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“Life is a Game of Inches—From Helper to Leader” Jimmy Day, R&K Distributors

by Dr. Vi Alexander, Staff Writer

In the movie, *Any Given Sunday*, head coach Tony D’Amato, played by Al Pacino had a famous quote, “Life is a game of inches.” This quote underscores the proposition that success often depends upon small, consistent efforts where every little accomplishment is key to achieving a desired goal.

Recently, I visited with Jimmy Day, the Branch Manager of R&K Distributors in Nacogdoches. Jimmy was born in Galveston, Texas, graduated from George Ball High School, and earned an Associate’s Degree in Computer Systems Technology at the Microcomputer Technology Institute (MTI). His story is one of a young man intentionally and consistently moving forward in his career. The key to his business success grew from this idea that life is a game of inches.



JIMMY DAY - Page 3

“Love What You Do and Do What You Love” Martin Kennel and Grooming

by Dr. Vi Alexander, Staff Writer

“If you do what you love, you’ll never work a day in your life,” is a quote often attributed to Marc Anthony, a Roman general under Julius Caesar’s rein. The message makes a profound connection between a person’s passion and their job. Steve and Becky Martin at Martin Kennel and Grooming (The Kennel) in Nacogdoches share this connection. Steve says, “We enjoy what we do.” And, it is quite evident that what they do is make pets happy, and to ensure that pet owners feel confident in leaving their pet in the Martin’s care.

In April 1992, Doug and Gail Martin began the story of Martin Kennel. It was Gail who was the backbone of this journey. With a partnership in Doug, together they believed in integrity, fairness, and a kind spirit. The Kennel’s location in Appleby, Texas was opened in 1994 and continues with the same commitment. When Gail and Doug passed away, Steve and Becky took over the business.



MARTIN KENNEL. - Page 7



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Around the Town is published and distributed on the first day of each month. **FREE** copies are available in more than 220 locations in Nacogdoches, Angelina, Shelby & San Augustine Counties. The paper may also be viewed online **FREE** 24/7 at www.AroundTheTown.us.

Publisher - David Stallings - 936.554.5822 - aroundthetown@mail.com
Advertising Manager - Sharon Roberts - 936.552.6758
Advertising Sales - David Stallings - 936.554.5822
Graphic Design - James Aston - 936.553.1927
Staff Writers - Terri Lacher - 936.488.8701 and Vi Alexander - 936.553.9950
Distribution - Todd Stallings - 936.569.4393



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JIMMY DAY

With 30 years of sales experience, Jimmy's career started in 1993 in Galveston at Del Papa Distributing where he began his game of inches, learning from the bottom up. Through hard work and hustle, he worked his way up the ladder from helper on a beer truck to Driver, Salesman, Team Leader, Account Development Manager, then to Director of Sales Operations.

It was in 2008 that East Texas welcomed new residents—Jimmy, and his two boys, Jonathan & Ryan, when he moved to Corrigan and began working for Stevenson Beer Distributing in Trinity. It was his love for coaching baseball that he met the love of his life, Lisa, and her two boys, Grayson, & Garrett. Jimmy and Lisa are now grandparents to Jonathan and his wife, Kaitlyn's daughter Emilia, and their son on the way, Zane. For leisure, they enjoy camping, traveling, and cruising. In 2012, Jimmy started working at R&K Distributors in Nacogdoches as a merchandiser, then Chain Account Manager, and later promoted to Branch Manager. In this position, he has embraced the motto, "A Community of Unity," where we can all work together to help those in need. He is also a strong supporter of Veterans and First Responders.



Since the Days moved to Nacogdoches, they have purchased some land with a small farmhouse and are raising several animals, gardening, and enjoying the country life. Jimmy enjoys being outside building things on their property; such as fences, porches, sheds, and a chicken coop. He is an avid deer hunter and enjoys competitive pistol shooting. Additionally, he collects things that he could eventually use some day. As he put it, "I don't throw anything away—everything has purpose—you just need to figure out what it is."



Giving back to the community is important to Jimmy, as he serves in numerous civic capacities; including Chair Elect for the Nacogdoches Area United Way, committee member for the Nacogdoches Hero Foundation, member of the Nacogdoches Law Enforcement Foundation, and board member for the Angelina Rifle & Pistol Club. He is also an Honorary Life Member of the SFASU Alumni Association, a member of the National Wild Turkey Federation, Delta Waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited, Whitetails Unlimited, and the Nacogdoches Skeet Club.

Jimmy takes his work and play seriously, as evidenced by his mantra, "to go as far as you can, as fast as you can." He has grown in his career one step at a time, through hard work, honesty, integrity, and dedication. Jimmy's story is encouraging and inspirational. It reminds us to appreciate every little step we take, knowing that life is a game of inches and persistence is the key to achieving our goals.

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Snapshot from Around the Town

Michael Ruark, of Nacogdoches, with a nice Channel Catfish at Powell Park Marina on Sam Rayburn Lake. Michael loves fishing and country music!.



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The Middle Verses of the Bible

Psalm 118:8-9 KJV)

“REED ALL ABOUT IT!”
by Dr. Allen Reed

“It is reported by people who count such things that there are 31,174 verses in the Bible, and if that is so, then verses 8-9 are the middle verses. What do you suppose a middle verse should say? Shouldn’t the

middle verse be about God’s love, such as John 3:16 or something from Psalm 23 or perhaps 1 John 4:8? Actually the middle verses of the Bible are none of these. Significantly, they are about putting our trust in God rather than in mere human beings.

It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. (v.8)
It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes. (v.9)

James Montgomery Boice writes “Why is it better to trust in God rather than man? First, it is wiser. God can be trusted; man cannot. Second, it is morally better. Third, it is safer. Fourth, it is better in its effect upon ourselves. Fifth, it is better as far as its results. God honors our trust by blessing it broadly.

The world does not understand trusting God, which is not surprising since the world is blinded by spiritual matters.

The God of the universe is on our side—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. No matter who may be against us, He is on our side. As we look to the past, we know He is with us. As we look to the future, we know that He is ahead of us. He surrounds us. He promises, *I will never leave you nor forsake you.*

When you fear God, you need not fear anyone else. To fear God means to love Him, revere Him, and respect Him.

In his devotional book, *Prayer, Praise, and Promises*, Warren W. Wiersbe writes: “No matter how difficult your experiences in life are, the Lord is on your side. You have His word of assurance, confidence, and defiance.”

A LITTLE HUMOR: A minister carefully prepared his sermons, word-for-word, and placed them in a loose-leaf binder, which he took with him to the pulpit on Sunday mornings. One Saturday night, his son, just for fun, removed a sheet from the scripted sermon. As the preacher read his sermon the next morning—“and Adam said to Eve”—he turned the page and discovered it was missing. Perplexed, he looked at the congregation and said, “There must be a leaf missing here.”

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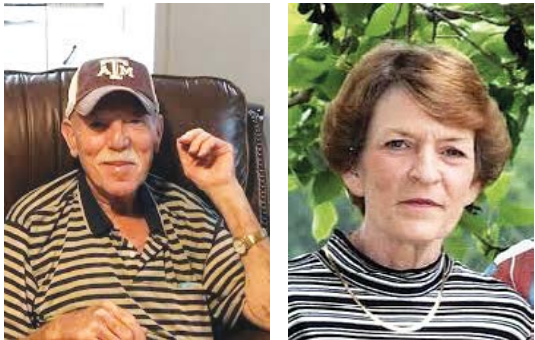
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MARTIN KENNEL

Steve commented, “I will never be able to replace or create the same relationship someone has with their pet. But, we are dang sure going to try by treating each one that has been entrusted to us, as our own.” Steve went on say “we proudly follow the proven model and standards for pet boarding and grooming, and with even more pride and honor having the opportunity to not only share in, but be challenged by the legacy of Doug and Gail Martin.”



Doug and Gail Martin, founders of Martin Kennel

Steve Martin was born in Nacogdoches and educated in Houston. While in Houston, Steve met a beautiful young lady named Becky. They became high school sweethearts, married, and began their life together. With three children, Niki, Cathy, and Jared, they gained four beautiful grandchildren. Fast forwarding to 2019, Steve retired from his mechanical engineering job at SMI in Houston, and the couple moved to Nacogdoches to manage The Kennel.



Martin Kennel ribbon cutting in 1994

According to Steve, he and Becky not only love what they do, but they also immensely enjoy what they do. Boarding and grooming animals is their passion not a hobby. Steve says, “The Kennel offers quality, professional care for your pets, including dog boarding, cat boarding, in-house care for birds and exotic pets, training, and care at your place for large animals and livestock. We don’t just store your pets until you get back. We love them, talk to them and play with them every day.” Becky added, “We take great pride in caring for your pets. We are here year round and have no size or breed restrictions.”

When asked about the challenges of the job, Steve indicated that there are many challenges, but laughingly says there’s only one drawback. The

one drawback is the occasional boo-boo which he sustains from overly zealous pets. For example, Steve said he was walking two Pyrenees after a snowstorm and had his hand inside the loop of the leash. When all of a sudden, the dogs spotted their owner’s car driving down the road, they bounded toward the car, while dragging Steve like a human sled. On another occasion, a family had dropped off two 105 pound Pit Bulls. As Steve was walking the dogs to their kennel, the daughter decided that she needed to get out of the car and say another good-bye to the dogs. So, she called their names, the dogs bolted, yanked Steve off his feet, and he landed on his face.

With two locations in east Texas, the Martins are very busy. The Nacogdoches business is run by Steve with his daughter, Cathy, the head groomer, while Becky runs the Center, Texas location. A third location in Joaquin, Texas will open in a few months and will be operated by Jennifer Swain, a long-time employee of The Kennel. The Martins confirmed their devotion to their job by proclaiming, “With many years of experience, you can rest assured that your pet will receive the attentiveness they need. We lovingly watch all pets when their owners have to be away. Your pet’s safety and well-being are our number one focus.”

The Kennel was voted Best of Nac in the Pet Grooming category in 2024, and in the Boarding and Grooming category in 2023. The event is sponsored annually by *The Daily Sentinel* featuring Nacogdoches County businesses. Additionally, The Kennel’s numerous online reviews demonstrate excellent care and customer satisfaction. Over the past few years, to meet customer expectations, The Kennel has expanded and added more services. Regardless of the pet’s age, type, or mannerisms, services can be customized specifically for them.

As our time together came to a close, Steve shared these parting words, “You can depend on us to ensure your pets are in a great facility and their care is paramount. Stop in and say hello and look around, bring your pets, and tell us your Doug & Gail stories. We are waiting for you. The door is open.”

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Captain Mark comes from a long line of ancestral French since the early 1700's prior to the Acadian arrival and during the colonial times. His father's ancestors were from Alsace and his mother's heritage was from Paris. He grew up speaking French at an early age and his father's mother never spoke English, only French.

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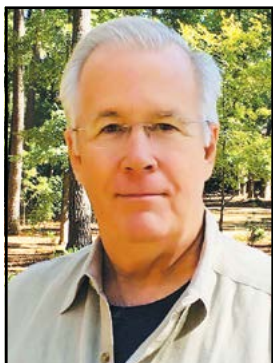
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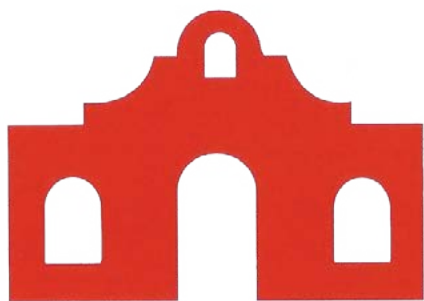
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Snapshot from Around the Town

John Woods operated Humble, Esso and Exxon Service Stations in Nacogdoches for many years. He was a big supporter of all things Nacogdoches/NHS/SFA and we miss him so much! This photo was taken shortly after he served in World War II. John was the father of John Alvin and Gary Woods.



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Southbound Band – “Good Country Music”

by Dr. Vi Alexander, Staff Writer

Country music is the place to find reality in music. In my opinion, Diane D’Angelo, an entertainment publicist, describes the significance of country music best. She expresses the importance of the genre by stating “country music is relatable content.” Through these connections, “We see reflections of our own struggles, our own triumphs, and our relentless pursuit of a better tomorrow. It allows us to take refuge in the simplicity of tales spun from the heartland, where honesty reigns supreme and vulnerability is celebrated.” If you are looking to enjoy some good country music, then you are in for a treat.

Southbound Band has been making music in east Texas since 1999. The co-lead singers are cousins, Bobby King and Matt Broadus. Playing with Southbound are band members: Bobby King-lead singer/rhythm guitar, Larry Moore-bass guitar, Parr Bryan-pedal steel guitar, Scotty Butler-drums, and Matt Broadus-lead singer/lead guitar. All five members are Nacogdoches natives.



In Matt’s and Bobby’s early teens, they learned to play guitar from Matt’s dad, James Broadus. James, who passed away in 2010, made an everlasting impression on the two boys to start their own band. Matt took what he learned from his father and incorporated it with elements other lead guitarists taught him. Soon, he developed his own style. Matt shared that he still hears compliments from people about what a good singer his dad was. If it hadn’t been for his father’s influence, Matt said, “I don’t think Bobby nor I would be making the music of Southbound today.”

According to Matt, music has always been a big part of our life on and off-stage, with Gospel music making a strong impact on their music. As a teenager, Matt joined Gospel Assembly Church where he says he really started to excel as a lead guitarist. He commented, “As a growing musician, you never stop learning as long as you’re willing to learn new things. I probably learned more musical techniques serving the Lord than anywhere else.”



