

THE LIBERTY GAZETTE

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Tuesday, April 23, 2024

AGENDA

DISD KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

DAYTON - Parents of a child entering kindergarten in Dayton ISD may register their child online April 24-26 by visiting the district website: daytonisd.net. Parents/guardians registering a child are required to provide the required documentation.

LIBERTY COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY

LIBERTY - As the 2024 Republican Party of Texas State Convention approaches, the Liberty County Republican Party will hold its next quarterly meeting Thurs., April 25, at 6 p.m. at Generations Coffee & Sandwich Shop, 1806 Sam Houston Street. The topic for discussion will be the convention process with a little education on how to navigate all the activities and meetings available. It can be a bit overwhelming. All of the current candidates for RPT chairman/vice-chairman have been invited to attend. Two have already confirmed with more possibly attending to discuss their plans and ideas.

80's LADIES' NIGHT

DAYTON - The 80's Ladies' Night, celebrating everything it means to be a woman entrepreneur and business owner takes place at 7 p.m., Fri., April 26, at the Dayton Community Center. Area ladies can enjoy a night of dancing, food, drinks, door prizes, drawings for prizes and silent auction. Additional fun includes a fashion show, lip sync battle, and singo bingo. A vendors' market will feature locally operated women-owned businesses. Limited seating is available. Contact daytonxchamber.com for more information or call 936-257-2393.

DAYTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO SALUTE MILITARY HEROES

DAYTON - One and all are invited to the next meeting of the Dayton Historical Society on Mon., April 29, at 6 p.m. at Parker Hall. The program, presented by Larry Wadzeck, will focus on the real purpose of Memorial Day and will salute the men and women who gave their lives in defense of our freedom. Mixed along with this will be some college football history as it relates to some of those being honored. Parker Hall is located behind The Old School Museum at 111 E. Houston Street.

BLESS THIS MESS COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP

DAYTON - Join the Dayton Enhancement Committee for an evening of community camaraderie and youth fellowship during its community clean-up event. Volunteers will gather Wed., May 1, at 6 p.m. at the Crossroads Plaza. The event will begin with a prayer at 6:15 p.m. followed by the clean up until 7 p.m. Volunteers will enjoy pizza afterward courtesy of Randel Arnold State Farm. Find out more at cityofdaytontx.com.



JOANN WHITTAKER & FAMILY

Left to right: Maddox Feldot, Julie Feldot, Dorian Feldot, JoAnn Whittaker, Brian Feldot, Benicia Bendele, Bryan Bendele, Avery Bendele, Bailey Bendele.

JoAnn Whittaker Western Heritage honoree

The 2023 TVE Western Heritage Award was presented Sat., March 2, at the TVE Spring Event. This year's honoree was JoAnn Whittaker.

JoAnn's family ranching heritage all started October 12, 1889, when what is now known as Cypress Hill Ranch was deeded to Elenore Hill, JoAnn's grandmother. Since 1889, there have always been cattle and a variety of ag crops on the ranch.

As a young girl, JoAnn would spend every weekend with her grandparents on the very ranch that she now calls home. She has many happy memories of churning butter, shelling peas, planting vegetables and cooking with her grandmother. When she was not helping her grandmother, she was by her dad's, Elbert Hill, side. They would hunt squirrels, peddle the sweetest watermelons and catch fish on the ranch.

JoAnn is a Liberty High School graduate where she was drum major and twirler. She married her high school sweetheart, Barry Whittaker, and enjoyed 52 years of marriage. They had two daughters, Benicia and Julie. Both girls married a Brian or Bryan. Benicia is married to Bryan Bendele and Julie is married to Brian Feldot. JoAnn is gifted with four grandchildren, Avery, Maddox, Bailey and Dorian.

In the 1980s, Barry and JoAnn decided it was time to have their own herd of cattle. Benicia was in middle school and vividly remembers the wild day those cows were dropped off. JoAnn was protected behind a fence as a cow was coming after her. She had an umbrella, stuck it through the fence and popped it open to startle the cow...well, that cow

See VIGIL, Page A-2

Harbour named to Wall of Fame

DAYTON - The Dayton ISD's Wall of Fame is one of the highest honors that DISD can bestow upon an outstanding teacher/educator and this year's honoree was Catherine "Cathy" Glass Harbour. Stacey Gatlin had the honor to present Ms. Harbour to school board members and a packed house Tues., April 16.

