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Frankly Speaking –

Did You Know?

by Frank Jordan

Knowledge is power. Maybe, maybe not. Read on for tidbits from the vat of knowledge which you probably don't know and for sure don't need to know. But be assured these morsels of oft forgotten facts are not bad news; shocking news or disturbing with regard to the future. So take a few minutes and enjoy a respite from the chaos that is our world today!

Overload is the word for absorbing all the chaos in today's world, so let's explore the vast vat of information to pick up some jewels of knowledge you possi-

bly and probably don't know!

Did you know Domino's has marketed a reindeer sausage pizza in Iceland, understood to be very unpopular at the North Pole and designated there as a panned pizza!

Why are earwigs called earwigs? Because it was once widely reputed in error they would crawl inside human ears or ways to lay their eggs. Still they are creepy because they have those large claws protruding from their rear ends to snag prey such as slugs or even dead flesh. Yuck.

One of the strangest sights I have ever witnessed was at Mosquito Bay in Puerto Rico where bioluminescent organisms numbering about 720,000 per gallon glow when the bay waters are disturbed. To see, just row, row, row your boat. Eerie, but beautiful.

Some of the environmental findings of our times show preference to creatures over humans, but one of the strangest findings related to field mice in 1519 in Glurns, Switzerland. A farmer asked the court to charge area field mice with damage to his hay over 18 years. But the farmer was careful to request counsel for

the mice so they would receive a fair trial.

The defense counsel asserted the mice were a positive influence because they provided insect control for the farmer. The defense lawyer, rumored to be from California, asked for a safe field for the mice to live in and relocation assistance for any pregnant mice.

The sentence allowed the mice two weeks to move out of the damaged fields and banned them for eternity, with pregnant mice and infants allowed an extra 14 days to relocate! Today, know it can and probably will get worse. Before you think not, just speak ill of a mouse in Orlando, Florida!

Obviously at the office we do move our tails, as someone without much to do determined we move an average office chair about eight miles a year. Maybe you can start training and enter the chair-mathon next year. A former winner you may know was Chief Sitting Bull.

The oldest known wheel was dated to be about 5,500 years old and found in Mesopotamia (3500 BC). Archaeologists are still going round and around about when the wheel was invented.

What common 10-letter word is typed (using proper form) by only your left hand? Try "stewardless."

Quote I like but don't like: "Women who seek to be equal with men lack ambition."

Did you know Thomas Edison preferred to do his reading in Braille and he proposed to his wife in Morse code? How many times had he proposed before finding that special lady who could read Morse code? Edison was not only brilliant, he made sure his marriage "clicked" from the start.

When a couple courted in the Victorian period they were said to be "spooning." That started in the 17th century in Wales when men carved spoons to show their feelings for a sought-after lady. Vines meant growing feelings of intimacy, while a circle inside a square signified a desire for children.

An unconfirmed legend stated if the father of a sought-after damsel gave the suitor a spoon with a shotgun in a circle, the father was willing to pay for an immediate wedding not subject to groom approval! Frankly speaking, you may now be smarter than you were – but then again, maybe not!

Ely Air Lines –

I've Still Got the T-Shirt

by Mike Ely and Linda Street-Ely

Mike: Grounded with a head cold, I was bored and miserable. The heavy rain outside just frustrated me further. About all I could do was read. My first choice was an aviation magazine. I recognized the background scene in a picture even before reading the caption. It was the Santa Paula Airport, considered a "mecca" by many in the aviation community. In one of those take-me-away moments, refreshing memories replaced frustration.

Santa Paula sits between Los Angeles and Santa Barbara at the west end of the Santa Clara Valley, where it spills into the fertile coastal plain. It reminds me of Old Town Spring. The airport is crunched up against the Santa Clara River and a mountain, near the south end of town. To be a good neighbor to the residents, the airport's traffic pattern is modified, which makes for some tight maneuvering to land on the east-west runway.

Three hundred airplanes, many of them vintage or rare, call this place home. On the first Sunday of every month, the owners fling open their hangar doors and allow the public to wander through. It's like a living museum, and it was there that I found a souvenir.

I bought a t-shirt with engineering drawings of a Beechcraft Staggerwing printed on the front side – a fundraiser for a restoration project. The Staggerwing is considered by aviation history connoisseurs to be the Learjet of its day, the 1930s. Most Staggerwings had retractable landing gear, but this



one being restored was one of the first with fixed landing gear. The gentleman doing the restoration told me that when the airplane became airworthy, anybody who bought a t-shirt would get a free ride.

He had researched and found the airplane's remains at the bottom of a well, where it was buried after it crashed on a farm. Unfortunately, he passed away before he could finish restoring it, and the airplane went to the Beechcraft museum in Tullahoma, where it was completed. I never got my promised ride.

Later, when I was flying a freight route to Oxnard, if the fog rolled in, Santa Paula served as an alternate landing, if it wasn't socked in too. I've landed a Twin Otter and a Beech 99 on its short runway. Not a problem for the Twin Otter. A bit tight for the 99.

Once, while offloading packages, the airport manager asked me how much horsepower my engines put out. The airport has a restriction of 600 hp. I told him the Twin Otter engines produce 550. He never asked about the 99.

I saw part of an episode of Highway to Heaven being filmed there while waiting for weather to clear at Oxnard. Michael Landon and Victor

French both said hi, but mostly, I just stayed out of the production crew's way.

In 2019, when we were out west re-flying my early flights. I wanted to land at Santa Paula, but it didn't work out. It's okay, I've still got the t-shirt.

ElyAirLines.substack.com

Area students continue to excel at college

KAYDEN REEVES NAMED TO SAMFORD UNIVERSITY'S DEAN'S LIST

BIRMINGHAM, AL - Kayden Reeves, Interior Design (BFA in SA) major from Dayton was named to Samford University's Dean's List for the spring 2026 semester.

