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The Battle of Belleau Wood

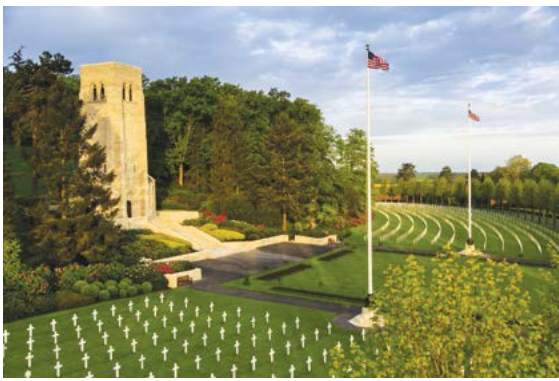
by Scott Sosebee, Contributing Writer

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

This column is a Texas history column, certainly, but it is also an American history one. So, for this entry, especially since as I write this it is Memorial Day and June is also approaching, I will offer a story of one of the most important battles in history that involved Americans, the first sustained action involving U.S. soldiers during World War I.

About fifty miles north-east of Paris is the small village of Belleau. Today it is a peaceful landscape of trees, small hills, and green as far as the eye can see. Visitors to the spot usually come to visit a 42 acre cemetery and memorial that commemorates a time about a hundred years ago when the panorama was not as bucolic. Instead, it was the scene of a great battle, one in which United States Marine Corps and Army soldiers repelled a German force and began the beginning of the end of the World War I. The fighting at the Battle of Belleau Wood was brutal and often at close-quarters, and the cemetery at the spot recognizes the sacrifice of almost 2,000 Americans in their largest engagement of the “Great War.”

The United States had been in the war for more than a year by the spring



Memorial Cemetery at Belleau Wood, France

New Chapter for “The Luckiest Spot in Texas”: Naskila Casino Breaks Ground on Naskila Casino Resort

10-year anniversary ushers in a new era with expanded gaming, a resort casino vision and continued investment in economic and community opportunity

The Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas and Naskila Casino today marked its next phase of growth with the groundbreaking of the future Naskila Casino Resort in Leggett, Texas. The milestone reflects the continued momentum of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas as it celebrates its 10-year anniversary and advances its vision for economic and community investment.

NASKILA CASINO - Page 3



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BELLEAU WOOD

of 1918, but because the nation was ill-prepared for an overseas fight the bulk of U.S. troops did not arrive in France until the late winter/early spring of 1918. American Expeditionary Force commander John J. Pershing had, thus far, refused to allow American troops to become intermingled with French or British regiments, so the lack of numbers meant the U.S. had played only a token part in the war up to that point. However, that was all about to change in May 1918 when U.S. soldiers would experience their first real test in a large-scale pitched battle.

When the United States joined the war in April 1917, German leaders understood that American numbers could tip the balance of the war in the Allies' favor, but fighting in Russia had prevented them from mounting an effective offensive in France. However, when Russia negotiated an end to their participation in March 1918, Germany could then shift more than fifty divisions to the Western Front. The Germans hoped that their planned offensive could knock out the French and British troops before the Americans could be fully mobilized, which would ensure a German victory. They launched two assaults against the Allied troops, and while so far the lines had held, it was a tenuous clasp. Germany was sure a third wave would lead to victory.

The Germans began their third offensive on the Western Front against French troops between Soissons and Reims in late May, and by May 27 they had pushed the French back and reached the north bank of the Marne River at Château-Thierry, only sixty miles from Paris. However, what the Germans had feared then happened: The United States Army 3rd Division advanced to the Marne and stopped the German advance. The Germans thus turned right along the north side of the river towards Vaux and Belleau Wood. The Germans took Château-Thierry and Vaux on June 1, and now turned their attention toward Belleau Wood. If they could take Belleau, they would have punched a hole in the Allied lines and have a real possibility of moving toward Paris.

The United States 2nd Division, which included a brigade of Marines, marched to the front, with the 5th Marine and 23rd regiment serving as reserve troops, all to confront the German assault. The Germans relentlessly advanced toward Belleau, but despite being outnumbered and outgunned Army General James Harbord refused to listen to French advice to retreat, and he ordered the Marine regiments to "hold where you stand." Marine Captain Lloyd W. Williams defiantly answered the French treatises to retreat with the now famous retort: "Retreat? Hell, we just got here!" The Marines did hold, and then after support from the Army arrived the Americans stopped the German offensive.

