

Ely Air Lines –

A Funny Thing Happened at the Altar

by Mike Ely and Linda Street-Ely

Linda: What they say about grandparents is true. We are shameless.

Our eldest grandchild was getting married, and I told everyone I encountered between Texas and Virginia. Uber drivers, hotel clerks, airport personnel. Anyone who stood still long enough.

Our grandson Myles is an artist, businessman, and weightlifter. His muscles have muscles. He also has an important job in Washington, D.C., and had proposed to a lovely young lady named Anneliese. Naturally, we wouldn't miss the wedding.

After briefing our new house and pet sitter on everything from appliances to canine preferences (treats and butt scratches, please), we launched the Elyinator from Liberty later than planned.

Mike: The first hour was bumpy, in instrument conditions, but we gladly accepted the turbulence in exchange for hopes of a dry outdoor wedding. Eventually, the clouds gave way to brilliant blue skies, smooth air, and a generous tailwind.

Approaching the Blue Ridge Mountains, we skirted around scattered clouds, keeping plenty of distance between us and the terrain. North Georgia's mountains are beautiful, but nothing to fool with.

We entertained ourselves along the long sky road playing a pilot's version of bingo, using the letter identifiers of aviation navigation stations, and finding shapes in the clouds. It's a long way to Virginia.

Linda: Rather than fly late into the night, we stopped in Charleston, West Virginia. The next morning's short hop to Winchester, Virginia, left just enough time for checking into the hotel, a mad dash to a nail appointment my sister had arranged, and dressing for the rehearsal.

The mountains were just beginning to show their autumn colors. Everything was beautiful. But nothing compared to the wedding.

Myles and Anneliese



had planned a celebration entirely their own, with elegant gray and sage colors and deeply personal vows. Their words revealed maturity, devotion, and an understanding of marriage that left us awestruck.

Then came the moment everyone awaited. Their friend officiating the ceremony turned toward the

guests.

"I have some bitter-sweet news. Myles and Anneliese will not be getting married today."

Confused looks. Silence.

"They will not be getting married at any time in the future."

Murmurs. Nervous chuckles. The officiant was enjoying himself immensely.

"Because they secretly married on February 13! They've been married for eight months!"

The place erupted. Laughter, applause, and priceless expressions on the faces of the wedding party.

The lovebirds simply couldn't wait. But they'd promised everyone a wedding, and they delivered.

The reception was an exuberant affair, complete with DJ, light sticks, and music that brought everyone from toddlers to grandparents onto the dance floor.

It was the most beautiful wedding I've ever attended. Except our own, of course. I'm completely impartial.

Even the weather had a sense of occasion. A hurricane system had helped push us eastward, then moved on in time for another tailwind home.

Our final surprise awaited at Liberty: a dead car battery. Fortunately, our wonderful house sitter came to the rescue. After all, what would it be without one last unexpected twist?

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Get ready now for Senior Olympics games, Nov. 14

DAYTON - In partnership with GRACE Initiative Meals on Wheels of South Liberty County and Universal Agape Love, the City of Dayton will host the upcoming 2026 Senior Olympics. The games will be held Sat., Nov. 14, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Dayton Community Center. Lunch will follow the games.

The Olympics are open to seniors ages 55 and over who are living within Liberty County. This event promises fun-filled days of friendly competition and community spirit. Seniors can sign up by calling 936-258-6630.

LAS members learn about Grace Initiative's Meals on Wheels

The home of Carolyn Parsons was the meeting place for the Lamda Alpha Sigma Club on October 13, at 6 p.m.

After welcoming members and guest Sharon Drake, President Shirley Sisk led in the reading of the Club Collect and the pledges to the American and Texas flags.

Secretary Sherry Sikes recorded 13 members present. The minutes of the September 8 meeting were approved as read, and the Treasurer's report was filed as given by Lois St. Pé.

There being no further business, Program Chairman Lynda Hohn introduced the speaker for the evening. Sharon Drake

volunteers for Grace Initiative Meals on Wheels of South Liberty County. This organization services eligible seniors who have difficulty preparing their own meals. She explained that Liberty Meals on Wheels has been active for 11 years. Dayton became involved four years ago.

Sharon is a volunteer Meals on Wheels driver in Dayton. She has two routes and delivers hot meals five days a week to about 40 people. The food, which is prepared by the cafeteria at Liberty Junior High, consists of the meal, milk and a fruit cup. She emphasized they not only provide food, but comfort and hope for the seniors they service.

Drake said the organization is raising money to supplement what is received from the government. She had handouts explaining how contributions could make a difference in the continuing success of the program.

In appreciation, the book, Five Little Lady Bugs by Melanie Gerth, and the book, A Collection of Nursery Rhymes, will be placed in the Jones Public Library in honor of Sharon Drake.

The meeting was adjourned and members and guests enjoyed fellowship and refreshments prepared by the hostesses Lynda Hohn and Carolyn Parsons.



The Libertad Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution joined in the Trinity Valley Exposition Fair Parade last week, taking full advantage of our beautiful weather. On the float from left are JoAnn Whittaker, Sandra Sterling, Jane Delaney, Linda Spacek and Susan Daniel.



Magnolia Place Health Care had a lovely float constructed for the Trinity Valley Exposition Fair Parade and these hard-working ladies were perched on the back of it. From left are Glenda Albro, Michelle Reyes, Bobbie Muckleroy and Jacelyn Traeger. Fun fact: Jacelyn and her husband very recently welcomed a precious baby girl to their family, joining a loving big brother.

Watch for fun photos of the residents of Magnolia Place next week taken at their Halloween Costume Party.



Dr. Nitin Mahajan

Cardiologist



Dr. Nitin Mahajan is a board-certified specialist in the interventional cardiology field. His clinical interests include the treatment of coronary artery disease, hypertension, peripheral vascular disease, fibrillation, congestive heart failure, hypercholesterolemia, critical limb ischemia, and varicose veins. Passionate about providing high quality care for cardiovascular diseases, Dr. Mahajan believes in educating patients so that they can become active participants in their own health and live healthier lives.

Dr. Mahajan earned his medical degree from Maulana Azad Medical College (University of Delhi) in India. He obtained his Master of Public Health degree from the University of Texas School of Public Health. He completed his residency at the Maimonides Medical Center and did his fellowship in general cardiology at Wayne State University in Detroit, followed by a fellowship in interventional cardiology at Michigan State University.

His holistic practice philosophy embraces a focus on personal attention to each individual, treating them with respect and dignity regardless of their condition.

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