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MAY 2023

Summer Fun at Shirley Creek!

by David Stallings

For more than 50 years, Shirley Creek Marina on Big Sam Rayburn Lake has been my “home-away-from-home.”

For most of those years, I’ve kept some type of boat in one of the boat slips. It’s great to enjoy the beautiful drive through the Pineywoods to the lake, walk down to the marina and step aboard the boat. If you don’t have a boat, you can fish from the bank or from the fishing pier.

When my sons were growing up, they absolutely loved being there and we created many family memories there over the years.

There’s no better lake anywhere for bass, crappie, catfish, bream, gar, carp, buffalo and several other species of fish. We usually clean our catch at the cleaning station on the dock and cook them aboard our old houseboat, “Sittin’ Still.”



Your hosts, Zach Spencer and Shana Patrick



World's Heavyweight Champion George Foreman with Craig Stripling at Shirley Creek!

If you have an RV, they have dozens of lovely spots with full electric and water hookups for permanent or daily rentals. If you’re a camper, there’s a campground next to the large concrete boat ramps.

If you don’t want to “rough it,” Shirley Creek offers clean cabins for rental. The staff members are very friendly and helpful to all guests.

Shirley Creek Marina is located at 23177 FM 226, Etoile, TX 75944 in Nacogdoches County. Phone 936.854.2233 or visit ShirleyCreekMarina.com for more information.

SHIRLEY CREEK - Page 2

Full Moon Concert Series Returns for 2023

New town, new location, new partnerships!

On Saturday, May 13, 2023, the Full Moon concert kicks off its 2023 season at East Texas’ best outdoor venue, 58 Junction Icehouse located 8 miles east on FM58 from Lufkin. If you haven’t yet experienced this family-friendly establishment, think of Gruene Hall near New Braunfels, Texas. It is an amazing open-air location perfect for live music and dance with an extensive food menu great for adults and kids alike.

The concert will feature the Spicoli’s, Houston’s finest 80s tribute band performing all the best dance music of the era. Join us for what will be an early Mother’s Day Eve celebration. We are intentionally kicking it off early with music that begins at 6:30pm so the entire family can boogie to their hearts’ content. If you haven’t yet experienced a Full Moon Concert, 58 Junction Icehouse, or the Spicoli’s be prepared to have a whole lot of fun. Come dressed up in your favorite 80s garb as our sponsor Motorhomes of Texas will award the best of the best 80s costumes.



Tickets are \$10 for 12 years and under; \$20 for adults and available online at visitnacogdoches.org/fullmoon-58 through our regional East Texas partnership with Visit Nacogdoches. For those wanting to pay by check or cash, tickets are available at 58J Café on 1st Street downtown Lufkin, or the Visit Nacogdoches office located at 200 E. Main Street, Nacogdoches. Gates open at 4:30 pm for the best seats. Lawn chairs are welcome.

For any additional questions, feel free to reach out to Joanna Temple, Renegade Event Management at joannatemple62@gmail.com

CONCERT - Page 2



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Garden Capital Hosting Tour of Home Gardens

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 20 and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 21.

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at participating gardens on the day of the event, or in advance from Garden Club members and at the Charles Bright Visitor Center, 200 E. Main St.; The Fredonia Hotel, 200 N. Fredonia St.; Pemberley's at The Jones House, 141 N. Church St.; The Plant Shed, 3123 Appleby Sand Rd.; Charles Pool Real Estate, 3505 North St.; The East Texas Garden Center, 2887 Hwy 21 W.; and Laine's Hallmark, 3205 N. University Dr. 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 three private residences, Bill Elliott, 4219 Raguet St.; Sharon and Charles Bradberry, 3018 Skyline Dr.; and Lisa and Tim Rodrigues, 3930 Sir Gawain Dr.; The Cottage Wine Bar, 122 N Mound St.; and the largest azalea garden in Texas, Stephen F. Austin State University's Ruby Mize M. Azalea Garden, 2404 N. University Dr.

Wendy Buchanan Wealth Management is Presenting Sponsor of the Home Garden Tours. Gold Sponsors are Citizens 1st Bank and Badders Law Firm. Silver Sponsors are Commercial Bank of Texas, Charles Pool Real Estate, Stretch ER, Pemberley's at the Jones House, The Fredonia Hotel, Landworks Landscapes, Nacogdoches Heritage Title, Cadence Bank and Community Title.

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. In the fall of 2022, The Garden Capital of Texas Committee donated \$5,000 to the SFA Gardens to help continue the children's education program with Dr. Alan Sowards for the education coordinator position.

The Nacogdoches Beautification Project makes available financial assistance (from \$250 to \$5,000) to individuals or organizations whose community beautification projects meet the mission of the Garden Capital of Texas Committee. Grant applications are due April 30th. You can find the application here: www.keeptnacbeautiful.org/gardencapitaloftexas.

For more information about the Garden Capital Tour of Home Gardens, contact the Garden Capital of Texas Committee at Keep Nacogdoches Beautiful, 936-560-5624 or by email at info@keeptnacbeautiful.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.



Photos of Sharon and Charles Bradberry gardens

Photos of Bill Elliott gardens

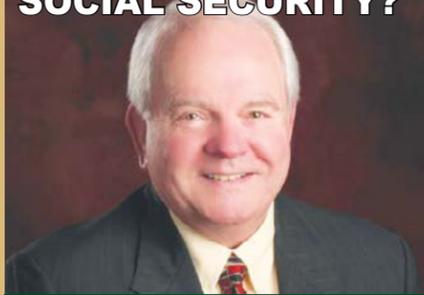
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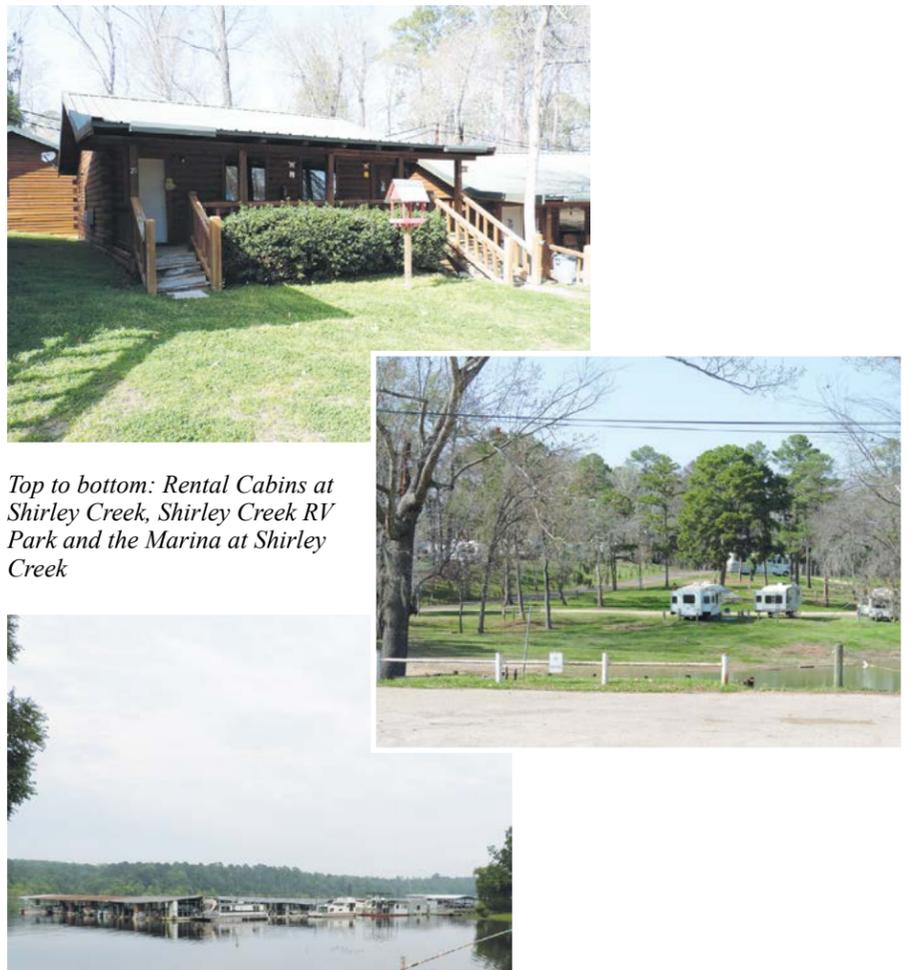
CALL OR TEXT 936-559-1400 OR EMAIL HIEC.ETX@GMAIL.COM

Come Celebrate at Old North Church

On May 7, 2023, Old North Baptist Church in Nacogdoches will celebrate its formation 185 years ago.

The service will begin at 10:00 am with singing, history, and the preaching of the Word by Ottis Byers. Please join us and help us celebrate.

SHIRLEY CREEK



Top to bottom: Rental Cabins at Shirley Creek, Shirley Creek RV Park and the Marina at Shirley Creek

CONCERT



A large gathering of patrons enjoying the 2022 Full Moon Concert

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Around the Town is published and distributed on the first day of each month. **FREE** copies are available in more than 200+ locations in Angelina, Nacogdoches & Shelby Counties. The paper may also be viewed online **FREE** 24/7 at www.AroundTheTown.us.

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 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.



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- Attract **business** that generates good paying jobs and keeps people here
- Be a champion for all **first responders**
- **Invest** to prevent costly and dangerous infrastructure failures
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- **Preserve** safe, beautiful, natural areas

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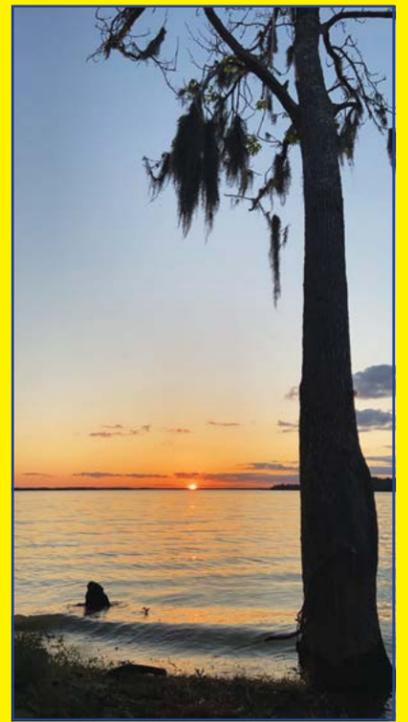
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Friday Night Bluegrass Concert Kicks Off Blueberry Festival

The Texas Blueberry Festival kicks off with the Blueberry Bluegrass Concert in the Park, from 6 to 9:30 p.m. Friday, June 9 at Festival Park in downtown Nacogdoches. This free family-friendly concert is made possible by Presenting Sponsor Rex Perry Autoplex and will feature three well-known musical acts, *The Little Roy and Lizzy Show*, *The Purple Hulls* and *The Blake Brothers*, as well as a special appearance by up-and-coming group the *Gent Mountain Grassburs*, who are sure to make you smile!



Part of the crowd enjoying the 2022 Bluegrass Festival in Festival Park.

THE ACTS

Little Roy and Lizzy are renowned bluegrass musicians from Georgia. Elizabeth Long, or Lizzy as her friends and fans know her, has played with acts such as Mac Wiseman, Jim and Jesse, The Lewis Family and Earl Scruggs. At the 2015 GMA Dove awards she was awarded Best Bluegrass Song of the Year for “God is There,” a duet with Rhonda Vincent. She is one of the youngest fiddlers to be inducted into “America’s Old Time Fiddler’s Country Hall of Fame” in LeMars, Iowa. “Little Roy” Lewis, from the legendary Lewis Family, has been inducted into the Georgia Music Hall of Fame, SPGBMA Hall of Greats, IBMA Hall of Honor, and the Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame.



Little Roy and Lizzy performing at the 2022 Bluegrass Festival.

and they are absolutely amazing on stage together. It’s going to be a magical night.”

The Purple Hulls are identical twins Katy Lou and Penny Lea Clark. The Clark sisters were raised on a working family farm in Kilgore and they paid for college with money from the family’s purple hull harvest. After graduation, they moved to Nashville, where they began touring with various country artists and writing songs for Nashville’s largest publishing company, Sony Tree. The sisters returned home in 2012 to care for their terminally ill father and they stayed in East Texas after he passed away, helping their mother with the farm while continuing their music career. This will be the Purple Hulls’ fifth appearance at the Blueberry Bluegrass Concert.



The Purple Hulls from Kilgore.

The Blake Brothers, formed in 2000 by Tim and Bruce Blake, feature Britt Green on mandolin and vocals and Nancy Blake on bass. The North Louisiana band played at the inaugural Blueberry Bluegrass Concert and has performed extensively across East Texas and the Ark-La-Tex area over the years.



The North Louisiana band the *Blake Brothers*.

FOOD, PARKING AND MORE

The concert also will feature food trucks and vendors. Organizers encourage attendees to bring blankets and lawn chairs. The event is family-friendly, so please leave your coolers and alcohol at home. Pets on a leash are welcome.

Parking will be available downtown. However, some downtown

streets will be closed due to the Blueberry Festival, so concert-goers are urged to visit texasbluegrassfestival.org or www.facebook.com/bluegrassnac/ for parking instructions. Parking with free shuttle service to the concert venue will be available at First Baptist Church, 411 North St. Parking at the venue will be at the Nacogdoches City Garage location at 114 W. Cox St.

Organizers are grateful for the enthusiastic partners that make the concert pos-

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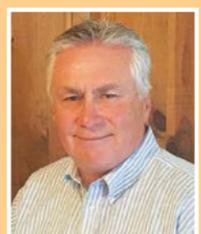
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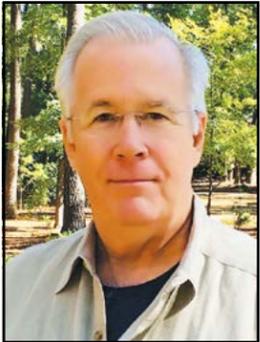
Up and coming group the *Gent Mountain Grassburs*.

The Texas Blueberry Festival presented by Tipton Ford continues Saturday with a full day of activities in downtown Nacogdoches, including a Blueberry pancake breakfast, competitions and more live entertainment. For more information, visit tbf.nacogdoches.org/ or call 936-560-5533.

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Old North Church Homecoming May 7th

by Taylor Millard

My wife Sandy and I joined Old North Baptist Church over twenty years ago. We were married in the church, built in 1852, by the long-time pastor Gene Tomlin, after Sunday morning services to the surprise of all who attended that day. My family connection drew me to the old church north of town, close to my own home. The Millard family connects back to the very beginning of the church's long history. There is much credit given to Massie Sparks Millard, but there would probably be no church without the Sparks family, specifically Massie's first father-in-law, William Sparks. Massie's first husband, James, died from an arrow wound in 1838, leaving her with two small boys. She later married Robert F. Millard and they had a boy and girl, thus I came to be, generations later.



