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**NACOGDOCHES COUNTY - ANGELINA COUNTY  
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**DECEMBER 2023**



## Merry Christmas



### A Labor of Love

by Vi Alexander

Restoring an old dilapidated cotton gin was a labor of love for James Lee Sachtleben. His heart and soul was in this tribute to present and future generations to provide a glimpse of the past.

Two local icons in the Nacogdoches community came up with the idea to restore an old cotton gin, as recognition of the days when local farmers grew cotton. Adali Mast, Jr. and Charles Bright tried several avenues to fulfill their vision. But, it wasn't until 2015, the Charles and Lois Marie Bright Foundation (Bright Foundation) Board began a search for a restorable cotton gin.

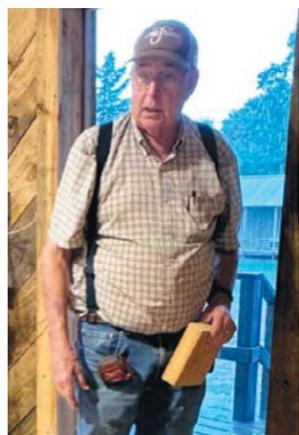
Stanley Jones, Bright Foundation chairman, approached his good friend James Sachtleben who knew where an old gin was located in Garrison, Texas.

James, Stanley, and the Foundation Board drove out to the Langston woods and found the gin. There were discussions about the gin and if it could be salvaged or was it too far gone. The decision was made to give it a try. James offered his efforts on a volunteer basis, but would need two paid helpers. Stanley and James worked together on the plans, with Stanley providing his resources along the way.

On August 23, 2018, James and his cousin,



*James Sachtleben standing in front of part of a restored gin stand*



*Stanley Jones, Bright Foundation chairman*

A LABOR OF LOVE - Page 3

### A Brief History of Langston Bros. Cotton Gin

(As Told by John Langston, Great-Grandson of Americus Langston - Interviewed and Recorded by Vi Alexander)

It was around the turn of the nineteenth century when two of Americus Langston's (1831-1893) sons, John (1876-1957) and Walter (1869-1950), went into the cotton ginning business. During this time, production of cotton in east Texas was a natural. Cotton adapted easily to the rich virgin soil and the hot Texas climate.

The Langston family owned a sprawling piece of property in Garrison, Texas which ran from Hwy 84 north to CR 3191 by Big Sandy Creek. In 1910, John and Walter Langston built a cotton gin and sawmill on part of that property. Although the cotton gin ran successfully for the next 29 years, it wasn't without hiccups. After the gin was up and running and throughout the next years; thugs, the great depression, World War I, federal government, and mechanized cotton picking would prove detrimental to the operation of the gin.

One such hiccup was a ransom letter sent to the Langston brothers demanding cash or the thugs would burn the gin to the ground. The drop was set up to at Smugglers Pond, in the Garrison area, at 10:00 PM. A lantern light would identify where the drop should take place and the brothers made their way to the pond. As John and Walter approached the pond, the thugs abandoned the plan because they said they saw lawmen in the truck. Soon after, another ransom letter was received from the same thugs. This time, the brothers decided to call the thugs' bluff. That was the end of the thugs' tryst, with no one ever held accountable.

Hand-picked cotton was becoming a thing of the past, as it was being replaced with mechanical pickers. As a result, there was increased cotton farming

A BRIEF HISTORY - Page 2



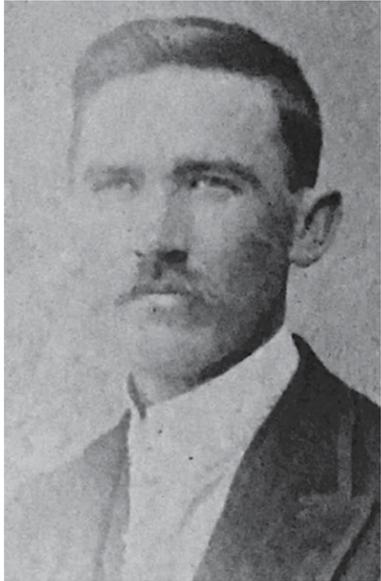
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## A BRIEF HISTORY

on flat land which was more suitable for mechanical pickers and, of course, had an effect on the Langston gin. This, along with the great depression, World War I, the age of John and Walter, and increased federal regulations with taxes were all factors in the cotton gin shutting down. A decision was made by John and Walter to close the gin in 1943. One hundred and thirteen years later (1910-2023), it is restored and rebuilt at Millard's Historic Village in Nacogdoches, Texas.



John Langston (1876-1957)



Walter Langston (1869-1950)

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## A LABOR OF LOVE

Scott Spivey, took James's dozer to the Langston woods and made a road from FM 95 to where the gin lay collapsed in the woods. This is where the vision started to become a reality.

On August 31, 2018, the first load of the gin was moved from its original spot, to start the resurrection process. James, Pat Mast, and James Neeley did the arduous task of uncovering and loading a plethora of gin parts over the next weeks. Included in the list of parts were 3 Continental Gins and boiler. Located in a detached shed were 3 Lummus Gins, but only one was salvageable. The parts were taken to Bob Barton's tie yard



Photo of collapsed gin in the Langston woods

sawdust shed in Garrison, Texas to begin sorting and assessing. The sawdust shed was hot and covered in sawdust and pigeon poop, but the effort continued for two years



Left photo, 3 Continental gin stands in the woods being removed for restoration; above, the same three gin stands after being restored

in that location. James Neeley passed away in 2019 while working there. Jack Cain was hired to replace him. In 2020, the Bright Foundation funded a shop to be built on the Millard's Crossing property. Gin parts were moved from the sawdust shed in Garrison to the newly built shop. Jack Cain broke his ankle in 2022 which required extensive surgery and had to be replaced by Fred Athey.

Construction of the cotton gin on the Millard's Crossing property began in 2022. A local construction company framed the building, while James, Carter Adams, and Luke Bludworth continued the carpentry work. James and Fred steadily worked on the gin components. Steve Clinch was hired when Fred left. Stanley Jones provided and operated much equipment that was needed in the whole restoration process. Additionally, Stanley's personal shop, shop equipment, and his manpower was an intricate part of the restoration. Stanley was there and always willing to offer a helping hand, along with Steve Shinn working on lights and other electrical needs. Several others provided their services, such as, roofer Chris Hillin, artist James Aston, and Kyle Drewery with road rock.



Artist James Aston with a restored Lummus gin stand that he painted

In 2023, a Bessemer engine was located in Dime Box, Texas. Stanley, James, and a crew of workers took on the arduous task of partially disassembling the 26,200 pound engine and transported it to its present location at Millard's Crossing. The cotton gin building is now completed and the gins have been placed in the gin, along with all components and equipment. Although not quite operable, it is open for tour.



James Sachtleben standing beside the Bessemer engine that will be used to power the gin



A large group gathers outside the new gin building at Millard's Crossing to take a tour of the restored gin.



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# Dailey & Vincent Return to SFA Campus for Holiday Show

The University Series at Stephen F. Austin State University will celebrate the return of a favorite entertainment duo and their world-class band when Dailey & Vincent performs a holiday show at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, in Turner Auditorium in Griffith Fine Arts Building on the SFA campus.

Ring in the festive season with the Micky Elliott College of Fine Arts and event sponsor Lehmann Eye Center as they host the Grammy and Dove award winners and Grand Ole Opry members Jamie Dailey and Darrin Vincent and fellow musicians performing some of the best country, bluegrass and gospel this side of heaven.

Dailey & Vincent are performing as part of the University Series' 2023-24 Centennial Season. Other upcoming series performances include comedian Joe Zimmerman Feb. 22; and acclaimed trombonist, composer and producer Delfeayo Marsalis performing with SFA's Swingin' Axes jazz band April 19, a concert sponsored in part by Etech.

Single event tickets for Dailey & Vincent are adult, \$35; senior (62 or better), \$30; SFA faculty/staff, \$18; non-SFA student/youth, \$15; SFA student, \$3. To purchase tickets, call the Fine Arts Box Office at (936) 468-6407 or (888) 240-ARTS, or visit [sfasu.edu/boxoffice](http://sfasu.edu/boxoffice). The Fine Arts Box Office is located in the second floor lobby, Griffith Fine Arts Building, SFA campus.

Ring in the holiday season with a performance of Dailey & Vincent and their world-class band performing their Christmas tour show at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, in Turner Auditorium on the Stephen F. Austin State University campus. The concert is sponsored in part by Lehmann Eye Center.



2023-24 Centennial Season  
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# Health Insurance Enrollment Center – Jim Roberts Serves All of Deep East Texas

The Health Insurance Enrollment Center specializes in senior insurance products, including Medicare Supplements, Medicare Prescription Drug Plans, Medicare Advantage Plans and Special Needs Plans for folks with Chronic Illnesses... and “feature rich” plans for people with both Medicare and Medicaid.

Additionally, the Health Insurance Enrollment Center offers a wide variety of all types of health insurance including traditional major medical plans, Affordable Care Act (ACA) compliant plans for individuals and families. Today, there are many health and Medicare insurance options for those who may not be able to “qualify” due to preexisting conditions.

Additional offerings include short-term medical health plans, and dental, vision and hearing plans... and many options for Accident, Critical Illness, Heart Attack and Stroke coverage.

“We work hard for hardworking people, independent folks who understand the value of hard work and providing for their families. Our real expertise is in listening to the clients’ needs and designing plans catered to each individual situation. The Health Insurance Enrollment Center is unique in that it offers face-to-face help with all types of health insurance and is one of only a few places where people can get consultative help with Medicare and Medicare Supplements, Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug Plans,” said Jim Roberts, Owner and Broker at the Health Insurance Enrollment Center.

Prescription Drug Plans (part D Medicare) are probably the most confusing part of Medicare. There are roughly 25 plans to choose from and most other agencies are not willing to take the time to help people find the best and lowest cost options. The Health Insurance Enrollment Center helps folks with that all throughout the year. With its main office location inside M&S Pharmacy in Nacogdoches, one of the largest pharmacies, in terms of prescription volume, in Texas there are many opportunities to help customers find the best plan for their unique situation.

Roberts entered into the senior health market in 2008 offering only Medicare Supplements and Part D prescription plans consultative help and guidance. With the inception of The Affordable Care Act, it became apparent that people in Deep East Texas would need a new kind of help and assistance to determine which plans were the best fit for their unique circumstances. The Health Insurance Enrollment Center began offering those services in 2013. At that point, the Health Insurance Enrollment Center expanded its portfolio to include health and Medicare plans from most of the insurance companies offering plans in this area including Blue Cross Blue Shield (HMO & PPO Network plans), United Healthcare (all plans), Aetna Medicare Plans, Mutual of Omaha, Humana, Cigna, WellCare, SilverScript, Aflac, Allstate and many others.

For several years Roberts was the insurance expert at the Super Walmart in Nacogdoches. Then in 2018, his company began doing community meetings specifically addressing the needs of people interested in Medicare, Medicaid and low-income assistance. Paying the medical expenses not covered by Medicare is a real concern faced by many families. Medicare Supplement plans, and in some cases Medicare Advantage plans, are designed to fill that gap. Also, a type of coverage that is becoming more prevalent now is called a GAP plan. It is a specially designed Hospital Indemnity Plan that provides coverage for many of the



larger CoPays that exist within Medicare Advantage Plans.

“I’m determined to work harder for you than any other health insurance agent. I listen to what my customers say and strive to provide solutions that meet their needs,” said Roberts. “I keep things

simple...talking straight, keeping my word, and being accessible.”

Jim Roberts and the Health Insurance Enrollment Center are now located inside M&S Pharmacy at 917 E. Austin Street in Nacogdoches.

Call or text 936-559-1400 or email HIEC.ETX@gmail.com

**Roberts’ memberships and affiliations include:**

- National Association of Health Underwriters - Medicare Certified
- Texas Association of Health Underwriters
- East Texas Association of Health Underwriters
- Nacogdoches Rotary Club, and a Paul Harris Fellow
- Past Board Member - Nacogdoches County Memorial Hospital District

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On Saturday, December 9th, from 6-8 pm, we'll have crafts, cookies and cocoa, Santa Claus, faux snowball fights and so much more! Take a stroll along our beautiful, festive Christmas Trail of Lights and stop for photo ops to forever remember this magical night!

The Mission Dolores Museum and Gift Shop will be open and offering 15% off all merchandise throughout the evening. From books to t-shirts to coonskin caps. Mission Dolores' Gift Shop has something special for that hard-to-buy-for loved one on your Christmas list.

Established in 1717 by Spanish colonists, Mission Dolores played an important role in shaping the Native American experience with some of Texas' earliest European immigrants. Christmas was a holy, contemplative time for the friars and soldiers that called Mission Dolores home. We're turning it into a fun and festive holiday celebration for the entire community!

"We are excited to once again host a big Christmas event at the site of Mission Dolores," said Amanda McVay, site manager at Mission Dolores State Historic Site. "It's a way for us to give back for the wonderful support the East Texas community shows us throughout the year."

All ages are welcome to attend this event, which will run from 6 pm to 8 pm. Admission is free. Parking will be available both at the Visitor Center and at the Picnic Pavilions. Please call 936-275-3815 or visit [www.visitmissiondolores.com](http://www.visitmissiondolores.com) for more information.

Mission Dolores State Historic Site is open Tuesday through Saturday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. We are located at 701 South Broadway Street, San Augustine, TX 75972.

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The Lamp-Lite Players will hold auditions for *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams, Saturday, December 9, 2023, and Sunday, December 10, 2023, 1:00 pm-4:00 pm, Lamp-Lite Theatre, 4210 Lamp-Lite Lane, corner of Old Tyler Road and Loop 224. For more information, email Lamp-Lite at [lamplitetheatre@gmail.com](mailto:lamplitetheatre@gmail.com).

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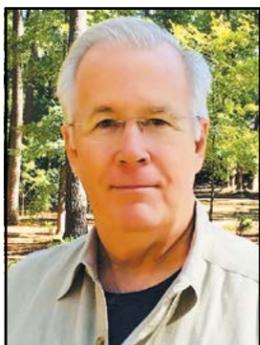
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# Gift to Provide Family Respite Weekends

With a \$5,500 gift, the Nacogdoches County Healthcare Foundation is providing up to 25 respite weekends for Nacogdoches Treatment Center client families.

“Caring for a loved one living with dementia is a full-time responsibility, and our organization is honored to provide opportunities for qualified respite care,” said Nacogdoches County Healthcare Foundation Board President Sean Hightower. “Rest is a key factor in promoting physical and emotional health, and this program benefits all who are involved.”

