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**NACOGDOCHES COUNTY - ANGELINA COUNTY - SHELBY COUNTY**

**MAY 2026**

# The Garrison BBQ Spot: Cooking Up Community

by Dr. Vi Alexander

As the owner and operator of a trucking company for many years, Tracy Cook has logged more highway miles than most people do in a lifetime. For years, he rolled across the country in a big rig chasing sunrises on twolane roads and backing into tight docks under buzzing lights. The cab was often his office, his kitchen, and sometimes his bedroom. He and his drivers could tell you which truck stops had the best showers, which stretches of highway to avoid at rush hour, and—most importantly—where to find a good plate of food. Tracy remarked, “Ask any longhaul driver what they’re really hunting for and you’ll hear the same thing, a solid Mexican joint or a barbeque spot where the ribs are fresh off the grill.” Tracy was no different. But, as good as those meals were, nothing ever quite matched his own backyard cooking.

Kristi Cook, Tracy’s wife, works right alongside him in all their projects. A registered nurse who works full time in Nacogdoches, she still finds time to help run the family businesses—Lolli & Pop’s Liquor Beer and Wine in Garrison and, now, their new venture, a barbecue restaurant called The Garrison BBQ Spot. When Kristi and Tracy think back on the weekends they spent grilling in their backyard, they say that’s where it all began. Kristi loves to cook, and together they could always put a great meal on the table. Before long, their yard was full of lawn chairs and paper plates, and they realized people weren’t just coming for the food—they were staying for the company. Two old boys would be out in the driveway arguing about high school football games from 30 years ago. Kids chased each other around the pecan tree. An older woman sat at the picnic table, talking with a young couple about their newborn. It felt a lot like the kind of community everyone said the town “used to have.”



Tracy and Kristi Cook

GARRISON BBQ - Page 2

# Over 100 Years of Family Service — O.T. Allen & Son Funeral Home

by Dr. Vi Alexander

Life for a teenager in Alto, Texas in the 1920s was shaped by long days of farm work, church on Sundays, and a small but lively main street where the modern world was only just beginning to show itself. Most families in and around Alto depended on agriculture—especially cotton and some cattle—so young people split their time among school, chores in the fields or garden, caring for younger siblings, and picking up odd jobs in town to help make ends meet.

For a teenager named Orion Thomas Allen, one of those odd jobs changed everything. He went to work as a funeral assistant, working closely with the town mortician. That quiet job in a small East Texas funeral home became the starting point for a family calling that would shape the future for generations.

In Orion’s early years at the funeral home, he learned lessons about life and death that no classroom could teach. He saw that this was the place where people came to say goodbye, to lay down their grief for a moment in a room made as gentle as possible. His tasks were simple—sweeping floors, polishing wood, washing the car, carrying flowers, doing whatever he was told—but the purpose behind them ran deeper. He was taught that his real job was to make sure nothing in that building added to a family’s burden; no squeaking chairs, no crooked pictures, no dust on the floorboards. Grief, he came to understand, was heavy enough on its own.



Clyde Partin Monument Office Manager Cheri Williams and Owner O. T. Allen

FUNERAL HOME - Page 3

## GARRISON BBQ

That's when a quiet thought settled in: if a backyard could feel like this, what could a restaurant do?



*The Garrison BBQ Spot*

some town they can't even spell, surely folks here in Garrison would come to one they can walk to."

From the day they first smoked a few ribs for the family in the backyard to the day they hung an "Open" sign on the square, their lives have been measured in grill marks and good company. In that little spot on the square, with stories at every table and dominoes waiting to be shuffled, a couple with a grill did more than open a restaurant—they gave their neighbors a place to gather and reminded them they belonged to each other. The Garrison BBQ Spot menu stays rooted in Texas and is kept simple on purpose, including but not limited to:

- Smoked brisket
- Pork ribs
- Half chickens
- 3 different sausages
- Pulled pork sandwiches
- Loaded baked potatoes
- Kristi's homemade potato salad, mac and cheese, and banana pudding.
- Other sides: salad, pinto beans, coleslaw.
- Other homemade desserts: Buttermilk Pie, Millionaire Pie, cobblers (Pecan and Blueberry)
- Local grown beef from Barton farm, Garrison, Texas.
- Homemade BBQ sauce.

Whether you're just passing through or you call East Texas home, you're invited to pull up a chair at the restaurant. Kristi, Tracy, their son Triston and daughter-in-law Caitlin, and Kristi's mother, Elizabeth Curbow, are there to welcome you. Come, enjoy a plate of slowsmoked barbeque, linger over good company, and let the pace of life ease up for a while. And if you're here on a Thursday night, don't be surprised if you're asked to stay and play a round of dominoes or sit in on a game of 42—there's always room at the table.

Hours of Operation:  
Thursday-Saturday 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM  
Sunday 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM  
(Thursday 6:00 PM - Dominos/42)

**The Garrison BBQ Spot**  
Owners: Tracy and Kristi Cook  
120 Hwy 59S  
Garrison, TX 75946  
(936) 279-8007



*Tracy, Kristi, Elizabeth Curbow, Triston Cook, Caitlin Cook*

The idea for a barbecue place didn't come from a business plan—it came from Saturday afternoons. On their days off, Kristi and Tracy spent their time with Tracy at the backyard grill and Kristi preparing all the sides. Friends and family kept telling him, "Y'all ought to sell this," he said with a laugh. "My wife, Kristi, and I thought they were just being nice, but after a while, we started to wonder." Then, that old building on the square went up for sale again. "We kept thinking," Tracy said, "if truck drivers like me will hunt down a good barbecue joint in

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*Our Pledge . . .*  
*Around the Town* and its publishers seek to provide the people of this area with news and information about the current events and happenings in the categories of dining, entertainment, sports and the arts, while providing a venue for retail and commercial establishments, as well as local artisans and non-profit and service organizations to present themselves to the public. We also strive to feature some of the rich history and culture this area is particularly known for.

## FUNERAL HOME

In the 1930s, Orion stepped from employee to owner, purchasing the Alto funeral home and turning it into a true family enterprise. He worked side by side with his son, Dickie Allen, and later his grandson, Cody Allen quietly building a legacy of service that stretched across generations. In 1976, the family took the next bold step and expanded their care to neighboring Cushing, Texas, by purchasing the funeral home there, extending its commitment to smalltown families even farther across East Texas. Orion Thomas Allen's grandson and namesake, Oran Thomas (O. T.) Allen, has now taken the reins of the family business, carrying forward the values handed down through his great-grandfather, grandfather, and father. He leads with the same commitment to service, integrity, and compassion that has defined the Allen name for generations.

To further advance their offerings within the field of funeral services, O.T. Allen & Sons Funeral Home acquired Clyde Partin Monument Company in Cushing, Texas, a smalltown monument firm long known for its finely crafted granite and bronze memorials. After more than nine decades in operation, the Clyde Partin Monument Company's story is quite literally written in stone across East Texas cemeteries. Early handcut markers stand beside newer, more elaborate designs, together tracing the lives of families, churches, and communities in and around Cushing. For many local residents, "Clyde Partin" meant more than a business name; it is tied to the way their loved ones are remembered, making its history a quiet but enduring thread in East Texas life. Today, the monument company is under new management but continues to serve as a regional hub where families from across the region can choose headstones, markers, and custom engraving to honor their loved ones in a lasting, deeply personal way.

Based in Alto and Cushing, O.T. Allen & Son Funeral Home and Dickie Allen Funeral Home quietly serve a wide stretch of East Texas, reaching families in communities like Henderson, Nacogdoches, Lufkin, Palestine, Athens, Longview, Tyler, and many smaller towns in between. Together, O.T. Allen & Son in Alto and Dickie Allen in Cushing offer the full span of funeral and memorial options: traditional services with visitation, chapel or church funerals, graveside ceremonies, and direct burials. They also provide a range of cremation options, from simple, quiet arrangements to larger memorial gatherings where friends and family can share memories, tell stories, and honor the life of the one who has died.

Families who share their experiences often speak of attentive staff, careful handling of every detail, and a genuine willingness to shape each service around a person's life story and faith. In closeknit communities where word travels fast and reputations are earned over time, that kind of personal care has kept the Allen name a trusted choice in times of loss.

### O.T. Allen and Son Funeral Home

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 contactallenfh@gmail.com  
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### Dickie Allen Funeral Home

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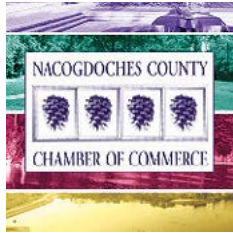


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**Chamber Connection**  
 by Kelly Augustine  
 IOM, President & CEO,  
 Nacogdoches County Chamber  
 of Commerce

# Texas Blueberry Festival Adds Cool New Event: Texas Folklife Blueberry Jam Sponsored by Motorhomes of Texas

The 36th Texas Blueberry Festival presented by Tipton Ford is turning up the music and cooling things down with an exciting new addition, the Texas Folklife Blueberry Jam sponsored by Motorhomes of Texas. This new attraction will be one of many blueberry-delicious events happening on the second Saturday in June in downtown Nacogdoches.

Festival goers are invited to step inside the comfort of air-conditioned Mast Hall in the 300 block on E. Main St. on Saturday, June 13, for an afternoon filled with live entertainment, culture and blueberry-season fun. The Blueberry Jam will feature a lively lineup of performers showcasing the sounds and traditions that make Texas unique.

Running throughout the afternoon until 4 p.m., this indoor blueberry jam offers the perfect place to relax, cool off and enjoy entertainment while still being part of the excitement of the Texas Blueberry Festival. Adding even more sweet incentives, Ferrara's Berry Sweet Shoppe will remain open throughout the afternoon inside Mast Hall, giving guests the opportunity to enjoy blueberry treats, specialty sweets and festival favorites while relaxing and taking in the entertainment.

The Blueberry Jam adds a fresh new layer to the festival, and it is free to attend and open to all festival guests. Make plans to stop by Mast Hall in historic downtown Nacogdoches on June 13 and enjoy this NEW festival event.

Other events of **The Chamber's 36th Annual Texas Blueberry Festival presented by Tipton Ford** –

**Friday, June 12:**

**Blueberry Festival of Quilts**, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Fredonia Hill Baptist Church. (Also open Saturday, June 13, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.)  
**Critter Costume Contest** at Fredonia Brewery, 6 p.m.

**Saturday, June 13:**

**Running of the Blueberries 5K, 10K, 1 mile**  
**Blueberry Pancake Breakfast**  
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*US Army Swearing In Ceremony*  
*Live Stage Entertainment*

**Bonus:** *The Blueberry Bluegrass Concert in Festival Park* is back on Friday, June 12 starting at 7 p.m.

For more information about the tastiest festival in Texas including details about individual events, visit [www.TexasBlueberryFestival.com](http://www.TexasBlueberryFestival.com).

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## Charles Pool Real Estate Welcomes Faith Fleeman to the Team

Charles Pool Real Estate is proud to announce Faith Fleeman as the newest member of Nacogdoches' largest team of licensed brokers.

Faith Fleeman moved to Nacogdoches in 2024 with her fiancé. She was born and raised in South Texas, spending her early years on a ranch in Goliad before moving to the outskirts of Houston for high school. She attended Texas A&M University, majoring in Agricultural Leadership and Development and minoring in Urban Planning.

"Nacogdoches has truly become home for me," she said. "I'm excited to step into real estate and help people find a place to call their own. Being part of such a special milestone is something I'm incredibly grateful for."

CPRE has a special milestone of its own in 2026. They are celebrating 50 years in business and are inviting the community to join them for a special anniversary party from 5 to 7 pm, Tuesday, May 5, at their office at 3505 North St. While they're honoring their past, they're also looking toward the future and making plans for the next 50 years. In addition to adding Faith to the team, they recently created CPRE Farm & Ranch and are working on expanding into rental property management.

"It's an exciting time for us here at CPRE, and Faith is proving to be a natural fit for us," Colton Pool, CPRE Realtor®, said. "She brings a lot to the table, as far as her attitude and her energy, and we are looking forward to working alongside her. She's going to be a great addition to the team and to our community."

Established in 1976, Charles Pool Real Estate proudly boasts more licensed brokers and more multi-million-dollar producers than any other company in Nacogdoches. CPRE agents complete hundreds of successful real estate transactions each year, and CPRE has consistently ranked one of Nacogdoches' top companies in residential listings and sales.

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|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
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| Sunday, May 3    | 2 PM – 7 PM  |
| Saturday, May 9  | 6 PM – 11 PM |
| Sunday, May 10   | 2 PM – 7 PM  |
| Saturday, May 16 | 6 PM – 11 PM |
| Sunday, May 17   | 2 PM – 7 PM  |



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**Event Dates & Times**

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
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| Sunday, May 24   | 6 PM – 11 PM |
| Monday, May 25   | 2 PM – 7 PM  |
| Saturday, May 30 | 6 PM – 11 PM |
| Sunday, May 31   | 2 PM – 7 PM  |



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Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) is a 501(C)3 nonprofit organization. As a Christian organization, we seek to encourage, hold accountable, and offer opportunities to women who need a hand up, not a handout. Students are encouraged to be their best. Students are taught how to make or update their resumés, apply for jobs and are shown how to meet potential employers, and how to be successful in job interviews. Some students have been out of school for a few years, while others have been out of school for many years. CWJC also now offers a High School Equivalency (GED) program. There are seats available, however, the fastest way to get into the GED program is by also enrolling in our CWJC job readiness program. We encourage you to think about applying to become a student at CWJC. Not only do we offer a nine-week course in Bible Study, Financial Responsibility, Boundaries, Job Training, and Computer Skills, but we offer real life experiences including visiting employers/agencies, participating in a private job fair just for our clients, and learn practical skills to keep a job. CWJC also helps students find appropriate interview clothes. In addition, each student receives a mentor. CWJC wants to see students become successful. This is accomplished by offering students a variety of opportunities to grow, improve personal skills, and gain a firm foundation from which to launch themselves into a successful new life. To accomplish this for students, CWJC needs volunteers and mentors to give an hour or two per week while classes are in session. If you have time and would like to give back to our community, we may be the organization for you. Feel free to check us out on Facebook and Instagram at CWJCNAC, or contact us at 936-564-2952 for more information. We also host tours on our campus and can even speak to organizations or groups. Support local!



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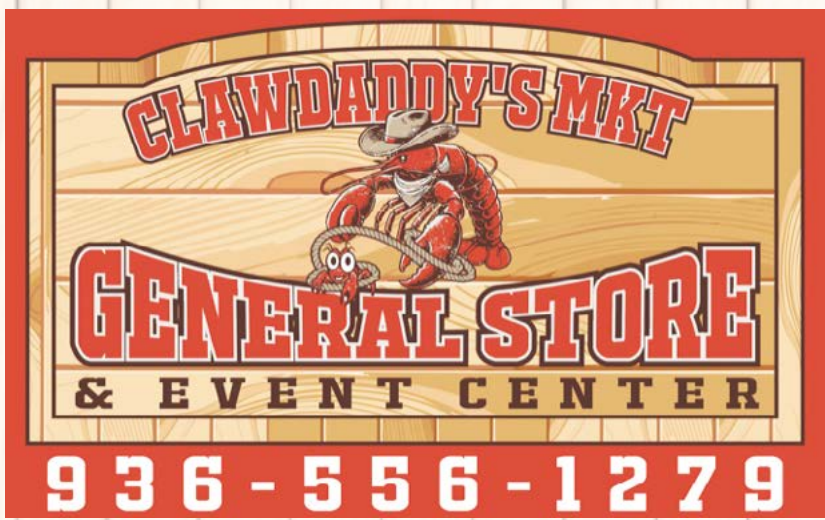
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# From Cincinnati to San Jacinto: The “Twin Sisters” Come to Texas

by Scott Sosebee, Contributing Writer

*Scott Sosebee is a Professor of History at Stephen F. Austin State University and the Executive Director and Editor of the East Texas Historical Association.*

For Texans, of course, there are two events that all residents of our state can identify and certainly describe—the two primary military events of the Texas Revolution: The Siege and subsequent Battle of the Alamo from February 23 through March 6, and the following Battle of San Jacinto on April 21. These two fights, combated roughly six weeks apart and with decidedly different outcomes, have become key parts of how Texans identify themselves and form the core of what we know about the Texas Revolution. I have no doubt that of the two, and there are many reasons why this is, most folks recognize and know more about the military fight in San Antonio than they do the one that took place near Houston on April 21, 1836. However, in the grand scheme of historical importance, it is San Jacinto that had the greater effect and consequence.



*Photograph, the Twin Sisters Monument at the San Jacinto Monument and Museum. The cannons shown are replicas of the Twin Sisters given to the Texans by the citizens of Cincinnati, Ohio, and to this day have not been discovered. Image courtesy of Nick Juhasz Photography, 2007.*

After all, that is where Texas gained independence from Mexico and began a journey that made it part of the United States.

There are many stories about San Jacinto that one can tell. One of the most engaging, to me, is how the citizens of Cincinnati, Ohio—a place over a thousand miles from the battlefield that lies between Buffalo Bayou and the San Jacinto River—showed their support for and provided assistance to the Texian cause. It would be from that city on the Ohio River that two cannons, known as the “Twin Sisters,” came to Texas as a gift from the people of Cincinnati to the Texas Army to express their support for their revolt against Santa Anna and Mexico.

Newspapers and politicians took great interest in the Texas Revolution when it began in October 1835. The Texian cause was the perfect representation of the emerging concept of “Manifest Destiny,” the expansionist philosophy that espoused a narrative that the United States was “destined” to spread its influence and ideas throughout certainly the Americas, and among many advocates, the world. Those outlets, however, were not the only organs responsible for spreading the Texas cause. The Consultation Texian government authorized “agents” to travel to the United States to try to raise supplies, money, and even soldiers to help prosecute its war with the Mexican government. One of those was William Francis “Picayune” Smith (he was known as Francis Smith), a merchant from present-day Burleson County. Authorities gave him the task of traveling to Ohio to enlist such support. He arrived in Cincinnati in the middle of November, 1835 and placed a notice in the Cincinnati *Republican* soliciting a meeting of the citizens for the purpose of “raising funds to purchase a pair of field pieces to take to Texas.”

The response was impressive, likely aided by the fact that David G. Burnet, an *empresario* and political leader who would eventually become the interim President of Texas, had lived in Cincinnati and his brother Isaac was the mayor and another brother, Jacob, a district judge. More than 200 Cincinnatians turned out for meetings on November 12 and 17, and in both sessions they adopted a resolution of not only support for the Revolution, but pledged funds to purchase two “hollow wares,” a euphemism required since the United States had officially declared neutrality in the war. The cannons, two “six-pounders” which refers to the weight of the balls they fired, were forged and manufactured at the Greenwood and Webb foundry in the city and then shipped down the Mississippi to New Orleans, where they arrived on March 13, 1836. There, William Bryan, who was the official representative in the city for the new Republic of Texas, took possession of the weapons and placed them on a schooner bound for Galveston.

The cannons were accompanied by Dr. Charles Rice and his family, who were moving to Texas. When the guns arrived in Galveston they were formally “presented” to Texas as a gift from the city of Cincinnati. Rice had two twin daughters, Elizabeth and Eleanor. When the cannons were “handed off” they were presented under the sponsorship of the two young women. Thus, they gained a moniker: the “Twin Sisters.” A carriage (wheels and casement) was constructed for the two, and they were prepared for delivery to Houston’s army, at that time retreating from Mexican forces west of Galveston.

