

Even the staff was fully committed to fun costumes at the Halloween party at Magnolia Place Health Care last week. The Lorax was well-represented.

Senior Olympics in Dayton, 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.

DPOA to host Movie Night Out, Sat., Nov. 21

DAYTON - The Dayton Police Officers Association (DPOA) will host its first-ever Dayton Movie Night on Sat., Nov. 21, at 7:30 p.m. at the Dayton Community Center. The feature film will be Toy Story 5. Watch as Buzz, Woody, Jessie, and the rest of the toys face a new challenge when they find themselves competing with modern technology for attention.

The event will bring the community together for a fun-filled evening of movies, food, like free popcorn, and fellowship. Additional food vendors will be on-site ready to serve you and local vendors will have plenty of goods and services to offer. It'll be a great night of family fun and community spirit.

An event like this wouldn't be possible without the incredible support of the following sponsors: Luxe Prints and Cuts, Muraca Fiber, Magnolia Roots, Mike Wolf Construction, and Lone-Star Luxury Bathrooms.

So, spread the word, invite your friends, load up the car and bring the whole family. The Dayton Community Center is located at 801 S. Cleveland.



Ely Air Lines –

From Rain to Revolvers

by Mike Ely and Linda Street-Ely

Mike: Our annual hiking trip to Palo Duro Canyon was all planned. Unfortunately, the weather had other plans.

Having just returned from our grandson's wedding near Washington, D.C., we were barely unpacked when the forecast for Amarillo turned ominous. A strong front would bring heavy rain, so we moved our departure up a day, rearranged our reservations, and launched from Liberty Municipal Airport.

At least the approaching front offered one advantage: strong tailwinds pushing us northward, allowing us to reach Amarillo's Tradewind Airport in under four hours and without stopping for fuel. The weather was already moving in when we landed.

Our bed-and-breakfast was a hangar home on an airpark between Amarillo and Canyon. Its grass runway parallels a busy railroad track, where twenty or thirty trains pass nightly. Surprisingly, the rumbling and vibrations were almost soothing, and we slept just fine.

But by morning, flooding had closed the hiking trails in Palo Duro Canyon State Park. It was time for Plan B.

We met friends we first encountered hiking in the canyon several years ago. The conversation lasted so long we barely noticed the restaurant had closed. Clearly, we'd have to save a few stories for next time. Later, we wandered the town square in Canyon, enjoying coffee and contemplating what else to do with our unexpected free time.

After dinner with more friends the following evening, we devoted our final day to exploring downtown Amarillo's architecture and history using Auda Tours, a self-guided audio tour app. Among the nine stops on our tour, the app led us to the Barfield Hotel, where we stumbled upon an intriguing story.

Amarillo's first skyscraper, the building was constructed in 1927 by Melissa Dora Oliver-Eakle. Known as "The Duchess," she was a formidable businesswoman who helped establish Amarillo's first library and helped finance its opera house. She conducted business under the initials M.D., concealing her gender from bankers reluctant to deal with women.



She also supported the temperance movement but get this: her building housed a Prohibition-era speakeasy, which local accounts credit her with founding. When Linda stepped inside the Barfield to ask a few questions, Deborah, the hotel's historian, offered an impromptu tour. She told us how Chicago mobsters had threatened the Duchess, reportedly because she refused to buy liquor from Al Capone and responded by carrying two revolvers. Apparently, she wasn't easily intimidated.

We followed decorative bullets embedded in the floor, passed a tiled image of crossed revolvers, and entered the speakeasy, where much of the original floor remains.

Then Deborah opened a hidden bookcase door, revealing another room beyond. How? Well, some secrets are best discovered in person.

Our walk ended near Amarillo's downtown baseball stadium, a controversial project approved by voters by the narrowest of margins. Despite the opposition, its inaugural home game drew more than 7,000 fans to a ballpark designed for 6,000.

We never set foot on a canyon trail, but sometimes, when Mother Nature throws you a curveball, Plan B turns out to be a home run.

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