The Nacogdoches County Healthcare Foundation’s annual giving campaign returns financial support directly to the Nacogdoches community. On Thursday, October 26, the board voted to support the Nacogdoches Treatment Center with the \$5,500 gift.



The Nacogdoches County Healthcare Foundation presented the Nacogdoches Treatment Center with a \$5,500 gift to provide respite weekends for Treatment Center client families. Pictured from left are Mitzi Perritt, Kathy Strong, Charlotte Ashcraft, Sean Hightower, and Patrick Kuhns.

“We have done so much this year and were interested in reaching out to a new population,” said Ella Nobles, Operations Manager/Director of Foundation Services & Auxiliary Liaison. “Our board met to discuss area needs, and the Nacogdoches Treatment Center is a great fit.”

The Nacogdoches Treatment Center’s Respite Weekend Program allows families to take an occasional extended break from their caregiving duties. Caring for a loved one living with dementia is a full-time responsibility that can take a physical and emotional toll on a caregiver’s health.

“Caregiver support, like our safe and compassionate weekend respite program, is an extension of our mission to improve the quality of life for families dealing with dementia,” said Kathy Strong, Director of the Nacogdoches Treatment Center. “This gift will go a long way in helping us care for the caregivers.”

The Nacogdoches County Healthcare Foundation was established to provide and arrange for support for the healthcare providers and first responders of Nacogdoches County, to provide and promote health care services for the residents of Nacogdoches County, with particular emphasis on the indigent residents of the County, and to develop and promote health care resources and programs on behalf of the Nacogdoches community.

The Nacogdoches County Healthcare Foundation understands “WE’RE BETTER TOGETHER” and welcomes donors to become Giving Partners in our Annual Fundraising Campaign. Contributions to the Nacogdoches County Healthcare Foundation are tax deductible and donation acknowledgments will be sent for financial records.

To donate directly, mail gifts to the Nacogdoches County Healthcare Foundation, 1018 North Mound St., Suite 105, Nacogdoches, Texas 75961. Acknowledgments for your tax-deductible donation will be sent for your financial records.

To donate directly, mail gifts to the Nacogdoches County Healthcare Foundation, 1018 North Mound St., Suite 105, Nacogdoches, Texas 75961. Acknowledgments for your tax-deductible donation will be sent for your financial records.

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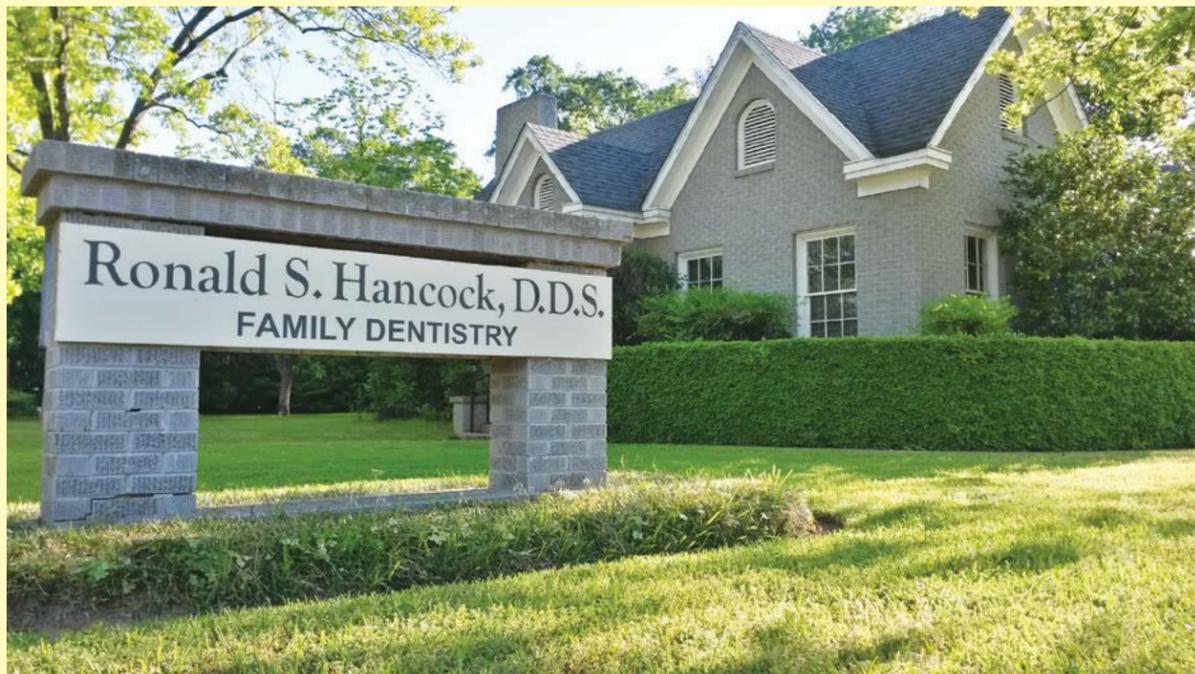
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# Lamp-Lite Players Present *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*

by Katherine P. Whitbeck

The Lamp-Lite Players present *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, by Barbara Robinson, December 15-17, 2023, **ONE WEEKEND ONLY**. Curtain is 7:30 pm, December 15th and 16th, and 2:00 pm, December 17th. It is highly recommended that tickets be purchased at one of the outlets in advance. Cash or a season pass are accepted.

The Herdmans, played by **Rees Runnels, Cadence Glazener, Tate Ashley, Robert McDermant, Harper Ashley, & River Delcambre**, are “the worst kids in the world.” After hearing about desserts at church, they take over the main parts of the Annual Christmas Pageant, to the chagrin of the Bradleys, played by **Patrick Lewis, Roz Couch, Claire Williams, & Mason Johnson**. Can Mrs. Bradley turn the impending fiasco around?

The Ladies of the Church, played by **Amee Johnson, Brianna Lewis, Jennifer Harris, Paula Pearson, and Veronica York**, do not think so. They continually give advice to Rev. Hopkins, played by **Corey Ashley**. In addition, Beth’s best friend Alice, played by **Brittany Pearson**, provides her insights, and the Sunday School Kids, including Maxine, played by **Jennifer Datin**, and Elmer, played by **Benjamin Serna-Villanueva**, and the rest, played by **Sofi Serna, Isabella Serna-Villanueva, Poppy Meaux, Elijah Meaux, Elizabeth Johnson, Madeline Johnson, Peyton Lewis, Addison Lewis, Reese Williams, Megan Harris, and Jack Luke York**, enter the fray. Added to the chaos are the Firemen, played by **Bill Small, Rick Jones, and Alan Johnson**.

**Tim Hogle** and **Pat Harris** direct this cherished Christmas tradition featuring adult, youth, and child Lamp-Lite Players. **Davy Thomas** directs the music and provides accompaniment.

Tickets cost \$15 for Adults, \$12 for Adults 60+, & \$8 for students/children, are General Seating, are good for any performance, & are available at Klines/ Wrap-It-Up & the CVB. Tickets also go on sale at the Box Office, December 2nd, 1:00-2:00 pm, December 13th, 5:30-6:30 pm, and 30 minutes prior to each performance at Lamp-Lite Theatre. Audience members should arrive at Lamp-Lite Theatre 15-30 minutes prior to curtain. More information may be found at [www.lamplitetheatre.com](http://www.lamplitetheatre.com) or at Lamp-Lite Theatre on Facebook. *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com).

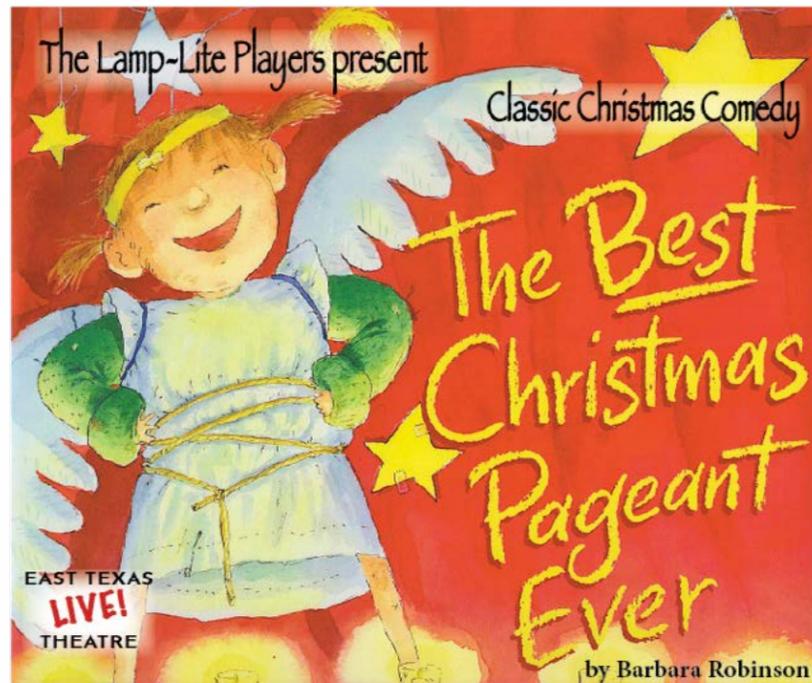
The Lamp-Lite Players also perform *A CHRISTMAS CAROL* during *MILLARD’S CROSSING OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS*, December 9, 2023, at 6:00 pm, 7:00 pm, & 8:00 pm.



The Herdmans left to right: Tate Ashley, Robert McDermant, Rees Runnels, Cadence Glazener, River Delcambre, Harper Ashley



The Bradleys left to right: Mason Johnson, Patrick Lewis, Roz Couch, Claire Williams



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# Uniting Against Vouchers in Texas

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

Recent victories in the Texas House of Representatives underscore the noticeable impact of grassroots advocacy efforts in thwarting detrimental changes to the educational system. Public school educators, alongside their allies, successfully opposed the introduction of vouchers in Texas, a contentious issue that could have significantly altered the landscape of education in the state for generations to come.



## The Influence of Advocacy

Advocacy proved instrumental in bringing attention to the potential pitfalls of introducing vouchers to private schools in Texas. Texas public school educators were able to express their concerns, presenting evidence of the adverse effects such a policy could have on both public school teachers and students. This proactive engagement with policymakers helped ensure that the voices of those directly involved in the educational process were not only heard but also considered.

## Social Media as a Useful Tool

The latest success in defeating voucher proposals highlights the effectiveness of social media as a tool for advocacy. Many educators utilized these platforms to share information about the potential consequences of vouchers, rallying public support and creating a sense of urgency around the issue. The broad dissemination of information through social media played a pivotal role in mobilizing opposition and fostering awareness.

## Sustaining the Momentum in Elections

The recent victory against vouchers underscores the importance of active participation in local and state elections. Texas Governor, Greg Abbott has said he will continue to push for a voucher system in Texas. He has gone as far as saying he will work actively to remove any Republican lawmakers who oppose him in the upcoming primary elections. Texans who support public school educators must unite and recognize the impact that they can have on shaping education policy. The success in defeating the voucher proposal in this latest push by the governor emphasizes the need to reelect the brave representatives who prioritize public education and are responsive to the concerns of educators and their communities.

## Voting Down Vouchers

In the fourth special session of the 88th Legislation, 21 Republican members bravely sided with Democrats in the House to strip vouchers from HB1 in an 84-63 vote. The bill without the vouchers could progress and be supported by members of the House and Senate; however, the governor has said he is unwilling to sign into law any public school funding legislation that does not include vouchers.

These vouchers, if ever successfully passed, would allow private schools to be selective and allow some Texas students who have applied to attend their school to use public funds in the form of an Educational Savings Account (voucher) to offset the cost of attendance or supplies. In the current proposed legislation, there would be no state oversight of academic achievement or accountability for expending the public funds used in private schools. The state oversight is stringent and would not be applied equitably across the board for entities using public funds to educate Texas students.

When legislators said no to voucher proposals in Texas, it exemplified the concrete impact public school educators have had when actively participating in advocacy and engaging in the democratic process. This triumph serves as a powerful reminder of the potential for positive transformation when educators recognize their influence and take proactive steps to shape the future of education in the Lone Star State.

The 21 Republican members who stood with Public Schools and voted to remove the voucher portion of HB1 are:

Steve Allison (R-San Antonio), Ernest Bailes (R-Shepherd), Keith Bell (R-Forney), DeWayne Burns (R-Cleburne), Travis Clardy (R-Nacogdoches), Drew Darby (R-San Angelo), Jay Dean (R-Longview), Charlie Geren (R-Fort Worth), Justin Holland (R-Rockwall), Kyle Kacal (R-College Station), Ken King (R-Canadian), John Kuempel (R-Seguin), Stan Lambert (R-Abilene), Andrew Murr (R-Junction), Four Price (R-Amarillo), John Raney (R-College Station), Glen Rogers (R-Graford), Hugh Shine (R-Temple), Reggie Smith (R-Sherman), Ed Thompson (R-Pearland), Gary VanDeaver (R-New Boston).

*Dr. Brandon Enos has been the superintendent of Cushing ISD since January 2022 and is a strong advocate for Texas public school students and teachers.*

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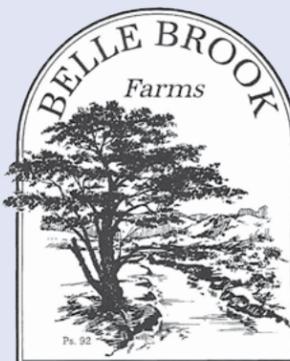


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# Guilt Trip

by Taylor Millard

I am a curious man. That can be considered a good trait or possibly a mind your own business thing, but I have a question for those that read my articles each month. Do women harbor more guilt than men? Well, that is a great way to start a discussion, or argument, depending on who you ask. I am working on an idea for my next book and this guilt thing between the sexes came up.

To float the idea of women retaining guilt and men seemingly able to let it go without a care, I started asking friends, mostly women, their thoughts on the subject. All the women agreed with this idea, not some, all. Now these were women in their thirties to eighties, and all agreed on this broad statement. Why is the next question.

I did the easy Google research and again, the educated PhD folks also agreed, but no real clear answer why. Most say it is the nurturing nature of women and if that nurture fails then the woman assumes the fault. My favorite answer was from an old high school friend and her response was simple but better than all the ones I researched. She said, "Because men do not think they did anything wrong. It is always the woman's fault. Began with Adam and Eve."



