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APRIL 2021

The Lily Farm and Nursery—Living A Little Heaven on Earth, In Full Bloom

by Terri Lacher
talacher@sbcglobal.net

If you've not stopped by the Lily Farm and Nursery, just off of Nacogdoches Hwy 7 West, you are missing out on a real treat. Mark Carpenter, and wife, Jill, have been the owners for the past eleven years, although the Lily farm had been there for well over twenty years to date.

Mark grew up in various places as a child, including Tennessee, Texas, North Carolina and Nebraska. He graduated from the University of Nebraska at Kearney, and made the move to San Antonio with his wife, Jill, following graduation. It was there he went to work with Procter and Gamble, working with them for twenty-five years as a sales representative and area manager for the company, before he began working as a store director at HEB.

When he found out his uncle, Jack Carpenter, was wanting to sell the Lily Farm, Mark and Jill found it to be the perfect opportunity to finally move out of the big city of San Antonio, and pursue something they both loved to do, and move to a "slower pace of life from the 'go go' of city life."

"I have always had a love of gardening that came from my mom, and was also heavily influenced by my Uncle Jack (Carpenter), who was a world-famous



LILY FARM - Page 2

A Most Improbable Texian Victory

by Tweed Scott

It's April again. In Texas that means bluebonnets and San Jacinto Day. Today is the 185th anniversary of that momentous event. The Battle of San Jacinto is one of those stories that almost sounds made up. It is an improbable chain of events that resulted in the birth of a nation.

There are many fine accounts and histories of that event. There are plenty of sources in the library or bookstore that will tell you anything you want to know about this decisive battle. My purpose here is getting you to reflect a moment on how fortunate we are as Texans. At face value, Sam Houston didn't have a chance of winning this battle. Think about it.

In the 51 days between the carnage at the Alamo and the confrontation at San Jacinto, an interesting set of circumstances began working toward an unlikely climax. After his crushing victory at the Alamo, Santa Anna set his sights on handing Sam Houston and his ragtag army the same fate. As Santa Anna moved north to catch Houston, fear and panic spread throughout the general population. Men, women, and children were picking up everything they could carry and left their homes to stay one step ahead of the invading Mexican army. This was known as the 'Runaway Scrape.' The Texas government abandoned Washington-on-the-Brazos and made their way toward Galveston.

Sam Houston and his army appeared to be on the run. Houston was at times accused of being a coward because he wouldn't stop and take Santa Anna head on. President Burnet was about to bust a vein over his frustration with Houston's apparent refusal to fight. Houston managed to keep Santa Anna at arm's length—never directly engaging the main force. Santa Anna made some tactical mistakes. He split up his forces into several smaller units each going to other places. One force was under General José de Urrea, who defeated the Texan force near Goliad



TEXIAN VICTORY - Page 3

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LILY FARM

daily hybridizer. So I have always had a love of plants.”

After purchasing the Lily Farm, many of Mark and Jill’s customers asked about them turning their lily farm into a nursery. Four years later, they “made the plunge.”

“It has been an incredible transformation that we feel truly blessed to be a part of. We have customers that come from cities like Dallas, Tyler, and Shreveport, among others, to see the nursery that they have heard about through friends and Facebook.”

The Lily Farm carries 50,000 types of lilies due to their genetically created seedlings, but Mark says they probably sell about one thousand different varieties. In addition, the Lily Farm and Nursery carries a variety of perennials, annuals, bagged and bulk soil, a huge selection of roses, shrubs, and full grown trees. They also carry unusual items such as wind spinners, hot air spinners, house flags, decorative baskets, one of a kind pottery items and more.



“I have spent a lifetime in marketing, so I crave finding new things for my customers that they might only see in the big city. Now, they know our little country nursery may carry brand new things before they would ever see them in the city. It is very rewarding work! And, of course, we carry one of a kind daylilies that bloom Mothers’ Day to Fathers’ Day...these are plants we breed here at the farm with our own and others’ genetics, and it is still the foundation of all we do here at the nursery.

Achieving their goal of building a great nursery in Shelby County, Mark and Jill Carpenter were humbled to win the Reader’s Choice award for Best Nursery last year. Their goal is to continue to offer their customers unique products and high quality plants at great prices, and continue to grow their piece of “Heaven on Earth.” It is their desire to be keep the country nursery feel to their customers, and maintain an atmosphere where “people are not in a hurry, but take their time enjoying our nursery.”

Mark loves his work, and it shows. He takes the time to meet and greet each new and old customer and assists them individually with their plant products, and takes extra time to answer any questions they may have about their plant purchases, and maintenance and care.

“I believe the more knowledgeable our customers become, the more successful they will be growing their plants. It is truly a win/win proposition. Our



goal at the nursery is for it to be a whimsical experience when people come to visit us.” Once you’ve turned off the highway and begin the trip down the long driveway, you will definitely see the whimsy in the Lily Farm and Nursery. There are upright “discarded” propane tanks brightly painted reminding visitors to the Lily Farm that their experience

will be a “heavenly” experience. Surrounding the rows and rows of trees, plants, and flowers of every shape and size, one will find a variety of metal “yard” art, shaped like cactus, peacocks, and flowers, all available to customers. There is also a large selection of colorful hand-painted pottery from Spain, from small to large, depending upon the customer’s needs.

Mark and Jill are huge believers in their community. They have participated in multiple fund raising events over the years, raising money for Meals on Wheels, Free Baskets for Nurses during Covid, church and school fundraisers, and more. It is their belief “that every business needs to be actively involved in their community whenever possible.”

The Lily Farm and Nursery are open from the first week in February, and operate from Tuesday through Saturday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, closed Sundays and Mondays. They are located at 10056 State Hwy 7, Center, Texas 75935. You may reach them at (936) 572-1962. They can also be seen on Facebook at the Lily Farm Nursery, and would be happy to include you in their over 5,000 members.



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TEXIAN VICTORY

on March 27th, Palm Sunday. Santa Anna ordered the captured men put to death, resulting in the executing of almost 350 Texans. Only 28 men survived the massacre, three of whom would later fight at San Jacinto.

Sam Houston was dumb like a fox. He knew his army only had one battle in it. He could not afford to go head-to-head with the self-proclaimed ‘Napoleon of the West.’ He had to maneuver Santa Anna into a position of weakness. The situation presented itself at San Jacinto. First analysis would indicate the Mexican general had the high ground—but it prevented a clear view of the prairie between himself and the Texas army. Both armies were in place on April 20th. Houston was outnumbered by almost two to one. Houston himself said his army numbered about 750. Other accounts say 900. It’s widely recognized that Santa Ana had 1,400.

What is amazing is that Santa Anna knew that Houston was just 1,000 yards away but never figured on the possibility that Houston might attack him. Santa Anna had already made up his mind to finish Houston’s army off during the morning of April 22nd. Houston was familiar with the Mexican custom of the siesta—the mid-afternoon nap time. After discussing his battle plan in the morning with his council, he found most wanted to wait for Santa Ana’s attack. Houston had another idea. Houston ordered the burning of Vince’s bridge. It was the only means of escape for both armies. The question of Texas and the Texas revolution was going to be settled once and for all on the battlefield of San Jacinto.

It would appear that Santa Anna was so confident or arrogant that he didn’t order the posting of sentries. As a result, when the Texas army crossed the open field about 4:30 in the afternoon, they were able to get within a few yards of the Mexican army before they opened fire. They caught the Mexican army by surprise during their siesta. To the cries of “Remember the Alamo and Remember Goliad,” the Texas army cut a swath through the Mexican ranks. Chaos and confusion ruled the hour. The carnage was overwhelming. Over 650 Mexicans were killed or drowned as they tried to escape through the surrounding marsh. The actual battle lasted for 17 minutes, although the killing went on long after that. Only nine Texans died as a result of their injuries.

In the end, Santa Anna was captured, signed the Treaties of Velasco, in which he agreed to withdraw his troops from Texan soil in exchange for safe conduct back to Mexico. He agreed to lobby for the recognition of Texas in the Mexican government. Texas southern border would be recognized as the Rio Grande River. He would later renege on the agreements. Mexico never did officially recognize the Republic of Texas.

