

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



Frankly Speaking –

Why Did I Say That?

by Frank Jordan

Why would you say “I’m going to steal your thunder” or “that was close but no cigar?” Let’s find out.

Under the Weather: Originally, sailors used the phrase “under the weather bow” referring to the side of the ship that would get the brunt of the wind during storms. To avoid getting seasick when the waves got rough, they’d hunker down in their cabins, which were literally under that bad weather to let the storm pass. Unable to be active during the storm, the sailors were said to be surviving “under the weather.”

Close but No Cigar: Carnival games today give out stuffed animals as prizes, but in the late 19th century the games were targeted to adults, not kids. Instead of getting a giant teddy bear, winners might get a cigar. If they almost won, but didn’t earn that prize, they’d be “close, but no cigar.” By the 1930s, the phrase extended beyond fairgrounds to everyday events where success was close, but not accomplished.

Don’t Cast Pearls Before Swine: (Matthew 7:6) Don’t waste something valuable on someone who won’t appreciate it. This famous phrase is a quote from Matthew’s Gospel: “[Don’t] cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet,” The most

famous occurrence, which gives a sarcastic twist, is in a story about Dorothy Parker, the great American humorist of the 1920s. When a young rude lady while holding a door open for Dorothy Parker stated, “Age before beauty,” Parker quickly replied, “Pearls before swine.”

Giving a Cold Shoulder: Surprisingly, this didn’t originally refer to coldly turning your back on someone. The phrase originated when after a feast, hosts in England would subtly signal that the meal was over and time for guests to leave by serving a cold slice off the shoulder of pork, mutton, or beef.

Stealing My Thunder: In the early 1700s, English dramatist John Dennis invented a device that imitated the sound of thunder for a play in which he was a writer. The play flopped but soon after Dennis noted that another play in the same theater was using his sound-effects device to mimic thunder. Dennis angrily exclaimed, “That is my thunder, by God; the villains will play my thunder, but not my play.” The story circulated in theatrical circles in London, and soon the theft was rectified and others dared not “steal his thunder.”

A Drop in the Bucket: (Isaiah 40:15,17) By the middle of the sixth century BC, the Jewish

kingdoms had been conquered repeatedly, and a decent part of the population was living in exile in Babylon. Isaiah spoke words of comfort when he told the Israelites, compared to God, “... the [conquering] nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance.” Those nations have now all been lost in the “dust” in the bucket of time, but Israel is a thriving and independent nation today. Take heed, Isaiah spoke the truth in this prophecy as in many more.

Flying Off the Handle: In past years, poorly fastened sharp axe heads would fly off the handle while being swung. The flying sharp and dangerous axe

heads were symbolic of an event without proper control, describing dangerous behavior, especially from a bad and uncontrolled temper, with unpredictable results.

Chewing the Fat: Originally a sailor’s term, this phrase refers to the days before refrigeration when ships carried food that wouldn’t spoil. One of them was salted pork skin consisting primarily of fat. Sailors often had casual discussions while eating the pork skin fat. These conversations soon became known as “chewing the fat.”

Frankly speaking, time to give you the cold shoulder to end this chewing the fat!

Galveston Homes Tour, May 2, 3, 9, 10

GALVESTON - The Galveston Historical Foundation (GHF) opens the doors to Galveston’s incredible architectural history through public tours of privately-owned homes during its 52nd Annual Homes Tour. Tours will be held May 2, 3, 9, and 10, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Beverly Davis of Liberty is once again ticket chairman of two homes. Longtime volunteers Roberta and Neal Thornton, Dana Abshier, Dozier Partlow, Stephanie Flowers, Mary Ellen Conner, Caroline and Larry Wadzeck, from Liberty, Dayton and Hardin, will be assisting her along with others from Galveston.

LISD art students display their works at Liberty library

LIBERTY - The Fine Art Department of Liberty ISD is proud to display all students’ works that were showcased in the Visual Art Scholastic Event (VASE) competition held by TAEA at Dobie High School. The public can view the artwork at the Liberty Municipal Library during regular hours.

