

Ely Air Lines –

Altitude and Autumn

by Mike Ely and Linda Street-Ely

GOSPEL MUSICAL
DAYTON - A gospel musical, dinner and concert, celebrating 66 years, will be held at the Dayton Community Center, Sat., Nov. 8. Doors open at 1 p.m. The event will honor the Sweet Singing Southern Travelers. All are welcome. For more information, call 936-776-9297 or 409-338-4494. The community center is located at 801 S. Cleveland Street.



Queene. A little farther north, on the banks of the Ohio River on the Illinois side of the Illinois-Kentucky state line, we found the name “Cave-in-Rock.” It’s up-river 37 miles from Paducah. Turns out, it’s a cave you can kayak into.

On the ground in the Hoosier state, we relished the sight of brilliant autumn colors – stunning orange and red clusters of maple trees – and meandered a winding lane called 10 O’clock Road through the Parke County covered bridge festival, an annual tradition since 1957. The free festival celebrates 31 historic covered bridges; many we could drive through.

For a while, the weather became overcast and drizzly, mid-40’s, with a light wind. Better suited for flying IFR in an aircraft equipped with de-icing capabilities. We plunked our tails down at a picnic table to enjoy a fresh, warm pretzel and a cup of hot, spiced apple cider before checking out the old Bridgeton Mill, still a working mill, and now on the market for \$3.5M.

By nightfall, the clouds had lifted. I persuaded Mike to enter the haunted corn maze like it was a field of dreams. This year's theme was inspired by the tragic 1918 circus train wreck near Peru, Indiana, when the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus collided with a freight train, killing more than eighty-five performers and animals – souls perhaps still tumbling through those whispering rows of corn. Earlier that evening, I coaxed him onto the headless horseman hayride through the woods of Conner Prairie, where laughter and shadows met in the dark.

Sadly, I didn't find the maple sugar candies of my childhood or those roadside set-ups selling persimmon pulp. But at the festival, I met "The Persimmon Lady," who sells pulp two pints for five dollars. We'll have persimmon pudding for Thanksgiving.

We'd ridden generous tailwinds northward, but the homeward leg proved wilder with waves of gnarly headwinds. As we descended toward Beach City, a crop duster flew a grid pattern, spraying for mosquitoes. We appreciated the effort, though not the timing. The sharp chemical tang of the mist met us on landing.

We're grateful for open skies, for the change of seasons, and for another journey north – shared, remembered, and wholly ours. I wish every day was October.

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**THE VALLEY PLAYERS
PICTURE SHOW**



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Why I'm not voting for these propositions, *Continued from Page A-1*

posited every year into the Texas Water Fund, which would then be transferred as needed to the Water Development Board for use. The money is supposed to come from sales and use taxes, so although the Prop doesn't say this outright, there's good reason to believe it will result in a tax increase. Furthermore, outside of specifying the money must be used on projects related to water infrastructure, the Water Development Board has a lot of leeway to determine on what that money will be used. Coupled with the sheer amount of money, this creates a situation that is ripe for abuse and wasteful spending.

Prop 14 would create a brand new state agency and an associated fund to, supposedly, financially support research and prevention of dementia, Parkinson's disease, and other similar diseases. It would also guarantee three billion dollars for that new fund. However, like with Prop 1, there is no real account-

ability mechanism for how the new agency hands out this money, and there is no need whatsoever to create a new agency through a constitutional

Hardin Christmas

HARDIN - As the Christmas season approaches, Hardin Helping Hands is excited to host its annual Christmas Celebration, a tradition in the community. The event aims to bring joy and a festive spirit to residents in Hardin and the surrounding areas. This is a free event and open to the public.

This year's event will be held Fri., Dec. 5, at 5:30 p.m. on the Hardin Elementary School campus. The event will feature a festive parade and the annual Christmas tree lighting. A special announcement will reveal the recipient of the 2025 Hardin Citizen of the Year award. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be stopping by for a visit and there will be

amendment. Therefore, Prop 14 suffers from the same problems as Prop 1, i.e., it's unnecessary and it makes a great way to squander money.

Celebration, Dec. 5

photo opportunities and activities for the children to enjoy.

Local businesses, clubs, organizations, and churches will have booths offering merchandise for sale, giveaways, and information about their services.

Attendees can enjoy free hot chocolate, cookies, and much more. It's a perfect opportunity to enjoy quality time with family, friends, and neighbors.

Hardin Helping Hands is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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