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

The transfer of the Twin Sisters proved more difficult than most thought. First, Houston was moving so quickly on his march toward East Texas that it was problematic to actually locate him, and secondly, spring rains were causing movement along Texas’ poor roads tricky. They finally reached the army on April 11, 1836, where they were placed with a thirty-man artillery corps under the command of Lt. Col. James Neill, who was the original commander of the Alamo. The Twin Sisters were fired in action the first time on April 20, the day before the Battle of San Jacinto began, during a small skirmish between Houston’s men and a Mexican army patrol. Neill was wounded in the exchange and thus George Hockley took over command of the corps. The two cannons then participated in the final battle the next day, firing grape shot at the Mexican forces from about two hundred yards. They provided particularly effective cover for the advancing cavalry under the command of Sidney Sherman.

After the battle and Texas’ independence, the Twin Sisters were taken to Austin where they were stored. We know that they were fired on the fifth anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto in 1841, but following that their movement and actions were murky. When Texas was annexed by the U.S. in 1845 all military stores and weaponry were turned over the United States Army, and that included the Twin Sisters. They were moved to Baton Rouge where they remained until Texas seceded from the Union in 1861. After that, Texas sent word to Louisiana authorities requesting their return. They informed the Texans that the cannon had been sold to a foundry in Baton Rouge for scrap iron.

Luckily, they had not yet been melted down, although they were in poor condition. The Louisiana government paid to procure and refurbish them and they were shipped to Texas, appropriately arriving on April 20, 1861. They were used as part of the Confederate assault to take back Galveston from Union troops in January 1863. After that, what happened to the Twin Sisters is the subject of mystery, one of those “Texas Stories” waiting to be uncovered.

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# MILLARD'S CROSSING

HISTORIC VILLAGE



# FRIENDS OF MILLARD'S CROSSING

by Savannah Lott

Millard's Crossing proudly introduces our new Administrative Director and Curator, Savannah Lott. Savannah is a life-long resident of Nacogdoches and the daughter of Stephanie and Ronald Lott, DVM. She graduated from Martinsville High School, then Stephen F. Austin State University with a degree in Science of Food and Nutrition. Her professional experience includes service with HCH Aviation and Britton Arrant Farmers Insurance Agency, where she built a strong foundation in community engagement and operations.



Savannah's connection to Millard's Crossing runs deep. She fondly recalls childhood memories of attending Pioneer Camp and participating in seasonal Easter and Christmas events throughout the village. With a longstanding passion for history and preservation, she is honored to step into a leadership role at a place that has shaped so many of her earliest experiences.

Exciting plans are already underway for this year's programming, including the beloved Ghosts of Millard's Crossing and our annual Christmas celebrations, along with new opportunities designed to bring East Texas history to life in engaging and memorable ways for visitors of all ages.

Mark your calendars for October 24 for our inaugural Pioneer Day Festival. Step back into the 1800s as you explore the historic village and enjoy hands-on activities and lively competitions, including costume contests, pie-eating contests, cake walks, and classic country fair games. The General Store will be stocked with old-fashioned treats such as candy and popcorn, while vendors offer food and refreshments throughout the day. Guests may even encounter a few familiar "visitors" from Texas history, including figures like Sam Houston and Thomas J. Rusk.

Millard's Crossing Historic Village is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to preserving and interpreting the spirit, craftsmanship, and ingenuity of early East Texas settlement, while connecting present and future generations to those who came before.

Because Millard's Crossing receives no city, county, or state funding, we rely on the generosity of our community. Donations are essential to the continued preservation and educational mission of this historic site, helping ensure that the heritage of Nacogdoches remains alive for generations to come.

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## Blueberry Festival of Quilts Returns in 2026

The men and women of the Nacogdoches Quilters Guild are proud to present the 2026 Blueberry Festival of Quilts on June 12 and 13 at Fredonia Hill Baptist Church. The judged show, which coincides with the Texas Blueberry Festival, will feature over 100 beautiful quilts made by talented quilters of all skill levels. They are some of the finest quilts you will ever see. A new feature of the show this year is the Original Design category. The quilts in this new category are judged on originality and artistic merit.

Besides the quilts exhibited, there will be door prizes, a silent auction, demonstrations, vendors, and a country store. This year we have a beautiful quilt entitled "Blueberries and Cream" to raffle. The quilt is a collaborative effort of guildmembers and assembled by Lisa Fearing, quilting by Christi Curry. This exquisite quilt is being raffled off to benefit local charities. The beneficiaries of the raffle this year are Heart-beat Pregnancy Center and Love, INC.

We hope you can attend. Friday, June 12, from 10am-6 pm. Saturday, June 13, from 9 am-4pm. Fredonia Hill Baptist Church is located at 1711 South Street in Nacogdoches. Admission is \$8. For more information, contact Charlene Chumley (936) 615-1960.



# Another Room

by Taylor Millard

The other day, which is my favorite generic expression of time, I read a line that influenced me in a good way. It said, *we are only in two rooms in our lives where everyone loves us, the day we get married and the day of our funeral.* Now, this assumes many things, but as a general rule, it is close. This was in my head when my daughter asked me when I was retiring. My response was a genuine, I don't know.

Retirement is a decision that involves many factors for us all that are lucky enough to reach a certain age. Sometimes we are not given a choice and may "age out" of our job due to mandatory retirement policies. Others may involve health related matters that prevent us from performing at the level required, but quite often it is the *financial versus work misery index.*

This is my own term but the Boomers that are my friends reach a point that they could keep working but the workplace and the younger generation, change the environment in such a toxic way, that retiring is necessary for their mental health. I am fortunate in that I am a partner in my company and ownership has a grand privilege. I want to keep working to add more value and I truly enjoy what I do, so no retiring for me, for a while.

The reason my daughter asked me about retiring is if I wanted a party. I said a party would be fun but just not retiring, so I suggested a Roast. Gather all my friends in a room and they can get up and say the most vile things about me they want. So, we did. When asked to describe this event, I said, "It's like when you go to a funeral, but this is what is said in hushed tones in the parking lot, before you go in the church."

The Millard's Crossing Rebellion barn, formerly my late father Rudy's, feed mill, then flea market was filled with the people in my life. From kindergarten, high school, college, and throughout my career, they all came to see me skewered, all in good fun. Conversations with old friends and people that have never met, but all had me in common. Friends traveled from New York City, Little Rock, Boulder, Baton Rouge, and across Texas. Attendance exceeded my greatest expectations.

It was a fun night and in the end, I simply added *another room* to my life.



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



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# Blueberry Bluegrass Concert In The Park Returns To Festival Park

*Beloved pre-festival tradition comes back to its roots on Friday, June 12th with a night of live bluegrass music ahead of the Texas Blueberry Festival*

Visit Nacogdoches is thrilled to announce the return of the Blueberry Bluegrass Concert in the Park, the beloved musical tradition that kicks off Texas Blueberry Festival weekend. After a brief hiatus and a few years of date and location changes, the concert is coming home — back to the night before the festival and back to Festival Park.



The free outdoor concert will take place on **Friday, June 12th at Festival Park in Nacogdoches, beginning at 7:00 p.m.**, and will feature four outstanding bluegrass acts guaranteed to warm up the crowd for a full weekend of blueberry-fueled fun. The event is presented by premier sponsor **Rex Perry Autoplex**.

“We are so excited to bring the Blueberry Bluegrass Concert back to the night before the Texas Blueberry Festival, and back to Festival Park,” said Ashley Morgan, Executive Director of Visit Nacogdoches. “This concert has always been a beloved part of the festival tradition, and we can’t wait to welcome everyone back for an unforgettable evening of live bluegrass under the East Texas sky.”

**The evening’s lineup features:**

**Rose & The Bahia Boys**

Hailing from Carthage, Texas, Rose & The Bahia Boys bring beautiful vocal harmonies and a lineup of talented banjo, dobro, mandolin, and guitar pickers for what can only be described as a foot-tapping, hand-clapping, hallelujah good time.

**The Grassburs**

A dynamic bluegrass trio of three talented brothers, The Grassburs bring energy, harmony, and heart to every performance. Over the past four years, they’ve captivated audiences across the country with their vibrant stage presence, rich sibling harmonies, and a genuine love for connecting with their listeners.

**The Hunt Brothers Band**

The Hunt Brothers Band blends the rich traditions of the genre with echoes of swing and country rock. Formed in May 2022, the band is the musical collaboration of Oklahoma bluegrass veterans Andrew and Jonathan Hunt, award-winning guitarist Samuel Grounds, and mandolin virtuoso Scott Schmidt.

**The Little Roy and Lizzy Show**



Closing out the evening are Lincoln County natives Little Roy and Lizzy, who formed The Little Roy and Lizzy Show in 2009 and have since built a reputation as one of the most entertaining and high-energy bluegrass acts performing across the United States. Little Roy — whom Lizzy calls “one of the fastest pickers” — primarily plays banjo but also takes on guitar and autoharp, while Lizzy sings and plays fiddle, banjo, and guitar. Together, they deliver a show that is as much fun as it is musically impressive, with Little Roy’s signature comedic antics — and his iconic red suspenders — keeping audiences laughing all night long.

The Blueberry Bluegrass Concert in the Park is free, family-friendly, and pet-friendly. The fun kicks off at 7:00 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets, but please leave coolers at home.



The Blueberry Bluegrass Concert in the Park is free, family-friendly, and pet-friendly. The fun kicks off at 7:00 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets, but please leave coolers at home.

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The evening will also feature food trucks, vendors, and activities for kids, making it a perfect night out for the whole family.

A free shuttle service will be available to help concertgoers get to and from the venue with ease. Additional shuttle details will be announced closer to the event.

The concert serves as the official kickoff to the Texas Blueberry Festival, one of Nacogdoches’ most beloved annual traditions, taking place the following day on Saturday, June 13th.

For more information about the Blueberry Bluegrass Concert in the Park and the Texas Blueberry Festival, visit [visitnacogdoches.org/blueberry](http://visitnacogdoches.org/blueberry) or follow Visit Nacogdoches on social media.

**About Visit Nacogdoches**

Visit Nacogdoches is the destination marketing organization for Nacogdoches, Texas — America’s Oldest Town. Dedicated to promoting tourism and showcasing the unique culture, history, and events of the Nacogdoches area, Visit Nacogdoches serves as the premier resource for visitors and locals alike.

# Garden Capital Hosting Tour of Home Gardens

NACOGDOCHES - The Garden Capital of Texas will showcase some of its most beautifully landscaped gardens during the Tour of Home Gardens, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 16 and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 17.

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at participating gardens on the day of the event, online at [texasgardencapital.org](http://texasgardencapital.org), or in advance at the Charles Bright Visitor Center, 200 E. Main St.; Charles Pool Real Estate, 3505 North St.; Pemberley's at The Jones House, 141 N. Church St.; The Plant Shed, 3123 Appleby Sand Rd.; Laine's Hallmark, 3205 N. University Dr.; Cook's Nursery, 3535 Hwy 21 W.; and The Fredonia Hotel Gift Shop, 200 N. Fredonia St. Tickets can be purchased with cash or check, and this is a rain-or-shine event.

This annual event is organized by the Garden Capital of Texas Committee to highlight the work of some of Nacogdoches' most dedicated gardeners.

This year's tour features six private residences and the Old University Building. Local Master Gardeners and members of the Pines, Flora and Four Seasons Garden Clubs will serve as docents for the garden tours.

## ABOUT THE GARDENS

### Judi and Jeff Kruwell, 2900 Colonial Dr.

The front garden of this home includes an established, traditional front lawn featuring towering pine trees, azaleas, camelias and Japanese maples. An iron fence separates the front and back yards. The backyard has been recently re-envisioned to include a swimming pool, a tiered retaining wall with a planter ledge, and a cabana designed for outdoor entertaining. The backyard landscaping remains an ongoing project that is enhanced each year to improve the plantings and features.



### Casa Colina, 275 Harris St.



The Spanish gardens at Casa Colina feature a brick patio and the property is planted with wonderful varieties of cactus, roses, perennials and vines. The large Spanish three-tiered fountain and koi pond highlight the details put into the gardens over the years.

### Kristen and Shannon Conklin, 3516 Churchill Dr.



Framed by an abundance of azaleas and graceful oak trees, this traditional home is defined by clean, layered lines. The property was recently enhanced with the addition of a pool house, thoughtfully integrating turf grass, Peggy Martin roses, raised garden beds, and lush hydrangeas. The Conklin's continually refined vision is to create a resort-style pool setting designed for effortless entertaining and memorable gatherings with family and friends.

### Jackie and Jeff Badders, 1974 CR 104



The gardens of Jeff and Jackie Badders' OBar Ranch have been a work in progress for fourteen years, and the landscaping is in continuous expansion. A flagstone walkway behind the pool was recently added for a grand passage to a wedding that took place in the back pasture. Everywhere you look, roses dominate the landscape.

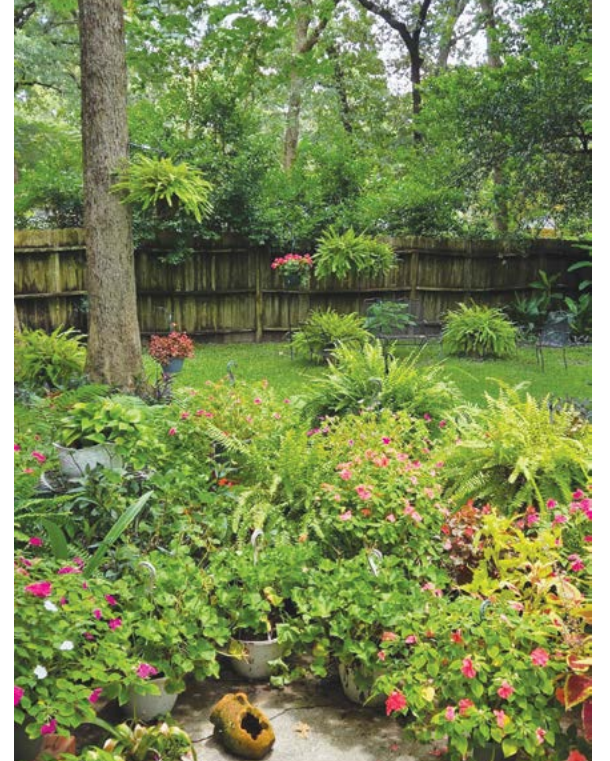
Worked into the 10 acres of landscaping is a hardscaped vegetable garden, which also features herbs, berries and, of course, roses!

### The Old University Building, 515 N. Mound St.

The Old University Building was built in 1859, and there is no information about the landscaping at that time. So, in 1988 when Jeff Abt designed the courtyard in front of the building, he used the Greek Revival style of the building as his inspiration. This is a formal style where symmetry is paramount. The two front planting beds are triangular shaped, each with one curved side and placed so they mirror each other. The other large planting bed reflects these shapes. Each bed is edged with brick matching the brick of the building.

### Dwayne Yeager, 3330 Windsor Dr.

Located in a neighborhood filled with old-growth oak trees, the Yeager garden, Ray of Hope, features ferns and flowers that bring peace to the many outdoor contemplative areas. The dappled shaded spaces are filled with anchoring evergreens, and perennials and annuals surround garden statues and seating.



### Barbara and Bill Gandy, 725 Crooked Creek

This Georgian home features formal and informal landscaping. The backyard has brick planter boxes filled with azaleas and bedding plants, and Japanese maples are spread across the yard. There is a large patio area with a beautiful swimming pool surrounded by landscaping and bedding plants.

## SPONSORS

Wendy Buchanan Wealth Management and Eaton are Presenting Sponsors for this year's Tour of Homes. Gold Sponsors are Citizens 1st Bank and Cataract, Glaucoma & Retina Consultants of East Texas. Silver sponsors are Community Title, Huntington Bank, Landworks Landscapes, Charles Pool Real Estate, Nacogdoches Heritage Title, McWilliams Heating and Air Conditioning, The Fredonia Hotel, Commercial Bank of Texas, Well Body Solutions and Pemberley's at The Jones House.

The money raised by the tour helps fund the Garden Capital committee's planting efforts. The Garden Capital Committee has worked with its partners, including the City of Nacogdoches, Nacogdoches Parks and Recreation, the Parks Advocacy League, Keep Nac Beautiful, SFA Gardens and local garden clubs, to plant more than 2,000 trees in recent years.

For more information about the Garden Capital Tour of Home Gardens, go to visit [texasgardencapital.org](http://texasgardencapital.org), contact the Garden Capital of Texas Committee at Keep Nacogdoches Beautiful, 936-560-5624, Visit Nacogdoches at 936-564 7351 or by email at [info@keepnacbeautiful.org](mailto:info@keepnacbeautiful.org). The mission of the Nacogdoches Garden Capital of Texas Committee is to educate, engage and inspire Nacogdoches area citizens to become involved in beautifying their community green spaces. The Nacogdoches Garden Capital Committee is a part of Keep Nacogdoches Beautiful.



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We thank you in advance for your Help and Support!

Progressive Leadership Group in collaboration with The E J Campbell Alumni Association is hosting a community wide inclusive Juneteenth Celebration in Nacogdoches Saturday, June 20, 2026 at Festival Park in Nacogdoches, Texas. The event has been successful from 2008-2025. We are so excited about providing this event. We need your help and support to make this event bigger, better, and more exciting in 2026!

The purpose of this celebration is to bring the Nacogdoches community together to commemorate the abolition of slavery in Texas executed on June 19th, 1865. This day of celebration emphasizes education achievements with guest speakers, games for all ages, reading of the Emancipation Proclamation, as well as numerous other activities. There will be free food and drinks/water served free of charge for all that attend!

A parade downtown Nacogdoches will open the Juneteenth Celebration beginning at 10am. Tents, booths, portables and vendor games will be set up to accommodate the participants beginning at 8am. The event is held as a community wide free event. We hope to provide a safe and secure environment that encourages all community members to attend. We encourage Nacogdoches area business owners/organizations to become involved by participating in the parade by entering decorated trucks, floats, vans, cars, or buses with your organization or business identification.

It is our desired wish that you help and support our efforts by making a donation in any amount. Your donation is tax deductible. Please make checks payable to Progressive Leadership Group and mail to the address above or contact Celena Garrett for payment arrangements!

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Seth Moencher

# Life Repeats Itself

by Robert McCandless

It was 1965 when we took off one Saturday night in Hugo's 36 Ford 4-door sedan, complete with running boards. The best any of us could devise as to the reason for the slim step along the rocker panel below the doors was for gangsters to hang off of as they fired their Tommy guns against rival groups.

Our usual practice of taking our shirts off and rolling up the windshield on winter nights to play freeze-out was thwarted being it was summer. After cruising through the Dairy Queen against the newly posted "No Cruising" laws, we decided to drive out a dirt road, known for "necking" and see if we could interrupt or prevent an unexpected birth when someone said "Let's play gangster."

With no one "necking" to bother, Hugo pulled to a stop and we all jumped out of the old Ford to find spots along the running boards where we could hold on to a doorpost or something, we deemed, secure. Terry and Chuck took starboard and Jim and I took port. Our holds on to the car window became tighter as Hugo took off down the winding road at a pace which seemed exciting, outrunning the dust we were creating. The old Ford gave way and leaned dangerously as we held on into the turns.

The laughing ended as Hugo overcompensated in a blind left turn curve just before a culvert. Seeing he was about to smash into the concrete, he judiciously aimed the car into the arroyo it traversed. Nose first, the 3,000 pound piece of steel took a dive into the dry depression, slinging everyone's bodies except Hugo's, in different directions.

Jim saw it coming and jumped off just in time to stay on his feet, running down the dirt road we had all just exited. Chuck and I, on opposite sides, had chosen spots holding on to the secure window posts and although we were separated from the vehicle, we didn't land far from the now defunct Ford that would no longer be our means of transportation.

We all quickly checked on one another as Hugo climbed out of the drivers seat. A head count revealed someone was missing. As we stood looking at one another with blank faces, we heard a voice making nonsensical sounds from what seemed like a distant hole somewhere.

