



DAYTON ROTARY CLUB
Rotarian Spotlights Ken DeFoor and Dr. Luke Chachere with President Elizabeth Robertson. Showing his sense of humor, DeFoor holds the “Sergeant-At-Arms” that he made several years ago.

Dayton Rotarians highlight service, leadership, community

DAYTON - The Rotary Club of Dayton conducted its monthly business meeting on Thursday at the Dayton Community Center. The agenda focused on upcoming service projects, increasing member engagement, and recognizing two Rotarians whose leadership and service have significantly contributed to the club’s development.

Club President Elizabeth Robertson welcomed members and guests. Rotarian Stephanie Montgomery delivered the opening prayer, and Rotarian Ken DeFoor led the group in the pledges. President Robertson then initiated the business segment, encouraging members to become more actively involved in Rotary activities through participation in various club committees. Members were given the opportunity to sign up for committees aligned with their interests, experience, and areas of desired service. The meeting also featured a recognition segment, where two distinguished Rotarians were highlighted as this month’s Rotarian Spotlight.

The first Rotarian recognized was Ken DeFoor,

who currently serves as the Sergeant-at-Arms for the Rotary Club of Dayton. The president stated, “DeFoor has been a consistent and reliable presence within the club for many years. His role as Sergeant-at-Arms helps uphold the traditions, organization, and fellowship that are integral to each Rotary meeting. His contributions go beyond simply fulfilling the duties of his position. DeFoor has shown his dedication to Rotary by participating in club activities, supporting fellow members, and helping connect Rotary with people and resources throughout the community.” Robertson continued, “Most recently, DeFoor helped coordinate the club’s August program on Faith-Based Security, which featured Sgt. Ted Smith of the Liberty County Sheriff’s Office. Smith engaged with Rotarians, local law enforcement, church representatives, and community guests about enhancing safety and security in faith-based organizations.” The program illustrated the valuable impact individual Rotarians can have by leveraging their relationships and experience to bring important information to the broader

community. The club expressed its appreciation to DeFoor for his ongoing dedication, dependability, and service.

The next Rotarian Spotlight featured Dr. Luke Chachere. “The club also recognized Dr. Luke Chachere, Immediate Past President of the Rotary Club of Dayton. Chachere continues to serve an important leadership role within the club following his term as president. His extensive knowledge of Rotary, willingness to assist fellow members, and ongoing involvement offer valuable continuity as the club transitions to new leadership,” stated Robertson. “He has remained actively engaged in club meetings and programs. Dr. Luke continues to help coordinate speakers and facilitate engaging weekly presentations. His willingness to share his experience and support the club exemplifies Rotary’s core principle of having a servant’s heart. Additionally, Chachere has contributed his own programs, including a recent presentation celebrating America’s 250th anniversary through an interactive and informative session of historical facts and trivia.”

The Rotary President

Chrome, Crafts and Catfish benefits Houston Livestock Show

CLEVELAND - It’s a car show, a craft show, fish fry and more when Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Houston Metro Go Texan Committee Liberty County Subcommittee presents Chrome, Crafts and Catfish, all in one day, Saturday, Oct. 3, at Cleveland’s VFW Post 1839, from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Drive your ride on over and enter the classic car show. Entry is \$25 (\$0 FMV). Registration is open from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Those that want to show off their creative side can rent a craft space for \$40. (\$0 FMV). Spaces are 12x12.

Don’t worry about lunch, just bring an appetite and enjoy a fish and chips plate. Each plate includes three pieces of fish with french fries for just \$15 (\$7.50 FMV). Serving is from 12-4 p.m.

A live auction will take place 2:30 p.m. with numerous items to bid on. A silent auction will also be held with bidding closing at 3:30 p.m. Drinks will

be available for purchase but ice chests/coolers are prohibited. An awards ceremony will follow the auction.

Proceeds benefit the scholarship program. In 2025, \$160,000 in schol-

Friends of Jones Library welcomes help

DAYTON - If you have time to give, Friends of the Jones Library could use your help. The Friends are looking for volunteers to help process book donations, stock the book sale room, assist with book sales, and help library events.

We are looking for both adult and teen volunteers! Teens who need volunteer or community service hours are welcome to join us! Volunteering is a great way to give back to your community, meet new people, and help our library continue to thrive!