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.

May 7th we will do our best to honor the Sparks family and their contribution to our blessed church history. The land for the church and cemetery was donated by Richard Sparks, and later additional land was donated by his son John Marion Sparks, so that is important. Without a place to start, there is no beginning. Our Homecoming is our chance to honor the saints that came before us and celebrate the continuous services held since 1838. That's 185 years if you are counting and that is very special indeed.

During the Covid shut down, I went alone to the church. I sang a song from the Baptist Hymnal, said aloud a prayer for no one but God to hear, and sat silently on a pew, grateful that we kept it going. Tradition is important.

Our little membership dwindled after the death of Gene Tomlin in 2005. He served for over 25 years and was such a sweet man. One Sunday in 2006 there was only three of us in attendance. But the Bible says where there are two or more... We barely made it. For the past several years we are honored to be pastored by Dr. Arliss Hibbard, who has recently retired from his medical practice. This past Sunday there were 37 members and guests to sing old hymns and hear the Word preached. A big crowd for us!

We have an old-fashioned service that we feel are entrenched in the walls of the sanctuary and the hand-hewn pews—glad we got those cushions though. We joke and say we require a meeting if we sing a hymn written after 1930. Those old songs will be sung again on Homecoming. The Bible will be preached to those gathered. We will then share a meal prepared by loving hands. The conversations will be joyful between old friends and families.

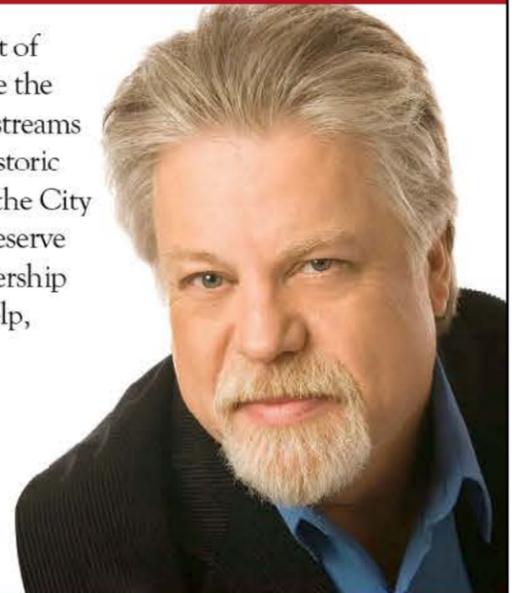
Robert F. Millard and Massie Sparks Millard will be looking down from heaven and see ten of their great, great, great, great grandchildren in that old building. Honoring their sacrifice, and the works of good in their lives. Truly Holy Ground.

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- West Texas born and raised
- Came to Nacogdoches in 1972 to attend college
- SFA Graduate - Bachelors of Fine Arts Cum Laude, 1974
- 30-year professional career in Los Angeles
- Two-time nominee, Best Supporting Actor - Daytime Emmy Awards
- Returned to the quiet & peace of Nacogdoches in 2005
- In the 17th year as a lecturer in filmmaking at SFA
- Local homeowner and taxpayer
- Board Member - Nacogdoches Historic Landmark Committee
- Board Member - Friends of Historic Nac
- Board Member - Dean's Circle, SFA
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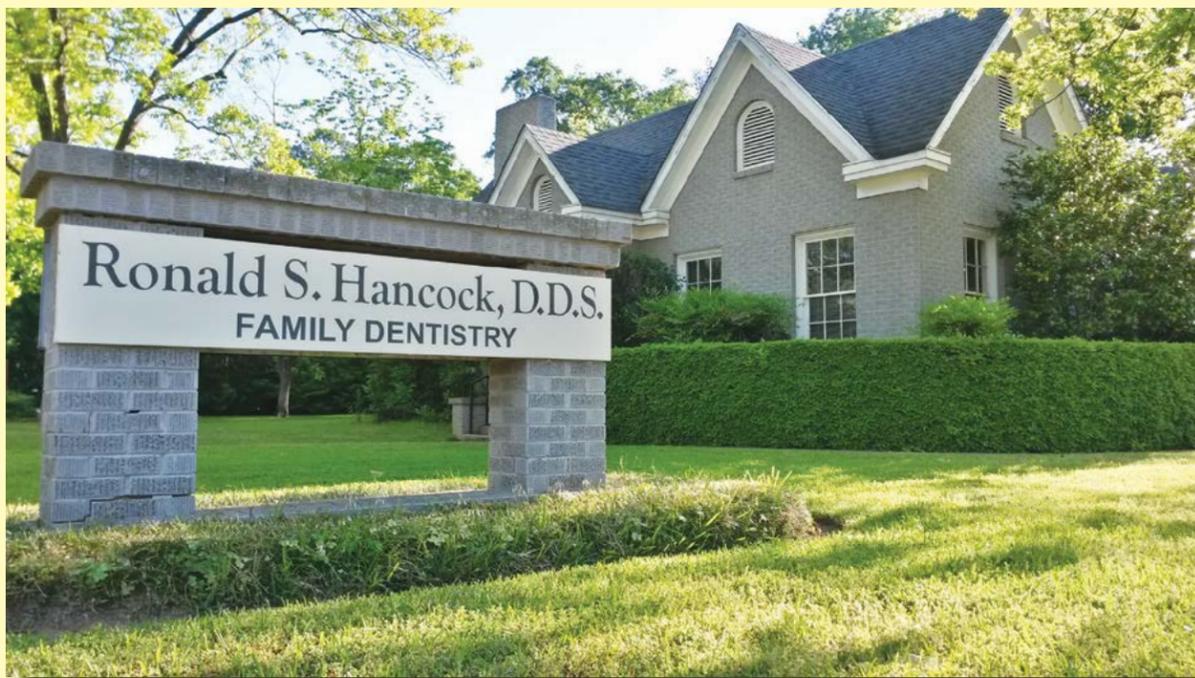
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Lamar, Denby – Pastor, Singer and Author of “Blood and Courage”

by Terri Lacher
talacher@sbcglobal.net

Huntington resident, Henry Lamar Denby was born on April 7, 1953, to Henry Lamar Denby, Sr., and Frances Jean White Denby, in Hemphill, Texas. When his father returned from the Army following the Korean War, they moved back to Shelby County to the small community of Patroon, where he grew up.



After graduating from Shelbyville High School in 1971, Lamar dedicated his life to the Lord to preach. His first position as a pastor was held in his own home of East Hamilton Baptist Church near Patroon. From 1976-1984, he had the honor and privilege of pastoring his home church, West Hamilton Missionary Baptist Church, located in Shelby County.

“In 1984, I accepted the call to pastor Highway Baptist Church, not far from Lufkin, in Huntington, Texas, where I pastor to this day. God has blessed my ministry here,” Lamar stated. Those blessings have included the addition of a new Worship Center, and currently the construction of a new Family Life Center. His ministry has allowed him to travel to Mexico and the Philippines preaching the gospel.

Over the years, Lamar has served as a pastor, gospel singer, and a revivalist. In 1974, he married the love of his life, Roxanne Miller, of Vidor, Texas. Together they raised three children, Jo Anna, Robert, and Ashley. Their family has expanded to include four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Lamar’s activities have spread to his community of Huntington, where he has served three terms on the Huntington City Council. In addition, he has served on the Huntington Housing Authority Board for thirteen years, and most of them as chairman. In the 1990s Lamar served on the Huntington ISD Education Committee as a community member.

Lamar has loved writing most of his life. He was a field writer for two national outdoor magazines sharing his enthusiasm for hunting and guide dogs, specifically beagles. He has also written articles for Christian publications and newspapers. He grew up listening to stories by his grandmother and other family members.

“From the time I was a little boy I heard many stories from my grandmother, Lela Wilburn Denby, about my family’s rich Texas Heritage and the founding of the great state of Texas. Another relative, Eric Wilburn, shared many stories before he passed away,” Lamar said. Listening to those tales about the history of his family’s involvement in the state of Texas prompted him to dig deeper in his family’s roots.



“Nine years ago, I began doing research for my book, *Blood and Courage: The Story of Colonel Moses Fisk Roberts*. Roberts was my third great-grandfather who came from Maury County, Tennessee to Texas in 1836. He was a friend of both David Crockett and Sam Houston. Houston and Crockett had served with his father, Brig. Gen. Isaac Roberts, in the Creek Indian War. His plans were to join Crockett and his volunteers at San Augustine but was delayed at the Red River with his family because of high waters and freezing temperatures. When he arrived at San Augustine, Crockett was already at the Alamo,” Lamar shared.

Lamar’s book tells the story of his third great-grandfather’s role in the Texas Revolution, Republic of Texas Army and Congress, and Texas House of Representatives after annexation in 1845. It also tells of Roberts’ family life in Shelby County.

The writing process took years with many hours of rewriting and editing, along with much notetaking.

“A nonfiction book requires accuracy of events with matching timelines,” Lamar said. He traveled to most of the historic sites and utilized the Sam Houston Library in Huntsville before he began writing.

Blood and Courage is a collection of stories of how Colonel Moses Fisk Roberts fought for his home state of Texas and the people he loved in East Texas.



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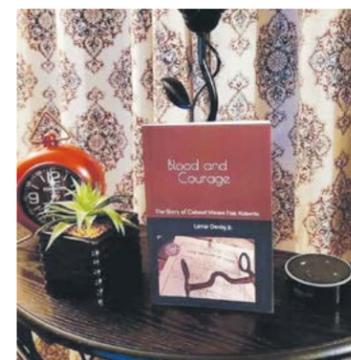
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The book was published in February of 2023, just in time for Lamar to share *Blood and Courage* at the First Annual Shelby County Author’s Day on February 18th. Since that date, Lamar has received Five-Star top reviews from the sale of his book and has appeared at multiple book signings. He has also had the opportunity and honor to share his book with David Crockett’s third great-granddaughter, Rene’Davis Ortowski. In the first weekend in June, Lamar will be a featured speaker/storyteller at the Heritage Festival in San Augustine, Texas.



You may find copies of *Blood and Courage* on Amazon, or if you wish to have Lamar as a speaker, you can contact him at ldenby@ymail.com.

Stripling's Pharmacy – From Sodas to Prescriptions

Serving Up Great Customer Service for Over 122 Years

by Terri Lacher
talacher@sbcglobal.net

There are a few people living in and around Nacogdoches County who can still remember a trip to the local drug store. It was more than just picking up a bottle of cough syrup or Band-Aids. It was a great treat for children to wander through the aisles of department store items while Grandma waited on her tonic. The visit almost always concluded with a double dip ice cream cone, or a chocolate malt topped with whipped cream and a cherry.

Samuel Black Stripling was the founder and owner of Stripling's Pharmacy which opened in 1901. It was originally called the Stripling, Haselwood & Company and was located on Main Street in Downtown Nacogdoches. Like most pharmacies of that time, it was complete with the soda fountain and a variety of department store items. Fifty years later, Sam and Mack Stripling opened M & S Pharmacy, which has grown into one of the largest pharmacies in Texas. Throughout the years, the pharmacy expanded to include many diverse items, including "fine jewelry, farm supplies, stationery, candy, razors, hairbrushes, knives, books, cigars, and alarm clocks (in addition to medications)."

It was a part of Sam Stripling's strong belief that each customer be personally greeted by name. He also offered credit purchases and provided prompt delivery, to make things more convenient for their customers.

Over the years, the Stripling pharmacies managed to adhere to their roots as a neighborhood pharmacy, providing exceptional personal service to all their customers. Fifty years later, Sam & Mack Stripling started M&S Pharmacy which has grown into one of the largest pharmacies in Texas.

Lufkin Pharmacy & Co. was added in 1988 as part of the Medicine Shoppe franchise and operated by that name until the employee-owned parent company, Ark Pharmacies, acquired it in 2020.

"While in business school at the University of Texas, I met the owner of Gus's Drug in Georgetown and loved how it was so similar to the pharmacies I was accustomed to in Nacogdoches. In 2014, we welcomed this family pharmacy to our fold," Garth Hinze, CEO, shared.

Each of the pharmacy locations offer immunizations, flu vaccine clinics, and medication synchronization (aligning all prescriptions on a single pick-up date to save trips to the store) as well as an extended day cash plan that includes over 100 of the most common medications at a significant discount for 90- or 180-day supplies. They also provide a popular service in free delivery to patients' homes or work.

"We proudly employ local pharmacists and team members that are hands-on in our community and staff at over twice the rate of chain pharmacies because we believe it is critical for our patients to have direct and convenient access to their pharmacists. Pharmacy & healthcare can be confusing and complex, so we also offer free private consultations and Medicare enrollment services," Hinze stated.

One of the biggest challenges today for pharmacies is in the rising cost of prescriptions. Some insurance companies inflate costs and distort the market. They are opening a new pharmacy in Nacogdoches in 2023 which will not take insurance, offering significantly discounted cash prices on generic medications; generic prescriptions make up nearly 90% of all prescriptions dispensed.

"Patients will get the same great service they deserve but will be able to take advantage of pricing unencumbered by the insurance pricing schemes. This is not a good solution for brand name medications but will be an excellent solution for patients who either do not have insurance or have high co-pays on their prescriptions," said Hinze. "We are unabashedly proud to be local, employee-owned, and to employ over 80 members of our community. We implement technology wherever possible to improve service but also firmly believe in providing face-to-face help and service to our patients to ensure they have the best possible outcomes. We are grateful to play such an important and trusted role in our community and love that we know our patients, their families, and genuinely care for them as people, one person at a time."

Whatever your pharmacy needs are, you can stop by any of the following locations and find the same friendly, personal, and exceptional service your families have been accustomed to for generations.

M&S Pharmacy, 917 East Austin St., Nacogdoches, TX 75965, (936)564-7373

M&S Pharmacy is open M-F 9am-6pm and Saturday 9am-1pm, and proudly offers after-hours emergency service at this location as well. They have a drive-thru and a state-of-the-art compounding laboratory at this location where they can prepare customized medications that are not commercially available.



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Top to bottom: M&S Pharmacy, 917 East Austin St., Nacogdoches; Lufkin Pharmacy & Co., 903 W. Frank Ave., Lufkin; Stripling's Pharmacy, 1205 N. Mound St., Nacogdoches

Stripling's Pharmacy, 1205 N. Mound St., Nacogdoches, TX 75961 (936)564-4646

Stripling's Pharmacy is open M-F 8:30am-5:30pm and Saturday 8am-1pm. They offer a unique multi-dose packaging system that helps patients stay organized and adherent to their medications. Stripling's also serves many local hospice agencies assisting in their service to their patients.

