Liberty Church of Christ

Bryant Perkins, Minister

Join us this Sunday for Bible Classes for all ages at 9 a.m. and stay for Worship at 10 a.m.

We meet Sunday night at 5 p.m. and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

We meet at 3201 North Main Street and have a parking space just for you.

We'd love to see you soon. We've saved you a seat!

3201 N. Main St., Liberty • 936.336.2213 • libertycofc.org

OBITUARY

• CORA STEARNS

LIBERTY - Cora Jane Bradley Stearns, 81, of Liberty passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, in Baytown, Texas. Cora was born on August 6, 1944, in Lake Charles, Louisiana, to the late Claude Ray Sr. and Jane Adeline Bult Bradley. She was a proud member of the Class of 1961 at Eunice High School in Eunice, Louisiana. Cora dedicated more than 18 years of faithful service to Cameron Oil, retiring in 2004. She was a devoted and faithful member of Hardin Baptist Church in Hardin, where her strong faith and love for the Lord were evident to all who knew her. An avid reader of her Bible, Cora lived her life grounded in faith, kindness, and quiet strength. She had a vibrant spirit and a deep love for the outdoors. Cora enjoyed hunting and was honored to receive an award from the State of Texas for deer hunting. She took pride in tending her yard, especially her beloved flower beds, and found joy in being outside in the sunshine. She also loved shopping, dressing nicely, and always presenting herself with grace and style. Cora was a wonderful cook and baker who delighted in feeding her family. She treasured sitting on the porch with a cup of coffee – often several times a day – reflecting on life and enjoying simple pleasures. She loved traveling, and she and her beloved husband shared over 20 years of adventure together, including their first trip to Disney in 2000. In her younger years, she enjoyed riding motorcycles and horses, embracing life with energy and enthusiasm. Above all, Cora's greatest joy was her family. She loved her grandchildren and great-grandchildren endlessly and cherished every moment spent with them. She also held dear her time visiting with family and the older generation in Louisiana. Throughout the years, she adored her dogs Mia, Mitzie, Gidgit, and most recently, Sadie, who brought her much companionship and happiness. She was preceded in death by her parents; her daughter, Lisa Reneé Stearns Litton; and her sister-in-law, Judy Bradley. Cora leaves behind to cherish her memory her beloved husband of 55 years, Lee Stearns of Liberty; son, Ray Stearns and wife Danette of Liberty; grandchildren, Laurel Riley Litton Sullivan and husband Wyatt of Anahuac, Seth Lee Stearns and fiancée Shai of Daisetta; great-grandchildren, Wynstin James Sullivan, Whitley Reneé Sullivan, Christy Lynn, and Waylon Ray Stearns, expected in July 2026; sister, Joclyn Bradley of Eunice, Louisiana; brother, Claude Ray Bradley Jr. and wife Susan of Yuma, Arizona; and a host of other loving relatives and friends. Cora's legacy of faith, love, strength, and devotion to family will continue to live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her. A memorial service will be held at a later date at Hardin Baptist Church in Hardin.

LAS celebrates Ena Stoesser's birthday

DAYTON - Lambda Alpha Sigma members and guests met for lunch Thurs., Feb. 12, at Los Compadres Mexican Restaurant in Dayton, as planned by co-program chairmen and vice-presidents, Lynda Hohn and Carolyn Parsons.

After President Shirley Sisk's warm welcome, James Parsons blessed the food and the occasion. Although there was no official business, it was announced that the slate of officers would remain the same for the next two years.

For dessert, Lynda brought in a cake to celebrate Ena Stoesser's birthday. After singing Happy Birthday to her, Lynda served cake to everyone.

Attending were President Shirley Sisk, Secretary Sherry Sikes, Treasurer Lois St. Pé, Margie Meade and husband Chuck, Maureen Moore and guest Kathy Fry, Co-VP Carolyn Parsons and husband James, Co-VP Lynda Hohn, Ellen Conner, Margaret Unkel and daughter Betty. Ena Stoesser's guest was friend, Ruth Deloney, who came from Beaumont to help celebrate her birthday. Everyone seemed to enjoy the food and fellowship and even watched some of the Winter Olympics while visiting and eating.