The Republic of Texas would not have happened without some remarkable and improbable circumstances coming together at a precise moment in time. What if Houston had been forced to go up against the Mexican army before he wanted to? What if he had decided to go and support the Alamo? What if the Mexicans had posted the sentries at San Jacinto? The fact remains; some remarkable, courageous men made a charge against all odds and created a nation. Texas was forged out of a steely resolve—a trait that exists in Texans to this day. For that we should forever be grateful. *Texas Forever!*

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Features Editor - Terri Lacher - 936.488.8701



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Texas Storyteller, Randy C Moore Sets Life to Music with *Lufkin*

by Virginia Foley

Author J.K. Rowling once said, “There’s always room for a story that can transport people to another place.” If it is true, then this quote definitely applies to music artist Randy C Moore, known in some recent circles as the Texas storyteller. Just listen to the current musical works embedded in Randy’s 10 song album simply entitled *Lufkin*. Within each song there is a story to transport the listener to another place, a place that Randy has lived to tell about.



Randy C Moore’s musical roots are firmly based in Texas as well as his memories of home and family. Originally from Humble, Texas and a one-time resident of Nashville, Tennessee, Randy C Moore’s musical journey and life journey have brought him back home to live in Texas. “I always dreamed of going back to Texas, I’ve written and recorded songs based on that dream, and based on the realities that I hold near and dear to my heart,” Randy continues, “moving to Lufkin was a natural progression for me, I’ve travelled the world and played music in so many places and had so many interesting ad-

ventures, but Texas was always in my heart, it’s always been my home.” If you listen to the songs on the *Lufkin* album, you can hear those stories. ‘Big in Texas,’ is a song about going back home and finding the truth about how life can change a person’s perception. “Daddy, I Wanna’ Go Fishing,” takes you to Lake Toledo Bend and the bonds that fishing with someone special can bring. Moore also takes the time to lay out two different stories of being a Nashville musician from an insider’s point of view, “Stars in Their Eyes” bids a fond farewell to Nashville’s lower Broadway

scene and “I Sold A Lot of Beer” takes a long look at Randy’s Music City story from beginning to end. *Lufkin* contains some surprising narratives as well, just listen to, “Devil for Hire” where Moore lays out a story of how Lucifer became the ruler of Purgatory in answer to a summons by the Almighty himself.

Lufkin holds many more stories to transport a listener, each track is a narrative of Randy’s life that he hopes his listeners can find their own experiences and places within. In conclusion Randy tries his best to sum it up and leave it all open at the same time, “I see things moving so fast today, it’s incredible, one of the things I do to slow it all down is reflect and paint a musical story of that reflection, I guess it’s like therapy in an odd way, but it’s my way of staying grounded in what keeps me happy in a world that seems to be bent on telling me to be unhappy. I think that’s why I love living here in Angelina County, for me, it all makes sense. So, I tell the stories and hope that some of the goodness of my life can rub off on others and bring them a little peace. The best thing is, I have lived a lot of stories and I’m just getting started!”

Want to know more about Randy C Moore? To hear his music, read his story, and find out where you may experience a live performance visit www.randycmoore.com.

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"So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."
Matthew 7:12

Wrapping It Up Around the Town

by Craig Stripling

Earlier I talked about lots of youngsters working at part time jobs at my grandfather's Stripling's Drugstore in the old 211 E. Main Street downtown location. Always beginning about 3 weeks before Christmas 4 or 5 junior high and high school girls were put on the payroll for after school and Saturdays jobs of gift wrapping Christmas presents. The pretty, shiny paper and quality ribbons wrapping came at no extra charge and some of the young ladies would do a professional wrapper proud based on their innovative talents making bows! Mostly the gifts to be wrapped were one or two pound boxes of Russell Stover candies or cologne, bath powder, perfume and mostly last minute thought of gifts. All the downtown establishments did land office volumes of business around Christmas time because the catalog orders couldn't always be counted on to arrive via mail or Red Ball Freight before Christmas. Cason Monk Hardware's second floor "Toyland," complete with the live and in person Santa Claus, may've been the highlight of the season for some of the kids – sure was for me at age 5 when I was anticipating that 24" Schwinn bicycle!

Outlying businesses (some family owned grocery stores, some restaurants, "filling" stations) did well in offering convenience of access to shoppers and diners not wanting to circle the block downtown several times in hopes of finding a slant-in parking space. In the mid-sixties,



North Street Gulf "filling" Station.

maybe it was, there came to town some enterprises that were the immediate predecessors of the "big box" stores and that seemed to begin pulling the heartbeat of the businesses away from small towns' downtowns forever – Gibson's was about the first I personally recall here locally – then and a bit before there were some doctors' offices and even clinics and other shops or stores or offices that beckoned beyond the about 6 blocks long, 2 blocks wide downtown – the phenomenon arrived at most over 3000 population towns across America I suppose. Was that good or bad? I guess growth and progress or other aspects that feed the economic lifeblood of a community are all good except for the sake of nostalgia and reminiscing and reflecting.



I'm not yet so old that I can't remember those many Saturdays resulting in sidewalk foot traffic that'd amaze anyone driving through downtown today. Still, what I remember wouldn't even touch the crowds recalled by my father and grandfather when they talked about the downtown sidewalks, teeming with so many people on any given Saturday that

folks would have to sometimes turn sideways to avoid bumping into each other on those same sidewalks that are now virtually devoid of foot traffic.

I sometimes find myself wondering just how they crammed so much enterprise into the confines of the geographic logistics of a small town downtown area, but indeed they did and seemingly very efficiently while they were at it.

That was a different and gone by the wayside era, but fortunately the interest, enthusiasm, and investing of lots of people with foresight and positive outlook for the immediate future and the present time have resulted in the sprucing and shining up of lots of older buildings that needed that shot in the arm called revitalization, so we now stand poised to hopefully welcome the remainder of this 21st century with continued reasons for going "downtown" wherever we are here in our beloved Pineywoods of East Texas.

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

What To Do When You Find Yourself In Trouble

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1, NASB)

All of us at one time or another has found ourselves in some type of trouble. When we find ourselves in trouble, we need to go the Lord in prayer because it is the Lord who is “a very present help in trouble.” Using the letters in the word “trouble” we can find the help we need. When you find yourself in trouble:

T – Talk to the Lord. Philippians 4:6 says, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

R – Run to the Lord. Proverbs 18:10 says, “The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous runs into it and is safe.”

O – Obey the Lord at all cost. First Samuel 15:22b, “Behold, to Obey is better than sacrifice.”

U – Unite with the Lord by coming to Christ. Matthew 11:28-29 says, “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.”

B – Believe in the Lord. 2nd Chronicles 20:20, “Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established.”

L – Love the Lord more. Matthew 22:37, “And He said to him, ‘You shall Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all our mind.’”

E – Exalt the Lord in Praise. Psalm 34:3, “O magnify the Lord with me, and let us Exalt His name together.

Yes, all of us have had some experience in some type of trouble in our lives. Job 14:1 says that “Man who is born of woman is of few days, and full of trouble.” (NKJV). Jesus said, “In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (John 16:33, NKJV).

You may be asking yourself this question, “Why should I exalt the Lord in praise when I am in trouble?”

The answer to that question is found in Psalm 46:1, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

A LITTLE HUMOR: “I’ve got a heap of troubles and I’ve got to work them out. But I look around and see there’s trouble all about. And when I see my troubles, I just look up and grin and count all the trouble that I’m not in.”



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A Day in the Nacogdoches County Attorney's Office

Legal Research



John Fleming
Nacogdoches County Attorney

Chances are a day in the County Attorney's Office isn't much different than a day in any other office. There will be phone calls, texts and emails to answer, visitors to the office, interactions with colleagues, some paperwork, personnel issues and the like. However, the subject matter is likely different than yours and vice versa. There are many areas of the law and quite a few can impact our office: criminal, civil, bond forfeiture, family, elections to name a few of the most common. As much as I would like to know the answer to all legal questions off the cuff, I don't - not even close. For legal research, we used to "hit" the books, but now we often "hit" the computer. We subscribe to online research through Westlaw and it is usually

helpful in finding what we need in a short time frame. I decided to highlight legal research from Friday, March 19, mainly because the April deadline for *Around the Town* was getting close.

