

## Meet Author Lauri Smith at Liberty library, Sat., Feb. 28

LIBERTY - The Liberty Municipal Library will welcome author Lauri Smith, who will introduce her book 112 Days: A Caregiver's Journey From Desperation to Hope. Smith will be at the library Sat., Feb. 28, from 1-3 p.m. She will be available to visit with the public, share her story, offer encouragement, and pro-

vide an opportunity for book signing. Smith is a grateful recipient of the love of Jesus. He leads her on ongoing adventures of the soul as she continues digging deeper to gain knowledge and understanding of the incomprehensible grace and God-ness of God. Her passion for writing is in-

born and she is honored to share it as a ministry tool to encourage others. This book is the result of a clear calling from God.

Smith is qualified to write about the many facets of caregiving because she experienced all of them with her dad in the last months of his life. God placed a deep longing within her to reach out to others with her story. She brings a real, raw, unfiltered testimony and offers it fully to the reader. She chooses to make herself vulnerable because it's that important to reach those who need assurance that they are not alone in their struggles and the accompanying myriad of emotions that make up any caregiving journey. She also wants to testify about the love of God, who does not turn away from desperation and painful unrehearsed heart cries, but responds with tender compassion every time, even when it is not evident until later.



LAURI SMITH

## Batson FD, ESD No. 7 each receive \$25,000 grants

The Texas A&M Forest Service awarded the third round of equipment grants for Fiscal Year 2026 on February 13. Approximately \$14 million in grants was awarded to Texas volunteer fire departments.

Liberty County departments awarded grants included Batson Fire Department, \$25,000 for personal protective equip-

ment, and Liberty County ESD No. 7 Hardin Fire/Rescue, \$25,000 for personal protective equipment. Rolling awards will continue over the coming months to fund apparatus and equipment.

The 77th Texas Legislature passed House Bill 2604 in 2001, establishing the Rural Volunteer Fire Depart-

ment Assistance Program. The program assists volunteer fire departments with the purchase of equipment and training.

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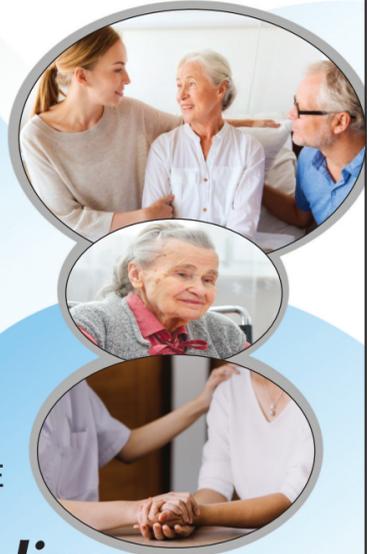
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## Dayton Noon Lions serving up pancakes March 19

DAYTON - The Dayton Noon Lions will host its annual Pancake Supper, Thurs., March 19, at First Baptist Church Family Life Center from 5-7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for all-you-can-eat pancakes which includes sausage, toppings, coffee, milk or orange juice. Kids five and under can eat free. The event will also include a silent auction and free eye screenings for youngsters (6 mos.-18 yrs.) Proceeds will benefit Lions charities.



Logan Pickett was hustling those pancakes making sure everyone had plenty to eat at the St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Pancake Supper last week.

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