Smith named to President's Honor Roll

TYLER, TX - The University of Texas at Tyler has announced Landon Smith, Soules College of Business, of Dayton was named to the fall 2025 President's Honor Roll.

To qualify for the President's Honor Roll, a student must have completed, in one term, 12 or more credit hours of undergraduate college-level credit with a grade of A in all courses. The President's Honor Roll is awarded only in fall and spring semesters to students pursuing a baccalaureate degree.

De La Luz graduates cum laude

ADELPHI, MD - Zitlally De La Luz of Dayton, earned an Associate of Arts and Bachelor of Science Cum Laude in Cybersecurity Technology from University of Maryland Global Campus in fall 2025.

De La Luz was one of more than 6,400 students worldwide who earned degrees from UMGC in the fall 2025 term.

Get Medicare help in Dayton, March 11

DAYTON - On Wed., March 11, 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.

LIBERTY GAZETTE
936-336-6416

Frankly Speaking –

Do You Know Beans About Carats?

by Frank Jordan

The history of words we commonly use often reveals fascinating trails into the past and frequently a derivation very different from what we might expect. For instance, the word "diamond" in ancient times was derived and evolved from the Greek adjective "adamas," which was used at the time to describe the hardest substance known to mankind.

That sorta makes sense, but how did a "carat" become the weight measurement for a diamond? Grams and/or ounces and pounds maybe, but "carat?" The answer is a weird one, but then the presence of weird knowledge is better than a vacuum between your ears don't cha think? Let's fill'er up with some gem smarts!

Spring is the time for romance, engagements and marriages, with the treasured custom of presentation of a ring set, first for engagement and then for the marriage ceremony. For most, a diamond is the ceremonial choice for a stone setting and the size is usually measured in weight by the number of carats.

Now, the basics are that gem diamonds used in rings, whether engagement, wedding or otherwise, are graded according to clarity, color, cut and weight. While all of these factors, including flaws and terms like being "eye clean," enter into calculating value, the weight of the stone is an important determinant.

The diamond weight measurement term, carat, has an interesting history and, to set the record straight, has nothing to do with the orange vegetable frequently associated with rabbits and good vision! But carats are associated with a food – would you believe beans?

If we go back in history we discover precious stones were weighed using carob beans. Why a carob bean? You probably never heard of the Ceratonia siliqua tree that yields carob beans, so take a few minutes and learn about a subject you literally don't know "beans" about!

Why the carob bean? Simple. Every carob bean is always amazingly the same weight at 0.2 grams. There are approximately 142 carats, or carob beans, in an ounce, that in turn is equal to 28.35 grams. Now, an informed jeweler will explain to you when evaluating smaller stones that there are 100 points to a carob, that eventually morphed into being called a "carat," or .002 grams in weight per point.

Long ago I was the co-owner of a jewelry and gift store in Liberty called Hampton Hall, but I never remember a customer who came in to request a 0.2 gram ring! There were requests for 1/4 or 1/2 carat, or 50 point stones and some one or two carat rings. Women usually sought a smaller perfect stone and men wanted the largest ring they could afford in which you couldn't see any flaws, meaning "eye clean."

We all know diamonds are generally small and expensive, but do you know the largest diamond ever unearthed? We are talking about the Cullinan stone weighing a mere 3,106 carats, or try to envision a quality diamond weighing 1.4 pounds. This monster diamond was discovered in 1905 in the Premier Mine near Pretoria, South Africa, by Captain Frederick Wells, superintendent of the mine.

The government purchased the stone for £150,000 and presented it to King Edward VII of England on his birthday. The stone was then sent to Amsterdam to be cut into nine large gemstones and 98 smaller ones, with the stonecutter fainting after success. The largest polished diamond in the world resulted, at 530 carats, called either the Cullinan I or the more famous name, Great Star of Africa!

Astoundingly the second largest polished diamond from the Cullinan stone and fourth largest in the world is Cullinan II, or the Second Star of Africa at 317 carats. Both the Great Star and Second Star of Africa now are part of the Crown Jewels in the magnificent heirlooms of the Crown collection of the United Kingdom.

