

THE LIBERTY GAZETTE

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Liberty County's Only Home-Owned Newspaper

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

AGENDA

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.

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.

FRIDAY NIGHT BITES

DAYTON - It's going to be a night of food and fun in a festive atmosphere when the Dayton Enhancement Committee hosts Friday Night Bites. Gather your friends together Fri., May 3, and come out to the Crossroads Plaza from 6-9 p.m. and have a bite at one of the food trucks, enjoy live music and entertainment by DJ X and Ballet Folklorico, visit with vendors, and participate in a five-tequila tasting. There is a \$20 minimum donation for the tequila tasting, which will benefit Dayton Enhancement Committee projects. Entry is free and so is the parking. Visit the city website cityofdaytontx.com for more info. The Crossroads is located at 117 Cook Street.

DAYGACOM

DAYTON - DayGaCom, a unique pop culture event featuring comic books, games, and collectibles, comes to the Dayton Community Center the weekend of May 10-12. The event will feature vendors, panel discussions, cosplay contest, tabletop gaming, food trucks and special guests including comic book creators, and artists. Play the part and come dressed as your favorite game, comic, cartoon or original character. Passes are \$12/day and \$25/weekend in free. DayGaCom is presented and sponsored by the City of Dayton, Community Resource Credit Union, Last Sentry and Herps Exotic Reptile and Pet Shop. Contact the City of Dayton for more information or visit the DayGaCom Facebook page.



Mayor Steve Horelica and City Secretary Kristi Ayers with the support of the Devers City Council are doing their level best to protect south Liberty County from the dumping of toxic sludge on Gates Road in Devers. Funds for this fight are running short.

Funds exhausted in Devers' toxic sludge fight

The City of Devers, specifically Mayor Steve Horelica and City Secretary Kristi Ayers, continue in their David-versus-Goliath fight to stop Holtmar Land LLC's planned dumping of toxic sludge down Gates Road in Devers. This sludge would come from dredging the San Jacinto River Superfund area. Many folks might remember seeing this area on the old route to Houston, before Hwy. 90 was rerouted and improved, notable for its black, dystopian appearance, between Crosby and the San Jacinto River bridge with Southland Paper in view to the right after crossing the bridge.

The tiny city of Devers, which shows a 2022 population count of 412, has so far spent \$100,579.41 toward this effort. These funds were divided between Plummer Associates, Inc., an environmental studies company based in Texas, and the retention of an environmental law firm in Austin.

These funds were hard to come by and have completely exhausted the capacity of this tiny town. City Secretary Kristi Ayers tells us that any additional monies for this effort will be hard to come by with the tight budget that the city traditionally operates by. City Council members are anxious to continue the fight, but funds are dwindling. At press time there has been no response from the Liberty County Commissioners or County Judge Jay Knight to Mayor Horelica's

entreaties for assistance.

Holtmar Land LLC originally filed a letter of permission with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) seeking clearance for this project in 2021. This route is usual when the job they seek approval for is small (not in this case) and there is no controversy or opposition. The USACE was not required to notify the City of Devers at all. Mayor Horelica only found out by chance when a Channelview resident contacted him scant days before the deadline arrived for opposition letters to the proposal. Mayor Horelica also noted that the soil samples that Holtmar submitted to USACE are more than six years old and have not been updated since the last two floods.

The Holtmar Letter of

Permission submitted August 29, 2023, may be viewed at cityofdevers.com/opposition-to-holtmar. This pdf is 15 pages in length and includes many explanatory maps and aerials showing the intentions of USACE. At this same web link Mayor Horelica's response, dated September 1, 2023, may also be viewed, along with Plummer Associates, Inc.'s comprehensive response to the Holtmar environmental report. If you scroll down to the end of this pdf, a lengthy list of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species that are on the Gates Rd. site are enumerated. Documents going back to 2021 are also included.

If you would like to assist the folks in the Devers area in this effort, contact Kristi Ayers at the City of Devers, 936-549-7474.

Mayhaw Festival begins Thursday

DAISETTA - The Mayhaw Festival is four days of fun-filled, family events in downtown Daisetta, May 2, 3, 4 and 5. The festival offers numerous contests, such as doubles horseshoe and washer pitching, cookoff competitions, beauty contest, basketball and volleyball competitions, mayhaw jelly and baking contests, domino competition, craft booths, a grand parade, street dance and BullJam. Vendors will offer a variety of foods along with arts and crafts and much more. On Sunday morning, a community-wide worship service with dinner on the ground will be held.

The festival gets underway Thurs., May 2, when vendors begin setting up to offer their unique goods and a variety items that will include crafts, artisan items, baked goods, and some delicious food. The carnival will open at 4 p.m. in the Hull-Daisetta High School parking lot and runs each day of the festival.

Friday's activities begin with participants in the barbecue cook-off setting up at the Daisetta City Square. Cookoff cate-

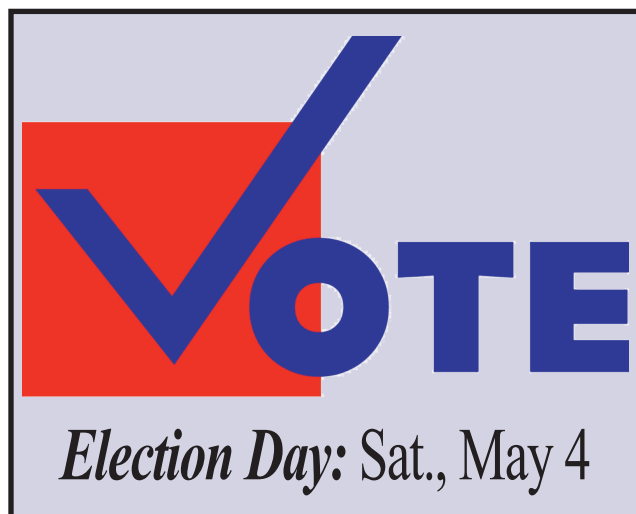
gories include Chef's Choice Drink, Beef Fajitas, Steak, Bloody Mary, Kids Cook, Chef's Choice, Chicken, Ribs and Brisket. Winners will be announced and trophies will be awarded prior to the street dance. If the barbecue cook-off is not for you, you can bring your own pit and cook up a steak in the steak cookoff.

The Mayhaw Festival Beauty Pageant, open to both boy and girl contestants, begins at 6 p.m. Friday evening in the Hull-Daisetta High School Auditorium. Entry applications will be accepted until April 24; visit the website below for more information. Over at the City Square, Raygan and Karaoke kickoff at 6 p.m.

Also on Friday, festival attendees are invited to participate in some friendly washers, cornhole and horseshoes competitions. The tournaments gear up at 6:30 p.m. and are single elimination with two-person teams. The carnival will be up and running and vendors will be open.

Would you like to show off your baking

See MAYHAW, Page A-3



Election Day: Sat., May 4

Election day for many local towns, school boards and other entities 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 (incum-

bent), 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 Po-

See VOTE, Page A-2



LINNEY-ACIE CEMETERY CLEAN UP

The Linney-Acie Cemetery Association held its spring clean-up with a number of volunteers taking the time to put in some hard work. The volunteers were tasked with various assignments that included general clean up, removing limbs and branches, weeding invasive plants and removing old flowers. A fall clean up will be held later in the year and volunteers are always welcome.