



# Sterling Funeral Home invites you to join us for our traditional Memorial Day Service

**Mon., May 25 • 10 a.m.**  
**Palms Memorial Park**  
Hwy. 146 South • Dayton

Refreshments will be served following the service at  
the American Legion Hall, located next door.

Please extend this invitation to other family members and friends.



(L-r): Julie Campbell, Toni Valkner and Regina Kelsey posed up for a quick photo at the recent Dayton High School Pioneer Reunion. Julie and Toni were Class of 1978; Regina was Class of 1976.



Rose Klimitchek (left), Dayton High School Class of 1955, was joined by Linda Sanders who was a guest of the Class of 1957 at the DHS Pioneer Reunion earlier this month.



## Heather Reed, PA-C



Heather Reed, PA-C joined LDRMC in May 2018 as a practitioner in our Rural Health Clinic. She was raised in the Houston area and attended UTMB Galveston to obtain her Physician's Assistant degree. Heather brings 19 years of experience to our clinic and enjoys treating patients of all ages and stages in life.

Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants are health care professionals licensed, or in the case of those employed by the federal government, they are credentialed to practice medicine with physician supervision.

As part of their comprehensive responsibilities, NPs and PAs conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, counsel on preventive health care, assist in surgery, and write prescriptions. Within the physician to mid-level relationship, nurse practitioners and physician assistants exercise autonomy in medical decision making and provide a broad range of diagnostic and therapeutic services. This practice may also include education, research, and administrative services.

**Why go anywhere else when the care  
you need is close at home!**

**For an appointment, call (936) 336-9175**

**1201 NORTH TRAVIS STREET - LIBERTY**

## Next TVCC luncheon set for Tues., June 9

DAYTON - Join the Trinity Valley Chamber of Commerce on Tues., June 9, as Entergy Texas presents the annual Hurricane, Hazards & Emergencies Luncheon. Area experts on home, business/family preparedness and emergencies will include personnel from Liberty County of Emergency Management along with a guest meteorologist from NOAA.

The luncheon gets underway at the Dayton Community Center at 11 a.m. for networking with lunch at 11:30 a.m. Admission is \$25/member and \$30/non-member. Tables for 10 can be reserved for \$225 (member) or \$300 (non-member). Kindly register prior to the registration deadline Fri., April 4, in order to ensure enough food is prepared. Those registering at the door will be charged an additional \$10.

Multiple sponsorship opportunities are available. Contact the chamber at 936-257-2393 or [jazmin@daytontxchamber.com](mailto:jazmin@daytontxchamber.com).

Ely Air Lines -

## The Internet Wants an Airline

by Mike Ely and Linda Street-Ely

There's an old joke that goes, "The fastest way to become a millionaire in aviation is to start as a billionaire and buy an airline." Apparently, the internet has decided to test that theory.

Over the past few weeks, a 22-year-old TikTok creator named Hunter Peterson has gone wildly viral after proposing that ordinary people crowdfund and resuscitate the deceased Spirit Airlines. In the first few days, his videos attracted millions of views, and he reportedly influenced hundreds of millions of dollars in non-binding pledges from supporters eager to be part of "buying" the airline.

At this point, the money is theoretical, the legal hurdles are enormous, and bankruptcy experts are already explaining why the plan is unlikely to survive contact with reality. But honestly, the interesting part is that so many people immediately wanted in.

Spirit Airlines has spent years being the punchline of airline jokes for their tiny seats, bare-bones service, and fees for everything short of oxygen. Yet when news broke that the airline was shutting down, thousands of people reacted like fans losing a hometown team, which is, actually, pretty telling.



Aviation has always inspired emotional investment that doesn't always make logical sense. Long before social media, people gathered at airports just to watch airplanes land. Passengers dressed up to fly. Kids collected airline timetables like baseball cards. Pilots were as intensely committed to their airplanes as some people are to their religion (and that part hasn't really changed). But now we're in the TikTok era.

Peterson loosely modeled his campaign after the community ownership structure of the Green Bay Packers: the airline would be "owned by the people," and each \$45 gets one vote. Financially, it's optimistic, and emotionally, there's no turbulence, because even people who never flew Spirit understand that its disappearance means fewer low-cost seats. Less competition translates to higher fares. It's one

more airline gone from an industry already filled with mergers and consolidations.

Reactions have ranged from sincere enthusiasm to complete disbelief with statements such as, "\$335 million in non-binding pledges. So, zero actual dollars then, got it." And, "This started as a joke, and this is rapidly going out of control in the best possible way." And, "What exactly are they trying to buy? A company with \$8 billion in debt?" (Reddit)

Amidst the sarcasm and optimism is a sign of the times: a generation raised online looking at a bankrupt airline and thinking, What if we just... bought it ourselves?

Will it work? We'll go on record as saying probably not. Airlines are astonishingly expensive, brutally complicated, and historically allergic to profitability. There's a reason we laugh whenever someone says, "I've always wanted to own an airline."

But it also seems oddly encouraging in a way. In an age when so much of the internet feels cynical, thousands of people saw airplanes going to auction and instinctively wanted to save them. It's not a business plan, but it does sound very much like aviation.

[ElyAirLines.substack.com](http://ElyAirLines.substack.com)



We caught up with two of the lovely Drawhorn sisters at the Dayton High School Pioneer Reunion held earlier this month. At left is Dixie (Drawhorn) Baker, Class of 1966, with her sister Weet (Drawhorn) Franklin, Class of 1963.

# FOR KOLARIK

## COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 4

**I Stand For**

- Honesty/Integrity/Transparency
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Development Regulation Compliance/Enforcement
- Enhanced Funding for Pct. 4 Roads/Drainage
- Prudent Tax Incentives for New Business

**Qualifications Matter**

- 40+ years experience working petrochemical turnarounds for ExxonMobil as both a full-time employee and consultant overseeing work scope development, planning and scheduling, contracting strategies, engineering, milestone compliance, oversight of the work activities
- 15 years of experience on Dayton ISD board of trustees that oversaw the "first wave" of exponential growth to the Dayton area in the 90s and early 2000s
- Will have - 2 years experience as your County Commissioner by year end 2026

Pol. Adv. Paid for by Gerald Kolarik Campaign - Carol Kolarik, treasurer

**RUNOFF EARLY VOTING**  
Dayton Community Center  
May 18-22 • 7am-7pm

**ELECTION DAY**  
May 26, 2026 • 7am-7pm  
Box 10 Eastgate: St. Anne's Catholic Church Parish Hall  
Box 21 Kenefick: Southern Baptist Church  
Box 22 Dayton: Dayton Community Center  
Box 25 Tarkington: Tarkington Hi-Way Tabernacle

• Eligible Voters May Vote at Any Liberty county Voting Location.