You can still view, as did wife Connie and I, these amazing jewels on display in the Tower of London, England, guarded by the uniformed Beefeaters, with standing in the long line well worth the wait. You see the 1.4 pound Great Star of Africa diamond worth about $400 million now mounted at the top of the Sovereign's Scepter and its baby brother, the Second Star of Africa, at only $250 million for a tiny 0.8 lb. gem, now magnificently displayed in the Imperial State Crown, with both still used in royal coronations!

Frankly speaking, now you sparkle plenty as you can honestly claim to know "beans" about carats!

TVCC Gala & Awards Banquet, March 14

DAYTON - The Trinity Valley Chamber of Commerce will host its inaugural Trinity Valley Chamber of Commerce Gala & Awards Banquet and you are invited. This momentous occasion, set for Sat., March 14, at the Dayton Community Center, will celebrate the dedication, growth, and collaboration within the vibrant business community that helped form the new chamber in South Liberty County.

Come experience an evening of Parisian elegance filled with exquisite dining, captivating magic, and vibrant music at a Magical Night in Paris. Doors open at 6 p.m. for the cocktail hour, followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Formal attire is encouraged.

This milestone event is an opportunity to envision the future together while celebrating shared achievements and to strengthen connections, network with peers, and foster new collaborations. Your presence is invaluable as we honor our past and look ahead to the future. Let's come together to celebrate the resilience and innovation that defines the chamber.

Secure your tickets now for the magical night. Admission is $100 for chamber members and non-members; member couple (2 tickets) is $175. Member tables for 10 is $900. Contact the chamber at 936-257-2393 to purchase tickets. Additional information, registration and sponsorships can be found by using the accompanying QR code.

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EGG-STRAVAGANZA EGG HUNT

LIBERTY - Grab your Easter baskets and get ready for a really egg-citing time as the Liberty Elks Lodge hosts its Egg-stravaganza Egg Hunt. The fun takes place Sat., April 4, at 10:30 a.m. at the Liberty Municipal Park for age groups 0-3 years, 4-7 years and 8-12 years, with prize eggs for all age groups. Elroy the Elk will join the Easter Bunny for photos. This free community event is compliments of Liberty Elks Lodge #2019, Community Activities Committee. For information, call 936-336-3739.

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SENIOR SIT AND BE FIT

DAYTON - Don't be a couch potato! Sit and Be Fit is a chair exercise program designed to get seniors moving to strengthen muscles and improve joint flexibility. Classes are held Monday and Thursday at the Dayton Community Center from 12:30-1:15 p.m.

Join LDS Church for Holy Week Experience, March 27

LIBERTY - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints invites the community to join them on Friday, March 27, at their chapel, 331 Vera Lane, from 6-8 p.m. for the following activities: an immersive Holy Week experience featuring thoughtfully designed room displays highlighting each day of Holy Week; and a hanging Easter egg hunt for all ages, intentionally designed to be accessible for individuals with special needs and those who use wheelchairs.

DHS CHOIR EARNS UIL HONORS, ADVANCES TO STATE COMPETITION

DAYTON - Dayton ISD is proud to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Dayton High School Concert Choir, which continues to demonstrate excellence through its recent University Interscholastic League (UIL) performances and upcoming competitions.

The Dayton High School Concert Choir will participate in the UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Evaluation on Wed., March 4, at First United Methodist Church in Beaumont. The choir's concert performance is scheduled for 5:20 p.m. Community members and supporters are invited to attend and show their support.

In addition, Dayton High School choir students recently competed at the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest held Sat., Feb. 7, at Hargrave High School in Huffman, where they earned an impressive 13 medals.

Isabelle Odogwu received a First Division medal on a Class Two solo. The following students earned First Division medals on Class One solos, qualifying them for the UIL State Solo and Ensemble Contest: Keira Carroll, Anna Briggs, Jeremiah Gant, Abigail Vega, Joseph Briggs, Olivia Williams, Richard Caster, and Esther Garza.

Additionally, Anna Briggs, Joseph Briggs, Richard Caster, and Keira Carroll received First Division medals for their madrigal performance, also qualifying for state competition.

The UIL State Solo and Ensemble Contest will be held May 25 at Barton Middle School in Hays CISD.

Pictured above: front (l-r): Keira Carroll, Anna Briggs, Isabelle Odogwu, Jeremiah Gant, Abigail Vega, Joseph Briggs; back: Olivia Williams, Richard Caster, Esther Garza.