To qualify for the dean's list, a student must earn a minimum 3.5 grade-point average out of a possible 4.0 while attempting at least 12 credit hours of coursework. The Dean's List is the highest academic recognition given by the school at the end of each semester.

UT TYLER SPRING DEAN'S LIST

TYLER, Texas - The University of Texas at Tyler announced Landen Smith of Dayton has been named to the spring 2026 Dean's List. Smith is a student attending Soules College of Business.

To qualify for the university Dean's List, a student must have completed 12 or more credit hours of undergraduate college-level credit in the awarding term with a grade point average of at least 3.75.

TEXAS A&M-KINGSVILLE DEAN'S LIST

KINGSVILLE - Ethan Ray Smart of Liberty, a student at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, has been named to the Dean's List for the spring 2026 semester. The Dean's List requires a grade point average of 3.65 on all work attempted for a particular semester, with a minimum of 13 semester undergraduate hours completed, exclusive of credit only (CR) courses.

JENNIFER HERNANDEZ GRADUATES FROM COE COLLEGE

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA - Jennifer Hernandez was among a group of truly exceptional graduates this past year at Coe College. Hernandez of Dayton was awarded a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in international business and managerial accounting. She was among more than 225 students who received degrees.

LIBERTY GAZETTE
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DR. DI NARDO BAZILE

Bazile new principal at WWJH

DAYTON - Dayton ISD is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Di Nardo Bazile as the new principal of Woodrow Wilson Junior High, effective July 1, 2026.

Dr. Bazile brings more than 30 years of experience in education, including over 20 years in administrative leadership across multiple levels. Throughout his distinguished career, he has remained committed to creating learning environments where students thrive, educators are empowered, and families are valued partners in the educational process.

LISD teachers need donations to Supply Closet

LIBERTY - Your donations can make a significant difference in the classroom by donating to the Liberty ISD Teacher Supply Closet. Help equip teachers with essential classroom supplies by dropping off your donations at Meadow Noyer's Allstate Agency, Monday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The agency is located at 334 Main Street, Suite 3. For additional details, contact Sean Stockard at 936-334-7317 or email sean@trinityvalleycc.com.

He has served as a campus principal for seven years and holds a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership from Nebraska Methodist College. Dr. Bazile is also a proud graduate of Grambling State University, a historically Black college and university (HBCU) known for developing leaders across a variety of professions.

"We are excited to welcome Dr. Bazile to Dayton ISD and Woodrow Wilson Junior High," said Superintendent Dr. Travis Young. "His extensive experience, commitment to student success, and passion for building strong relationships make him an excellent fit for our district. We look forward to the leadership and vision he will bring to our campus community."

Dr. Bazile is dedicated to fostering a positive and collaborative school culture where students are inspired to learn, teachers are supported in their practice, and the entire community works together to ensure student success. When asked what he is most passionate about, Dr. Bazile points to the importance of collaboration and building meaningful relationships within the learning community.

"I am honored to join Dayton ISD and serve the students, staff, and families of Woodrow Wilson Junior High," said Dr. Bazile. "I believe strong relationships and teamwork are the foundation of a successful school. I look forward to working alongside the Dayton community to support student achievement and create opportunities for every student to reach their fullest potential."

Woodrow Wilson Junior High serves students in grades 6-8 and plays a vital role in preparing students for success in high school and beyond. Dayton ISD is confident that Dr. Bazile's experience, leadership, and student-centered approach will continue to strengthen the campus and support its ongoing commitment to excellence.



Dayton Rotarians enjoy summer social and installation of new officers.

Dayton Rotarians hold summer social, install new officers

DAYTON - The summer social was a truly special evening for the Dayton Rotary Club. Beth Kratovil, owner of the Mimosa Gardens event center, graciously hosted the Rotarians. Members had the incredible op-

portunity to tour the new venue. Dinner and a tour of the facility were just part of the evening's agenda. The club also had the pleasure of installing the new slate of officers.

Assistant Governor of Dis-

trict 5910, Ernestine Belt, kindly served as the installing officer for the evening. She administered the oath of office and officially welcomed the newly elected leaders into their roles. The officers are: President Elizabeth Robertson, President-Elect Dr. Travis Young, Treasurer Jennifer Perkins, Secretary Tammy Alexander, and Past President Dr. Luke

Chachere.

The evening was a great success, with several prospective new Rotarians in attendance, along with guest Rotarians from other clubs. Past President Dr. Luke Chachere expressed appreciation to everyone in attendance and provided special recognition to Beth Kratovil for hosting the club at Mimosa Gardens.

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!

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Lots of family fun at Dayton's July 4th Hometown Celebration

DAYTON - Area families won't have to travel out of town to celebrate our country's 250th birthday when the Trinity Valley Chamber of Commerce presents its July 4th Hometown Celebration. A full slate of family-friendly festivities are planned for Sat., July 4, beginning at 6 p.m., with activities centered around the Dayton Community Center, 801 S. Cleveland. This is a free community event.

Events include a bicycle parade and the public is encouraged to join the fun. Just decorate your bicycle, tricycle, wagon or whatever, in a patriotic fashion or any design and join the procession. Spectators are invited to watch from along the parade route.

At the community center, there will be activities for kids and adults, and food trucks will be on sight to serve up some delicious foods and tasty treats.

Then, get set to watch the sky light up as a dazzling fireworks display explodes across the night sky. Bring your lawn chairs and your patriotic spirit and enjoy the celebration in your own hometown.

For more information or to get involved, call 936-2586630 or email communitycenter@daytontx.org. To participate, sign up at forms.gle/Qp73KqZhwj-cyh3hn9.