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Frankly Speaking –

Let Freedom Ring! Thus Tolls Liberty's Liberty Bell

by Frank Jordan

Proclaim Liberty throughout the Land
A Frank Jordan Classic from July 5, 2008

We all learned about the Liberty Bell in American history at an early age, but how does the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia relate to our Liberty Bell in Liberty, today? Let us return to yesteryear as an excited group of American patriots cheered on arrival of the "Independence Bell" in Philadelphia in 1752. The symbol of liberty to become the sight and sound of freedom in the young America had arrived after being

cast by WhiteChapel Bell Foundry in London.

Although the fragile bell had cracked on first ring, been recast twice and was repaired often, on July 8, 1776, the Liberty Bell rang proudly both in Philadelphia and symbolically throughout the colonies upon the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. The war for independence was on with sacrifice and dedication by the underdog Americans and shots literally heard 'round the world.

Seven years later on April 16, 1783, the Liberty Bell rang again to announce the unbelievable victory of independence of the United States of America.

Unfortunately, on July 8, 1835, the repaired bell cracked again while tolling the funeral procession of John Marshall, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and was soon retired to Independence Hall. The "Independence Bell" did not become known as the "Liberty Bell" until 87 years later in 1839 when it became the symbol for the abolishment of slavery.

The crack in the original Liberty Bell, which weighed 2,016 pounds, (the bell, not the crack) is about one-half inch wide and 24.5 inches long. The Liberty Bell is composed of pure copper and tin alloy with trace minerals including gold, silver and arsenic! The cost was 198 Pounds Sterling or about \$400 in today's currency – a bell-of-a-deal even then!

After resting for a period in Philadelphia in the mid 1900s, in what this writer on first view considered inappropriate, contemporary housing looking more like a covered bus stop, the Liberty Bell now resides in Liberty Bell Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and is visited and viewed by more than 1.5 million people a year.

The inscription on the Liberty Bell was selected by Benjamin Franklin and is from the Bible in Leviticus 25:10: "...proclaim Liberty throughout all the Land unto all the Inhabitants thereof." Did you know, the Liberty Bell is owned by the City of Philadelphia and not the U.S. government through the National Park Service? Philadelphia's position is if you want a Liberty Bell, get

your own – and so we did!

The only true existing replica of the original Liberty Bell is Liberty's Liberty Bell!

In 1959, sisters Sallie and Nadine Woods, pioneers in the fight against Muscular Dystrophy from which both suffered and their sister Dell died, contacted Whitechapel Foundry about acquiring a replica of the Liberty Bell as a symbol of the medical fight against the disease. A.A. Hughes, an official at Whitechapel, in a letter to the late Charles Fisher stated, "I offered to recast the Liberty Bell, using the original strickle (bell moulding form) and lettering. In other words, to make a perfect replica of the bell and fittings as they left here in 1752...it will be the first true replica." The Liberty Liberty Bell arrived in 1960 at a cost of \$2,204 and toured the nation to create awareness for the fight against Muscular Dystrophy.

John Wayne, the great movie star and patriot, first rang the Liberty Liberty Bell 16 times at the dedication in September 1960 on the Liberty courthouse square. Since this occurred on my 17th birthday as a senior in LHS, I enjoyed telling the story a bit differently that John Wayne came to Liberty for my birthday and rang the Liberty Liberty Bell! A bit of revisionist history to be sure, but, that's my story and I'm stickin' to it!

The Duke was directing, producing and starring as Colonel Davy Crockett, coonskin cap and all, at the time in the Oscar winning movie, The Alamo, which was filmed in Bracketville, Texas. Liberty's own, Governor Bill Daniel, appeared in the movie as Colonel James Neill who was the commandant at the Alamo. As a footnote, Colonel Neill was on a brief furlough to raise money for supplies and obtain men for the besieged battle site when the famous attack occurred, having appointed Colonel

William Travis as temporary commandant for that fateful fight in his absence.

Among the many celebrities who became foundation sponsors in support of finding a cure for Muscular Dystrophy were Roy Rogers and Dale Evans who were photographed with the Woods sisters with the Liberty Liberty Bell. After being semi-lost in the mid-60s in a Houston warehouse, the bell was recovered and on April 24, 1976, and rang again to announce the beginning of the Liberty's Bicentennial celebration. John Middleton, Charles Fisher, Sandy and Ed Pickett, Henry and Julia Langford, Ada Faye Wood Schmidt and Joyce Calhoun were among many local residents who helped raise money for and aided in the construction of the original Liberty Bell Tower by Brown and Root that was the home of magnificent bell of freedom for our area.