Today, Matt and Bobby enjoy playing all types of country music, although traditional country is their favorite. They love being able to entertain a live audience with the traditional country songs that they love. With their roots being strong in 90’s country music, it’s excellent for two-stepping. Their goal is to pack the dance floor with

every song they play. “We’re usually pretty good at keeping the crowd there until they close the doors,” Bobby commented. With this in mind, Southbound usually fills the dance floor at every venue in which they play.

If you are looking for a great evening of music and dancing, they will be appearing at Lugnutz on July 26, 2025. For additional information and appearance dates, visit their Facebook page. They guarantee a great time with great music.

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“Den of Liquid Madness”

The Madhatter Distillery

by Dr. Vi Alexander, Staff Writer

In the mid-1960s, there was a bakery on the northeast corner of E. Hospital Street in Nacogdoches. I can’t remember the name of the bakery, but I will never forget the amazing taste of their Cinnamon Twist. Occasionally, I drive down E. Hospital Street and I seem to always glance over to that beloved corner and reminisce about that snapshot of taste.

A couple of months ago, I glanced over and noticed another new business on that corner called The Madhatter Distillery. My schema immediately went to the only Madhatter with whom I am familiar—Lewis Carroll’s celebrated colorful character in “Alice in Wonderland.” As curiosity got the best of me, I decided to visit the business. I entered the tasting room and was graciously greeted by the staff. When I inquired about the business, I was introduced to Rodney (Rock) McBride, the head of the distillery. Rock gave me a tour of the fascinating workings of a distillery and how the ingredients go from grain to liquids—whiskey, rum, vodka, or legal moonshine.

When David Stallings, publisher of *Around the Town* newspaper, asked me to interview the proprietors of The Madhatter Distillery, I was thrilled because of what I had seen previously. So, I visited with the beautiful Sheri Hatt, the CEO of the business and discovered that it is a family-run business. She and her son, Alex Hatt (mixologist and beverage director), own the business and operate it with their head distiller, Rock McBride. Rock is the mad scientist behind the design and configuration of the still and the making of the spirits. The owners’ last names are Hatt, so combining the mad scientist with the last name, Hatt, the business became The Madhatter Distillery.



Sheri Hatt

I learned that Sheri Hatt is a multifaceted lady with an interesting background. She was born in Denver, Colorado and later joined the Army where she held the rank of 91H, Orthopedic Specialist. As a prosthetist, she specializes in designing and fitting artificial limbs. After her discharge from the Army, she was recruited for a prosthetist position in Houston, Texas. In March 2025, she relocated to Nacogdoches where she established her own prosthetics company called Rogue Prosthetics at 411 E. Hospital Street. With the running of two businesses, she is a very busy lady.

While talking about the inner workings of the distillery business, Sheri stated, “Everything is done in-house in our micro-distillery with a 100 gallon pot still.” Sheri went on to say, “The distilling process begins with fermentation which takes five days, after which the mash is transferred to the pot still. Rock fires the still and it runs for eight to ten hours, then the 14 proof gallons are collected. The proof either goes to storage or it fills a barrel to age.” After one year, the proof is harvested for whiskey, rum, vodka, or legal moonshine. The



Alex Hatt



Rodney (Rock) McBride

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legal moonshine has a rotation of eight flavors, including; Blueberry Lemonade, Prohibition Gin, Apple Pie, Root Beer, Pickle, several Jolly Rancher. “We can only serve drinks with the spirits that we make in house,” Sheri stated. Although they do not serve food, there is a food truck in the area.

With numerous great customer reviews, The Hatts invite you to see for yourself. Step into The Madhatter Distillery, Nacogdoches’ own den of liquid madness. Sheri said, “We’re a family outfit obsessed with twisting grains into spirits that hit different—raw, real, and a little unhinged. From the dirt up, we distill every batch with a craftsman’s grit and a hatter’s flair.”

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Embarrassing The Kids

by Taylor Millard

Recently I traveled to my daughter’s home in Bulverde, just north of San Antonio, for babysitting duty. I use the word duty like it was drudgery, but I looked forward to these four days as a joyous occasion of spoiling my 14-year-old and 8-year-old grandsons, and I admit some teasing as well. The reason for my recruitment was a trip to Fredericksburg for their parents to join in a fun event. My two children and my sister’s three kids are all close in age and thought a cousin’s trip would be a blast.

Your cousins are normally your first friends in life, when close in age, if you are also geographically close. My daughter and niece are eleven months apart and have been entertaining each other their whole life. My favorite sound in this world is those two together in joyous laughter. When they were young, especially middle school age, I could do almost anything to embarrass them, especially my daughter. In the drop off line at school, in front of her classmates, I could simply turn up the radio and begin dancing awkwardly behind the wheel, with her trying to leap out of the car to separate herself from her crazy father.

Now her son will soon be fifteen and is at prime embarrassment age with his mischievous grandfather. My son’s only boy who is eight worships his older cousin. The older boy is very kind to his younger cousin, which is quite admirable. I took the two to Whataburger, a fine Texas treat for growing boys. I required they order for themselves when we approached the counter, and they did. I see too often now days children unable to do very simple tasks because the parents do it for them, but that will be another article.

We got our drinks and sat at a table with our table top number facing the order area, awaiting our meal. I noticed the iconic franchise now sold paper hats that were popular in times gone by for hamburger cooks to wear while pressing ground meat on a grill. “Do you want me to buy you one of those hats?” I asked the older boy in a voice that carried across the dining area. He looked at me in horror and meekly said, “No, please don’t.” I had struck a nerve, so I continued to implement my torture, “I could get one and wear it to your school when I pick



Henry Taylor Millard, known as Taylor, to almost everyone, grew up in Nacogdoches with a story telling father and a history reading mother. Taylor is a seventh generation Texan and lives on the same family land dating back to the eighteen-thirties. He and his wife attend Old North Baptist Church that his great-great-grandmother assisted in founding in 1838.



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you up one day.” The thought of his grandfather in that silly hat in front of his friends began to panic him as his face turned red with imagined horror.

I then turned to the young one who was carefully observing this interaction and asked him, “What can I do to embarrass you?” He thought for a few seconds then looked me in the eye and in full confidence said, “Nothing.” Smart boy! He was not going to give me any ideas! It was a wonderful few days and I do look forward to moments of gentle teasing on my next trip!

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As we have grown and thrived, our space requirements have expanded. Westminster Presbyterian Church had available space and had been praying for the right organization to utilize it. Simultaneously, CWJC was seeking larger facilities to accommodate our growth. This move represents an answer to prayer for both organizations.

We are experiencing tremendous growth, expanding from just 4 participants in Fall 2024 to 20 prospective students for the upcoming semester. Our programs equip women with essential job and life skills, providing second chances through resumé development, interview preparation, and more.



If Christian Women’s Job Corps aligns with your goals, please contact us at (936) 564-2952. Participant and volunteer applications are available online at www.cwjcnac.org. We also welcome community members who would like to volunteer or serve with us—please reach out to learn more about opportunities to make a difference in women’s lives.

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Writing

by Robert McCandless

“But I fall asleep or my mind wanders when I do.”

That is one of the most common complaints I hear about attempts at prayer or what is come to be called “quiet time.” I’ve been there, as my mind searches for something to pray. In the attempt, thoughts of the day, yesterday or some unrelated thought keeps creeping in.

“Don’t pray, just listen for God’s voice.” This only promotes somnambulism. Some years ago, I found a solution and have shared it as I counseled others having the same issue. Write.

My masculinity had to get over the idea that it was “a diary,” like teenage girls are sometimes prone to keeping. Instead, I just wrote my thoughts at first and made lists of things I wanted to accomplish in life. As I matured as a Christian, I took on the practice of morning prayer time...only to find myself drifting off into slumber, woken by my head bobbling too far in an uncomfortable direction.

I found that if I put a pencil to paper during this time, I could stay awake. Not only that, I could actually analyze what I was thinking and take that to God for Him to edit. It's funny. I quickly discovered that it is difficult to write a lie. As I wrote and a subject arose in which I may have wanted to be in control of, I was quickly reminded that the information I had may be flawed. I remember making a list of where I wanted to be with my business and life in 5 years, only to forget the entry and find it six years later. All I wanted had been accomplished with the exception of two things which had not been, nor any longer, important to the goals I had set for my life.

Some call it journaling. I call it clearing the air. I sometimes just address God with praise, questions and requests. He listens and sometimes answers as my pencil tells me what I am writing is not really what I want to say or ask. The pencil has a hard time lying. I don't know how people write fiction novels.

In my work as a counselor, I suggested clients write their thoughts on a regular basis. Goals, prayers, thoughts of appreciation, anger, resentment or just what was going on in their lives so that it could be evaluated more effectively as they wrote and afterwards. It mattered not that these journals were kept. For privacy sake, I told my prisoner clients to tear them up afterwards so no one could use them for mischief. Those who did, came back and told me that it had been the most effective part of their program.

In 2013, Gail and I left our home to travel full time doing ministry work. I disposed of about 50 spiral notebook tablets filled with “thoughts.” I was tempted to review some and found something very interesting. The issues I had written about had all been resolved in a far better way than I would have chosen.

I have often quoted that my worry and anxiety seems to be working, for none of the stuff ever happens. I realize that God has told me not to be anxious and from looking back at some of the entries, I see why...God's plan was much greater than mine.

I used to hit the snooze button and find myself half awake/half asleep. As the concerns of the day appeared, I began to feel anxiety over any number of things. One morning it was so intense I arose and went to my journaling chair with the goal of writing all the things that were making me anxious. There were none I could identify. I did this for a number of weeks. I was worrying about “nothing.” I still feel the anxiety some mornings; I don’t immediately get up, but I dismiss it by remembering all those weeks I wrote...and found nothing.

Today I spend most of my writing time looking at what I am doing in life to see if it is His will for me. God and I talk on paper. Sometimes He asks me “Are you really sure?” and sometimes He fills me with a peace as I write, letting me know I am on the right track.

We will never be on the right track without His guidance and getting honest with Him and ourselves is essential.

The pencil will not lie, unless you are trying to write a novel. Use it to solve problems and find out what you really want from life... or better...what God wants for your life. When you tell Him what you want to do, it will quickly become evident if you are reaching in the wrong direction. Reviews of past entries will reveal to you why not to be anxious about stuff, as you will see a year or two later the gray hair it produced only benefits your barber or beautician.

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<u>BBQ SANDWICH</u>	6.50
with pickles, onions and bbq sauce. 2 Meat 10	
<u>LINK FOLDOVER</u>	4
a regular or jalapeno sausage link served on bread with bbq sauce	
<u>BBQ PLATE</u>	12
served with baked beans, potato salad, pickles, onions and bread. 2 Meat plate 17; 3 Meat plate 22	

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Appetizers

<u>FRIED PICKLES</u>	5
<u>FRIED JALAPENOS</u>	5
<u>FRENCH FRIES OR TATER TOTS</u>	SM 3.50 LG 5
<u>ONION RINGS</u>	SM 5 LG 8
<u>FRIED OKRA</u>	4.50
<u>CORN NUGGETS</u>	4.50
<u>TATER KEGS</u>	5
<u>THRALLS FRIES</u>	SM 7 LG 10
smothered in cheese, topped with chopped brisket & jalapenos (substitute tots, no extra charge)	
<u>BACON RANCH FRIES</u>	SM 7 LG 10
smothered in cheese, topped with crispy bacon, jalapenos, & ranch (substitute tots, no extra charge)	

Other Good Stuff

<u>BOUDAN BALLS</u>	5
with or without jalapenos, hand breaded & fried, served with ranch	
<u>CHEF SALAD</u>	8
a crisp bed of lettuce topped with carrots, cucumber, tomatoes, ham, bacon, boiled egg, and cheese	
<u>CHICKEN SALAD</u>	8
a crisp bed of lettuce topped with carrots, cucumber, tomatoes, ham, bacon, boiled egg, and cheese	
<u>QUESADILLA</u>	8
crisp buttery tortilla filled with melted cheddar cheese and grilled chicken or brisket, served with sour cream, lettuce and tomato	
<u>LOADED BBQ BAKED POTATO</u>	10
stuffed with butter, cheese, sour cream and bacon and loaded with your choice of brisket or sausage, drizzled with BBQ sauce. (Without BBQ 8)	

Burgers

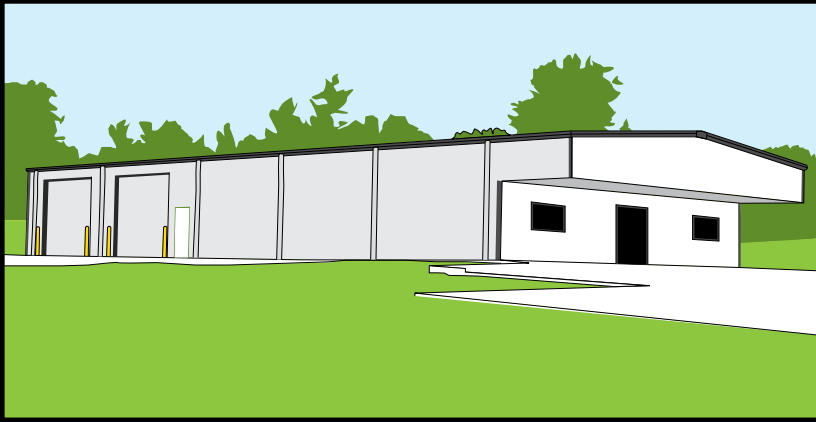
<u>BIGOL' BURGER</u>	7.50
a 1/3 pound of fresh beef, lightly seasoned, with mayo, lettuce, tomato, pickles and onion	
<u>THRALL'S BURGER</u>	12
a 1/2 pound fresh beef patty topped with our famous sliced brisket and cheddar cheese, with pickles, onions and BBQ sauce on a bun with mayo	
<u>BIG DADDY BURGER</u>	10
a 1/2 pound fresh beef patty, lightly seasoned, topped with a fried egg, avocado, grilled onions and pepperjack cheese on a bun with mayo	

Add Ons

cheese 0.50 • bacon 2.00 • jalapenos 0.50
 extra patty 3.50 • avocado 1.50
 grilled mushrooms 1.00 • grilled onion s 1.00
 nacho cheese 1.50 • fried jalapenos or onions 2.00

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SERVING OUR SAVIOR

by **Patti Goodrum**
Executive Director, Love In the Name of Christ Of Nacogdoches

If you’ve ever had the privilege of encountering someone who genuinely inspires you to become a better version of yourself, you’ve experienced a rare and profound blessing. This isn’t about family—your spouse, parents, or siblings—nor is it about a lifelong friend. It’s that one individual you cross paths with occasionally, perhaps even work alongside. Over time, your admiration deepens as you observe their choices, their kindness toward others, and, most importantly, the way they reflect their love for God in all they do. For the past 10 years, it has been an incredible privilege to serve Jesus alongside Franklin Jones, Love INC’s dedicated Warehouse Coordinator. Franklin has been that person for me, who has continuously amazed and inspired me every day as we served together, extending kindness and support to those in need through Love INC.