"Aye, aaah, ouch," and finally "Help."

Searching in the dark, we finally located Terry. He had not been able to hold on and was some twenty or so feet ahead of and below the car, tangled in vines and stickers. Chuck and Jim crawled down into the arroyo and gave him assistance climbing out. Nothing was broken or sprained but he was covered with debris and bloody scratches from his contact with nature.

It was obvious we were not going to get the wreck out of the situation so the long walk home began, the group dwindling along the way as each took different routes to their homes.

It seems we may have started a fad, or not, as I scroll Facebook to find kids blocking off streets and "drifting." Drifting is the skill where a driver intentionally oversteers, causing the rear wheels to lose traction while maintaining control through a corner or turn. Just as skill was lacking in our endeavor, there seems to be a lack of it now as teens take over vacant intersections to perform the stunt. Today's amateurs have added another unskilled practice to the event by standing in the way of the cars as they make circles giving them a chance to get hit and roll over the trunk. The stunt has not gained the finesse needed to prevent mistakes and injury, so in order to make it even more fun for the kids and profitable for the medical professionals, some have decided it, sort of like us, would be cool to hang on to the vehicle.

Problem is there are no running boards, so just hanging as far as they can out the window or even straddling the opening with one leg out of the car makes for more fun...till something is hit, slinging them from the car or catching their appendages between the vehicle and some unmovable object.

Who would have believed our thoughtless actions would become popular sixty years later. They say "Nothing is new and all that is old will be new if one waits long enough."

I just pray bell bottoms and platform shoes don't come back.

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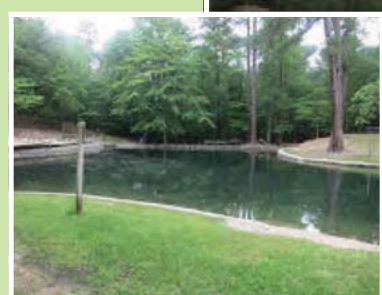
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# Nacogdoches

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## Nacogdoches Historic Sites Celebrates Preservation Month with Community Programs at Zion Hill

Nacogdoches Historic Sites invites the community to celebrate National Preservation Month this May with a series of engaging programs focused on local history, preservation practices, and community storytelling.

All programs will be held at the historic Zion Hill Baptist Church (324 N. Lanana St.), offering opportunities for residents to connect with the people, places, and projects that shape Nacogdoches' historic landscape.




A highlight of the month is the Lunch Hour Learn Series, held each Tuesday at 12:15 PM. Community members are encouraged to bring their lunch and enjoy informative presentations from preservation professionals and local experts. Light refreshments, including water and cookies, will be provided.

Featured programs in the series include Dr. Perky Beisel with the Nacogdoches County Historical Commission, who will provide a live demonstration on the proper methods for restoring Texas Historical Markers, and Mr. Dennis White, who recently completed the restoration of the historic Hazle-White Building and will share insights into the preservation process, including the challenges and successes experienced throughout the project. The series will also include a special presentation by Jessica Sowell, City of Nacogdoches Community Services Director and Historic Preservation Officer, who will share information about Nacogdoches' historic districts and available preservation grants and resources.

"These programs are designed to make preservation accessible and engaging for everyone," said Veronica Amoe, Historic Sites Manager. "We invite the com-

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munity to learn how we can all play a role in preserving the history that makes Nacogdoches unique."

Preservation Month programming will conclude with a special Memorial Day weekend event:

Memorial Day Memories: Zion Hill Neighborhood Preservation  
Saturday, May 23 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
Zion Hill Historic Site, 324 N. Lanana St.

Presented by the African American Heritage Project, this program will celebrate the memories and legacy of the Zion Hill neighborhood while exploring ways to preserve its history for future generations. The event will feature Paul Jackson and Lasha Williams of the African American Heritage Project, Kyle Ainsworth with the East Texas Research Center, and Archie Rison, author and historian.

Light refreshments will be served, and attendees will have the opportunity to tour Zion Hill Baptist Church and the Clay House.

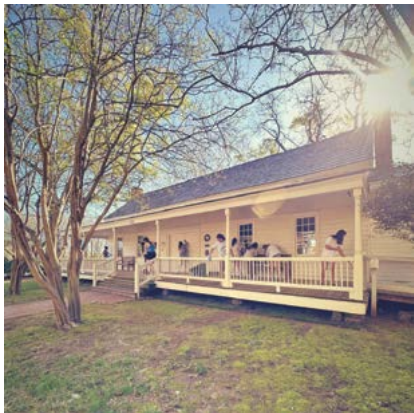
All Preservation Month programs are free and open to the public. For more information, call or text 936-560-4441 or email [historicsites@nactx.us](mailto:historicsites@nactx.us)



*Join us and celebrate History!*

This spring, the Nacogdoches Historic Sites team has been hard at work advancing key restoration projects across our sites. At the Durst-Taylor House, the historic front porch has been carefully restored, preserving a space that has welcomed visitors for generations. At Zion Hill, repairs to the historic beadboard ceilings are helping maintain the integrity and beauty of the structure, while interior projects are underway at the Sterne-Hoya House to support its continued preservation and use. We were also grateful to welcome students from Stephen F. Austin State University's Big Event, who assisted with cleaning and beautification efforts around the grounds of the Sterne-Hoya House.

Looking ahead, May will bring a series of programs in recognition of National Historic Preservation Month, with more details to be shared soon. Be sure to also save the date for our upcoming performance of *The Crash at Crush* on Friday, May 15th at Zion Hill, presented by Friends of Historic Nacogdoches, Inc. This lively musical comedy brings to life one of Texas' most unforgettable true stories and promises to be an evening of entertainment you will not want to miss.



Friends of Historic Nacogdoches, Inc. invites the community to enjoy an evening of music, history, and comedy with a special performance of *The Crash at Crush*, a new musical comedy performed by Austin-based performance group Texas Comedies. The performance will take place Friday, May 15, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at Zion Hill Historic Site, 324 N. Lanana Street in Nacogdoches.

*The Crash at Crush* is based on the incredible true story of a staged train crash near the temporary town of Crush, Texas. In 1896, railroad promoter William Crush organized a dramatic publicity stunt in which two locomotives were sent hurtling toward each other on a single track before a crowd of more than 30,000 spectators. The spectacle, fueled by financial pressure, eccentric railroad employees, and even the promotional flair of the Ringling Brothers Circus, created a new form of mass entertainment and briefly made the town of Crush the second-largest city in Texas for a single day.

The musical comedy brings this unbelievable moment in Texas history to life with lively storytelling, humor, and a live band.

Texas Comedies previously performed their musical *Bonnie and Clyde* in Nacogdoches in May of last year, an event that drew an enthusiastic audience and received an overwhelmingly positive response from the community. Due to the success of that performance, Friends of Historic Nacogdoches, Inc. is pleased to bring the group back to present *The Crash at Crush*.

Tickets are \$10 and will be available beginning April 1 at Zion Hill Historic Site and online through Eventbrite.com. The performance is free with priority seating for members of Friends of Historic Nacogdoches, Inc.

Friends of Historic Nacogdoches, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of Nacogdoches through educational programs, community partnerships, and support for local historic sites.

For more information about the event or to learn how to become a member of Friends of Historic Nacogdoches, Inc., please visit [nactx.us/historicsites](http://nactx.us/historicsites) or call 936-560-4441.



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## The Refuge

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

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



## Chastening of God's Love

*My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him. For whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.*  
Hebrews 12:5, 6

The writer of Hebrews makes us aware that just as earthly fathers discipline their children out of love for their welfare, God also disciplines His children because He loves us. However, God's discipline is not punitive but for the purpose of His children living a purified life. We go through the crucible of suffering in the Refiner's fire in order to come out looking like (spiritually) our heavenly Father in holiness.

Only those whose faith is in Christ for salvation can be partakers of this training (sanctification) which is designed by God to cultivate Christian virtues. Every human being does not have the right to be named among the children of God, to be called a child of God (John 1:12; 1 Jn. 3:1, 10). Only those who are led by the Spirit, adopted by the Spirit, in whom the Spirit bears witness, and in whose heart the Spirit lives are children of God (Rom. 8:14-17; Gal. 4:1-7). Sonship comes through the Holy Spirit when we believe in the name of Jesus. Only by the Holy Spirit can we call on God as our Father. Have you been received as God's son or daughter through faith in Christ?

Peter tells us it is one thing to suffer when we do wrong and something altogether different when we suffer for doing what is right (1 Pet. 3:13-17). God's chastening, however painful, undesirable and uncomfortable it may be, ultimately “yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness” (Heb. 12:11). God chastens us through trials and testing, through suffering “for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness” (Heb 12:10). He has made born again Christians holy in Christ; therefore we are to live as who we have become, the holy ones of God. Our lives, in all of our conduct, are to show that we are holy as He is holy (1 Pet. 1:15).

There is a blindness in disobedience. Sin is a snare, a trap which hinders us from running with endurance the race of faith set before us. A habitual lifestyle of sinning against a holy God by one who professes faith in Christ does not fit with a new identity in Christ. It is contrary to the new nature a born-again believer receives from God. It is not a reality of a new creation. We cannot live as Christ while living for and like the devil (1 Jn 3:2-9).

We should know that if we truly are a child of God, He does not punish His children for failure to do everything right, failure to live by His every word. He judged our failures, our sins, at Cavalry when His Son offered one sacrifice for sin forever in a body prepared for Him for that purpose (Heb. 10:5-10). Jesus became sin for us and took upon Himself the full wrath of God's punishment for all sin on the cross. We have this assurance from God's word when we do fail to do what is right: If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous (1 Jn.2:1).

When God allows our suffering for His glory, if we would remain submissive to His chastening, His love and grace will achieve His purpose through it. The testing of our faith lets us know God is treating us as His sons and daughters. He's working all things for good, using it to conform us to the image of His Son (Rom. 8:28-29, 18). Whether we suffer as a result of our loyalty to Christ by holding fast to the unchanging truth of God's word; suffer in our health, our finances, loss of possessions, loss of relationships, or whatever it may be, our suffering gives our faith opportunity for expression through perseverance and endurance.

If you are currently experiencing chastening in what God has permitted in your life, know that God's hand and God's purpose determined before it happened to be done (Acts 4:27). Trust the Lord as He takes you through His timing for your transformation, do not despise His chastening.

# The Chigger Fighter

by Neal Murphy

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



The worst thing about the East Texas summer isn't sunburn, heat or humidity – its chiggers. They were commonly called “red bugs” when I was growing up during the 1940s and 1950s. There were times when I went fishing and the next day those annoying red bumps began to appear on my legs and torso. Then the itch began, and grew in intensity. From my feet and ankles upward, and especially at those tender locations my mother told me not to scratch in public, the maddening itch took hold. The itch would last for days, and even weeks. There was not much one could do to relieve the itch but grin and bear it.

I knew a man, an unusual man, who seemed to be immune to these juvenile forms of a mite, akin to a tick. His name was Ben Woods, my uncle. When my father's sister, Margaret, married Ben, he was a candy salesman in the late 1930s. Uncle Ben worked for a candy company. He would load his car trunk with all types of candy and traverse the dusty country roads of East Texas and western Louisiana. Aiming for small communities in the back woods, he would park his vehicle under a tree and honk his car horn repeatedly. Kids showed up in abundance to purchase his nickel candy, and earn a chance to try their luck at a punch card. If they punched out the right hole they could win even more candy or other prizes. He never seemed to attract any chiggers while working the back roads.

In the late 1940s Uncle Ben got a job with the Texas Highway Department, the perfect job for him. His task was to search for gravel on private land that the department could lease from the owner, then use it in new road construction or maintenance. This required Uncle Ben to roam through the forests of East Texas, parts of which required a machete to get through. Day after day he searched for gravel, often finding Indian arrowheads and other relics of the past. Still, he never seemed to be bothered by those small, red pests.

Perhaps he knew something that I did not know about them. One day I asked Uncle Ben a question, “What do you use to keep the chiggers off you?” He looked at me, a cigarette hanging from his lips, and chided me, “Well, son, it's simple - bacon grease.” Surprised at his answer, I replied, “Are you kidding? Bacon grease? Just how does that work?” He flipped the ashes off his cigarette, put his hand on my young shoulder, and explained, “What you do is smear bacon grease from your ankles up past your knees, a real good coat of it.” Was he kidding, or serious? I could not determine. “So, do the chiggers not like the smell or something?” I queried. “Nope, it works like this. When the tick or chigger starts to climb up your leg he can't get any traction, and simply slides back down. After a while it just gives up and jumps off.”

As a youngster I figured that this advice had to be real. After all it was from a man who practically lived in the thickets. I actually tried it a few times but stopped when my mother loudly complained about my greasy pants, and her lack of bacon grease to cook with. I think I finally figured out his secret – he used powdered sulphur, called sublimed sulphur.

Chiggers hate sulphur and definitely avoid it. Available at most pharmacies, it works well when it is dusted around the opening of your pants, socks, and boots. Some people rub on a mixture of half talcum powder and half sulphur on their legs, arms and waist.

I recently asked a local surveyor the same question I asked Uncle Ben so many years ago. He told me that he uses ordinary flea and tick collars usually seen on dogs. They are placed around his ankles and thighs, according to him, and they keep the ticks and chiggers off. I wonder if that is an “Uncle Ben” answer? What do you think?

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# S O S

## SERVING OUR SAVIOR

by Patti Goodrum  
Executive Director, Love in the Name of Christ Nacogdoches

### Renewing a Place of Hope: The Pearl Street Warehouse Renovation



*Patti Goodrum, Executive Director Love INC Nacogdoches*

Love In the Name of Christ is entering an exciting new chapter as renovations begin on our warehouse located on Pearl Street and a space long envisioned as a hub of dignity, service, and transformation for our neighbors in need. This project is more than another thrift or re-sale store. We have great re-sale stores in Nacogdoches. At this point, the plan is to focus on household items, furniture, and re-purposed items. We do not plan to offer clothing at this time, as we are committed to supporting the Hospice Shoppe. They are a valued partner, generously providing our validated neighbors with complete sets of clothing at no cost.

For years, this warehouse has quietly supported the ministry behind the scenes. Now, thanks to the generosity of First Baptist Church Nacogdoches and the faithful work of our committee, it is being renewed into a vibrant, retail-style resource center that will strengthen how we serve families across Nacogdoches County.

The renovation plan focuses first on essential improvements: upgraded lighting, new insulation, and enhanced air and heating systems. These changes will make the building safer, more comfortable, and more energy efficient, ensuring that volunteers, neighbors, and partner churches can use the space with confidence and care.

Once complete, the Pearl Street warehouse will become a place where Love INC clients can earn vouchers and “shop” for the items their families need—choosing with dignity, rather than receiving handouts. The space will also include an area for selling donated goods, with all proceeds supporting the Help Neighbor fund, which helps with urgent needs as well as needs to sustain families.

This renovation is more than a construction project. It is an investment in people. It is a tangible expression of the belief that every neighbor deserves to be treated with respect, compassion, and hope. And it reflects the heart of Love INC’s mission: helping people help people.

As the work moves forward, we are deeply grateful to the members of First Baptist Church and their continued partnership with Love INC., foundations, and individuals who have made this possible and especially those who have prayed, given, and partnered with us over many years. Their generosity is building more than a warehouse; it is building a pathway for lives to be changed.

To God be the glory for what He is doing on Pearl Street and throughout our community.

Jesus is the goal.

**Warehouse & Donations:** Recently, your donations provided beds for a family of 5 as well as kitchen items & living room furniture for that family and one other. Thank you so much to everyone who gave so that we could help these folks! Our neighbors truly appreciate your support. Right now our current needs are for Shampoo, Conditioner, & Small Dressers. All donations can be brought to Love INC Monday – Thursday 9am-4:30pm or you can call us to schedule a pickup (for many items or large items).

We also want to thank everyone who has brought us their amazon boxes! We are full on boxes and ready to pack up more essentials and kitchen boxes for our neighbors.

**Prayers:** As we start to meet with churches and present Love INC 101, pray that God will be with us every step of the way, that hearts will be open to serve, and seeds will be planted for the Kingdom of God that will bear much fruit. We have made presentations to two churches in the last month and are grateful for these partnerships!

**Questions:** Messages are welcome anytime. Send to [patti@loveincnac.org](mailto:patti@loveincnac.org)

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# Aging Well: The Joy of Retrospection (Yes, You Saw It All)

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.*

One of the perks (if you could call them that) of getting old is my delight in reminiscing about the incredible changes of all kinds that have taken place during my eight decades of living. I find it fascinating that I have first-person memories of things about which most other folks today consider near-ancient history. I almost wink at myself when remembering where I was, what I was doing and perhaps who was with me when these observations occurred.



For the sake of brevity, I will acknowledge the most important aspects of anyone's life—relationships with God and family—to be a blessing for me beyond measure. I will also not delve into postwar events of obvious worldwide import, such as the Kennedy assassination and the first moon landing, instead recalling a few events or trends that may have had little fanfare, or even thought, at the time. Since my long career involved transportation, that will be an oft-visited subject. It's also worth noting that most of us are not exactly visionaries. It is quite natural, I think, for us humans to live in the moment, accepting the status quo as being all there could be for our earthly life. Those who see and act outside this constraint tend to reap great rewards in personal achievement and, perhaps, fortune.

I remember standing in the front seat of our 1950 Chevrolet as my mother would drive around to various businesses, taking them each a personal check to pay her "charge account." Nowadays, of course, a few keypunches take care of this instantaneously. There was no need then to drive around wasting the outrageously priced gasoline (21 cents). Thinking about paying for things, I've seen us go from cash and checks to plastic cards—so much so that some cashiers actually get annoyed when I offer cash. Nowadays, there are some places where cash is not even accepted! It was quite normal then for my parents to carry a 'savings book' to the drive-in teller at Nacogdoches Savings and Loan to make a deposit to their savings account; the clerk then made a handwritten entry in the book and handed it back.

I thought little of my mother's prowess in manipulating the clutch and shift lever as she deftly changed gears as she drove, giving turn signals with her arm from the driver's window. I took casual notice of the three pedals on the floor, on the far left of which there was a silver button that was the headlight dimmer switch, operated by the left foot. Today, my car shifts itself through ten different gears without my perceiving the changes. At night, when I meet another car, the headlights automatically dim, as they also do when I encounter the red taillights of a car in front of me. Somehow, it recognizes automotive headlights and taillights, as well as the difference between headlights and other lights along the roadway. As for my standing in the front seat of our car, there were no seat belts then but, upon a need to stop abruptly, my mother's right arm automatically flung itself across my chest to keep me from toppling forward. These things, while seemingly quaint today, were quite normal then. No one could have known how very different the future would be.

I was around when English bikes began to show up in the U. S. in the fifties. As a boy roaming the neighborhood—that's when it wasn't considered dangerous—my mode of transport was a used fat-tired bicycle that my dad had acquired and repainted, teaching me to ride, with no resulting broken bones, in what seemed like a day or two. Then, on one Christmas day, a neighborhood pal came riding up on a gleaming new English bicycle—you know, the one with the skinny tires. I was immediately consumed with lust for that bike and its three-speed gearshift, and I wondered if anyone would miss my friend if I were to knock him off and take the bike from him. I remember the humiliation of riding alongside him upon my jalopy of a bike. Somehow, it just didn't seem cool any longer to clip paper cards on the wheel forks to make a motorbike sound while we were riding.

