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Frankly Speaking –

# Why Did You Say...?

by Frank Jordan

**Muscle:** When you flex your muscle it appears like a little mouse that runs beneath the skin. Muscle literally means “mus” for mouse in Latin. Odds are you didn’t know that one before now.

**Candidate:** From the Latin “Candidus” meaning, bright, shining, glistening white. The ancient Romans seeking office would wear bright white togas, thus being described as candidates.

**Broke:** Broke as in having no money resulted from many banks in post-Renaissance Europe issuing small, porcelain “borrower’s tiles” to their creditworthy customers. Like credit cards, these

tiles were imprinted with the owner’s name, his credit limit, and the name of the bank. Sound familiar?

Each time the customer wanted to borrow money, he had to present the tile to the bank teller, who would compare the imprinted credit limit with how much the customer had already borrowed. If the borrower were past the limit, the teller “broke” the tile on the spot. Now, they cut your plastic in two.

**Cab:** Cab is “cabra” in Spanish meaning goat. The first carriages for public hire bounced so much that they reminded people of goats romping on a hillside and were thus called, cabs.

**Noon:** Noon wasn’t originally 12 p.m., but 3 p.m. Noon is derived from the Latin word for ninth. The word noon originally meant the ninth hour after sunrise, or 3 p.m., which was considered the hottest part of the day and the time when most in the Roman Empire got out of the sun to stop work for lunch.

**Coffee and Croissant:** Ac-

cording to legend, coffee beans were first discovered in the town of Kaffa, Ethiopia, with coffee drunk throughout the huge Turkish empire. A failed Turkish siege of Vienna, Austria, in the 17th century introduced coffee into Europe as caffee. After defeat, in a hasty retreat, the Turks left behind hundreds of sacks of coffee beans. The Austrians celebrated the victory by enjoying a cup of caffee with a puffed pastry they named croissant or crescent, to symbolize victory over the Turks whose flags bore a crescent moon.

**Husband:** Husband comes from the Old German words “hus” and “bunda,” which mean house and owner, respectively. The word originally had nothing to do with marital status, except women and their fathers sought husbands who owned their homes as extremely desirable marriage partners. Do you think a wifeband should describe a homeowner after divorce?

**Jeans:** The first city to make denim cloth now used for jeans

was Genoa, which was called “Gene” by sixteenth-century Europeans. Thus our britches are named after the city of origin of the jeans fabric.

**Umpire:** An umpire plays for no team and is a neutral referee. Umpire evolved from the French “non partiere” meaning impartial; however, fans often take exception to this alleged neutrality.

**Scream:** The word scream is derived from the Anglo-Saxon “scremen,” which was a tribal outcry heard on the discovery of a wrongdoing. I thought it would have occurred on the first spotting of a mouse by a lady in her kitchen and would have been called a “musnoise”!

**Nostril:** A nostril is literally a nose hole! Now, that’s accurate. The word comes from the Old English words “nosu” meaning nose and “thryl” meaning hole.

Frankly Speaking, knowing why you say what you say brings enlightenment and entertainment. I feel like I’m going to sneeze so must go now and cover my nose holes.

## City of Liberty announces staff reorganization at City Hall

LIBERTY - The City of Liberty has announced a strategic staff reorganization designed to ensure fiscal responsibility, operational efficiency, and continued high-quality service delivery to the community.

This reorganization follows the upcoming retirement of longtime public servant and highly respected Public Works Director Mark Reed as well as the earlier resignation of Assistant City Manager Chris Jarmon.

After careful evaluation, new city management working in collaboration with the mayor and city council determined that, for a city of Liberty’s size, maintaining two assistant city manager positions was unnecessary. The resulting reorganization reduces administrative overhead while strengthening leadership within key departments. As of February 1 the following personnel changes have taken place:

• **Naomi Herrington**, one of the City’s longest-serving em-

ployees with more than 30 years of dedicated service, was promoted to Deputy City Manager.

• **Russell Crawley** has been promoted to Director of Public Works. Crawley recently earned membership in the prestigious Double “A” Club, recognizing outstanding professional achievement.

• **Dale Pitts** was promoted to Assistant Director of Public Works.

• **Ryan Wittman and Michael Allen Owens** will fill the positions previously held by Crawley and Pitts.

City Manager Bryan Kendrick emphasized that the reorganization was completed in a fiscally responsible manner and results in measurable budgetary savings. “This reorganization allows us to streamline City Hall operations while continuing to invest in the people who make this organization strong,” said Kendrick. “We are achieving an overall cost savings, while positioning the city to deliver excellent service to our

residents well into the future. It’s a real win-win!”

Kendrick also acknowledged the lasting impact of Mark Reed’s leadership and expressed confidence in the city’s next generation of leaders.

“Mark Reed’s steady leadership, institutional knowledge, and commitment to public service will be deeply missed,” Kendrick said. “At the same time, I have the utmost confidence in Naomi Herrington, Russell Crawley, and Dale Pitts. Their experience, professionalism, and dedication will help take this organization to the next level.”

City leadership noted that this reorganization reflects a broader commitment to thoughtful succession planning, internal talent development, and responsible stewardship of public resources, along with values that remain central to the City of Liberty’s mission.

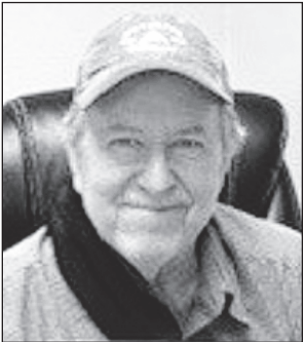
For more information, contact Madi Key in the public information office.