*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.*

The "Original Sin" as it is known; Eve eating the apple first, but Adam did soon after. Are we saying in this gender sensitive world that there are differences between men and women? Of course! In my discussions, women said they do not feel guilt as much in the workplace as their personal life. The husband and kids, then parents and then grandkids. A few of my women interviews felt after their divorce, the single mom guilt ramps up to very high levels.

Obviously, there are multiple factors that feed this phenomenon but there is a consistent tilt toward the female side. Mothers in particular can feel guilt if their child fails in any way. Your eleven-year-old child comes home from school and tells mom, I have no friends. What? My perfect baby has no friends? What did I do wrong? Does this sound like you or anyone you know?

If women have the nurture inside them, then men have the provide and protect inside of them. For men, we do not have the time to waste when we fail. We have to move on quickly to resolve the issue and do not dwell on the failure for long.

I also think that this is a more modern issue. Since the seventies, women have been told they can do it all. You can have that great career and children and a loving husband and exercise and create a beautiful home and also prepare gourmet healthy meals and clean the home for any inspection from a mother-in-law visit and be a good friend and take care of your aging parents and counsel your children, and also be beautiful and sexy. No wonder women feel guilt more than men. They are exhausted.

If you have a comment regarding the guilt in women, I would love to hear from you. Email me at [htmillard@yahoo.com](mailto:htmillard@yahoo.com) with subject line, Guilt. Let me know what you think but please put your age and gender for better understanding. Thanks, but you do not have to feel guilty if you do not respond!

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Kristin graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University in 2008 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, then earned her Master of Science in Nursing from UT Health Science Center in Houston in 2019. Inspired by her grandmother, who was an RN in the 1950s, Kristin’s nursing background includes labor and delivery, nursery and intensive care.

Kristin provides a variety of services, from well-child checks to sick visits to sports physicals, and focuses on helping educate parents so they can feel empowered to care for their children and make safe and informed decisions for their families. Her favorite part of the job is performing newborn exams. “I love seeing the excitement and pride new parents have for their babies,” she said.

Kristin and her husband have two children, a girl and a boy. She enjoys going to Pilates on the weekend and a good cup of coffee.



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# Movin' On Up... The Finale?

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.*

This will be the final episode—sort of—recounting what would have to be considered unusual (it's hard to admit dumb) housing decisions for Sandy and me over the last 50 years. It is completely antithetical to that of my parents, who lived most of their lives in one house in Nacogdoches. Sandy's parents' experience was much the same.

If you recall from previous episodes of this story, we started out with a perfectly sized house in a nice neighborhood and, for some reason, acquired two humongous houses (for our little family) in succession before building one that would finally fit our needs, shelter our motorhome and perhaps correct the previous debacles. Until the burglary, that is.



We had lived in this "perfect" house near Fort Worth for several years when I came home from work one day and found the front door ajar. I knew Sandy wasn't there, as she was away baby-sitting one of the grandchildren. Oddly, the burglar alarm wasn't sounding; I slowly pushed the door open and crept through the house into the family room, where I saw the French doors kicked in and associated debris on the floor.

I saw nothing missing at that point, although plenty of valuable items were in sight. I slowly walked into the master bedroom and saw, at that point, what the thief or thieves had been after. The doors of Sandy's jewelry cabinet were open, and all her jewelry that had been within was missing. The bed covers had been thrown back, and a pillowcase had been taken from one of the pillows. Obviously, this was how the spoils were carried away. Although the items stolen were not ridiculously expensive, there were many sentimental pieces I had given her over the years that brought forth Sandy's tears as she began to realize they were lost forever. Fortunately, the intruder or intruders had missed a hidden compartment where the most valuable and irreplaceable items were kept.

We still don't know why the alarm wasn't sounding. It tested okay, and we figured it was sounding during the burglary; otherwise, the thief or thieves would have taken other valuables that were visible—like a laptop and a pistol. What we found out was that another part of the alarm system was malfunctioning, in that it didn't alert the police, whom we called immediately. No, the perpetrator or perpetrators were never found, and the house would never be the same again. We installed a new alarm system with cameras everywhere. When we were away, we found ourselves constantly checking our cell phones upon which the camera visuals could be seen in real time. This didn't seem like a normal way to live.

We had made many trips across the U. S. in our motorhome and enjoyed immensely seeing in person all the things that most folks only see in pictures. For years, I had been thinking to myself about selling the house and living fulltime in our motorhome while we traveled, as it was outfitted with everything one would find in a nice home, including the exact same kind of king-sized mattress that we had purchased for our house.

I rarely spoke of this radical idea, certain that Sandy would have none of it because she is a "nester" by nature. However, on one of our extended trips to the beautiful Pacific Northwest, she said, "I really don't want to go home; I would rather just go see the kids (Mindy and Tyler had two grandsons by then, well-settled near Houston). Clearly, Sandy was not interested in going back to our "perfect" house—now forever violated as it was by the burglary. I told her that because of our long absence from home, we had all kinds of cleanup to do from fallen tree limbs and leaves, extending to cleaning the spiderwebs, dusting the house, etc. Turning up her nose, she said, "Why don't we just sell it? We have everything here in the motorhome we have in the house; why do we need it?"

It was as though lightning had struck! I nearly drove off the road; those were words I thought I would never hear from her. She got no argument from me; I was all for it—we were retired and seeing the world from the big iMax-like windshield of our motorhome. Life was good.

When we returned to the house, we engaged a realtor and, within days, we had multiple offers on the house, finally selling it for more than we asked; the new owners even bought all the furniture, except for the grand piano, with which I couldn't part. The piano was stored, and we were house-free within weeks, living that way for eight years until our traveling bucket list had been mostly

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completed. As it turned out, it was the best thing—for us—we ever did. Somehow, all those adventures seem to have made up for the poor housing decisions of the past.

Now, in the twilight of our years, we are devolving back to part-time RV living. We've bought a small house with an adjoining RV port near Tyler, Texas, not far from my beloved Nacogdoches, to which we will doubtlessly return one of these days when we finally hang up the keys.

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# Colorful Murals to Breathe New Life Into Downtown Nac

by Robert McCandless

As the leaves fall and the color of gardens across town fade, a new garden has been planted that will bring life to Nacogdoches year round.

The Garden Capital of Texas mural is the first in a series planned to revitalize our city by beautifying it's historic status in telling the story of the people and events that made Nacogdoches the unique place it is.

You have, no doubt, seen or heard something of it by now as you drive down the historic byways of North St. (La Calle del Norte) or Main St. (El Camino Real). The bright colors of East Texas native plants grab your attention from the northeast corner as they seem to surround the bronze image of Thomas Jefferson Rusk.

Thanks to permission and financial sponsorship from Mayor Randy Johnson, The Garden Capital of Texas Board, individual private donors and in kind donations from Sherwin Williams and University Rental, Nacogdoches is now on the national mural map.

Artist Michelle Filer was commissioned to execute the colossal blooms from the photographs of Nacogdoches' own Wendy Floyd. Her painterly, almost impressionistic, technique translates well in the large scale format needed for murals, welcoming visitors coming from the west and providing locals and tourists alike a photo opportunity against the colorful artistic background. Even in it's unfinished stages, it has already become a gathering place for photographs.

Lynn Myers of "Brush Up Nac," has been involved in marketing the assets of other cities with successful programs like "Bootiful Wimberly," in which giant boots were painted by local artists to create a walking tour. This effort continues in Nacogdoches as a way of connecting our historic buildings, homes, sculpture, churches, Oak Grove Cemetery, and



Michelle Filer and Wendy Floyd pose with a portion of the Garden Capital of Texas mural.

the Old University Building into a walking tour to educate visitors and our citizens alike in who we are.

Along with this effort is the work of Dixie Rose Daniels in restoring the Coca-Cola mural, painted over 30 years ago by her father which has served as the place for photo ops in our city and at least one marriage proposal. Dixie's work is well know to all of Nacogdoches in the murals of our founding fathers on the town square and other locations around town.

High in the air, Dixie Rose Daniels brings life back to the fading image her father painted over 20 years ago.



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# What's Happening in Shelby County!

by Deborah Chaddwick, *Director*

Although this time of year seems to be the busiest of all, Christmas gives us the opportunity to pause and reflect on the important things around us. We are truly blessed to be living in East Texas. It is a special place. The people are genuine and kind and the beauty of the Pineywoods is spectacular. Each community offers many things unique and special. Go and explore, especially this time of year. Our local merchants have beautiful Christmas windows and lots of great gift ideas inside. There are lights, parades and Open Houses, fellowship and fun! *'Tis the Season to Shop Local!*

If you really want to make a difference in your community this year, *Shop Local! Eat Local! Spend Local!* You will get better service, it creates new jobs and supports our East Texas economy. We all have so much to offer in the way of unique and special.

This Christmas season, may you and your family experience light and laughter. Wishing you nothing but the best that this season has to offer and all the best for 2024.



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# Nac County Exposition and Civic Center Calendar

## What's Hot with Anita Scott

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## UPCOMING IN DECEMBER 2023...

**DECEMBER 4-8, 2023 - K-12 VIRTUAL LEARNING ACADEMY** – Testing for virtual school students in the Nacogdoches Area.

**DECEMBER 6, 2023 GREEN HAND FFA Area 9 FFA – Garrison High School** – This is an opportunity for Future Farmers of America members to participate in a leadership development workshop.

**DECEMBER 12 & 13, 2023 - LOVE INC – Christmas Blessings** – Christmas Blessing with be at the Nacogdoches Expo & Civic Center.

**DECEMBER 24-25, 2023 - CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – OBSERVED**

**DECEMBER 31, 2023 - NEW YEAR EVE HOLIDAY – OBSERVED**

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The Nacogdoches Pro Rodeo benefiting the Nacogdoches Jaycees will be here March 21-23, 2024. Sponsorships are available now. For more information, contact Anita Scott at 936-564-0849.

**Calling all Rodeo Vendors** – If you are interested in having a space at the 2024 Nacogdoches Pro-Rodeo to show off and sell your product, please contact the main office at 936-564-0849.

Space is limited so call to reserve your space.

**Do you have an upcoming event? Check out our weekly specials!**

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**Rhonda Oaks**  
Lufkin District Public Information Officer  
Communications Division  
Texas Department of Transportation

# Drivers, We Have A Problem

I never knew them. They died the year before I was born. My great-grandparents were killed Easter Sunday morning while traveling to Lufkin from Shreveport. They owned a big farm right on the Red River. I visited it a couple of times as I got older, before the casinos moved in and divided it up. My mother spent her summers there as a child. It was a huge loss to her and my family.

They, along with my great aunt, all died when a drunk driver crossed the line. The other driver and his two passengers also died. I have read many times the old yellowed front-page newspaper that my mother saved that depicted the tragic scene.

My story is not much different than yours. We have all had similar experiences in our lives. We have lost family, friends, colleagues, and acquaintances on the roadway. The sad thing is that it continues to happen every single day. That's what **End The Streak** is all about.

TxDOT started keeping a count of the deaths in 2000, long after my great-grandparents died. The last few months of that year, the deaths totaled 570 statewide. In 2022, the total was 4,406. And year to date, we sit at 3,181 statewide. And the holidays are just beginning, which usually indicate a high traffic fatality count. In 22 years, 83,611 people have died in 555,566 traffic crashes on Texas roadways.

In the nine-county Lufkin District in 2022, the numbers totaled 76 fatalities that resulted from 5,127 crashes on our district roadways. So far in 2023, 73 lives have been lost, and that number could go up.

The top reason for crashes in the Lufkin District is failure to drive in a single lane. The other familiar reasons fall right in behind that one – unsafe speed, pedestrian failure to yield right of way to a vehicle, intoxication (drugs and alcohol). There were also other familiar reasons that included passing in a no passing zone, disregarding a stop sign or signal, driver distraction/inattention, fatigue, driving on the wrong side of the roadway.

The numbers are staggering. Drivers, we have a problem.

We all hear the stories and see the numbers, and we feel bad for those who have lost loved ones, yet we get behind the wheel and never give safe driving another thought. And our youngest drivers are in real danger. Some have never completed a real driver's education program. Many were allowed to drive under parental supervision and then get their driver's license when they turned 16. Problem is, while they might want to be responsible drivers, some parents are in real need of a driver's education class.

I have talked to students who really think that when you enter a major roadway from an entry ramp, oncoming traffic is supposed to yield for them to enter the roadway. It's these types of problems that need addressing.

**Ending The Streak** of daily fatalities on our roadways should be at the forefront of our minds when we get behind the wheel of a vehicle. I believe we can change our bad driving habits that lead to these rising statistics.

We really have no choice, because if we don't, there will be others who we will know and love who will die today, tomorrow, and every day after that. And somewhere, there will be family members who never live to see many of those who have yet to be born.



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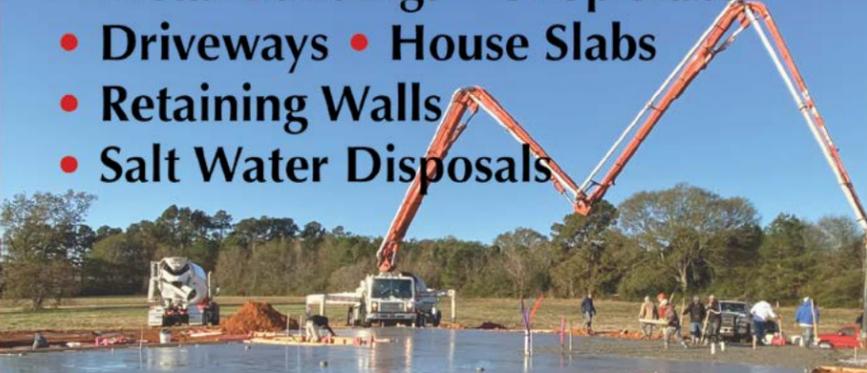
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 by Dr. Allen Reed

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2. Santa rides in a sleigh . . . JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.

3. Santa comes but once a year . . . JESUS is an ever present help.

4. Santa fills your stockings with goodies . . . JESUS supplies all your needs.

5. Santa comes down your chimney uninvited . . . JESUS stands at your door and knocks, and then enters your heart when invited.

6. You have to wait in line to see Santa . . . JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.

7. Santa lets you sit on his lap . . . JESUS lets you rest in His arms.

8. Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hi little boy or girl, what's your name?"

JESUS knew your name before you did. Not only does He know your name, He knows your address too. He knows your history and future and He even knows how many hairs are on your head.

9. Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly . . . JESUS has a heart full of love.

10. All Santa can offer is HO, HO, HO . . . JESUS offers health, help, and hope.

11. Santa says, "You better not cry" . . . JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me, for I care for you."