Lufkin Pharmacy & Co., 903 W. Frank Ave., Lufkin, TX 75904 (936)634-3006

Lufkin Pharmacy & Co. is open M-F 9am-6pm and Saturday 9am-1pm. This location has a drive-thru and a state-of-the-art compounding laboratory at this location where they can prepare customized medications that are not commercially available. They also offer a unique multi-dose packaging system that helps patients stay organized and adherent to their medications.

Gus's Drug, 702 E. University Ave., Georgetown, TX 78626 (512)863-2506

Gus's Drug is open M-F 9am-6pm and Saturday 9am-1pm, offering the same unique multi-dose packaging system that helps patients stay organized and adherent with their medications.



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

I'll See You in a Work Zone

I have good news and bad news. The good news? In 2022, traffic fatalities in TxDOT work zones declined 16-percent from 2021. That is the first decline since 2018 and it makes me think the TxDOT safety message just might be getting through to some drivers. But the bad news is there were still 205 people who lost their lives and another 788 seriously injured in work zones in 2022. In the nine-county Lufkin District, there were 223 traffic crashes in work zones that resulted in three fatalities and 11 serious injuries.

This week is National Work Zone Awareness Week, and TxDOT is calling on motorists to make safety a priority in our work zones.

All of us have had to slow down or stop in road construction at one time or another. Many of us drive through a work zone daily. They require extra attention on our part, and most of us just want to hurry up and get through the slow construction traffic. I know impatience and frustration can get the best of us as we sit in a single lane of traffic waiting for a lead car to make the turn-around.

The next time you are caught in that situation, imagine what it would be like if you spent your day working a couple of feet away from moving traffic. Our employees love their jobs, but road construction and maintenance are not for the faint of heart. You must be tough, committed and be able to concentrate on your work as well as keep one eye open for distracted drivers.

In 2022, work zone fatalities included not just drivers and passengers, but 27 pedestrians, two cyclists and one worker. Why did these needless deaths occur? The leading causes were speeding, distraction and unsafe lane changes. I've caught myself doing all three things as I enter a work zone. You have too.

Work zone and worker safety are top priorities for TxDOT, but truth is, statistics show that motorists and their passengers are more likely to die in a work zone. That's enough information right there for us all to change our driving habits.

Work zones are challenging, and they can be dangerous. While the decline in fatalities is encouraging, one life lost is too many. There are a few things every driver should know and observe when entering a work zone.

- Slow down. Observe the work zone speed limit. It is there for a reason. We already know the safest speed for work zones. One motivator for following those suggested speed limits is that fines double when workers are present.
- Pay attention. Don't drive distracted. That means put the phone down, put both hands on the wheel, and watch that car in front of, behind, and beside you.
- Keep one eye out for our workers. They are easy to spot. They wear safety gear that is reflective and includes hard hats. They wear those things because they want to get home safely just like you do.
- Don't tailgate. Give yourself plenty of room. A work zone is no place to be in a hurry and rear-end crashes are common.

National Work Zone Awareness Week has been around since 2000, so we should all be familiar with the do's and don'ts, but TxDOT continues to work to educate motorists on the challenges of driving through work zones.

The Move Over/Slow Down law has been successful at helping us do just that. If you don't know about it or have forgotten it, let me help you.

- The Move Over/Slow Down law is intended to help protect roadside crews and first responders, and to reduce the number of crashes, fatalities, and injuries on our roadways.
- The law requires drivers to move over a lane or reduce their speed to 20 mph below the posted speed limit when they approach a TxDOT vehicle, law enforcement, emergency vehicle, tow truck or utility vehicle stopped with flashing lights activated on the side of the road.
- Failure to heed the Move Over/Slow Down law can result in fines of up to \$2,000.

So, the next time you enter a work zone, please observe the Move Over/Slow Down law. Watch out for our workers and watch out for 'those' drivers who aren't paying attention. Seems like we encounter them everywhere we go. No doubt, I'll see you soon in a work zone and I sure hope you aren't one of 'those' drivers.



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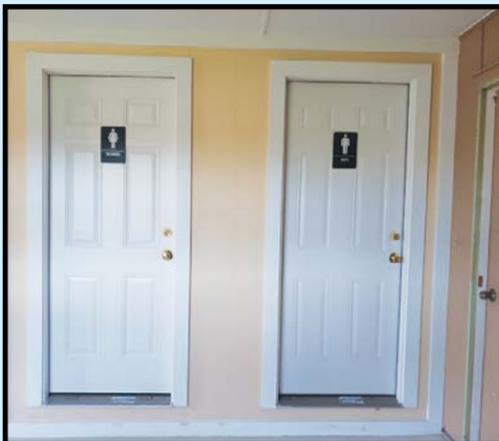
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Lot to Like About East Texas!

by Tweed Scott

For me, there was a deep-rooted familiarity to East Texas. I recognized that the first time I saw it. I was raised in a place that looked very much like it. Sometimes, when you live in a place, it can be difficult to understand what you have within your grasp.

East Texas is such a place. It is one of the most beautiful and vibrant regions of the Lone Star State, known for its rich history, diverse cultures, and stunning natural beauty. Whether you are a longtime resident or considering a move to this part of Texas, there are many reasons to fall in love with East Texas.

The landscape of East Texas is varied and breathtaking, with lush forests, rolling hills, and sparkling lakes. The region is home to several state parks, including Tyler State Park and Caddo Lake State Park, which offer hiking, fishing, camping, and other outdoor activities. East Texas also boasts numerous waterways, including the Sabine River, which flows through the region and provides opportunities for fishing, kayaking, and other water sports.



One of the most iconic features of East Texas is its towering pine trees. The region is home to vast pine forests, which have been a vital part of the local economy for decades. These trees not only provide timber for building materials and paper products, but also offer a picturesque backdrop for outdoor recreation and relaxation.

East Texas is also rich in history and culture, with a heritage that includes Native American tribes, Spanish explorers, and early American settlers. Visitors can explore historic sites like the San Augustine Mission, which dates back to the 1700s, or tour the Texas State Railroad, which offers scenic train rides through the piney woods.

Another draw of East Texas is its diverse communities and vibrant arts scene. The region is home to several colleges and universities, including Stephen F. Austin State University and the University of Texas at Tyler, which offer a variety of cultural and artistic events throughout the year. East Texas also hosts several annual festivals and fairs, including the Texas Rose Festival in Tyler and the Texas Blueberry Festival in Nacogdoches.

In addition to its natural beauty and cultural attractions, East Texas also offers a high quality of life for its residents. The region has a lower cost of living than many other parts of the state, making it an attractive destination for retirees and young families alike. East Texas is also known for its friendly communities and keen sense of community, with many opportunities for volunteer work, civic engagement, and social activities.

East Texas is also home to several top-ranked healthcare facilities, including UT Health East Texas and CHRISTUS Trinity Mother Frances Health System. These hospitals offer advanced medical care and state-of-the-art facilities, making it easy for residents to access high-quality healthcare close to home.

In conclusion, East Texas is a region that offers something for everyone, from the stunning natural beauty of its forests and waterways to its rich cultural heritage and vibrant communities. Whether you're looking for outdoor adventure, artistic inspiration, or a welcoming community to call home, East Texas has it all.




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"Your Word I have hidden in my heart. . ."
 (Psalm 119:11, NKJV)

Michael Billester visited eastern Poland during the late 1930s and gave a Bible to one of the villagers while there. The villager read it, was converted, and passed the book to 200 others who were all saved because of it. When Billester returned in 1940, the group gathered for a worship service, and he suggested they all

"REED ALL ABOUT IT!"
 by Dr. Allen Reed

recite a few Bible verses they had memorized. A man stood up and said, "Perhaps we have misunderstood. Did you mean verses or chapters? Billester was astonished to learn that they had memorized whole chapters of the Bible. In fact, together, the 200 villagers knew almost the entire Bible by heart.¹

Memorizing Scripture is essential to the Christian life for several reasons.

First, memorizing Scripture will equip us in overcoming temptation. When Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, He recited Scripture from memory and put Satan to flight (Matthew 4:1-11).

Second, memorizing Scripture will enable us to have enjoyable fellowship with the Lord. The more we study and mediate on Scriptures the deeper our understanding of the Lord, His ways and His will. Samuel was a powerful servant of the Lord. The Bible says, "The Lord revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the Lord" (1 Samuel 3:21).

Third, memorizing Scripture will help you in giving comfort and counsel for people in need. Proverbs 25:11 says, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver." Well chosen words will be a beautiful way to encourage others.

Fourth, memorizing Scripture will assist you when you have the opportunity to share the gospel with those who don't know Christ as their Saviour. Actual verses of the Bible have their own penetrating power. And when they come from our heart, as well as from the Bible, the witness is given that they need to hear.

Chuck Swindoll has written, "I know of no other single practice in the Christian life more rewarding, practically speaking, than memorizing Scripture. . . . No other single exercise pays greater spiritual dividends! Your prayer life will be strengthened. Your witnessing will be sharper and much more effective. Your attitudes and outlook will begin to change. Your mind will become alert and observant. Your confidence and assurance will be enhanced. Your faith will be solidified."²

The villagers in Poland considered the Scriptures important enough to commit as much of it to memory as they possibly could. We should make it a priority to spend some time etching the Word of God on our hearts and minds.

A LITTLE HUMOR: A teacher's aide at an elementary school tells this story. A first-grader named Jacob approached her and said, "Mrs. Phillips, did you know that the Bible is divided into two halves? There's the old virgin and the new virgin!"³

1. David Jeremiah, *Pathways*. (San Diego: Turning Point for God, 2010), 18.
 2. Charles R. Swindoll, *Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994), 61.
 3. Michael Hodgin, *1001 Humorous Illustrations for Public Speaking*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1944), 196.

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Mary, Mary Concludes Lamp-Lite Theatre's 50th Season

Lamp-Lite Theatre presents *MARY, MARY*, by Jean Kerr and produced by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing on behalf of Dramatists Play Service May 5, 6, 12, & 13, 7:30 pm, & May 7 & 14, 2:00 pm. A revival of the FIRST PRODUCTION presented by the Lamp-Lite Players in 1971, the play explores love, divorce, and taxes and features Carrel King, Kasey Jobe, Todd Phillips, Cassidy Kelly, & David Raine. Melissa McMillian-Cunningham directs this Broadway hit first directed in Nacogdoches by Lamp-Lite FOUNDER Sarah McMullan at Christ Episcopal Church, thereby, beginning the legacy of our COMMUNITY THEATRE.

Celebration of Lamp-Lite's 50th Season continues with a Ribbon Cutting by the Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce, Thursday, May 4th, 10:00 am, at Lamp-Lite Theatre. The community is invited to join Lamp-Lite as it prepares for opening night of *Mary, Mary*, by Jean Kerr and produced by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing on behalf of Dramatists Play Service. Tickets will be on sale BUY ONE, GET ONE HALF PRICE after the ribbon cutting, refreshments will be served, and tours of the facility will be available.



Individual tickets for *MARY, MARY* are also on sale at Kline's/Wrap-It-Up, 628 North University Drive, and at the CVB in the Charles Bright Visitor Center, 200 East Main. The tickets are also on sale 45 minutes prior to all performances at Lamp-Lite Theatre. Prices are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors 60+ years old, and \$8 for students. Information about *MARY, MARY* and all of Lamp-Lite's 50th PURE GOLD SEASON may be found at www.lamplitetheatre.com or by emailing lamplitetheatre@gmail.com.

Todd Phillips and Carrel King in *Mary, Mary*

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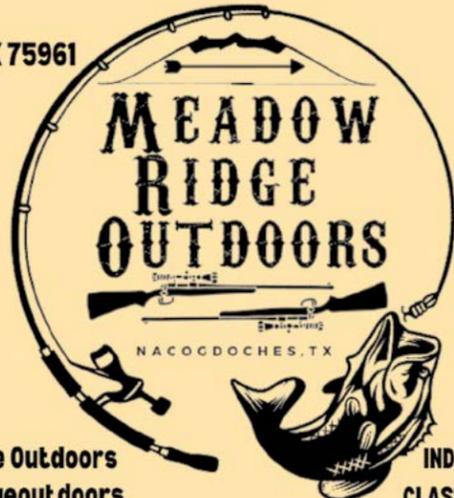
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NAC ARTS **COLLABORATIVE News**

Registration is underway for the Nacogdoches Arts Collaborative's (NAC) summer theatre camp for young people in 3rd through 9th grades. NAC is proud to announce a new partnership with the Lamplite Theatre to host the 15th annual theatre camp for youth in Nacogdoches. The 2023 day camp is scheduled for July 24 - August 4, with performances August 5.

Registration cost is \$100 per student and \$75 for additional siblings. For additional information or to register, go to www.nacartscollab/upcoming-events or contact CC Conn at nacartscollab@gmail.com. Space is limited so don't wait too long!

May Arts Spotlight

Meet mixed medium artist Brigette Kozash! Brigette has become a major arts influencer in our community. After moving to Nacogdoches in 2014 to pursue her BA in History, she graduated in 2017 and decided to stay. Brigette has been involved in the planning of ArtFest since it's inception and is one of the founders of Fire House Art Studio & Collective, a group of young artists and studios, also hosting art fairs, music shows, exhibits and workshops. Kozash was also a founding board member of Nacogdoches Arts Collaborative and continues to volunteer with the nonprofit.



Brigette has worked in linocut, writing & publishing and stained glass. In 2021, she focused her artistic endeavors on stained glass where she has thrived, not only becoming a talented glass artist but also having a brisk retail business doing both original creations and commissions.

Brigette has been a featured artist at recent Nac ArtWalks and has also been vending her wares at events in Houston and all around East Texas. You can see her work at www.cheekchewer.com.

Nacogdoches Arts Collaborative (NAC) is a 501c3 nonprofit arts organization dedicated to bringing the arts to Nacogdoches and providing space for artists of all disciplines to thrive. An initiative to obtain a space for an arts center is in progress.



Original design Bluebonnet Axe stained glass piece by Kozash

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Old North Church Afro-American Cemetery

Restoration of Old North Church Afro-American Cemetery Underway

by Wyatt Ordway

The Old North Church was organized in 1836¹, and was split into two cemeteries to separate the slaves from the whites. It is unknown when the first slaves were interred in Cemetery #2 (Afro-American Cemetery) as there are at least 46 unmarked graves². The oldest known grave is almost 150 years old (Somiria Hill).

During the summer of 2022, I approached the North Redland Cemetery Association (NRCA) with a proposal to restore this historic cemetery, to honor those buried in this special place and their families.

