



Giddy the Goose
with interchangeable wardrobes!

Goose & outfits sold separately.

RA SMITH GIFTS

1818 Sam Houston
Liberty
713-857-8898
Find us on 



Frankly Speaking –

The Riddle of ‘Happy Birthday’

by Frank Jordan

What do we not want after age 30, but want every year of our lives?

The answer is your birthday, and a happy one at that!

When did we start recognizing birthdays, because no other animals have such celebrations? First we had to have the calendar which itself is an invention of humans. If we didn’t know the different days and months in a year, how would we know when to celebrate your birthday?

We know it began about

5,000 years ago when the Pharaohs of Egypt on being crowned were considered to become born as gods on their coronation dates and these coronation dates were considered birthdays. Did you know the earliest written reference for a birthday was from the Bible (Genesis 40:20) with a verse announcing Pharaoh’s birthday about 3,000 BC, probably referring to Pharaoh’s birth as a god rather than his physical birth.

The Greeks made moon-shaped cakes as tribute to Artemis, the lunar Goddess. The Greeks placed and lit birthday candles to make the cake appear to glow and possibly to be seen by the presumed various gods in the heavens. The Chinese early on also honored a child’s first birthday.

In the Roman Empire birthday celebrations were limited to royalty and prominent religious personages until the Romans later included friends and family. In Rome, males on their 50th birthday were presented a cake made of wheat flour, olive oil, honey and grated cheese. Sorry, ladies, but birthdays for women were not recognized until the 12th century. You could be 21 forever because nobody counted!

The infamous King Herod ironically celebrated his own birthdays by partying with his court favorites in a supper party in Galilee. Christians began the celebration of the most famous birthday of all time – the birth date of Jesus Christ we now honor as Christmas on December 25th of each year about the 4th Century AD. The birthday of Christ is unique in being the only known birthday party where the honoree gives away all his gifts to others each year! This Christmas remember the generosity of Jesus.

The Germans in the late 18th century gave parties called “Kinderfeste,” with “kinder” in German meaning children. Yes, that’s the origin of the word “kindergarten,” meaning children’s garden. The Germans placed one candle on the cake for each year of life and the tradition of making a wish and blowing out all the candles

for good luck began during this time.

Then bakeries began making premade birthday cakes with inexpensive ingredients for cheaper prices so that the masses could afford to celebrate. Previously, the general public had been most often unable to give cakes because of inability to afford the expensive ingredients.

What about the “Happy Birthday” song? Ever heard of the song, “Good Morning to All?” Probably not. This happy song was written in 1893 by Patty Hill and Mildred J. Hill, which was originally intended to be sung by students before classes. The song was popular nationally, but it wasn’t until 1924 that Robert Coleman published a songbook, to which Coleman added additional lyrics that rapidly became the classic version we know today as “Happy Birthday to You!”

What about birthday cards? Birthday cards were initially to give birthday wishes if you couldn’t appear in person to give the greeting. Whether present or not, today millions of cards are sent annually worldwide ranging from sentimental to humorous. Now we also have E-Cards or Text for ease of delivery, certainty of arrival and greater economy. If you’re broke, just take the honoree to Walmart and read the cards!

Frankly speaking, my personal favorite birthday card was received for my 78th – “Forget about the past, you can’t change it. Forget about the future, you can’t predict it. Forget about the present, I didn’t get you one!” Most cherished gifts are the smiles and hugs of those you love. Whether early, timely or late, “Happy Birthday!”

Macho Bingo on the calendar for Oct. 3

DAYTON - It’s that time again when Bridgehaven Children’s Advocacy Center brings back the ever-popular Macho Bingo. It is officially on the calendar for October 3 at the Dayton Community Center. So, mark your calendar and get ready for one of the most anticipated events of the year. Saddle up, win big, give big and play bingo for the night. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Game play begins at 6 p.m. for those 18 and over. Tables for 10 are \$650 with dinner and drinks included.

It’s going to be an unforgettable Western-themed night full of games, auction items, good food, and big fun, all in support of Bridgehaven Children’s Advocacy Center and the children served across

Liberty and Chambers counties. Every dollar raised at Macho Bingo helps continue the mission to bring hope, healing, and justice to children who are victims of abuse.

Sponsorship opportunities are now open and you can show your support in a big way with any of the multiple sponsorship opportunities available. By sponsoring this event, your business will receive valuable recognition, all while supporting a cause that matters.