While each state received two assembly-line, mass produced Liberty Bell replicas during the national bicentennial, Liberty's Liberty Bell remains the only true replica in every respect – from the foundry to the moulding pit used in casting the original Liberty Bell – but no crack.

Read and remember these words of freedom on the Liberty Bell, "...Proclaim Liberty throughout all the Land unto all the Inhabitants thereof..." and then note the final part of that Bible verse from Leviticus, "It shall be a jubilee unto you..."

This 4th of July holiday weekend appreciate and savor the liberty that is yours in our great nation and in the fine city in which many reside and celebrate in a "jubilee!"

Note: Special thanks to Dana Abshier, formerly director of the Liberty Municipal Library, for providing historical background for this article.

OBITUARY

TAMERA MOORE

DAYTON - Tamera "Tammy" Jo Huntley Moore, 68, of Dayton, passed away peacefully at her home on Tuesday, June 30, 2026. Tammy was born on December 29, 1957, in Bronte, Texas, to R.C. and Glenda Jean Farrell Massingill. She was a graduate of Ross S. Sterling High School and was a longtime resident of Dayton, where she had lived for the past 32 years after previously residing in Pasadena. Tammy devoted her life to car-

ing for her family and creating a loving home. She found joy in tending her garden, painting, crafting, and shopping, especially at yard and garage sales. She never passed up a sale, always hoping to find something special for someone she loved. Tammy will be remembered for her kind heart, generous spirit, and selfless nature. She was always thinking of others before herself. She was preceded in death by her parents; her infant son, Sean Paul; her brother, Randy Huntley; and her sister, Deborah Ficarro. Tammy is survived by her devoted husband, Henry Moore; her daughters,

Risa Walraven and husband Cody, Crystal Marchette, and Cassey Perron; her brother, Alan Huntley; her grandchildren, Taylor Marchette, Meghan Marchette, Sam Marchette and wife Annalisa, and Blake and Addison Walraven; her great-grandchildren, Kayln and Kaden Conn, Kigh Rodriguez, and Jackson Marchette; as well as numerous other relatives and cherished friends. The family will receive friends from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Friday, July 10, 2026, at Sterling Funeral Home Chapel. Graveside services will follow at 11:30 a.m. at Palms Memorial Park in Dayton.



DAYTON ROTARIANS TOUR OLD SCHOOL MUSEUM
Dayton Rotary President Dr. Luke Chachere with Old School Museum curators, Larry and Caroline Wadzeck.



DAYTON ROTARIANS AT OLD SCHOOL MUSEUM
Rotarians Ken DeFoor and Bill Monk tour the Old School Museum.

Rotarians tour Old School Museum

DAYTON - The Rotarians of Dayton took their lunch on the road and met at Parker Hall and toured the Old School Museum. President Luke Chachere held his last meeting at the hall for a program by curators Caroline and Larry Wadzeck. The members enjoyed an informative program highlighting Dayton's rich history, while also discussing several upcoming community initiatives.

Before the program, outgoing President Dr. Luke Chachere shared updates on the club's summer programming, including a major community outreach event scheduled for Thursday, August 20. The Rotary Club will host a Church and Place-of-Worship Security Program featuring Sgt. Ted Smith, who will provide practical guidance on improving security and emergency preparedness for churches and faith-based organizations. The club plans to extend invitations beyond Dayton to churches throughout Liberty County by partnering with the Trinity River Baptist Association. Churches will be asked to RSVP to assist with meal planning.

Dr. Chachere then welcomed by Caroline Wadzeck of the Dayton Historical Society, who shared the remarkable story of the Old School Museum.

Originally constructed in 1900, the building served as Dayton's first public school and educated local students until a larger brick school was built in 1911. The structure was then relocated to its current location, where it served as a residence and later became the well-known Old School Antique Store.

When the building faced demolition in 2001, the Dayton Historical Society stepped in to save the landmark. Through years of fundraising, grants, private donations, and countless volunteer hours, approximately \$160,000 was raised to restore

the historic building. The museum officially opened in 2007 and was later recognized as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 2015.

Caroline Wadzeck expressed sincere appreciation to the Rotary Club for its longstanding support of the restoration efforts and highlighted the Rotary sign proudly displayed inside the museum as a lasting reminder of the club's contributions to preserving Dayton's history.