The proposal was accepted by Roy Mills, Dan Weaver, and Patricia Veal of the NRCA. A four phase attack was drawn up with dates to be determined. An estimated finish for the project is a year and a half away.

Phase 1 – Clean the grounds

- A: Rake and pick-up limbs **COMPLETED**
- B: Remove dead tree **COMPLETED**
- C: Remove debris piles **COMPLETED**

Phase 2 – Clean & repair headstones

- A: Clean all headstones **COMPLETED**
- B: Repair broken headstones deemed repairable
- C: Develop a plat map
- D: Clean and paint enclosures

Phase 3- Set-up unmarked grave memorial

- A: Erect plaque for veterans **DONATED BY AMER. LEGION POST 86**
- B: Erect plaque for unmarked graves
- C: Lay memorial walk
- D: Purchase 2 benches
- E: Plant flowers along fence line
- F: Plant garden area in memorial area

Phase IV- Complete entrance

- A: Purchase new gate
- B: Attach signage
- C: Mark unmarked graves (crosses) **DONATED BY MICHELE**
- D: Erect Texas State Historical plaque
- E: Erect message board
- F: Post family trees (Sutphen, Rison and Scroggins)

All workdays are posted on Facebook as events. Local cemetery experts (Dr. Beisel and Archie Rison) and masonry expert (Chris Peppard, who has worked on Buckingham Palace) have been contacted.

1. Texas State Historical Association
2. Ground Penetrating Radar Report dated 5-2002

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Tips on Buying Your First Home

Buying a home is a major milestone that most people dream of achieving. For many, it is a sign of financial stability, independence, and success. However, the home-buying process can be overwhelming, especially for first-time homebuyers. If you are in the market to buy your first home, here are some tips that will help you navigate the process.

1. Assess your financial situation

Before embarking on the home-buying journey, take a critical look at your finances. Determine your budget, assess your credit score, and evaluate your debt-to-income ratio. This will help you understand how much house you can afford and the type of mortgage that suits your financial situation.

2. Get pre-approved for a mortgage

Getting pre-approved for a mortgage is an essential step in the home-buying process. This will give you an idea of the amount of money you can borrow and the interest rate that you qualify for. A pre-approval letter also shows sellers that you are a serious buyer and can make an offer with confidence.

3. Work with a real estate agent

Working with a reputable real estate agent is critical, especially for first-time homebuyers. An experienced agent can help you find the right home, negotiate the best price, and guide you through the entire process. They can also provide you with valuable insights on the local real estate market, including the neighborhood's amenities, schools, and transportation.

4. Do your homework

Do not rush into buying a home without doing your research. Take your time to evaluate different neighborhoods, school districts, and amenities. Check the crime rates, property values, and zoning laws to make an informed decision. Attend open houses, talk to your real estate agent, and ask questions to get a better sense of what you want in a home.

5. Get a home inspection

Before closing on a home, it is crucial to get a professional home inspection. This will give you an idea of the condition of the property, including any potential problems or issues that may arise. The inspection report will help you make an informed decision and negotiate repairs or price adjustments, if necessary.

6. Be patient

Buying a home is a significant investment that requires patience and persistence. Do not rush into making an offer on the first home you see. Take your time, evaluate your options, and make an informed decision. Remember that finding the right home takes time and effort, but it is worth it in the end.

In conclusion, buying a home is an exciting but daunting experience, especially for first-time homebuyers. With the right preparation and guidance, you can make the process smoother and more manageable. Follow these tips, work with a reputable real estate agent, and be patient, and you will be on your way to finding your dream home.

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Out of Our Home

by Jim Garrett

When we built our home in 1979, we dedicated it to the LORD'S use. We have always felt that we are merely caretakers of the property which has been entrusted to us. Over the years our home has provided rest and food to an assortment of guests. Mary Beth and I have tried to recall the number of non-family members who have spent the night in our home and it must be well over ninety. For most, it was for one or two nights, but for others it was longer. Mary Beth and I firmly believe that our "calling in life" is to invest in other people.



Jim and Mary Beth Garrett

We have had numerous keys made for our home. This was so our guests would be free to leave and then later come back to get into the house without our having to be here. As of this writing I can honestly say that with the exchange students we hosted, Juhanni from Finland and Rikke from Denmark, we have keys in other parts of the world. On one occasion we hosted three young teenagers from Japan. More recently we were privileged to have a Chinese medical student from Galveston spend a few weeks with us while she "shadowed" our local physician.

Once a water-gun battle ensued on the second floor of our home. Our son Jim, Juhanni and a German exchange student who was living with neighbors across the street were all involved. You may be thinking, "What a mess!" and it was - for a very short period of time. One must realize that water evaporates and is quickly gone but the thrill and excitement of a water-gun fight is not so soon forgotten.

On one of our trips to California to visit our son, Mary Beth got so bored that she started counting boxcars on trains as they passed. When we started through the desert, she got out the telephone book and started reading the yellow pages! It was there that she conceived the thought of inviting our friends to a **Ding-a-Ling Dinner**. Now, "What is a Ding-a-Ling Dinner?" you may ask. Were you aware, Dear Readers, that a few years ago there were actually RECIPES interspersed among the pages of the phone book - somewhat akin to recipes in *Around the Town* supplement? Mary Beth tore out the recipes and made copies of each one. The next time we had our group together, she passed out copies of the recipes, asking the recipients to prepare the dish of the recipe which they had been given. Since these came from the telephone book, it was only natural that we coined the term "Ding-a-Ling Dinner!"

Another of our food gatherings initiated by Mary Beth was entitled: **Liver Lovers and Lovers of Liver Lovers Party** (What a tongue twister!!). We discovered, when talking with our friends, that if one of them enjoyed a hearty dish of liver and onions, their spouse did not. There were a few exceptions but not many. Mary Beth would cook a large amount of liver and onions and our friend Margaret VanDover would prepare chicken fried steak for those, like Jim Garrett, who could hardly stand the smell of the aforementioned dish. The party would then take place at the home of Margaret and her husband, Byron, since their home would have escaped the noxious odor of fried liver.

Try this one on for size - shrimp gumbo prepared in a 5-gallon pot that once resided on a barge in the Mississippi River. The Cajun Master Chef for that party was none other than the late Tom Roberts. Some of you may be familiar with Tom's own brand of spices which he formulated and with the assistance of his daughter, Leisha, sold and which is still available under the name *Daddy's Instant Success Seasonings*®.

Along the way Mary Beth and I met and became friends with a couple of young ladies who attended our church and were leaders in Campus Crusade for Christ. One day they called and asked if they could use our home for a Bible study/sleep-over. Mary Beth and I discussed it and readily agreed. Their goal was to have a gathering on a Friday evening, spend the night, have breakfast the next morning, and then leave. Mary Beth and I left and spent the night in the spare bedroom of our next-door neighbors, Barbara and David Shows. We were later told that about eight or so people showed up but only four or five stayed the night. The following year, additional students were willing to study and spend the night. We left, just as before, and this time we spent the night with our friends, the VanDovers. We were later told that about twenty students showed up for the Bible study and fifteen of them spent the night. For the third and final Bible study, Mary Beth and I left and spent the night at a motel on the west loop. We learned that about thirty-two students showed up and ALL THIRTY-TWO OF THEM spent the night in our home and then had breakfast the next morning. We were told that there were sleeping bags **everywhere** - on beds, on couches, on all of the floors in every room and maybe even one in the stairwell. While the students were in or home, they looked at all of our pictures, scriptures, and everything else which covered our walls. A rather interesting byproduct resulted from that.

Following their sleep-in, participants felt very comfortable greeting us by name and talking to us on campus. I might add that they may have known Mary Beth and me but we had NO IDEA who they were. They felt that they knew us because of what they had seen on the walls of our home! It didn't matter; what mattered was they had a good time, made some good memories, and saw first-

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hand what dedicating a home to the LORD'S use really looks like. Was it all worth it? Absolutely!!

You have been with us for a number of months now, Dear Readers, and perhaps at this point you know Mary Beth and me a little better. We have taken you with us to the university, on out-of-town trips, and even jaunts around the town. We have shared stories - some humorous and some serious. Hopefully, you have been able to identify with some of the situations we have found ourselves in. Every family has a story; ours is no exception.

One of the main reasons for our sharing the above story is to point out the similarities between **you**, Dear Readers, and those students who spent the night in our home. In our last eleven articles we have invited you into our home and have shared our life with you. Mary Beth and I are looking forward to the day we see some of **you** at a grocery store or a restaurant and you feel free to come up to us and introduce yourselves. We would very much like to get to know you and to visit with you on a much more personal level.

One more note... As I look over what is written here, I realize that it appears to be the final article in a series. That is **NOT** the case at all. In fact, we hope that you enjoy next month's article which is entitled "Brides and Weddings." Future articles include an interesting Young Marrieds' Birthday Party and later, something we all have experienced - Embarrassing Moments! Stay tuned for the next thrilling episode!!

NACOGDOCHES COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Egg-citing new program hatched in local classrooms

Nearly 30 classrooms in Nacogdoches County have brought agriculture to life in the classroom—literally.

Teachers are participating in Nacogdoches County Farm Bureau's Eggcellence in the Classroom program. The county organization helps teachers hatch chicks in the classroom in a fun and educational project.

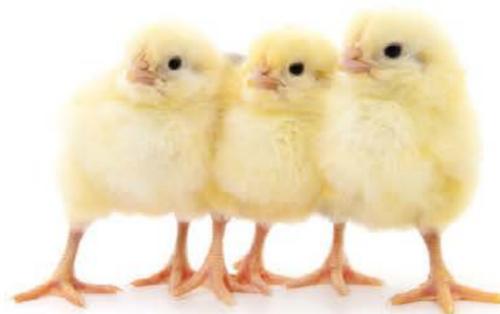
"Incubating and hatching chicks is a hands-on learning science experience that students really enjoy," Bill Stanaland, Nacogdoches County Farm Bureau president, said. "Students explore and observe how an embryo develops inside of a chicken egg over time."

Nacogdoches County Farm Bureau supplies the 30-day incubator rental, eggs and curriculum. The county organization launched the program this spring.

"It's been such a success," Stanaland said. "We have a waiting list for the incubators. We hope to continue to grow the program over time, and we appreciate the excitement from

teachers and their willingness to incorporate agricultural learning in their classroom."

For more information on Eggcellence in the Classroom, contact Nacogdoches County Farm Bureau at 936-564-7374.



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The State Takeover of Houston ISD

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

Those who live outside of Harris County or who are not involved in education probably have little or no knowledge of the imminent takeover of Houston ISD. The move was announced on March 15th in a letter by the Texas Education Commissioner, Mike Morath. The decision should cause great concern in other independent school districts and communities around the state. HISD has made notable academic improvement over the past two years under the leadership of its new superintendent, Mil-lard House II. Despite these gains made by House and his staff, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) is moving forward with designating a new superintendent and a new board of directors for Houston ISD.



Historically, when TEA takes over a school district, it means it was failing academically or financially. In 2019, the TEA used the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) scores to determine that the leadership of Houston ISD was failing the roughly 750 students of Phillis Wheatly High School and attempted a takeover of Texas' largest school district based on the failing results of this one school. This was not the first attempt by TEA to improve the academic outcomes of a Houston ISD school. In 2016, the TEA appointed a conservator to oversee another HISD school, Kashmere High School. We should use the academic data from the two schools to measure who is serving the students more effectively, HISD at Wheatly High or TEA at Kashmere High.

When you review the current academic STAAR data, Wheatly outperforms Kashmere in almost every indicator (see table). In fact, Kashmere High School

Performance	Kashmere HS	Wheatley HS
Overall Accountability Rating	Not Rated: Senate Bill 1365	C
Approaches Grade Level or Above	52%	57%
Meets Grade Level or Above	25%	27%
Masters Grade Level	6%	5%
Academic Growth	54%	62%
Graduation Rates	4-Year: 69.3% 5-Year: 70.4% 6-Year: 73.6%	4-Year: 74.6% 5-Year: 76.1% 6-Year: 76.1%
College, Career, or Military Readiness	42%	57%

failed academically under the TEA-appointed conservatorship and scored ten points lower in the A-F accountability measure with an overall score of 68, which is down significantly from 75 in 2019. Wheatly increased its rating from 2019 by a massive 19 points and earned a C accountability rating; the school was awarded an achievement for being in the top 25% for closing achievement gaps. It is clear the state's conservatorship of Kashmere High School is failing the students and community and not the Houston ISD leadership as you would be led to believe.

Local control of schools is paramount to the structure of the educational system in Texas. It is the local communities who elect their board of trustees to oversee their district's schools, not appointed bureaucrats in Austin. If the TEA can go into Houston and takeover their school district, despite the impressive gains in academics by the staff and students at the historically underperforming Wheatley High, what is stopping them from making the same move in other districts across the state? It is time for teachers and supporters of public schools in Texas to unite and vote with one voice, so Independent School Districts are heard and respected in Austin. Together we will preserve the local control of Texas school districts.

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



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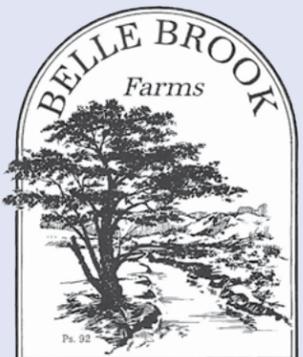
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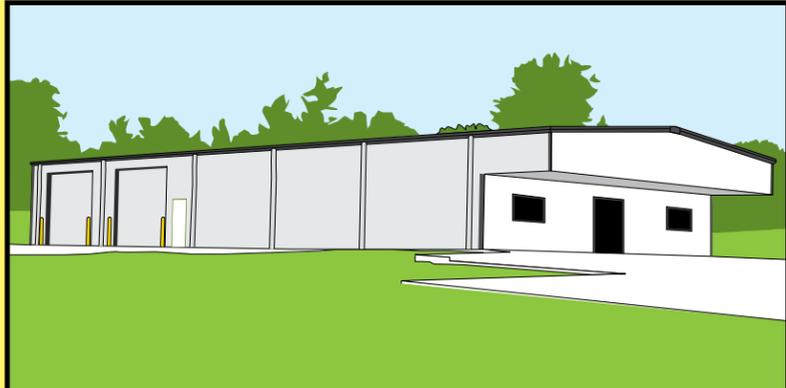


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News from Impact!

by Julia Jones, Impact Founder

Spring has arrived at Impact, 720 E Main! We have summer clothing in adult and children's sizes, swim suits, sunglasses, and toys toys toys! As an added bonus we have two racks of new children's 2 and 3 piece sets of clothing for boys and girls, sizes 3 months to size 7-8. Each set is on special in May for \$12 each set!