Make a lasting impact in the community with your support by becoming a sponsor today. Go online to givebutter.com/macho2026 or contact jmcginnis@bridgehavencac.org.

This year’s event sponsors are Cowboy’s Ready Mix and 146 Sign Co.

Cowboy historian coming to SHC

LIBERTY - The Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center (SHC), part of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC), invites the community to get ready for the Trinity Valley Exposition (TVE) Fair and Rodeo by celebrating a Texas tradition, the cowboy, with real-life cowboy, author and historian J. L. “Jim” Hodges at 7 p.m. on Thurs., Sept. 24. As part of the event, Center staff will offer a special viewing of historic images, records and artifacts related to Gulf Coast cowboys.

Hodges’ program on “The Great American Cowboy: From Egypt to the Present” will explore the ancient roots of cowboys and their early days in the Gulf Coast region, along with sharing his personal experiences as a

Texas ranch hand and horse trainer. Cattle ranching has been a vital part of the Texas economy since the early 18th century, but few know about its storied past in deep Southeast Texas.

Jim Hodges was a horse trainer and open-range cowboy by age 11. A Vietnam veteran and former law enforcement officer, he also owned his own livestock business and performed with his horses for people from every corner of the globe. Hodges co-curated the Bryan Museum’s Coastal Cowboys exhibit and is the author of multiple books. After the program, there will be a book signing for those interested in purchasing copies.

This event is part of SHC’s commemoration of America’s 250th anniversary in 2026. Projects and events throughout the year recognize the region and state’s contributions to the national story. The program is free and open to the public. No registration required. Contact the Center at (936) 336-8821 or samhoustoncenter@tsl.texas.gov for more information.

SHC American history through Sept.

LIBERTY - The Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center (SHC) continues commemorating the nation’s 250th anniversary with temporary exhibits highlighting American history. Declaration 1776: The Big Bang of Modern Democracy and Becoming the United States: Colonial America to Reconstruction are on view at the Center through Sept. 30. Each exhibit contains seven pop-up panels detailing significant episodes from the past using images from historical collections at the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

Trace the development of the new country through the American Revolution to

the 20th century with timelines, captivating narratives and fascinating stories of individuals and moments that shaped the future and led us to the present day. The exhibits offer educational opportunities for students of history and anyone curious about topics like the Declaration of Independence and Colonial America. TSLAC’s own Texas America250 pop-up exhibit is also included in the temporary display.

The exhibits are available during regular business hours at the Center, Tuesdays through Fridays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, contact SamHoustonCenter@tsl.texas.gov or (936) 336-8821.

Texas Talking Book Program free resource

AUSTIN, TX - As students return to school this August, the Texas Talking Book Program (TBP) is reminding families and educators about a free resource that can help students with dyslexia succeed: access to more than 180,000 audiobooks and audio magazines, all provided at no cost and narrated by real people.

Any Texan with a qualifying reading disability, including dyslexia, may be eligible. There is no minimum age to enroll, and membership lasts a lifetime. Applications can be certified by educators, school staff, dyslexia specialists or medical providers, and no medical records nor insurance information are required.

TBP offers books for all ages and reading levels, including classroom classics and popular fiction and nonfiction titles. Students can access materials through the BARD

mobile app or a free Digital Talking Book Machine mailed to their homes. There are no waitlists, due dates, late fees or charges for lost materials.

Texas Senate Bill 2075 requires school districts to inform families of students with dyslexia, or those at risk of dyslexia, about TBP. Teachers may also apply for a free School Classroom Account to support students in the classroom.

Families and educators can find the application, certifying-authority requirements and program details online, or reach the Texas Talking Book Program directly by phone (toll-free in Texas): 1-800-252-9605 or email to tbp.services@tsl.texas.gov.



Liberty Church of Christ

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

LIBERTY GAZETTE

936-336-6416



LORENZO’S BODY SHOP

936-258-8896

FM 1960 @ PR 6065 DAYTON

1.3 miles west of Hwy. 321

Expert Body Work Collision Free Estimates

All Insurance Claims Accepted



LIBERTY COUNTY CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT

is soliciting applicants for the **APPRAISAL REVIEW BOARD**

Requirements:

- **Must be a resident of Liberty County for at least 2 years**
- **No delinquent taxes owed***

Please contact Cayla Cantu at 936-336-5722 for any questions or additional information.*

If you would like to submit your application, please send it via email to ccantu@libertycad.com