Patti Goodrum, Executive Director Love INC Nacogdoches



His unwavering gentleness, compassion, and love for others are qualities I will always strive to embody. The impact of his influence on my life is immeasurable. Today, we had the honor of celebrating his retirement and reflecting on the impact of his faithful service. Thank you to everyone who took the time to visit with him, share your thoughtful gifts, and join us in expressing our deep gratitude for his service. Your kindness and support made his send-off truly special. We were blessed with a wonderful reception and cherished the time together. My husband Bill and I will deeply miss our dear friend, and we send our heartfelt wishes to him, his wife Sally, their children, and grandchildren. His friendship is a treasured gift I will always hold close.

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The following stories are all true. In some cases, the names have been changed to protect the innocent.

Odds ‘n Ends

by Jim Garrett

Imagine with me, if you will, a young man (whom we’ll call Sam – not his real name) who was in the SFA pre-med program a few years back. He knows that it is difficult to get into medical school; one must have superior grades in a number of key courses, especially courses like organic chemistry. He had some friends who were also in the pre-medical program. They were either taking or had taken that dreaded chemistry course which loomed before Sam. Sam’s buddies told him so many horror stories that he knew the only way out for him was to take the course in the summer elsewhere, namely The University of Texas. So, what did he do? He decided to rent an apartment in Austin, move all his belongings, and transfer his grades to UT. This was quite a move and financial expense for anyone, but this young man was confident that what he did was the right thing to do. The first day as a UT student, Sam was sitting in the first semester organic chemistry class waiting for things to get underway. He felt pretty good about what he had done until the professor walked in and then Sam was sick at his stomach! You see, I was that SFA professor whose course Sam had so dreaded. I had been invited to teach organic chemistry as a visiting professor at The University of Texas that summer. As the semester progressed, I got to know Sam and he got to know me. Slowly the anxiety departed and I am pleased to report that he ended up with a good showing in the course.



Jim and Mary Beth Garrett

When I was teaching at the University of Texas, Mary Beth took the kids on some exciting adventures. Even though she was (and is) extremely directionally challenged, that did not slow her down one bit. One day she decided to go to an activity on the other side of Austin. MB piled everyone in the car and off they went. Soon she found herself on a road that was under construction. No problem; she just kept on driving. Soon she realized that they were coming to the first work zone she had passed through earlier. She immediately told the children to **duck down** so the workers would think that she had taken the children somewhere and was on her way back from dropping them off!!

On another of Mary Beth’s excursions with the children, they went to the Elisabet Ney Museum. On the day they visited the museum, an art class was underway in one of the adjoining rooms. As they walked past the room, Laura looked in the window whose shade came within a few inches of the window sill. She excitedly exclaimed, “Mama, they don’t have any clothes on!” You see, what was transpiring was an art class in which the students were learning to paint nudes! My little family **DID** make a hasty exit from that scene!

Since summer teaching at SFA was not guaranteed, I taught at UT and Baylor on seven or eight occasions. We often documented our family adventures with pictures and then showed them to our friends when we returned home. One picture was of our three children standing in front of a dumpster. I did not pay any attention to what was written on the refuse container until my Aggie friend, Gene Graves, pointed out that it said: LONGHORN DISPOSAL SERVICE. His question to me was, “Is that how they get rid of Longhorns?” Way to go, Gene!

One summer we had a first-floor apartment next to a large adjoining patio area. There was a child who lived in the same complex and rode a squeaky tri-cycle. You don’t understand. That tricycle had squeaks on top of squeaks. The constant squeaking could rapidly get on a person’s nerves and under their skin. What, to do...what, to do. The next time we went to the store, our daughters purchased a can of light weight oil. The next day, sure enough, we could hear the little tyke on the trike coming. Our daughters convinced the little guy that he needed to visit their full-service gas station. They took that opportunity to oil every squeaking part of the child’s three-wheeler. Problem solved!



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Nac County Exposition and Civic Center Calendar

UPCOMING IN JULY 2025...



For more information, visit nacexpo.net.

The Nacogdoches County Expo & Civic Center has a busy July lineup! Arena riders are welcome weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for just \$10 per horse—call ahead to confirm availability. The center will close on July 4 in observance of Independence Day. On July 11–12, the private Y’Barbo Family Reunion will honor the legacy of Antonio Gil Y’Barbo, founder of Nacogdoches. Then on July 21–22, Michelle Cox will host a dynamic Children’s Workshop focused on building confidence and mindset skills for students in grades 2–9 through fun, hands-on learning.

Arena Riders Welcome at the Expo

The Nacogdoches Expo remains open for arena riders Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for just \$10 per horse. Riders are encouraged to call (936) 564-0849 for availability before arriving.

July 4 – Independence Day

The Nacogdoches County Expo & Civic Center will be closed in observance of Independence Day.

July 11-12 *PRIVATE EVENT* Y’Barbo Reunion

The Y’Barbo Family Reunion will be gathering together to celebrate their heritage and honor Antonio Gil Y’Barbo. Antonio Gil Y’Barbo was a prominent figure in early Texas history, known for founding the city of Nacogdoches. Y’Barbo’s legacy will be celebrated, where he is remembered as a key architect of the city’s development and symbol of resilience during the transformative era in Texas history. His contributions laid the foundation for what would become a vibrant community in the heart of the oldest town in Texas.

July 21 - 22 – Children’s Workshop Hosted by Michelle Cox

This summer, your child will have a fun, interactive, and hands-on opportunity to learn and improve mindset skills for greater confidence and peace in preparation to handle life’s challenges in healthy ways. Your child will be moving, learning, creating, practicing, and thinking. He/she will come away from each class with a new perspective about him/herself. Take-home notes will help you to keep up with your child’s new mindset skills and practice them together. Morning sessions – Grades 2-5, Afternoon sessions – Grades 6-9. If you have further questions, please contact me at: michellecox.mindset@gmail.com. Follow Michelle on Facebook and Instagram!



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Commemorating the 193rd Anniversary of the Battle of Nacogdoches

The Sons of the Republic of Texas, in conjunction with the Adolphus Sterne Chapter of the Sons of the Republic of Texas and the Stone Fort Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, invite the public to attend a special commemoration marking the 193rd Anniversary of the Battle of Nacogdoches on Sunday, August 3rd at 3:00 p.m.

The ceremony will take place on the back stage of the Charles Bright Visitor Center at 200 E. Main Street. Shade and seating will be provided. The event will include a brief presentation on the Battle's historical significance, recognition of the men who fought, and a rededication of the monument honoring their contributions.


The Battle of Nacogdoches, which took place from August 2nd to August 3rd, 1832, was one of the earliest armed conflicts between Anglo-Texian settlers and Mexican centralist authorities. At that time, Texas was divided into three administrative regions under Mexican control: the Department of Bexar, Department of Brazos, and the Department of Nacogdoches.

In Nacogdoches, rising tensions with Mexican military leadership under Colonel José de las Piedras led local citizens to take up arms. Over two days of conflict throughout the town — including key points in the downtown area — the settlers ultimately succeeded in forcing Piedras and his troops to retreat. The victory became a foundational step toward Texas' eventual struggle for independence.

The monument being rededicated is located at the corner of North and Pilar Streets, marking the site where the Red House once stood. The Red House served as Colonel Piedras' military headquarters and played a central role during the battle. Though the structure no longer remains, the site stands as an enduring reminder of Nacogdoches' critical role in Texas history.

This ceremony, organized by the Sons of the Republic of Texas, in conjunction with the Adolphus Sterne Chapter of the Sons of the Republic of Texas and the Stone Fort Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, with support from the City of Nacogdoches Historic Sites, aims to serve as a prelude to future annual events commemorating the Battle of Nacogdoches and to support ongoing efforts to educate the community about this pivotal moment that helped set the course for Texas independence.

For more information about the ceremony, please contact Nacogdoches Historic Sites at 936-560-4441 or visit nactx.us/historicsites.



Date of photo and identity of boy in photo are unknown. Notice the cat by the wheel of the buggy.

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What's Happening in Shelby County!

by Deborah Chadwick, *Director*

I think we can all agree that summer is officially in full swing!! And along with summer comes delicious fresh produce, ice cold drinks in the shade and fun water activities. Come visit Center, Texas and discover some summer fun. Johnson's Produce is open everyday except Sunday so you can buy fresh summer vegetables and watermelon. Stroll around our lovely historic downtown square and stop for an ice cold tea or ice cream at Center Floral or a refreshing sno-cone at Granny B's.

Shop our many locally owned boutiques and gift shops. Each shop has its unique story, personality and inventory. Our Historic Courthouse is open for tours Thursdays and Fridays 1pm-4pm. The DRT ladies offer an outstanding tour, so make sure you visit.

Bring the kids and go to the park. Portacool park has tennis courts, playground, picnic areas and a fun water feature so the kids can have fun and stay cool. Our City of Center Park is home to baseball fields and a beautiful walking trail that takes you around a peaceful pond. The City Park also has a nice playground and eating area.

Wondering what to do for July 4th? Head to Tenaha!!!! Tenaha's Annual Independence Day Fireworks Show will be taking place on Friday, July 4th!!! This Community event will be held at the Tenaha Tiger Stadium. Fireworks Show starts around 8:30.

Timpson Frontier Days, July 10-13, is always a fun family friendly event. Entertainment, food and a carnival. Head to Timpson and enjoy the fun!!



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A Win for Texas Students: New Graduation Requirements Will Help Them Become Life-Ready

by Brandon Enos, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Cushing ISD

Young adults face mounting financial challenges, from student loans, housing costs, and budgeting in a rapidly changing economy; it is more important than ever to ensure that students graduate with not only academic knowledge but with life-ready skills. That’s why the passage of House Bill 27 is a significant victory for Texas students and families.

This new law replaces the current half-credit requirement in high school economics or a combined course in personal financial literacy and economics with a standalone, focused half-credit in personal financial literacy. Additionally, the bill adds a full-credit economics course as one of three options students can choose to fulfill their final required social studies credit, alongside world geography and world history.



This change, set to begin with the Class of 2030, those students entering high school as freshmen in the 2026–27 school year, is a thoughtful and strategic step toward equipping our students with essential knowledge for real-world success.

Why This Change Matters

Many high school graduates enter adulthood with a limited understanding of how to budget, save, invest, or manage their finances. For years, many schools have attempted to incorporate elements of financial literacy into traditional economics courses, but the results have been inconsistent and often inadequate.

House Bill 27 corrects that. By separating personal finance into its own required course, we can ensure that every student graduating from a public school in Texas will now get dedicated time and instruction to learn practical, everyday financial skills. This is not just about understanding Gross Domestic Product, inflation, or specific market forces; it’s about how to write a check, manage a bank account, understand a credit score, apply for financial aid, avoid debt traps, and plan for a prosperous future.

What Parents Can Do to Support This Effort

While this legislation provides an essential academic foundation, true financial literacy begins at home. Parents are their children’s first and most influential teachers, especially when it comes to money. Here are five practical ways families can start preparing their students now:

- 1. Talk Openly About Household Finances**
Let your children see how budgeting works. Explain how bills are paid, why certain purchases are delayed, and how priorities are set. Normalize conversations about money.
- 2. Set Up a Teen Checking Account**
Help your teenager open a checking account and guide them through basic banking operations. Teach them to track their balance, use a debit card responsibly, and monitor their spending.
- 3. Visit a Financial Advisor Together**
A family meeting with a financial advisor can be eye-opening. The financial advisor can demonstrate the value of long-term planning and provide valuable insights into savings and investing.

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- 4. Use an Allowance as a Teaching Tool**
Give your child an allowance based on responsibilities rather than giving money as a handout. This instills a mindset that money is earned and should be respected.
- 5. Model Savings Habits**
Discuss saving goals, whether for vacations, emergencies, or retirement and let your children see you make deliberate choices to set money aside. Show them how and why you save.

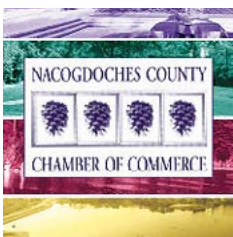
More Than a Course: A Lifeline for the Future

Financial pressure is one of the most common sources of stress, not just for adults but increasingly for young people as they step into independence. By equipping students with real-world financial skills, we will give them a head start into adulthood. They leave high school prepared to earn a living and manage their money wisely.

The passage of HB 27 is more than a curriculum update; it’s a bold move toward preparing our students for the realities of adult life. It reflects what parents, educators, and community leaders have championed for years: that being life-ready means more than just meeting graduation requirements; it means being equipped to make informed, responsible decisions in the real world.

As we look ahead, the partnership between families and schools will be key. Together, we can ensure that every student in Texas graduates with the tools they need to prosper. Financial literacy is not just a class; it’s a foundation for lifelong success.