12. Santa's little helpers make toys . . . JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes, and builds mansions.

13. Santa may make you chuckle but . . . JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.

14. While Santa puts gifts under your tree . . . Jesus became our gift and died on a tree.

15. It's obvious there is really no comparison. We need to remember WHO Christmas is all about. We need to put Christ back in CHRISTmas. Jesus is still the reason for the season.

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# Snapshot from Around the Town

Nacogdoches Civil Air Patrol was a part of the Veteran's Day Parade through downtown Nacogdoches.




**Nacogdoches**  
Convention & Visitors Bureau

Ashley Morgan  
CVB Creative Content Director

## This Month in the Oldest Town in Texas

### Happy December!

As I write this, we're coming up quickly on Thanksgiving. By the time you read this, we'll be nearly through with holiday events. The rush will come to a slow lull, where visitors and locals will retreat to their homes and spend the days off with their families. That's when the true magic of Christmas starts.

With few events to promote in the next couple of months, I'd like to reflect on the things we are grateful for at the Nacogdoches Convention & Visitors Bureau. Many people don't know exactly what we do, so maybe this article will help you learn something new.

The Nacogdoches CVB (also known as Visit Nacogdoches) is thankful to welcome visitors from all over the world. Just this month, we've welcomed visitors from New Zealand and Spain, and countless others from the contiguous United States. Each time they sign our guestbook, we ask, "How did you hear about Nacogdoches?" Every answer is different, and that alone is something to be grateful for.

Some say "Well, I read you were one of the top-ten most charming towns in Texas." Others might say the history or nature trails are what caught their eye. We all know Nacogdoches has countless reasons to visit, but we get most excited when we read the reviews or hear from visitors that have become residents.

Without a doubt, we're grateful for the locals that make our town so attractive to visit. That includes the city departments that keep up our historic sites, the local philanthropic organizations that donate to restore our oldest buildings, the artists that adorn our walls with colorful masterpieces like the new Garden Capital of Texas mural on the corner of North and Main Streets. The list goes on and on because it certainly takes a village.

As you consider your New Years resolutions, I encourage you to find an organization where you can lend a helping hand. Volunteering in your community is not only helpful to the beneficiaries, but it's also great for your health. There are several studies that show there is a direct link in volunteerism and quality of life.

We hope you have a wonderful Christmas and holiday season!



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# Wild Ties and Other Accessories

by Jim Garrett

When I first began teaching at SFA, I was determined to be a stylish dresser with the help of Mrs. Sew & Sew (Mary Beth). The sports coats and vests she made were from some of the most outlandish material one could imagine. Unfortunately, I no longer have any of them due to increased girth.



Jim and Mary Beth Garrett

Later in my career, Mrs. Sew & Sew started making me conventional ties. Again, construction involved using some of the most outlandish material one could imagine, Dear Readers. I had a tie that was a pale blue material with an assortment of brilliant flowers on it. (I am speaking of the tie in the very middle of the illustration.) One day, while I was lecturing, a furry little insect must have seen the bright colors and made a bee line (forgive the pun) for my tie – much to the delight of my students, I might add. The next time I wore that tie to class, I made sure that the windows were closed!

Sometime later, one of my students came to class in one of the brightest, most brilliant, outlandish dresses I had ever seen. The design which was of buildings, I assume, consisted of colors which were an assortment of chartreuse, dark green, orange, yellow, and pink. I told her that I REALLY liked her dress at which point she told me that it was a homemade creation of her mother's doing. I then commented to her that if there were any scraps left over, I certainly would not mind having a tie that resembled her dress. That afternoon there was a knock on my office door and when I opened it, there stood her mother with a smile on her face and a sack full of scraps. Those scraps, in the hands of Mrs. Sew & Sew, were converted into a tie which even now I occasionally wear.

On another occasion, one of my female students wore a real pretty plaid skirt to class. I must have given her a compliment which led to her telling me that it was homemade. Being bolstered by my prior success, I asked her if there were any scraps, she would be willing to give away. She said that there were and it was those which led to another tie (located on the extreme left in the illustration). This material, however, came with a string attached. She requested that when my tie was made, I **not** wear it on days when her boyfriend would be in the building. That sounded like a legitimate request so I readily agreed.

The two ties in the center of the illustration basically have the same design but are of different colors. I wore the brown tie to church on a Sunday morning and gave an identical one to our pastor. That night I wore the green tie to church and warned the pastor of what would happen to his brown tie if he wore it in the bright sunlight. I do not know if he bought my story or not. All indications lead me to believe that he forgave me - for which I'm thankful.

Another tie, which is not shown in the illustration, was made from the scraps of a homemade dress which belonged to a lady in the church choir. Mary Beth assembled the tie and I wore it once. The next time I put it on, I gave a little tug as I tightened it up and *the tie stretched*. After the third and fourth times I wore the tie, it continued to stretch to the point that MB had to cut about six inches out of the back of her masterpiece. Her explanation for what had happened was that the tie was cut on the bias and the material was prone to stretch anyway. Sounds reasonable to me.

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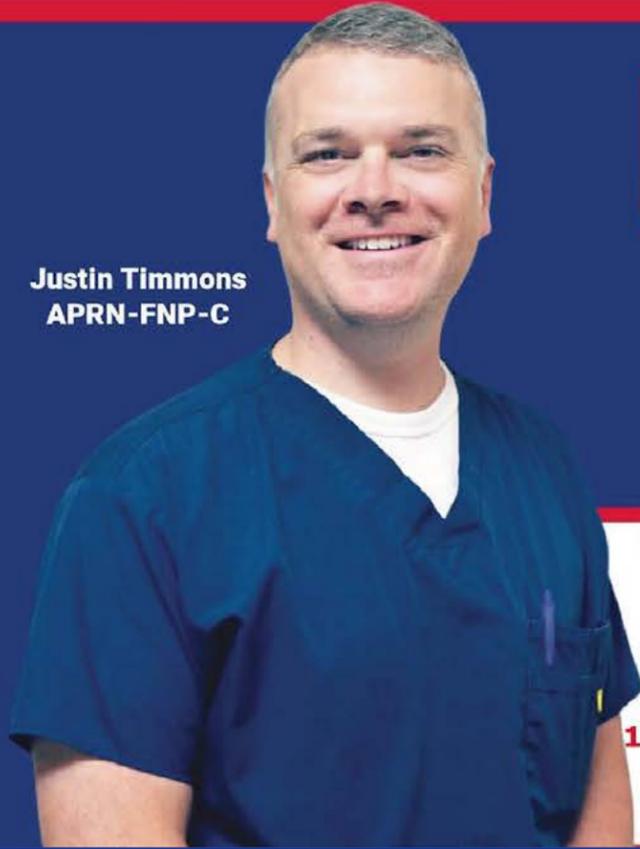
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# The Refuge

"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 mine)

*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.*



**Location.**  
**Location. Location.**

"Dear brothers and sisters you are foreigners and aliens here." 1 Peter 2:11, NLT

Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, the prophet Micah accurately predicted the Messiah's birthplace. Hear the Bible on the matter: "But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village in Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel will come from you, one whose origins are from the distant past" (Micah 5:2). If we think for one minute that God is not exercising His sovereign control over everyone born on this planet, we have another biblical thought coming.

Our location, no matter where we are, is fulfilling God's purpose. We may not be living according to God's plan for our lives, yet He uses our lives for His purpose. Whether we are in our current location as an act of obedience to the Spirit; our own choosing because we, like Lot, "took a long look at the fertile plains of the Jordan Valley" and chose the location for ourselves; our job is the reason for our location, or our family is the reason for our location. The reasons are many for where we reside yet none of them are outside God's purpose.

The main point for born-again Christians is that we remember we are foreigners and aliens here. This world is not our home. For those who are in Christ, we are in the right spiritual location for communion with the living God through a personal relationship that comes by grace through faith. We are sitting together in the heavenly places in Christ now while doing the good works God prepared for us before He created us that we should walk in them. The believer's location is Christ today, Christ tomorrow, and Christ forever.

Those whose faith in Christ is real (we've been born-again as evidenced by the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit) will never change our spiritual location, but we may have to change our physical location for kingdom service. When the time came for the Israelites to move, God spoke through His servant Moses: "When we were at Mount Sinai, the LORD our God said to us, 'You have stayed at this mountain long enough. It is time to break camp and move on'" (Deut 1:6).

Is God speaking to you through this message if you have not trusted Christ for salvation? Do you hear Him saying, "You have remained dead in sin long enough, move on to life in Christ." Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the God who was born in human flesh in order to offer His body as a sacrifice for our sin. In Christ we receive forgiveness of sin and a new spiritual location that saves us from the coming wrath of God.

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# Nacogdoches Chamber Welcomes Two New Team Members

New staff members have joined the Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce team. Managing the chamber’s daily finances is now Missy Manning, and hired for a newly created Program and Event Director position is Malisha Wheeler.

**Welcome Missy Manning**

Missy Manning has more than 25 years experience with bookkeeping and office management. She began her work with financial management at the Nacogdoches County Chamber in September. Ms. Manning and her husband Jeff moved from California to Nacogdoches two years ago.

“Moving to Texas was a good decision for us,” Manning said. “With my father being a Texan, and my momma being an Okie, it was an easy decision to settle in the Lone Star State. We targeted the green pastures of East Texas. When we drove down Hwy. 21 and hit the brick streets of Nacogdoches, we fell in love.”



**Welcome Malisha Ann Wheeler**

Newest in the chamber office is Program and Event Director Malisha Ann Wheeler. Ms. Wheeler grew up in Crosby and has enjoyed visiting family in Nac all her life. She has experience in commercial procurement, executive assistant and project management. She will play a role in the execution and advancement of the chamber’s and the Nacogdoches County Chamber Foundation’s programs and events.

“I moved to Nacogdoches in 2021 with an intention of returning to the Houston area, but this town offered a new beginning for me. While working with the Christian Women’s and Men’s Job Corp., I found a new purpose. The country life and being near my cousins is rejuvenating, and I greet each day with a smile and a skip in my step,” Wheeler said.



Through Dec. 31, the Nacogdoches County Chamber office will be staffed by Information Coordinator Sharon Hurst, Membership & Retention Shari Williams, COO Kelly Augustine, President/CEO C. Wayne Mitchell along with Manning and Wheeler.

For more about the Nacogdoches County Chamber, go to www.Nacogdoches.org or visit the office at 2516 North St.

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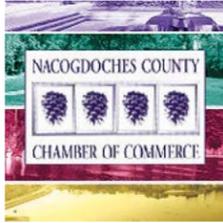
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**Chamber Connection**  
 by C. Wayne Mitchell  
 IOM, President & CEO,  
 Nacogdoches County Chamber  
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# Welcome Kelly Augustine-Chamber President & CEO!

The Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce announced that Kelly Augustine, IOM, will become President & CEO of the Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce, effective January 1, 2024.

I have had the honor to serve as President and CEO of this Chamber for the past 8 years. I can honestly say that it was a privilege to serve the businesses in Nacogdoches County. I was blessed to work with some outstanding staff colleagues, board members and committee members.

Looking forward, the Chamber leadership has selected Kelly Augustine, currently Chief Operation Officer, to become President & CEO on January 1, 2024.

"Kelly has years of experience with our chamber and has established relationships with volunteers and community leaders. She has a passion for the job," said Chairman of the Board Dr. Ryan Head. "The board of directors carefully considered the best succession plan for the organization and conducted a search. Her selection as president of the chamber ensures a seamless transition and keeps us on track to fulfill the chamber's mission to create an environment where business can succeed."

Ms. Augustine successfully completed the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for Organization Management (IOM) certification in November 2021. She has attended numerous state chamber conferences and trainings and enjoys learning from her peers in the industry. She is an SFASU graduate with a B.A. degree, majoring in journalism with an emphasis in public relations.

Ms. Augustine serves on the boards of Nacogdoches Area United Way and Texas Forest Country Partnership.

She and husband Matt are East Texas natives, members of Calvary Baptist Church and are happily settled in Nacogdoches.

"Not long after joining the chamber team in 2006 as membership and marketing manager, I found the different reasons people chose Nac as the place to build their businesses inspiring. Working with our business leaders and members of the chamber is a blessing for me," Augustine said. "I sincerely appreciate the wisdom and experience gained while working with former CEOs Bruce Partain and Bill Teague. When Wayne came on-board, he expanded my understanding of chamber of commerce work and transformed a job into a career I treasure."

This will be my last submission to "Around the Town" as President and CEO. I have enjoyed the opportunity to communicate with the folks in Nacogdoches through this media. I am confident that Kelly will assume this role in the future.

I want to thank everyone that made my Chamber experience in Nacogdoches County so enjoyable. Bonnie and I feel blessed to be a part of this community and do not intend to move.

In closing, I want to wish Kelly great success! You should know that she is a true chamber professional with all the skills and attributes to lead this organization to an exciting future. In my opinion, the Chamber leadership made a great decision!

C. Wayne Mitchell, IOM

For additional information, contact the Chamber staff today at 936-560-5533.



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# Mother-In-Law or Woman Hitler?

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.



Life, like dealing with your mother-in-law, is all the more challenging if you can't laugh at it once in a while. No other relationship has created more love or hate, depending upon your situation, than mothers-in-law. Men all learn, sometimes too late, that when they marry that beautiful young lady they are also marrying her family. The mother-in-law seems to create angst more than any other in-law. Consequently, there are more jokes told about her than any other family member.

The following are a few of my collection of MIL (mother-in-law) jokes that I would like to share.

Isn't it interesting that when you mix the letters in "mother-in-law" around they come out "woman Hitler"? Is that a coincidence?

One man reported "I was out shopping the other day after a meeting when I saw six women beating on my MIL. As I stood there and watched, her neighbor said, 'Well, aren't you going to help?' I replied, 'No, six of them are enough.'"

The clock fell off the wall. Had it been a second sooner, it would have hit my MIL. Darn! That clock was always slow.

Two men were in a bar. One says to his friend, "My MIL is an angel." His friend replied, "You're lucky. Mine is still alive."

A son-in-law was driving down the road when he was stopped by a policeman. The officer yelled, "Your MIL fell out of the car five miles back." The young man replied, "Thank God for that. I thought I had gone deaf."

I wouldn't say that my MIL is ugly, but every time she puts on lipstick it tries to crawl back into the tube.

A man brings his dog into the vet and says, "Could you please cut my dog's tail off?" The vet examines the tail and says, "There's nothing wrong. Why would you want to do that?" The man replies, "My MIL is coming to visit, and I don't want anything in the house to make her think that she is welcome."

