


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.

☎ 936.336.2213 • libertycofc.org

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

☎ 936.336.2213 • libertycofc.org

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

Prater Scholarship accepting applications

TYLER, TX - The Glenn and Vivian Prater Memorial Scholarship Fund held at East Texas Communities Foundation in Tyler, Texas, is currently accepting applications online through March 1, 2026, at 5 p.m.

The Glenn and Vivian Prater Memorial Scholarship was established to assist Eagle Scouts in East Texas attending Texas A&M University in College Station. Judge Prater served Liberty County for many years as a DPS trooper, postmaster, City of Dayton Judge, and Justice of the Peace. Most notably, he was a long-time scoutmaster who helped many young men reach their Eagle Scout award. Vivian Prater supported all of the family's scouting activities and was an active member of

the Aggie Moms.

The Prater Memorial Scholarship has historically awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to deserving students. The recipient of the Prater Memorial scholarship must be an Eagle Scout from Liberty County or from one of the 32 counties served by ETCF accepted to or currently enrolled at Texas A&M University.

Any qualified scholar interested in the Prater Memorial Scholarship should contact Kathryn Martinez at 903-533-0208 or can apply online at <https://etcf.org/scholarships/available-scholarships/>.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Glenn and Vivian Prater Memorial Scholarship can make a tax-deductible gift at www.etcf.org.

City of Dayton General Election May 2

DAYTON - The City of Dayton will hold a General Election on Saturday, May 2, for the positions of Mayor and City Council Position #3. Candidate packets are now available from the city Secretary's office, 801 South Cleveland Street,

for anyone interested in serving the community. Office hours are Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Filing dates are Wed., January 14 through Fri., February 13 at 5 p.m.

For more information, contact the City Secretary's office at 936-258-2642, ext. 1117.

Updated Property Tax Information Now Available for Texas Taxpayers

New and updated property tax information has just been compiled by Liberty County Appraisal District and is available now to assist taxpayers. This property tax information is current and covers a wide range of topics, such as taxpayer remedies, exemptions and appraisals, and has information for select groups, such as disabled veterans and persons age 65 or older.

"Whether you are a homeowner, business owner, disabled veteran or taxpayer, it's important you know your rights concerning the property tax laws," said Lana McCarty, Chief Appraiser of the Liberty County Appraisal District. "You can contact us about any property tax issues with full confidence that we will provide the most complete, accurate and up-to-date information available to assist you."

This includes information about the following programs.

- * Property Tax Exemptions for Disabled Veterans** - The law provides partial exemptions for any property owned by disabled veterans or surviving spouses and surviving children of deceased disabled veterans. Another partial exemption is for homesteads donated to disabled veterans by charitable organizations at no cost or not more than 50 percent of the good faith estimate of the homestead's market value to disabled veterans and their surviving spouses. The exemption amount is determined according to percentage of service-connected disability. The law also provides a 100 percent homestead exemption for 100 percent disabled veterans and their surviving spouses and surviving spouses of U.S. armed service members killed or fatally injured in the line of duty.
- * Property Tax Exemptions** - Non-profit organizations that meet statutory requirements may seek property tax exemptions and must apply to their local appraisal district by a specific date. Child-care facilities; medical or biomedical property; businesses that receive tax abatements granted by taxing units; ship inventory out of Texas that may be eligible for the freepoint exemption; store certain goods in transit in warehouses that are moved within 175 days; construct, install or acquire pollution control

property; own and operate energy storage systems; convert landfill-generated gas; or store offshore drilling equipment while not in use may also be eligible for statutory exemptions.

