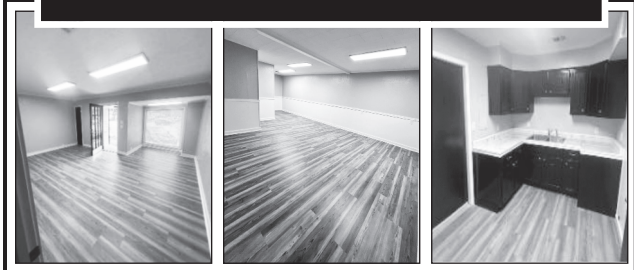




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Mayhaw Festival, *Continued from Page A-1*

skills? Do you make the best jelly? There's an opportunity to enter two competitions – the baking competition and the mayhaw jelly competition. Entries will be accepted Friday at the First Baptist Church with judging on Saturday.

Saturday, May 4, will be a day filled with events, activities, arts and crafts booths, competitions, music and plenty of good food. Crafters and vendors booths will open to the public in the high school parking lot. The carnival opens at 10:30 a.m. for fun rides and thrills and continues until 11 p.m.

Community Futures Forum, May 2

LIBERTY COUNTY - The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service extends and invitation to the public to participated in the Texas Community Futures Forum to be held Thurs., May 2, at the Liberty County Extension Office, 501 Palmer Avenue. The forum will be held from 6:30-8 p.m. and is free to attend.

To ensure that programs being planned for the future are on target, forum topics will cover agriculture and natural resources, family/community health, 4-H youth development and community development and leadership.

To register, call 936-334-3230 or email Amanda.brooks@ag.tamu.edu.

The grand parade begins at 10 a.m. Saturday morning. The parade route begins just north of the intersection of Hwy. 770 and Hwy. 834 and will proceed south down Hwy. 770 ending at the First Baptist Church parking lot.

The domino tournament gears up after the parade at 11 a.m. at the city pavilion. Over at the gym, the volleyball and basketball tournaments get underway with registration and games. Check the website for registration and game times.

The Mayhaw BullJam and Street Dance and Concert is definitely a crowd pleaser and one of the festival's many highlights. The street dance will feature Texas county music artist George Dearborn and Branded live at the helipad on Main Street on Sat., May 4. Gates open at 6:30 p.m. The action packed BullJam takes place Sun., May 5, at 4 p.m. Pre-sale tickets for both events can be purchased online at the festival website.

The festival mission is to bring life, energy and commitment back to the community by hosting community events that will ultimately support local projects throughout the community and school, as well as help to fund local students' higher education.

For complete festival information, entry forms and more, visit the website: hdmayhawfestival.org, call 936-587-9079 or visit the Facebook page.



Frankly Speaking –

'Come and Take it' - From Cannon to Church Bell

by Frank Jordan

Several years ago, President Joe Biden when VP told a car factory worker he (the federal government in-ferred) was going to take his AR14 assault weapon (no such thing exists, but I'm sure Biden meant the AR15 semi-automatic rifle that is not an assault weapon). When the worker claimed it was a 2nd Amendment right under the U.S. Constitution, Biden told him he was full of you-know-what. Wrong, Joe. As I watched, the famous phrase from Texas history, "Come and Take It," with flag featuring a cannon, came to mind and I wanted to know more about this motto. Incidentally, no one ever to date came to take the man's gun.

"Come and Take It" refers to a bronze cannon first located in Gonzales, Texas, that was the match-to-the-powder-keg that resulted in the first battle of the Texas Revolution known as the battle of Gonzales. The Gonzales cannon was in fact a six pound caliber bronze artillery piece that was Spanish-made.

Why did the town of Gonzales have a cannon? This you may not know. In January of 1831, five years before the Texas revolution, the political Mexican chief of Bexar was asked to arrange a cannon be provided Gonzales' colonists to enable a defense against hostile Indians in the area.

According to the

"Handbook of Texas"-Texas State Historical Assn., on March 10, 1831, one bronze cannon was delivered with the condition that the six pound bronze artillery piece would on request be returned to the Mexican authorities. While not certain today, the cannon was not carriage mounted to make it mobile and is thought to have been located in a place to be visually a warning to Indians considering an attack.

In September of 1835 when tensions mounted between Mexico and Texas colonists, the Mexican military commander at Bexar, sent six soldiers to pick up and return the cannon. But the Texians in Gonzales informed the commander the cannon was going nowhere. Then his Mexican soldiers were held prisoners.