Lest these musings become too lengthy and saccharine, I'll finally mention with some satisfaction an example of how I've adjusted to modernity. As I sat



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**Please check out  
the  
Community  
News Items  
on page 44.**

here, typing away at a computer keyboard operating an electronic marvel that I couldn't possibly have imagined a few decades ago, I thought of the immense technological advances in the technology in aviation, my chosen career field. I thought of my flights as a pilot in an ancient Lockheed Super Constellation back in the '60s (Only one now remains flyable in the world.) As I drifted back in time, I wondered how many living pilots remained who actually flew this former queen of the skies. Without considering how unthinkable it would have been to do this when I was a youngster, I asked Grok (an AI platform) for an estimate. In a few seconds came the answer—about 300 worldwide. I know the 300 of us old pilots would be incredulous that we lived from the age of celestial navigation to a time when an airliner could easily fly itself anywhere without pilots even being aboard.

After finishing it, I decided to print this piece and, after doing so, my printer sent me a text message informing me that it was low on ink and had ordered a replacement cartridge for itself. Since I didn't think any of this to be unusual, I decided that I had adjusted fairly well to modernity.

"A bend in the road is not the end of the road unless you fail to make the turn." —Helen Keller

# TxDOT: Give 'em a Brake.



## Drive Smart in Work Zones *203 People Were Killed in Traffic Crashes in Texas Work Zones Last Year*

AUSTIN – Highway work is dangerous work, often just inches away from speeding traffic. Help keep our workers and everyone on the road safe by slowing down in work zones and driving like a Texan: kind, courteous and safe.

A growing state means more Texans on our roads, and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is meeting that increased demand with roadway improvements underway in more than 1,800 active work zones across the state. This month, TxDOT is highlighting safety tips in work zones to help protect workers and drivers.

### The data

In 2025, there were more than 28,000 traffic crashes in Texas work zones, resulting in 203 people killed, including seven roadside workers.

And while workers are at risk doing their jobs to keep us safe, most of the people who died in work zone crashes were drivers and their passengers. Driving with caution through work zones is as much for your protection as it is for the people working.

### Work Zone Awareness Week

In recognition of National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 20–24, TxDOT is raising awareness about how to be safe and drive smart in work zones to avoid crashes and fatalities.

“Maintaining a safe highway system requires year-round effort from brave and dedicated work crews,” TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said. “Unfortunately, work zone crashes happen far too often. It’s crucial that drivers slow down, pay attention and give workers space. It’s the Texan thing to do.”

### Stay safe in work zones with these “Be Safe. Drive Smart” tips:

- Slow down. Follow the speed limit and adjust your speed to road conditions. Remember that traffic fines double in work zones when workers are present.
- Stay alert. Focus on driving, avoid distractions and put your phone away.
- Watch out for road crews. Roadside workers deserve to get home safely, too. Always follow their instructions and work zone signage.
- Never tailgate. Give yourself room to stop in a hurry. Rear-end collisions are the most common type of work zone crash.
- Allow extra time. Road construction can slow down traffic. Plan ahead so you aren’t tempted to speed.

Motorists are also reminded to follow the state’s Move Over or Slow Down law. The law requires drivers to move over a lane or reduce their speed to 20 mph below the posted speed limit when approaching vehicles stopped on the roadside with flashing lights activated. That’s not just law enforcement cars, but emergency vehicles, TxDOT vehicles, tow trucks or utility vehicles.

“Be Safe. Drive Smart” is an important part of TxDOT’s **Drive like a Texan: Kind. Courteous. Safe.** initiative. Drive like a Texan is about embracing the pride, camaraderie, and responsibility of being a Texan on the road. By making thoughtful choices, we can all help keep each other safe. Learn more at Drive-LikeATexan.com.

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# A Lifeline in the Dark: *Why Life Line Housing Exists*

by Brandie Cosby

There was a time in my life when I truly believed I was too far gone.

Not the kind of thought you say out loud but the kind that quietly settles into your heart. The kind that tells you *this is just who you are now*. The kind that convinces you there is no way back.

I wasn't always that person.

At one time, I had dreams. I had direction. I had pieces of hope. But life has a way of layering pain trauma, loss, broken relationships, poor choices and before you even realize it, you're no longer standing on solid ground.

You're just trying to survive.

I spent years searching for identity in other people. I tried to become what others needed me to be, hoping that if I could just be enough for them, maybe I would finally feel like I was enough.

But that kind of life doesn't hold.

Eventually, everything I had built every false sense of security collapsed. And I found myself in a place I never thought I would be: battling addiction, drowning in shame, and carrying a weight so heavy I didn't know how to stand under it anymore.

There was a moment in my life where I didn't have stability, direction, or even a clear sense of home.

And what hurt the most wasn't just what I had lost...

It was what I believed about myself. I believed I wasn't worth saving. I believed I had ruined too much. I believed there was no way God could use a life like mine.

But even in that place... God never left.

When I finally reached out for help, it wasn't because I had strength, it was because I had nothing left. I walked into places like Christian Women's Job Corps and recovery meetings completely broken. No mask. No pretending. Just desperation.

And somehow... that's exactly where healing began. I found myself back in church at NorthPointe Church of God, and something shifted. Not overnight, not perfectly but deeply. For the first time in a long time, I didn't feel judged. I felt seen. I felt loved. I felt like maybe... just maybe... my story wasn't over.

I began to understand that forgiveness wasn't just something I gave others it was something I had to accept for myself. I stopped numbing my pain and started facing it. I stopped running and started healing.

And slowly, piece by piece, God gave me my life back. Not the old life I thought I wanted but a new life with purpose. And in that process, something became very clear to me: There are people in our community living in that same darkness right now.

People who feel invisible. People who feel stuck. People who are one step away from giving up completely. And the truth is... many of them don't need someone to fix everything. They just need a place to start. That is why Life Line Housing exists. Well that and God, he cast the vision in my mind and showed me how we can help others.

Life Line Housing was born out of brokenness but built on hope.

It exists for the man or woman who is trying to come out of addiction but has nowhere safe to go. For the person who wants to rebuild their life but doesn't have a stable foundation to stand on. For the ones who feel like they've burned every bridge and don't know how to take the first step forward.

Because I know what it feels like to need a lifeline. And I also know what happens when someone is given one. A safe place can change everything. A supportive environment can restore dignity. A second chance can save a life.

Today, I have the honor of serving our community, feeding those who are hungry, walking alongside people in recovery, and leading others toward healing.

But Life Line Housing is the next step.

Right now, we are working toward securing a permanent facility here in Nacogdoches—a place where individuals can not only find shelter, but structure, guidance, and a real opportunity to rebuild their lives. And here's the truth: We cannot do this alone.

This vision will only become reality if a community decides to step in and say, "*Not on our watch.*"

Not on our watch will people fight alone. Not on our watch will someone trying to change have nowhere to go. Not on our watch will hope to run out when help could have been given. You may never fully know what it feels like to hit rock bottom. But you do know what it feels like to need grace. To need someone to believe in you. To need a second chance. This is your opportunity to be that for someone else. To be part of a story where lives are rebuilt, families are restored, and hope is made real again. Because Life Line Housing isn't just something we're building. It's something that can save lives. And for someone out there right now...

It could be the difference between staying lost and finally finding their way home.

"We love because He first loved us." – 1 John 4:19

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## Upcoming Events at the Nacogdoches County Expo – May 2026

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For the month of May, the Expo & Civic Center are filled with a wide variety of great events! There is always something for everyone, so be sure to take advantage

of what the Nacogdoches County Expo & Civic Center has to offer.

### Arena Riders Welcome at the Expo -

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

### Delta Waterfowl Banquet May 1st

The Deep East Texas Chapter is having their annual banquet benefitting Delta Waterfowl and their mission to use "science-based solutions to produce ducks, conserve prairie wetlands, and ensure the future of waterfowl hunting."

### Nacogdoches Scottish Highland Games May 9th

Come out to watch all the athletes compete in a traditional Scottish sporting event. Live music, demonstrations from the VFD, Scottish dancers, blacksmiths, food, drinks, and more!

### Back the Blue Drive Thru BBQ May 14th

11AM - 1PM, the Nacogdoches Law Enforcement Foundation is having their fundraiser, with Brendyn's BBQ preparing the meat!

### Fallen Peace Officers Memorial May 15th

The annual ceremony honoring the officers who paid the ultimate price and lost their lives in the line of duty. Information can be found on the Nacogdoches County Sheriff's Office Facebook.

### Ability Strong Festival May 16th

Nacogdoches Mayor's Committee invites you to join us for their annual festival featuring a petting zoo, pony rides, balloon artist, vendors, live music, and more!

### Keep Nacogdoches Beautiful May 16th

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### KPOP Warriors May 19th

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### Storehouse Tabernacle Annual Convention May 22-24

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# Thank You Nacogdoches Animal Shelter

I wish to say thanks to the City of Nacogdoches by pointing out what a fantastic animal shelter you have there. Back in the summer, I received a Facebook post connected to Nacogdoches, as my son attends SFA, concerning a recent puppy taken in. He was perhaps 7 weeks of age being beautifully cared for by one of the fantastic fosters there.

I just couldn't resist, and my husband agreed! So we adopted this lovely baby naming him Rom, which is a Star Trek character. The shelter made everything wonderful and we drove from Spring, Texas to get him. The fee was \$40.00 and the shelter gives \$150.00 stipend toward getting the puppy neutered. We ended up bringing him back up to Nacogdoches and used the Dehart Veterinary Services to neuter Mr. Rom. Rom grew VERY fast, and at 9 months of age he is between 40 and 50 pounds! He was well under 10 when he became ours! If you are needing a new friend, dog or cat, look at the Nacogdoches Animal Shelter! You will be happy you did!

Sincerely, Beth Milligan



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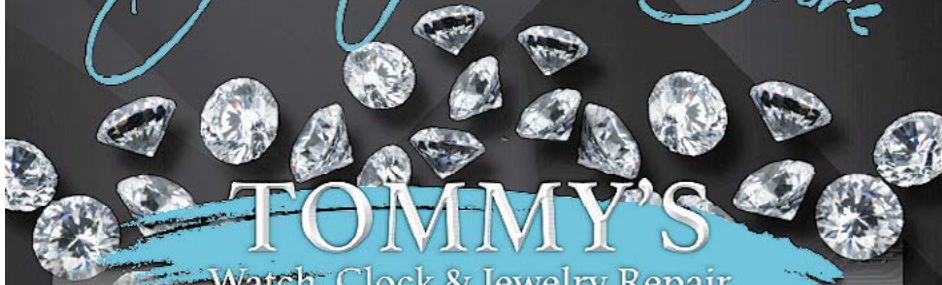
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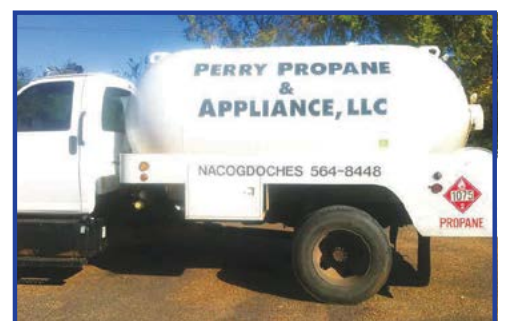
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# Mary Magdalene

by Pastor Josh Crawford - 1 Timothy 4:12  
 joshcrawford99@gmail.com  
 Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church  
 Shelby County, TX

I want to talk to you about Mary Magdalene, who did a lot of waiting. You see, we are always in a rush to get things done, only to find that when we reach our destination, we have to wait. As a kid, did you ever get a toy and get excited, only to find out that Santa forgot to bring batteries for it? Maybe you have been running late to get to work, only to run into a traffic jam or get behind a chicken truck! There is always something. We hurry from task to task, appointment to appointment, hoping life will finally “start” when the next thing arrives. But spiritually, many feel stuck in a waiting room of some sort, waiting for healing, answers, and a breakthrough. The life of Mary Magdalene shows that while we are in a hurry, God often does His best work in the seasons when we are forced to stop and wait.

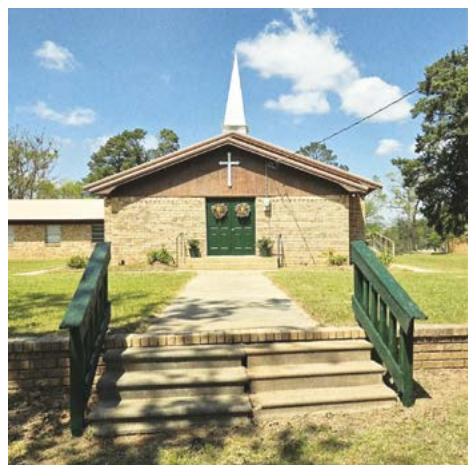


Pastor Josh Crawford

The Bible introduces Mary Magdalene as a woman who had been tormented and possessed by seven demons until she encountered Jesus Christ. He delivered her completely, transforming her from a captive into a free and devoted follower of Christ. Her story reminds us that some of our longest, darkest seasons of waiting are the ones that end in the greatest freedom. Many people today are hurrying from solution to solution, but still waiting for real change. When Jesus intervenes, the waiting for true deliverance is over. His power still sets people free!

Mary also appears at the cross of Jesus. While others ran and scattered, she remained at the feet of the tortured and lifeless Jesus. Standing near the cross, she could not change what had happened to her Lord and Savior. She could only stay, watch, and wait through the deepest pain of her life. Jesus was more than just a great mentor and teacher to her. He was her Deliverer, Savior, Teacher, and Friend. That image is familiar to anyone who has waited by a hospital bed, a graveside, or a broken relationship, wondering why God allowed such sorrow. Mary’s faith teaches us that real devotion does not waver when life makes no sense. It holds fast to Christ even at the place of suffering.

On the first day of the week, Mary rose early and hurried to Jesus’ tomb, only to find it empty. Confused and grieving, she stayed outside the tomb, weeping. In that moment of waiting and heartbreak, Angels and Jesus appeared. She did not recognize Him until He spoke her name, turning her mourning and sorrow into joy and peace. The empty place where she feared all was lost became the very place she encountered the resurrected Christ.



Many of us today live in that state of being. We are always rushing things and want the imminent answer to our problems, only to find ourselves in the waiting room of sorrow and grief. We are in a hurry for life to change, but unsure how long we have to wait. The good news of the gospel is that, because of the death and resurrection of Jesus, we do not have to wait for Him to show up. He is already here. The wait is over! You

do not have to wait for peace, deliverance, joy, strength, purpose, and confidence anymore! Jesus has all of that and more ready just for you. Does that mean that we are exempt from heartbreaks and hard times? No. But it does mean that He will never leave us nor forsake us.

Revelation 3:20 gives us His invitation when it says, “ He stands at the door and knocks.” He is calling each of us to open our hearts to Him.” I always tell my congregation that Jesus is at the door, knocking. He is not going to force His way in. He is not going to bust the door down. We have to hear it and answer it. We may still wait on God’s timing for certain answers, but we do not have to wait one more minute to come to Christ.

Mary had to “hurry up and wait,” but all that waiting led her to the feet of Jesus. Jesus is here today. You can hurry to Him now. The wait is over!

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# Lamp-Lite Players Present *Private Lives*

The Lamp-Lite Players present Noel Coward's *Private Lives*, May 29 & 30 and June 5 & 6, 2026, at 7:30 pm, and May 31 and June 7, 2026, at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$15.00 Adults, \$12.00 Adults 60+, \$8.00 Students/Children and may be purchased online now at lampliteplayers.ludus.com. Tickets will also be sold at the Box Office the day of the performance 45 minutes before curtain. All seats are reserved seats. An Audience Dress Rehearsal Preview Night will be held Thursday, May 28, 2026, 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$5.00 and are only available at the door the night of the performance. Seating is General Seating.

Once-married Elyot (**Jamie Couch**) and Amanda (**Roz Couch**) cross paths unexpectedly while honeymooning on the French Riviera with their respective new spouses Sybil (**Ashley Schmidt**) and Victor (**Riley Nichols**). Sharp words evolve into fresh sparks, followed by an endless roundabout of chaos and romance where enemies become lovers and lovers become fools with Amanda's maid Louisa (**Emily Bush**) entering the mayhem at Amanda's apartment in Paris.

Ken Untiedt directs this classic Noel Coward farce, assisted by LaChanda Maxie. Other production and technical members include Emily Bush, stage manager; Scott and Judy Cigich, building crew; Wanda Schenk, costumes; Brian Oswald and Michael Moore, lighting; Gina Jones and Steve Chandler, sound; Chris Sence, running crew; Alyssa Faykus, social media; Sue Whatley, publicity, and Bill King, webmaster.

Audience members are asked to arrive at Lamp-Lite Theatre 15-30 minutes prior to curtain. More information about the Lamp-Lite Players and this production of *Private Lives*, by Noel Coward, may be found at www.lamplitetheatre.com. Follow Lamp-Lite Theatre on Facebook and Instagram.

The Lamp-Lite Players present

# PRIVATE LIVES

Written By  
Noël Coward



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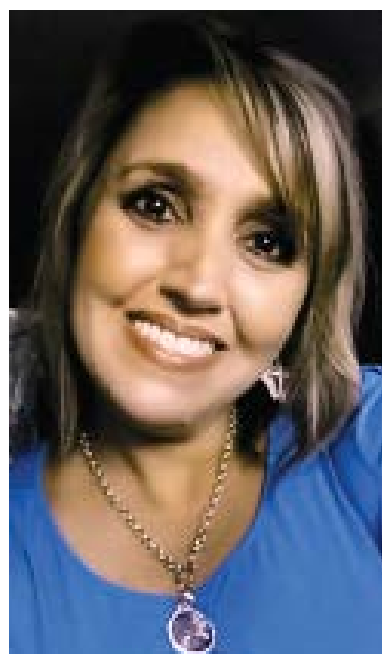
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The Cast of PRIVATE LIVES: (l to r) Ashley Schmidt, Jamie Couch, Roz Couch, Riley Nichols, and Emily Bush



Some of the artistic and technical leaders of PRIVATE LIVES: (l to r) Michael Moore, Wanda Schenk, Chris Sence, Emily Bush, Gina Jones, LaChanda Maxie, Steve Chandler, Brian Oswald, and Ken Untiedt



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# Nacogdoches Niners Announce 2026 Schedule, Opening Night May 26

The Nacogdoches Niners are proud to announce the release of the 2026 Mid America League schedule, with Opening Night set for **May 26** at Jaycees Field. The upcoming season promises to be an exciting summer of baseball and community entertainment in East Texas.

Opening Night will launch a full slate of home games bringing the community together through affordable fun, exciting promotions, and the unique atmosphere that only summer baseball can provide. From youth teams celebrating their seasons to families looking for an affordable night out, the Niners focus on building experiences the entire community can enjoy!

Field Manager Nikaylen Morrison has already put together a mixed collegiate and professional roster of 20+. "We want to be able to bring a great baseball environment to the city of Nacogdoches. You will see an energetic bunch of individuals who care about one another and care about playing competitive baseball."

The 2026 schedule includes a variety of weekend games and special event nights that give fans the chance to experience baseball in a fun and engaging environment. Matchups against regional rivals including the Piney Woods TimberHogs, Bryan Yard Dogs, and Beaumont Oil Dragons will create exciting competition and memorable moments throughout the season.

Group outings will be a centerpiece of the Niners' experience, offering local businesses, youth sports teams, churches, and community organizations the opportunity to enjoy a night out together. Fundraising partnerships will allow local groups to support their missions while enjoying the excitement of live baseball.

Fans can also look forward to premium seating options and hospitality experiences that provide ideal settings for celebrations, client entertainment, and special events.

Nacogdoches native and General Manager Jace Green is thrilled to bring a professional baseball atmosphere to the "Oldest Town in Texas."

"Our corner of East Texas has been longing for this kind of affordable, family-friendly entertainment during the summer for a long time. Being able to bring it to Nacogdoches on a professional scale makes it even more exciting."

Additional promotional announcements will be made soon.