Dr. Brandon Enos is the Superintendent of Cushing ISD in Cushing, TX. He currently serves as the Legislative Chair for the Texas Rural Education Association.



Chamber Connection
by Kelly Augustine
IOM, President & CEO,
Nacogdoches County Chamber
of Commerce

Top 10 Reasons to Love Your Chamber

If you ever decide to ask folks to give their definitions of a chamber of commerce, you will probably be met with a variety of answers. Chambers naturally have different meanings for different people.

I was thinking about our Nacogdoches County Chamber recently while putting together a brief note of congratulations to the Leadership Nacogdoches class at the graduation event. That gave me time to reflect on chamber activities and programs and prompted this top 10 list.

So let's start the countdown – *the Top 10 Reasons to Love Your Chamber are:*

10. The Chamber is a treasure chest of information for newcomers: Nacogdoches Guide & Directory; Nacogdoches City & County Street Map; www.Nacogdoches.org. Nowhere else, in a one stop-and-shop spot, will you find so much about a community. And in addition to the hundreds of requests per year from those looking to relocate, the information is available to anyone interested – even residents.

9. The Chamber broadcasts messages and promotes our members' products and services. We do this daily. Just checkout the online or printed membership directory, the event calendar and our social media sites to get glimpses of what's going on with our locals.

8. The Chamber creates a pipeline of emerging leaders for Nacogdoches County, because a community needs talent just like a business needs talent.

7. The Chamber provides a pathway for grassroots lobbying opportunities for local industries and leaders.

6. The Chamber fosters relationships for sharing wisdom and promoting collaboration, because there's nothing better than learning from someone who has been there and done that.

5. The Chamber serves as meeting ground that puts business leaders in the same space with SFA decision makers, furthering the unique impact that is generated by the university.

4. The Chamber showcases Nacogdoches in a grand and unique way – the Texas Blueberry Festival! This annual event brings thousands to the downtown district for memorable experiences, adorable photos and sweet thrills that festival guests cherish.

3. The Chamber puts our local movers and shakers in positions where we can make things happen. Our board of directors and members of the Executive Committee and our program chairs are leading the charge for successful outcomes through committee programs and events.

2. The Chamber makes low cost / no cost workshops and trainings available to small business owners. When you own your own business, you wear a lot of caps. Having experts explain the best ways to run a business frees up valuable time for doing what you love.

And the #1 Reason to Love Your Chamber – The Chamber provides that secret ingredient that gives an edge to our members' businesses. Surveys consistently report that consumers are more likely to think favorably of businesses that are chamber members and consider them trustworthy.

On the topic of loving your chamber, my final thought is "How can you not love an organization dedicated to supporting business success for those who choose to advance their professions and pursue their dreams in our community?"



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The Refuge

“That by two immutable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for *REFUGE* to lay hold of the hope set before us.” (Hebrews 6:18, emphasis added)

Cheryl Brady is a native of El Dorado, Arkansas. Following graduation from college as a ROTC Distinguished Military Graduate (DMG), she went on to serve twenty-eight years as a U.S. Army logistics officer, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. She was transplanted from Washington State by the hand of the Lord to Nacogdoches in May 2019. She has grown to love this oldest town in Texas. She is a Bible teacher, published author, and motivational speaker who loves to encourage folks with the Word of God.



Jesus— The Value of Your Blood

For it pleased the Father that in [Jesus] all the fullness should dwell, and by [Jesus] to reconcile all things to Himself, by [Jesus], whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. Colossians 1:19-20

All worship of God apart from the blood of Christ is false worship. It is only through Jesus Christ that we have access to God (John 14:6). The Bible declares God has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ (2 Cor 5:18).

Reconciliation between God and man was necessary because everyone born into the world is born a sinner as a result of Adam’s sin against God (Rom 5:12). The devil through sin ushered in war with God and separation from God (Gen 3:15, 22-24). The blood of Jesus doesn’t just restore friendly relations with God; it brings never ending peace with God. It is only in Christ that our hostility toward God ceases to exist. The war stops because Christ Himself is the believer’s peace, both Jew and Gentile (Eph 2:14-15). It is the blood of Christ that washes away the sins of the unclean (Isa 64:6) and enables us to enter a right relationship with a holy God for the Bible declares, “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ” (Eph 2:13).

Everyone has to decide how we will respond to the blood sacrifice of Jesus on Cavalry’s cross. There are only two ways to respond, belief or unbelief. It is one thing to shed innocent blood as when Cain killed his brother Able (Gen 4:8) or when God’s people sacrificed their children to demons, false gods (2 Chron 28:3; Jer 32:35), and something altogether different when someone willingly lays down his life for his enemies, when someone dies to stop the war so that all who believe might live. That is what Jesus did for us. He died, giving His life as a ransom, a payment for our sins. He paid the price in full with His own blood. The blood sacrifice for our sins was required from a lamb without spot or blemish. The Spirit through the apostle John declares that Jesus is “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

It is not the sins we commit after we are born into the world that separates us from God. It is the sin imputed to us from Adam as the federal head of all mankind that causes the separation. We are born sinners. Sin must be dealt with according to God’s way of cleansing and forgiveness for salvation. God’s way is repentance through faith in Jesus, the Son of God, whom He sent to shed His blood for the remission of sin.

The sins of an unbeliever cry out to God, unclean, unclean! We can never wash away the guilt of sin by doing good works. Performing acts of service or keeping man-made rules (legalism) for salvation or to find favor with God is man’s attempt to try to relieve the guilt of sin. It becomes an endless cycle of self-defeat. There is a continual consciousness of sin and a feeling of alienation and condemnation. The Bible calls it dead works. The unbeliever is still dead in his trespasses and sin so he can only produce dead works. He is not alive to God. He is alive physically, yet dead spiritually. He does not have the Spirit of Christ in his heart whereby he can cry out “Abba Father” calling on God as his Father. The unbeliever’s heart is removed far from God because his fear toward God is taught by the commandment of men (Isa 29:13).

If you are unclean (still in your sins, never been forgiven), you can be washed by the blood of Jesus and made clean. You can experience freedom from the guilt and shame of sin. You can experience a life of purpose, filled with God’s presence, love and joy and you’ll do good works from salvation for God’s glory. It comes down to how high of a value do you place on Jesus’ costly sacrifice for your redemption.

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Nacogdoches

Convention & Visitors Bureau

Natalee Dunn
CVB Creative Content Director

This Month in the Oldest Town in Texas

Warm summer nights have arrived as July rolls into Nacogdoches. As the sun sets over the red brick streets of historic Downtown, we welcome the season with open arms. Here, summer means long, laid-back evenings, cherished community traditions, refreshing escapes into the water, and moments that turn into memories. It feels like the Texas Blueberry Festival was just yesterday, but don't worry, there's still a full season of summer fun ahead!

Kick off July with the Nacogdoches Jaycees' Annual Freedom Fest! Gather your friends and family at Festival Park on the 4th of July for a spectacular fireworks show beginning at dusk. Before the big show, enjoy live entertainment, refreshing snow cones, delicious food trucks, and exciting games for the kids, all starting at 5:30 pm.

Do you prefer indoor activities in the summer? Escape the heat and enjoy an evening of live theatre as the SFA Summer Stage Festival proudly presents *Steel Magnolias*, brought to life by the talented performers of the School of Theatre and Dance. Join them on July 2nd, 3rd, 5th, and 6th for an unforgettable performance filled with humor, heart, and the enduring spirit of Southern friendship and resilience.

Bring the whole family, furry friends included, for a day of summer fun at Millard's Crossing on July 19th for Dawg Days of Summer! Starting at 10 am, enjoy waterslides, slip-n-slides, yard games, a vendor yard sale, and picnic space (bring your grill!). Show off your pups and soak up the sunshine. From 6 to 9 pm, stick around for live bluegrass music from Lookin' Grass Revival.

Staying cool this summer is easy in Nacogdoches. Spend the day picnicking and swimming at Lake Nacogdoches, float down the lazy river at Splash Kingdom: Timber Falls, or enjoy a fun-filled afternoon at Splashadoches and the Temple Park Splash Pad. Whether you're planning a full-day adventure or a quick cool-off, Nacogdoches offers plenty of ways to beat the heat and make a splash.

School's out for the summer, but we've got the perfect adventure to keep the kids entertained all season long! Join the fun as the Nac Historic Sites Summer Scavenger Hunt continues! Explore Nacogdoches' rich history and cultural landmarks while checking off each stop on the scavenger hunt list. Complete the hunt and enter for a chance to win exciting prizes. The adventure wraps up on August 8th, so grab your map and start exploring today!

From sun-drenched days to starlit nights, summer in Nacogdoches is all about connection, celebration, and creating lasting memories. So whether you're chasing fireworks, live music, cool water, or hidden historic gems, there's a place waiting for you right here.

To stay up to date with Nacogdoches and community events, check out our website at visitnacogdoches.org/events and our "What's Happening" poster included in this paper.



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A Big Bend Series: Alpine, Texas

by Mike Mills

Mike Mills is a 1965 graduate of Nacogdoches High School. After careers in airline flying and FAA management, he and wife Sandy, a retired teacher, took to the road in a motorhome, writing about their journeys. Their blog, “Phannie and Mae” has had more than a million views since its inception.

It’s going to take more than a single newspaper column for me to blivate on the Big Bend area of Texas; I’m guessing it will require several iterations of my screed to explore this enigmatic land. We visited there for the first time several years ago and wished we had done it sooner.

Highway 90 leads around 400-500 miles westward from San Antonio to the area around Marathon, Alpine and Marfa, all jumping-off points for Big Bend, the “heel” of Texas, if you imagine the southwestern boundary of the state as a high-heeled shoe. It wasn’t so much the remote Big Bend National Park that interested me as much as the storied Marfa Lights, a phenomenon that tugs at the imagination of anyone who enjoys a little science fiction now and then. We’ll get to Marfa in a later column, but I’ll begin the series at Alpine, probably named for its elevation of nearly 5,000 feet. Although its scenery is hardly comparable to a village in the Swiss Alps, it’s about as close as one can get in Texas. Touring this part of Texas is not the best idea in the summertime, although Alpine’s elevation delivers mild temperatures—around 90 degrees during the day and down into the 60s at night in the high desert.

While the town’s architecture isn’t remarkable, it is the home of Sul Ross University, which sports a massive presence with modern buildings on an attractive campus. The school has a good reputation for its agricultural and animal science programs; I think the late Texas Governor Sul Ross would be proud of his namesake. In the photo above, the university is the large complex to the right-center, somewhat elevated from the town proper.

Alpine citizens don’t seem to tolerate much nonsense. For example, we noticed this sign (to the right) in the window of a downtown eatery.

Of all the dining places we tried, we found one gem in Alicia’s Burrito House (below), housed in a rundown building, but with absolutely stellar food. If you go, don’t miss it.



It is a short drive from Alpine through Fort Davis to the McDonald Observatory in the Davis Mountains. We’ll save that for the next column.

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July 2025 Schedule

Thu 3rd	Tia Juanitas	Lufkin	6:00 pm
Tue 8th	Guacamoles	Nacogdoches	6:00 pm
Wed 16th	Tia Juanitas	Lufkin	6:00 pm
Thu 17th	Ralph & Kacoos	Lufkin	6:00 pm
Fri 18th	Dance Club	Nacogdoches VFW	7:00 pm
Tue 22nd	Guacamoles	Nacogdoches	6:00 pm



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Seth Moench

Good News *Only* Featured in *Around The Town*

A-1 Ambulance Service

by Neal Murphy

Neal Murphy grew up in the small town of San Augustine, Texas. He and wife Clara have two grown children. Moving back after retiring, now with five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, he began, as a hobby, writing short stories of humorous things that he observed over the years. He was an ambulance driver in college, worked for two funeral homes, then spent over forty years in the insurance business. He also writes stories of his forty-four years as a state certified police officer working for seven different departments. After living in five different states, he is now retired back in San Augustine and has his stories printed in seven different newspapers, and published five books. He is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin University, and the Insurance Institute of America. He is a Deacon in a Baptist Church and former Sunday School Teacher for many years, as well as Choir Director at several churches. He is also the docent in the 1919 Jail Museum in San Augustine and works three days a week. He was the director of the restoration of the old county records dating back to the 1800s.



The ringing of the emergency telephone awoke me from a deep sleep. It was very early in a spring morning in 1956 as I jumped out of my bunk bed and put on my white coveralls. Someone was in need of an ambulance in the city of Waco, Texas at 2:35 in the morning.

I was in my junior year at Baylor University and had taken a job with the only emergency ambulance service in Waco. It was an exciting job for a 20 year old young man, but the atmosphere was not conducive to studying my courses. The salary of \$110 per month seemed very good at the time as it helped with my living expenses. The job was somewhat confining as I had to be at the ambulance station at Jefferson & 6th Street whenever I was not in classes. My social life took a severe hit with this schedule.

The service was owned by A. D. Sherrill of Waco, who, along with his son, Buzzy, ran an efficient organization. Mr. Sherrill insisted that the telephone be answered no later than the second ring, even during the middle of the night. Mr. Sherrill owned two 1953 Chevrolet panel trucks which had been converted into ambulances, which we referred to as “hot shots.” He also owned two 1955 Pontiac long ambulances which we used as transfer vehicles on non-emergency calls. All the vehicles were equipped with Motorola two-way radios, which was a distinct advantage over the Connally Funeral Home who owned and operated one emergency ambulance not so equipped.

The ambulance driver looked over at me and said, “Let’s go. We have an overdose victim at a motel.” I jumped into the passenger side of the white ambulance as the driver started the engine and turned on the red lights. Washington Avenue was still alive with vehicles even at this early hour. The sound of the siren and the reflection of the red lights around me always was an adrenalin rush.