On Friday, we were asked by a law enforcement officer if an abandoned vehicle could be seized. As often is the case, the officer knew the answer, but wanted a second opinion. He helped me get to the right code section and we agreed with his assessment. It's Transportation Code §683.002, by the way, which identifies the scenarios under which a vehicle may be seized by law enforcement. In this case, the vehicle had been in a local parking lot for well over the 48 hours needed to seize. We appreciated law enforcement asking for input.

Also, on Friday, we began responding to a recent Public Information Act (PIA) request that is due toward the end of March - one of more than four (4) due by the end of the month. To properly respond, we first try to secure all of the documentation that could possibly be responsive to the request. It must be reviewed very carefully. We must disclose, pursuant to the PIA, all documents unless they are excepted from disclosure. There are many exceptions to disclosure. And because it is a crime under the PIA to release confidential information, our office wants to be certain that we are releasing the documents that are supposed to be released and nothing more.

In this case, the request asked for a personnel file. Personnel files usually contain social security numbers and dates of birth. Both identifiers are excepted from disclosure and must be redacted from the response. In some cases, home addresses must be excepted from a response if, for example, it is the address of a peace officer. In this particular file, there was credit history information and I didn't know if that was required to be disclosed or not - didn't seem like it should be disclosed, but wanted to verify. So, we hit the "books." We found Open Records Decision 373 which speaks to credit history disclosures in part. In that opinion, the Attorney General's Office (AG) decided the credit/financial history should be excepted from disclosure. While we believed that to be helpful, it didn't fit our circumstances precisely. We contemplated requesting an AG opinion, but it was easier to visit with the requestor and ask if we could redact the credit history from the personnel file. The requestor consented possibly because an AG opinion would delay our response by at least 30 days - I don't know. We are prohibited from asking the requestor why they want the documentation.

In answering some of the questions above, we consulted the Texas Government Code and the Texas Occupations Code. I am sure your office researches many subjects as well. I hope you are able to find the right answers faster than I.

Should you have any questions about this article or wish to contact the County Attorney's Office, please do not hesitate to call 936-560-7789 or email jfleming@co.nacogdoches.tx.us.

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A Thank You Is in Order

It's hard to measure what saying a simple thank you means to someone. To the person saying it, it can be a humbling experience, but to the one receiving it, the words can make their day a little better.

A thank you is sometimes extended after a small act of kindness or a compliment, but the thank you that TxDOT owes after the winter storm is intended for those who helped and for all of you who heeded our safety messages. We were thankful for the help we received as we worked to clear our roadways and for the time and patience you showed during that work.

The Lufkin District began preparing for the winter storm before many of us thought it would even matter. We pre-treated roads while the sun was still shining. By Feb. 12, we were all aware that it was going to be a major winter storm.

When it hit East Texas, it hit hard. Many of you were without electricity, water and heat. Many of our local towns suffered infrastructure damage that would take weeks to repair. But through all of it, there was one thing that didn't change – TxDOT crews were on the job. We worked 12-hour shifts for more than a week to treat and clear roadway surfaces, as did many of our crews across the state.

The photos were scary. Of the ones I saw, the pavement was not visible. It was hard to determine where the road ended or the lanes divided. We continued clearing the roads even after the sun returned and mother nature helped with rising temperatures.

During the weather event, the Lufkin District had 170 employees working throughout the storm, utilized 125 pieces of equipment and 37 blades to clear snow from the roadways. Most of you only saw the equipment on the roadways, but there were many people behind the scenes working around the clock to help get our roadways clear, including several TxDOT contractors you normally see working on construction projects.

The professionals at the Texas Department of Public Safety worked to help keep our crews a little safer as they did their jobs. City employees and law enforcement from Lufkin, Diboll, Crockett, Livingston, Onalaska, as well as county employees and law enforcement from Angelina, Houston, Shelby, Polk, Trinity and San Jacinto counties worked around the clock with us and used their equipment to help. Volunteer fire departments as well as local businesses pitched in also.

TxDOT crews placed 143,292 gallons of brine on the roadways to keep them passable and reduce the amount of snow and ice accumulation. In addition, 3,265 pounds of melt down were placed that helped reduce the build-up. Also, 48 dump trucks placed 570 cubic yards of small rock to help with traction and another 150 tons of salt were placed before temperatures warmed above freezing.

With warmer days and spring blooming all around, looking back to the winter storm of 2021 seems like a bad dream. But it is one we emerged from saying thank you many times over for deeds we will not soon forget.

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“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)

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 and her husband, Donald, were transplanted from Washington State by the hand of the Lord to Nacogdoches in May 2019. They both have grown to love this oldest town in Texas. She is a Bible teacher and loves to encourage folks with the Word of God. She is also a published author and motivational speaker.



What Is Black Light – Part II

Herein lies the importance of reading the Bible—God’s authoritative word that never changes. In order to know what the Scriptures teach about light we have to read them. And in reading we gain wisdom which prevents our ignorance

of Satan’s devices (2 Cor 2:11). The apostle Paul understood the danger Satan poses to derail Christians from our spiritual purpose.

Is there any spiritual significance in a person’s skin shade? In the kingdom of God there are no racial distinctions. There is Christ and our life is hidden in Him. “Black Light” is of man and is on par with “White Light” (a phrase garnering media attention). Both are inspired by the workings of Satan. Any person or entity masquerading as light, compelling Christians to follow after it, leads to idolatry.

Christians should not rely on political leaders, social justice advocates or any human institution to bring true justice and equity in a fallen world. True justice and equity are unrealistic and unattainable goals in this world because of sin. True justice and equity will be found in the eternal kingdom of God where righteousness dwells (2 Pet 3:13).

The church has lost sight of its Master, its God-breathed message, and its God-commanded mission. The gospel of Jesus Christ has spiritual power for lasting change. All light must bow to the Light (Phil 2:10-11). Jesus is the light of the world. Whoever follows Him will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life (John 8:12). Christ shines His light (the gospel) on unbelieving hearts which changes lives for eternity. He removes the stony heart and replaces it with a heart of flesh. A heart responsive to the true God in fear (reverence), worship, and obedience.

How long are we going to cry out to God for change? How long are we going to stand at the Red Sea and do as Moses did, waiting for God to act. Moses had what he needed in his hand to change the situation for himself and the people. God has given every born-again believer what we need for change in our churches, our communities, and our country—the Bible and His Spirit. Are we, the children of God, willing to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God and be changed from our evil and wicked ways? Only then can we be credible witnesses as the light of the world (Matt 5:14-16).

Have you been derailed from your spiritual purpose? For the sake of the sinner’s salvation, let us help as many as we can avoid God’s wrath by spreading the biblical message of repentance: There is forgiveness of sins for all who turn to Jesus Christ (Luke 24:47 NLT). Be the light for spiritual change, bring people to Jesus (John 1:40-42).

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Chamber Connection

by Kelly Augustine
Executive Vice President,
Nacogdoches County Chamber
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Plan for Nacogdoches Blueberry Celebration in June 2021

Festival fans rejoice! Plan to attend the **31st Annual Texas Blueberry Festival** presented by Tipton Ford on Saturday, June 12 in Nacogdoches.

The Nacogdoches County Chamber board of directors recently made the decision to confirm the festival for 2021, and Chairman Ted Smith is delighted to announce that after discussions with City officials, community partners and festival leadership, the chamber is ready to proceed with planning the tastiest festival in Texas. He invites everyone to come to Nacogdoches the second weekend in June for a full-blown blueberry celebration. Please know that we are prepared to follow any safety guidelines that may be in place at the time.

Safety has always been a priority for Texas Blueberry Festival Chair Grace Handler. She and the planning committee put in a huge investment of behind-the-scenes work that makes the event fun for the guests. The chamber of commerce truly wouldn't be able to hold a festival of this size without contributions from the City of Nacogdoches and other community leaders' contributions. We greatly appreciate our volunteers, community partners and sponsors including presenting sponsor Tipton Ford for their continued support.

Kicking off the blueberry weekend is the **Blueberry Bluegrass Concert in the Park** presented by Rex Perry Autoplex. The free-of-charge, family friendly concert is scheduled for 6 to 9 p.m., Friday, June 11 in Festival Park.