What was done with the Gonzales cannon? It was buried in the peach orchard of George W. Davis. Hard to fire underground, but also hard to find! Predictably, the Mexican commander in response sent 100 troops to recover the cannon while the now

GriefShare group continuing through May 21

DAYTON - GriefShare, a non-denominational, Scripture-based grief support group, meets each Sunday at the Family Life Center of First Baptist Church in Dayton. The weekly series continues through May 21 and offers help and encouragement following the death of a loved one in a group setting. Free guidebooks are available to participants. Call to pre-register and for meeting times by contacting the First Baptist Church office at 936-258-8231 or online at fbcd Dayton.com. There is no charge to attend. Visit griefshare.org for more information.

rebels sent out couriers to seek assistance. In answer, on September 29, Texian Capt. Robert M. Coleman arrived, joined by 30 Indian fighters on horseback with weapons.

The cannon was dug up and mounted on a cotton wagon. On October 2, 1835, the battle of Gonzales commenced, but the cannon was only fired twice prior to the Mexican retreat. "Come and Take It" was the motto of the Texian rebels (note the colonists had become rebels). Before the battle, two ladies from Gonzales – Caroline Zumwalt and Eveline DeWitt, made the famous flag showing the Gonzales cannon image and the phrase, "Come and Take It." The flag was raised over the cannon during the battle.

The flag and Gonzales cannon were taken to San Antonio after the brief battle, but sadly the original flag disappeared forever. The cannon was used by the Texians in the Siege of Bexar, and later positioned at the Alamo where it was captured by the Mexican army after the battle of the Alamo on March 6, 1836. The twenty-plus artillery cannons captured by the Mexican army, including the bronze Gonzales cannon, were buried inside the Alamo grounds.

Eleven years later in 1852 the Gonzales cannon was unearthed by Samuel Maverick. Later, Maverick's widow, Mary, had the bronze cannon delivered to New York where it was recast as a large bell. The Gonzales cannon can still be seen as a recast church bell hanging in the belfry in St. Mark's Episcopal Church in San Antonio! Frankly speaking, if you want to take the guns of Texans and restrict the right to bear arms, be advised the motto for most regarding gun confiscation still applies, "Come and Take It!"

Toxic dumping letters needed from 2021

If you sent a letter opposing the dumping of possible toxic sludge by Holtmar Land, LLC. in 2021 when they filed their original letter of permission – need copies of those for our lawsuit. Please send those letters (pdf, Word, Docs, etc.) to DeversMayor@gmail.com.

The City of Devers would also appreciate if Liberty County would consider possibly helping financially with this battle. Last week, we received an email from the US Army Corp of Engineers that they had approved Holtmar's proposal. To date, the city has spent \$100,579.41 to fight this battle.

Today, I instructed our environmental law firm to continue this battle through the court system. We could use some help!

Thanks,
Steve Horelica, mayor
City of Devers
P. O. Box 338
Devers, TX 77538
City Hall: 936-549-7474

Editor's note: This email was sent out to more than 20 recipients last week and only The Liberty Gazette responded to show concern about this looming environmental threat.

Galveston Historic Homes Tours begin

GALVESTON - Galveston Historical Foundation opens the doors to Galveston's architectural history through public tours of privately owned homes during its 50th Annual Galveston

Historic Homes Tour, May 4, 5 and 11, 12, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. Tickets are \$45 for general admission until May 1, and \$50 thereafter. Tickets can be purchased online at galvestonhistory.org/home-tour or by calling 409-765-7834.

There will be 11 homes to tour this year. Beverly Davis of Liberty will be ticket chairman of the 1871 Frederick and Minna Martini Cottage at 1217 Market Street. Assisting her will be volunteers Roberta and Neal Thornton, Dana Abshier, Dozier Partlow, Jackie Brock and Stephanie Flowers from Liberty and Dayton volunteers Mary Ellen Conner, Caroline and Larry Wadzeck along with J. and Susan Rice of Tarkington.

In addition to the tours, the annual event features numerous special events, allowing guests unique experiences in many of the tour homes and historic sites across the island. Visit the website for details.



CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY GRADUATES

The 2024 Spring Session of the Dayton Police Department's Citizen Police Academy introduced participants to the inner workings of the police department and some of the processes involved in the criminal justice system. The eight-week program's intent is to promote more efficient and effective communication between citizens and local law enforcement, establish transparency and build trust. Pictured, in no particular order, are Janette Frick, Lynn Martin, Michael Ewald, Adrian Martinez, Toilynn Carson, Danny Jones, Lorena Mata, Christina Strong, Emma Clary, Bruce Bradley, Glenn Smikal and Tonya Smikal.

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