The Americans halted the German advance, but the battle was not over since the Germans remained in Belleau Wood. Battalions of the 5th and 6th Marines, along with the 23rd Infantry advanced on the Germans on June 6. The Germans had established a defensive position and inflicted terrible casualties on the U.S. troops, but despite the horrible bloodshed, the American troops pushed forward again the next day, and then the day after that. They rested for a day as artillery assaulted the German position, and then they charged the German position once again. The 7th Army Infantry arrived on June 10 to help, but the fighting in Belleau Wood continued for three weeks, often in hand-to-hand combat. The



Artistic depiction of the Battle of Belleau Wood

American troops methodically moved through the German ranks, and finally, on June 26, Marine Major Maurice Shearer sent the following message: "Belleau Wood now U.S. Marine Corps entirely."

The Battle of Belleau Woods astonished the German military commanders. When the U.S. entered the war, the Germans were not concerned. In their eyes, the Americans were too raw and while they could field a large army, the German command did not consider them the equal of experienced British or French troops, much less the hardened German soldiers who had fought almost four years of war. But when the Battle of Belleau Woods was over they had changed their minds. The German officers on the ground in France sent word back to the high command that they had better prepare for the war to end. Their reasoning? If these were the raw American troops, these eighteen, nineteen, twenty-year-old Marines who had given back everything they had been given, then when more experienced and better drilled troops arrived, the German Army would not stand a chance. Yes, the war did not end with the conclusion of the Battle of Belleau Wood, but the end was now in sight.

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Our Pledge . . .

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

NASKILA CASINO

The groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday, June 18, brought together the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Naskila Casino leadership, community members, project partners and distinguished guests to commemorate the start of construction on the future Naskila Casino Resort. The program featured traditional cultural elements, including an opening Flag Song performed by Tribal Singers, a musical prelude and an invocation offered by the Tribal Princess and Jr. Tribal Princess, followed by remarks from Principal Chief Mikko Kanicu Donnise Battise, Tribal Council Vice-Chairwoman Nita Battise, Second Chief Mikko Istimatokla Maanaatiika Herbert Johnson Jr., Tribal Council Chairman Ricky Sylestine, Naskila Casino General Manager, Keith Sherer, and project partners representing Yates Construction, JCJ Architecture and the Owner’s Representative team. Speakers reflected on Naskila Casino’s history, economic and community impact, the project overview and future vision before concluding with a ceremonial turning of the dirt.



A New Destination in the Making: Naskila Casino Resort

The future Naskila Casino Resort will span 95 acres on Alabama-Coushatta Tribal land at 10450 US-59, Livingston, Texas 77351, and will be developed in phases. When completed, the approximately 685,000-square-foot resort casino will feature an expansive gaming floor, a 366-room hotel, entertainment amenities, various dining options, a resort-style pool complex, and event and conference space. Opening in late 2028, guests can look forward to the following exciting amenities in the first phase:

- Approximately 3,400 electronic bingo machines.
- Dedicated non-smoking, smoking, and high-limit VIP casino areas.
- A variety of restaurants, bars, lounges, and food hall concepts.
- Approximately 35,000 square feet of flexible event and conference space, including a grand ballroom that can accommodate 1,000 guests and designed to attract conferences, special events and group gatherings from across the region.

This initial phase represents the first step in bringing the Tribe’s long-term vision to life, establishing the foundation for a premier destination experience while creating economic opportunities for the community. As development progresses, additional phases and amenities will be announced, allowing the casino resort to evolve in response to guest demand and future growth opportunities.

“Today marks an important milestone in Naskila’s journey and the future of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe,” said Keith Sherer, General Manager, Naskila Casino. “What began as a vision has grown into a significant economic driver for East Texas, and this next phase allows us to build on that momentum. Naskila Casino Resort will create new opportunities, attract visitors from across the region and deliver lasting benefits for the Tribe, our employees, and surrounding communities for generations to come.

Built by Industry Leaders

The Alabama-Coushatta Tribe and Naskila Casino have assembled an experienced team of nationally recognized industry leaders to bring the vision for Naskila Casino Resort to life. Leading the project’s design is JCJ Architecture, an award-winning firm with decades of experience creating some of the most successful gaming, hospitality and entertainment destinations in North America. JCJ has partnered with Tribal Nations across the country and has designed landmark properties that seamlessly blend guest experience, operational excellence and community values.