More information about these events, other blueberry-themed activities and applications for festival vendors are available. Look for updates posted on the events' web pages at www.TexasBlueberryFestival.com and on social media sites.




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WELCOME SFA STUDENTS!

Cushing in April

from Tiffany Duckworth
 mermaid.311@hotmail.com

He is Risen! Amen? Amen!

It's Easter so I could lay on the traditional verbiage and metaphors. Say all the fluffy flowery things about spring, and fresh air, and bunnies and chocolate. April rain and May flowers. Pretty much the same thing that many people will say about this time of the year. And I don't disagree. But as I was driving through Cushing the other day it saddened me as I drove by a local church and I saw a sign on the marquee that said, "For Lease, for rent, for sale." Empty church.... Empty parking lot. The name we shall not speak hasn't just taken out a few businesses. It has taken out a few churches. Or dare I be so bold as to group them in with businesses?



Some stayed open and kept going. Many folded like a bed sheet on laundry day. Which seems kind of sad on one hand. But as I thought about it on my way home, and really this whole last week, I just have this sense that God is done with Church as usual. Business as usual. Through out history whenever things were shaken up or catastrophe hit, the ebb and flow of life has a way of reshaping things. I think that is God's providence. Some will try to hang on to the way things were. Others will give up altogether. And then there will be those who will be part of the new thing God is doing! That's what I want to do! I want to be part of the new thing.



It is "We the People" that are the church. Or as I like to call it, The "Ecclesia." My prayer for everyone reading this is that we, "be The Church." Living stones part of what he is building that can not be made by hands. That we would really think about what it means to live for Jesus. Many who make it to a church for Easter 2021 will hear messages about the death of Jesus and of course the resurrection. And all that's true. But I think the real victory is in his life. He walked perfectly and overcame continually, which is what we are supposed to do. I'm the master failure at this endeavor. But I

keep at it! And I hope you will too. March 28th-April 3rd be looking for a billboard. A sign so big you can't miss it. No Idea... just the word on the street.

As far as Things going on in Cushing, Gardens are being planted by myself and many of my neighbors. Jerry over at 7th Street, has all kinds of yummy stuff on the menu, Live Music on Friday and Saturday nights; and now on the weekends... "CRAWDADS," "Mud Bugs," "Miniature freshwater lobsters."

Now that we are not on restriction anymore, Alexander Burger Company was having a game night. Hoping that will make a comeback. You can get updates on Facebook! C'ya later Alligator! Next month Around the Town.




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Springing Forward in Central Heights

from Linda Flores
lsuflo@att.net

Yes! Spring is here and what a joy to see the green leaves budding out and flowers blooming all around the community. It brings with it that yellow dusting on our cars and homes, but even the pollen is welcomed after the winter freezes. Certainly, we all got a hearty wake-up call with the recent "Arctic Apocalypse." Yet, we endured and persevered as we steadfast Texans do in troubled times.



Let us re-FOCUS our attention on the good things that we take for granted and set our intention to live with awareness and above all, kindness. May we strive to walk a different route this season and really SEE what we notice. I challenge you!

Featuring CHHS this month is exciting. The Spring sports are in full swing with the golf, softball, baseball, track, tennis, and swim teams enjoying the season that they were shorted last year due to the Covid restrictions. The FFA/AG teams are competing locally and out of district, and the theatre students are putting CHHS on the theatre "map." Under the direction of Meagan Daniels, Art & Theatre teacher, the students took a victory at the District-Level One-Act Play contest, securing advancement to the Bi-District competition. The group of thespians performed *Broken* by Gwen Parker. Adding to the excitement of winning at the local district level, the young group of students came away with several awards:

- All Star Cast:** David Smith and Rachel Arroyo
- Honorable Mention All Star Cast:** Abigail Ferretiz and Katy Jacks
- Best Technician:** Hannah Lambert
- Outstanding Technician:** Ella Dodge

Congratulations to this young group of actors on your accomplishments.

Witnessing our community coming together in unity to offer help to those severely impacted by the winter storms has been a faith-restoring experience. We know that we pull together in times of need, but, being reminded certainly gives pause. We feel a fresh compelling to make our time count, to move out of our comfort zones and look to others with helping hands, feet, mind, and supplies. And, so it has been with the students and staff of CHHS.

CHHS has joined in partnership with MissionNAC to offer hope to one of our own. Mrs. Carolina Gonzales's home was in a state of disrepair prior to the winter storm. Yet, her home was further damaged severely in the recent storm, to the point of continued occupancy presented a hazard to her and her family. Carolina is the morning custodian at CHHS. One of the teachers and her husband repaired the broken pipes, and school maintenance is helping repair the roof. Carolina and her family have been relocated to a rental property, thanks to the generous donation of the property by another teacher and her family. The students and staff wanted to do even more to help. In joining forces with MissionNAC, fundraisers are being organized to raise necessary funding for the extensive repairs. Several fundraisers are in the planning stage, including a drive-through spaghetti dinner, a dinner theater, and a silent auction. Once these plans are finalized, the information will be made public. MissionNAC is a tax-exempt 501(C)(3) non-profit organization of area churches whose hope is to see more than 1,000 volunteers serving in our community through service for the needy in the name of Christ. www.info@missionnac.com.

May we be ever more aware that we need to fully embrace that we know that "it's not so much what happens," but how we choose to respond with perseverance and passion. Let us offer kindness proactively. Enjoy your Spring!

"Mindfulness means that we commit fully in each moment to be present."
—Jon Kabat-Zinn

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*Angela's
Monthly Recipe*

Seven Layer Dip



Angela Bradford is the owner/ operator of Appleby Sand Mercantile Café in Nacogdoches.

- 1 package taco seasoning mix
- 1 can refried beans (16 oz)
- 1 package cream cheese (8 oz), softened
- 1 container sour cream (16 oz)
- 12-16 oz guacamole
- 16 oz jar salsa
- 1 large tomato, chopped
- 1 bunch green onions, chopped
- 1 small can sliced black olives (6 oz), drained
- 2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese



In a medium bowl, blend the taco seasoning mix and refried beans. Spread the mixture onto a large serving platter for thinner layers or trifle bowl for thicker layers. Mix the sour cream and cream cheese in a medium bowl. Spread over the refried beans. Top the layers with guacamole then with salsa. Place a layer of tomato, green bell pepper, and green onions over the salsa, and top with Cheddar cheese. Garnish with black olives.

Recipe courtesy of Angela Bradford's Appleby Sand Mercantile Cafe' Cookbook. You may purchase the book at the cafe', located at 6530 FM 2609, Nacogdoches, TX 75965. Phone Angela for more info @ 936.559.515

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Nacogdoches
 Convention & Visitors Bureau

Ashley Morgan
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Spring Happenings!

Spring is here! Time for new beginnings. As things warm up and vaccines roll out, we're finally starting to see some normalcy around here. Whether you're ready to get out or still a bit apprehensive, there's something to do for everyone happening this month.

April starts out with tons of live music, happening at both indoor and outdoor venues. Mark your calendar for the **Brick Street Blues Band** playing live at **Banita Creek Hall in the Mill Room** on April 3rd! Downtown is buzzing with food trucks, Nac Snack Fridays, shopping events and more.

Speaking of shopping, **Sale On The Trail** is just around the corner! The weekend of May 7th-8th will be the popular annual shopping event from Nacogdoches, TX to Natchitoches, LA all along Hwy 21. Don't miss out on this multi-city event with garage sales, yard sales, flea markets, antiques, trunk shows and more along the way! A Google Map with the addresses of all participating vendors is available, find out more by visiting the Sale On The Trail Facebook page! ([Facebook.com/SaleontheTrail](https://www.facebook.com/SaleontheTrail))

If you're interested in participating as a vendor this year, fill out the vendor form at visitnacogdoches.org/sale-on-the-trail

The Nacogdoches Convention & Visitors Bureau (Visit Nacogdoches) is excited to see events come back, including the **31st Annual Texas Blueberry Festival** happening the weekend of June 12th! All blueberry events will be listed on our website and Visit Nac App.