Sometimes the father-in-law knows best. At a senior citizen's meeting, a couple was celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. The husband stood and was telling the story of his dating habits in his youth. It seemed that every time he brought home a girl to meet his mother, his mother didn't like her. So, finally, he started searching until he found a girl who not only looked like his mother and acted like his mother, she even sounded like his mother. So he brought her home one night to have dinner, and his father didn't like her.

George went on a vacation to the Middle East with most of his family, including his MIL. During their vacation, and while they were in Jerusalem, George's MIL suddenly died. With the death certificate in hand, George went to an American Consulate Office to make arrangements to send the body back to the United States for proper burial. He was told, "My friend, the sending of a body back to the States for burial is very, very expensive. It could cost as much as \$5,000 dollars. Therefore, in most cases, the family decides to bury the body here. This would cost only \$150 dollars."

Upon consideration of this information, George then replies, "I don't care how much it will cost to send the body back. That's what I want to do." The Consulate remarked, "You must have loved your MIL very much, considering the difference in price involved." "No, it's not that," George replies. "You see, I know of a case many, many years ago of a person that was buried here in Jerusalem, and on the third day he was resurrected. I just don't want to take that chance."

A beggar came to my MIL's house and said, "Excuse me madam, have you got any old beer bottles you can let me have?" At this, she indignantly replied, "Do I look like I drink beer?" At this he replied, "Sorry, ma'am, I suppose not. But, perhaps you have some old vinegar bottles then?"

I can always tell when my MIL is coming to stay. The mice throw themselves on the traps.

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I just returned from a pleasure trip. I took my MIL to the airport.

My MIL said, "One day I will dance on your grave." I said, "I hope so. I am going to be buried at sea."

I haven't spoken to my MIL for eighteen months. I just don't like to interrupt her while talking.

A police recruit was asked during an examination, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother-in-law? He answered, "I'd call for backup."

Last night the local peeping Tom knocked on my MIL's door and asked her to shut her blinds.

And finally:

A couple drove several miles down a country road not saying a word. An earlier discussion had led to an argument, and neither wanted to concede their position. As they passed a barnyard of mules and pigs, the wife sarcastically asked, "relatives of yours?" "Yep," the husband replies, "in-laws."

# Bones, Bones, Bones

by Steven Martin, *Owner of Martin Kennel*

Bones can be an enriching treat for your dog, helping to relieve boredom, anxiety, and stress as well as working to keep your dog's mouth healthy. But it's important to note that bones can be also harmful to dogs.

## Are Bones Good For Dogs?

Oftentimes, the answer is yes. Bones can provide your pup with a number of essential minerals and other nutrients while also satisfying your dog's appetite. Not only that, chewing stimulates saliva enzymes, which aids in the prevention of plaque buildup and gum disease helping to keep your pup's mouth healthy. An added benefit of providing bones for your dog to chew on is that it may deter them from undesirable behaviors such as excessive scratching or licking.

## So Can I Give A Dog A Bone?

A better question to ask is "should dogs chew bones?"

In general, raw bones tend to be better for dogs than cooked bones. So if you ever wondered "are cooked bones bad for dogs?" the answer is yes, but again, in general they keep your dog's mouth healthy. But it's important to note that bones can be also harmful to dogs.

That's because raw and cooked bones can both cause splinters in your dog's mouth and digestive tract, resulting in injury and even death (although this is more common with cooked bones). Here are some of the consequences of a dog chewing on raw or cooked bones.

- Lacerations or punctures to the gums and tongue
- Cuts and wounds to the throat
- Damaged or broken teeth
- Choking
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Severe constipation
- Intestinal blockage
- Perforation of the intestines
- Rectal trauma and bleeding



## What bones are NOT safe for dogs?

**Cooked Chicken and Turkey Bones:** These bones are most likely to splinter. Small bones are also more prone to getting lodged in the throat and esophagus than larger, more solid bones.

**T-Bones:** T-bones, due to their shape, can become stuck in a dog's throat while the other end is down the esophagus or trachea. This can lead to severe swelling that can block the airway, preventing your dog from breathing.

**Small Bones and Circular Bones:** Giving any bone that is smaller than your dog's mouth or easily splinters is risky. Both can result in choking hazards as well as trauma to the mouth and intestinal tract. Circular bones are also unfavorable because they can become lodged in the lower jaw of a dog. Dogs are terrified of this, and cutting the bone to free the dog's jaw usually necessitates sedation.

## What bones are safe for dogs?

Generally, you want to get raw bones from a reputable butcher large enough to be easily grasped and about the size of your dog's head. It should also have bulges or lumps on both ends.

Raw bones are considered a "safe" bone option, but there are still risks. Your dog can still break a tooth, cut his or her gums, or get a bone splinter. Excessive chewing on the bone can cause constipation. The bone should be refrigerated before use and discarded after a few hours.

## General Rules for Bone Safety

If you are considering giving your dog a bone, here are some general safety rules to follow:

### Do:

- Serve raw meat bones.
- After 10 to 15 minutes, remove the bone from your dog and place it in the refrigerator.
- After three or four days, discard the bone.
- Give large bones to large breeds like German Shepherd Dogs, Bloodhounds, and Mastiffs.
- When you give your dog a bone, keep an eye on him.
- Be an educated consumer

### Do Not:

- Give your dog the wrong type of bone.
- Don't give your dog cooked bones of any kind.
- Allow your dog to chew any type of bone into small pieces.
- Don't give your dog a bone if he has stomach problems.
- If another dog is visiting, don't give your dog a bone to chew on.

**Note:** The advice provided in this post is intended for informational purposes and does not constitute medical advice regarding pets. For an accurate diagnosis of your pet's condition, please make an appointment with your vet.

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# MONUMENT CORNER

This month we travel to Shelbyville in Shelby County. The monument, the gravestone of Syndey O. Pennington, is found inside the Shelbyville Cemetery, which is located on the east side of Hwy. 87 just before you enter Shelbyville from Center. The monument reads as follows:

## SYDNEY O. PENNINGTON

BORN IN KENTUCKY, 1809  
CAME TO TEXAS, 1834  
PARTICIPATED IN THE  
CAPTURE OF SAN ANTONIO, 1835  
SIGNED THE TEXAS  
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, 1836  
FOUGHT AT SAN JACINTO, 1836  
DIED IN SHELBY COUNTY, TEXAS, 1838

Erected by the State of Texas

1936



# Millard's Crossing News and Calendar

Good Day Readers,

I hope each of you had a great Thanksgiving and have wonderful plans for Christmas Day. We had some scary, funny, and sweet costumes come through for our Halloween Event. I believe everyone had a great time. The Sneak Peek into the Cotton Gin was awesome, we can not wait until it is open for the public, keep watching for the time to come. Thank you to the following sponsors: R&K Distributors, ETX Realty, Loblolly Properties, NIBCO, Brookshires, and NJF. Thank you to our faithful volunteers, board and to the staff.



On Saturday, December the 9th, I hear we will have Santa in the Village greeting children of all ages. He will even smile for the camera while BP Photography and staff take your photo. There will be hot cocoa from Junior Forum, cookies sponsored by Grandough Bakery, A Christmas Carol performed by Lamplite Theatre, Pony Rides, Petting Zoo, Train Rides, Face Painting, Music, Crafts, and more.

**NEW THIS YEAR\*\*\*\*\* Gingerbread, Cookie, and Wassail Competition.** (There is an extra fee for the competitions) We will have our first Special Blessing Tree Lighting, ornament's will be available for \$2.00 each, you can decorate, put your Blessing inside, and place on the tree. (While supplies last.)

Proceeds raised from our Events help to keep our beloved Millard's Crossing going throughout the year. Our sponsors help to keep the cost lower for families to come out and enjoy the events, so thank you to all.

It is said that Christmas is a magical time, a fun time, and yes, a stressful time for some. Last year I was reminded of something I had lost for many years. I always wear funny clothes the weeks leading up to Christmas and then the full week of Christmas. Last year we went to the store, dressed in hats, cute & funny sweaters, and looked somewhat like an elf. It amazed me how much someone would say you look cute or I like what you're wearing, I would just nod and keep on my way. Christmas eve last year changed my heart. My now husband, daughter, son-in-law, and myself were shopping, dressed up like I stated above, it was during this shopping adventure I was reminded of why I started dressing this way many years back. I grabbed a buggy, started looking at things, wondering why in the world are we here, we do not need anything. I left my daughter, son-in-law and boyfriend trailing, only to turn around to see they were not with me. My daughter and son-in-law went one direction and Earl was stopped at the front of the store speaking to a man. When I went back he was still there talking and laughing with this man. Then we left and a lady wanted to take a photo of us with her children, they loved it and so did we. We were headed to the front of the store to leave and had a swift detour to household wear, I had no clue why we were shopping since we didn't need anything. We were there maybe five minutes, we turned to go out of the aisle when this little lady glanced at us and then took a full look, her face lit up and tears started to roll down her face. She said you guys look cute, at this moment I did not nod and kept on my way, we stopped and listened, we all left with tears of a brighter day. Earl and I headed to check out and I was very grateful to Earl and all the people that made me remember why I dressed the way I did. There may be a person that just needs a reason to smile or even laugh, a mother that needed to have the children see something different, or just an all around feeling of the magic of Christmas. This year please remember the true reason we celebrate Christmas. One day long ago, a lady named Mary had a son and named him Jesus. I have told my grandchildren and children that God was the first and true Santa, He gave us the first gift!

Our door is always open for guests, please stop by. We can always find a cold drink or a cup of coffee to share with you. Thank you for the time you took to read this article. From all of us at Millard's Crossing Historic Village, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Grace Handler-Welch  
Executive Director

*The mission of Millard's Crossing Historic Village is to portray the spirit and ingenuity of pioneer settlement in East Texas and to connect present generations to those of the past.*

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## A Little Bit of History



*If you wonder why my perspective is skewed, the reason is that I was born cross-eyed.*

Was I taking care of business on December 7, 1985? December 7, 1985, was the day we held the first Diboll Arts & Crafts Fair on the left side of the Dixon Furniture parking lot and the Perry Brothers parking lot. Barbara Turner, wife of Ty Turner, the manager of KLN Radio, told me I needed to start a crafts fair, and I agreed to partner with them. I sold \$400 sponsorships to as many businesses as I wanted to participate to fund it. It wasn't always an easy sell, an example of which was my trip to sell Paul Durham at the Free Press. An old business acquaintance of my Dad's, he didn't hold back and bluntly told me: "Dickie, it ain't gonna work!" Despite the naysayers, four businesses signed on to sponsor it: Dixon Furniture (Diboll), Dick's Pharmacy, Baskins, and Temple-Inland. In the four years the Diboll Arts & Crafts Fair ran, it put Dixon Furniture on the map. Like everybody else, we promoted it with press releases, public service announcements, and 20,000 flyers, which my deliveryman took to businesses in a fifty-mile radius of Diboll. To give it an extra nudge to success, we decided to make it free: Vendors were to pay a \$10 deposit, which we returned the day of the fair. The day came, a beautiful one for an outside festival, and Sasha and I left my house in Lufkin to get started at about 4:30 a.m. The first Diboll Arts and Crafts Fair was a success with eighty-four booths, despite being a little bit chilly. There was only one thing I overlooked since I had never done an event like this: PortaPotties. All day, vendors came into my store and into Perry Brothers to use the bathroom. After my Dad closed his store, he came down to see what was going on with the crafts fair. Every time my Dad came to my store, he was the Inspector General, looking to his right and left down the main aisle to see if there were things I had not taken care of. That day was no different. He walked in the front door straight back to where my office was. Now the shopping strip in which our store was located was in a U shape: Dick's Pharmacy on the west end extending to the east end of the building with Leon Stricklen's insurance office and Billie Bryce's beauty shop forming the open part of the U. About halfway down the aisle, where my Dad was standing in front of the office before you went into the east room of our building, was our bathroom, with only one commode. Five to eight people lined up on the aisle going back toward my office, all waiting to use the bathroom. When my Dad saw them lined up, he said: "Dickie, why aren't you waiting on these people?" I said, "Daddy, they're waiting to use the bathroom!" All my Dad wanted to know was this: Was I taking care of business on Saturday, December 7, 1985, between 12:30 and 1 pm?

**And now you know, too!** Otis Redding died in a plane crash on December 10, 1967. That same day was the first day in Vietnam for Ulysses Garner, and he was wounded with what his fellow soldiers called a "Hollywood wound," i.e., it went clear through.



