Smesnys to be honored,

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groundwork for the future of our district and the generations of students who will follow."

During the meeting, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved a resolution authorizing the superintendent to move forward with the necessary steps in the proposed real property donation process. The Board's unanimous approval marks an important step in planning for the district's future, allowing Dayton ISD to explore opportunities that align with anticipated growth and the evolving needs of its students and families.

Dayton ISD extends its sincere appreciation to Arabella by Paul Hayden Developments, the Smesny family, and all community partners involved in this initiative. Through thoughtful planning and strong partnerships, the district remains committed to building a brighter future for generations of Broncos.

Medicare assistance in Dayton, Dec. 9

DAYTON - On Wed., Dec. 9, Benefits Counselor Zelda Earvin with the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Area Agency on Aging will be at the Jones Public Library from 1-3 p.m. to meet one-on-one with disabled and older Texans. She will provide information regarding traditional Medicare, Medicare Advantage Plans (Medicare Part C), and Part D prescription plans that are available to seniors. This service is offered on a first come first served basis free of charge to area seniors. The Jones Public Library is located at 801 S. Cleveland Street. For more information, call the library at 936-258-7060.



Big Christmas Giveaway in Raywood, Dec. 19

RAYWOOD - In the spirit of Christmas, Doris Lang Ministries is hosting its 4th Annual Raywood's Big Christmas Giveaway. The event will be held Sat., Dec. 19, from 12-1 p.m. in the Raywood gym. Doors open at 11:30 a.m.

There will be plenty of Christmas joy to go around. Youngsters ages 3-18, who are pre-registered, will receive free toys. Each child must be accompanied by an adult to receive a toy. A free bag of groceries will be available for each household (limit one) and there will be Christmas presentation and door prizes. Everything is available on a first-come, first-serve basis with a maximum of four registrations per household.

To register for the event, call Doris Bell Lang at 512-762-2610 or email: dlangministries@yahoo.com.

LIBERTY GAZETTE
936-336-6416





Pct. 4 Commissioner Kolarik speaks to LAS

DAYTON - Lambda Alpha Sigma Club met at 6 p.m., November 10, in the home of Lee Ann Douglas. President Shirley Sisk welcomed members and guest, Gerald Kolarik. She explained there would be a change in the normal procedure to allow the program to be first.

Program Leader Mary Ellen Conner introduced Precinct 4 Commissioner Gerald Kolarik and shared some personal information about his family, as well as his education and former work at Exxon.

A 1973 graduate of Dayton High School, Gerald grew up in Dayton across the road from the county barn. Anson Rigby was commissioner at the time and Gerald, like everyone else, admired him and wanted to be like him. Who knew that one day he would be living that dream!

Before his 2013 retirement from Exxon, Gerald also served his community as a Trustee on the Dayton ISD School Board. Then, in 2025, he was appointed as Precinct 4 Commissioner to fulfill the term of Leon Wilson. When it was time for the new term, he decided to run and won the election.

As a county commissioner, he is faced with the challenges of drainage problems, animal control, and the county jail situation. However, roads and bridges are the biggest consumer of his budget. With limited budget funds, he set about figuring out how to apply for grants. His work paid off when the precinct was awarded those grants.

Although his may be a "thankless" job, he has worked hard and bravely met his challenges, one at a time.

In appreciation for his talk, Mary Ellen presented the book, How Everything Works, by Clive Gifford, which will be placed in the Jones Public Library in his honor.

Continuing with the meeting, President Sisk led members in the reading of the Club Collect and in the pledges to the American and Texas flags. In the absence of Secretary Sherry Sikes, the president called roll. Ten members were present. She then read the minutes of the October meeting. With no corrections or additions, the minutes were approved as read. The treasurer's report was filed as given.

Next, Lynda Hohn reported on her visit to Richter Elementary where she was given two families for the club to sponsor for Christmas. Now it's up to our designated "shoppers" to work their magic to fulfill the children's wish lists!

In response to Sharon Drake's program in October, Lambda Alpha Sigma Club, as well as individual members, made donations to support the organization.

Last business of the evening, Lee Ann read a thank you note from Margie Meade for the book placed in the Jones Public Library in memory of her husband, Chuck Meade.

The meeting was adjourned and members enjoyed fellowship and refreshments provided by hostesses Lee Ann Douglas and Carla Weaver.

Ely Air Lines –

Call Before You Dig

by Mike Ely and Linda Street-Ely



At 500 feet above the ground, traveling 120 miles per hour, Todd Kammerdiener has his eyes on more than the scenery. Beneath him, buried pipelines carry natural gas, petroleum products, and even jet fuel destined for airports across the country. His job is to help keep those pipelines and the people living and working around them safe.

Todd is an aerial pipeline patrol pilot, flying a Maule MXT-7 powered by a 180-horsepower Lycoming engine. Based at Liberty Municipal Airport, he patrols mostly Texas and Louisiana, although assignments have taken him as far as Pennsylvania and Ohio. He's been doing this for three years, and he loves it.

Pipeline patrol is serious business. Todd watches for leaks, unauthorized excavation, and construction encroaching on pipeline rights-of-way. Dead vegetation can signal a leak; holes may indicate digging. When he sees something suspicious, he photographs it with GPS coordinates overlaid and reports it to his company for immediate follow-up.

His biggest concern? Someone digging without knowing what's underneath. And in just three years, he's spotted four buildings constructed directly over pipelines!

That's why the underside of his airplane carries a message in enormous letters: CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG.

Those familiar pipeline markers along roads and fields indicate underground infrastructure, but not its exact location. Multiple pipelines may share a right-of-way, carrying different products beneath our feet. One free call to 811 before excavating initiates the process of locating and marking underground utilities. It could prevent a catastrophe or expensive teardown and litigation.

In Pennsylvania and Ohio, some Amish communities and other groups that don't routinely use modern communications present an unusual challenge. When patrol pilots spot logging or excavation near pipelines, they report it so someone can visit and explain the hazards.

Todd has safety concerns of his own. Flying low demands constant attention to terrain, obstacles, weather, and air traffic. He calls it "task-saturated" flying, especially when weather threatens. At 500 feet, there's little room for surprises.

Even with special authorizations, Todd coordinates with air traffic control when flying through Houston's busy airspace. Near Fort Polk, Louisiana, military personnel arrange breaks in live-fire exercises so he can pass through safely, with smoking craters dotting the landscape on either side of his flight path. It's demanding work, but Todd thrives on it. And aviation wasn't even his first career or his second.

He previously taught high school government and economics, then built a successful school photography business that still operates while he's flying. He also pilots for the RE/MAX Demonstration Parachute Team, dropping skydivers at airshows and special events. But more on that next week.

For now, he's happy operating from Liberty Municipal Airport, where he praises manager Mark Bush. His airplane alone purchases approximately $40,000 in fuel annually, supporting the local economy.

Yet most people never notice Todd coming or going. He takes off, patrols the pipelines, and returns quietly to his hangar. And if he's done his job well, the public never notices the dangers he's helped prevent, either.

ElyAirLines.substack.com