Stay tuned for announcements about our **Full Moon Concert Series** coming up. We've got some great live bands scheduled and can't wait to tell you more about it. It will be a Summer to remember, that's for sure!

Visit Nacogdoches is your source for all things happening in Nacogdoches County. Stop by and see us at the Charles Bright Visitors Center at 200 E. Main to find out about events, local history and much more.

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A Salute to our East Texas

VETERANS



Danny and Shannon Mounger, along with their staff, appreciate and respect the service of all U. S. Military Veterans. The Moungers serve East Texas families in Nacogdoches, Shelby and Polk Counties with care and professionalism. It is their honor to present this monthly feature in *Around the Town*. Should you have a suggestion for a veteran to be featured, please send your name and contact information to AroundTheTown@mail.us.

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Corporal Alvin Newton, U. S. Army – One of the Last American Action Heroes



by Terri Lacher, talacher@sbcglobal.net

Mr. Newton was sitting comfortably at his dining room table, smile on his face, dressed in a suit coat that the pocket was decorated with medals he obtained while in the Army serving in WWII in France and Germany. He is a pleasant, well-spoken, 96 year-old man with a gentle spirit. Across his table was an assortment of memorabilia from his war experiences, including more medals, flags, identification cards, awards, and a stack of paperwork with copies of newspaper stories and his past accomplishments.



Mr. Alvin Newton today with his war medals.

I pointed to a small open box with three medals and asked him about them.

Mr. Newton chuckled, and said, "I got those off a prisoner, but he didn't want me to have them. That's a German flag over there. It's got a swastika on it." I knew right away this was going to be a fun and fascinating interview.

Mr. Alvin Newton was born and raised in San Augustine County, close to the county line off Hwy 147, formerly Hwy 8. With the exception of the three years he spent serving in the United States Army, he has been in San Augustine all his life.

He joined the Army at the age of 19, and went to basic training outside of Tyler at Camp Fannin. He was assigned to the 36th Infantry Division which was an old National Guard unit converted into a combat unit during World War II. They primarily consisted of young men from Oklahoma and Texas, and a special patch with the letter "T" for Texas, was issued for their division. According to history, they were instrumental in moving through and advancing enemy lines, and they were also known to have one of the largest casualty rates of all troops.

Following seventeen weeks of intensive training, the 36th Division was sent overseas, landing in Naples, Italy, where they stayed for a short while. Mr. Newton said they were then sent through Southern France at Marseilles, working their way up toward and into Germany. Because his letters home would be censored, Mr. Newton sent a map of France home to his mother, with a note and a circle in the corner saying, "I'm here right now." His time spent in active duty in France and Germany put him in danger more than once.

"The good Lord carried me through. I credit Him for watching over me. I remember one time we had a bad battle and there were only eight people left in my platoon, and there was supposed to be thirty six. I was scared, but I didn't show it. I think anybody facing death to be shot would be scared, but I wouldn't show it," Mr. Newton said. He later shared he had never met an atheist in a foxhole.

He had a lot of close calls, and definitely had someone watching over him. Mr. Newton remembers a time when they were making an attack on the German army who was retaliating with a machine gun shooting tracer bullets.

Mr. Newton said, "You could see those streaks coming, and I could feel the air from them (passing). My two buddies just to my left who were about six feet away got killed."

Another time when the platoon was advancing down a road, they were fired upon by an artillery shell directly in front of them. Mr. Newton said he tried to get down into the ditch but the explosion threw him across a rock fence, and he thought he was "gone because every bone in my back was hurting," he said.

As he jumped up and ran off, his back pack was bouncing up and down. He later looked at it, and a large piece of shrapnel about the size of his finger had penetrated through his back pack, into his bedroll and stopped by a rations can of cheese, saving his life.

More than once, as a first scout, Mr. Newton was sent ahead to search the areas for the enemy, and found himself face to face with German tanks, and soldiers with machine gun fire. They entered villages where they were met by French men and women who were very happy to see them, welcoming them, grateful for their presence. As a first scout, Mr. Newton was often the very first to enter a village. He remembers going into a small town at one time and didn't see anyone. When his troop followed through, they were fired upon by the enemy who had remained hidden throughout the village.



Alvin Newton approximately 1943-44.

Besides the constant contact behind enemy lines, Mr. Newton talked about VETERANS - *continued on next page*

VETERANS

being in the foxholes and having issues with his feet. They were advancing toward the Rhine River in Germany in the middle of winter.

"The government gave us those thin little rubber over-shoes and that's the worst thing they could have done. All they did was held the water in and it froze our feet," Mr. Newton said. That frostbite ended up seriously damaging the ends of his toes until he lost them and spent three months in the hospital in Marseilles recovering. Following his release, he was reclassified and assigned to a non-combat unit, the 335th Engineers Unit. He ended up earning a Tec 5 Corporal rank. He said their unit was assigned behind the "front lines."

Another vivid memory Mr. Newton shared was when he was guarding a pontoon bridge over the Rhine River near Heidelberg when the war ended.

"That evening, there was a group of American soldiers who had come through and they went up the line, crossed the river, and camped by the riverside. That night about ten o'clock, all this whooping and hollering and shooting bullets and guns came across that river. I thought that the German plane that had flew over was invading us. Come to find out, it was those American GIs across the river had heard the war had ended and they were celebrating."

Once the news had spread, the troops were sent home, and Mr. Newton was among them. After three long years away, he was more than ready to come home.

"My favorite day in the service was the day I got to come home. There was more than one time, I didn't think I was going to make it," Mr. Newton said. He remembered being on the ship coming into the harbor in New York. The first thing he saw was the torch on the Statue of Liberty, "just raising up from the water." He was told he could stay behind an extra day and apply for his disability benefits, but he told them no, he didn't want their benefits.

"I'm going home," Mr. Newton said.

During his time in the military, Mr. Newton earned several medals for his tours of duty. They included a Good Conduct Medal, a WWII Victory Medal, an EAME Campaign Service Medal, four bronze battle stars, a T5 Corporal shoulder patch, and a 36th Infantry DIV (Texas Division) patch. But the one medal that stands out and he is most proud of is the medal of Knight in French Legion of Honor awarded to him in 2016 in Austin, Texas by the Consul General of France, Honorable Sujiro Seam, for his combat duty in France during World War II. This Legion of Honor was established to recognize eminent merits in the service of France. It may be awarded to French citizens and foreign nationals whether military or civilian.

"There is no precise American equivalent for the National Order of the Legion of Honor. It is the highest French decoration. It shares the same characteristics with two U.S. decorations: The Medal of Honor, the highest decoration for military actions, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest decoration for civilian contributions." (excerpt from brochure for the Legion of Honor Ceremony, Veterans Day, 2016)

Once out of the service and back home in San Augustine County, Mr. Newton returned to begin to start over. He fell in love with Syble Andrews and they were married on June 1, 1946. Together they raised a family of four, including two boys and two girls. Mr. and Mrs. Newton shared nearly 67 years of marriage together before Mrs. Newton's passing. Their children, Brenda, Alvin K., Betty, and Gregory, are still close to their father, and both sons followed their father's footsteps working in the construction industry. Mr. Newton spent his years as a building contractor, and raised chickens as well.

Mr. Newton was quite active and a charter member of one of the local VFW posts, and remains a strong patriot for his country and the military. He is also very active in keeping up with the politics, and will happily share his view of his favorite candidates.

Today, Mr. Alvin Newton lives a quiet life on his beautiful property.

A few years ago, he and his sons built a replica of an old sawmill water wheel on Newton Mill Pond, a favorite place for photographers and a well-known landmark down Bland Lake Road in San Augustine County. The original water wheel was Alvin's grandfather's which powered a cotton gin. He recalls the day when ground corn meal wasn't available because of the war, so his father purchased a motor powered grist mill and corn mill. They ground corn not only for their family but for those in the community. This water wheel was a full sized replica of that original wheel.



Replica of the Water Wheel, Newton Pond, San Augustine. Mr. Newton was 80 years old when he built this.

Spending time with this amazing veteran, a man who loves his God, his family, and his country was an honor and a joy. He is truly, in this writer's opinion, one of the last of the real, live, American action heroes.

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Brandi Emanis
Executive Director

**Hello Again from
San Augustine County!**

Let me take a minute and catch you all up on what is going on here in San Augustine County.

