

Mother's Day BINGO!
 Join us for another fun night!
SATURDAY MAY 9th 2026
 DOORS OPEN AT 5pm
 DINNER STARTS AT 5pm
 FIRST BALL CALL 5:45pm
 10 GAMES, DOOR PRIZES & DINNER!
 \$30.00 Per person
 AGES 13 plus welcome
Delicious Diner
 10918 Hwy 146 Hardin
 (936) 641-6259

Dayton historians celebrate with Rotary

DAYTON - Dayton Historical Society enjoyed a walk down memory lane with members of the Rotary Club as Drs. Jessica Johnson and Luke Chachere presented the program about Rotary's 100th anniversary on Monday evening, April 27. The program highlighted the 20 charter members of Rotary as well as many of the club's accomplishments throughout its history. The program concluded with the presentation

to the Society of a sign that hung outside of the Rainbow Restaurant (now location of McDonalds) for many years, giving notice that the Rotary Club met there on Thursdays at noon. The sign will have a prominent place at the Old School Museum, located at 111 W. Houston Street. Congratulations to Dayton's Rotary Club for its outstanding accomplishments and its importance to the community.



DHS AND DAYTON ROTARY

Left to right: Rotary members Michelle Hampton, Geoff McCracken, Ken DeFoor, Jo DeFoor, Bill Monk, Dr. Jessica Johnson, President-elect Elizabeth Robertson, President Dr. Luke Chachere, and Dr. Travis Young.

Dayton Rotary supports DHS FFA

DAYTON - The Dayton High School FFA officers attended the Dayton Rotary Club. DISD's Career & Technology Director Vonnie Anderson stated, "We are gearing up for our upcoming FFA Show and Rodeo. The Dayton club has supported the show for many years." Three of the officers, Beatrice Moreno, secretary; McKenna Rankin, reporter; and Brady Vauter, vice-president, were in attendance.

VP Brady Vauter then explained the "100 Club" is a way to support the students in FFA and Dayton 4-H by having supporters pool money together to purchase livestock projects at the auction. The 100 Club provides an opportunity to recognize and reward local students for their dedication and hard work.

The Dayton Rotary Club agreed to contribute to this cause as they had in previous years. The club has also been involved in planning a service project to improve the experience for FFA and 4-H students this year. President Dr. Luke Chachere stated, "We are pleased to partner with the school to provide a hot dog meal for the students as they work on their projects Wednesday evening during the week of the show. These kids work very hard and it is just one way to let them know that we notice their dedication and commitment to the show and their projects."

Anderson distributed individual applications for membership in the 100 Club. She also reminded the Rotarians about the upcoming annual barbecue lunch and auction scheduled for May 9. "We want to invite community and business leaders to come out and support our students!" If anyone wants more information on the auction or the 100 Club, then please email Vonnies.anderson@daytonisd.net.

LIBERTY GAZETTE
 936-336-6416

MC MIMOSA GARDENS EVENTS
GRAND OPENING
Spring Fling
WEDDING EXPO
SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026
 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
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Frankly Speaking -

A Special Day for a Special Lady - Then, Now and Forever!

by Frank Jordan

Mother's Day is a time to stop and truly see and appreciate the person who brought you into this world - the woman who nourished you, changed you on both ends and taught you so many of the lessons you carry with you throughout life. There are current ads that tell us what in life is of priceless value, but can there truly be anything more priceless than your mother?

What are your first memories of mom? My first distinct memories of my mother were being held in her arms rocking in that old rocking chair I still keep many decades later. Sometimes when thinking this chair is so old and dilapidated it should go, I stroke the old wooden arms and she returns in memories of all those nights of early childhood when only her warmth and soothing hands holding me gently could calm my restlessness, crying and constant colic while bringing sleep.

My dad was in the oilfield service business on 24-hour call, so my mom was my guiding hand much of the time in childhood. Those early memories in-

clude her reading children's books to me constantly and telling stories from the Bible - always closing with her wise words of what the story had taught.

Those first quests for knowledge instilled the seed for a lifetime of searching and soaking up information on a myriad of subjects. She was the first to teach me, "The more you know, the more you know you don't know!" It's her fault when you ask me the time, I will tell you how to make a watch. The father of our country, George Washington, expressed his love for his mother, "All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her."

For many today in one-parent families, mom has a challenging expanded role of teacher, example, encourager, provider, disciplinarian, friend, spiritual adviser and so much more. For some, experiences with their mother are not so pleasant and most have had some unappreciative moments - particularly in the area of

excessive opinions and advice.

But be forgiving and compassionate in your judgment of the person who gave you life, and probably sacrificed in ways you will never know, to give you a better life than their own. If you have issues in your relationship, resolve them to be able to cherish an irreplaceable friendship. Ask about her youth and early family events prior to your birth. What were her ambitions, precious moments, successes and regrets about life. Know her and you know yourself.

Mom always knew when I needed to talk, when I was hurting but too big to cry, and she always had time to listen and be there with encouragement. She loved unconditionally and, when needed, restored, my self-worth with biased affirmation. And then there was bedtime in early years. Mary R. Hurley in her poem, "Memories and Mother" describes the feelings,

She'd let us know she loved us, in a very special way.