*The Mid America League is dedicated to bringing communities together through the excitement of summer baseball. Featuring talented collegiate and professional players from across the country, the league provides a fun, affordable, and engaging entertainment option for families, friends, and local organizations. With a focus on community connection, interactive promotions, and memorable fan experiences, Mid America League teams create an atmosphere where baseball is more than just a game — it's a summer tradition.*

## NACOGDOCHES NINERS SEASON SCHEDULE

| DATE    | DAY  | TIME | OPPONENT               |
|---------|------|------|------------------------|
| MAY 21  | THUR |      | MERIDIAN               |
| MAY 22  | FRI  |      | MERIDIAN               |
| MAY 23  | SAT  |      | MERIDIAN               |
| MAY 24  | SUN  |      | MERIDIAN               |
| MAY 26  | TUE  | 7:05 | BEAUMONT OIL BARONS    |
| MAY 27  | WED  | 7:05 | BEAUMONT OIL BARONS    |
| MAY 28  | THUR | 7:05 | BEAUMONT OIL BARONS    |
| MAY 29  | FRI  | 7:05 | MERIDIAN BLUES         |
| MAY 30  | SAT  | 7:05 | MERIDIAN BLUES         |
| MAY 31  | SUN  | 7:05 | MERIDIAN BLUES         |
| JUNE 2  | TUE  |      | FT. SCOTT KANSAS       |
| JUNE 3  | WED  |      | FT. SCOTT KANSAS       |
| JUNE 4  | THUR | 7:05 | BEAUMONT OIL BARONS    |
| JUNE 5  | FRI  | 7:05 | BEAUMONT OIL BARONS    |
| JUNE 6  | SAT  | 7:05 | BEAUMONT OIL BARONS    |
| JUNE 7  | SUN  | 7:05 | BEAUMONT OIL BARONS    |
| JUNE 9  | TUE  | 7:05 | MERIDIAN BLUES         |
| JUNE 10 | WED  | 7:05 | MERIDIAN BLUES         |
| JUNE 11 | THUR | 7:05 | MERIDIAN BLUES         |
| JUNE 12 | FRI  |      | PINEYWOODS             |
| JUNE 13 | SAT  |      | PINEYWOODS             |
| JUNE 14 | SUN  |      | PINEYWOODS             |
| JUNE 15 | MON  | 7:05 | MERIDIAN BLUES         |
| JUNE 16 | TUE  | 7:05 | MERIDIAN BLUES         |
| JUNE 17 | WED  | 7:05 | MERIDIAN BLUES         |
| JUNE 18 | THUR |      | FT. SCOTT KANSAS       |
| JUNE 19 | FRI  |      | FT. SCOTT KANSAS       |
| JUNE 20 | SAT  |      | FT. SCOTT KANSAS       |
| JUNE 21 | SUN  |      | FT. SCOTT KANSAS       |
| JUNE 23 | TUE  | 7:05 | FORT SCOTT DRAGOONS    |
| JUNE 24 | WED  | 7:05 | FORT SCOTT DRAGOONS    |
| JUNE 25 | THUR | 7:05 | FORT SCOTT DRAGOONS    |
| JUNE 26 | FRI  |      | BEAUMONT               |
| JUNE 27 | SAT  |      | BEAUMONT               |
| JUNE 28 | SUN  |      | BEAUMONT               |
| JUNE 29 | MON  |      | MERIDIAN               |
| JUNE 30 | TUE  |      | MERIDIAN               |
| JULY 1  | WED  |      | MERIDIAN               |
| JULY 2  | THUR |      | MERIDIAN               |
| JULY 3  | FRI  |      | BRYAN                  |
| JULY 4  | SAT  |      | BRYAN                  |
| JULY 5  | SUN  |      | BRYAN                  |
| JULY 7  | TUE  | 7:05 | PINEY WOODS TIMBERHOGS |
| JULY 8  | WED  | 7:05 | PINEY WOODS TIMBERHOGS |
| JULY 9  | THUR | 7:05 | PINEY WOODS TIMBERHOGS |
| JULY 10 | FRI  | 7:05 | FORT SCOTT DRAGOONS    |
| JULY 11 | SAT  | 7:05 | FORT SCOTT DRAGOONS    |
| JULY 12 | SUN  | 7:05 | FORT SCOTT DRAGOONS    |
| JULY 14 | TUE  |      | FT. SCOTT KANSAS       |
| JULY 15 | WED  |      | FT. SCOTT KANSAS       |
| JULY 16 | THUR |      | FT. SCOTT KANSAS       |
| JULY 17 | FRI  |      | PINEYWOODS             |
| JULY 18 | SAT  |      | PINEYWOODS             |
| JULY 19 | SUN  |      | PINEYWOODS             |
| JULY 21 | TUE  | 7:05 | BEAUMONT OIL BARONS    |
| JULY 22 | WED  | 7:05 | BEAUMONT OIL BARONS    |
| JULY 23 | THUR | 7:05 | BEAUMONT OIL BARONS    |
| JULY 24 | FRI  |      | BRYAN                  |
| JULY 25 | SAT  |      | BRYAN                  |
| JULY 26 | SUN  |      | BRYAN                  |
| JULY 27 | MON  | 7:05 | PINEY WOODS TIMBERHOGS |
| JULY 28 | TUE  | 7:05 | PINEY WOODS TIMBERHOGS |
| JULY 29 | WED  | 7:05 | PINEY WOODS TIMBERHOGS |

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**May/June 2026 Schedule**

| May      |                |                 |         |
|----------|----------------|-----------------|---------|
| Thu 7th  | Tia Juanitas   | Lufkin          | 5:30 pm |
| Tue 12th | Guacamoles     | Nacogdoches     | 6:00 pm |
| Thu 14th | Ralph & Kacoos | Lufkin          | 5:00 pm |
| Fri 15th | Dance Club     | Nacogdoches VFW | 7:00 pm |
| Tue 19th | Guacamoles     | Jacksonville    | 6:00 pm |
| Wed 20th | Tia Juanitas   | Lufkin          | 5:30 pm |
| Fri 23rd | Private Party  | _____           | _____   |
| Tue 26th | Guacamoles     | Nacogdoches     | 6:00 pm |
| June     |                |                 |         |
| Thu 4th  | Tia Juanitas   | Lufkin          | 5:30 pm |
| Tue 9th  | Gucamoles      | Nacogdoches     | 6:00 pm |
| Tue 16th | Guacamoles     | Jacksonville    | 6:00 pm |
| Wed 17th | Tia Juanitas   | Lufkin          | 5:30 pm |
| Thu 18th | Ralph & Kacoos | Lufkin          | 5:00 pm |
| Tue 23rd | Guacamoles     | Nacogdoches     | 6:00 pm |

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**Natalee Dunn**  
CVB Creative Content Director

# This Month in the Oldest Town in Texas

May in Nacogdoches invites you to slow down, step outside, and take it all in. With warm sunshine, fresh greenery, and a full calendar of events, it's the kind of month that makes you want to linger a little longer. From long-standing traditions to new experiences, May offers something for everyone to enjoy.

Kick off the month with Sale on the Trail on May 1st-2nd, where treasure hunters can shop their way along the historic El Camino Real. From Nacogdoches, TX, to Natchitoches, LA, this beloved event features yard sales, antiques, clothing, and unique finds at every stop, perfect for a day trip filled with unexpected discoveries.

Celebrate international culture at the Nacogdoches Scottish Highland Games, held at the Nacogdoches County Exposition and Civic Center on May 9th. This lively event brings the spirit of Scotland to East Texas with traditional bagpipe bands, Highland dancers, and live music throughout the day. It's a unique opportunity to experience the sights and sounds of Scottish heritage right here in Nacogdoches.

Garden lovers won't want to miss the Tour of Home Gardens, happening May 16th from 9 am to 3 pm and May 17th from 1 to 4 pm. As the Garden Capital of Texas, Nacogdoches shines during this annual tour, offering a rare glimpse into some of the community's most beautifully landscaped private gardens, each one showcasing creativity, care, and the beauty of the season.

Art takes center stage at The Cole Art Center with the Texas National 2026 exhibit. This prestigious, long-running exhibition draws artists from across the country, featuring innovative and compelling contemporary works in a wide range of media. It's a must-see for anyone looking to experience inspiring art in the heart of downtown.

Nac Snack Friday returns this month on May 22nd, bringing a lineup of local food trucks to Downtown Nacogdoches for a fun and flavorful midday break. It's the perfect chance to grab lunch, try something new, and enjoy the lively atmosphere of the historic brick streets.

In May, music enthusiasts will find live music scattered across town, found at favorites like Madhatter Distillery, Fredonia Brewery, 1st City Cafe, and Naca Valley Vineyard, along with many other local venues. Whether you're in the mood for a relaxed evening or a lively night out, there's no shortage of places to sit back and enjoy the sound of local talent.

As May unfolds, Nacogdoches continues to showcase the experiences that make it such a special place, where history, culture, and community come together in meaningful ways. Whether you're visiting for the day or the weekend, there's no better time to get out, explore, and be part of it all. To keep up with Nacogdoches and community events, check out our website at [visitnacogdoches.org/events](http://visitnacogdoches.org/events) and our "What's Happening" poster included in this paper.

SPECIAL REPORT



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# A Little Bit of History



## Hope Still Remains for the Old Stone Fort

On Friday afternoon, April 17<sup>th</sup>, I met unofficially with a City of Nacogdoches official to make sure I had all facts straight about the Old Stone Fort presently on the campus of Stephen F. Austin State University. Before we put any funding in place to save it, I want to know how much money is needed and where the City would allocate it. \$10.4 million is the figure being floated around via rumor that it would take to take it down and reconstruct it somewhere else. In the conversation, the official did not confirm that. In fact, I got the impression—rightly or wrongly—that no one has arrived at a figure of the total cost. The official also said the City and the University have not nailed down a location to which it would be moved.

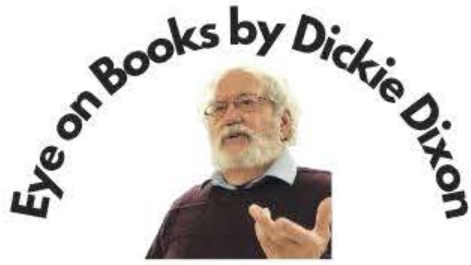
The most important piece of information he gave me is this: Stephen F. Austin State University and the City of Nacogdoches have jointly signed a letter of intent to preserve the Old Stone Fort. This letter, at the present time, has no guarantee of funding from any source, nor is a location specified to settle the building. However, it is important to note that in a recent decision, the Board of Regents of the University of Texas edged toward its removal by voting to approve its master plan, which calls for building a science building to be constructed in the spot where the Stone Fort is now located. The city official also agreed with me when I said I should hold my horses on putting any public funding in place.

While we wait to see what unfolds, use the following information to call, write, or email your objections (or all the above) to the Stone Fort Museum being torn down and possibly not reconstructed: Office of the Board of Regents of the University of Texas System 210 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street Austin Texas 78701 Phone (512) 499-4402 Email: [bor@utsystem.edu](mailto:bor@utsystem.edu) The address of the President of SFASU is: Office of the President Stephen F. Austin State University 1936 North Street Nacogdoches Texas 75962 Phone (936) 468-4732. The mailing address of the City Manager of Nacogdoches, Texas, is: City Manager Rick Beverlin, c/o City of Nacogdoches, P. O. Box 635030, Nacogdoches, Texas 75961 Phone:(936) 559-2500.

## Kissin' Kuzzins

(1) Thu Von Ellis will discuss her book **"From Vietnam to Texas"** for the May 4, 2026, meeting of the Deep East Texas Archeological Society at about 6:15 p.m. at the Newton Civic Center on 213 East Court Street in Newton. Doors open at 5 p.m., desserts and refreshments will be served up at 5:30 p.m., followed by a short business meeting. For more information, contact Ruth Dusan Garcia at (409) 336-9216 or [ruthdusan35@gmail.com](mailto:ruthdusan35@gmail.com) or Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419 or [dixonhershel51@aol.com](mailto:dixonhershel51@aol.com) (2) Dickie Dixon will discuss **"The Significance of the Old Stone Fort"** at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 9, 2026, at the Hardin County Genealogy Library in Kountze. For more information, contact Owen Vaughn at (409) 651-0990. (3) Dickie Dixon will discuss **"The Significance of the Old Stone Fort"** for the Daughters of the Republic of Texas at 11 am on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at the Cullen House in San Augustine. For more information, contact Connie Owens at (832) 390-9705 (4) David Lewis will discuss **"Gulf Coast Mushrooms"** at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, May 18, 2026, in the meeting room of Ralph & Kacoo's on South First in Lufkin. For more information, contact Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419 or [dixonhershel51@aol.com](mailto:dixonhershel51@aol.com) (5) Matt McBroom will discuss **"The John Henry Kirby Sawmills"** at about 6:15 p.m. on Monday, June 1, 202,6 at the Newton Civic Center on 213 East Court Street in Newton. For more information contact Ruth Dusan Garcia at (936) 336-9216 or [ruthdusan35@gmail.com](mailto:ruthdusan35@gmail.com) or Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419 or [dixonhershel51@aol.com](mailto:dixonhershel51@aol.com) (6) **"Raise Up Your Head: Freedom Colonies in America"** will be Richard Orton's topic, when he speaks to the Angelina County Genealogical Society at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, June 15, 2026 at the meeting of Ralph & Kacoo's on South First Street in Lufkin. The public can view the documentary now at [pbs.org](http://pbs.org), and it contains information about four Freedom Colonies: County Line in Nacogdoches County, Dixie and Mount Union in Jasper County, and Shankleville in Newton County. For more information, contact Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419 or [dixonhershel51@aol.com](mailto:dixonhershel51@aol.com) (7) Dickie Dixon's topic will be **"The Postal Service of the Confederate States of America"** when the Sons of the Confederate Veterans meets on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, in the meeting room of Ralph & Kacoo's on South First Street. For more information, contact Larry Howell at (940) 391-1628. (8) Jamie Carter Bollich will discuss **"My American Revolution Heritage"** at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, July 20, 2026, at the meeting room of Ralph & Kacoo's on South First Street in Lufkin. For more information, contact Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419 or [dixonhershel51@aol.com](mailto:dixonhershel51@aol.com) (9) Matt McBroom will discuss **"The John Henry Kirby Sawmills"** with special reference to Bon Wier when he speaks to the Angelina County Genealogical Society at 5:30 p.m. on August 17, 2026, in the meeting room of Ralph & Kacoo's on South First Street in Lufkin. For more information, contact Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419 or [dixonhershel51@aol.com](mailto:dixonhershel51@aol.com).

Design by Jannetta Lamourt  
[jannettalamort@gmail.com](mailto:jannettalamort@gmail.com)



# Add these titles to your reading list

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

## Texas Politics



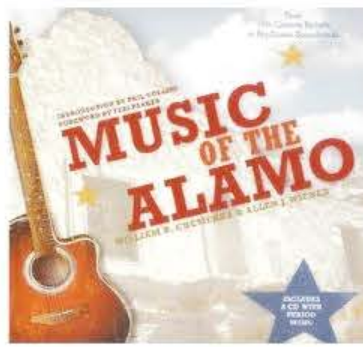
**Textit**  
Daniel Miller

## Texas History



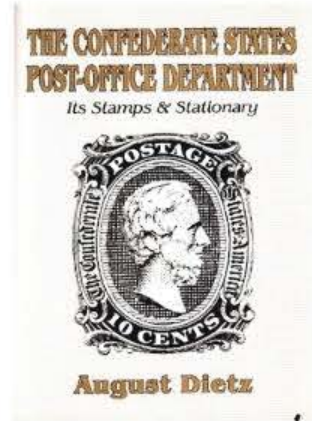
**The Old Stone Fort**  
Dr. Archie P. McDonald

## Music History



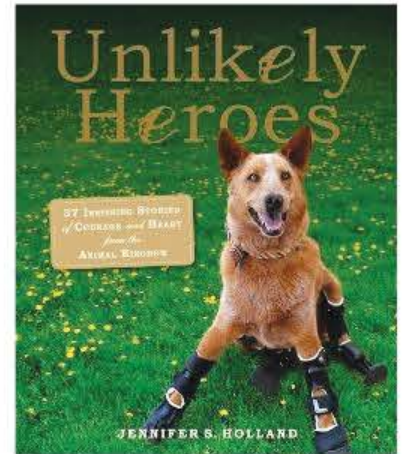
**Music of the Alamo**  
William M. Chemerka and Allen J. Wiener

## Civil War History



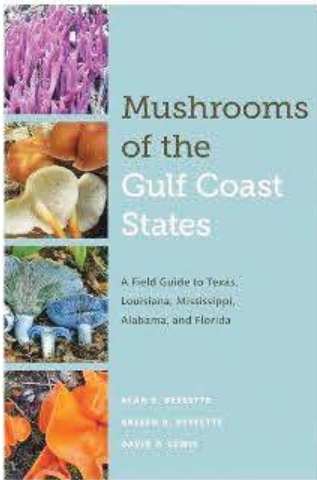
**The Postal Service: Confederate State**  
August Dietz

## Nature



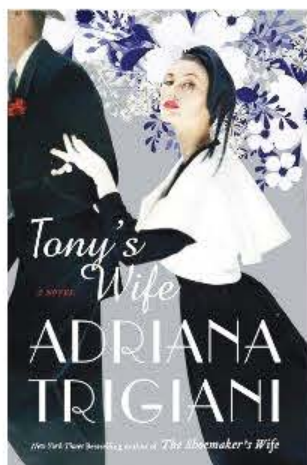
**Unlikely Heroes: Animal Kingdom**  
Jennifer S. Holland

## Science

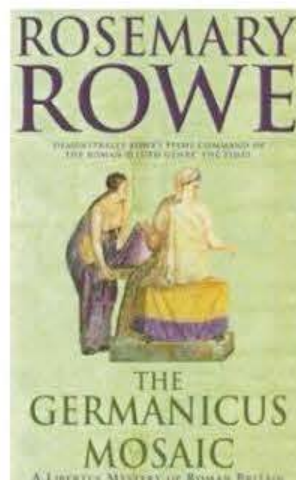


**Mushrooms of the Gulf Coast States**  
Alan E. / Arleen F. Bessette / David P. Lewis

## Fiction

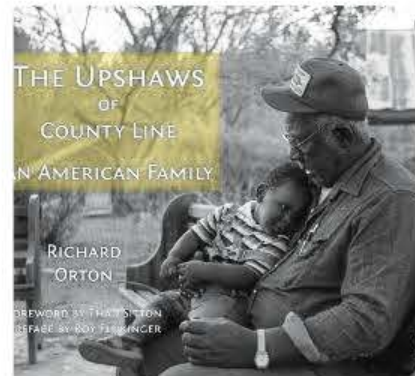


**Tony's Wife**  
Adriana Trigiani



**The Germanicus Mosaic**  
Rosemy Rowe

## African-American History



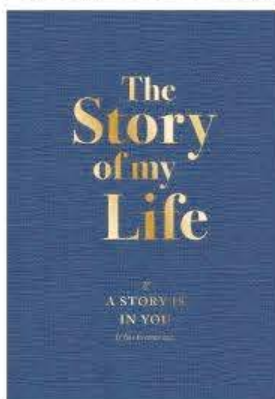
**Upshaws of County Line**  
Richard S. Orton