- * Rendering Taxable Property** - If a business owns tangible personal property that is used to produce income, the business must file a rendition with its local appraisal district by a specified date. Personal property includes inventory and equipment used by a business. Owners do not have to render exempt property such as church property or an agriculture producer's equipment used for farming.
- * Appraisal Notices** - Normally, taxpayers receive a notice of appraised value from the appropriate local appraisal district. The city, county, school districts and other local taxing units use the appraisal district's value to set property taxes for the coming year.
- * Taxpayer Assistance Pamphlet** - This Comptroller publication explains in detail the functions of a taxpayer liaison officer, how to protest a property appraisal, what issues the county appraisal review board (ARB) can consider and what to expect during a protest hearing. The publication also discusses the option to request limited binding arbitration to compel the ARB or chief appraiser to comply with a procedural requirement and the options of taking a taxpayer's case to district court, the State Office of Administrative Hearings or regular binding arbitration if the taxpayer is dissatisfied with the outcome of the ARB hearing.
- * Homestead Exemptions** - A homestead is generally defined as the home and land used as the owner's principal residence on Jan. 1 of the tax year. A person who acquires property after Jan. 1 may receive the residence homestead exemption for the applicable portion of that tax year immediately on qualification for the exemption if the preceding owner did not receive the same exemption for that tax year. A homestead exemption reduces the home's appraised value and, as a result, lowers property taxes. Applications are submitted to the appropriate local appraisal district.
- * Productivity Appraisal** - Property owners who use land for timberland production, agri-

Area students excel at university level

HOLLIE THOMAS NAMED TO ULM'S FALL 2025 PRESIDENT'S LIST

MONROE, LA - Hollie Thomas, a Risk Management & Insurance major from Liberty, was named to the University of Louisiana Monroe's Fall 2025 President's List. Eligibility for the President's List requires full-time enrollment (minimum of 12 semester hours completed) and the list is calculated based on the following GPA hours and term GPA: an undergraduate student is required to earn at least a 3.9 grade point average.

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY FALL 2025 GRADUATES

HUNTSVILLE - The following area students received degrees during the 2025 fall semester at Sam Houston State University.

Dayton: Jonathan Eanes, BS - Bachelor of Science, Biology; Laura Moore, BBA - Bachelor of Business Admin, Business Administration; Karina Rodriguez, BS - Bachelor of Science, Health Sciences

Liberty: Cheyenne Williamson, BSN - Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Nursing

Mont Belvieu: Jordan Guess, BS - Bachelor of Science, Education, Summa Cum Laude

STUDENTS NAMED TO TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY'S FALL 2025 DEAN'S LIST

SAN MARCOS - Texas State University is proud to recognize academic excellence by naming high achieving students to the Fall 2025 Dean's List.

Those students are Dylan Erdmann of Dayton, Animal Science; Kayla Franks of Dayton, Criminal Justice; Madelyn Fregia of Liberty, Interior Design; Melanie Garza of Dayton, Physics; Emily Keeton of Liberty, Education; Luis Moreno of Liberty, Health & Fitness Management; Juan Sanchez of Liberty, Music Studies; Tyler Viverette of Dayton, Aquatic

Biology

This prestigious honor recognizes students who have achieved a term GPA between 3.5 and 3.99 while enrolled in 12 or more GPA hours at Texas State University. Earning the Dean's List is a testament to students' dedication to academic excellence.

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY'S FALL 2025 PRESIDENT'S LIST HONOREES

SAN MARCOS - Texas State University congratulates the following students who have been named to the President's List for Fall 2025: Emma Bolds of Liberty, Criminal Justice; Kaden Abishai Farrington of Old River Winfree, Accounting; Kinzie Joiner of Liberty, Public Health; Anan Masalamah of Dayton, Exercise & Sports Science; Georgia Vance of Liberty, Marketing

The President's List is comprised of students who earned a term grade point average of 4.0 while enrolled in at least 12 GPA hours at Texas State University. This achievement was earned by less than 12 percent of students in Fall 2025.