### **Kissin' Kuzzins By Dickie Dixon**

**((1) We all mourn the passing of Dene Allred, the brother of Keith, Mack, and Gene Allred, who passed away in Dallas after a bout with cancer and its consequences., and we also are deeply grieved over the passing of Mildred Sparks at 102 at her home as a result of a stroke. (2) The Deep East Texas Archeological Society will host its Christmas Dinner and Impromptu Auction from 5 to 9 pm on Monday, December 4, 2023, at the Iris and Anne Howard Civic Center on 213 East Court Street in Newton. For more information contact Ruth Dusan at (409) 379-5694 or [jrdusan@windstream.net](mailto:jrdusan@windstream.net) or Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419 or [dixonhershel51@aol.com](mailto:dixonhershel51@aol.com) (3) The Angelina County Genealogical Society will celebrate its Christmas Dinner and Impromptu Auction at 3 p.m. on day Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at the Office of the Huntington Housing Authority on 210 East Walnut Street. Please do not come early because we can't get into the Office early because a meeting will not be there until 3 p.m. Members and guests will enjoy light fare, desserts, and refreshments brought by the members and guests of the society, and members will bring items to auction off. She will bake five pies to be auctioned off: (1) Apple, (2) Cherry, (3) Chocolate, (4) Lemon meringue (5) Pecan. For more information, contact Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419. (4) William "Bunkie" Damrel's book "Call Tales" is available soon, covering his glimpse of the sawmill town Call, Texas, where he moved when he was six months old for his father to serve as the commissary manager. To order your copy for \$25 plus postage, contact Katie Moak at (409) 988-4981. Contact Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419 or [dixonhershel51@aol.com](mailto:dixonhershel51@aol.com)**

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Wed 6th	Private Party	Lufkin	_____
Thu 7th	Tia Juanitas	Lufkin	6:00 pm
Fri 8th	S.P.J.S.T. Dance	Lufkin V.F.W.	7:00 pm
Tue 12th	Guacamoles	Nacogdoches	6:00 pm
Fri 15th	Conroe Dance	Conroe	6:00 pm
Sat 16th	Naskila Casino	Hwy 190 E.	1:00 pm
Tue 19th	Guacamoles	Lufkin	6:00 pm
Wed 20th	Tia Juanitas	Lufkin	6:00 pm
Sat 23rd	Naskila Casino	Hwy 190 E.	1:00 pm
Tue 26th	Guacamoles	Nacogdoches	6:00 pm
Sat 30th	Naskila Casino	Hwy 190 E.	1:00 pm

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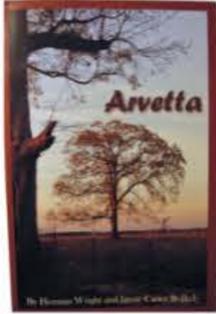
# Eye on Books

by  
Dickie Dixon



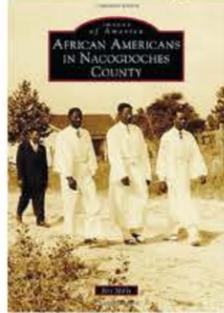
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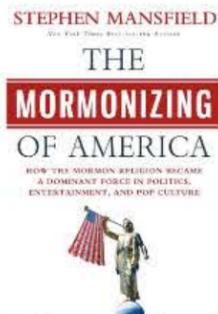
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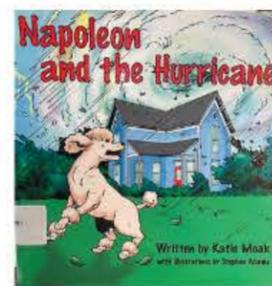
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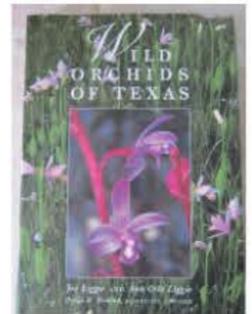
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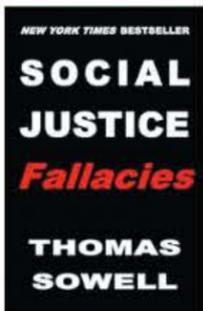
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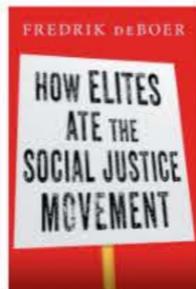


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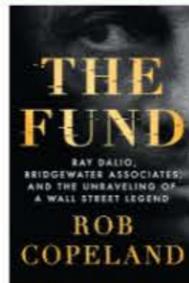


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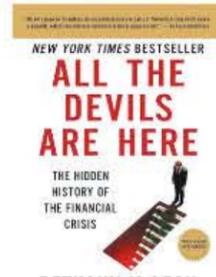


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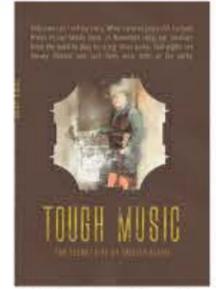
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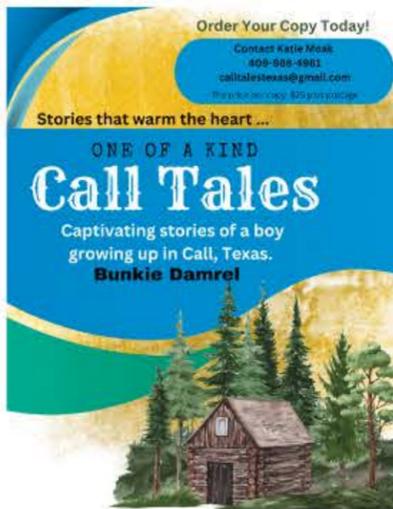


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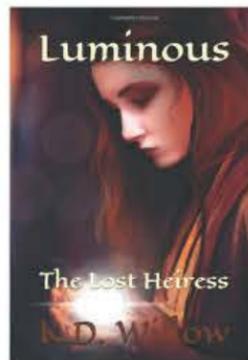
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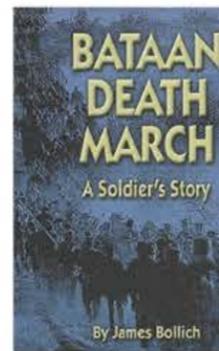


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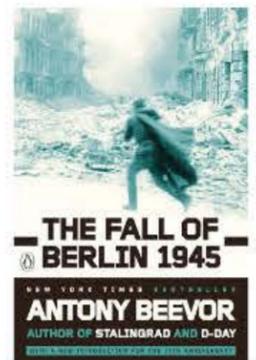
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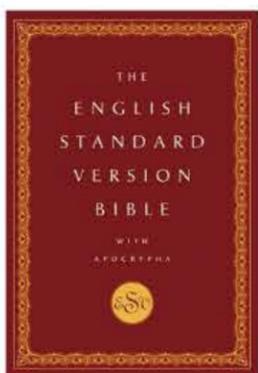


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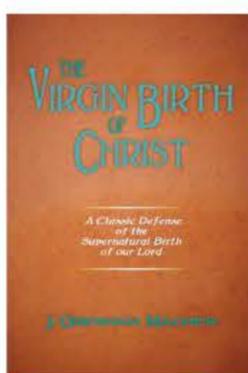


**The Fall of Berlin 1945**  
Antony Beevor

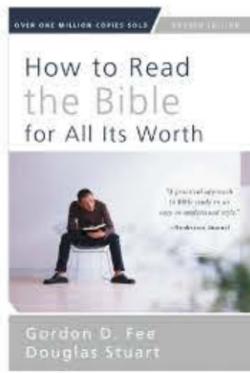
## Sociology



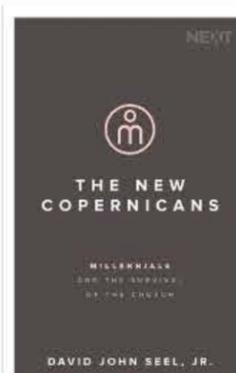
**English Standard Version Bible With Apocrypha**



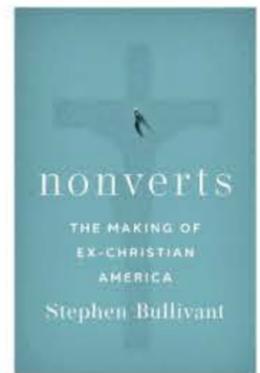
**The Virgin Birth of Christ**  
J. Gresham Machen



**How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth**  
Gordon D. Fee  
and Douglas Stuart



**The New Copernicans**  
Millennials  
The Training of the Twelve  
Alexander Balmain Bruce



**The Making of Ex-Christian America**  
Stephen Bullivant

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



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# NAC ARTS COLLABORATIVE News

November proved to be a gold star month for our arts non-profit. It kicked off with Dia de los Muertos Festival, where there were a record 85 vendors. We were next to the Chikawa Aztec Dancers dazzling performance and hosted two live painters on the brick streets.

We kicked off our new location with the November 17 opening reception for Michelle Filer's painting show "Nacogdoches Carnival Oddities" and it turned into a real happening. The dozen paintings feature local favorites depicted as carnival sideshow characters. The paintings were draped and then revealed by the artist one by one with the painting subject front and center for the big reveal. A gaggle of Nacogdoches faces were seen in the crowd and a large time was had by all.



Michelle Filer and Jerry Permenter with art from her show November 17

The next day was ArtWalk, the first sponsored by NAC. Fifteen businesses featured over 60 artists inside and out on a lovely Saturday afternoon. A special treat had Michelle Filer live painting on the Garden Capital of Texas mural on the NE corner of Main @ North Street. The new NAC gallery location featured Filer's carnival painting series and gourd artist and musician Cindy Grayson live in the gallery. Artist Jenny Alvarez led 20 artists in a Sip & Paint at the Fredonia Brewery that afternoon as well.



Maggie Abernethy and Tere Royal at NAC's Sip & Paint at the Fredonia Brewery during ArtWalk

The amazing month continued with our Grand Open House Saturday, November 25 coinciding with downtown's annual Wassail Fest. We featured the award winning wassail recipe from Gerry Larabee's Heart of Texas.

**Coming in December:** NAC sponsors "Winter Workshop Vendor Fair

Saturday, December 2, 10-2 around the square before the lighted Christmas parade later in the day. We will also be stocking our new art gift shop with unique gifts. A parking lot vendor fair is also planned for mid-December.

Tickets for our upcoming February 10th "Amethyst Ball: Under the Big Top" fundraiser extravaganza go on sale December 1. You won't want to miss it!



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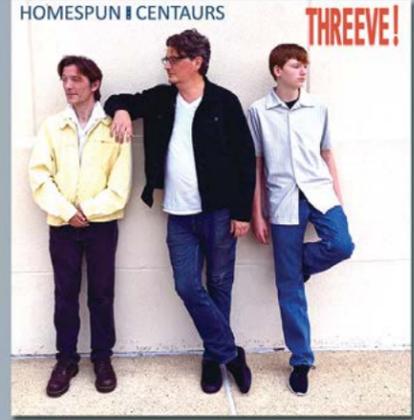
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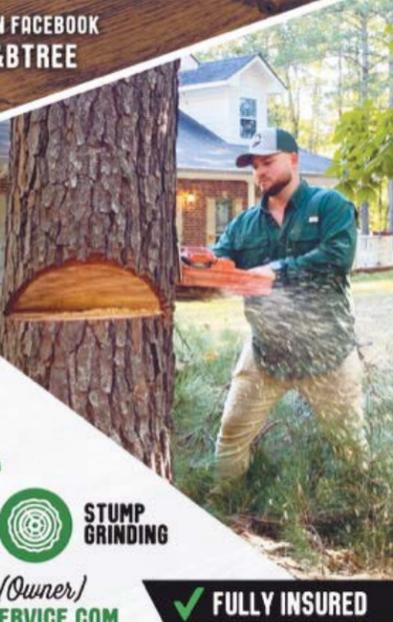


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# In the Loop... Expo Center in Lufkin

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

It's hard to believe 2023 is almost over! I hope all of you got your diet off to a good start at Thanksgiving. We are looking forward to a great Christmas season. The calendar slows down just a bit and gives all of us out here at the Expo some time to take off and be with friends and family. Speaking of Christmas, one of the best traditions in all of East Texas happens right here at the Expo. Lufkin First United Methodist Church presentation of "An Evening in Old Bethlehem" happens on December 8-9. Bring your family and step back 2,000 years into the past as they recreate the old city of Bethlehem. As you stroll the streets of the ancient marketplace, you'll see how the residents lived and worked. You'll meet the inhabitants of the town where Jesus was born and learn about the crafts and skills of the time period. Your visit will become especially significant as you experience the joy of the Nativity. Cost is only a 50 cent donation. Make sure to attend!

Thanks to our friends with the M5 Cutting Horse Association, we have a new series of great cutting horse shows coming to Lufkin. Sanctioned by the National Cutting Horse Association, these events will attract great horses and riders from across the region. Come out December 28-31 and enjoy. Admission is free!

**Upcoming in January:**

- January 6-7 Region V / Texas Junior High School Rodeo Association
- January 13-14 Region V / Texas High School Rodeo Association
- January 20-21 Pineywoods Youth Rodeo Association
- January 26-28 5-Star Junior Calf Roping and Barrell Racing Vegas Qualifier

From all of us here at 1200 Ellen Trout Drive in Lufkin, Texas...

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!**

As always,

See you at the Expo!  
Burt Hairgrove, Executive Director

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# A Bit of News From the City of Nacogdoches

by Kevin Meyer,  
 City of Nacogdoches Public Information Officer

## Nacogdoches Fire and Rescue Accepting Applications

Nacogdoches Fire and Rescue is currently accepting applications for certified and non-certified candidates for the position of firefighter. Uncertified candidates will attend requisite firefighter and/or medical training provided by Nacogdoches Fire and Rescue. Successful completion of the required training and certification is a condition of continued employment.

## NacWise and Nac311

The City of Nacogdoches uses the NacWise alert system to quickly and easily spread information throughout the city. Residents may register to receive NacWise alerts directly from the City during emergency situations by visiting [www.nacwise.com](http://www.nacwise.com) or by calling (936)715-3322 and following the prompts to sign up. Enrolling in the NacWise system is the simplest and quickest way to receive emergency communications in the City of Nacogdoches.

Concerned citizens who would like to report a maintenance issue somewhere in the City may do so by using the Nac311 app. This custom app has been developed by the City of Nacogdoches and gives citizens the power to report potholes, sidewalk issues, unlit street lights or other issues, all from their cell phone. Additionally, residents can use the app to pay their utility bills or traffic fines, search for job opportunities with the City, and browse various city websites. Find Nac311 in the app store on your smartphone.

## Downtown Decorating Competition

It's the most wonderful time of the year in Historic Downtown Nacogdoches! Our downtown businesses have decorated for the annual Window Decorating Contest and we need YOU to vote for your favorite window display!

From December 1st - December 31st, our downtown businesses will have their most magical window displays ready for you to stroll downtown and enjoy... and of course, vote! This year, each of our participating businesses will be photographed and added to a special Facebook Photo Album on the Main Street Facebook page.

Participants have two opportunities to win in two categories: People's Choice and Judges Choice. People's Choice will be conducted on the Main Street Facebook page for the public to go online and vote for their favorite display by reacting to that display's photo. (People can "like," "heart," etc. - comments will not be counted as votes.)

For Judges Choice, a panel of judges will go around one evening and will judge each window on several criteria. Winners will be announced on January 3rd.

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**Lea Ann Bennefield**  
Executive Director

## Hello Again from San Augustine County!

Christmas is a time for joy, love, and creating lasting memories with our loved ones. While the holiday season can often become hectic with shopping, planning, and entertaining, it is important to take a step back and focus on the true meaning of Christmas. One way to make Christmas truly meaningful is by incorporating heartfelt traditions into your celebrations. One cherished tradition is to gather around the Christmas tree and share stories of the past year. This can be a time for reflection, gratitude, and sharing special moments with each other.

Another beautiful tradition is to volunteer or donate to those in need. Giving back to the community not only spreads love and kindness but reminds us of the importance of compassion during this festive season.

Creating homemade gifts and decorations is another tradition that can bring warmth and a personal touch to your Christmas celebration. Whether it's baking cookies, crafting ornaments, or making personalized cards, these handmade gifts serve as a reminder of the love and effort put into creating something special for your loved ones.

Embracing the spirit of giving, you can also initiate a Secret Santa gift exchange or a charitable giving circle within your family or friend group. This adds an element of fun and surprise to your celebrations but also allows everyone to experience the joy of both giving and receiving.