## American History



**Double Victory: A Multicultural History**  
Ronald Takaki

## Family History

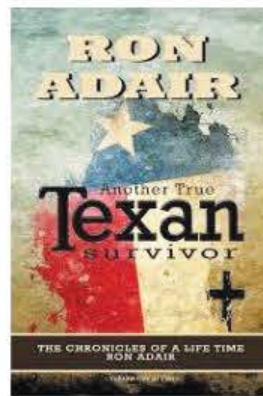


**The Story of My Life**  
A Journal  
Randall Paul Holland

## Classics

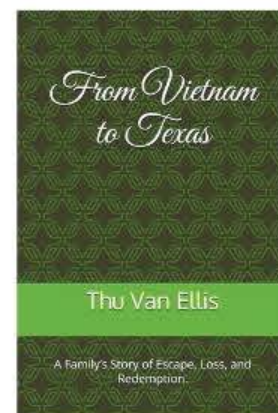


**Lord Jim**  
Joseph Conrad

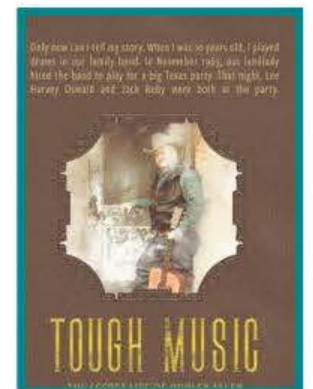


**Another True Texan Survivor**  
Vol 1 and 2 Ron Adair

## Autobiography

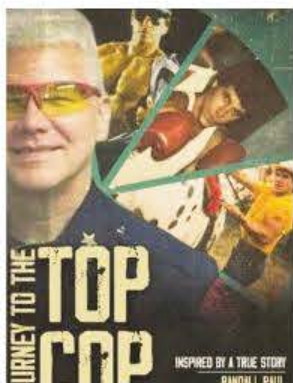


**From Vietnam to Texas**  
Thu Van Ellis



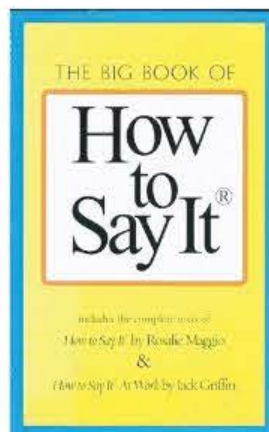
**Tough Music: The Secret Life**  
Dudley Allen

## Historical Fiction



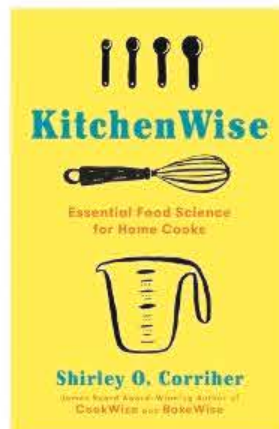
**Journey to Top Cop**  
Randall Paul Holland

## Communications



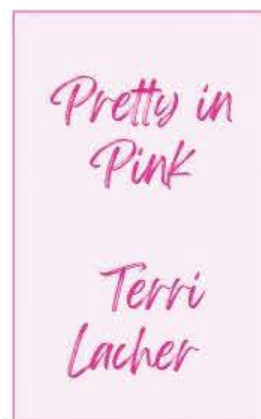
**How to Say It**  
Rosalie Maggio  
Jack Griffin

## Cooking



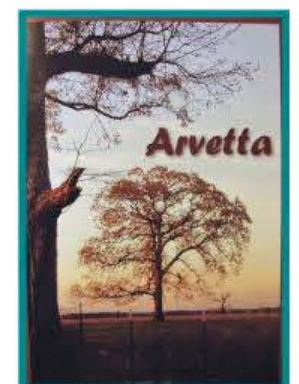
**KitchenWise Essential Food Science for Home Cooks**  
Shirley O. Corriher

## Children's



**Pretty in Pink**  
Terri Lacher

## African American Historical Fiction



**Arvetta**  
Herman Wright and Jamie Carter Bollich

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

# Leadership Starts Here

by Amanda Powell  
Director of Marketing & Communications  
Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce

## Lufkin Announced as 2026 Host Site for Global Leadership Summit Simulcast

The Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce that Lufkin will once again serve as an official host site for the Global Leadership Summit (GLS) 2026, bringing this world-class leadership experience directly to our community through a live simulcast.

Scheduled for August 6–7, 2026, the Global Leadership Summit will stream live from Willow Creek Community Church near Chicago to hundreds of host sites around the world, including right here in Lufkin. This two-day experience is designed to equip individuals, teams, and organizations with practical tools and a fresh perspective from a diverse lineup of globally recognized leaders.

“We are excited to continue serving as a simulcast host site for GLS 2026,” said Tara Watson-Watkins, President & CEO of the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce. “This event creates a unique opportunity for leaders across our region, business, education, nonprofit, faith, and government, to come together, grow together, and bring back ideas that make a real impact in our community.”

The Global Leadership Summit features insights from world-class speakers, including CEOs, authors, innovators, and thought leaders, covering topics such as leadership development, team culture, resilience, and organizational health. Attendees can expect a high-impact experience while connecting with other local leaders.

### Event Details:

- **What:** Global Leadership Summit 2026 (Simulcast)
- **When:** August 6–7, 2026
- **Where:** Pitsier Garrison Convention Center, Lufkin, TX
- **Presented by:** The Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Global Leadership Network
- **Registration:** [LufkinTexas.org/Global-Leadership-Summit](https://LufkinTexas.org/Global-Leadership-Summit)

Whether you're leading a business, a team, a classroom, a nonprofit, or simply leading yourself, GLS 2026 is designed to help you grow your influence and lead with purpose.

For more information, sponsorship opportunities, or group registration details, contact the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce at 936-634-6644 or visit [LufkinTexas.org](https://LufkinTexas.org).

### About the Global Leadership Summit:

The Global Leadership Summit is a premier leadership event broadcast each August to hundreds of locations across the United States and around the world. Hosted by the Global Leadership Network, the Summit exists to inspire and equip leaders with vision, courage, and practical skills to lead well in every area of life.



# Gardening in the Merry Month of May

by Elaine Cameron, Angelina County Master Gardener

May is here with cool mornings and moderate temperatures making outdoor time enjoyable. Yards are emerald green with fresh new growth, and the birds add song to the day. It is time to finish spring gardening chores before the summer heat arrives.

In the vegetable garden, harvest vegetables, such as squash and cucumbers, before they get too big. The flavor of small vegetables is much better. As cool season crops such as potatoes and onions are harvested garden space will open up. Okra, southern peas, winter squash, and pumpkins may be planted with seeds. Ensure soil is evenly moist



before planting and supplement rainfall with irrigation while the seedlings and young plants grow. Basil and rosemary plants may be planted with transplants. Here is the link to the vegetable planting guide for East Texas: [00\\_Vegetable-Planting-Guide.pdf](#)

To have a bountiful harvest of tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants feed the plants on a regular schedule, and keep the soil evenly moist. About three weeks after planting sprinkle three teaspoons of a high nitrogen fertilizer (21-0-0) around each plant. Work into the top two inches of soil and water in well. Continue feeding the plants every three weeks.

Apply three inches of mulch to vegetable beds to control weeds and conserve moisture. Chopped leaves or pine straw are readily available and slowly decompose to maintain the organic matter in vegetable beds.

In flower beds remove winter and early spring annuals to make room for summer flowers. Add some compost, work it in, and water area before planting. Garden stores have lots of bedding plants available for either sun or shade. Plants that may be added to your beds now include lantanas, pentas, coleus, wax begonias, and moss rose. Read the plant tags to learn whether they should be planted in sun or shade. Apply water soluble fertilizer when planting transplants and repeat in three weeks.

Containers of tropical hibiscus and bougainvillea will add color all summer long. It's time to plant caladium bulbs in containers or flower beds for color in the shade.

Annual flower seeds will stretch your garden dollars. Celosia, also known as cockscomb, cleome, globe amaranth, Mexican sunflower, sunflowers, and zinnias may all be sown directly into the flower garden now. Work a few inches of compost into the planting area and water well before planting. Follow the directions on the seed packet for planting depth and spacing. I place mesh bottomed plant trays over the areas where I have sown seeds to protect them from pets. When the seeds sprout and have true leaves remove the trays and thin the plants. When the seedlings are several inches tall mulch with chopped leaves to preserve moisture and deter weeds.

Spring bulb foliage may be trimmed back when it turns yellow. The green foliage feeds the bulb for next year's blooms. Spring blooming shrubs may be pruned now after they have finished blooming. If you prune later in the summer, you will be removing the buds for next spring.

Fertilize beds of annuals, perennials, and ornamental grasses with a slow release fertilizer, follow label instructions and water well. Water hanging baskets and container ornamentals with a water soluble fertilizer every time you water. Every two weeks water with plain water until it runs out of the container to flush out excess salts.

Angelina Master Gardeners will host “Mornings at the Market” on **Saturday, May 16, 9:00 am until noon**, under the arbor of their greenhouse in the Angelina County Farmers Market, at 2107 S. Medford Drive. You may bring your gardening questions and we will have information available for vegetables, and ornamentals. We are here to help with answers and information.

The Noon Gardening Program, hosted by Angelina AgriLife Extension and Angelina Master Gardeners, will be held on **Tuesday, May 19, noon to 1:00 pm** at the Extension office at 2201 S. Medford Drive in Lufkin. Jay White, owner and publisher of *Texas Gardener* magazine will be the guest speaker. Jay has a B.S. and M.S. in Agriculture and offers fast paced and entertaining lectures. His topic will be “Using Water Wisely in Home Gardens.” The Noon Gardening program is free to the public, and you may bring your lunch.

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# Connecting the Dots Between Mental Health, Substance Use, and Prevention

Some struggles are easy to miss. They show up as stress that doesn't go away, constant exhaustion, or habits that become harder to control over time. Over time, they can affect focus, relationships, and daily life.

Each May brings three important observances: Mental Health Awareness Month, Substance Use Disorder Treatment Month, and National Prevention Week. Together, they highlight the connection between emotional well-being, substance use, and the role of prevention across the community.

For some, that connection becomes very real. James grew up in a small East Texas town where hard work and family were part of everyday life. After a back injury on the job, a doctor prescribed pain medication so he could keep working. At first, it helped. But when the prescriptions ended, the pain did not.

What started as a way to manage physical discomfort slowly turned into something more. Someone suggested fentanyl as a stronger option. For a while, it seemed to help, but it eventually began to take hold.

James started missing work, and tension grew at home. "I told myself I had it under control," he said. "But I was losing everything that mattered."

After nearly overdosing alone in his truck, his supervisor stepped in, not to fire him, but to help. That moment became a turning point.

With support and treatment, James began rebuilding his life. It took time, structure, and support for both him and his family, but slowly, things began to change.

Today, he is back at work and active in his community. He shares his story when he can, especially in rural areas where silence often keeps people from reaching out. His experience reflects something many communities are working to understand more clearly: recovery is possible, and support makes a difference.

In East Texas, these challenges are not uncommon. Methamphetamine remains the number one substance of use among individuals seeking services in the region, and youth continue to report higher rates of alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana use compared to the state average.

Mental health and substance use are closely connected, and many families see that play out over time. Stress, anxiety, and difficult life situations can shape decisions in ways that are not always obvious at first.

Prevention does not always look like a program or presentation. It often starts with simple things, checking in, paying attention, and having honest conversations when something feels off. Those moments matter more than people realize.

When someone is struggling, reaching out can feel like the hardest step. Support like counseling, peer groups, and medical care can help people get back on steady ground, one step at a time.

Communities grow stronger when people look out for each other. May is a good time to stay informed, pay attention, and learn about available resources.

The Alcohol and Drug Awareness Council remains committed to providing education, prevention programs, and resources that support long-term well-being across Deep East Texas.

For more information about local programs and services, visit [adacdet.org](http://adacdet.org).

**Paige Bentley, Public Relations Coordinator**  
**Region 5 Prevention Resource Center**  
**Alcohol & Drug Awareness Council**  
**(936) 634-5753 Ext 8771**  
*ADAC serves the following counties:* Angelina, Hardin, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, and Tyler.

# NAC ARTS

## COLLABORATIVE News

CONNECTING COMMUNITY | SUPPORTING ARTISTS

NAC's Falling Star Gallery is proud to host the first solo show for Carol Leigh Eaton Walsh - "Monkey Brain: No Rhyme Nor Reason." The exhibition will feature vivid, colorful paintings from multiple eras from her painting journey. The show opens Saturday, May 2, 2-4pm with a reception with the artist in attendance. The show continues Saturdays 11-4 through June 13.

The same weekend is a preview of the 3rd Annual Naco Verde Upcycled Art Competition. Over 20 entries are included this year and will be on display at the NAC Annex, 141 Walker Avenue, behind the brewery. The show will be open Saturday, May 2 noon-4 for viewing and voting. The show will be open May 9 from 11-2 with prizes awarded at 1:30. Prizes are provided by Muddy Pants Pottery!

NAC wants to thank Better Together and Texas Commission on the arts for grant support for our summer theatre and arts Kids Camps. Get details here: [nacartscollab.com/kids-camps](http://nacartscollab.com/kids-camps).

Paint & Sip with artist Jenny Stokes! May 9 at the NAC Annex. \$30/per person or \$55 for 2, wine and snacks included. Check out details on our website.

A special Blueberry NAC Arts Market will be in our parking lot on June 13. Reserve your vendor spot before we fill up!

### Meet Carol Eaton Walsh!

Carol must be one of the busiest women in Nacogdoches. She leads an hour-long tai chi exercise class at the public library twice a week. She is the proprietor of a wonderful "metaphysical supply" shop called Widder-shin Cottage at 404 Bremond Street that's open Thursdays through Saturdays, selling eclectic vintage décor, herbs, incense, wind-chimes, antique treasures and much more. She looks after nine cats who live in the three houses on her property. And when time permits, she works in her home studio on her playful colorful paintings. "I don't get to do it as much as I'd like," Carol said with a grin. Her upcoming show, opening Saturday, May 2 at Falling Star Gallery is called "Monkey Brain: No Rhyme Nor Reason." It is her very first solo art exhibition.



Born in Lufkin, Carol moved to Nacogdoches as a child when her parents found employment here. They loved hunting for antiques and they would take their daughter along. "My appreciation of artistry began early. I remember the first piece I bought for myself— I was five— a very intricately carved shelf unit, that I still have in my bathroom." Her mother and grandmother loved to draw and taught her how. Her mom was also instrumental in fostering Carol's artistic education by purchasing a season ticket every year to the SFA artist series for her daughter. "She would drop me off and I would go to the dance recital or the opera or the play or the art exhibit and come home enriched! And inspired!"

"By the time I was 13, I was driven to make stuff. I had an easel and paints and most importantly, a BERET!" she laughs. "And I was creating all the time. If anyone had asked me at that moment, I'd have said that I was a professional artist. My first painting was a huge still life that my mother hung over the sideboard in the dining room. I haven't stopped since." Carol holds a

BFA, an MA and an MFA all from Stephen F. Austin State University, and all focused on painting. "I taught art for a bit, but the buyer and seller in me decided there were better ways for me to stay creative." For a long time, Carol dealt in antique dolls and traveled the country for business, but ultimately, she wanted to stay home with her beloved husband, the late Brendan Walsh, and pursue other creative interests, including painting.

"Creative expression is such an important part of life. It's one reason I support the Nacogdoches Arts Collaborative and their mission to expand the arts

# Lennie Garrett Sawyer Presents Show May 9

Award-winning artist Lennie Garrett Sawyer, a Garrison native, will present a show and sale of her works Saturday, May 9, at Naca Valley Vineyard.

She will be exhibiting her artwork from noon to 9 p.m. Lennie, who paints primarily in the medium of oil/acrylic, placed first in the Livingston Art League 2026 Spring Members' Only show in her division in March with her entry, "A Storm is Brewing." She also won second in her division for "Safe Harbor." At the same show, she garnered an honorable mention in her division with "Butterfly's Delight." Judge was M. Kate Bocherding from Sam Houston State University.

In 2025, her paintings, "Checking on the Crops" and "Garden Party" placed first and second in her division at the Livingston Art League members' only fall show. She also won first and second at the spring 2025 Livingston juried show as a novice with her work, "Road to Glory," which was the Mayor's Choice Award. "A Bucket of Gold," depicting a bucket of sunflowers, won third in her division at the same show. Judge was Cheryl Evans of University of Houston-Clear Lake. Because of her wins in the juried show, Lennie was eligible to enter the Lone Star Art Guild show for statewide chapters as a new artist and got honorable mention for two of her paintings in her division.

At her appearance at Naca Valley Vineyard, located at 9897 Fm 1878, in Nacogdoches, she will hold drawings between the hours of 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. for gift card prizes of Naca Valley's award-winning wines, Andy's wood-fired pizza and one of her original paintings. Persons must be 21 or older to enter and be present to receive the gifts.

"When I went to college, I had an art teacher who advised that 'you need to find something else to do because you are NOT an artist,'" Lennie said. So, she proceeded throughout the years working and making a living. She added that she was at a stage in her 70s when she was retired, bored and spent all of her time staying home. Her husband, Buz, told her he "thought I needed a hobby and gifted me with an acrylic art set for my birthday." Her life changed from that point and she has since spent virtually every day since then abandoning housework and spending her time glued to YouTube, watching tutorials, taking art lessons from art professionals and more. "It opened up a world that had been locked inside me for generations," she said. "I gravitated to acrylic landscapes because their colors, shapes and movement touched me."



"Night Sentinel," an acrylic by artist Lennie Garrett Sawyer, a native of Garrison, is among her works on exhibit May 9 from noon to 9 p.m. at Naca Valley Vineyard.

She now sees the world through a different lens. "I see something now and ask myself, 'What story does this tell?'" She is indebted to her husband for giving her the avenue for her creative process. Her goal is to branch out to other artistic mediums to expand her knowledge and become a more well-rounded artist.

A resident of Lake Livingston, Lennie is a graduate of Garrison High School and attended Panola College and SFASU. She worked in the medical field for 30 years in surgery and as a private surgical nurse for orthopedic surgeons. She capped off her working years in public education as a paraprofessional in the middle school special education department.

She believes in "giving back" and has donated her works to the Polk County Beautification and Recycling Fundraiser, and participated in Livingston Trades Days and Downtown Livingston Main Street Art Walk with her local chapter of the Livingston Art League where she now serves as secretary.

scene in our lovely little town." Carol's work will be for sale at the gallery. Falling Star Gallery is open Saturdays 11-4 and "Monkey Brain" will run through Saturday, June 13.

Nacogdoches Arts Collaborative is located inside Williamsburg Plaza, 320 North Street. Falling Star Gallery @ NAC is in Suite 306 and is open Saturdays from 11-4 or by appointment by texting 917-209-1050. We are also an easy walk from downtown at 415 N. Fredonia Street, one block north of the Fredonia Hotel. The NAC Annex is at 141 Walker Avenue behind the Fredonia Brewery.