Our all volunteer staff has done a spectacular job of arranging and straightening donations in our resale shop, and we need YOU to come shop the lowest prices in east Texas. Children's clothing in the pink and blue bins is always \$10 a bag, mix and match sizes.



Impact uses the funds from sales in our thrift store to provide shoes, school uniforms, back packs, bedding and socks for children from foster care or children referred to us by the school counselors. Please help us help them by shopping at Impact!

Our store hours are 9-4 Monday thru Thursday and 9-3 on Friday. We do not have enough volunteer staff to open on Saturday.



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National Small Business Week - Business Resource Fair Thur., May 4

National Small Business Week, April 30 - May 6, celebrates the critical contributions of America's entrepreneurs and small business owners. Small businesses are the backbone of the American economy. According to Forbes, not only are the majority of jobs in the U.S. created by small businesses, but they are also a major source of innovation, economic growth, and national prosperity.

Did you know that 99% of businesses across the U.S. are considered a small business, with a whopping 33.2 million businesses in America? And 80% of small businesses have no employees, but small businesses still employ 61.7 million workers. That's 46.4% of all U.S. employees!

Business Resource Fair, Thursday, May 4th, 5:30 - 7:00 pm

If you are a small business owner or considered starting a small business or just want to connect with local business experts, you don't want to miss this business resource fair!! On Thursday, May 4th, the Nacogdoches Economic Development Corp. (NEDCO) will host a Small Business Resource Fair from 5:30 -7:00 pm at the Fredonia Hotel Banita Ballroom.

Do you have questions about marketing? Need help writing a business plan or finding a building? Don't know what permits are required? "We are pleased to bring together local business leaders who are more than willing to share their expertise and assist anyone interested in starting or growing a small business," says Scott Bowyer, Chairman of NEDCO's Entrepreneurship Committee and Executive Vice President of Commercial Bank of Texas.

Join us for this in-person event to meet with small business resource advocates and agencies. Experts will be on hand from the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), SFA Small Business Resource Hub (SBRH), local financial institutions, real estate brokers, insurance companies, attorneys, accountants, government contract advisor, and city officials. Connect with other business owners, find the support and connections you need to start, strengthen, and grow your business.

Business experts attending will be Austin Bank, CBTx, Cadence Bank, Cadence Insurance, UBank, Small Business Development Center, SFA Small Business Resource Hub, Barham Properties, State Farm Insurance, Axley & Rode, City of Nacogdoches, Nac Space, Small Town Socials, Communities Unlimited, People Fund, A & P Inflatables, Charles Pool Real Estate, Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce, SuSu's Popcorn and *The Daily Sentinel*.

Doors will open at 5:00 pm, and the program will start at 5:30 pm. Light refreshments will be served. For further information, contact NEDCO at (936) 559-1255 or email nedco@nedco.org <<mailto:nedco@nedco.org>>.

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friendship
fall; a moth-
er’s secret
hope outlives
them all.”*

—Oliver Wendell Holmes

Household Products That Are Poisonous for Pets

by Steven Martin, *Owner of Martin Kennel*

If you've ever had a toddler in your home, you know that baby proofing the house is a basic safety requirement. Think of your pets as permanent toddlers! Keeping your furry family members safe from exposure to household products and chemicals that can be toxic is important. Almost every family has products in their home that can cause problems in dogs and cats like gastrointestinal upset (vomiting and/or diarrhea). Other products — some that might surprise you — can even cause more serious problems like seizures, liver or kidney failure, and lead to death if not treated quickly once your pet has come into contact with or ingested them. But don't worry — it's easy to keep your pets safe with a bit of planning, careful reading of product labels, and attention to detail.

What Kinds of Household Products Can Be Poisonous to Your Pets?

Almost any household product can be dangerous to your pet, even those labeled "safe" or "natural," including homemade products. While in many cases the product's ingredients are the dangerous component, your pet can also be at risk depending on the amount of the product they are exposed to or the way in which they're exposed. All of the following have the potential to cause harm and should be avoided or, if used in or around the home, stored with extreme care.



- Antifreeze, deicer
- Bleach or bleach-based cleaners
- Carpet or rug cleaner/shampoo/deodorizer
- **Essential oils**
- Plant fertilizer
- Glue, other adhesives
- Laundry or dishwasher detergent
- Paint, solvents, spackle
- Rat/mouse/slug bait or other insecticides
- Vinegar (plain or mixed with water)
- Window cleaner

Hazardous Ingredients to Avoid in Household Products

Some ingredients are best avoided altogether. If you see these ingredients on the product label, it's safest not to use them around your pets:

- Chlorine bleach
- Phthalates — can be listed on the label simply as "fragrance."
- Ammonia
- Glycol Ethers (for example, ethylene glycol in antifreeze)
- Formaldehyde
- Benzalkonium Chloride (most found in household disinfectants)

How Pets Come into Contact with Poisonous Products in Your Home

Pets can be exposed to toxic household products in several ways, all of which can lead to poisoning or toxicity:

- **Ingestion** — Dogs and cats tend to eat first and ask questions later. Licking, chewing on, or swallowing the wrong product can result in toxicity.
- **Direct Contact** — Pets can absorb toxins through their skin even if they have a thick haircoat. In addition, if a pet gets something hazardous on their coat or paws and then licks it, they can ingest the poison.
- **Inhalation** — Similar to humans, dogs and cats are at risk of irritation or damage to their respiratory system (from their nose all the way down to their lungs) if exposed to things like certain chemicals, essential oils and perfumes, paint, and gasoline fumes.
- **Secondary Ingestion** — If your pet finds a mouse or rat that has been poisoned by rodenticide (mouse/rat poison) and your pet eats that rodent, they can be exposed to the toxin and be at risk of being poisoned themselves.

Keeping Pets Safe from Common Household Products That Might Be Poisonous

Even the most careful pet owner is often no match for a curious cat who can open cabinets or a dog who can reach the countertop. A little extra planning can go a long way to keeping your pet safe:



- **Always Check the Product Label** — This is where you'll find safety warnings about the product's toxicity and what to do if it is ingested or comes

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into contact with skin. These warnings don't need to be specific to animals — if it is dangerous to humans, it is likely dangerous to your pets.

- **Natural Doesn't Mean Safe** — Even if something is labeled natural, it is best to consult a trusted resource or veterinary professional to confirm that the product is safe.
- **Look for Pet-Safe Products** — There are cleaners and disinfectants on the market that are designed to be safer for pets. Keep an eye out for "pet safe" on the label. But remember, not all products will state if they are safe for pets and even those that do might not be completely safe. Always consult a trusted veterinary resource prior to using one of these products.
- **Keep Household Products Stored Securely** — Store products in cupboards or cabinets up high where pets cannot reach them and secure them with a lock whenever possible. Child safety locks are recommended, especially for storage locations within reach of your pet (like under the sink).
- **Never Leave Your Pet Alone in the Garage** — Many household toxins are stored in the garage, increasing the danger for your pet if they spend unsupervised time out there. Consider storing potentially hazardous products in a locked cabinet even within the garage.
- **Don't Switch Containers** — Never store a household product in a container other than the one it came in (like a food or beverage container instead of the original packaging). It's important to have the correct label to reference in case of an emergency and for proper storage and use in general.
- **Avoid pet Food/Water or Sleeping Areas** — Do not store, spray, or use household cleaners, essential oils or pesticides anywhere near your pet's food and water bowls or areas where they spend a lot of time resting or sleeping.
- **Watch Out for Odor Removers and Scented Products** — If a product makes broad claims about removing odors or is strongly fragranced, avoid using it around your pet. This usually means the product contains phthalates or other potentially dangerous chemical components.
- **Let Wet Areas Dry** — When cleaning the carpet or using hard surface floor cleaners, do not let your pet walk on or sleep in the space until the surface is totally dry and there is no product odor left.
- **Keep Your Pets Indoors** — When fertilizing outside, keep your pets inside and follow label instructions regarding use around pets.

In case of exposure, your first call should be to the ASPCA Poison Control or Pet Poison Helpline. Both hotlines are available 24/7 for poison-related help specific to your pets. If your pet collapses, loses consciousness, has a seizure, or has difficulty breathing, that is an emergency — please take them directly to the nearest veterinary hospital for immediate evaluation.

Even the household products we typically think of as safe and familiar can pose a risk to your pet if they are exposed. A bit of common sense and planning for how you use and store a product go a long way to prevent dangerous exposure for your dog or cat. When using cleaning products and other products in your home, it is always safest to keep your pet out of the room until you are finished. Before allowing your pet back in, ensure all surfaces are dry, and the air is free from the product's odor. When in doubt, err on the side of caution to keep your furry family members safe and healthy!



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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)

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.



God Has Moved On

The Lord spoke to [Israel] in Horeb, saying: “You have dwelt long enough at this mountain.” Deuteronomy 1:6

Stuck in the past. Negligent of the present. Unprepared for the future. These are all descriptive of the state of the body of Christ. For lack of knowledge God's people are perishing. It is a lack of biblical knowledge which leads to biblical illiteracy. And because of this unprecedented biblical illiteracy in a nation which has unrestrained access to the Word of God, we dispossess a biblical worldview, resulting in our words and our actions fanning the flames of hell while publicly displaying our own spiritual deficit.

Since the beginning of creation God has been working all things according to the counsel of His will. God did not create us for an eternal Adamic existence (Gen 2:15-17). In the garden of Eden God moved on after Adam and Eve sinned. He moved on to Cavalry. After Jesus spoke these words from the cross, “It is finished” God moved on. After a sinner is saved by grace through faith, God moves in to occupy. His presence affirms His kingdom is within you.

I cannot recall the day the Holy Spirit opened the eyes of my understanding, revealing that America's history is not my history because Christ is now my life. Christ in me gives me an eternal identity in Him, removing all traces of any identity with the nation's sinful past. The evils of slavery in America and every injustice perpetrated against different people groups throughout human history because of sin was settled at Cavalry's cross. Every act of sin (yours, mine, everyone's) was laid upon Christ, the One who knew no sin. On the cross God took the punishment for past, present and future sins by taking everyone's guilt upon Himself. Yet Christians, with unrelenting tenacity, keep holding on to the past, entangling ourselves with a yoke of bondage. This yoke prevents us from standing fast in the liberty by which Christ has made us free.

If you are looking for a fairer, more diverse, inclusive, and equitable culture, look no further than God's kingdom. In God's kingdom we find no false ethnic and racial identities. Only one identity exists—Christ. When we entered that kingdom as sons and daughters of God through a spiritual new birth (John 3:3-8), God moved on. Christians have dwelt long enough at the mountain of America's past sins and the resulting injustices, being bitter and angry over someone else's sins, unwilling to move on with God off the mountain, trusting Him to do right as the Judge of all the earth. Stop neglecting the present reality of your new heritage and incomparable inheritance in Christ and live for God's glory in preparation for your future with Him.

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Nacogdoches
Convention & Visitors Bureau

Ashley Morgan
CVB Creative Content Director

Azaleas and More This Spring

We can't believe it's already May! As the weather warms up, more and more events pop up. The first week of May begins with the **15th Annual "Sale on the Trail!"** If you're not familiar, it's a regional event from Nacogdoches, TX to Natchitoches, LA. There will be trunk shows, garage sales, sidewalk sales, vendor pop-ups and more along the El Camino Real (Highway 21). This event takes place on Friday, May 5th and Saturday, May 6th! Want to learn more? Head to Facebook.com/SaleOnTheTrail or visitelcaminoreal.com

The second week in May brings **National Travel & Tourism Week**. Visit Nacogdoches takes this week as an opportunity to advocate and educate on the importance of tourism to a community. Nacogdoches welcomes thousands of visitors every year that eat, shop, and stay in our local businesses. The taxes they pay during their visit help fund fire stations, police, water and other city operations.

As you can see on our monthly "What's Happening" poster, there's plenty of other fun events coming up in May! We'll be hosting an outdoor movie on the Downtown Square, and **Sandyland Bluegrass Reunion** is just around the corner.

We've got everything "blueberry" on our minds with the biggest event of the year coming up in June! The **Texas Blueberry Festival** will take place on Saturday, June 10th in beautiful Downtown Nacogdoches. Don't miss the **Blueberry Bluegrass Concert in the Park** the night before in Festival Park on Friday, June 9th! Learn more at TexasBlueberryFestival.com

A great way to stay up to date with everything going on in Nacogdoches is by volunteering at the Charles Bright Visitor Center! We're open 7 days a week thanks to our loyal volunteers, but we need a few more. Shifts are just 3 hours and it's a lot of fun! Bring a friend or a family member for a unique way to spend your weekend. If you're interested, contact Mike Bay at 936-564-7351 or email info@visitnacogdoches.org



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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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MAY 6, 2023 – NACOGDOCHES JAYCEES – RED DIRT MUD RUN – Saturday May 6th, 2023 from 8:00AM-3:00PM. You can sign up at runsignup.com/Race/TX/Nacogdoches/RedDirtMudRun. There is no mud worse than **RED MUD!!!** Come try your skills at the Red Dirt Mud Run, brought to you by the Nacogdoches Jaycees. Prepare to get muddy. This course is a combination open pasture (on an abandoned horse track) and Wooded Trails with tons of scenery. Oh, and I almost forgot THE OBSTACLES, we have over 25 of them to challenge you, including a Mud Bog, that trucks have a tough time getting thru. SCARED YET? Fear not, we have modified the routes for every level (beginner, advanced and HARDCORE). Don't miss out on this RED DIRT Fun: May 6th, 2023. The day-of entry fee is \$60, but you can get discounts for signing up early. We will see you out on the course! REMEMBER ALL YOUTH (under 18) MUST RUN WITH AN ADULT. All runners get a t-shirt and a medal!

MAY 13, 2023 – CORNER POST COWBOY CHURCH – "SORTING FOR CHRIST" – Saturday May 13, 2023 – Books Open at 9AM, Sorting at 10AM – Free Admission, Ranch Sorting is an event that pits a team of two riders on horseback against the clock. Teamwork is the key with both riders working in harmony to cut out the correct cattle and drive them to the pen while keeping the wrong numbered cattle back. Beginner friendly, Buckles to Winners. FMI 936-715-7386.

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MAY 18, 2023 – FALLEN PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL – Please take a moment Thursday, May 18th, 2023 to join together with others and honor the memory of the brave men and women in all areas of law enforcement who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. It is also an opportunity to show our appreciation and support for the men and women who risk all in the service of their community. A meal will be provided for the families of our Fallen Officers, as well as for the men and women who are currently serving. Refreshments will be available to everyone before the Honor Guard Ceremony.