We arrived at the motel and carried the cot to a room where we were met by an older man wearing a bathrobe. I noted a younger woman lying still on the bed, dressed in a night gown. The man was holding a bottle in his hand. As we directed our attention to the young blonde on the bed, the driver asked, “What did she OD on?” The man pointed to the bottle which we noted to be rubbing alcohol. “She drank about a half inch of this stuff, and then she just passed out.” We tried to awaken her but without success. “Let’s get her loaded and to the hospital as fast as we can,” the driver said.

This event happened in the days before patients were stabilized before transport, as done by EMT’s and paramedics now. In fact, we knew very little about administering first aid. The “load and leave” method was used, or some referred to it as “scoop and run” method, was all that we were trained to do.

After loading her into the ambulance I got in the back with her and sat on the small fold-down chair. I tried to find a pulse. I checked her wrist, her carotid artery, and finally her chest. There was no pulse or breathing that I could detect. “This girl is dead,” I yelled to the driver. “Step it up!” Just in case I was wrong, I put an oxygen mask over her nose and turned it on. The driver radioed the station to call Hillcrest Hospital to advise them that we were on our way with a possible DOA (dead on arrival) patient.

The doctors at the hospital pronounced her dead and they began drawing blood from her arm. A doctor made the comment, “that small amount of alcohol won’t kill anyone.” At this point, our job done, we put clean sheets on the cot and went back to the station.

The following afternoon a couple of detectives from the Waco police department arrived wanting more information on the man who had been with her. Unfortunately, we were in such a rush to get the patient to the hospital neither of us had stopped to get his name, address, and telephone number. Mr. Sherrill commented to them, “Well, our guys are not police officers. We don’t investigate, we transport.”

By June 1, 1956, I had returned to San Augustine for the summer and started working at Wyman Roberts Funeral home. I never heard anything else about the “older man and young lady” case in Waco. For the record, Mr. Sherrill sold his A-1 Ambulance service to the Daniel EMS of Hillsboro in 1982. He died in 1985, and his son, Buzzy Sherrill died in 2007. All that is left of the A-1 Ambulance Service of Waco are memories, some good, and some not so good.

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Snapshot from Around the Town

We thoroughly enjoyed and were inspired by the wonderful story and screening of *The Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot* on June 20th at Zion Hill Baptist Church Historic Site in Nacogdoches.

The movie was followed by a Q&A session with the real-life parents in the story along with the Producers and Writers of the drama.

Pictured below from left to right are Producer/Director Joshua Weigel; Producer/Writer Rebekah Weigel; Donna “First Lady” Martin of Possum Trot (the real mother portrayed in the movie); James Aston, *Around the Town* Graphic Designer; and Sharon Roberts, *Around the Town* Advertising Sales Manager. Not pictured is Bishop W.C. Martin (the real father portrayed in the movie).

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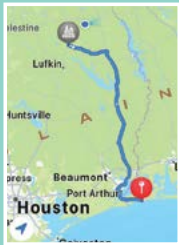


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THE LAMP-LITE PLAYERS Present *OLIVER!*

The Lamp-Lite Players continue their 52nd Season of “New” Classics with *Oliver!*, by Lionel Bart, July 11, 12, 18, and 19, 2025, 7:30 pm, and July 13 and 20, 2025, 2:00 pm. Tickets are now on sale online only at <https://lampliteplayers.ludus.com/200487494>. All tickets are assigned seats for a specific performance. Prices are Adults-\$15.00, 60+ Adults-\$12.00, and Children/Students-\$8.00.

Something new for this Summer Musical is 2024-2025 Season Pass Holders may exchange their passes for tickets to *Oliver!* by emailing lamplitetheatre+seapass@gmail.com. Audience members who need mobility assistance may reserve their seats by emailing lamplitetheatre+assist@gmail.com. An audience dress rehearsal will be held July 10, 2025, 7:30 pm, for \$5.00, with tickets only available at the Box Office the night of the performance.

“We are excited to facilitate the purchasing of tickets for our Lamp-Lite audience members by moving all regular sales online,” stated Katherine Parrish Whitbeck, Publicity Chair. “And we look forward to moving all ticket sales online for the 53rd Season.”

Melissa McMillian-Cunningham, Director, and **Davy Thomas**, Musical Director, look forward to producing *Oliver!* with the assistance of Assistant Director **Cynthia Hughes**, Choreographer **Katie Parr**, Stage Manager **Christen Smith**, and Assistant Stage Manager **Heath McCormack**. Technical leaders include set construction **Gina Jones**, costume coordinator **Nancy Matthews Smith**, set painting **Lisa Reid**, light board operator **Michael Moore**, and sound operator/pre-show music **Steve Chandler**.

McMillian-Cunningham is excited to work with a company of over 60 community members for *Oliver!*, stating, “The show itself has its comic moments, but its deeper, and most important, meaning deals with serious societal concerns such as poverty, crime, social injustice, and government corruption. These were the themes that concerned Charles Dickens when he wrote *Oliver Twist*, and these are the themes that concern our world today.”

For more information about *Oliver!*, visit www.lamplitetheatre.com, email lamplitetheatre@gmail.com, or follow on Instagram and Facebook at Lamp-Lite Theatre.

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Musical Direction by **Davy Thomas**

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Millard’s Crossing News and Calendar

Good Day Readers,

It is hard to believe July is already here. We hope you have a safe and happy 4th of July. This month we would like to focus on our events for the rest of the year and to share the opportunities that we have for everyone.

During Halloween and Christmas, we are trying something new and fun. Have you ever wanted to decorate the outside of a building, have a chance to win a cash prize, and possibly have bragging rights? We have an opportunity for you! We are running a contest for businesses and groups to sponsor a building. For \$250.00, you will get to decorate your building of choice (if it has not already been taken), put a banner near the building, then Friday night before the main event for Halloween on October 24 or November 14th right before our drive through starts for Christmas, the buildings will be voted on. During the event everyone who comes out will be able to see the winner and have a chance to vote on their favorite. Please call the office and we will give you contest guidelines.



July 19th Dawg Days of Summer Sponsored by EXCEL ER, 10:00am -9pm. Bring your own picnic, or purchase a \$5.00 burger or hot dog basket. During the day local musicians will entertain us with their music, a concert from 6-9pm by Lookin’ Grass Revival. Water slides, games, vendors, and more. Pets are welcomed but need to be on a leash. Add a little cooling by bringing your own small kiddie pool, we will supply the water.

August 21st, 6 – 9pm Trash Art Crafting – what is this you may ask? Be creative, bring your own supplies to this event. We will have hot glue, paints, and other items needed for your craft, but this is all about you.

September 27, Yard and Craft Sale, it may still be very hot so this will depend on how many want to brave the heat.

Ghosts of Millard’s Crossing will be Saturday October the 25, 2025 11am – 8pm. Peoples choice voting on buildings! Judging on the contest will be October 24, 2025.

November 8 Seasonal Vendor Craft Sale 9-4, Opportunity to purchase gifts, decorations and so forth, or if you would like to be a vendor, please let us know.

November 13th Unfinished gift craft party– Any project you have started, painting, sewing, weaving, scrapbooking, or other gifts, we will give you a place and time to come and finish it off.

November 14, 2025, Judging for the Christmas Contest.

November 24th, come out for the first drive through of the 2025 Christmas season. Santa’s mailbox will be set up so your children can get their letters off early. Cocoa and cookies.

December 1st 5:30 – 9pm - Naughty or nice drive through, elves will be there to hand over candy or coal, parents’ choice.

December 8th 5:30 – 9pm - Old Fashioned brown fruit bag (1 per car)

December 13th 1 – 9pm - Old Fashioned Christmas

December 15th 5:30 – 9pm - Popcorn and PJ, photo opportunity.

December 22nd, 5:00 – 9:30pm - SANTA will be here to greet the children for their last I have been good; I really have Santa. Cocoa and Cookies. Photo Opp.

We invite you to be Friends of Millard’s Crossing, this is a program we have started for donations, but guess what? We have made it worth your time and money, please email grace@mchvnac to find out what this is all about. Or check your mailbox for a letter from us.

We are always looking for Volunteers and Sponsors, if interested, please check out our Facebook page, (Millard’s Crossing), website www.mchvnac.com, call the office at 936-564-6631, or just stop by for a visit at 6020 North Street, Nacogdoches Tx 75965, we are always happy to see you. We can always find a cup of coffee or a cold beverage for you.

Thank you for taking the time to read the article.

Grace Handler-Welch
Executive Director

The Mission of Millard’s Crossing Historic Village is to portray the spirit and ingenuity of pioneer settlements in East Texas and to connect present generations to those of the past.

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We Serve

Annual Biggest Little Town in Texas BBQ Competition Sponsorship

BBQ COMPETITION: August 9, 2025; 8 am-4 pm
LOCATION: Garrison TX (Specific areas off the downtown square)
SPONSORS: Turn in sponsorship donations by May 31, 2025
BBQ TEAMS: Registration fee of \$225 by May 31, 2025 to secure spot. Can register after May 31, 2025 as space is available.
VENDORS: Space \$35/each, limited electrical outlets/may need own generator. Reserve space by May 31, 2025. Thereafter, as space is available. 8 am-4 pm for vendor fair.
CAKE BAKERS: Donate your sweet treats for our silent cake auction.
ENTERTAINERS: We would love to have—Singing groups/individuals, dance groups, special entertainment throughout the day at the downtown gazebo.

SPREAD THE WORD and JOIN IN FOR A DAY OF FAMILY FUN!

CONTACT: Anittra Adkison, Garrison Lions Club Secretary, for more information, 936-590-6708.

The annual state sanctioned BBQ Competition is an event we sponsor to bring the community together via local vendors, state-wide BBQ teams, and community members. For this event to be a success, we need sponsorship for BBQ teams’ earnings (enabling more teams to travel to Garrison and compete) and to help cover event expenses. All proceeds that remain will be responsibly used by the club to help the local community. Please consider a sponsorship of \$200 per small business and \$500-\$1000 per large business/corporation. Facebook spotlights of sponsors and sponsorship sign boards will be used to publicly acknowledge and thank each sponsor. Your consideration and participation are greatly appreciated.

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Join Steve Rixx on the Willy Wake Up Show

Mornings 6-10am!

NAC ARTS COLLABORATIVE News

We are excited to announce the theme for NAC's annual Arts Ball - "I Want My 80's!" This theme promises videos, dancing, special performances and a plethora of options for costuming! This fun event will be Saturday, October 4 at the Mill Room @ Banita Creek Hall. Tickets go on sale early July!

Now in its 17th year, NAC Kids Theatre Camp will be held at Lamplite Theatre from July 21 - August 1, with performances on August 2. This 2 week camp is perfect for children entering grades 3-9, giving them the chance to explore both acting and technical theater. The NAC Kids Art Camp takes place August 4-8 at NAC Annex, 141 Walker Street, offering a variety of sessions tailored to different age groups. Art Camp culminates in a gallery show on August 9th at the Falling Star Gallery! Full details can be found on our website, nacartscollab.com/special-events, or social media pages. Don't miss out on these fantastic opportunities to spark your child's creativity this summer!



NAC Kids Art Camp dates and times

is in Suite 306 and is open Saturdays from 11-4 or by appointment by texting 917-209-1050. We are also an easy walk from downtown at 415 N. Fredonia Street, one block north of the Fredonia Hotel.

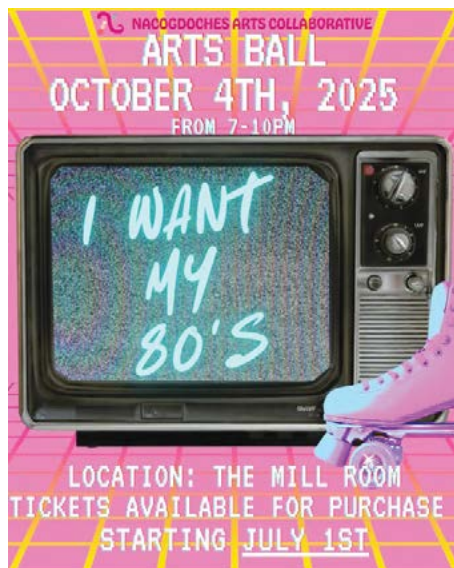
JUNE ARTIST SPOTLIGHT - Meet Michelle Filer!

This gifted painter has become highly visible in Nacogdoches and beyond in just a few short years. Her knack for dramatic color, talent for portraiture and her vivid imagination have earned her many fans.

You can see her mural work downtown, "Welcome to Nacogdoches" (co-painted with Dixie Rose Daniels), "The Garden Spot of Texas" bursting with local flora in gorgeous colors and "Our Lady of Pillar" at the Red House Winery. For the sharp-eyed, there are multiple murals at the Live Oak Listening Room on Hospital Street: a tuxedo cat playing a saxophone in one spot and a portrait of Austin musician Shinyribs in another. Close by is a lumberjack astride a bucking longhorn.

But Michelle's extraordinary imagination gets fully unleashed in her paintings from her home studio. A possum eating a corn dog at the Texas State Fair. Dolly Parton on a jackrabbit, herding day-glo armadillos in Big Bend. A brilliantly colored catfish in a porkpie hat smoking a cigar. "My image images and say 'So immature! Grow up!' But I'm not gonna do it. I'm having too much fun."

Michelle moved to East Texas with her family in 2012 from a small town in upstate New York. Her interest in painting began when she saw a plein air (outdoor) painting class in session. "I instantly knew I wanted to do that and things just snowballed. I took classes at SFA in oils and then enrolled in seminars with



Art Ball Save the Date

events, or social media pages. Don't miss out on these fantastic opportunities to spark your child's creativity this summer!

