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Frankly Speaking –

Thanksgiving – The True Meaning

by Frank Jordan

We need to pause in our frenzy to buy bargains for Christmas to celebrate and give thanks to the true provider of good tidings and the positives of our lives during this Thanksgiving Holiday.

At minimum we should take a moment before the big meal to bless not only our food, but to give thanks for the blessings in our lives both in our nation's history and our lives today.

Let's return now to that first Thanksgiving to remind and relive those experiences that demonstrate how to truly put the "thanks" in "Thanksgiving." Happy Thanksgiving!

As Thanksgiving has sadly morphed for too many into a pre-Christmas shopping event, perhaps we should take a pause to remember what Thanksgiving is all about in our history and national fabric – and it isn't shopping!

The severe first winter in 1620 was literally a killer in which the Pilgrims survived on corn they found that had been stored by the Indians and in pathetic homes built from twigs and mud. Death was devastating in the colonies with 51 of 102 dying due to a strange disease, including 20 of 24 mothers and the first governor.

If not for the help of two Indian friends named "Squanto" and "Samoset" of the Wampanoag tribe, who amazingly spoke English, those first colonists probably would not have survived and there would be no Thanksgiving holiday. Squanto introduced the Pilgrims to his great chief, Massasoit, with whom they signed one of the first Indian treaties. The treaty preserved peace successfully for 40 years until Chief Massasoit died in 1661 as all involved did what they promised.

The colony grew with warm homes and sufficient wood, while prospering with good crops and plentiful game in the stores. On December 13, 1621, Governor William Bradford posted a decree as Governor setting forth the reasons for celebrating the first Thanksgiving feast,

TO ALL YE PILGRIMS: In as much as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest...and has made the forest to abound in game and the sea with fish...and inasmuch as He has protected us from the ravages of the savages, has spared us from pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience; now I do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims...do gather at ye meeting house...and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings.

Invitations for that first Thanksgiving were extended to both the Pilgrims and their Indian friends. Chief Massasoit sent five deer and many wild turkeys for the feast. The women of the colony additionally prepared geese, ducks, fish, cornmeal bread and pumpkins stewed in maple sap.

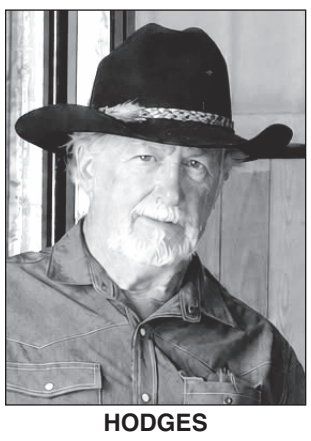
Massasoit, looking distinctive in his trademark white bone beads on a heavy chain, had hinted about 20 from his tribe would attend. But on the big feast day 90-plus Indians arrived, looking hungry while dressed in their best feathers, skins and feast garb!

New tables and more food were prepared quickly, while the Indian tradition of passing the pipe was observed. That first Thanksgiving was not just a one day celebration, but continued for several until all the celebrants were exhausted and local turkeys were in danger of extinction!

While that first Thanksgiving in 1621 was in December, the U.S. Congress in 1941 named the fourth Thursday in November as the legal holiday for Thanksgiving. Be sure this Thanksgiving, to remember to thank God for your blessings received this past year. Psalm 107 from the Bible was read at the first Thanksgiving by the Pilgrims and, frankly speaking, should be read at all Thanksgiving celebrations,

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say this; those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south....Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men,..."

May God bless you, may God bless America and Happy Thanksgiving as we remember why we give thanks and do so with sincere appreciation, as the Pilgrims before us, to "Almighty God for all His blessings."



HODGES



CULVER

Hodges, Culver in Wallisville, Friday

WALLISVILLE - The History & Then Some Lecture Series at the Chambers County Museum at Wallisville continues Friday, November 20, at 6 p.m.

Jim Hodges, author, Texas cowboy and ranch historian is a cowboy born and bred who will transport guests back in time to experience life on the open range. He will share the traditions of the working cowboy, demonstrate authentic campfire cooking and tell about the food, skills, hardships and simple pleasures that were part of the cowboy way of life on the trail. And, of course, no cowboy camp would be complete without a pot of campfire coffee brewing over the flames.

As the fire crackles, singer and poet Smokey Culver will entertain with cowboy poetry and the old campfire ballads of the trail, the songs that helped pass the long evenings beneath the open Texas sky.