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS FALL 2025 DEAN'S LIST

CONWAY, ARKANSAS - The University of Central Arkansas congratulates Reese Parker of Hardin and Zoe Williams of Dayton who were among the more than 1,600 students named to the fall 2025 Dean's List. Eligibility on the Dean's List requires at least a 3.5 GPA with a minimum course load of 12 credit hours.

KAYDEN REEVES NAMED TO SAMFORD UNIVERSITY'S FALL 2025 DEAN'S LIST

BIRMINGHAM, AL - Kayden Reeves, Interior Design (BFA in SA) major from Dayton, was named to Samford University's Dean's List for the fall 2025 semester. To qualify for the dean's list, a student must earn a minimum 3.5 grade point average out of a possible 4.0 while attempting at least 12 credit hours of coursework. The Dean's List is the highest academic recognition given by the school at the end of each semester.



Frankly Speaking -

Taste Buds

by Frank Jordan

My wife, Connie, repeatedly tells me I have the questionable talent of explaining the simple with the complex, but this time it's not my fault. I just wanted to know what I could do when I once again cremated my taste buds with scalding coffee.

But every time my quest provided more information, it became a major medical research effort with big words and complicated answers. However, we must always keep learning, so you are about to discover the location of your epiglottis and not only what "umami" is but also how it tastes! I know you are excited so without further ado, read on.

As I drank the scalding coffee I felt the numbness cover my tongue and my taste seemed to disappear. What happened? After some thought, I realized my taste buds were literally burned by the extremely hot liquid.

But what are taste buds? Research revealed humans have about 10,000 taste buds that decline to about 5,000 as we age. Taste buds range from 30 to 60 microns, or slightly more than 1/1,000 inch in diameter. Attached to each taste bud are even smaller microscopic hairs called microvilli.

These taste buds are located around papillae on the upper surface of the tongue, the soft palate, upper esophagus and epiglottis. Okay, I didn't know what the epiglottis is either, but I looked it up and discovered it's a flap made of elastic cartilage tissue attached to the entrance of the larynx or your voice box. What this interprets to is the taste buds are not just on your tongue, but also on the roof of your mouth and in the back of your throat.

On a simpler note, the taste buds are the receptors for taste, including salty, sour, bitter, sweet and umami. Wait a minute - What the heck is "umami?" "Umami," meaning savory, officially became the fifth taste in 1985 and represents the taste found in meat, cheese and soy sauce that creates a coating sensation over your tongue. The next time you enjoy your steak eating out, tell the chef it was truly "umami" and watch his or her expression.

Let's get something else clear.

Different areas of the tongue do not have different tastes assigned to them because all tastes are detected by all areas of the tongue. The process is taste receptor cells, or taste buds, come in contact with food particles dissolved in saliva. The taste buds then send that information to the gustatory, or taste, area of the brain via some of the cranial nerves. Geeze, this taste bud thing is a lot more complicated than I originally thought!

About 25 percent of folks are "super-tasters" with more than 1,000 taste buds per square centimeter, while another 25 percent are "non-tasters" with only about 40 per square centimeter. As a life-long sufferer of allergies, I learned at a young age and was confirmed by an allergist that those with severe allergies taste primarily by "feel" with damaged taste buds, rather than the taste forms of salty, sour, bitter, sweet and umami. Folks with allergies love the cold such as ice cream and Jell-o, but almost unanimously detest foods that taste "slick" like boiled okra and Brussels sprouts.

Now you know how you taste things, but to add to the confusion, about 75 percent of what you think you taste actually comes from your sense of smell! Did you know babies are born with taste buds on the insides of their cheeks and have more than adults?

What about other animals? Cats cannot detect sweetness; the suction cups on octopus' tentacles are covered in taste buds and a butterfly's taste buds are located on their feet and tongue. Enough.

All of this inquiry began because I drank some coffee that was too hot for the thousandth time and cremated some taste buds. But what can I do? You don't put Vaseline or a Band-Aid on your tongue! Answer? You can drink some cold water to cool your mouth, but you'll have to wait about two weeks for the replacement of those damaged taste buds.