Be sure to stop by Falling Star Gallery @ NAC any Saturday in July and check out "Union: Photography and Watercolor" an exhibition by Sharon & Elton Scifres.

Nacogdoches Arts Collaborative is located inside the Williamsburg Plaza, 320 North Street, Suite 307. Falling Star Gallery @ NAC



Michelle pointing to the banner promoting her entry in the Norton Gallery Bloom! Show

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masters elsewhere, all of which changed my life." Today, this married mother of two college coeds is continuing to produce work full of fun. From March to May 2025, the R.W. Norton Gallery in Shreveport put on their annual Bloom! Show and Michelle's painting of Marie Antoinette strolling in the garden with her pet alligator was picked for the show and also highlighted in a giant banner outside the museum advertising the exhibition. You can see more of her work at mfiler.art. She is currently represented by two galleries in Louisiana and has pieces in collections all over the US.

"Creating in the studio is lonely and I need to be around people. The culture shock when I moved to Texas was overwhelming, and I started looking for like-minded folks. Once I found the art faculty at SFA, and then hooked up with Brushing Up Nac, Falling Star Gallery and NAC, I relaxed. I had found my tribe: other creatives making a community that lifts each other up, encouraging everyone to make more art. I want to be with other people who are manifesting their creativity. And that is why I support the Nacogdoches Arts Collaborative."

Nacogdoches Arts Collaborative (NAC) is a 501c3 nonprofit arts organization dedicated to supporting the arts in Nacogdoches and encouraging artists of all disciplines to thrive.



Michelle's Garden mural in downtown Nacogdoches

A Little Bit of History



It was a hot summer Sunday afternoon when it happened. Frequently, I piddled with hitting tennis balls back and forth off the north brick wall of Calvary Baptist Church on Montrose Street with my tennis racket. As usual, I was well into my routine when the unthinkable happened: when the ball caromed off the wall toward Montrose, I returned it well, but this time, it sailed through one of the church's stained glass windows. Now, although it was only a smaller rectangle in the whole of the stained glass, it was enough to scare the daylights out of me as I thought about what I was going to do next. I rushed home and stowed that racket in its usual place so no one would suspect I had done it. However, worry got the best of me as I thought, "What will happen if it rains?" and I succumbed to it. I went to Rev. Lewis Abbott's office before the Training Union and told him what had happened. I asked him not to tell my mother, to which he agreed. I was safe. But after choir practice on Wednesday night, Mother, the pianist for the church, came home fuming: "Do you know what that ol' James Pritchard did? He threw a brick through the stained glass window!" Brother Abbott stuck to his word, and I didn't tell Mother I did it until I was an adult. But, in the meantime, poor old James Pritchard (not his real name) had to take the heat!

Kissin' Kuzzins

(1) Lufkin D Day and Battle of the Bulge veteran Chester "Buck" Sloan turned 101 on June 1, 2025, at his home in Houston, complete with a neighborhood parade in his honor amid friends and comrades. (2) Thanks are due to the editor of the Lufkin Daily News, Josh Havard, for running the article on the Mahaffey Hotel written by Ray Lambing and edited by Angelina County Genealogical Society newsletter editor Jamie Carter Bollich. We thank him for printing it in its entirety after we sent it to him/them. (3) Chester "Buck" Sloan and his wife Shirley Grimes Sloan will present Buck's program about his involvement in World War II at about 6:15 p.m. on Monday, July 7, 2025, at the Iris and Anne Howard Civic Center on 213 East Court Street in Newton, Texas. Refreshments and desserts will be ready at 5:30 p.m., followed by a short business meeting conducted by President Ruth Dusan Garcia. Before all of this, we will treat them to dinner at Pink Flamingo Mexican Restaurant, one block south of the courthouse in Newton, at 4 p.m. Also, on the morning of the 8th, we will buy their breakfast at the restaurant beside the Rodeway Inn on West Gibson in Jasper at 9 a.m. For more information, contact Ruth Dusan Garcia at (409) 336-9216 or ruthdusan35@gmail.com or Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419 or dixonhershel51@aol.com The public is invited to attend, and you do not have to be a member to attend. (4) At the Jasper County History Expo at the Courthouse Annex on Friday, July 11, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Stanley Fletcher and Dickie Dixon will give presentations, "Fort Teran" and "The Jasper Steers Revisited", respectively. Morphed from the Jasper County Genealogy and History Conference, this is the maiden voyage of the Jasper County History Expo. For more information, contact Gayle Meggs at (409) 383-4294. (5) The Lufkin High School Class of 1969 will hold its reunion at the VFW on Saturday, October 11, 2025, with entertainment provided by Glenn Lenderman and his band. For more information, contact Andra Jay at (936) 238-9009.

Blasts from the Past: Luther Alan McCarty was born on July 6th; Eleanor Hinson Dixon was born on July 6, 1916. Sudie Dixon McCarty was born on July 7, 1896, in Indian Territory.

June and July birthdays: 23rd: Laura Dixon Cavin July birthdays: 2nd Haliyah Martin; Katie Williams 4th: Sara Dixon Patten; Caroline Holmberg 7th: Sasha Dixon Sutton 8th: David Sterling 25th: Blaze Jones

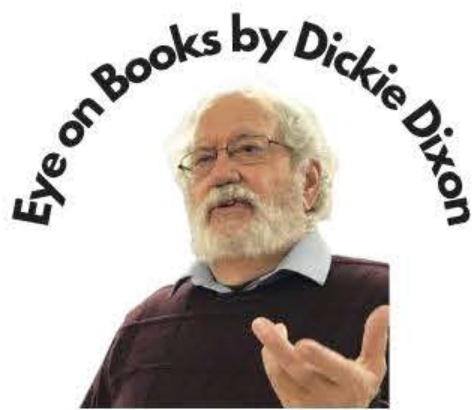


Pickers and players at
Sugarbee's Listening Barn



Buck Sloan at his birthday party

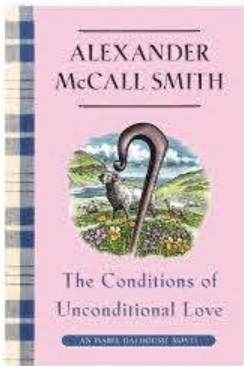
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jannettalamort@gmail.com



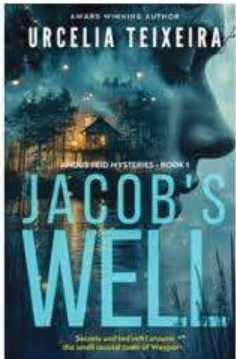
Add these titles to your reading list

The choice of titles does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the author of this column.

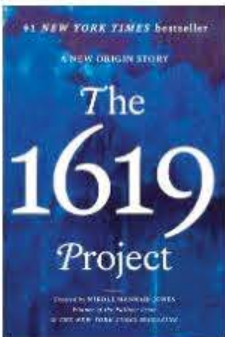
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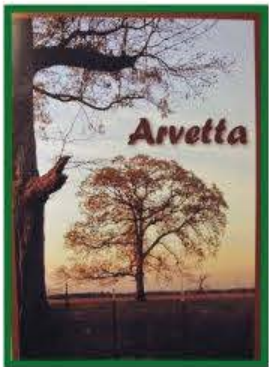
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Alexander McCall Smith



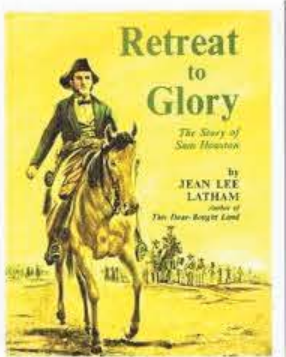
Jacob's Well: A Twisty Christian Mystery Novel
Urcelia Teixeira



Project 1619
Hannah Nikole Jones

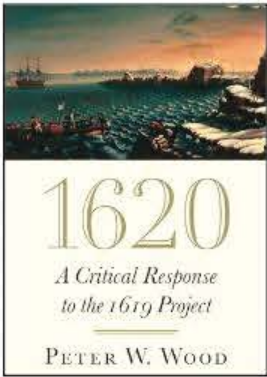


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Herman Wright and Jamie Carter Bollich

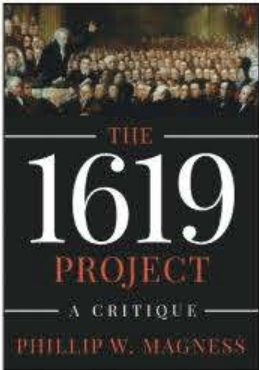


Retreat to Glory The Story of Sam Houston
Jean Lee Latham

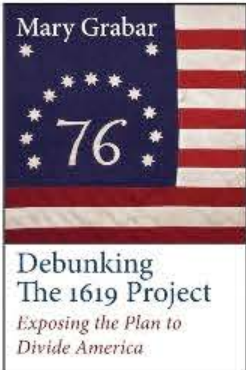
American History



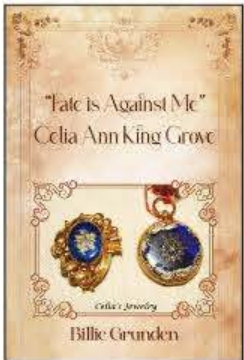
1620 A Critical Response to the 1619 Project
Peter W. Wood



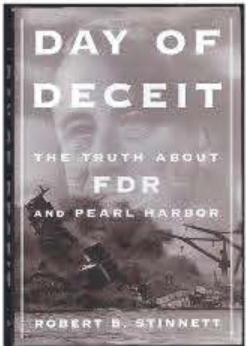
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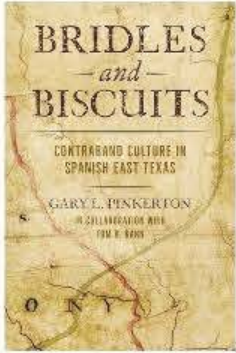
Fate is Against Me:
Celia Ann King Grove
Billie Grunden



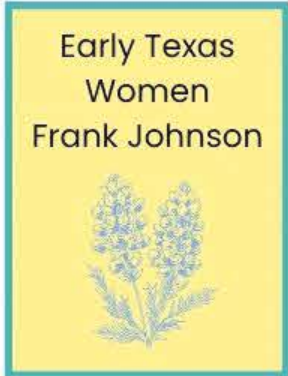
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Louisiana History

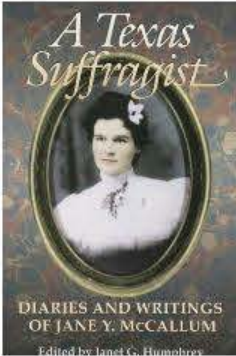
Texas History



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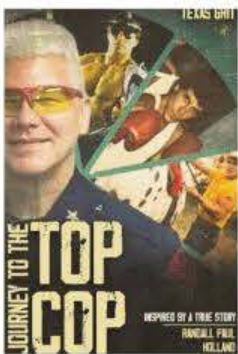
Early Texas Women
Frank Johnson



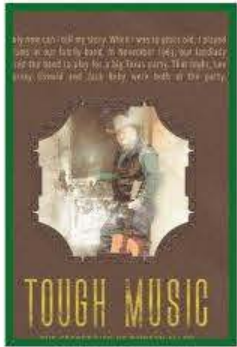
A Texas Suffragist
Diaries and Writings of Jane Y. McCallum
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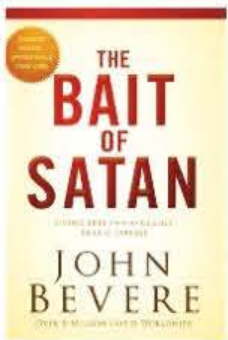
Journey to Top Cop
Randall Paul Holland



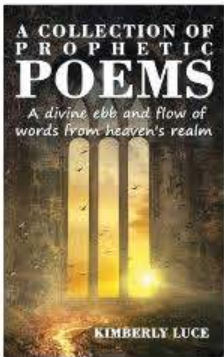
Tough Music: The Secret Life
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Autobiography

Biblical Inspiration

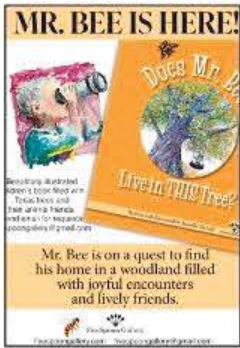


The Bait of Satan
John Bevere



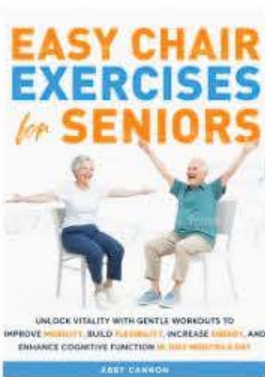
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Kimberly Luce

Children's



Does Mr. B. Live in That Tree
Jeanelle McCall

Health & Recovery



Easy Chair Exercises for Seniors
Abbey Cannon

[Credit: This page, Eye on Books, was graphically designed by Jannetta Lamourt, jannettalamort@gmail.com, and edited by the semi-omniscient ACGS Newsletter Eductuh Jamic Carter Bollich. (Her handle is derived from my conversation with Georgia native Vicky Craig, who told me she wrote a letter to the editor in the "Georgia brogue." Now, even though she speaks Georgian, I don't think for a minute that she doesn't have a good head on her shoulders!)]

Premier Global Leadership Event Coming to Lufkin

by Amanda Crocker
*Director of Marketing & Communications,
Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce*

Over 350,000 people around the world participate in the Global Leadership Summit each year. Now, leaders in East Texas will have a chance to join the movement. **The Global Leadership Summit**, the world’s premier annual leadership event, is coming to Lufkin via simulcast on **August 7-8, 2025**, hosted by **the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce**.

The two-day event will feature high-impact talks from globally recognized experts on leadership topics such as vision, digital communication, purpose and sustainable high performance. The 2025 Summit will be co-hosted by Emmy Award-winning journalist **Paula Faris**, broadcast from the main campus in the Chicagoland area.