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MAY 26-28, 2023 – TABERNACULO EL ALFOLI – RIVIVAL – CHRISTIAN OUTREACH – Friday May 26 through Sunday May 28, 2023. FMI Albert Delgado 936-215-1120.

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Flying the Mail and All the Rest – The Beginning

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.

I have no way of knowing if readers have been following with any interest this series of columns on my flying the mail here in east Texas some 50-odd years ago when the U. S. Postal Service reprised for a while an effort like the one in the earliest days of aviation. It hasn't really occurred to me before now that the few hundred of us flyboys who formed this second cadre are likely retired or have “flown west,” as we pilots say about a fellow aviator whose earthly life has ended.



Perhaps some are curious about how I became infatuated with airplanes and where it led besides flying the mail. I can't squeeze it into one column, but let's visit the earliest days with this one.

One never knows the experiences parents give their children that may create within them an epiphany—irrespective of how young they may be—that could have a profound effect on the rest of their lives. Sandy and I have tried to follow the example of my parents and expose our daughter, Mindy, to as many experiences as possible—including sharing with her some travels in Europe. Noting her fascination with medicine, we made sure she had access to all kinds of medical journals, which she read voraciously. She is now a senior nurse at one of two level 1 trauma centers in Houston.

And so it was when my parents—perhaps through fate or Divine inspiration—stopped their 1950 Chevrolet one day at the airport in tiny Center, Texas, of all places, when I was about eight years old. On that day, local airplane owners were giving short rides to the public for a donation to charity. I begged my parents to allow me to go flying, to which, surprisingly, they agreed.

It was only a short flight in an ancient fabric-covered 1946 Aeronca Champion, but I was instantly hooked. I knew from that moment my career would be that of a pilot. As I grew up after that magical experience, I would drag my parents (reluctantly, I'm sure) during our travels around the country to countless airport detours so I could watch airplanes. Then, as soon as I was old enough, at age 16, I began taking flying lessons and flew my first solo flight at the Nacogdoches airport after about eight hours of instruction. Ironically, that momentous flight was made in the same type of aircraft—an Aeronca Champion—in which I had taken my first flight eight years earlier. I will never forget that first solo flight—realizing that only I, with the help of the Almighty, could cause this machine to return safely to earth. It was pretty much a non-event—a smooth landing on runway 6—a grass runway that is doubtlessly no longer is in use. But oh, the exhilaration! I never tired of the thousands of subsequent flights and safe landings, either. I always felt that I had intruded, by way of these machines, built through human ingenuity, into a part of the planet reserved for winged creatures, for which the experience was not magical but merely ordinary, I'm sure. What ingrates!

Pictured to the right is a photo of my first kind of airplane to conquer the skies—an Aeronca Champion. This one is in an aviation museum in Oregon.



After my first solo flight, I spent more time at the airport than at home—fueling and washing airplanes, mowing the grass runways with a tractor—anything to make money for more flying lessons. With this laser-like focus and with help from my parents, I obtained a commercial pilot's license and a multi-engine rating before I graduated from high school. I can't find any statistics on the number of such advanced flying credentials obtained by high school students, but it certainly must have been a rarity, nationwide.

It never occurred to me then, of course, that today would come—a day when



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I would be retired from flying and writing about how it was in the beginning. In my teens and twenties, I had not thought of what it would be like now, six decades later, as I remember those days of unbridled excitement at what lay ahead. For me, time was almost standing still, creeping by so slowly that it appeared my journeys among the clouds could not possibly end. But end they did, quite unwillingly; the increasing physical limitations of aging are, alas, inexorable.

Your comments are always appreciated. My email address is mikemills159 (at) pm.me.

MONUMENT CORNER

This month we are back in Oak Grove Cemetery on North Lanana Street in Nacogdoches. We will look at a few more markers in the cemetery. (A short personal note: I went on a long weekend trip to south central Texas this weekend and saw many historical markers along the highways and byways. I had to stop and check out several of them. Wish I could have stopped at every one. You never know what interesting information you are going to find when you stop and read an historical marker.) This month's monuments from Oak Grove Cemetery read as follows:

CAPTAIN HAYDEN ARNOLD

COMMANDED THE
NACOGDOCHES COMPANY
AT THE BATTLE OF SAN
JACINTO
BORN IN TENNESSEE, 1805
DIED IN 1839

Erected by the State of Texas
1936



CHARLES STANFIELD TAYLOR

LAND COMMISSIONER OF EAST TEXAS, 1833 ••• A SIGNER OF THE TEXAS DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, 1836 ••• CHIEF JUSTICE OF NACOGDOCHES COUNTY, 1837 ••••• DISTRICT ATTORNEY, 1839 • RIO GRANDE LAND COMMISSIONER, 1854 ••• BORN IN LONDON, ENGLAND 1808 • DIED NOVEMBER 1, 1865

HIS WIFE
ANNA MARIA
RUOFF TAYLOR

BORN IN GERMANY, MARCH 1, 1814 •• DIED FEBRUARY 8, 1873

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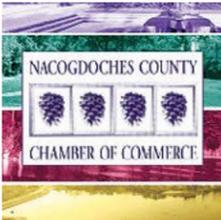
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Chamber Connection

by C. Wayne Mitchell
IOM, President & CEO,
Nacogdoches County Chamber
of Commerce

More Than a Meal

My wife and I had lunch in a Nacogdoches restaurant today! I will resist the urge to identify which restaurant out of fairness to the other outstanding restaurants we have in town.

We ordered our meals and, in the process, engaged our waiter in conversation. As good as the food was, the conversation was even better.

I found out that he was a student in a local college that decided to take a year off before completing his degree. He hopes to complete his studies at Angelina College and get his bachelor degree from Stephen F. Austin State University.

What impressed me the most was how focused he was on his career and life. His stated goal is to help people. He said he is considering the ministry to achieve that goal.

I learned all of this in a conversation that took no more than 10 minutes.

On my ride back to the office, I thought about this exchange and how much I enjoyed meeting this young man. If I ate my dinner and did not acknowledge the people serving me, I would have missed a great opportunity. Frankly, after talking to this young man I was energized, inspired, and reminded that despite the many challenges this county faces, there are wonderful women and men that are, or will soon, be prepared for key leadership goals.

I can remember when I was young, several men and women took the time to learn more about Wayne Mitchell. They showed genuine interest in what my goals and aspirations were and many of these folks became mentors for me. Some of them became lifelong friends and associates.

I'm embarrassed to say that there have been times when I am busy or have something else on my mind that I failed to "have my moment of greatness." I would define that as a missed opportunity to contribute or make better the lives of others.

I am going to try to do better!

I would respectfully offer this advice. Engage the people you interact with and learn about their dreams, aspirations, and challenges. Be a resource and share your experiences. But most of all, **LISTEN TO WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY!**

You may find a new friend!

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Kissin' Kuzzins

by Hershel "Dickie" Dixon

(1) Thank you, Mike Maberry, for presenting such an excellent presentation "The Birth of Lufkin Baseball" to the Angelina County Genealogical Society about 5 p.m. on Monday, April 17, 2023 at Kurth Memorial Library in Lufkin. Thanks to those attending: Keith Allred, Terri Maberry, Bill Conrad, Janelle Hennington, Sheila Wood, Jerry Merriman, Gary Gores, Bubba Wood, Butch Lowe, Mike Jones, Jerry Bate, and Bill Berry.

(2) A native of Old Salem in Newton County, Katie Wilson Moak, will discuss "The History of Call Texas" at about 7:15 pm on Monday, May 1, 2023 for the Deep East Texas Archeological Society at the Fellowship Hall of First United Methodist Church on 308 High Street in Newton. Sandra Litton will have desserts and refreshments ready at 6:30, and President Ruth Dusan will conduct a short business meeting at 7 pm. Katie is donating two books for door prizes: "Dueling Sisters," which she co-wrote with her sister Louise Wilson Jetton and the children's book she wrote "Napoleon and the Hurricane," illustrated by Stephen Adams. She will also have both books for sale. Another door prize will be "Born Fighting: How the Scots Shaped America," a copy of which will also be donated to the Newton County Public Library. For more information, contact Ruth Dusan at (409) 379-5694 or jrdusan@windstream.net or Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419 or dixonhershel51@gmail.com

(3) The Deep East Archeological Society is taking a field trip to the Watson Rare Native Plant Preserve in Warren, Texas on Saturday, May 6, 2023. Two groups will go together: one from Newton and one from Lufkin. Both groups will meet at 8:45 a.m. and leave at 9 for the Preserve, which is about 62 miles from Lufkin and Newton. The Newton group will meet on the History Center parking lot and leave from there, and the Lufkin group will meet at the parking lot at Lowe's in front of the portable buildings and will leave from there. The tour of the Preserve guided by Kathleen Appelbaum begins at about 10 a.m. For more information, contact Ruth Dusan at (409) 379- 5694 or jrdusan@windstream.net or Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419 or dixonhershel51@gmail.com

(4) Cindy Thomas will present "Family Tree Got You Stumped" at 5 pm on Monday, May 15, 2023 at the Community Meeting Room of Kurth Memorial Library on 706 South Raguett Street in Lufkin to the Angelina County Genealogical Society. For more information, contact Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419 or dixonhershel51@gmail.com

(5) The Angelina County Genealogical Society is gathering for an in town field trip at the Family History Center on 603 Bending Oak in Lufkin at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 to discover how to use the genealogical resources there. Those attending can do research that day until it closes at 1 pm. For more information, contact Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419 or dixonhershel51@gmail.com

(6) The 60th Anniversary of the JFK Assassination Conference will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 20, 2023 at the Office of the Huntington Housing Authority on 210 East Walnut Street in Huntington. The cost of the conference is \$10, and the cost of the meal is \$10, for a total of \$20 for the whole day of enlightenment. Please RSVP by May 6, 2023, so we can get a head count, or you can pay at the door that morning. For more information, contact Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419 or dixonhershel51@gmail.com

(7) The Caroline Gilbert Hinchee House. The long-awaited time has come, and construction has begun. At the beginning of April additional piers were poured under the house. We will begin the process of fixing the foundation of the house, which will be a community center when finished. The house was built in the heyday of the oil boom in Beaumont and is an historical place in the state of Texas and the Nation. We look forward to years of learning in this house, and many community activities. Donations to help restore this home are always welcome through Pay Pal. If everyone could donate \$10.00 a month or more, we would have enough to bring her back to her original glory. Thanks.

To submit an item to this column email it to dixonhershel51@gmail.com by phone to (936) 671-1419 or by mail to Kissin' Kuzzins P. O. Box 151001 Lufkin Texas 75915-1001. For a book review, mail a complimentary copy to the address just listed.

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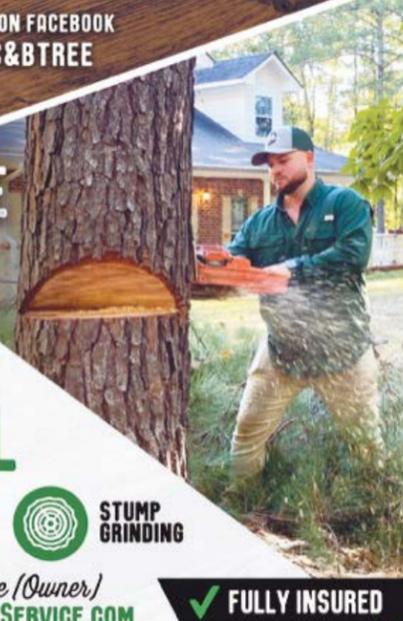
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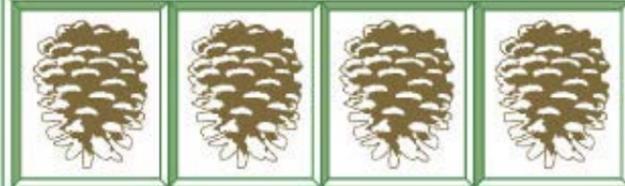
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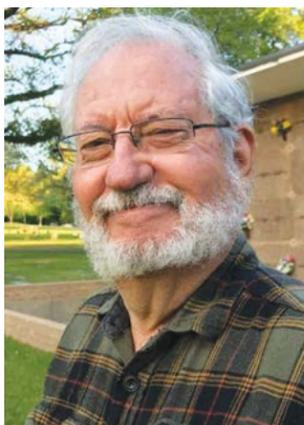
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A Little Bit of History...

by Hershel "Dickie" Dixon

Born in Lufkin, Texas to Hershel and Kathleen Hinson Dixon, Dickie Dixon is a sixth-generation Texan with deep roots in other parts of East Texas, too. His paternal g-g-g-grandparents, Zachariah Fenley and wife Rebecca, arrived in what is now Angelina County about 1837. Only a year later he was killed in the Cordova Rebellion, which caused Rebecca to gain an interest in the Old Stone Fort. All Dickie's ancestors were living in Angelina County by the 1880s, and one of them, Stanislaw John Pauszek (later Poskey) was a Polish immigrant.

Dickie holds several degrees and he served as a graduate assistant and grader at SFASU for Dr. Archie P. McDonald. Besides active roles in regional genealogy and archeology groups, Dickie speaks regularly at history events such as East Texas Historical Association conferences. Since 2016 he has written a weekly column on history and genealogy for several newspapers called Kissin' Kuzzins, a name which the column originator Carolyn Erickson authorized him to use after her retirement. Dickie is committed to keeping memories of all types of history alive.



My 1970 Arkansas Adventure

It was late May or early June of 1970 when Mike Carter* invited me to go work with him and his Dad, C. M. "Shorty" Carter, in Mountain Pine, Arkansas. So far as I know, Mike's Dad had a career working for Brown & Root doing the dirt work with heavy equipment. For this job, Mr. Carter was the dirt superintendent, and we were building a Weyerhaeuser plywood plant on a site owned by Dierks Lumber Company. The four of us, including Mrs. Carter, lived in a cottage on the river to make Lake Hamilton.

The mornings were airish, probably in the 50s, so I asked Mother to mail me a jacket, and work started at 7 a.m.—but for us it started at 6:30 because Mr. Carter was always at work 30 minutes early. The project manager was M. L. Hosmer from Lufkin, and there were others from here working on the job: Kelly Havard, G. E. Bell, and a father named Roberson and his two sons, and others whose names I either never knew or don't remember.

We had hoped to make some significant bucks, but Weyerhaeuser hired Bechtel to oversee the job, and they cut the payscale back. Consequently, I wasn't making much more than I would have back home.

My adventure began with digging forms for concrete; in Arkansas you did that with a pick ax. I did my job well and never complained, when, in not more than two weeks, Mr. Carter came to me to tell me he had another job for me. I was to work in the carpenter's shack sweeping them, making coffee, and putting the blueprints between wooden sticks. After I finished those tasks each day, I worked with the head carpenter Grover, who was assigned special tasks for the job.