Frankly speaking, a nap is in order now that in good taste we've titillated your curiosity while having nipped this knowledge lack in and about the bud!

Lawrence selected for Texas All-State Dance Team

DAYTON - Dayton ISD proudly celebrates Samantha Lawrence, Dazzler Colonel and standout Dayton High School student, for her exceptional participation as a member of the Texas All-State Dance Team.

Lawrence was selected among top dancers representing more than 200 high schools statewide, earning her place among the best performers in Texas. Throughout the week, Lawrence represented Dayton High School and Dayton ISD with beauty, grace, and extraordinary talent, leaving a strong impression on all who attended.

As part of the Texas All-State Dance experience, Lawrence participated in high-level master classes and trained under professional choreographers. She also met with collegiate dance teams from across the state, exploring future opportunities and expanding her performance experience.

In addition to her achievements on the dance floor, she re-

united with Dazzler alumna Cathryn Garza, a former Dayton Dazzler who now dances with the Blinn College Dance Team. Their connection reflects the continued growth and success of Dayton ISD fine arts students beyond high school.

"We are incredibly proud of Samantha and all she continues to accomplish," said Dayton ISD Superintendent Dr. Travis Young. "She

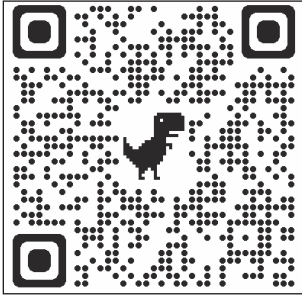
reflects Bronco PRIDE in every way - persevering through challenges, representing her team and district with respect, training with innovation, showing determination every step of the way, and performing with excellence. We can't wait to see what her future holds."

A video of Lawrence's All-State performance may be viewed using the QR code shown below.

Dayton ISD congratulates Samantha Lawrence on this remarkable milestone and celebrates the dedication of the Dazzler Dance Team, their coaches, and the programs that support student talent throughout the district.



SAMANTHA LAWRENCE



SHC Book Club first quarterly meeting to be Jan. 27

LIBERTY - The SHC Quarterly Book Club will meet January 27 at the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center (SHC) in Liberty to discuss the novel The Briar Club by Kate Quinn.

Quinn's work of historical fiction centers around a boarding house in 1950s Washington, D.C., and the various women renting rooms from the home's owner. Join the group for this fun, free and informal gathering of readers from 6-7 p.m. No membership or registration is required.

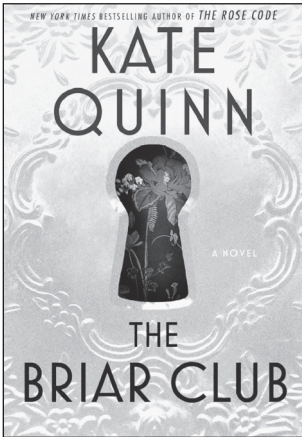
Featuring fictional works with a connection to the world of museums, archives and libraries, the SHC book club is

open to all and meets in the Center's main building at 650 FM 1011 in Liberty. Home to extensive archival holdings documenting Southeast Texas, a library collection and a museum, the Center offers an ideal setting for discussions about novels tied to these fields. Each meeting will be led by SHC staff.

Interested participants may obtain a copy of the novels through their local library or favorite bookstore to prepare for the conversation. For more information, contact SHC staff at (936) 336-8821 or via email at SamHoustonCenter@tsl.texas.gov.

The Sam Houston Center is a component of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and serves as the official regional historical resource depository for the 10 Southeast Texas counties of Chambers,

Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Newton, Orange, Polk, San Jacinto and Tyler. The Center's primary mission is to collect, preserve and provide access to historically significant state and local government records and publications of the designated region and secondarily to serve as a library of Texana and genealogical resources.



LIBERTY GAZETTE

936-336-6416