And of all the childhood memories, that there have ever been,

We love best to recall the

times, when Mother tucked us in."

An anonymous poet said it well, "She was my anchor to this life - the rock that I clung to. The place where I could turn, when nowhere else would do." Abraham Lincoln framed my personal feelings for my wonderful mom, now in heaven, in his thought that, "I remember my Mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life."

As a mother, be sure to instill guiding Christian principles and morals in your children.

Let all of us seek, as our mothers, a determination to give transparent tenderness, authentic spirituality, inner confidence and unselfish love. Celebrate this Mother's Day by giving her your time, love and appreciation.

Frankly speaking, "There are three words that sweetly blend, and on the heart are graven. A precious, soothing balm they lend; they're 'Mother', 'Home' and 'Heaven'." Thank you, Mom, for being there - then, now, and forever. For all mothers everywhere, Happy Mother's Day!

Langetree Retreat guest at Rotary

DAYTON - The Dayton Rotary Club learned more about an impressive program in Liberty County called Langetree Retreat Duck Farm and ECO Center. Barbara Lange and her husband, Charles, established the center which focuses on hosting retreats, developing leadership skills, and providing a variety of services for those in need. The Center's mission is to provide a state-of-art science-based ECO (ecological) training laboratory, designed to develop leadership competencies and environmental sustainability skills for youth and young adults.

After seeing a need to help homeless veterans regain control of their lives the center expanded. The project aims to be a leading provider of services that helps improve the lives of veterans and their families by providing quality health and human services and new opportunities in the areas of employment, housing and economic development.

Due to a demand for temporary housing for homeless vet-

erans, and with requests from St. Vincent de Paul and the community, the Langetree board put together a plan to offer temporary housing to homeless veterans from the area. The board teamed up with Humble ISD to build 15 tiny homes. Seven more are expected to be finished by the end of May.

Barbara Lange shared how her over 40 years of experience working with the United Way has helped her establish connections with 27 different agencies that enhance and support their services. She also expressed appreciation for Hull-Daisetta ISD's partnership with the center in supporting children who relocate there.

To learn more about this meaningful initiative, visit lange-treeretreatandecocenter.org.

President Dr. Luke Chachere concluded the meeting with leading the Rotarians in the 4-Way Test. If anyone is interested in joining the Dayton Rotary Club, join them for a Thursday noon meeting at the Dayton Community Center.



DAYTON ROTARY WITH BARBARA LANGE
 Barbara Lange with Dayton Rotarian Stephanie Montgomery

Dayton Rotary collaborates with Baytown

DAYTON - The Baytown Rotary Club and the Dayton Rotary Club collaborated on a community project together to benefit Bridgehaven Advocacy Center and the children it serves. The Baytown Club secured a matching grant from Rotary District 5890, with the club providing the initial funds and the district matching the funds for the Bridgehaven playground initiative. The Dayton Club engaged Grek Fencing to repair the existing fence and install a new gate.

Baytown Rotarian Paula Torres explained, "The project involved removing the existing

playground equipment and cleaning the area to prepare it for the new setup. Both clubs worked together to assemble the new playground equipment and spread mulch around the new swing set for safety." Dayton Rotarian Rachel Ansley, who is Bridgehaven's Development Director for the Advocacy Center, expressed her appreciation, stating, "We are very grateful to these two Rotary Clubs. When organizations collaborate and work together, great things happen. Our children will enjoy this playground tremendously. This truly was a 'service above self' project for our advocacy center and community!"



ROTARY JOINT PROJECT
 L-R: Baytown and Dayton Rotarians: Mark Sharp, Steven Daniele, Paula Torres, Rusty Barnhill, Ledell Johnson, Jessica Johnson, Michael Larrioux and Travis Young.

Mother's Day
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Kolarik seeks voter support in run-off election

It's me again, Liberty County Precinct 4 Commissioner, Gerald Kolarik, and I am once again asking for your vote for County Commissioner. I was honored in the primary as your candidate of choice with over 46% of the vote. I will need every one of the votes cast in the primary election, plus votes from those who supported Brant Elliott to win the runoff.

To briefly reintroduce myself, I am a lifelong resident of Dayton, retired Turnaround Manager for ExxonMobil, and served 15 years on Dayton ISD's Board of Trustees. I am a married father of two, grandfather of five, and a lifelong member of St. Joseph's/St. Anne's Catholic Church.

My work-life experience

suggests there is always a better, more effective way to run a business, and the business of our county is no exception. When looking at organizational improvement, it is always easier to identify corrective action in other departments. However, I will focus my energy on road and bridge cost effectiveness, synergies with other precincts, and fair, data driven road funding formulas. I will continue to advocate for staunch financial stewardship and prudent tax incentives for businesses wanting to locate in Liberty County. Last, but certainly not least, we must strengthen our development standards and provide the process and resources to enforce them.

Finally, if you believe our county should be managed in an open, honest, and transparent manner, with an experienced county commissioner, then please vote for me on May 26.

***Early voting is May 18-22, 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. at the Dayton Community Center and the Cleveland Civic Center. (Liberty County voters can vote at any county election location during early voting and on election day.)**



GERALD KOLARIK

Pol. Adv. Paid for by Gerald Kolarik

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