Artworks on display were submitted by Niccola Baldwin (state competition qualifier), Kayla Castillo, Kinley Erskins, Cynthia Gomez, Julieta Hernandez Uribe, Rosendo Lopez, Delvin Jenkins, Chase McDonald, Ariel Ramirez, Alejandra Saucedo, I’Livia Jones, Isabella Reyna, Andy Wang, Michaela White, Bailey Ojeda, Mikayla Putnam, and Andrea Ruiz.

For more information, contact the library at 936-336-8901. Library hours are Monday-Thursday, 10-6 p.m., Friday, 1-5 p.m., and Saturday, 10-4 p.m.

On Sat., May 2, Davis will chair tickets at the Frances Wiley House at 2922 Avenue P and on Sun., May 3, she will be at the 1886 Mollie Walters House (a former bordello) at 2528 Post Office.

Tickets can be purchased at any of the homes on the tour or by calling 409-765-3424 or the GHF website at galvestonhistory.org, which will also provide additional tour information.

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FBC FOOD PANTRY

DAYTON - Dayton First Baptist Church Food Pantry will hold its next food distribution Tues., May 12, 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.

Celebrating
the Life of
Ken Speck



Friday, May 8 • 2 p.m.
Pace-Stancil Funeral Home
1304 N. Cleveland, Dayton

Dayton Seniors dine at Mike’s BBQ

On Thursday, April 16, Dayton Senior Center, Inc., non-profit 501(c)(3), happily sponsored an evening out at Mike’s BBQ, Catfish & Steaks for an all-you-could-eat buffet. The food was delicious, and, as always, the staff was courteous and provided good service to the group. Sherren Drake and Leora Boullion arranged the dinner and deserve a big thank you for their efforts.

DSCI continues to plan future field trips/lunches as well as schedule quarterly outings. Once plans are finalized the information is posted in the senior room of the Dayton Community Center. The organization’s current priority though is to provide free lunches for seniors (over 55) each Monday and Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the community center. No sign up required for those that would like to participate.



L-R: Patsy and Rich Lossie and Richard Campbell



L-R: Rosa Delacruz, Shawn Francis, Max Mendor, Carmen Campbell, Irma Gutierrez

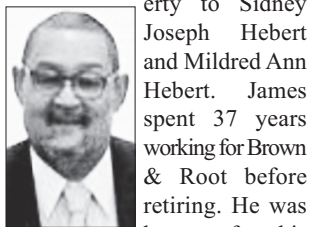


Lewis and Maxine Mosley

OBITUARIES

• JAMES HEBERT

AMES - James “Lionel” Hebert, 78, of Ames passed away on March 3, 2026. He was born December 8, 1947, in Liberty to Sidney Joseph Hebert and Mildred Ann Hebert. James spent 37 years working for Brown & Root before retiring. He was known for his strong work ethic and was very active in the Ames community, where he proudly served as a member of the Ames City Council. He was also a devoted member of Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church, where he served in many capacities, including Easter Rodeo Chairman for over 15 years, a member of the Finance Committee, and a faithful choir member. James is survived by his wife of 57 years, Vera Hebert; his sons, James Ervin Hebert Sr. (Alayna) and Leslie Jaimin Hebert (Casundra); his grandchildren, James Ervin Hebert Jr., Sydnee Hebert, Keon Crawford, Jokobe Hebert, Rondale Durio II, and Cesley Hebert; his great-grandchildren, Lincoln James Hebert and Kylene James Hebert; his nephew, Darrell Hayes (Lisa); and a host of other relatives. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11 a.m. Thursday, March 12, 2026, at Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church in Ames with visitation from 9 a.m. until service time. The rosary was recited at 10



a.m. prior to the Mass. Grave-side burial was in Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Cemetery.