The Friends of Jones Library is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

ships were awarded to Liberty County seniors.

For more information, contact Dawn Sarver at 281-703-7562 or hmglibertycounty@gmail.com. VFW Post 1839 is located at 18 CR 396, Cleveland.

dedicated to supporting library programs and helping the library thrive in the community. Founded in 1988, the independent, volunteer-run organization is committed to enriching and strengthening the local library.

The Friends member meetings are held quarterly at the library. Active member dues are \$5/year; inactive member dues are \$10/year. For additional information, email: friends-of-jonespubliclibrary@gmail.com.

LIBERTY GAZETTE
936-336-6416



District 18 State Rep. Janis Holt (right) slowed down long enough to pose for a photo with her District Director Allie Smart at the Lee College Education Center – South Liberty County 10th anniversary last week. Holt is a familiar presence at our local events.

LeadHERship Summit set for Sept. 29

DAYTON - Area ladies are invited to Step Into Who You Are Meant to Be at this year’s LeadHERship Summit set for Tues., Sept. 29, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Dayton Community Center.

The event, hosted by the Trinity Valley Chamber of Commerce, is a premier gathering of visionary women and allies dedicated to advancing the influence, impact and innovation of women across the business landscape.

The event will open with a networking hour at 8 a.m. followed the summit from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost is \$100/individual. Chamber members can reserve a table for 10 for \$900 or non-chamber

members for \$1,000. Use the accompanying QR code to secure your seats now or visit the chamber website at trinityvalleyecc.com.

Multiple sponsorship levels are available. For additional information, contact Sherri Schmidt, event chairman, at sschmidt1305@gmail.com.

The summit is sponsored by Lee College, Entergy and Liberty Dayton Regional Medical Center.



Ely Air Lines –

A Novel Flight to Guernsey (Blame the Book)

by Mike Ely and Linda Street-Ely

Linda: I was intrigued by the title, The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. I’m about halfway through this delightful epistolary novel, and I must say, very early in, I wondered whether airplanes would have a significant role in the story. I’ve always got an eye out for stories.

The novel begins in 1946, just after World War II, when a London writer unexpectedly begins corresponding with people on Guernsey, one of the Channel Islands between Britain and France. Guernsey had spent nearly five years under German occupation, cut off from Britain despite being tantalizingly close to it. Naturally, I thought about the airport. Turns out, yep, there’s a story there.

Guernsey Airport officially opened May 5, 1939. It was quite an achievement for the little island: four grass runways, night-landing facilities, direction-finding equipment, a meteorological office and air traffic control. The airport had cost £100,500, and passenger flights to London and Southampton began the very next day. Four months later, Britain declared war on Germany. So much for the grand opening.

The Royal Air Force



took over the new airport and allowed limited civilian service to continue for a while. RAF Coastal Command flew Avro Ansons from Guernsey on anti-submarine patrols, and a reconnaissance school operated there until June 1940. Then Britain made the difficult decision that the Channel Islands could not be defended. The RAF pulled out, sabotaging the airport’s aeronautical equipment before leaving so the Germans couldn’t use it.

But the Germans didn’t know the islands were undefended.

On June 28, German Heinkel bombers attacked St. Peter Port, mistaking trucks loaded with tomatoes for military vehicles. Dozens of civilians were killed. Two days later, a German reconnaissance pilot landed at Guernsey’s nearly deserted airport to find out whether anybody intended to shoot at him. I bet they wish they could have.

That evening, German

aircraft landed and delivered loads of troops. Guernsey was occupied, and for nearly five years the people who remained on the island could look across a narrow stretch of water toward the Britain they could no longer reach.

That’s what got me thinking. Put 75 or 100 miles between two places, and we don’t see separation, we see a short flight. Yet war had turned a little strip of water into a barrier.

On May 9, 1945, that barrier finally dissolved. British forces arrived to liberate Guernsey while RAF Mosquitoes and Mustangs roared low overhead to the cheers of islanders below. One month later, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth arrived at Guernsey Airport aboard an RAF Dakota. It was the first time a Queen of England had ever ridden in an airplane.

I haven’t finished The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society yet, so I don’t know everywhere the book is going to take me. But it has already taken me to an airport, which, as you may know by now, is a thing that, kind of like stories, can take you anywhere.

ElyAirLines.substack.com