Cathy and her two sisters were born in Baytown to Carl and Ann Glass. She attended Robert E. Lee High School and graduated in 1967. She went on to major in history and minor in biology at Sam Houston State University. Her first teaching job in Vidor, Texas, paid her a whopping \$6,500 salary that year. After two years in Vidor, she made her way

to Dayton ISD where she taught seventh grade life science.

After a brief hiatus to stay home with her children, Clint and Cori, she returned to teaching in 1981. She taught seventh grade science and enjoyed all the hands-on science experiments she was able to do.

In 1985, she found her passion and began teaching Texas history. One of her fondest memories were the years that she started and organized the Texana Fair. Each year she would invite special guests to demonstrate life skills in early Texas to her students. She always dressed the part in a long dress and bonnet.

She also initiated her "Walk Around the Block"

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Candlelight vigil Thurs., April 25

LIBERTY - On Thurs., April 25, at 6 p.m., the Candlelight Vigil for Crime Victims and Child Abuse Victims will be held at the Liberty City Hall, 1829 Sam Houston Street. The purpose of the vigil is to publicly honor victims of crime, their families and those who serve them and to alert the public to the realities of crime and express hope for a less violent future.

The vigil is a part of the local observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 21-27, with the theme "Options, Services and Hope for Crime Survivors." Observed by thousands, it is a time to honor crime victims and the nation's progress in advancing their rights.

The vigil also will commemorate Child Abuse Prevention Month, observed during the month of April. It is a time to focus on ways not only to protect children but also to prevent abuse from

occurring. It is hoped that this vigil will impress upon everyone that every child is entitled to be loved and that preventing child abuse is the responsibility of all citizens.

For additional information about Crime Victims' Rights Week, Child Abuse Prevention Month, and/or the upcoming Candlelight Vigil on April 25, you are encouraged to contact Victim Assistance Coordinators Brenda Sanchez or Laurel Goodwin at the Liberty County District Attorney's Office 936-336-4609.

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DRIVE-THRU PRAYER

DAYTON - Greater Faith Apostolic would love to pray with those in the community. You are encouraged to stop in for prayer Fri. May 3. The GFA staff will be available from 7-10 a.m. The church is located at 2500 FM 1960.

Early voting continues in local elections

Early voting began Mon., April 22, and continues through Tues., April 30, for many local towns, school boards and other entities. Election day will be Sat., May 4, with voting from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.

With Liberty Mayor Carl Pickett announcing he will not seek re-election, in Liberty voters will see John Hebert Jr. and Rudy Cole vying for that position.

Liberty City Council positions are at-large with three seats opening up in May 2024. Ed Seymour (incumbent), Tommy Brents (incumbent), Matt Harris, Ross Ward, Bill Griffin and Greg Sattler have filed for those council seats. Current council member Chipper Smith is not seeking re-election.

The Liberty ISD school board has Positions 3 and 6 opening up. For Position 3 Lance Lawrence (incumbent) is being challenged by Manuel Martinez IV. In Position 6 Incumbent Rachel Odell is not running and voters will choose between Jeff Ryan and Bruce George.

In Dayton three council positions will be on the ballot. Position 1 voters can choose between Sherial L. Lawson (incumbent) and Harry L. Barnes Jr. Running for Position 2 are Alvin Burress, Janette Goulder-Frick (incumbent), Troy Barrett, and Sarah Vickery. Position 3 candidate is Incumbent John Headrick and he is unopposed.

In the City of Ames, terms of three city council members have expired. Council Position 1 has Incumbent Michael J. Trahan II running unopposed. Council Position 2 Incumbent Elizabeth "Liz" Hardy is being challenged by Cornelius Gilmore. Position 4 Incumbent Alfred Lee Freeman Jr. is opposed by Eric "Tebo" Morris.

The Devers ISD school board has two positions whose terms end in May

See VOTING, Page A-2



CATHY HARBOUR & HER FAMILY

Cori Harbour-Valdez, Carroll McCullough, Cathy Harbour, Clint Harbour, Christina Pesoli.