

Ely Air Lines -

Hang in There

by Mike Ely and Linda Street-Ely

Mike: My high school shop teacher was known for choosing unusual building projects. One year, the class built a box-winged hang glider, something resembling the fragile contraptions early aviators experimented with before powered flight became practical.

When it came time to test it, the teacher climbed aboard and the students lifted their glider and teacher overhead and ran down across a gentle slope. The control system relied on the teacher shifting his body weight left and right while resting his arms on side rails. For about five glorious seconds, the machine actually flew. Then it rolled sharply sideways, struck the ground, and cartwheeled, wingtip over wingtip. The hang glider was destroyed on its maiden flight.

Fortunately, the instructor suffered only minor bumps and bruises, though his pride may have sustained more serious damage.

Years later, when I began flight training in Southern California, I often flew from the Los Angeles Basin to the high desert through Cajon Pass, the dramatic gap between the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains. Interstate 15 twists through the pass below like a long concrete snake climbing to-



ward the summit, while steep ridges rise sharply on either side.

Mountain ridges are ideal launching points for hang gliders. Wind flowing across the terrain creates rising air on one side and descending air on the other. Skilled pilots ride those updrafts along the cliffs, turning back and forth with graceful precision. I quickly learned to keep an eye out for the hang gliders there. They often flew at the same altitudes used by small airplanes, and before entering the pass I'd scan carefully for the colorful wings suspended against the mountainsides.

Modern hang gliders are sleek, efficient machines, and thankfully, their pilots long ago figured out the weight-shift control problem better than my shop teacher had.

Of course, hauling a glider up a mountain is no small task, so places with road access to high launch

points become especially popular. That's one reason Cajon Pass became such a well-known hang-gliding area.

But what about flatland flyers? Can you fly hang gliders in Southeast Texas? Absolutely. They just need different ways to get airborne. Some use aero-tows, where an ultralight aircraft pulls the glider aloft before release. Others launch with winches. Some are even towed by a vehicle across open terrain.

The most entertaining method I've seen recently involved a ski boat and what looked suspiciously like a giant fishing reel. The hang glider, equipped with floats for water landings, was carried on the boat as it accelerated across the lake. Once enough air speed built up, the glider rose into the sky while the winch paid out line like a kite string. At altitude, the pilot released the towline and began silently carving turns overhead before eventually splashing down on the water.

The boat crew would retrieve the glider, pilot, and occasionally a passenger, then set up for another launch.

Honestly, it looked like a pretty good way to spend an afternoon... just hanging in there.

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Scholarship recipients listed, *Continued from Page A-1*

neering. During high school, he participated in robotics and academic competitions. He plans to continue pursuing opportunities in engineering and technology.

Joy Shumaker, active in National Honor Society, National English Honor Society, and FCCLA, where she excelled. She plans to attend Sam Houston University to pursue a degree in Education. Dayton ISD hopes Joy comes back home after get-

ting her teaching degree.

During the meeting, Rotary members shared advice and encouragement with the students regarding leadership, internships, networking, and community involvement. Members emphasized the importance of building relationships, pursuing goals, and taking advantage of opportunities throughout college and future careers.

The Rotary Club of Dayton

continues to support local students through scholarships funded by club fundraising efforts and community service projects.

For more information about the Rotary Club of Dayton or upcoming community events, contact the club through their local social media pages or visit a Thursday meeting at the Dayton Community Center.

UNEARTH A STORY™

Jones Library summer reading program begins June 15

DAYTON - The Jones Public Library is excited to invite the community to join this year's Summer Reading Program. Programming will follow the theme "Unearth a Story,"

where patrons travel back in time to the prehistoric era with science experiments, crafts, and reading this summer at the library.

This month-long event will begin June 15 with a visit from the Creature Teacher who will share amazing facts about the animal friends we share our world with. Programs conclude with a Finale Party on July 11 in the community center ballroom.

Throughout the month the library will host daily programming for patrons of all ages. This will include Exploration Station Mondays, Adult Programming Tuesdays, Storytime and Science Snack Wednesdays, Triassic Teen/Tween Thursdays, Craft and Activity Fridays, and a special fossil dig on the first Saturday of the program.

Registration is required for those wishing to participate in the reading challenge and be eligible for prizes. All registered participants that attend programming will be entered to win door prizes at the end of each week. Participants can register online or in person from June 8-26. Each participant that registers and completes their reading goals will have a chance to win the grand prize in their category. More reading equals more chances to win.

The Summer Reading Program calendar is available for pick up at the front desk of the library as well as online on the Jones Public Library website and social media pages. If you would like more information, contact the library at 936-258-7060 or via email at jonespubliclibrary@daytontx.org.



At the Dayton Pioneer Reunion in Dayton earlier in May, we see (l-r) Mark Jamison, Class of 1979; E.J. Wisegerber, Class of 1979; and Quanidos McGowen, Class of 1980.