Gathering for a Christmas meal or hosting a potluck where everyone brings a dish holds a special place in celebrating togetherness. This tradition brings quality time with loved ones, sharing delicious food, and creating new memories. Incorporating these traditions into your Christmas celebration will not only make the holiday more meaningful but also remind everyone of the importance of love, gratitude, and connection. It is these traditions that unwrap the magic of Christmas and create memories that will be treasured for a lifetime.

This season, the Chamber is sponsoring a blood drive immediately after Christmas on December 27 at the Chamber office in San Augustine. The Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center is hosting the blood drive. The Chamber will be giving \$5.00 coupons (to the first 20 donors) for the Mustard Seed food truck that will be parked alongside the Blood Drive Coach.

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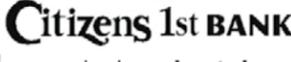
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# Positive Quotes From Different Folks

by Mary Francis Johannessen

*Mary Frances Johannessen - graduate of San Augustine High School, Angelina College Nursing School, Stephen F. Austin Nursing School - Retired Registered Nurse with a 40 year career - Ambassador for San Augustine since retiring 8 years ago. Member SA Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce. Likes traveling and family time.*



Social media positive quotes are appearing so frequently on our hand held devices that I decided to share a few which I have received recently. Read these slowly and reflectively as each one might touch your life.

-If it is to be it is up to me. -Ain't nothing to it but to do it. -Keep on keeping on. -Wanna get back on your feet, just miss a few car notes. -May all you want come to you in perfect timing. -Everyday brings new choices. -You can't have a positive life and a negative mind. -A good laugh is sunshine in the house. -Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated. -It's not length of life, but depth of life. -Life is a song so sing it, a game so play it, a dream so realize it, a challenge so meet it, a sacrifice so offer it, and love so enjoy it. -Everyone dies but not everyone lives. -The greatest glory in living lies not in failing but in rising each time we fail. -Learn as if you will live forever and live like you will die tomorrow. -Your limitation is only your imagination. -In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity. -There is nothing either good or bad but thinking makes it so. -Life is what happens when you are busy making other plans. -You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough. -The most beautiful things are not associated with money; they are memories and moments. -Happiness depends upon ourselves. -Optimism is a happiness magnet. -When things get tough, you get tougher. -A woman is like a teabag, you can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water. -Your resilience is your humanity. -Feelings are something you have; not something you are. -Stop being afraid of what can go wrong and start being positive about what can go right. -Be good to yourself. -Spread love everywhere you go. -Life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we react to it. -What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us.

I'm sure you recognize many of these different authors of such well known quotes. As 2023 comes to an end, I plan to start the new year with a positive mindset and by showing more kindness towards others.

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# The Clamkins Are in Nacogdoches!

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by Wendie Harris

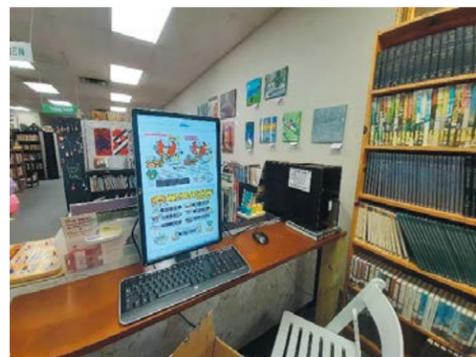
Most of us have been told as children, “Don’t play with your food.” But what if you could play with part of your food? The part you don’t eat, like, say, the shells left over after a meal of clams casino, or paella?

Well, that is how Bruce Ingrassia, an entrepreneur who recently moved to Nacogdoches from Sonora, CA, came up with his unique creation, Clamkins. Using leftover clam shells, googly eyes, and fur or feathers in various patterns, Bruce has developed more than 10 different characters, each with their own personality and name.

“When I was in high school, I worked in a seafood restaurant and each day tossed hundreds of leftover clam shells into buckets as I cleaned the tables. I was always thinking of ways I could use the shells instead of throwing them in the trash,” Bruce said.

After some trial and error, the first Clamkin, of the ‘Bog Frog’ variety, was born. And for five decades, Bruce has never looked back.

He went on to not only create the additional members of the Clamkin family, but also wrote a book detailing their ‘history’ – they originated on planet Rotar but fled to Earth when their world was destroyed – as well as a 137-page cookbook full of clam recipes. Both books are illustrated with funny, cartoon-style drawings of the Clamkins. The cookbook also contains a 12-page instruction guide for creating your very own Clamkins.



Donated computer station located in Dead Tree Dreams used bookstore

store became involved.

“Bruce came in the store and showed me the Clamkins and I couldn’t help but smile. They were adorable! He asked if he could put a tray of them on our sales counter and sell them on consignment. It’s been an adventure. The display has grown from that first small tray to a lighted case that holds about 40 Clam-

kins. And, of course, we now have the Clamkin Story Computer Station where you can read all about them.”

Between now and Dec. 24, Bruce is offering digital copies of his “First Ever Clam and Craft Cookbook” – a \$25 value – for free. To get a free copy, customers need to do one of three things.

1. Read *RECIPES From Around the Town and Beyond* and find the ad for Bruce’s book. Bring in a copy of the ad along with a USB drive for downloading the book.
2. Follow Dead Tree Dreams book shop on Facebook and look for the post about the Clamkins Story Computer Station. Unscramble the secret word in the post and tell Wendie, Robert, or either of their booksellers, Ashley or Kya, what the word is, and they will help you download the book onto your USB drive.
3. Get a color copy of the ad in *RECIPES From Around the Town and Beyond* from Bruce and bring it to the store along with your USB drive.

“The book on the USB drive makes a great stocking stuffer gift for all ages, especially if they love clams,” Bruce noted. Asked why he would give away his work, he said, “I love living in Texas and I wish to share my God-given talent with all of you Texans who have made me and my wife, Belinda, feel so welcome since moving here with our family, which includes twelve pet chickens, three dogs and four cats.”

Clamkins make great gifts, too. With their quirky expressions, wild hair, and unique personalities, they bring smiles wherever they go. On a desk at work or school; on the dashboard of a car or truck; on the bathroom counter or bedside table.

“We have had people tell us they remind them of someone they know. One little girl said she wanted to name her white-haired Clamkin ‘Grandpa’ because she said it looked like her granddad,” said Wendie.

So, when you stop by the bookshop to pick up your free copy of the Clamkins cookbook, look for someone you know among the Clamkins and maybe take them home, too.



## the CLAMKIN® FAMILY

### HOW TO MAKE A BOG FROG NAMED FRIGG



**FRONT VIEW**



**Bog Frog Head Assembly:**  
Glue one clam shell together and let it dry (use matching halves)

**Head**

**Wiggle Eyes:**  
Size mm eyes depends on the size of the clamshell head

**A Piece of old fur coat collar (from the thrift store)**



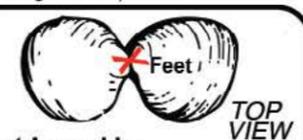
**BOG FROG order of Construction**

1. Make the head - let glue dry
2. Make the feet - let glue dry
3. Glue the head onto the feet
4. Cut small rectangular piece of fur and glue onto head - let glue dry
5. Glue on wiggle eyes (place eyes close together for a cuter clam character!)

*LOOKS EASY*

**Directions Updated 2/2/2021**

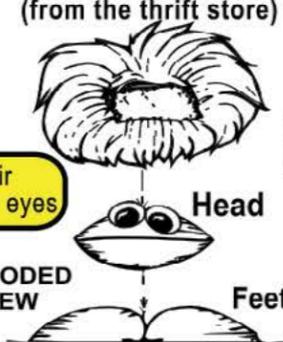
**TOP VIEW**



**Feet Assembly:**  
Place a drop of glue in the center and let dry on a flat surface (use matching set of clamshells)

**Feet**

**EXPLODED VIEW**



**Head**

**Feet**

**Directions**

**LOOKS EASY**

**LGD=let glue dry**



**SIDE VIEW**



**Head**

**Feet**

**Head & Feet Assembly:** Glue the head on top of the feet by balancing or leaning it against a back support. (A can of food works well). Let dry overnight. **Congratulations!** You have just completed the basic body of the Bog Frog!

**IT TAKES 2 CLAMS TO MAKE A BOG FROG CALLED FRIGG**



**I am a FRIGG IS MY NAME. BOG FROG**

**Hint #1 -** Use a hot glue gun before glueing clam shells in step 1-2-3 as the hot glue will hold the clam shells in place right away. Glue gun not needed in Steps 4-5

**Hint #2 -** Do all your glueing on newspaper as it will tear away if your glue dries and sticks to the clam shells. Newspaper also protects your furniture, it is cheap and disposable and Mom and Dad will appreciate it.



**The Clamkin®Family**  
284 CR 2061, Nacogdoches, Tx 75961  
Clamkinman@Comcast.net  
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**11/15/23**  
**This is Frigg, he is a "Bog Frog" and a member of the Clamkin®Family. These are the easy instructions on "How to make a Bog Frog"--one of my 12 copyrighted Cartoon Characters. How does this relate to cooking? Well these use to be food--clams but now they are Clamkins. If you don't want to make one you can buy a Clamkin at the Dead Tree Dreams Bookstore 115 No. Street across from Firestone Tire. We have 32 creative craft vendors, tons of used books and a very playful cat named Atticas.**

**Cool idea: Slowly drilled a hole in top of head-put wire and hang on Christmas tree as a unique ornament**

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# Candles in the Window

by Tweed Scott

One of my earliest memories of Christmas was from the early 50s. It was the lights. Our little family didn't have much money. I think we were one of those "beginner families" starting to get a foothold in the years after WW II. We did have a Christmas tree with those strings of lights that would go out if one light burned out. I learned from personal experience those lights would burn your fingers if you touched them. So, I made it a point to leave them alone.

Even with the array of colors on the tree, the thing that made the greatest impression on me was the candle lights in the windows of our house. Each window facing the street had a candle with a plastic base that supported three white columns topped with orange-colored lights. As a child of about six, I didn't understand the significance of those candles. I can still hear my mother's voice telling me why we put them in the window every year.



First, she explained to me how Joseph & Mary had traveled so far but still could not find an inn or a place to spend the night. She told me how they ended up staying in a drafty old stable. Then she told me about how their path was guided by a star and how that star directed the shepherds and Magi to the humble little stable so they could find Jesus, the Christ child. She went on to explain to me that was why we put the candles in the window every year; to let the Christ child know that if he saw our lights that he would be welcome in our home. I remember thinking how cool that would be if he would come and visit our house. I secretly waited to hear a knock at the door.

In those days, it seemed everyone had those kinds of candles in their windows too. Then, as the years went on, the light displays got bigger, brighter, and gaudier. Those candles got relegated to the attic or some other unseen place. As I've driven around this year, I have seen several homes with the candles in the windows again. It pleases me to see them coming back. There is a certain understated elegance in the simplicity of those candles. Just looking at them brings me back to a simpler, uncomplicated time. The lighted candles were one of our family's longest-held traditions. I have them in my home's windows. Now, I'm still hoping to hear a knock at the door.

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 CLINT DEMPSEY SOCCER FIELD

**MASS 10:30AM**  
 FESTIVAL PARK

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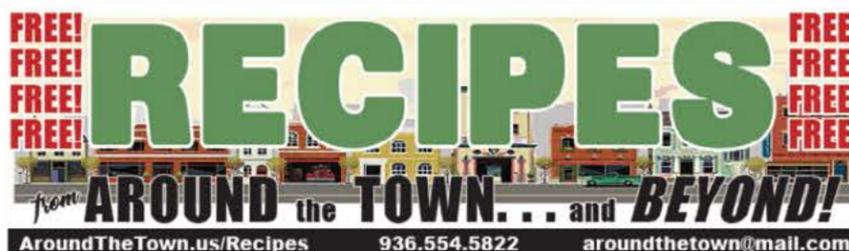
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 Angelina Manufactured Housing - 3907 N. Medford  
 Best Western - 3211 S. 1st St.  
 Big's - 2400 E. Denman  
 Big's - 1203 S. Chestnut  
 Big's - 1902 W. Frank  
 Big's - 2701 N. Raguet  
 Big's - 3644 Hwy 69N  
 Big's - 3122 Adkinson Dr. (Hwy 103E)  
 Big's - 4609 Hwy 103E  
 Big's - 620 N. Raguet St.

Big's - 1910 N. Timberland  
 Bodacious BBQ - 2207 W. Frank  
 Brookshire Brothers - 301 S. Chestnut  
 Brookshire Brothers - 1807 W. Frank - Gaslight Plaza  
 Casa Morales Mexican Restaurant - 1001 S. 1st St.  
 Catfish King - 806 S. Medford  
 Chen's - 302 S. Timberland Dr.  
 Comfort Suites - 4402 S. 1st St. (U. S. Hwy 59)  
 Crown Colony Shell - 101 Champion Dr.  
 Food Mart Exxon - 612 Frank  
 Food Mart Exxon - 6480 Hwy 69S  
 58 Junction Music Cafe' - 118 S. 1st  
 Guacamole's Restaurant - 2660 W. Frank (Hwy 94W)  
 Holiday Inn Express 4404 S. 1st  
 JR Food Mart - 1114 E. Denman Ave  
 Lone Star Charlie's Family Restaurant - 1910 E. Denman  
 Lucky's Valero - 3385 Tom Temple (Hwy 94W)  
 Lucky's Valero - 1707 John Redditt Dr.  
 Lufkin Barbecue - 203 S. Chestnut  
 Lufkin Farm Supply - 1217 E. Lufkin Ave.  
 Maddux Lumber & Hardware - 1603 Atkinson Dr.  
 Massingill's Meat Mkt - 3728 Hwy 69N  
 Maytag Washateria - 601 S. 1st  
 Mexico Express - 1603 W. Frank Ave (Hwy 94 W)  
 Midway Shell #29 - 3008 Atkinson Dr. (Hwy 103 E)  
 Mom's Diner - 420 W. Frank  
 Napoli's Restaurant - 107 W. Lufkin Ave.  
 On the Road - 4110 S. 1st  
 On the Road - 2902 E. Denman Ave (Hwy 69S)  
 On the Road - 3503 S. Chestnut  
 Pablo's BBQ & Mexican Food - 3900 Hwy 69N  
 Pelican Pointe Cajun Kitchen - 1302 N. John Redditt Dr.  
 Quality Inn - 4306 S. 1st  
 Ray's Drive In - 420 N. Timberland  
 Restoration Bistro - 210 S. 1st  
 Rustica's Kitchen - 317 S. Timberland  
 Sleep Inn - 2409 N. Timberland  
 Sofy's Donuts & Tacos - 102 N. Raguet  
 The Home Place - 5105 FM 326  
 Tia Juanita's Fish Camp - 3102 S. John Redditt Dr.  
 Timberland Chevron - 804 N. Timberland  
 Tommy's Watch & Jewelry - 800 S. Timberland  
 Walgreens - 102 N. Timberland  
 Walgreens - 1000 W. Frank  
 West Loop Chevron - 904 S. John Redditt Dr.

