Post 512. This event is especially important to the veteran community and to Liberty County. The fair brings together health services, benefits information and community

resources in one accessible location to help veterans connect with essential support, while strengthening partnerships among local organization committed to serving those who have served our country. All area veterans are encouraged to attend. American Legion Post 512 is located at 2315 Hwy. 146.

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