One of the regular tasks, he and I did was sawing rafters for the roof of the building. For this we had a jig set up to saw the 2 x 12s just the right length with a radial arm saw; after we sawed them, other carpenters nailed the clips on to attach them to the roof. I enjoyed working with Grover and seeing the respect he was accorded by the other men.

We had little time to socialize at work; we only had 30 minutes for lunch, and by the time we bought our food from the food truck (or prominent truck as some called them), we only had time to eat and get back to work.

After work Mike and I sometimes went in to Hot Springs to see what we could see.

One of the most unusual men I worked with, Travis Hightower, was also a jockey at the horse racing track in Hot Springs, and since he was only about 5 feet tall, he was one of the smallest men on the job. Once it came a big rain, and water pooled in some pier holes. Travis was the only one small enough to go down there and clean them out. I actually never knew his name when I worked there but found it out many years later from a woman in Hot Springs named Barbara. She identified him because I told her he drove a red Buick Electra with a white top.

My adventure was a pleasant one, since Mrs. Carter took such good care of us, and the seasoned workers welcomed me and showed me respect. I stayed for about a month before I came home because (1) by the time I paid the Carter's rent I didn't net much (2) I had a girlfriend named Mary Neel back home (3) I had a car note on the '69 442 I had bought new the year before (4) I had a project car, a 1937 Plymouth coupe, I had bought from Hank Huggins for \$150 I wanted to work on.

And now you are privy, too, to my 1970 Arkansas Adventure.

*Mike was the youngest brother of Ken "Tiny" Carter, otherwise known as Hub-cap Carter.

Continued at bottom of next page

What's Happening in Shelby County!

by Deborah Chaddwick, *Director*

April certainly flew by quickly with all the fun activities we had here in Shelby County. Our May calendar is pretty full as well.

On May 5, 1923 a photo was taken of our downtown square, by local photographer, Roy R. Loving. The picture included oxen teams, horses, unpaved streets and some Cadillac touring cars. In honor of the photo's 100th Anniversary a picture will be taken on May 5, 2023. It will be a fun comparison to the changes on the square in the past 100 years.

Each Spring we honor our County teachers at our Teacher Appreciation Reception. Each campus nominates a Campus Teacher of the Year. These teachers are individually recognized by the campus Principal at the Reception. A committee has selected, from the campus winners, the Elementary Teacher of the Year and the Secondary Teacher of the Year. These two individuals will be announced at the Reception in May. Local businesses are very generous in donating items for goody bags as well as door prizes. It is a fun afternoon, being able to honor and recognize our outstanding teachers. This year the Reception is Sponsored by Badders Law Firm.

The Shelby County Chamber of Commerce and Center ISD team up every year to recognize and honor our First Responders at a barbeque lunch. This year's event will be held on May 19th. Public servants and peace officers carry a responsibility for maintaining order, enforcing the law and protecting the lives and property of us all. The appreciation lunch recognizes the contribution law enforcement makes to the community. Badders Law Firm is the Presenting Sponsor.

Congratulations to all area graduating Seniors! Best wishes for your future.

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And Now You Know, Too!

Robert Wadlow was born in Alton, Illinois on February 22, 1918, and, by the time he died he was 11 feet 1.1" tall and weighed 439 pounds.

The Lebensborn program in Nazi Germany was an SS initiated program that encouraged thousands of fervently loyal unmarried German girls to mate with SS officers to have babies for Hitler.

At not all of the Nazi concentration camps did the liberation by the Allies go smoothly. At Dachau, estimates are that 30-50 German concentration camp guards were shot; perhaps some spontaneously because the Allied soldiers were overwrought with emotion by what they saw there.

How Local Businesses Can Compete with Amazon

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

Amazon is the largest online store and hosts products from some of the biggest brands in the world. They are also known for large inventories and discounts, so competing based on price can be a tall order for local startups. Interestingly, about 50% of the products you encounter at Amazon in the United States are listed by small-to-medium businesses (SMBs) and not Amazon itself. So is Amazon a competitor, or is it a marketplace?

In addition to setting up your business on Amazon, there are several ways a local business can compete and establish its market. Here are five:

Offering Personalized Services

Local businesses have the advantage of offering one-on-one customized services, something that's not available for Amazon customers. As a small business, you can focus on customer support to learn more about your clients and customize your services to their needs. There are various ways to create an impression of personalized services, from greeting customers by their names and following up on big sales to analyzing each feedback.

Introduce A Loyalty Plan

A loyalty program is designed to reward repeat customers and is a perfect way to get repeat business income. If you lack one, you should create a loyalty program that allows regular customers to receive personalized treatment, discounts, and better offers. Make sure your customers learn about the loyalty program during their first visit or interaction with your business. Amazon has deals and redeemable points, shipping discounts, and other incentives, so make sure your loyalty program is attractive enough to retain customers.

Increase Brand Awareness and Online Presence

To become successful, people need to know about your business, so it is vital to work on the brand. Invest in SEO, set up your website, and get on Amazon if your business model can align with the store. Make sure you optimize the business for local customers and take advantage of social media marketing. Increasing brand presence locally will provide the perfect canvas for exploring markets beyond borders.

Market for Mobile

Most people start their searches online through their mobile phones and modern devices. In recent times, mobile games, operating systems, and other applications have become a platform for advertising. Companies like Amazon market to everyone, especially mobile users. However, as a local business, you have the advantage of knowing and understanding your immediate customers. You know the right language to use for marketing and platforms local communities use to access information. Mobile devices also offer a chance to connect offline shopping experiences.

Set Up Your Amazon Business

Amazon boasts the inherent advantages of a global brand and is essentially a marketplace where customers can find any product. As a local business, you can take advantage of the existing logistics frameworks and reputation to list your products on the platform. Local customers that prefer to shop from Amazon will still be able to find your products and business. However, this requires meeting all Amazon requirements and optimizing your business to appear at the top of both Amazon and Google search results.

Amazon relies on small and medium businesses (like yours) in all categories and, in 2019, the number of SMB accounts in the US Amazon store increased by 133% to 1.1 million. For local businesses, the challenge is to create more perks and personalized services while leveraging social media, mobile marketing, and local SEO.



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In the Loop... Expo Center in Lufkin

with **Burt Hairgrove**
Executive Director,
George H. Henderson, Jr. Expo Center
Lufkin, Texas

Greetings from the Expo!

Our **39th Annual Expo Party** is right around the corner on **May 13, 2022**. We need your support and attendance.

After serving as Executive Director for over 12 years, it still surprises me how many local folks still assume that the Expo is a county/city/government owned and operated facility, it is not. **The George H. Henderson, Jr. Exposition Center is, and has always been, a 501c3 non-profit organization.** This non-profit owns and operates the facility for the benefit of the citizens of Lufkin and Angelina County. We are ultimately responsible for meeting our own expenses and costs. As each year passes, these go up. Equipment, labor and supply costs increase constantly. Built in 1983, as the building ages, major maintenance issues are becoming more common.

Even with our ongoing challenges, we are moving forward and growing. The Expo is made available (at no cost) for the East Texas Food Bank several times per year for commodity distribution. Angelina College regularly uses our property to train police academy cadet driving skills. More recently, the college now uses the Expo for commercial truck driver accreditation. Lufkin Fire Department also uses the Expo to test equipment and for training.

In addition to our foundational events like the Angelina County Fair, Angelina Benefit Rodeo and the Texas State Forest Festival we have positioned ourselves as “headquarters” for youth rodeo in East Texas and Western Louisiana. Youth rodeo, as a category has grown tremendously over the past several years. In fact, we are home to 5 separate youth rodeo organizations. As more parents realize the values of the western lifestyle, livestock stewardship and honest competition, they are entering events and traveling to Lufkin, Texas over 20 times per year with their families.

This is where you come in. The Annual Expo Party is our “call to action” to the community. This event is a fun evening of food, drinks, friends, live music and some lively bidding on great auction items. As our major fundraising event of the year, we absolutely depend on the support you provide to help your Expo meet expenses. Call 936 637 3976 to learn more.

As always,

See you at the Expo!
Burt Hairgrove, Executive Director

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Let Us Make Texas Heritage Come Alive in San Augustine

by Mary Francis Johannessen

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



The place to be June 2-3 weekend will be in downtown San Augustine as we celebrate the 6th annual Heritage Days.

If you love history, cultural diversity, and a need for protecting and remembering our past, this fun event is for you.

Friday evening, the vendors will begin to arrive. Booths will be setup around the downtown historic courthouse with entertainment during the evening. Saturday morning starts early with a Run Wild Main Street Heritage Race/Run/Walk down the groomed trail leaving SantaFe Park. The 2.2 mile cross country course will be directed through the dozens of native and exotic plants. Following the run, downtown will be the place to spend all day. A delicious pancake breakfast will be served early at the Hardware Store and Grill as the opening ceremonies to begin at 10 am. At noon The Texas Business Award will be presented to a local business with more than fifty years in business in San Augustine.

Wandering around the square, listening to stage entertainment, visiting the authors, enjoying the media art exhibit, observing the antique tractors/ car display, touring the 1919 Jail museum, and visiting traditional tradesmen/ artisans demonstrating lost arts will all be a challenge for you and your family to enjoy it. Bring the children for games, face painting, a fun scavenger hunt, and barrel train rides.

Three narrated tour bus trips will take visitors through the historic streets, pointing out historical sites, as well as a short stop at the 1839 Ezekiel Cullen House, home of the San Augustine DRT.

Story telling time will be on the stage as several citizens tell about their San Augustine past family history. End the day by taking a fun hayride out to Mission Dolores Historic Museum for historical exhibitions.

Thanks to the many volunteers and sponsors making this yearly event happen. Main Street Board with their Executive Director Liz Jones and Linda Goller Events Chair, invite you to also become involved with a booth rental space to sell your items/food. Call the Main Street office 936-201-4307 for further information.

Thanks to many volunteers for helping to plan and promote the weekend, Geoffrey Reeder, Brittany Ford, Glenda Harrison, Joe Consford, Mary Johannessen, Stephen Stoneham, Jeff Cox, and the Lisa Crouch and Wade family.

Sponsors very much appreciated are Title Sponsor Shelby Saving Bank plus Badders Law Firm for their sponsorship of the entertainment stage and barrel train rides. The Oglesbee family is also a sponsor for the Heritage Folk Life event. Thanks ever so much to other sponsors as they begin to join with us.

It is definitely time to mark a calendar for June 2-3 weekend in San Augustine — where history happened and tradition is preserved.

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Hello Again from San Augustine County!

Well, it's always pretty in San Augustine this time of year. Everything is blooming beautifully, with spring in full swing. Lots of tourists are coming and going. There is so much history here to see and learn about. San Augustine may be a small town, but it has significant history!

Some places you can visit during the weekdays to learn more about our history are the **1919 Jail Museum**, located on the Historic Downtown Square. We also have **Mission Dolores**, which is an excellent little museum to come and visit and see authentic artifacts and walk along the hiking trail.

There is plenty of shopping also! Some of the unique places to shop are right here in San Augustine! We have the **Texas Star Retail and Boutique**, where you will find everything from clothing, handbags, and Tyler Candle Company products to hunting and fishing licenses. Just around the corner is **Heartstrings**, a lovely little flower shop with apparel and much more. Just down the sidewalk, you will find **Hardware on the Square**, where you can get all your hardware needs plus the best coffee around. One for the books is **San Augustine Drug Co.** They offer boutique clothing, Consuela handbags, and Brümate, to name a few. We can't forget to mention the famous one and only Grapefruit Highball. It's a specialty drink made only there. That's not all! We have **The Holy Ground Boutique** with an array of cute gifts, graphic design t-shirts, cups, and more. One of our newest businesses in town is **Hometown Nutrition**, with loaded teas and lots of supplements and health products.

Don't forget to stop and eat at one of our great restaurants here in town. At **Tasha's Country Kitchen**, you can order from the menu or grab something from the steam table. If you like sweets, soups, and elevated sandwiches, **Sweets & Eats on the Square** is a lovely little sandwich shop with the best sweets around. **The Heart of Texas Grill** offers the best chicken fried steak and fried green tomatoes in the county.

There are so many places to visit you could spend all day here. The next time you are in San Augustine, stop by and see us here at the Chamber of Commerce to say hello to Lea Ann & Jeanne.

For more information about the places we mentioned or our events, please call us at 936-275-3610 or check out our website at sanagustinecochamber.com. Also, you can follow us on Instagram & Facebook.

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Eye

on Books

by
Dickie Dixon



Add these to your reading list

African-American History

"A Biscuit for Your Shoe" by Beatrice Upshaw
Beatrice's book is for sale in the gift shop of the Museum of East Texas (936) 639-4434

American History

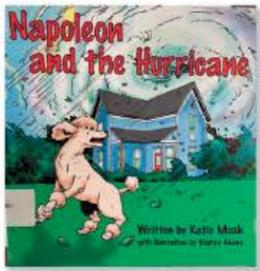
"If You Can Keep It: The Forgotten Promise of American Liberty" by Eric Metaxas

"The American Challenge A New History of the United States Volume II" by Michael Phillips, M. Scott Sosebee, Keith J. Volante

Automobile History

"Convertibles: America's Dazzling Drop-Tops" by the Auto Editors of Consumer Guide

Children's Books



"Napoleon and the Hurricane" by Katie Moak with Illustrations by Stephen Adams (Please see Kissin' Kuzzins in this issue)

"Pauline and the Peacock" by Doris Temple Daniel

Cookbooks

"Best Recipes from the Backs of Boxes, Bottles, Cans and Jars" by Ceil Dyer

English Language

"The Meaning of Everything: The History of the Oxford English Dictionary" by Simon Winchester

Two other titles covering this subject are:

"The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity, and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary" (2005)

"The Surgeon of Crowthorne: A Tale of Murder, Madness, and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary" (Printed in England in 2004)

"The Story of English" Third edition by Robert McCrum, Robert MacNeil, and William Cran

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

Fiction



"Falling Stars" by Julie (Odom) Rogers

Holocaust

"The Destruction of the European Jews" by Raul Hilberg

"Einsatzgruppen Reports: Selections from the Dispatches of the Nazi Death Squads' Campaigns Against the Jews, July, 1941

Medicine

"The Polio Years: Battling a Terrifying Unknown" by Heather Green Wooten

"The Real Anthony Fauci: Bill Gates, Big Pharma, and the Global War on Democracy and Public Health" by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

Native American Studies

"Cane Basket Weavers of the Coushatta Tribe" by Joe David Pool

"Indians of West Central Louisiana" by Joe David Pool

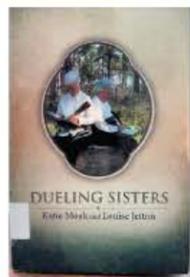
Politics



"Defeating Big Government Socialism Saving America's Future" by Newt Gingrich

"Texit" by Daniel Miller

Texas History



"Dueling Sisters" by Katie Moak and Louise Jetton

"Blood and Courage: The Story of Colonel Moses Fisk Roberts" by Lamar Denby, Jr.