#### *In Diboll:*

Big's - 605 N. Temple (U.S. Hwy 59)  
 Big's - 710 S. Temple (U.S. Hwy 59)  
 Brookshire Brothers - 221 N. Temple (U.S. Hwy 59)  
 Diboll Depot - 1605 N. Temple (U.S. Hwy 59)  
 Diboll Public Library - 300 Park  
 Los Jarritos - 903 N. Temple (U.S. Hwy 59)  
 On The Road - 1580 N. Temple (US Hwy 59)  
 Tacos Mexico - 575 N. Temple (US Hwy 59)

#### *In Homer:*

Homer Mini Grocery - 7075 Hwy 69S

#### *In Hudson:*

Brookshire Brothers Express - 5750 Ted Trout/Hwy 94W  
 Brookshire Brothers Express - 6564 Ted Trout/Hwy 94W

#### *In Huntington:*

New Way - 461 Hwy 69  
 Little Boots Gro.- 101 Hwy 69S  
 Brookshire Brothers - 104 N. Main  
 Papa's Pit & More - 510 N. Main

#### *In Pollok:*

Brookshire Brothers/Polk's - 6925 Hwy 69N

#### *In Redland:*

JOC Stop Exxon - 5389 US Hwy 59 N

#### *In Zavalla:*

Coleman's Store - Intersection of Hwys 63 & 147

### NACOGDOCHES COUNTY

#### *In the City of Nacogdoches:*

A & D Hydraulics - 2124 NW Stallings Dr.  
 Appleby Sand Valero (just outside loop) FM 2609  
 Auntie Pastas - 211 Old Tyler Road  
 Barbecue House - 704 N. Stallings Drive  
 Barkeeps - 3308 North St.  
 Best Western - US 59 South  
 Best Western - 4809 NW Stallings Dr  
 Big's - University Drive @ SE Stallings Drive  
 Big's - Center Hwy (Hwy 7E) @ Loop 224  
 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 Street  
 Butcher Boy's - 603 North St.  
 Carney Real Estate - 3001 North St.  
 Cataract, Glaucoma & Retina Consultants - 3302 NE Stallings  
 Chamber of Commerce - 2516 North St.  
 Charles Pool Real Estate - 3505 North St.  
 CiCi's Pizza - 3801 North St. #19  
 Clear Springs - 211 Old Tyler Rd.  
 Coldwell Banker Blueberry Realty - 112 E. Main St.  
 Comfort Suites - US 59 South  
 Cutting Edge - 2211 S. University Dr.  
 Cowboy Jack's Saloon - 422 E. Main St.  
 D' Gorditas - 3609 SE Stallings Dr.  
 Dead Tree Dreams - 115 North St.  
 Dialysis Clinic - 4731 NE Stallings Dr.  
 Doches Credit Union - 920 NW Stallings Dr. @ Hwy 21W  
 Dr. Ronnie Hancock - Family Dentistry - 1302 Raguet St.  
 Eastex Glass & Mirror - 3102 South St.  
 El Lindo Mexico - 1102 SE Stallings Dr.  
 El Rancho Restaurant - 123 King St.  
 El Tia Beto - 4512 North St.  
 Fitness 360 - 4822 N. University Dr.  
 Fortney Home - 310 N. Mound  
 Gateway Shell/Denny's - 2615 N. Stallings Dr.  
 Goose Landing - 11332 S FM 225 (Lake Nacogdoches)  
 Gound Chev - 1015 North Street  
 Guacamole's Mexican Restaurant - 1315 North St.  
 H & Z Texaco - Starr Avenue @ University Drive  
 Hampton Inn - US 59 South  
 Harry's Building Material - 7008 North St.  
 Herman Power Tire - 222 South St.  
 Holiday Inn Express - US 59 South  
 IMPACT Store - 720 E. Main Stree  
 J & S Small Engine Repair - 12769 State Hwy 7W  
 Java Jack's - 1122 North Street  
 Johnson Furniture - 106 E. Main  
 Kampus Books - 305 E. College St.  
 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.  
 Lehmann Eye Center - 5300 North St.  
 Luquette Chiropractic - 4712 North St.  
 M & S Pharmacy - 917 E. Austin  
 Ma's Jewelry - 2423 North St  
 Martin Kennel - 512 CR 217  
 Marty's Barber Shop - 2805 North St, Suite B1  
 McCoy's Building Materials - 4009 NW Stallings Dr.  
 McWilliams & Son Air Conditioning - 2915 NW Stallings Dr.  
 Meadow Ridge Archery & Gun - 1090 CR 231  
 Mike Perry Mottors - 3812 South Street  
 Mike's BBQ - 1622 South Street  
 Milford's Barber Shop - 110 N. Church St.  
 Millard's Crossing Historic Village - 6020 North St.  
 CC's Smokehouse - 2709 Westward Dr.  
 Morgan Oil Chevron - 428 W. Main St.  
 Morgan Oil Chevron - Appleby Sand Rd. @ Austin St.  
 Morgan Oil Chevron - 1000 N. University Drive  
 Morgan Oil Chevron - 3325 North St.  
 Morgan Oil Chevron Truck Stop - 4919 NE Stallings  
 Mustard Seed - 1330 N. University Dr.  
 NacBurger - 3205 N. University Dr  
 NacSpace - 2400 N. Stallings Dr.  
 Nacogdoches Expo Center - 3805 NW Stallings Dr.  
 Nacogdoches Floral - 3602 North St.  
 Nacogdoches CVB - 200 E. Main St.  
 Nacogdoches Senior Center - 1601 W. Austin St.  
 Napoli's Restaurant - 2119 North St.  
 Northview Condos - 4100 North St.

### NACOGDOCHES COUNTY

#### *In the City of Nacogdoches*

Perry Propane - 6500 Franklin St.  
 Pike Saw & Tool - 2502 NW Stallings Dr.,  
 Renfro's Glass - 714 North St.  
 Red House Winery - 108 E. Pilar St.  
 Rhinestone Rifles Botique VIP - 404 E. Main St.  
 Rick's Valero - US 59 South  
 RV Outfitters - 2631 NW Stallings Dr.  
 Sam's Southern Eatery - 1220 North St.  
 Smokehouse - 2709 Westward Trail  
 Sombreros - 3000 North St.  
 Ables-Land Office Supplies - 412 North St.  
 Sunshine Food Mart - 2013 North St.  
 Super 8 Motel - US 59 South  
 Taquitos El Jaliscience - 3217 North St.  
 Taqueria El 21 - 1422 Douglass Road  
 Thrall's Grocery, Deli & Cafe - 7144 SH 21 East  
 VIP Cleaners - 4515 North St.  
 Walgreens - 3004 North St.  
 Windhill Apartments - 1324 Pruitt Hill Dr.  
 Woden Rd. Quick Stop - Woden Rd @ SE Stalling  
***In Appleby:***  
 Sammy's Mini Mart - U.S. Hwy 59 N.  
 Tom's Grocery & Shell - U.S. Hwy 59 N.  
***In Central Heights:***  
 Morgan Oil Chevron/Whataburger - Hwy 259 North  
 Polk's Pick It Up Truck Stop - Hwy 259 North  
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 Chireno's Cafe' - 716 Main St.  
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 Clyde Partin Monument Co. - Hwy 204  
 Cushing Food Mart - Hwy 204  
 Rawhide's Tire Service - 470 6th St.  
***In Douglass:***  
 Douglass Cafe' - State Hwy 21  
 Douglass General Store - State Hwy 21  
***In Etoile:***  
 Etoile Shell - Hwy 103 @ FM 226  
 Shirley Creek Marina Office & Cabins - 23177 FM 226  
***In Garrison:***  
 Bulldog Express/J & S Food Mart - U.S. Hwy 59  
 Garrison Gas & Convenience Store Exxon - U.S. Hwy 59  
 Garrison Hardware & Feed - 121 South B Ave.  
***In Martinsville:***  
 L & M Quick Stop - 13101 Hwy 7  
***In Sacul:***  
 What the Fork Cafe' - Hwy 204

### NEWTON COUNTY

#### *In Burkeville:*

Burkeville Heritage Society - 142 St. Hwy 84E

#### *In the Newton:*

Newton Co. History Ctr. - 213 E. Court St. - Newton  
 Newton Co. Public Library - 212 High St. - Newton

### SAN AUGUSTINE COUNTY

S. A. County Chamber of Commerce - 611 W. Columbia  
 Mike Perry Chevrolet - 101 W. Main St.

### SHELBY COUNTY

#### *In the City of Center:*

Ace Hardware - 5438 Loop 500 East  
 Boles Feed Co. - 101 Porter St.  
 Boyd Adams Barber Shop - 504 Hurst St.  
 Brookshire Brothers - 105 Hurst St.  
 Chamber of Commerce - In the old jail on the square  
 Covington Lumber & Bldg Materials - 1595 Teneha St.  
 H & S Discount Foods - 705 Shelbyville St.  
 Mathews Realty - 616 Teneha St.  
 Piney Woods Seafood - 1003 Hurst St.  
 Rancho Grande - 816 Teneha St.  
 TR's Steaks & More - 892 Hurst St.

#### *In Joaquin:*

Brookshire Brothers - 113 Haslam Sawmill Rd. - Hwy 84  
 NuWay Convenience Store - 13054 Hwy 84  
 Quick Stop - 12762 U.S. Hwy 84

#### *In Timpson:*

Brookshire Brothers- 829 N. 1st St. - Hwy 59  
 Frontier Cafe' - 101 Austin St.  
 Quick Stop - 674 N. 1st St. - Hwy 59

### TYLER COUNTY

#### *In Warren:*

Watson Rare Native Plant Preserve - 527 CR 4777

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## December 2023



**Elf Scavenger Hunt**  
Downtown Shops  
Dec 1st-31st

**Window Decorating Contest**  
Downtown Shops  
Dec 1st-31st

**First Film Friday Bubba Ho-Tep**  
Dec 1st 7pm-10pm  
Cole Arts Center

**Market on Main**  
305 E. Main Street  
Dec 2nd 10am - 2pm

**Nine Flags Lighted Christmas Parade**  
Downtown Nacogdoches  
Dec 2nd 6:30pm

**Party in the Park - Christmas Fest**  
Festival Park  
Dec 2nd 8:30

**Magic on Main**  
Downtown Nacogdoches Shops  
Dec 15th & 16th

**Loblolly Model Train Display**  
Dec 1st, 2nd, 8th, 9th 10am - 6pm  
Dec 3rd & 10th - 12pm-5pm  
Nacogdoches Railroad Depot

**Tis-the-season Exhibit Opening**  
Dec 9th 10am-12pm  
Sterne's Hoya House Museum

**Millard's Crossing Old Fashion Christmas**  
Dec 9th 2pm-9pm  
Millard's Crossing Historic Village

**Christmas Tour of Homes**  
Dec 9th 1pm-5pm  
Contact CVB for tickets

**SFA Planetarium Shows**  
Dec 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd  
3:00pm, 4:30pm & 7:00pm

**Auditions for The Glass Menagerie**  
Dec 9th & 10th 1pm-4pm  
Lamp Lite Theatre

**The Best Christmas Pageant Ever**  
Lamp-Lite Theatre  
12/15th & 16th 7:30pm  
12/17 2:00pm

**Pancakes with Santa**  
Dec 16th 8am-11am  
Fredonia Hotel

**Fredonia Hotel**

**Music on the Patio (Friday Evenings):**  
12/1 Sean Christopher @6:30pm-8:30pm  
12/8 Galaxy @6:30pm-8:30pm

**Fredonia Brewery**  
Wednesday \$1 off pints,  
Trivia Thursdays, Open Sundays 12-5pm  
12/1 Eat-a-Bite/ Sean Christopher  
12/2 Taqueria Mi Rancho/ 9 Flags Light  
Christmas Parade Watch Party  
12/8 Big Fella's BBQ/Galaxy  
SFA Alumni Big Dip Afterparty  
12/9 Shali's Indian Kitchen/ The Love Pedalers  
12/15 Shali's Indian Kitchen  
12/16 Taqueria Mi Rancho/ Steffany Karback  
12/22 Reed's Fish & More  
12/23 Chambers Smokehouse  
12/29 Reed's Fish & More  
12/30 The Salty Heiffer

**Maklemore's Ale House & Bistro**  
Wine Down Wednesday's  
Pint Night All Day Thursday's & Sunday Nights  
Weekend Brunch Every  
Saturday & Sunday 11am-3pm

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

**Lone Star Trivia**  
All times are 7pm  
Napoli's- 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th  
Fredonia Brewery- 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th

**Lugnutz Bar & Grill**  
Thursday Steak Nights  
Karaoke & Burger Fridays  
Live Music Saturdays  
12/2 Music Festival 4pm-midnight  
12/16 Live Music  
12/31 NYE Celebration

**Pemberly's Afternoon Tea**  
Pemberleys's at The Jones  
House Every Thursday @4pm

**Front Porch Distillery**  
Pickin' on the Porch  
LIVE music and Food Trucks every Fri. & Sat.  
12/1 Marshall Hance Live  
12/2 Santa Photos 3-5pm  
Tyler Dhone Live/Chambers Smokehouse  
12/8 The Hopeful Few Live  
12/12 Cookie Class 6-8pm  
12/13 Gingerbread Decorating Contest  
12/20 Libations & Literature

**Naca Valley Vineyard**  
Pizza on the Pavilion:  
Every Thurs. & Fri. 5-9pm & Sat. 12-9pm  
Live Music:  
12/2 Randy C. Moore @ 5:30  
12/9 Justin Merritt @5:30  
12/16 Tyler Dhone @5:30  
12/30 Joe Cuellar @5:30

**Banita Creek Hall**  
Thursdays: Dance Lessons (7-8:30)  
& Ladies Night  
Fridays: Dollar Night  
12/31 New Years Eve Party

**For tickets, information and more go to  
[www.visitnacogdoches.org/events](http://www.visitnacogdoches.org/events)**

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