NAOMI HERRINGTON



RUSSELL CRAWLEY



MARK REED

## Dayton Mayor Mudd outlines city advancements

DAYTON - The Rotary Club of Dayton held its weekly meeting bringing together local leaders, community members, and guests to discuss the city’s progress, upcoming projects, and regional growth.

President Dr. Luke Chachere opened with an invocation and pledges, followed by introductions of guests. He made several announcements regarding upcoming Rotary events and initiatives. Among the highlights were updates on the Rotary Club’s annual Gumbo Fundraiser scheduled for February 20, the four-wheeler drawing, the club’s 100-year celebration planned for April 10, and continued efforts to support community programs, including the “Warm Hearts, Warm Homes” heater distribution scheduled for February 12.

Rotarian Rachel Ansley introduced the program. Guest speaker was Dayton Mayor Martin Mudd who delivered a comprehensive State of the City address. The mayor outlined significant advancements in infrastructure, public safety, quality of life improvements, and economic development in Dayton. He emphasized the city’s focus on strengthening core infrastructure, including road improvements totaling approximately \$2.5 million, sewer system upgrades, and the construction of a new city water well. Through strategic planning and grant funding, the city has secured more than \$6 million in external funding, reducing the burden on local taxpayers while accelerat-

ing critical projects.

Mayor Mudd also highlighted investments in parks, public facilities, and the construction of a new animal shelter near the police station. Public safety initiatives, including expanded community programs and continued support for law enforcement and fire services, were recognized as key priorities for the city.

Along the economic front, the Mayor stated, “Gulf Inland Logistics Park has achieved a significant milestone with Phase 1 infrastructure completed. It has generated over 400 new jobs and is attracting over \$250 million in private investment. This also helps our tax base and reduces the burden on home and property owners.”

Street paving has begun and the city is in the first phase of their repaving streets project.

Mayor Mudd discussed with the group their ongoing capital improvement plans and projects.

Looking ahead, the mayor discussed Dayton’s rapid residential and industrial growth, noting that approximately 19,000 homes are under development in the surrounding region. He stressed the importance of managing growth responsibly to ensure sustainable development and preserve the community’s quality of life.

Rotary members engaged in discussion following the presentations, raising questions about infrastructure projects, city finances, and future development plans. The meeting concluded with the Rotary Four-Way Test and closing remarks, reinforcing the club’s commitment to service, leadership, and community impact.



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## Ely Air Lines – How Houston Got Its Wings

by Mike Ely and Linda Street-Ely

As the progression of mail delivery service is tightly tied with the evolution of transportation, Houston’s chapter in that national story could begin with William Thomas Carter, Jr. He was the adopted son of a lumber magnate and inventor of a portable steel sawmill.

While serving on Houston City Council, he tried to educate the city on the benefits of having an airport. When his colleagues on the council voted it down, Carter did what any aviation-loving, well-funded visionary might do. He bought 600 acres outside city limits and built one himself – Houston’s first airport, W.T. Carter Field.

It was an ideal location, open prairie, no hazards to airplanes. He installed wind cones and lighting, and his airport earned Triple-A status, meaning it could operate



day and night. One of the first things he did was connect Houston to the national airmail route. He also launched an aerial survey business, recognizing early on that airplanes weren’t just for travel, but for business, too.

Carter eventually renamed it Houston Airport and owned it for a decade. By then, city leaders had finally understood that an airport is an economic engine, so they bought it from him. Actually, Eddie Rickenbacker had a hand in that. He told the city the airport was too small for the newer, larger aircraft, and the mayor, Oscar Holcombe, realized it was time.

The airport went through a few name changes, including Howard Hughes Airport, since Hughes built the first control tower there. But federal grant rules prohibited naming airports after living people, and Howard Hughes was very much alive, they changed the name back to Houston Municipal Airport. Eventually, it was renamed to honor Texas Governor William P. Hobby. When you visit the 1940 Air Terminal Museum at Hobby, be sure to check out the WR-4 hangar, built in 1928 to service the airmail airplanes. They say it’s the oldest aviation structure in Houston.

As an interesting side note, W.T. Carter, Sr., and his wife are laid to rest at the Glenwood Cemetery off Washington Avenue in Houston, the same cemetery where Hughes and his parents are buried.

While Hobby Airport is well

known to us in these parts, did you know there was another airport just a few miles from there?

W.L. Edwards had a couple of businesses, air freight and aerial photography, which he offered from his own little airport off Main Street, just a mile south of where Rice University is today. Or, as they described it back then, “Out the Main Boulevard, across Brays Bayou on the new road to Sugar Land. The highway is paved the entire distance.”

About that same time, aviation pioneer Glenn Curtiss built a “super-airport” just across Main Street from Edwards. From there, he ran air taxi services, cotton field dusting, aerial photography and aerial surveys. He sold airplanes and even had a flying school.

These were people who understood that if you want a city to prosper, give it wings.

*ElyAirLines.substack.com*

## SHSU lists President’s List undergrads

HUNTSVILLE - The students listed on the President’s Honor Roll at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, are undergraduates who have achieved a perfect 4.0 grade point average in all work attempted while enrolled in not less than 12 semester hours.

The university would like to recognize the following students for earning the honor for Fall 2025 semester: Mandy Spoerle of Dayton, Kayleigh Fregia of Liberty and Kylie Turner of Liberty.

—o0o—

### FARMERS & VENDORS MARKET

DAYTON - The Farmers and Vendors Market takes place this month on Sat., Feb. 21, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Crossroads Plaza, 111 N. Church Street. Here you will find vendors offering their locally sourced, individualized products that includes farm products, cottage foods, backyard garden produce, farm fresh eggs, artisan/crafts, local honey and more. For more information or to become a vendor, call 936-258-6630.

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