Members also learned about the Jamison Log Cabin from local historian Larry Wadzeck. He provided an engaging presentation on Liberty County's oldest surviving log cabins.

Built in the mid-1800s, the cabin offers a glimpse into pioneer life in Southeast Texas. Larry shared the history of the Murphy family, who raised eight children while living in the small cabin during the early twentieth century, illustrating the resilience and determination of early settlers.

Larry also recognized the many volunteers, including Rotary Club members, whose dedication helped restore both the cabin and the museum for future generations.

The meeting concluded with a tour of the museum and log cabin. Chachere led the club in the Rotary Four-Way Test, reminding members of Rotary's commitment to truth, fairness, goodwill, better friendships, and service above self.

ANNUAL GIVEAWAY

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church invites all area families to a FREE clothing (all sizes), household items and backpack giveaway. This event will be Thursday, July 23, through Saturday, July 25, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. Mt. Calvary is located at 2988 Hwy. 105 East (three miles East of Moss Hill). For more information, call 936-346-6244.

Area students continue to excel, graduate

PATE AWARDED DEGREE FROM UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

FAYETTEVILLE, AR - Callie Pate of Dayton graduated with a BS, Bachelor of Science, from College of Education and Health Professions at the University of Arkansas. The University honored its most recent graduating class with a series of spring commencement ceremonies at Bud Walton Arena and Barnhill Arena.

Students listed on the President's Honor Roll at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville are undergraduates who have achieved a perfect 4.0 grade point average in all work attempted while enrolled in not less than 12 semester hours.

Students from our area include Timothy Sjolander, Mandy Spoerle, Averie Ware, all of Dayton, and Kylie Turner of Liberty.

SHSU DEAN'S LIST

HUNTSVILLE - The students listed on the Dean's List of Academic Honors at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, are undergraduates who have achieved a grade point average of at least 3.5 out of a perfect 4.0 in all work attempted while enrolled in not less than 12 semester hours.

Students from Dayton earning recognition are Kacie Dear, Guadalupe Flores, Tiffani Foxx, Kamirra Grays, Timothy Sjolander, Mandy Spoerle, and Averie Ware.

Madison Holman, Austin Potetz, Kylie Turner and Adaiah Zamazal from Liberty and Brianna Cavazos of Devers were also named to the Dean's List.

SHSU PRESIDENT'S HONOR ROLL

HUNTSVILLE - The stu-

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2026 GRADUATES
HUNTSVILLE - The following area students received degrees during the 2026 spring semester at Sam Houston State University.

Dayton: Tiffani Foxx, BBA - Bachelor of Business Admin, Business Administration, Cum Laude; Cassidy Graves, BS - Bachelor of Science, Agricultural Communications; Kamirra Grays, BA - Bachelor of Arts, Sociology; Zoe Shumaker, BS - Bachelor of Science, Psychology, Criminal Justice; Timothy Sjolander, BS - Bachelor of Science, Agricultural Business; Mandy Spoerle, BS - Bachelor of Science, Education; Averie Ware, BS - Bachelor of Science, Psychology

Liberty: Miguel Vara, BBA - Bachelor of Business Admin, Management

Meeting about Raywood, *Continued from Page A-1*

hand sanitizer and medical personal protective equipment, but during the COVID days in 2020 they advertised that they had more product than they actually did, failed to timely ship certain goods their customers purchased, did not offer the affected customers the opportunity to cancel their order, and other things of that nature.

They were ultimately sued by the Federal Trade Commission for deceptive acts and practices. As a result, QYK Brands was permanently enjoined by federal court order in 2022 from "advertising, marketing, promoting, or offering for sale" any "good or service designed, intended, or represented to detect, treat, prevent, mitigate, or cure COVID-19 or any other infection or disease."

This behavior got so bad

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.

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!

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



CHRISTMAS IN JULY BINGO!

Join us for another fun night!

SATURDAY JULY 11th 2026

DOORS OPEN AT 5pm
DINNER STARTS AT 5pm
FIRST BALL CALL 5:45pm

10 GAMES, DOOR PRIZES & DINNER!
(PRE PAY BY JULY 5th and RECEIVE A BONUS BINGO GAME!)

\$30.00 Per person

AGES 13 plus welcome (WEAR YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS SHIRT AND GET AN EXTRA DOOR PRIZE TICKET)

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