Come pull up a seat by the fire and experience a taste of the cowboy way of life. Admission is free but seating is limited. Make your reservation today. Call the museum at 409-389-2252.

The year's series is sponsored by a donation from Occidental Petroleum Corporation.

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FBC FOOD PANTRY

DAYTON - Dayton First Baptist Church Food Pantry will hold its next food distribution Tues., December 8, from 9-11:30 a.m. The pantry will only be able to serve those with a Dayton 77535 zip code; proof of residence will be required. This will be a walk-in pantry, so please park and come into the food pantry entrance on the north side of the Family Life Center on Nelton Street. Picking up for others will not be allowed except under dire circumstances. The food distribution will be available the second Tuesday of each month.

Busy holiday at Liberty Municipal Library

LIBERTY - There is still time to deck the halls at the Liberty Municipal Library by entering the library's Christmas tree decorating contest. Participants have until Wed., Dec. 2 at 4:45 p.m. to sign up and decorate their tree at the library.

Participants must provide their own trees and are encouraged to decorate them with their unique, family-friendly, holiday style. Trees cannot be taller than 7 feet and must be self-supporting with a tree stand. The contest is open to families, businesses, and organizations. Sign up is available online, by phone, or in person.

Everyone is invited to vote at the library December 3-10, in person or online for their favorite entry. There is a limit of one vote per person. The foyer of the library will be open before and after the Lights In Liberty Christmas Parade on December 3 for a special nighttime viewing of the decorated trees. We look forward to seeing everyone this holiday season.

Stop by the library on December 17 for crafts, games, goodie bags, Grinch dust and more! Enjoy a story and pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the library's Christmas Party on December 17 from 4-5 p.m. followed by Artificial "Foam" Snow outside from 5-6 p.m. The library will also host a Monopoly Scavenger Hunt the week of Nov. 19-21. All ages are welcome to join in the fun.

The Liberty Municipal Library is located inside the Geraldine D. Humphreys Cultural Center at 1710 Sam Houston in Liberty, across the street from the Immaculate Conception Church. Library hours are Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday 1 to 5 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, please call the library at 936-336-8901. Follow the library on Facebook at facebook.-com/LibertyMunicipal-Library.

Dayton Seniors treated to special dinner, more fun events ahead

DAYTON - Dayton Senior Center, Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3), sponsored a wonderful dinner Tuesday evening, Nov. 10, at Laura's Sandwich Shop in Liberty. Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal of chicken and beef enchiladas, rice, and refried beans, followed by homemade bread pudding for dessert. A special thank you to Maria Varela for preparing the delicious meal and to Roni Mabry for organizing this event.

Congratulations to Linda Wagstaff, Martha Pollock, and Pat Allison, the door prize winners. All three received gift cards. Maria Varela, who is well known for her delicious chicken salad, also generously donated containers of her famous chicken salad as additional door prizes.

More fun events are being planned, so stay tuned. Information about upcoming activities will be posted in the Senior Room of the Dayton Community Center as details are finalized.



DAYTON SENIORS

Maria Varela, left, of Laura's Sandwich Shop prepared the delicious meal. She is pictured with Roni Mabry, event organizer for Dayton Senior Center, Inc.

TVCC lists 2027 Board of Directors

DAYTON-LIBERTY - Trinity Valley Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the results of the 2027 Board of Directors election. The new board members elected for a 2027-2029 board term are Hector Guzman-Dayton, Susan La Cour-Liberty and Gilberto Flores-Liberty. They will join the current slate of directors: Jorge Herrera-Dayton, Marcus Goering-Dayton, Danny Valdez-Dayton, Zach Rodriguez-Liberty, Larry MacNeil-Liberty, Katie Russell-Liberty, Jim Sterling-Liberty, John Gable-Dayton and Edwardo Garcia-Dayton.

Jimmie Cullars-Dayton serves as chair with Stacey Brown-Dayton as vice-chair and Tanya Carlile-Dayton as treasurer. The secretary position is currently vacant. Past Chair is Stacey Pike-Dayton. Ambassador Katie Green is ex-officio. The organization's CEO is Sean Stockard. Jazmin Morua as office manager.

The entire 2027 TVCC Board of Directors will be sworn into office at the Chamber Luncheon on Tuesday, January 12.

LIBERTY GAZETTE
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Liberty Church of Christ



Bryant Perkins, Minister

Join us this Sunday for Bible Classes for all ages at 9 a.m. and stay for Worship at 10 a.m.

We meet Sunday night at 5 p.m. and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

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!

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