Participants will gain leadership insight and inspiration from 15 world-class speakers, including:

- **Craig Groeschel** — Founding and Senior Pastor of Life Church
- **Thasunda Brown Duckett** — President & CEO, TIAA and one of TIME100’s Most Influential People
- **Nick Saban** — Former Head Football Coach at the University of Alabama
- **Christine Caine** — Cofounder of The A21 Campaign and Propel Women
- **Jon Acuff** — Bestselling author of 10 books, including “Soundtracks”

Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce is one of over 350 locations across the U.S. hosting the Summit, with an expected attendance of 60,000 nationwide. With this year’s theme, “**Lead Where You Are,**” the Summit will inspire and equip individuals to lead with purpose — regardless of their role or setting.

The Global Leadership Summit is ideal for business professionals, nonprofit leaders, educators, students, church staff, entrepreneurs — and anyone passionate about positive change.

The Global Leadership Summit will also be experienced in approximately 100 countries and translated into more than 40 languages beginning this fall. As part of its nonprofit mission, the Summit will be experienced at more than 250 prisons and community organizations serving at-risk populations.

Go to LufkinTexas.org for information and tickets to the **Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce’s** event. **Early Bird pricing is available through July 16.** Register now to secure your spot at the best rate.

Event Details:

- **What:** Global Leadership Summit 2025 (Simulcast Event)
- **When:** August 7–8, 2025
- **Where:** Pitser Garrison Convention Center, Lufkin, TX
- **Hosted by:** Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce
- **Register:** LufkinTexas.org/global-leadership-summit-2025
— Early Bird special pricing ends July 16

Whether you’re leading a business, a team, a classroom, a congregation, or simply leading yourself, GLS 2025 is a chance to pause, grow, and return equipped to lead with greater impact.

For sponsorships, group registration, or additional details, contact the Chamber at 936-634-6644 or visit LufkinTexas.org.

About The Global Leadership Network

The Global Leadership Network believes in leadership with a higher purpose. For 30 years, the non-profit organization has drawn a diverse, world-class faculty to provide catalytic leadership experiences for people of all backgrounds. They also offer year-round leadership development resources and provide opportunities for under-resourced leaders.





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Note: All prices are per-person for registration in the U.S. Discounted pricing is available for full-time students, faculty, members of the military, nurses, and first responders. Additionally, teachers, nurses and human resource professionals may be eligible for continuing education credit. Please visit GlobalLeadership.org/Summit or call 800-570-9812 to learn more.

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by Sam Sharp, Co-owner Complete Ag Services and
Complete Ag Tractor and Equipment

Sam Sharp, born and reared in Nacogdoches, is co-owner of Complete Ag Services and Complete Ag Tractor and Equipment. With more than 20 years of experience in agriculture, some of which was learned from the “school of hard knocks,” he has been successful in steering customers and his business towards better agricultural practices. Sam and his wife Autumn, live in Appleby on their homestead with daughter Hartlee and son Abner, 3 cows, 12 chickens, 1 duck, 4 dogs, and an infinite number of cats! To contact Sam, call or text Complete Ag at 936-305-3346, email sam@completeag.us, or find them on Facebook at Complete Ag Services or Complete Ag Tractor and Equipment.

This month, I have decided to take this opportunity to introduce to you Complete Ag Services and Complete Ag Tractor and Equipment. We recently created our slogan to be, “Your ‘Overall’ ag solution provider.” This slogan encompasses our vision of a complete agricultural solution provider with the down-home, locally owned business feel. Our business operates first and foremost to glorify our Savior (our CEO), and to obtain friends, not customers. We are committed to making your experience as comfortable as possible (like a big fat man in overalls) and make you feel at home during the process. When you come in, you will notice a relaxed atmosphere with one of the owners always dressed in overalls! Heck, one day you may see the whole crew decked out in overalls!

Complete Ag Services (CAS)

This business was formed by Sam Sharp and Clay Jones in April of 2018. The vision was to provide agricultural services to our friends in the East Texas area. We had an overwhelming response to our idea and then we hit the ground running. During our first year we completed a lot of jobs in the East Texas area, but we also spread our wings and traveled all of Texas and Louisiana spreading fertilizers, lime, and any other service a farmer wanted done. Over the years with the growth of our business, we have been able to condense to East Texas and not travel away from our families as much.

You may ask yourself, what services does Complete Ag provide? Well, that is a long answer, but I will try to answer it. Most frequently we can be caught baling hay, spreading fertilizer, spraying pastures, aerating land, planting seed, and taking soil samples. There are many other services that we provide so call in and we can discuss these with you further. The goal is for us to take care of you from the moment the phone rings until months after our services have been completed. We want to come to your place, see how you farm and what areas we can help you with. Our customers have some wonderful testimonies about our services and how they have increased their yields.

In September of 2020, we opened a service department to work on customers’ tractors and equipment. We had heard from customers that it was taking a long time to get their equipment serviced at other places (we experience the same thing with our equipment) and we decided it was best to put a full time mechanic to work. We began with installing clutches and quickly progressed to working on transmissions and other miscellaneous repairs. This helped catapult us into the next chapter of CATE.

Complete Ag Tractor and Equipment (CATE)

CATE was started in January of 2022 with a vision given to Sam to open a tractor dealership. Sam had spent several years before researching “homesteading” and one consistent thing that he saw in his research was TYM tractors. The vision was seen, and we quickly began the process of becoming a dealer for TYM Tractors USA. Our first sale was in March, and we finished our first year with around 40 tractors sold: far beyond our forecasted goal of 12 for the year. As we recall, this is when COVID was beginning to wind down but the effects on the supply chain were in full swing. It was a struggle getting implements to go with the tractor sales, but we prevailed.

Since starting we are now a dealer for TYM Tractors, Toro Mowers, Spartan Mowers, Intimidator UTV’s, ENVY, American Landmaster, Armstrong, Tarter, Dirt Dog, Bush-Whacker, Farm King, Maschio-Gaspardo, and several more that I have forgotten to mention. Our service department is booming, and we now employ two full-time mechanics, sales, service and parts professionals. We are adding a mobile service truck to our fleet soon (if you know where a dependable 1-ton truck is, let us know, we already have the service bed and crane!)

In addition to our businesses, we believe in giving back to our community. You can find us as the Title Sponsor of the Nacogdoches Pro Rodeo, Saturday Sponsor of the Pineywoods Fair (free admission and armbands), Sponsor of the Nacogdoches Commercial Heifer Program, and a regular purchaser at the many FFA sales that happen in Nacogdoches County. We are looking to open other locations of CAS and CATE but will only do so when led by our CEO (God!).

★ G ★
★ O ★
★ D ★
★ B ★
★ L ★
★ E ★
★ S ★
★ S ★
★ A ★
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If you need help with your farm in the East Texas area, CAS and CATE have an answer for you. Give our team a call/text today at 936-305-3346, email us at sales@completeag.us, or visit us at 3915 NW Stallings Drive, Nacogdoches, TX next to Ward’s Animal Hospital.

**Complete Ag Services**

**COMPLETE AG**
TRACTOR

0
69



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Nac Family Bingo

NAC EXPO CENTER

TUESDAY, JULY 29

DOORS OPEN @ 5:30PM
BINGO STARTS @ 6PM

I
17



N
39

B
8



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Name/logo on all raffle tickets and signage
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8 complimentary event tickets
Social media and event program recognition

TABLE SPONSOR – \$500

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Social media recognition

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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: FOURTH OF JULY

ACROSS

1. Croat, e.g.
5. Reverential respect mixed with wonder
8. Island near Java
12. From where to eternity?
13. *"Land of the ____"
14. Rowed
15. Diabolical
16. Mideast bigwig
17. Unleashes
18. *Star-spangled banner (2 words)
20. Type of ski lift
21. *Day before Independence Day
22. Quilting party
23. Sherlock Holmes' confidant
26. Formal dinner
30. U.N. working-conditions agency
31. Sextet plus one
34. Cancel
35. Holey confection
37. Electric swimmer
38. Frame job
39. Comparison word
40. Type of deodorant
42. Skater's field
43. *Like "America the Beautiful" skies
45. Covered with a ceiling
47. Tennis do-over
48. Surfer's stops
50. Not guilty, e.g.
52. *Yankee Doodle's feather
55. *"To Freedom!", e.g.
56. Tel _____, Israel
57. BÈbÈ's mother
59. Pseudonym
60. *Cup at a picnic
61. Do like exhaust pipe
62. Late George Wendt on "Cheers"
63. Give it a go
64. *Betsy of #18 Across-related fame

DOWN

1. "He said, _____ said"
2. Russian left
3. Pomegranate seed
4. South African grasslands
5. Knight's protection
6. Odd and unusual
7. Like ghostly howls
8. *July 4th culinary tradition
9. _____ 51 in Nevada
10. Lecherous look
11. Dog tags
13. Felidae family member
14. As a rule
19. Casper, e.g.
22. Cricket club
23. Measurement
24. Hello, to Mr. Hand
25. Opposite of atonal
26. *Philadelphia's Liberty _____
27. "_____ death do us part"
28. Draw out a conclusion
29. Drank too much
32. Lowly laborer
33. What lintel and mantel have in common
36. *Personification of the U.S. (2 words)
38. Show contempt
40. Decompose
41. In eighth, book format
44. "The Second Coming" poet
46. Chemical cousin
48. Relish
49. In an unfriendly manner
50. Horseback sport
51. Bear's hang-out
52. Sail holder
53. "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea" captain
54. Part of an eye
55. Sun kiss
58. "The Extra-Terrestrial"-inspired toys

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4			5	6	7			8	9	10	11
12						13					14			
15						16					17			
	18				19						20			
				21						22				
23	24	25						26				27	28	29
30				31		32	33				34			
35			36			37				38				
39					40				41			42		
43				44					45		46			
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	50	51				52					53	54		
55						56					57			58
59						60					61			
62						63					64			

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Answers to Puzzles can be found on page 44.

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	3				6		2	
				7	9			6
				3	8		7	5
	2	8						
1	6						3	9
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2		1		3	5			
6			4	1				
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

STAY SAFE



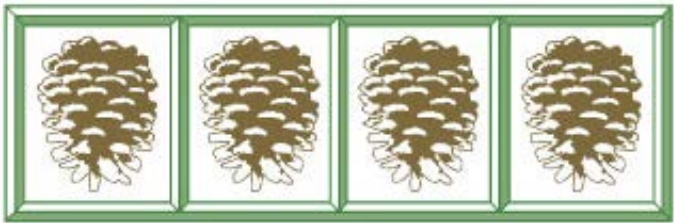
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We are seeking new members!

Shrine Contacts:
Robert Parrish 936-645-2883 cell; 936-560-4881 home
Calvin Taylor 936-591-1580

Lamp-lite Theatre presents

Twelfth Night

By William Shakespeare
Directed by Roz Couch

Auditions: July 5 & 12, 2025 - 12:00-2:00 p.m.
Performances: September 12, 13, 19 & 20, 2025 - 7:30 p.m.
September 14 & 21, 2025 - 2:00 p.m.



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#healthcare
#AltoTX

Monthly health, wellness, and safety program designed with you in mind :)

Facebook *LIVE* @ alto.edc & via Zoom—free healthcare webinar!



Answers to Puzzles from page 42.

S	L	A	V			A	W	E			B	A	L	I		
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9	4	5	2	6	3	1	8	7
2	9	1	6	3	5	4	7	8
6	7	3	4	1	8	9	5	2
8	5	4	9	2	7	6	1	3



WHAT'S HAPPENING



July 2025

**SFA Summer Stage Festival:
Steel Magnolias**
July 2nd, 3rd, 5th, & 6th
SFA Black Box Theater

Freedom Fest
Fri. July 4th 5pm
Festival Park

Market on Main
Sat. July 5th 9am-1pm
305 East Main St.

**Growing Citrus Successfully in
Containers & Cool Climates**
Thurs. July 10th 7 pm
Brundrett Conservation Education Building

Swing Dancing Class
Thurs. July 10th 7:30pm
C. L. Simon Recreation Center

OLIVER!
July 11th, 12th, 18th & 19th @ 7:30pm
July 13th & 20th @ 2:00pm
Lamp-Lite Theatre

Dawg Days of Summer
Sat. July 19th 10am-9pm
Millard's Crossing Historic Village

Pinkalicious Tea Party
Sat. July 19th 1pm
Nacogdoches Public Library

Clint and the Cosmic Wake
Sat. July 19th 7:30-10:30pm
Old Tyler Road Cafe

Children's Workshop
July 21st & 22nd
Nacogdoches Exposition and Civic Center

East Texas Bourbon Society Meet-Up
Thurs. July 24th 7-9pm
Nacogdoches Cigar Co.