First of all, each year in January it is membership renewal time. I would like to thank all of our members for continuing to support the San Augustine County Chamber of Commerce!

One thing coming right up is the **SALE ON THE TRAIL!** Boy this is one of my most favorite things to go to!! If you are not familiar with the SALE ON THE TRAIL then let me just tell you, this trail is all along highway 21 from Nacogdoches, TX to Natchitoches, LA. and there is so much to see and shop that it will take the whole two days to go through it. There will be people set up all along highway 21 and they will have everything from jelly and salsa to anything you can name. You're sure to find something for everyone on this trail. I have found some pretty nice things myself. I love to go every year since the first time I ever heard of it. The annual SALE ON THE TRAIL will be May 7th and 8th this year. I am sure we will cross paths.

Something else that will be happening in May will be our annual **San Augustine County Rodeo!** We are getting geared up to have a fantastic rodeo, better than ever. We sat it out last year due to Covid, but we are ready this year to see all of the fun back here at the San Augustine Fairgrounds. There will be clowns, bull riding, bullfighting and calf roping and much, much more! This year we will have a sanctioned BBQ cook-off at the rodeo. So mark your calendars for May 21st and 22nd and get ready to get outdoors and have some fun!

July will be Civic Auction time here in San Augustine. If you have never been, well I suggest you come on out and see what it is all about.

If you have any questions that I may be able to help you with, please give me a call here at the San Augustine County Chamber of Commerce at 936-275-3610 or just stop by and say hey!

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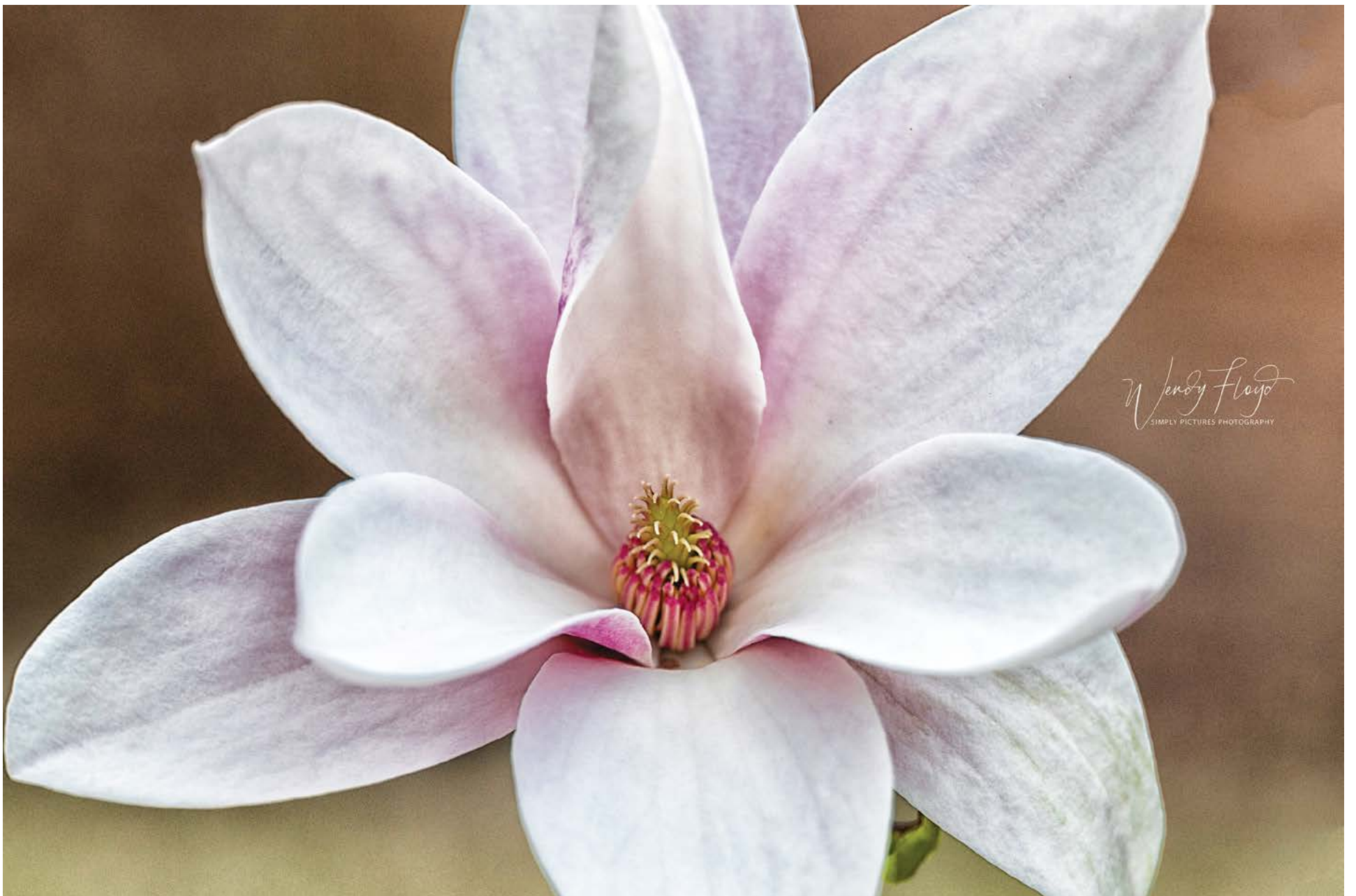
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A Salute to our East Texas



FIRST RESPONDERS



Danny and Shannon Mounger, along with their staff, appreciate and respect the service of all First Responders. The Moungers serve East Texas families in Nacogdoches, Shelby and Polk Counties with care and professionalism. It is their honor to present this monthly feature in *Around the Town*. Should you have a suggestion for a First Responder to be featured, please send your name and contact information to AroundTheTown@mail.us.

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Sheriff Robert Cartwright, in the Footsteps of His Father – Serving and Protecting the People of San Augustine County, Texas

by Terri Lacher



Robert Cartwright, Sheriff of San Augustine County, Texas, has been upholding the law for over forty-one years. He joined the Port Arthur Police Department in 1978 at the age of twenty. He attended Lamar University Police Academy, and retired from the Port Arthur Police Department after serving thirty-seven years. During that same time, he also was on the FBI and DEA task force for twenty-two years. Robert worked as San Augustine's Emergency Management Coordinator for two years following his retirement from Port Arthur when he returned home.

Sheriff Robert Cartwright is very active in his community. His involvement includes being a member of the San Augustine County Cowboy Church, Lions' Club, the Rotary Club, Masonic Lodge, Go Texans Cook Team East Texas Peace Officers Association, Texas Sheriffs' Association, and the Texas Narcotics Association.

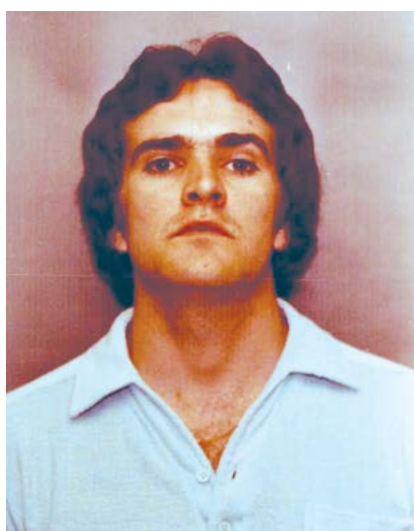


Bob Cartwright (far right) with fellow officers after a drug bust in Port Arthur.

One of the areas of involvement outside their normal scope of law enforcement was when the sheriff's department of San Augustine assisted in providing a base of operations for the members of the community as a drop off point for donations of food and supplies to the local area victims of the tornadoes during the past year or so. Many of the homes were destroyed, leaving residents without their houses, and many of their personal possessions.

A San Augustine County native, Sheriff Cartwright followed in his father's footsteps in the field of law enforcement. His father, John Matthew Cartwright, was the chief of police for several years and also elected sheriff for eight years before his retirement. Cartwright was sworn in as sheriff of San Augustine County in 2016, and continues to serve in that capacity to date.