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



# WHAT'S HAPPENING



May 2026

**Sale on the Trail**  
May 1st-May 2nd  
Various Locations in Nacogdoches

**Classic Car Cruise In**  
Fri. May 1st 4-7pm  
Clear Springs

**Celebrating America 250**  
Sat. May 2nd 10am-2pm  
Charles Bright Visitor Center

**Market on Main**  
Sat. May 2nd 10am-2pm  
305 East Main St.

**Fredonia Rotary Ramble - Glow Run**  
Sat. May 2nd 5:30-8:30pm  
Fredonia Brewery

**Stone Fort Chorale Spring Concert**  
Sun. May 3rd 3:30-4:30pm  
First United Methodist Church

**Nacogdoches Scottish Highland Games**  
Sat. May 9th 9am-6pm  
Nacogdoches County Exposition and Civic Center

**The Crash at Crush: A Musical Comedy**  
Fri. May 15th 7pm  
Zion Hill Baptist Church

**Tour of Home Gardens**  
May 16th & 17th  
Various Homes in Nacogdoches

**Praise in the Park Music Festival**  
Sat. May 16th 11am-4pm  
Pecan Acres Park

**Nac Snack Friday**  
Fri. May 22nd 11am-2pm  
Downtown Nacogdoches

**Piney Woods Entrepreneurship Network**  
Wed. May 20th 5:30-7pm  
Fuzzy's Taco Shop

**Swing Dancing Class**  
Thu. May 14th & 28th 7:30-8:45pm  
C. L. Simon Recreation Center

**Private Lives Play**  
5/29, 5/30: 7:30pm | 5/31: 2pm  
Lamp-Lite Theater

**Lone Star Trivia**  
All times are 7pm unless stated otherwise  
Tuesday: 5/5 & 5/19 Bottlecap Alley  
Thursday: 5/7, 5/14/ 5/21, & 5/28 Fredonia Brewery

**Maklemore's Ale House & Bistro**  
Wine Down Wednesdays: Live Music

**Naca Valley Vineyard**  
Pizza on the Pavilion:  
Andy's Wood-Fired Pizza every Thu.-Sat.  
5/9: Art Show & Sale 12-9pm  
Live Music 5:30pm:  
5/2: Randy C Moore  
5/9: Ramoth Gilead  
5/19: Justin Merritt  
5/23: Andrew Toole  
5/30: Country Willie

**Aperitivo Cafe & Gelato**  
Thursdays: Piano & Pour 6-9pm  
5/2: Cars & Coffee 9am-12pm

**Nacogdoches Arts Collaborative**  
*\*Locations are Italicized\**  
*320 North St:*  
5/2: Monkey Brain: No Rhyme  
Nor Reason Opening 2-4pm  
Every Saturday: Monkey Brain: No  
Rhyme Nor Reason 11am-4pm  
*141 Walker Street:*  
5/2: Nacoverde Up-cycled Art Auction 12-3pm  
5/9: Nacoverde Up cycled Art  
Auction & Awards 11am-2pm  
5/9: Paint & Sip 6-8pm

**Banita Creek Hall**  
Line Dancing & Two-Stepping  
Thursday: Ladies Night  
Fridays: Dollar Night

**Madhatter Distillery**  
Events are 21+ | No cover unless stated otherwise  
Thursdays: Singo Bingo 6-7:30pm  
5/2 Daniel McMahon Live 7-9:30pm  
5/8: Glaze & Sip with Muddy Pants Pottery 6:30-9pm  
5/9: Jay and Linda Kaye Live 7-9:30pm  
5/16: Daniel McMahon Live 7-9:30pm  
5/22: Rock Bottom String Band 7-9:30pm  
5/23: Skippy Digler Live 7-9:30pm  
5/29: Paint & Sip 6:30-9pm  
5/30: Zach Mason Live 7-9:30pm

**Nacogdoches County Exposition and Civic Center**  
5/9: Nacogdoches Scottish Highland Games 9am-6pm  
5/16: Ability Strong Festival  
5/19: KPOP Warriors Live

**Lumberjack Harley Davidson**  
5/2: Ladies International Ride Day 12-3pm  
5/9: Southern Throwdown 12-3pm  
5/16: Armed Forces Day 12-3pm  
5/23: Memorial Day Fish Fry 12-3pm  
5/30: 11 Year Anniversary 12-3pm

**Farmers Market**  
Every Saturday 9am-12pm  
Nacogdoches Farmers Market

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

**The Fredonia Hotel**  
Fridays: Music on the Patio 6-9pm:  
5/1: Larry Greer & the Shades of Blue  
5/8: Enrique Munguia  
5/15: Logan McCune  
5/22: Ryan Lawless  
5/29: Marshall Hance

**Fredonia Brewery**  
Trivia every Thursday 7pm  
Live Music every Friday & Saturday  
5/1: Big Dip Afterparty & Nessa &  
Bailey Live 6:30-8:30pm  
5/2: All Shirts No Pants Live 6-9pm  
5/6: Books & Beer 6-7pm  
5/8: Jared Lostracco Live 6:30-8:30pm  
5/9: The Bamboo Tones Live 6-9pm  
5/15: Steffany Karback Live 6:30-8:30pm  
5/16: Zach Mason & The Jars Live 6-9pm  
5/17: FredTalk Lecture Series 2-3pm  
5/22: Haylee Lewis Live 6:30-8:30pm  
5/23: Huffie & The Paintfish- 5  
Year Anniversary Reunion Show 6-9pm  
5/29: Enrique Munguia 6:30-8:30pm  
5:30: Velvet Vyb 6-9pm

**Slash-O-Meaderly**  
Saturdays: Mead with the Highlands 2-8pm  
5/30: Dan McMahon Live 4-7pm

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

**Stone House Kitchen**  
Beyond the Vines Cellars Open every Thu.-Sat.

**SFA Fine Arts**  
*\*Locations are Italicized\**  
*Cole Art Center:*  
5/1-5/31: Texas National 2026  
*Griffith Fine Arts Building, Turner Auditorium:*  
5/2: Masterworks Concert 7:30pm  
5/12: An Evening with The Purple Hulls and Music  
Preparatory Division 7 pm

**SFA Gardens**  
*\*Locations are Italicized\**  
*Brundrett Conservation Education Building:*  
5/9: Plant Propagation: A Garden Seminar 9am-12pm  
5/14: Lecture: Through the Years- Plants  
We Had Then, Plants We Have Now 7pm  
*Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden:*  
5/1/26-3/6/27: Sculpture in the SFA Gardens

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

**LET US HELP PUBLICIZE YOUR EVENT!**

If your church, service organization or non-profit has an  
upcoming event or fundraiser,  
please send to [AroundTheTown@mail.com](mailto:AroundTheTown@mail.com).

We'll help spread the word!  
Please include a contact phone number.

# Nacogdoches Church Directory

**SPONSORED BY**



## Cason Monk-Metcalf FUNERAL DIRECTORS

5400 North Street • Nacogdoches, TX 75965  
**936-564-7333**

*“Serving The Nacogdoches  
Community With Honor  
and Dignity Since 1893”*

- Agape Life Church** — 3500 North Street #3, 75965 — 936.559.3081
- Antioch Baptist Church** — 1421 Greer Street, 75961 — 936.569.7432
- Apostolic Lighthouse** — 1801 Durst Street
- Appleby Baptist Church** — 13995 US-59, 75965
- Appleby Church of Christ** — 10494 FM 941, 75965 — 936.564.9792
- Austin Heights Baptist Church** — 2806 Appleby Sand Rd, 75965 — 936.564.0818
- Bethel Temple Church of God in Christ** — 1716 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, 75961 — 936.305.5138
- Bethlehem Mission** — 125 NE Stallings Drive, 75961 — 936.564.6278
- Bonita Methodist Church** — 10303 Hwy 259 @ Central Heights — 936.560.2028
- Calvary Baptist Church** — 3732 NE Stallings Drive, 75965 — 936.564.4539
- Calvary Pentecostal Church** — 2800 Old Lufkin Rd, 75964 — 936.564.6835
- Cariker Street Seventh-day Adventist Church** — 909 Cariker Street, 75961 — 936.564.2197
- Centro De Vida Cristiana** — 2933 Hunter Street, 75964 — 936.615.4753
- Christ Episcopal Church** — 502 E Starr Ave, 75961 — 936.564.0421
- Christian Life Center | Pentecostal Church** — 2604 Stallings Drive N, 75964 — 936.560.1431
- Church of Christ** — 3831 NE Stallings Drive, 75961 — 936.205.5956
- Corner Post Cowboy Church** — 8151 FM 1638, 75964 — 936.645.0123
- Davis Memorial Church of God** — 1614 Gasaway Rd, 75964 — 936.564.8401
- Eastside United Pentecostal Church** — 3801 Center Rd, 75961 — 936.564.6432
- Fairview United Methodist Church** — 6296 TX-21, 75961
- Faith Temple Church** — 217 Sweetgum Street, 75961 — 936.559.1502
- First Baptist Church** — 411 North Street, 75961 — 936.564.7379
- First Christian Church** — 702 Mound Street, 75961 — 936.564.7389
- First Pentecostal Church** — 1622 Douglass Rd, 75964 — 936.569.6784
- First United Methodist Church** — 201 E Hospital Street, 75961 — 936.564.8308
- Forest Pine Church** — 3738 S Fredonia Street, 75964
- Fredonia Hill Baptist Church** — 1711 South Street, 75964 — 936.564.8386
- Glory Gang** — 1610 SW Stallings Drive, 75964 — 1.855.456.7944
- Godtel Ministries** — 330 E. Main Street, 75961 — 936.569.7914
- Gospel Assembly Church** — 2916 Lilly Street, 75964 — 936.219.0251
- Grace Baptist Church** — 4120 NW Stallings Drive, 75964 — 936.552.8988
- Grace Bible Church** — 2305 Raguet Street, 75965 — 936.564.8867
- Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church** — SE Loop 224, 75961 — 936.559.0952
- Gravel Ridge Missionary Baptist Church** — 7425 FM 225, 75964
- Greater Faith Tabernacle** — 2800 Old Lufkin Rd, 75964 — 936.564.6835
- Harmonia Baptist Church** — 2547 Old Post Oak Rd, 75965 — 936.552.1956
- Harmony Baptist Church** — 268 County Rd 726, 75964 — 936.569.7381
- Harvest Point Church** — 2708 South Street, 75964 — 936.569.9342
- Heritage Primitive Baptist Church** — 128 Hunt Street, 75965 — 936.554.0102
- High Praise Tabernacle** — 1607 Douglass Rd, 75964
- Iglesia Bautista Cristiana** — 1917 S Fredonia Street, 75964 — 936.462.8692
- Iglesia Bautista Vida Eterna** — 2612 Williams Street, 75964 — 936.462.0719
- Iglesia Evangelica Cristiana Espiritual** — 501 Lenwood Drive, 75964
- Immaculate Conception Catholic Church** — 1422 County Rd 724, 75964 — 936.560.3200
- Impact Cowboy Church of Nacogdoches** — 415 FM 2112, 75961 — 936.569.8559
- International Church of Nacogdoches** — 1610 SW Stallings Drive, 75964 — 936.564.7265
- Iron Wheel Baptist Church** — 820 1st Street, 75961 — 936.569.8358
- Jacob's Memorial Cogic** — 1717 Castleberry Street, 75961 — 936.564.7493
- Johnson Chapel CME Church** — 614 3rd Street, 75961 — 936.569.9703
- Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses** — 2832 NE Stallings Drive, 75965 — 936.560.6571
- Life Church** — 702 N University Drive, 75961 — 936.205.5956
- Little Zion Baptist Church** — 305 Shawnee Street, 75961 — 936.564.4577
- Macedonia Baptist Church** — 169 County Rd 719, 75964 — 936.564.3148
- Martinsville Baptist Church** — 10892 FM 95, 75961 — 936.554.1344
- Miracle Tabernacle** — 3214 E Main Street, 75961 — 936.4624.8575
- Mosaic Church | Nacogdoches** — 2603 SE Stallings Drive, 75961 — 936.615.3199
- Mt Moriah Baptist Church** — 1413 Powers Street, 75964 — 936.564.3058
- Mt-Zion Baptist Church** — 3767 SE Stallings Drive, 75961 — 936.554.7294
- Nacogdoches Bible Fellowship** — 2220 E Main Street, 75961 — 936.569.7077
- Nacogdoches Christian Fellowship** — 1701 E Main Street, 75961 — 936.560.1948
- Nacogdoches Community Church / Victory Fellowship** — 1907 Stallings Drive N, 75964 — 936.569.2720
- Nacogdoches First Church of the Nazarene** — 211 SE Stallings Drive, 75964 — 936.305.5351
- Nacogdoches Korean Baptist Church** — 1711 South Street, 75964 — 972.632.0560
- Nacogdoches Seventh-day Adventist Church** — 4407 Old Tyler Rd, 75964 — 936.564.1905
- New Birth Fellowship Church** — 2910 E Main Street, 75961 — 936.569.7334
- New Creation Nations Christian Center** — 3806 NW Stallings Drive, 75964
- New Hope Baptist Church** — 819 Ritchie Street, 75961 — 936.225.8580
- New Hope Methodist Church** — 5301 E Main Street, 75961 — 936.564.7693
- New Life Christian Fellowship** — 4111 FM 1878, 75965 — 936.674.7339
- North Street Church of Christ** — 3914 North Street, 75965 — 936.564.2471
- Northpointe Church of God** — 3900 Appleby Sand Rd, 75965 — 936.560.2358
- Northwood Baptist Church** — 3224 NE Stallings Drive, 75965 — 936.564.2969
- Oak Grove Baptist Church** — 2603 SE Stallings Drive, 75961 — 936.569.0756
- Old North Baptist Church** — 332 County Rd 205, 75965
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church** — 4401 Old Lufkin Rd, 75964 — 936.560.3506
- Pine Flat CME Church** — 899 FM 3228, 75961 — 936.564.4224
- Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church** — 4922 FM 2864, 75965 — 936.559.5445
- Power Of The Word** — 1501 Industrial Drive, 75964
- Redeemer Lutheran Church** — 2306 Appleby Sand Rd, 75965 — 936.564.6729
- Redemption Baptist Church** — 3716 South Street, 75964 — 936.414.6777
- Rey De Reyes Iglesia Cristiana** — 1705 SW Stallings Drive, 75964 — 936.462.8008
- Rock Springs Church** — 203 County Rd 819, 75964
- Sacred Heart Catholic Church** — 2508 Appleby Sand Rd, 75965 — 936.564.7807
- Sandy Ridge Church** — 75964
- Saint Paisios the Athonite Orthodox Christian Mission** — 614 E Starr Ave, 75961 — 936.622.0622
- Saints Temple Church of God in Christ** — 2604 Ellis Street, 75964 — 936.560.3506
- Shady Grove Baptist Church** — 2548 FM 2112, 75961 — 936.560.2721
- Shawnee Church of Christ** — 612 Shawnee Street, 75961 — 936.564.2103
- Southside Church of Christ** — 3738 S Fredonia Street, 75964 — 936.559.1800
- Stallings Drive Baptist Church** — 728 SE Stallings Drive, 75964 — 936.564.2075
- Star Hope Baptist Church** — 2305 Looneyville Rd, 75964 — 936.564.1369
- St James Baptist Church** — 2633 Canyon Street, 75964 — 936.564.7887
- St Mary's Chapel** — 215 College Street, 75965 — 936.564.0661
- St Matthew Church** — 2720 Matthew Street, 75964
- St Paul's Methodist Church** — 601 Moore Street, 75961 — 936.564.3585
- Stonewall Fellowship Church** — 1303 S University Drive, 75961 — 936.587.9895
- Sunset Galilee Missionary Baptist Church** — 1609 S Rayburn Drive, 75961 — 936.564.3853
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** — 3307 Center Rd, 75961 — 936.564.0687
- The Citizen Nac** — 108 N Lanana Street, 75961 — 936.237.6395
- Timber Creek Church** — 3801 North Street, 75965 — 936.632.3540
- Trawick Presbyterian Church** — 4410 SH 204, 75964 — 254.702.0100
- Union Cross Missionary Baptist Church** — 2905 Old Tyler Rd, 75964 — 936.564.9838
- University Church** — 2505 North Street, 75965 — 936.205.3100
- Vineyard Church** — 4140 FM 1878, 75961 — 936.564.4600
- Westminster Presbyterian Church** — 903 North Street, 75961 — 936.564.0203
- Westside Missionary Baptist Church** — 3109 Durst Street, 75964 — 936.564.0713
- Woden United Pentecostal Church** — 136 Rankin Rd, 75961 — 936.560.2733
- Zion Hill First Baptist Church** — 324 N Lanana Street, 75961

## ANGELINA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

# Dig into your past!

- **MAY 4**, THU VON ELLIS "FROM VIETNAM TO TEXAS" 6:15 P.M. AT THE NEWTON CIVIC CENTER ON 213 EAST COURT STREET IN NEWTON.
- **MAY 9**, THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE OLD STONE FORT.
- **MAY 18**, DAVID LEWIS, "GULF COAST MUSHROOMS"
- **JUNE 1**, MATT MCBROOM WILL DISCUSS "THE JOHN HENRY KIRBY SAWMILLS"
- **JUNE 15**, RICHARD ORTON, "RAISE UP YOUR HEAD: FREEDOM COLONIES IN AMERICA"
- **JULY 20**, JAMIE CARTER BOLLICH "MY AMERICAN REVOLUTION HERITAGE"
- **AUGUST TBA**, CINDY THOMAS. "SEPARATING FACT FROM FICTION: PROVING OR DISPROVING FAMILY STORIES"

All meetings are free to the public; you do not have to be a member to attend. For more information, contact Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419 or [dixonherrshel51@aol.com](mailto:dixonherrshel51@aol.com)

Hosted by: Angelina County Genealogical Society

## FREE NAC NEWS 24/7!



Don't miss your news from Nacogdoches!  
Create an easy shortcut on your  
iPhone or Android mobile!

**OBITUARIES**  
**ARRESTS**  
**PUBLIC RECORDS**  
**FIRST RESPONDERS**  
**NEWS**  
**SCHOOLS**  
**SPORTS**  
**EVENTS**  
**WEATHER**

# COMMUNITY NEWS ITEMS



## VFW DANCE

**Every Saturday Night!  
7 pm - 11 pm  
\$15.00 Admission**

**VFW POST #3893**  
2406 Hunter Rd.  
Nacogdoches, TX  
936.569.9670

**Now accepting Credit Cards  
and Debit Cards for  
admission and at the bar.**

*Open to the public - No membership required!*

## NACOGDOCHES SHRINERS



### SHARON TEMPLE

The Nacogdoches Shrine Club Building is available for event rentals. We can accommodate 250 people. Tables and chairs available. Large paved parking lot.

208 CR 703 • Nacogdoches, TX 75964

Rental Managers:  
Michael and Leshia Harrell  
**936-404-1776**

*We are seeking new members!*  
Shrine Contacts:  
Robert Parrish 936-645-2883 cell; 936-560-4881 home  
Calvin Taylor 936-591-1580

## MAY 2nd THRU JULY 31, 2026 AMERICA 250! COMMUNITY EVENT

### KICK-OFF MAY 2nd 10 AM @ back of CVB

Everyone is invited to bring your friends and come inside to view Texas' contribution to Freedom From Britain for the United States of America

Sponsored by Nacogdoches Chapter DAR

**May 1, 2:** The 18th Annual Historic El Camino Real Sale on the Trail from Crockett to Natchitoches, LA. Find treasures beyond measure over 100 miles of bargains including flea markets, storefront sales, antiques, boutique stops, food trucks, fundraisers, yard sales, sidewalk clearances, farmers markets all along S.H. 21 (in TX) & 7 (in LA). Add this stop to your route & SHOP ALTO! Booths set up in town on highway 21 with the Lions Club HUGE parking lot sale & an animal rescue fundraiser. Two states, eight cities, and 111 miles of shopping exploration.

## FREE MEAL

**What:** Free meal, water, coffee and Bibles for anyone.

**When:** May 10, 2026, Sunday Mother's Day

**Time:** 2:00 - 4:00 or later

**Where:** 102 North Street and Main, Nacogdoches Johnson Furniture loading dock area, next to Firestone.

**Why:** To show the love of Jesus.

We will have this every second Sunday of each month. This month's meal will be hamburgers, beef hot dogs, veggies, condiments, chips and cake.

*FREE for everyone.*

If you would like prayer, we will pray with you or we have a prayer box.

*"Friends of Jesus"*

Thanks to Randy Johnson for allowing us to use his property at Johnson Furniture. Thanks to David Stallings for allowing us to advertise.

**May 14:** Alto EDC's "Alto Health for All" webinar at 12 pm. \*LIVE\* via Facebook, but Zoom in with us also for May's edition of health, wellness, and safety. Featured speaker this month is Texas A&M AgriLife. Watch April's recording on Facebook.com/alto.edc/reels & follow (or add) us for updates & news.