L-r: Darlene (Bean) Douglas, Class of 1972; Butch Bean, Class of 1974; and guests Lisa Bean and Gloria Zarsky at the Dayton Pioneer Reunion at the Dayton Community Center held earlier this month.

Narcotics search warrants executed in Pct. 4

DAYTON - On Monday, May 15, investigators with the Liberty County Pct. 4 Constables Office executed two narcotics search warrants on two apartments at a complex located in the 700 Block of East Waring Street within the city limits of Dayton.

Pct. 4 investigators prepared two sworn probable cause affidavits in support of both search warrants that were issued by Liberty County 253rd Judicial District Judge Chap Cain.

The Pct. 4 Constable's Office was assisted by officers from the Dayton Police Department and deputies from Liberty County Constable's Offices of Pct. 3, Pct. 5 and Pct. 6.

Pct. 4 investigators conducted a search of both apartments, which resulted in the seizure of suspected marijuana, suspected THC Delta 9 vape cartridges and digital scales.

Six individuals, from the two apartments, were arrested during the investigation and were transported to the Liberty County Jail for incarceration. They are identified as and are charged with the following:

Michael George Flagg: charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance in Penalty Group 2, One Gram or Less, a State Jail Felony.

Daron Michael Flagg: charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance in Penalty Group 2, Four Grams to 400 Grams, a Second-Degree Felony and Possession of Marijuana, Less Than Two Ounces, a Class B Misdemeanor.

Eric Horn Sr.: charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance in Penalty Group 2, One Grams to Four Grams, a Third-Degree Felony and Possession of Marijuana, Less Than Two

Ounces, a Class B Misdemeanor.

Eric Horn Jr.: charged with Possession of Marijuana, Less Than Two Ounces, a Class B Misdemeanor.

Londell Brown: charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance in Penalty Group 2, One Gram or Less, a State Jail Felony.

All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Constable Thornton asks anyone with information regarding narcotic trafficking to contact your local law enforcement or the Liberty County Pct. 4 Constable's Office at 936-258-4711 or by emailing robby.thornton@co.liberty.tx.us

All tips will remain confidential.

SE Texas and WWI

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tor of education for the Texas State Historical Association, where he directed most of the Association's World War I commemorative efforts.

Cure's author talk and book signing is part of SHC's commemoration of America's 250th anniversary in 2026. Projects and events throughout the year will recognize the region and state's contributions to the development of our nation.

This event is free and open to the public. No registration is required. Contact the Center at (936) 336-8821 or samhoustoncenter@tsl.texas.gov for more information.

Camp Invention coming to Liberty, Dayton in July

LIBERTY - Camp Invention®, a nationally recognized, nonprofit summer enrichment program, is coming to the following locations:

Liberty: Liberty Elementary School the week of July 6 - July 10.

Dayton: Kimmie Brown Elementary School the week of July 6 - July 10.

Each year, the program features new curricula inspired by some of our nation's most world-changing inventors - the National Inventors Hall of Fame Inductees. This year's Spark program encourages chil-

dren to be confident in their ideas and explore their innovativeness through hands-on activities including:

- **Space Morphers™:** Kids build a DIY rocket and launch an epic mission to transform a new planet's atmosphere, terrain and ecosystem. After a high-energy Rover Race to collect samples and data, they grow dazzling crystal trees and hatch a mysterious animal egg in a Space Lab.
- **Make Waves™:** Campers ride the waves of entrepreneurship and invention! Inspired by a surfer's journey, they create

prototypes, pitch their innovative products to hook investors and build a billboard boat to set sail and "make waves" in the market.

- **Fur-ensics™:** Kids sharpen their animal detective skills with Cap E. Bara and a fleet of robotic capybaras. They investigate a trail of footprints, collect bits of fluffy fur and examine suspicious splatters before forensically analyzing evidence that has a surprising twist.
- **The Infringers™:** Campers use their invention superpowers to solve challenges

in their community and around the world. They miniaturize top-secret innovations, safeguard their designs using cryptography and protect their intellectual property from the Infringers.

All local Camp Invention programs are facilitated and taught by qualified educators who reside and teach in the community. Camp Invention serves 147,000 students every year and partners with more than 2,600 schools and districts across the nation. For more information or to register, visit invent.org/camp.

Liberty

Church of Christ

Join us this Sunday for Bible Classes for all ages at 9 a.m. and stay for Worship at 10 a.m.
☎ 936.336.2213 • 🌐 libertycofc.org

We meet Sunday night at 5 p.m. and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
☎ 936.336.2213 • 🌐 libertycofc.org

We meet at 3201 North Main Street and have a parking space just for you.

We'd love to see you soon. We've saved you a seat!

3201 N. Main St., Liberty • 936.336.2213 • libertycofc.org