• ESTELL VAN DORN

ESTELL BAKER VAN DORN, 88, of Hardin passed away Sunday, April 19, 2026, at her residence. Estell was born June 24, 1937, in Beaumont, to parents Eulan Bryan and Nellie Cessna Baker. She served alongside her husband, Rev. James Van Dorn, in several Liberty County churches as well as a time in Somerville, Texas. Estell held membership at the Central Baptist Church in Daisetta. She enjoyed as well as excelled at cooking and sewing. Providing meals to families in their time of need was a special passion of hers. Mrs. Van Dorn was preceded in death by her parents, husband of 58 years James Van Dorn, Sr., son Bill Van Dorn, and brother E.B. Baker, Jr. She is survived by her sons Jim Van Dorn (Nedra) and Dan Van Dorn, daughter Melody Van Dorn, grandchildren Erik Van Dorn (Reba), Jill Romig (Mike), Clint Deckert (Carmen), and Felicia Deckert, brothers Howard Baker (Jo) and Garland Baker (Beth), numerous other family members and friends. Funeral services were held Mon., April 27, 2026, at the Central Baptist Church of Daisetta, with burial following at Hardin Chapel Cemetery in Hardin.



offense had weakened, our defense was gaining. By the end of the exhausting day, we still didn’t have a topic for this article, so, that got me thinking about another kind of “Skunk Works.”

Ely Air Lines –

Skunk Works (Of a Different Kind)

by Mike Ely and Linda Street-Ely

Mike: At about 5:30 last Wednesday morning, our dogs launched a mission. No briefing. No warning. Just two pit bulls going from dead asleep to full alert in about half a second. They bolted for the back door with a level of urgency that suggested something serious was happening outside. We assumed it was the usual: a neighborhood cat passing through the yard. We were wrong.

The dogs came back inside almost immediately. Carmine, our larger dog, appeared... altered. There was slobber. There was salivation. And then there was the smell. Actually, it was more like a presence that quickly became a billowing, out-of-control omnipresence. Our guards had taken direct hits. The O₂ damage was devastating. A burning, putrid, invisible cloud filled the house faster than we could react. Within seconds, every room had joined the operation. Somewhere out there, a skunk had completed its mission. And it had been wildly successful. Our house became Ground Zero in the neighborhood.

We suspect it sprayed in multiple places. At least three, based on the varying intensities of what can only be described as strategic deployment zones. The worst of it appears to have been near the back porch, possibly even inside the perimeter, thanks to a doggie door that we are now logging as a security vulnerability.

Linda: The dogs, of course, brought the problem inside with enthusiasm. Four baths later, with Veterinary Formula “De Skunk” (because we lacked a sufficient supply of baking soda and hydrogen peroxide), plus generous applications of a white vinegar and water solution sprayed throughout the house, the situation improved from “unlivable” to “barely survivable.” I texted apologies to our neighbors. Yes, they smelled it. By evening, the



Back in 1943, Lockheed’s chief engineer, Clarence “Kelly” Johnson, was asked to do the impossible: build advanced aircraft quickly, quietly, and under intense pressure. His small, secretive team, eventually known as Skunk Works, went on to produce some of the most remarkable airplanes in history: the P-80 jet fighter in just 143 days; the U-2 spy plane, cruising at 70,000 feet; the SR-71 Blackbird, outrunning missiles at Mach 3; the F-117, slipping past radar entirely. Their work changed history.

Also, and this feels relevant, the name “Skunk Works” came from a comic strip reference to a mysterious, somewhat unpleasant industrial operation. Which brings us back to this morning. Because while Lockheed’s Skunk Works specialized in solving impossible problems with speed and secrecy, the skunk in our backyard demonstrated a similar level of efficiency, minus the engineering degree. No wasted motion. No hesitation. Immediate and overwhelming results. Mission accomplished.

The difference, of course, is that one version left behind cutting-edge aircraft and national security advancements. The other left behind a smell that four baths and a gallon of vinegar are still negotiating with.

ElyAirLines.substack.com



L-R: Marie Walker with Mike Griggs

LIBERTY GAZETTE
936-336-6416