NAC Kids Theatre Camp
July 21st - July 25th & July 28th - Aug. 1st
Lamp-Lite Players

Wine Dinner
Monday July 28th 6:30pm
Red House Winery

Mocktails & Mingling
Thurs. July 31st 6pm
Nacogdoches Public Library

Nacogdoches Summer Scavenger Hunt
July 1st - Aug 8th
Various Locations in Nacogdoches

Danny Clements: A Retrospective
July 8th - Aug. 10th
Cole Art Center

Junior Engineer Days
July 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, & 31st
Nacogdoches Railroad Depot

SFA Movie Theater Shows
7/8 & 7/9: Wonka
7/15 & 7/16: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs
7/22 & 7/23: The Princess and the Frog
7/29 & 7/30: Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa

SFA Planetarium Shows
Sat. July 12th & 19th
3:00pm, 4:30pm, & 7:00pm
SFA Stem Building

"Union: Photography and Watercolor Exhibit"
July 5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th
Nacogdoches Arts Collaborative

The Fredonia Hotel
Music on the Patio (Every Friday):
7/4: Larry Greer & the Shade of Blue 7-10pm
7/11: Enrique Munguia 6-9pm
7/18: Logan McCune 6-9pm
7/25: Ryan Lawless 6-9pm

Lone Star Trivia
All times are 7pm unless stated otherwise
Tuesday: 7/1, 7/15, & 7/29 Bottlecap Alley
Thursday: 7/3, 7/10, 7/17, 7/24, & 7/31 Fredonia
Brewery

Banita Creek Hall
Thursdays: Ladies Night
Fridays: Dollar Night
7/26: Hometown Showcase

Farmers Market
Every Saturday 9am-12pm
Nacogdoches Farmer's Market

Maklemore's Ale House & Bistro
Wine Down Wednesdays: Live Music
7/19: Dueling Pianos 7pm

Lumberjack Harley Davidson
7/5: Independence Happy Hour! 12-3pm
7/11: Moto Madness Bike Night! 5-9pm
7/12: Christmas in July! 12-3pm
7/19: Luau Party! 12-3pm
7/26: Moto Madness Happy Hour 12-3pm

Fredonia Brewery
Trivia every Thursday @ 7pm
Live Music every Friday & Saturday
Events:
7/2: Books & Beer Monthly Meeting 6-7pm
7/4: Freedom Fest
7/5: Country Willie Edwards Live 6-9pm
7/26: Blaggards Live 6-9pm

Bottlecap Alley Icehouse Grill
Live Music: Every Friday 6-9pm

Front Porch Distillery
"Pickin' on the Porch" every Saturday:
Live Music & Food Trucks

Pemberley's Afternoon Tea
Pemberley's at The Jones House
Every Thursday @ 4pm

Cottage Restaurant & Bar
Live Music: Every Friday & Saturday

Naca Valley Vineyard
Pizza on the Pavilion:
Andy's Wood-Fired Pizza every Thurs-Sat.
7/5: Randy C Moore Live @ 5:30

LugNutz Bar & Grill
Thursday Steak Nights
Karaoke & Burger Fridays
Live Music Saturdays

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www.visitnacogdoches.org/events

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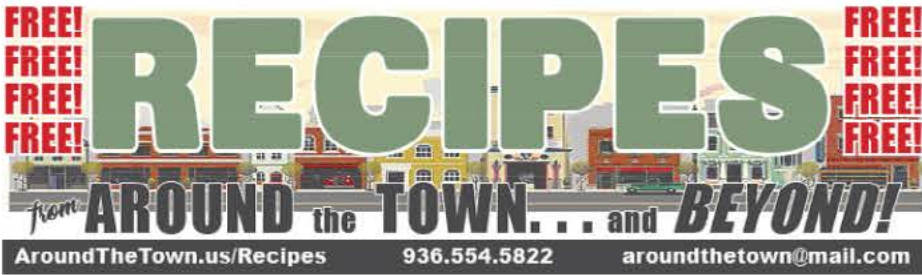
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Big's - 3122 Adkinson Dr (Hwy 103E)
Big's - 4609 Hwy 103F
Big's - 620 N. Raguet
Big's Valero - 1910 N. Timberland
Big's Texaco - 1203 S. Chestnut St.
Bodacious BBQ - 2207 W. Frank Ave. (Hwy 94)
Brookshire Brothers - 301 S. Chestnut
Brookshire Brothers Gaslight Plaza -1007 W. Frank Ave.
Brookshire Brothers Express - 2106 S. 1st St.
Casa Morales Mexican Restaurant - 1001 S. 1st St.
Catfish King - 806 S. Medford Dr.
Chen's - 302 S. Timberland Dr.
Cherry's Grocery & Valero - 2701 N. Raguet
Crown Colony Shell/Snappy's - 101 Champion Dr.
Food Mart Exxon - 612 Frank Ave.
Food Mart Exxon - 6480 Hwy 69S
JR Food Mart - 1114 E. Denman Ave.
Lone Star Charlie's Family Restaurant - 1910 E. Denman Ave
Lucky's Valero - 1707 N. John Redditt Dr.
Massingill's Meat Mkt - 3728 Hwy 69N
Maytag Laundry - 601 S. 1st
Mexico Express - 1603 W. Frank Ave. (Hwy 94W)
Mom's Diner - 420 W. Frank Ave.
Napoli's Restaurant - 107 W. Lufkin Ave.
On the Road - 4110 S. 1st St.
On the Road - 3503 S. Chestnut
On the Road - 1001 E. Denman Ave.
On the Road - 2909 E. Denman Ave (Hwy 69S)
On the Road - 3049 Hwy 103 W
Pablo's BBQ & Mexican Food - 3900 Hwy 69N
Pelican Pointe Cajun Kitchen - 1302 N. John Redditt Dr.
Ralph and Kacoo's - 3107 S. 1st (Hwy 59S)
Ray's Drive In - 420 N. Timberland Dr.
Rustica's Kitchen - 317 S. Timberland Dr.
Shell Food Mart - 3008 Adkinson Dr (Hwy 103E)
Sleep Inn/MainStay Suites - 2409 N. Timberland Dr
Stringer's Lufkin Barbecue - 203 S. Chestnut St.
Tia Juanita's Fish Camp - 3102 S. John Redditt Dr.
Timberland Chevron - 804 N. Timberland Dr.
Tommy's Watch & Jewelry - 800 S. Timberland Dr.
Walgreens - 102 N. Timberland Dr.
Walgreens - 1000 W. Frank Ave.
Wash & Dry Washateria - 114 E. Laurel Ave.
West Loop Chevron - 904 S. John Redditt Dr.

In Diboll:

Brookshire Brothers - 221 N. Temple Dr. (U.S. Hwy 59)
Diboll Depot - 1605 N. Temple Dr (U.S. Hwy 59)
On The Road - 1580 N. Temple Dr (US Hwy 59)

In Homer:

Homer Mini Grocery - 7075 Hwy 69S

In Hudson:

Brookshire Brothers Express - 5750 Ted Trout Dr. (Hwy 94W)
Brookshire Brothers Express - 6564 Ted Trout Dr. (Hwy 94W)

In Huntington:

Brookshire Brothers - 885-A Hwy 69S
Little Boots Grocery & Chevron - 101 Hwy 69S
Papa's Pit & More - 501 N. Main St.

In Pollok:

Brookshire Brothers/Polk's - 6925 Hwy 69N

In Redland:

JOC Stop Exxon - 5389 US Hwy 59N

In Zavalla:

Brookshire Brothers Express - 198 E. Main St.
Coleman's Store - 188 Hwy 147 (@ Hwy 63)

NACOGDOCHES COUNTY

In the City of Nacogdoches:

Appleby Sand Mercantile Cafe' - 6530 FM 2609
Appleby Sand Depot - 3023 Appleby Sand Rd.
Arbor - 3002 Westward Dr.
Auntie Pastas - 211 Old Tyler Road
Barbecue House - 704 N. Stallings Dr
Barkeeps - 3308 North St
Big's - 2430 SE Stallings Dr.
Big's - 540 NE Stallings Dr.
Blue Eyed Coco's Market Square - 412 E. Main St.
Boatman Tire & Service - 315 N. University Dr.
Boles Feed - 913 South St.
Brendyn's BBQ - 601 E. Main St.
Brookshire Brothers - 1402 N. University Dr.
Brookshire Brothers - 1216 South St.
Brown Family Health Center - 1407 E. Main St.
Butcher Boy's - 603 North St.
Cataract, Glaucoma & Retina Consultants - 3302 NE Stallings Dr.
CC's Smokehouse - 2709 Westward Dr.
Chamber of Commerce - 2516 North St.
Charles Pool Real Estate - 3505 North St.
Chevron - 1000 N. University Dr.
Chevron - 3228 North St
Chique-n-Tiques on Main - 409 E. Main St
CiCi's Pizza -3801 North St. - Suite 19
Claw Daddy's Market - 3322 Center Hwy
Clear Springs - 211 Old Tyler Rd.
Coldwell-Banker Blueberry Realty - 112 E. Main St.
Copy Center Nac - 2618 North St.
Country Kettle Buffet - 3205 N. University Drive - Suite S
Days Inn and Suites by Wyndham - 2724 North St;
Doches Credit Union - 920 NW Stallings Dr. @ Hwy 21W
Dr. Ronnie Hancock Family Dentistry - 1302 Raguet St..
El Ranchero Restaurant - 123 King St.
El Taco Salsa - 4512 North St.
Exxon - 3104 N. University Dr.
Farmers State Bank - 3540 NE Stallings Dr.
Fitness 360 - 4822 N. University Dr.
G & G Lock & Safe - 916 Park St.
Gound Chevrolet - 1015 North Street
Granary Health Foods - 4411 South St
Guacamole's - 1315 North St.
H & Z Valero - 1626 N. University Dr.
Herman Power Tire - 222 South St.
HoneyBee Health Foods - 3801 North St. - Suite 17
Hop In/Roady's Chevron - 4919 NW Stallings Dr.
Independence Manor - 1501 Pruitt Hill Dr.
Java Jack's - 1122 North Street
Johnson Furniture - 106 E. Main
K.J.'s Convenience Store/Exxon - 5713 South St.
Kinfolks - 4817 NW Stallings Dr.
Kline's Wrap-It-Up - 628 N. University Dr.
Kroger - 3205 N. University Dr.
Kyle Brasher Insurance - 212 South St.
Lehmann Eye Center - 5300 North St.
Linda's Cutting Edge - 2211 S. University Dr.
Lone Star Farm & Home Center - 608 W. Main St
M & S Pharmacy - 917 E. Austin St
Ma's Jewelry - 2423 North St.
Martin Kennel - 512 CR 217
McCoy's Building Materials - 4009 NW Stallings Dr.
Meadow Ridge Outdoors - 1090 CR 231
Memory Lane - 3205 N. Univrsity Dr. - Suite F
Mike Perry Motors - 3812 South St.
Mike's BBQ - 1622 South St.
Milford's Barber Shop - 110 N. Church St.
Mustard Seed - 1330 N. University Dr.
NacBurger - 3205 N. University Dr.
Nacogdoches Arts Collaborative - 320 North St - Suite 307
Nacogdoches County Expo/Civic Center - 3805 NW Stallings Dr.
Nacogdoches CVB - 200 E. Main St.
Nacogdoches Senior Center - 1601 W. Austin St.
Napoli's Restaurant - 2119 North St.
Nikki Evans-Wallace State Farm Insurance - 332 N. University Dr

NACOGDOCHES COUNTY

In the City of Nacogdoches

On The Road Valero - 1304 NW Stallings Dr.
Papi's Mexican Restaurant - 422 E. Main St.
Porry Propano - 6500 Franklin St
Pike Saw & Tool - 2502 NW Stallings Dr.
Pineywoods Financial - 303 Creek Bend Blvd - Suite B
R & K Distributors - 6821 North St.
Red House Winery - 108 E. Pilar St.
Rentro's Glass - 714 North St
Rick's Valero/Dickies BBQ - 3505 South St.
Roma's Italian Kitchen - 124 E. Main St.
Sam's Southern Eatery - 1220 North St.
Simpson Real Estate - 104 North St.
Sombremos - 3000 North St..
Sunshine Food Mart - 2013 North St.
Taquitos El Jaliscience - 3217 North St.
Taqueria El 21 - 1422 Douglass Road
Texas Bank - 500 North St.
Texas State Optical - 4729 NE Stallings Dr.
Thrall's Grocory, Deli & Cafe' - 7144 Hwy 21 East
VIP Cleaners - 4515 North St. Suite 1
Walmart - 4810 North St.
Windhill Apartments - 1324 Pruitt Hill Dr.
Woden Rd. Qwik Stop - 2500 Woden Rd

In Appleby:

Gimme's Exxon - 14542 North U.S. Hwy 59
Stuckey's - 14084 North U.S. Hwy 59

In Central Heights:

Brookshire Brother's Express - 9855 U.S. Hwy 259 North
Central Heights Depot/Whataburger - 10175 U.S Hwy 259 North

In Garrison:

Bulldog Express/J & S Food Mart - 381 N U.S. Hwy 59
Garrison Gas & Convenience Store Exxon - 432 N U.S. Hwy 59

In Martinsville:

I & M Quick Stop - 13101 Hwy 7

In Woden:

Dollar General Store - 5130 FM 226

SAN AUGUSTINE COUNTY

In the City of San Augustine:

Chamber of Commerce - 611 W. Columbia St.

SHELBY COUNTY

In the City of Center:

Boles Feed Co. - 101 Porter St.
Boyd Adams Barber Shop - 424 U.S. Hwy 96N
Brookshire Brothers - 105 Hurst St.
Covington Lumber & Bldg Materials - 1595 Tenaha St.
Farmers State Bank - 115 Shelbyville St.
H & S Discount Foods - 705 Shelbyville St..
Rancho Grande - 816 Tenaha St.
ReSale Mall - 730 Shelbyville St.
Shelby County Chamber of Commerce - 100 Courthouse Square A-101
T/R's Steaks & More - 892 Hurst St.

In Huxley:

Trail's End Grocery & RV Park - 5437 FM 3172

In Joaquin:

Bink's Joaquin Quick Stop - 12762 U.S. Hwy 84
Brookshire Brothers - 113 Haslam Sawmill Rd. - Hwy 84

In Shelbyville:

Shelbyville Grocery and Valero - 5270 Hwy 87S

In Tenaha

Bink's Quick Stop - 300 S. George Bowers Dr. (Hwy 59)

In Timpson:

Bink's Timpson Quick Stop - 674 N. 1st St. - Hwy 59
Brookshire Brothers- 829 N. 1st St. - Hwy 59
Tie & Timber Lodge & Event Center - 397 Jacob St.

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