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Nacogdoches County, TX Launches GovOS Property Fraud Alert System

New offering ensures citizens are better protected from property record fraud

The County of Nacogdoches, TX today announced the launch of a new property fraud alert system powered by GovOS, a leading provider of digital transformation solutions for local governments. This system helps safeguard citizens against property record fraud by allowing them to sign up for alerts to be notified anytime a document associated with a property is recorded.

“We have seen TV advertisements warning of property theft and have heard about instances of it in larger counties,” said Sandra “Sandy” Yates, Nacogdoches County Clerk. “Eventually, this could happen in our county, too. I believe this service will be beneficial to property owners by allowing notifications of transactions that may affect their Nacogdoches County property. I hope everyone takes advantage of this offering and signs up for the service.”

Nacogdoches County began working with GovOS in July 2019 to bring public land records online using the company’s secure Cloud Records management system. Now, with GovOS Property Alert, the County Clerk’s Office is taking proactive steps to help safeguard the community against property record fraud.

With GovOS Property Alert, citizens can create profiles to be alerted when a document associated with a specific parcel—such as mortgage, deed, or mortgage satisfaction—is recorded under the parcel ID or property owner’s name. Property owners who register in the system will be automatically notified by email when a document associated with the property is recorded.

There is no cost to citizens to use this service and no limit to the number of alerts a person can create.

The notification email includes the document type, reference number, recording date and time, and a link to the document in question. When a newly recorded document matches a user’s criteria, the system will issue the alert within hours of filing. If a document looks suspicious, citizens can take action by contacting local law enforcement as well as their attorney.

Citizens can sign up for alerts by visiting nacogdoches.tx.publicsearch.us and clicking the Property Alert option at the top of the screen.

For more information about GovOS Property Alert, visit: govos.com/official-public-records

About GovOS

GovOS is the leading digital transformation platform for local governments. Headquartered in Austin, TX, GovOS serves government agencies of all sizes across the United States. Through its secure and integrated suite of cloud-based solutions, governments can automate and streamline operations, provide seamless access to resources and information, and deliver cutting-edge digital services to businesses, residents, and agencies.

For more information, visit GovOS.com

Real Property Fraud Alert Service

Monitoring for Your Peace of Mind

Get notified against potentially fraudulent claims or transactions regarding real property. Receive email alerts any time your personal or entity name is used in a real property filing within the county. This is a free service provided by GovOS and the County Clerk designed with the goal of reducing fraudulently-recorded documents that could affect your property ownership.

Property Fraud?
Real property fraud is where a party fraudulently records documents against your property for financial gain or to take over ownership without your knowledge.

Why should you be concerned?
Real property fraud is a fast-growing crime as damaging as identity theft, with the added risk of losing your property.

How do you protect yourselves?
Nacogdoches County and the County Clerk are introducing GovOS Property Alert – a free real property fraud alert system. After creating an alert record, you will receive email notifications anytime a document is recorded against your property or name.

Sign up today!
nacogdoches.tx.publicsearch.us/property-alert

Sandra “Sandy” Yates
Nacogdoches County Clerk, TX

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Come and Enjoy a Big April at Millard's Crossing

Good Day Readers,

April has been a very busy month at Millard's Crossing. Right out of the shoot, we were making sure we had everything ready for our Annual Easter event. On Palm Sunday, we were watching the excitement of children waiting to hunt over 12,000 eggs, stuffed with candy and goodies galore. Animals to pet, Jeeps to see, music to hear, crafts to do, good food, snow cones to eat, face painting, and let's not forget about the photo with the Bunny. We have had many children and young adults here learning of the pioneer ways, lead by our faithful volunteers and staff. Thank you to the following sponsors for the Easter Event:

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 MedPost Urgent Care
 Nacogdoches Junior Forum
 Walmart

Cane's Chicken
 Harry's Building Supplies
 BP Photography

All the countless volunteer hours put in by NJF and MC volunteers, our guests, staff, and board.

Shout out to the Regents Academy for choosing Millard's Crossing for their BIG SERVE Day, they did an awesome job. Thanks for all the work still being poured into our new addition to open in 2024, the Millard Lee House taking on a new and fresh look, and our garden committee for making our grounds beautiful with new plants and flowers. Wow, what did I tell you, so much going on!

Millard's Crossing is such a beautiful treasure in Nacogdoches, it still amazes me when someone does not know about us. We are truly honored to be blessed with Grants, Sponsors, and individuals who donate to Millard's Crossing. We are a non-profit, it takes a lot of money for the upkeep and the restoration of all the buildings, we are very grateful for any and all who have supported us in any way. Please see the list of the many ways you can help continue to support Millard's Crossing:

Donate money
 Buy a Brick 125.00
 Buy a Bench 200.00 (we had to raise our cost due to price increase)
 Adopt a Building (donate any amount you would like, send letter and let us know what building you would like to see your money go towards and it will be used on that building only)
 Sponsor an event
 Volunteer your time
 Come and visit us
 Rent one of our venues The Barn, Chapel, Reception House, and Parsonage; you can even rent the whole village and host a private event. Call our office at 936-564-6631 and we will work with you.

We will still have Open Mic, aka as Stew, Stroll, Strum, please write it down on your calendars for the THIRD Thursday of the month. All music is welcome, if you sing, play an instrument, or have many voices to your group, please come out and join us for a few hours of music. We do not offer food, not opposed to inviting a food truck, just need enough people to offer it. It will remain a BYOB.

Our Website reconstruction is almost complete, please visit and like us on Facebook and Instagram. Listed below are the new times and DATES for our HALOWEEN and CHRISTMAS Events:

Halloween October 28, 2023, 11am – 7pm.
 Christmas December 9, 2023, 11am – 7pm

Look for more action on our Facebook page, never know what fun might be planned out at Millard's Crossing.

Please stop by and visit the village and tell some stories, we can always find you a cold drink or a cup of coffee.

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

Grace Handler
 Executive Director

Girl Scout Troop 104177 of Lufkin Wins Cookie Contest Beats Out Participants in 26 Southeast Texas Counties

Girl Scouts of San Jacinto applauds Troop 104177 for winning the "Bling Your Booth" contest for Girl Scout Cookie season. With over 60 submissions across 26 Southeast Texas counties, this troop from Lufkin took the top spot for this annual contest as part of the Cookie Program.

The mission of Girl Scouts is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. The annual Cookie Program strives to empower members with real life experiences to support the mission. The main five skills girls learn in the Cookie Program are goal setting, decision making, money management, business ethics, and people skills. The Girl Scout Cookie Program began as a service project in 1917 as a way to preserve fruits in response to food shortages and also help finance troop activities. Although the program has evolved and adapted over time to now include allergy-friendly and inclusive flavors, use of technology and social media, and become a part of American culture, the roots of the program remain the same to have fun, develop valuable life skills, and make the community a better place every step of the way.

"Bling Your Booth" is a challenge extended as part of the Cookie Program to showcase Troop talent, involvement, and how the pillars of the Cookie Program are being exemplified. Troops are required to set a group sales goal, show what the Troop will be using the proceeds earned for, and display the main five skills of the program. After a month long submission period followed by online voting, the winner, Troop 104177 of Lufkin, was announced on Monday, April 17.

By being involved in their community, Troop 104177 have become leaders and their accomplishments reflect citizenship skills that set them apart for their future life goals. "As Girl Scouts, Troop 104177 members exemplify innovation, dedication, and perseverance," says Jennifer La Corte, Troop 104177 troop leader. "They saw a chance to jump into Cookie Season with both feet and the parents, guardians, friends and family of the girls in the Troop took action to help bring their vision to life. I am so proud of all the hard work that the girls put in and incredibly thankful for the support each of the girls receive outside of the Troop to support their Girl Scout journey."

We're Girl Scouts of the USA

We're 2.6 million strong—1.8 million girls and 800,000 adults who believe in the power of every G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)TM to change the world. Our extraordinary journey began more than 100 years ago with the original G.I.R.L., Juliette Gordon "Daisy" Low. On March 12, 1912, in Savannah, Georgia, she organized the very first Girl Scout troop, and every year since, we've honored her vision and legacy, building girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. We're the preeminent leadership development organization for girls. And with programs from coast to coast and across the globe, Girl Scouts offers every girl a chance to practice a lifetime of leadership, adventure, and success. To volunteer, reconnect, donate, or join, visit www.girlscouts.org.

About the Girl Scout Council of San Jacinto

Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council serves 26 counties in south-east Texas, covering 25,060 square miles. Counties include: Angelina, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Hardin, Harris, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, Tyler, Walker, Waller and Wharton. The Girl Scout mission is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. Girl Scouts is open to all girls from kindergarten to high school senior, and girls are welcome to join throughout the year. For more information, visit <https://www.gssjc.org/>, email customerservice@sjgs.org, or call 713-292-0300 or 800-392-4340.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING



May 2023

15th Annual Sale on the Trail
Main Street Nacogdoches
May 5th & 6th

Market on Main
305 E. Main Street
Sat. May 6th 10am-2pm

Stroll & Strum Open Mic
Millard's Crossing
Thur. May 11th: 6-9pm

It's Time to Flamingle
Warthan Dermatology Nacogdoches
Thur. May 11th 4pm

Nacogdoches Cigar Co 2nd Birthday
Nacogdoches Cigar Co.
Fri. May 12th

Nac at Night! Outdoor Movie Experience
D.C. League of Super Pets
CVB Backstage
Sat. May 13th 7:30pm

SandyLand Bluegrass Reunion
771 County Rd 141 Nacogdoches
Sat. May 13th 1pm

Full Moon Concert at the 58 Junction
58 Junction
Sat. May 13th 4:30-9:30pm

Fredonia Rotary Ramble
Pecan Acres Park Nacogdoches
Sat. May 20th 7:45am

The Tour of Home Gardens
Multiple Locations
Sat. May 20th & Sun. May 21st

Nac Snack Friday
Downtown Square
Fri. May 26th 11am-3pm

2nd Annual Veterans Benefit Golf Tournament
Woodland Hills Golf Club
Sat. May 27th

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

Texas National Art Exhibition
The Cole Art Center
Apr 14th - Jun 30th

Nacogdoches County Expo Center
5/6: Red Dirt Mud Run @ 8am-3pm
5/6: Keep Nac Beautiful - Recycling Event 9am
5/18: Fallen Peace Officers Memorial

Lamp Lite Theater
5/4: Ribbon Cutting for MARY, MARY 10am
Performances of MARY, MARY:
May 5th, 6th, 12th & 13th @ 7:30pm
May 7th & 14th @ 2pm

Lumberjack Harley-Davidson
5/6: Free Catfish Fry 12-3pm
5/13: Ladies Brunch Ride 10am
Mom's Day Out 12- 6pm
5/20: Lumberjack H-D's Anniversary Party:
Globe of Death Stunt Team, Live Music, Prizes
5/27: Lumberjack H-D Happy Hour 12- 3pm

Front Porch Distillery
Pickin' on the Porch
LIVE music and Food Trucks every Fri. & Sat.
5/5: Cinco De Mayo Party
Food: 58 Junction (Street Tacos)
5/6: Cheers to 6 Years (Anniversary Celebration)
Old Souls Band/Chambers Smokehouse
5/12: Joe Cuellar/Revolution Road Pizza
5/13: Kelly Amburn Band/Revolution Road Pizza
5/19: Randy C. Moore/Revolution Road Pizza
5/20: The Buds/The Fluffy Dumplin'
5/26: Seth Reid/Reed's Fish & More
5/27: Goat Yoga 12-1p
Jonathan Webster/Dos Amigos Tacos

Naca Valley Vineyard
Pizza on the Pavilion:
Every Thurs. & Fri. 5-9pm & Sat. 12-9pm
Live Music:
5/6: Randy C Moore LIVE @ 5:30pm
5/13: Johnny and Enrique LIVE @ 5:30pm
5/20: Kelsie and Tyler LIVE @ 5:30pm
5/27: Andrew Toole LIVE @ 5:30pm

Fredonia Hotel
5/14: Mothers Day Brunch 11am-2pm
Music on the Patio Line Up:
5/5: Jonathan Webster 6pm-9pm
5/12: Ryan Paul Davis 6pm-9pm
5/19: Sean Christopher 7pm-10pm
5/26: Joshua Mullin 6pm-9pm

Red House Winery
5/4: Pop-Up Party w Susu's Popcorn & 1/2
priced glasses of wine 4-8pm
5/5: Live music with Anna Stockdale 6-8pm
5/19: Live music with Jonathan Webster 7-9pm
5/20: Live music with Enrique Munguia 7-9pm
5/26: Live music with Paula Ariza 7-9pm

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

Fredonia Brewery
Wednesday Game Nights & \$1 off pints,
Trivia Thursdays, Open Sundays 12-5pm
5/5: Cinco De Drinko
5/17: American Craft Beer Week
Music Schedule:
5/5: Steffany Karback
5/6: Gypsy Jamm
5/12: Anthony Bonnette
5/13: Donny Taylor Duo
5/19: Jeff Jurgonski
5/20: Country Willie Edwards
5/26: Enrique Munguia

Planetarium Shows
SFA Planetarium
Every Saturday @ 3:00, 4:30 & 7:00pm

Maklemore's Ale House & Bistro
Trivia Monday's
Wine Down Wednesday's
Pint Night All Day Thursday's & Sunday Nights
5/13: Huffie & the Paintfish
5/18: Open Mic Night Doors Open @6

Cottage Wine Bar
Tuesday Nights: Happy Hour and Prime Rib Night
Wednesday Nights: \$10 Cocktail Happy Hour
Hungry Thursdays: \$25 Ribeyes
Saturday & Sunday: Brunch

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

Banita Creek Hall
Thursdays: Dance Lessons (7-8:30) & Ladies Night
Fridays: Dollar Night

Stone House Kitchen
5/6: Social Saturdays (Open late)
5/13: Stone House Supper Club Dinner

Coming up in June

**6/1 Heritage Festival
Summer Street Fest**

**6/9 Blueberry Bluegrass
Concert in the Park**

**6/10 Texas Blueberry
Festival**

For tickets, information and more go to www.visitnacogdoches.org/events

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