Sheriff Cartwright's family moved to the East Texas area from Tennessee in the early 1800's, and were one of the founding members of San Augustine County. As a proud father of two teenagers, Sheriff Cartwright feels passionate about helping the youth in the county. He has one child attending Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas and the other is a junior in high school.



"They both are my life," Sheriff Cartwright said. He said his role as sheriff will hopefully help the community "strive to make our county a great place to raise our kids." His personal mission statement is "to make San Augustine County a safe place to live and to rid the county of drugs." *A young Bob Cartwright.*

"A lot of people I've talked to, their homes were destroyed, and I guess the wind sucked their stuff out, Sheriff Cartwright said. Much of their possessions were found several hundred yards from their homes. To assist those in trying to recover their lost belongings, the San Augustine County Sheriff's office became a "drop off point for missing items." They stored the items in their warehouse and then worked on finding their owners. The sheriff's department provided a central location for the tornado victims to get what they needed until the local grocery stores had their power restored.

As a long-time law enforcement officer and sheriff of San Augustine County, Texas, it is Sheriff Robert Cartwright's dedication to his job and the community that he will leave a legacy behind of "always doing what's right and do it every day."



MONUMENT CORNER

This month we travel back to San Augustine County and the city of San Augustine. Monument Corner features the Lewis Hotel located at 500 W. Columbia Street just west of downtown. The hotel has been vacant for approximately 25 years. In 2001 a restoration project was initiated, but have since stalled, in hopes of a new start-up. The marker reads as follows:

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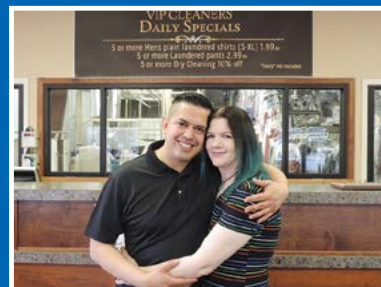
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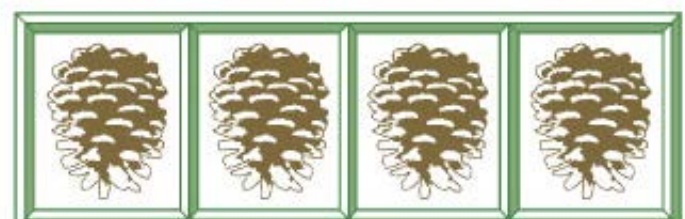
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Megan Whitworth
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Check Out Our Spring Calendar!

Spring is my favorite time of the year. I love the feeling of new beginnings and fresh starts. It's the time of year to do some spring cleaning, dust off the Easter decor, and the sun stays out longer in the evenings. It means more time spent playing outside with my growing toddler, and it also means time spent planning my summer calendar.

Talking about calendars, the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce has a busy spring ahead. With COVID-19 cases on the decline and with the good news of millions getting the vaccine, we are feeling a little hopeful here in Angelina County!

Let's talk about a few things that are happening at the Chamber in Lufkin this month.

April's **First Friday Luncheon** will be held on Friday, April 9 at noon at Crown Colony Country Club, presented by Lufkin Coca-Cola Bottling Co. This year, we will celebrate three small businesses with the 2020 Small Business of the Year Awards, presented by CityWidePromo.com, during the luncheon. We can't wait to recognize and highlight three deserving local businesses who made a big impact on the community last year. Attendees can save their seat at LufkinTexas.org, call 936-634-6644, or email RSVP@LufkinTexas.org.

Here is your opportunity to hear from Angelina County Candidates for the May 2021 Municipal Election. A **Candidate Forum**, presented by Angelina College, will be held on Monday, April 5 in the Angelina College Temple Theater. Doors open at 5 p.m., and the forum will begin at 5:30 p.m. Questions for the candidates will need to be submitted by Friday, April 2 at 5 p.m. to MWhitworth@LufkinTexas.org. Masks are encouraged.

The annual **Chamber Golf Tournament**, presented by ServiceMaster Restore – ServiceMaster Pineywoods, will be held Monday, April 12 at Crown Colony Country Club. There are still opportunities available for sponsorships for the tournament. Email Director of Events & Engagement, Tara Hendrix at THendrix@LufkinTexas.org for available teams and sponsorships. We can't wait to see who will take top place this year!

The **ATHENA Leadership Award** will be presented at the Women's Networking Luncheon, presented by Regions Bank, on Tuesday, April 13 at 11:30 a.m. at Crown Colony Country Club. RSVP now at LufkinTexas.org, call 936-634-6644, or email RSVP@LufkinTexas.org.

You are invited to join the Facebook group: **"Women's Networking - Lufkin/Angelina County."** The Chamber will share important information about upcoming events and an inside look to Women in Business. We have an exciting campaign launching soon that you don't want to miss out on!

For more upcoming events and happenings, visit LufkinTexas.org.

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In the Loop... Expo Center in Lufkin

with **Burt Hairgrove**
Executive Director,
George H. Henderson, Jr. Expo Center
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Greetings from the Expo!

Spring is here and we could not be more ready! I don't know about you guys but we had a ton of plumbing damage out here at the Expo. In fact, when I turned our water supply back on after the big freeze, I thought I was at Schlitterbahn!

Speaking of getting back to normal, the Angelina Benefit Rodeo is ON for 2021! April 21-24 is the date, so make sure to come out!

In case you missed it, the Angelina County Fair was a huge success! You can have confidence that the future looks bright when you see these young people who are developing a good sense of stewardship and being leaders. Plus you'll see some of the best livestock anywhere in the country.

Have a look at the events coming up and I'll see you at the Expo!

- **April 3-4:** Region V Texas High School Rodeo
- **April 16-18:** Next Generation Junior Calf Roping
- **April 21-24:** Angelina Benefit Rodeo

Burt Hairgrove,
Executive Director

OPEN HOUSE & RIBBON CUTTING FOR WHOLE AGAIN
Nacogdoches, Texas – Whole Again Counseling + Wellness is hosting an Open House & Ribbon Cutting on April 7, 2021, from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. The ribbon-cutting, provided by the Nacogdoches Chamber of Commerce, will be at 4:00 pm. Come tour our facility, meet our providers & learn more about our mission and services from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. At 6:00 pm, join counselor and owner, Ginger Stephens in the backyard to hear more about the mission of Whole Again. The 3,700 square foot facility located in Nacogdoches, Texas, features multiple counseling offices for mental health, nutrition, and massage therapy, along with a functional fitness room and an education classroom for community education. Whole Again Counseling + Wellness was founded by Ginger Stephens, a licensed professional counselor and licensed chemical dependency counselor. Ginger has been working in the mental health and substance abuse field since 2012 and is passionate about helping others experience healing and optimal wellness.



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The Lake Worth Monster

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.



It was the summer of 1969. Some remember it as the summer of the miracle Mets, Woodstock, and the astronauts' first landing on the moon. But in Ft. Worth, for many it will forever be the summer of the Lake Worth Monster.

It seems that "monsters" come and go. But mysteries like the Loch Ness Monster and Big Foot (Sasquatch) have remained with us for many years. Forty-four years ago, the Lake Worth Monster first reared its no-so-pretty goat-like head and captured the imagination of thousands. The monster sightings lasted but a few weeks, but the myth, lore, and legend continue to this day.

Greer Island is a small patch of land close to where the West Fork of the Trinity River flows into Lake Worth. It is heavily shaded by oaks, cedar elms, and cottonwood trees. The island is home to egrets, owls, and perhaps an alligator or two, and, maybe, just maybe, the Lake Worth Monster.

On the afternoon of July 10, 1969, the Star-Telegram's front page carried a headline above the fold "Fishy Man-Goat Terrifies Couples Parked at Lake Worth." Six terrified residents told police that they were attacked by a thing they described as being half-man, half-goat, and covered with fur and scales. Ft. Worth police searched in vain for the thing which was reported seen at Lake Worth, near Greer Island.

John Reichart told police that the creature leapt from a tree and landed on his car, and he showed them an eighteen-inch scar down the side of his car as proof.

The next night, the monster, in front of a couple dozen witnesses, was said to have uttered a "pitiful cry" and hurled a tire and rim from a bluff at them. Hundreds of amateur trackers descended on the area with all manner of Remington, Browning, and Colt firearms.