## Snapshot from Around the Town

Classmates from 1965-66 reunite on Saturday, April 18 at Appleby Sand Mercantile Café. Pictured from left to right are Henry Childers, David Campbell, Joe Ramsey, David Stallings, James Aston and Hyman Boozer.



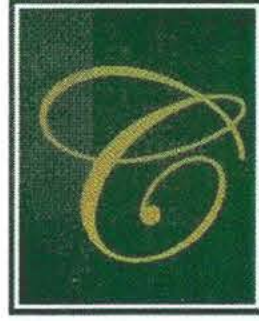
## LET US HELP PUBLICIZE YOUR EVENT!

**If your church, service organization or non-profit has an upcoming event or fundraiser, please send to [AroundTheTown@mail.com](mailto:AroundTheTown@mail.com).**

**We'll help spread the word! Please include a contact phone number.**

# Lufkin Church Directory

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*Carroway*  
FUNERAL HOME

2704 S John Redditt Dr  
Lufkin, TX 75904  
**936-634-2255**

9475 S US 69  
Huntington, TX 75949  
**936-876-5555**

204 E Front St  
Corrigan, TX 75939  
**936-398-4141**

[www.carrowayfuneralhome.com](http://www.carrowayfuneralhome.com)

**Allentown United Pentecostal Church** — 4166 FM 843, 75904 — 972.921.6533  
**Angelina Church of Christ** — 2213 Tulane Drive, 75901 — 936.634.4555  
**Angel of Joy Lutheran Church** — 4003 Daniel McCall Drive, 75904 — 936.632.4777  
**Believers' Bible Church** — 408 S Medford Drive, 75901 — 936.632.3818  
**Bethel Assembly of God Church** — 3863 Ted Trout Drive, 75904 — 936.875.2444  
**Bountiful Blessings Ministries** — 5730 SH 103W, 75904 — 936.671.0996  
**Breath of Life United Fellowship Of Churches Int'l** — 1202 Cain Street, 75904 — 609.851.8541  
**Canaan Missionary Baptist Church** — 1313 Paul Ave, 75901 — 936.632.5683  
**Carpenter's Way Church** — 400 N John Redditt Drive, 75904 — 936.632.6599  
**Central Church of Christ** — 711 N Second Street, 75901  
**Chestnut Drive Baptist Church** — 1701 S Chestnut Street, 75901 — 972.632.1568  
**Christ Congregational Church** — 105 Saddle Creek Drive, 75904 — 936.634.2009  
**Church At Lufkin** — 205 Joyce Lane, 75901 — 936.632.6185  
**Church in the Park** — Kiwanis Park Drive, 75901  
**Church of Christ** — 2906 Atkinson Drive, 75901 — 936.632.1233  
**Church of Christ** — 401 E Groesbeck Ave, 75901 — 936.634.7515  
**Church of Christ** — 910 Oquinn Ave, 75904 — 936.632.3601  
**Church of the Living God** — 212 S Garvan Street, 75901 — 936.632.4141  
**Church of the Living God** — 613 Culverhouse Street, 75904 — 936.632.5144  
**City Church Lufkin** — 711 N Second Street, 75901 — 936.632.3844  
**Collins Chapel CME Church** — 801 Rowe Ave, 75904 — 936.637.2610  
**Covenant Presbyterian Church** — 1303 E Denman Ave, 75901 — 936.637.6043  
**Cross Road Baptist Church** — 5714 Old Union Rd, 75904 — 936.875.2810  
**Cross Timbers Cowboy Church** — 4977 US 69, 75904 — 936.632.2535  
**Denman Avenue Baptist Church** — 1807 E Denman Ave, 75901 — 936.634.6691  
**Dunn Chapel Church** — 1212 Bethlehem Rd, 75904 — 936.637.3770  
**Eastview United Pentecostal Church** — 1407 N Medford Drive, 75901 — 936.632.3525  
**Emanuel Assembly of God Church** — 1818 N Timberland Drive, 75901 — 936.634.2483  
**Fairview Baptist Church** — 3742 FM 2108, 75901 — 936.637.1466  
**Faith Family Church** — 7020 US 59, 75901 — 936.632.8275  
**First Baptist Church Lufkin** — 106 E Bremond Ave, 75901 — 936.634.3386  
**First Christian Church** — 1300 S First Street, Suite 1, 75901 — 936.634.8341  
**First Church of the Nazarene** — 1604 S Medford Drive, 75901 — 936.634.9443  
**First Lutheran Church** — 1001 Atkinson Drive, 75901 — 936.634.7468  
**First Presbyterian Church** — 607 Janeway Ave, 75904 — 936.634.3711  
**First United Methodist Church of Lufkin** — 805 E Denman Ave, 75901 — 936.639.3141  
**First United Pentecostal Church** — 3200 S Medford Drive, 75901 — 936.634.3515  
**Free Spirit Church** — 610 Cain Street, 75904 — 936.639.6515  
**Fuller Springs Missionary Baptist Church** — 5003 Fuller Springs Drive, 75901  
**Godtel Ministries** — 323 Moody Street, 75901 — 936.637.2520  
**Goodwill Baptist Church** — 812 E Lufkin Ave, 75901 — 936.634.7832  
**Grace Tabernacle Church** — 408 Henderson Street, 75904 — 936.634.4589  
**Greater Shilo Baptist Church** — 600 Weaver Ave, 75904 — 936.632.3630  
**Greater Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church** — 1519 Williams Street, 75904 — 936.632.3629  
**Harbor Light Church** — 109 Jones Street, 75901  
**Harmony Hill Baptist Church** — 2708 S Chestnut Street, 75901 — 936.632.1350  
**Harvest Family Worship Center** — 4176 FM 2251, 75904  
**Heritage Baptist Church** — 1910 S John Redditt Drive, 75904 — 936.632.8188  
**Hillcrest Baptist Church** — 2005 Ford Chapel Rd, 75901 — 936.634.3419  
**Homer Methodist Church** — 5265 FM 326, 75901

**Impact Outreach Ministries** — 440 FM 2021, 75901 — 936.632.2611  
**Keltys First Baptist Church** — 2402 N John Redditt Drive, 75904 — 936.634.4019  
**Keltys United Methodist Church** — 1867 Old Mill Rd, 75904 — 936.634.3950  
**La Vina Church** — 516 Montrose Street, 75901 — 936.366.1821  
**LifeGate Church** — 2511 E Lufkin Ave, 75901 — 936.632.1517  
**LifePoint Church** — 4737 Ted Trout Drive, 75904 — 936.634.6674  
**Little Flock Baptist Church** — 2769 FM 1475, 75901 — 936.824.3633  
**Long Chapel CME Church** — 514 Lining Street, 75901 — 936.634.4049  
**Loop 287 Church of Christ** — 1911 S John Redditt Drive, 75904 — 936.212.0605  
**Lufkin First Missionary Baptist Church** — 410 Scarborough Street, 75904 — 936.632.2426  
**Lufkin Seventh-day Adventist Church** — 1209 S John Redditt Drive, 75904 — 936.639.1898  
**Memorial Baptist Church** — 904 N John Redditt Drive, 75904 — 936.634.9288  
**Monastery of the Infant Jesus** — 1501 Lotus Lane, 75904 — 936.634.4233  
**Mt Calvary Baptist Church** — 208 Calvary Street, 75904 — 936.634.6266  
**Mt Carmel Baptist Church** — 595 Mt Carmel Rd, 75904 — 936.875.2218  
**Mt Zion Baptist Church** — 4303 FM 842, 75901 — 936.632.6447  
**New Beginning Baptist Church** — 1002 Pershing Ave, 75904 — 936.699.7729  
**New Life Church of Lufkin** — 4707 FM 843, 75904  
**New Life Church on the Rock** — 4333 SH 103, 75904 — 936.632.2678  
**New Zion Temple of Deliverance, Inc** — 1202 Cain Street, 75904 — 936.634.6759  
**Our Father's House of Faith** — 518 S 3rd Street, 75901 — 936.639.9431  
**Overcomers Through Faith** — 202 Forest Park Blvd, 75901 — 936.632.8149  
**Parkview Baptist Church** — 111 Parkview Circle, 75904 — 936.634.6717  
**Peaceful Rest Baptist Church** — 105 Fair Street, 75904 — 936.634.5700  
**Promise Land Baptist Church** — 208 Whitehouse Drive, 75901 — 936.639.9633  
**Providence Baptist Church** — 4423 Ted Trout Drive, 75904 — 936.875.2613  
**Redland Baptist Church** — 234 Redland Church Rd, 75904 — 936.634.7437  
**Solid Rock Church** — 3476 SH 103, 75904 — 936.639.8808  
**Southside Baptist Church** — 1615 Tulane Drive, 75901 — 936.632.3292  
**St Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church** — 1611 Feagin Drive, 75904 — 936.632.9100  
**Timber Creek Church** — 2021 S John Redditt Drive, 75904 — 936.632.3540  
**The Foundry Assembly of God** — 1405 S Chestnut Street, 75901 — 936.634.1444  
**St Patrick's Catholic Church** — 2118 Lowry Street, 75901 — 936.634.6833  
**St Cyprian's Episcopal Church** — 919 S John Redditt Drive, 75904 — 936.639.1253  
**St Paul's United Methodist Church** — 1505 S John Redditt Drive, 75904 — 936.634.7810  
**St Thomas Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church** — 2112 N Timberland Drive, 75901  
**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** — 606 Bending Oak Street, 75904  
**The River Lufkin** — 617 S Bynum Street, 75904  
**The River Lufkin, A Church For Whosoever** — 105 Holmes Rd, 75904 — 936.632.7407  
**Timber Creek Church** — 2021 S John Redditt Drive, 75904 — 936.632.3540  
**Timberland Drive Church of Christ** — 912 S Timberland Drive, 75901, 75901 — 936.634.7110  
**Timberland Unitarian Universalist Fellowship** — 1510 N Timberland Drive, 75901 — 936.208.7955  
**Trinity Baptist Church** — 1641 FM 325, 75901 — 972.632.8450  
**Union Road Church of Christ** — 3504 Old Union Rd, 75904 — 936.634.4144  
**United Pentecostal Church** — 4109 S First Street, 75901 — 936.632.7718  
**Warren Temple True Light Church** — 405 S Warren Street, 75901 — 936.634.4637  
**West End Church-God In Christ** — 2014 Cairo Street, 75904 — 936.634.7807  
**Woods Memorial Temple Church** — 230 Leach Street, 75904 — 936.632.9701  
**Word of Life Church** — 1407 Ellis Ave, 75904 — 936.639.2000

# Shelby County Church Directory

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### CENTER:

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**Arcadia Church of Christ** — 75935  
**Blount Chapel Baptist Church** — 298 CR 3760, 75935 — 936.598.5362  
*(Temporarily Closed)*  
**Bright Morning Baptist Church** — 623 Martin Luther King Drive, 75935 — 936.598.4560  
**Called Out Church** — 1077 Southview Circle, 75935 — 936.598.2333  
**Carroll's Chapel CME Church** — 302 FM 2694, 75935 — 936.598.2260  
**Central Baptist Church** — 909 Cora Street, 75935 — 936.598.3642  
**Center Christian Church** — SH 87, 75935 — 936.598.2645  
**Center Christian Fellowship** — 75935  
**Center Church of Christ** — 110 Hurst Street, 75935 — 936.598.2945  
**Center Church of the Nazarene** — 400 Hurst Street, 75935 — 936.598.3785  
**Center First Pentecostal Church** — 610 Hurst Street, 75935 — 936.598.3646  
**Center Missionary Baptist Church** — 443 Moffett Drive, 75935  
**Clever Creek Baptist Church** — 199 CR 1042 at FM 417 West, 75935  
**CME Church Lanetown** — 3709 FM 711, 75935 — 936.288.0434  
**East Liberty Church** — 75935  
**First Baptist Church** — 117 Cora Street, 75935 — 936.598.5605  
**First Christian Church** — 124 Cora Street, 75935 — 936.598.3512  
**First Methodist Church** — 211 Porter Street, 75935 — 936.598.2707  
**First Pentecostal Church-Jesus** — 480 FM 2026, 75935 — 936.598.4276  
**Good Hope Church** — 75935  
**Heritage Baptist Church** — 1001 Tenaha Street, 75935 — 936.332.0310  
**Hillcrest Baptist Church** — 901 Southview Circle, 75935 — 936.598.2704  
**HORAM** — 205 Church Street, 75935  
**House of Refuge Ministries** — 215 Church Street, 75935 — 936.591.8941  
**Iglesia Apostolic de la Fe en Cristo Jesus** — 176 US 96, 75935 — 9156.706.6236  
**Iglesia Bautista Misionera Getsemani** — 204 Travis Street, 75935 — 936.634.8341  
**James Church of Christ** — 4873 SH 7, 75935  
**Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses-Center** — 3751 Loop 500 E, 75935  
**Lone Star Baptist Church** — 2026 SH 87 S, 75935 — 936.598.5396  
**Loop 500 Church of Christ** — 3216 Loop 500, 75935 — 409.382.0535  
**McClelland Community Church** — 733 CR 2571, 75935  
**Mt Zion CME Church** — Martin Luther King Drive, 75935 — 936.598.4059  
**Neuville Baptist Church** — 1258 FM 2140, 75935  
**New Hope Church** — 1986 FM 2974, 75935 — 936.598.3500  
**New Life Church** — 822 Hurst Street, 75935 — 936.598.3286  
**North Jericho Church** — 335 CR 3671, 75935  
**Northside Church of Christ** — 192 US 96, 75935 — 936.332.9872  
**Open Door Baptist Church** — 900 Cotton Ford Rd, 75935 — 936.590.9454  
**Primera Iglesia Bautista** — 615 Loop 500, 75935  
**Providence Missionary Baptist Church** — 1129 CR 1265, 75935 — 318.230.1415  
**Revival Tabernacle** — 2398 SH 87 N, 75935 — 936.280.4790  
**Sardis Pentecostal Family Life** — 430 CR 3054, 75935 — 936.598.5010  
**Shelby County Outreach** — 906 Shelbyville Street, 75935 — 936.598.4990  
**Southview Family Church** — 1229 Southview Circle, 75935  
**Stepstones Ministry International** — 101 Hurst Street, 75935 — 254.718.5040  
**St Johns Baptist Church** — 2308 CR 2050, 75935 — 936.598.4769  
**St John's Episcopal Church** — 1063 Southview Circle, 75935 — 936.598.4101  
**St Paul Missionary Baptist Church** — 617 Hopkins Street, 75935  
**St Therese Catholic Church** — 717 FM 2974, 75935 — 936.505.8402  
**The Luke Church, Inc. at San Augustine Texas** — 1110 Tenaha Street, Suite 2, 75935 — 936.679.2060  
**Todd Spring Baptist Church** — Old San Augustine Hwy, 75935 — 936.591.0300  
**Triumph Church** — 908 Daniels Street, 75935 — 936.598.8982

### JOAQUIN:

**Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church** — 13127 SH 7, 75954  
**FBC Haslam** — 154 CR 3590, 75954 — 936.269.3587  
**First Baptist Church** — 100 Connell Ferry Rd, 75954 — 936.269.3582  
**Friendship Baptist Church** — 6796 US 84, 75954 — 936.269.4056

**Friendship Missionary Baptist** — 140 CR 3569, 75954 — 936.269.3132  
**Hosanna Full Gospel Church** — 7619 SH 198, 75954 — 903.848.0737  
**Jackson Missionary Baptist Church** — 11120 SH 7, 75954 — 936.269.3370  
**Joaquin United Methodist Church** — 105 Faulkville Rd, 75954 — 936.269.3661  
**Lone Cedar Church** — 75954  
**The Pentecostals of Joaquin** — 11113 SH 7, 75954 — 936.269.4245  
**Willow Grove Community Church** — 4635 CR 3790, 75954 — 936.269.4756  
**Word of Faith Outreach Center** — 12413 SH 7, 75954 — 936.269.4133

### SHELBYVILLE:

**Bennett Chapel Missionary Baptist Church** — 674 CR 2582, 75973 — 936.368.7195  
**East Hamilton Church** — 7325 FM 2261, 75973  
**Ephesus Church** — 75973 — 936.332.4001  
**First Baptist Church of Shelbyville** — 5030 SH 87 S, 75973 — 936.598.7348  
**Lone Star Church** — 75973  
**Lydia Missionary Baptist Church** — 14998 FM 139, 75973 — 936.368.2462  
**Patroon Baptist Church** — 310 FM 2261, 75973 — 936.275.2977  
**Shelbyville Methodist Church** — 252 FM 417, 75973 — 936.598.7388  
**Smyrna Church** — 177 CR 2450, 75973 — 936.368.2457  
**Toleda Bend Baptist Mission** — 2543 FM 3172, 75973 — 936.368.7252

### TENAHA:

**Benford Chapel Baptist Church** — 126 Martin Luther King Street, 75974 — 936.248.2916  
**Bobo Church** — 1411 CR 4648, 75974  
**Bright Morning Star Baptist** — RR 2, 75974 — 936.248.3002  
**First Baptist Church** — 200 S George Bowers Drive, 75974 — 936.248.3207  
**House of Prayer Church and Campground** — 526 CR 4356, 75974 — 936.332.3087  
**Iglesia Bautista El Olam** — 2998 US 84, 75974  
**Iglesia Bautista Monte Sinai** — 200 Towneast Rd, 75974 — 936.248.3075  
**Iglesia Nueva Esperanza** — 8001 US 96, 75974  
**International Missionary** — 645 CR 4356, 75974 — 936.591.9112  
**Old Center Baptist Church** — 7086 FM 699, 75974 — 936.248.2796  
**Old Home Church** — 75974  
**Pleasant Hill Church** — 2010 FM 2660, 75974  
**Ramah Church** — 75974 — 936.248.6432  
**St John Missionary Baptist Church** — 102 Booker T. Washington Drive, 75974 — 936.248.2999  
**Tenaha United Methodist Church** — US 84, 75974 — 936.248.2246  
**Woods New Hope Baptist Church** — 120 CR 425, 75974  
**Woods United Methodist Church** — 75974

### TIMPSON:

**Buena Vista Missionary Baptist** — 1943 FM 1645, 75975 — 936.254.3235  
**Clayton Temple Church of God** — Francis Street, 75975 — 936.254.9898  
**Corinth Baptist Church** — FM 1979, 75975  
**Countryside Cowboy Church** — 408 US 59, 75975  
**County Line Baptist Church** — RR 2 Box 97, 75975 — 903.898.2499  
**East Texas Baptist Family Ministry** — 75975 — 903.822.3474  
**Epiphany Catholic Mission** — 3072 US 59, 75975 — 936.254.9662  
**First Christian Church** — 811 N 2nd Street, 75975 — 936.254.3389  
**Good Hope Baptist Church** — 1813 FM 2667, 75975 — 936.254.9294  
**Messiah Baptist Church** — 459 Ross Graves Drive, 75975 — 936.254.3702  
**Mount Olive Church** — 75975  
**Pleasant Grove Church** — 1440 CR 1470, 75975  
**Smith Chapel Baptist Church** — 919 CR 4704, 75975  
**Smyrna Baptist Church** — 100 Francis Street, 75975 — 936.254.3613  
**Timpson First Assembly of God** — 652 Houston Street, 75975 — 936.254.3178  
**Timpson First Baptist Church** — 715 N 2nd Street, 75975 — 936.254.2220  
**Timpson First Methodist Church** — 312 Austin Street, 75975 — 936.254.3428  
**Timpson Missionary Baptist Church** — 2142 US 59, 75975 — 903.692.0716  
**Weaver Church** — 75901  
**Woodland Christian Church** — 220 US 59, 75975 — 936.254.2894

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