One of the curious who went to Lake Worth that summer was Sallie Ann Clarke, an aspiring writer and private investigator who dropped everything to interview people for what would become her quick-draw and slightly tongue-in-cheek book, *The Lake Worth Monster of Greer Island* which was published in September of 1969.

Clarke has always regretted the way she wrote her book because after she published it, she saw the monster on three occasions. "If I'd seen it before I wrote the book it wouldn't have been semi-fiction. It would have been like history," she told the Star-Telegram in 1989. She has the most famous, and perhaps the only photograph ever taken. It was snapped in October 1969 at 1:15 a.m. near Greer Island. Both her descriptions and the photo show a large white something, though it doesn't seem to favor a goat at all.



A photograph taken by Sallie Ann Clarke of the "Lake Worth Monster."

A few weeks later several ranchers found the bodies of a number of sheep that had been mutilated. This event added more fuel to the monster fire. During the next weeks of summer, people saw the creature running through the Johnson grass, found tracks too big for a man, and reported dead sheep and blood. Then about the time school resumed, perhaps not coincidentally, the Lake Worth Monster furor largely disappeared.

In 2005 a reporter at the Star-Telegram received a handwritten letter, with no name and no return address. It read in part, "One weekend, myself and two friends from North Side High School decided to go out to Lake Worth and scare people on the roads where there were always stories of monsters and creatures who would attack parkers." The writer claimed to have used an old gorilla suit and tinfoil to make a mask to scare a truckload of girls. The kids decided to retire their monster to avoid prosecution or being shot.

Still there was no explanation for the mangled sheep, or how a tire could be tossed 500 feet like a Frisbee. There is no proof that the monster does not exist. Is he still running loose? Locals say that if you want to see the monster, or hear it; take a long quiet ride out around Lake Worth some dark, quiet night. Don't go alone. It is too scary out there.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

April 2021



Fredonia Hotel

Music on the Patio

Every Friday at 6:30pm
4/2 - Ethan Hanson
4/9 - R.C. Moore
4/16 - Jonathan Webster
4/23 - Clint Alford
4/30 - Maryah & Martyn

Live Music

at Naca Valley Vineyard

Every Saturday at 5:30pm
4/3 - Johnny Mullins
4/10 - Tommy Simpson
4/17 - Tyler Dhone
& Marshall Hance
4/24 - Jonathan Webster

Wood fired pizza every
Friday 5-9pm
& Saturday 12-9pm

Pickin' On The Porch Front Porch Distillery

4/3 - Parker Vinson (w/ Rice Queen
Food Truck)
4/9 - Jonathan Webster
(w/ Chambers Smokehouse)
4/10 - BBQ Brunch 10am-1pm
Joe Cuellar (w/ Chambers)
4/16 - Brady Watson (w/ Eat a Bite)
4/17 - Old Souls (w/ Chambers)
4/23 - Tyler Dhone (w/ Chambers)
4/24 - Luau Party (w/ Chambers)
4/30 Marshall Hance (w/ Rice
Queen Food Truck)

Fredonia Brewery

Live Music

4/3 - Hubcap & The Loose Nuts
4/9 - Herbert Midgley
4/10 - The Never Brothers
4/17 - Joe Cuellar
4/23 & 4/24 - Micah Hanning Duo

Banita Creek Hall

Live Music

4/3- Brick Street Blues
(The Mill Room)
4/10 - Randall King
4/24 - Read Southall

Jethreaux's Cajun Eats & Po' Boys

Crawfish & Live Music

(music at 6:30)
4/3 - Jonathan Webster
4/10 - Brandon Tyler
4/17 - Justin Merritt
4/24 - Seven Reynolds

2021 Wine Swirl

Nacogdoches Main Street
Saturday, April 10th 4-8pm

Music Acts:

Packet Pickup:

Dan McMahon 3-6pm
Jonathan Webster 4-8pm
Marshall Hance/Tyler Dhone 4-8pm

Wine Swirl After Party

Nac Pack Trio
Fredonia Hotel 6-8pm
Saturday, April 10th

Flea Market Fabulous

Saturday, April 3rd
& Sunday April 4th 9am-5pm

SFA Jazz Band

Fredonia Brewery
w/ Shali's Indian Kitchen on Wheels
Friday, April 16th 6-8pm

Aaron Watson

Banita Creek Hall
Saturday, April 17th

Flea Market Fabulous

Saturday, April 17th
& Sunday April 18th 9am-5pm

Nac Snack Friday

Friday, April 23rd 11am-7pm
Food trucks around
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Live Music starts at 5pm

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Saturday, April 24th 9pm

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Angelina County Genealogy Conference Set for April 17

On April 17, 2021, the Angelina County Genealogical Society has launched its first Angelina County Genealogy Conference. We have kept the cost minimal at \$12 for a whole day of genealogical instruction—including breakfast snacks and pizza for lunch. From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. speakers will discuss the following topics:

- 8 a.m. Dickie Dixon Georgia Land lotteries
- 9 a.m. Stanley Fletcher Peter Ellis Bean: Hero or Zero?
- 10 a.m. Nelta Nolen Using Pinterest in Genealogy
- 11 a.m. Penny Clark Larry Jene Fisher: A Unique Individual
- 11:50 a.m.-1 p.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Karen Kurth Hall Using the DAR Library in Washington, D.C.
- 2 p.m. Fred Smith Did Thomas Jefferson Father Children With Sally Hemings?
- 3 p.m. Rebecca Stark Nugent If The Devil Had A Wife: The Rest of The Story
- 4 p.m. Patti Huff Smith Alternative Search Strategies for Ancestry.com

The Conference will be held at the Fellowship Hall of Keltys United Methodist Church on 1867 Old. Mill Road in Lufkin, Texas. For breakfast, strawberries will be available along with some type of pastry with beverages provided: iced tea, coffee, water, soft drinks. Lunch will consist of various pizzas along with the beverages just listed.

To register mail a check or money order made out to Angelina County Genealogical Society or ACGS to Angelina County Genealogy Conference c/o Betty Dufner Treasurer, P. O. Box 150631 Lufkin, Texas 75915-0631 by April 10, 2021. If you require a gluten-free pizza, please let us know. For more information, contact Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419 or dixonhershel51@gmail.com If RSVPing by April 10th and getting your registration fee to us on time is a problem, call me or Betty Dufner at (936) 635-3765 or email her at bdufner@consolidated.net

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- 2012 Everlite, 31RLS 3265 TT \$19,500
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- 2015 Ascend, A231RLS 3719 TT \$19,000
- 2015 Ascend, A231RKB 3720 TT \$19,000
- ~~SOLD~~ 2016 Legacy, LH124411SFLA 3891 FW \$24,900
- 2017 Shasta Oasis, SST21CK 3904 TT \$13,000
- 2018 Wildcat, WCF26CK 3990 FW . . . \$27,000
- 2018 Wildcat, WCF30GT 4013 FW . . . \$29,000
- ~~SOLD~~ 2018 Salem, SBT300BH 4037 TT \$31,900
- 2019 Salem, SBT26RLHL 4130 TT . . . \$24,000
- 2019 Wildcat, WCF29RXL 4135 FW . . . \$37,500
- 2019 Shasta Oasis, SST32DS 4161 TT \$24,500
- ~~SOLD~~ 2019 Wildcat, WCF37WB 49L 4170 FW \$46,900
- ~~SOLD~~ 2010 Sierra, SEF379FLOK 4195 \$53,500
- ~~SOLD~~ 2011 Winn. Micro Minnie, 2306BHS 4287 TT \$24,900
- ~~SOLD~~ 2011 Winn. Micro Minnie, 2108DS 4288 TT \$23,900
- 2021 Winnebago Voyage, 2932RL 4289 FW \$47,900
- ~~SOLD~~ 2021 Winnebago Voyage, 3134RL 4290 FW \$48,900
- 2021 Winnebago Voyage, 2108DS 4292 FW \$54,500
- ~~SOLD~~ 2021 Winnebago V2427RB 4295 TT . . . \$29,500
- 2021 Sierra SEF39BARK 4296 \$55,900
- ~~SOLD~~ 2021 Winnebago V2831RB 4291 TT . . . \$36,900

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