Construction of the resort will be led by Yates Construction, one of the nation’s premier builders and a company consistently recognized among the top commercial construction firms in the United States. With more than six decades of experience delivering large scale hospitality, entertainment and commercial projects, Yates brings the expertise, resources and proven track record necessary to execute a project of this scale.

Together, JCJ Architecture and Yates Construction represent a powerful partnership that will help ensure Naskila Casino Resort is built to the highest standards while positioning the destination as a premier entertainment and hospitality venue for the region.

A Decade of Growth and Impact

The Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas opened Naskila Casino in Livingston, Texas, in 2016. Over the past decade, Naskila has grown into a recognized regional destination known for its gaming excitement, hospitality and guest-centered entertainment experience. Naskila Casino also operates Ischoopa Travel Center, offering guests convenient access to fuel, travel essentials and an additional gaming experience. Together, Naskila Casino and Ischoopa Travel Center support the Tribe’s long-term economic development and contribute to the broader Deep East Texas community.

According to a recent study commissioned by the Texas Forest Country Part-

Continued on page 4

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Continued from page 3

nership, Naskila Casino generates an annual economic impact of \$251.7 million, reinforcing its role as a major economic driver in East Texas. The casino has created more than 1,000 permanent local jobs and continues to support businesses throughout the region through its purchasing power. Each year, Naskila Casino procures tens of millions of dollars in goods and services to support its operations, including more than \$8 million from vendors in Polk County alone. The future Naskila Casino Resort is expected to build on that momentum, creating additional jobs, attracting new visitors and generating new economic opportunities for the Tribe and surrounding communities.

More Ways to Play: Introducing Naskila Casino Leggett

As part of this next phase, Naskila Casino will expand and open Naskila Casino Leggett, a new temporary gaming experience located on the future site of the planned development. Set to open later this summer, this new 24-hour gaming facility will feature 300 electronic bingo machines, dedicated smoking and non-smoking areas, a 24-hour dining venue offering quick and convenient bites, the Seven Feathers Players Club, and more, bringing guests even more entertainment options to enjoy while expanding access to the gaming experience currently enjoyed in Livingston.

Looking Ahead: The Luck Continues

As the Tribe celebrates 10 years of Naskila Casino, a series of events, promotions and community-focused initiatives will take place throughout the year, inviting visitors to experience even more of what has made Naskila known as “The Luckiest Spot in Texas.” Visitors can visit www.naskila.com and join the mailing list for exclusive offers, the latest news and developments, and more.

About Naskila Casino

Naskila Casino is owned by the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas and is located on the Tribe’s reservation near Livingston in East Texas. Since opening in 2016, Naskila has grown into a premier regional gaming and entertainment destination, welcoming guests from across Texas to a dynamic experience featuring electronic gaming, dining options, promotions, and hospitality offerings. Collectively across multiple gaming locations, there are more than 1,000 electronic bingo machines. Together, Naskila Casino and the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas support more than 1,000 local jobs while contributing to economic activity throughout East Texas. Known as “The Luckiest Spot in Texas,” Naskila continues to attract visitors from across the state.

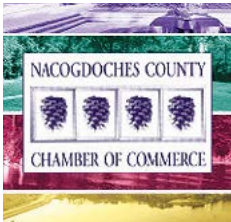
About Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas

The Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas is a federally recognized sovereign Tribal government located on the oldest reservation in Texas, encompassing approximately 11,036 acres near Livingston. With more than 1,400 Tribal citizens, the Tribe provides a full range of governmental, health, public safety, and community services while preserving its rich cultural heritage. Through strategic investments in gaming, hospitality, tourism, and community development, including Naskila Casino, the Tribe advances economic self-sufficiency, creates jobs, and supports opportunities for future generations across East Texas.

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Chamber Connection
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Business Built America — A 250-Year Legacy of Innovation and Opportunity

As our nation celebrates its 250th anniversary, it is fitting to reflect on one of the greatest forces behind America’s success: business.

From the earliest days of our country’s founding, entrepreneurs, farmers, merchants, manufacturers and innovators have helped shape the American story. While our history is often told through the lens of presidents, the wars and the politics, the growth of the United States has also been driven by individuals willing to take risks, create jobs and invest in their communities.

Today, business remains at the heart of the American dream. More than 33 million small businesses operate across the United States, employing nearly half of the private workforce. These businesses are more than economic engines. They are community builders. They support local charities, sponsor youth sports teams, create gathering places, and provide opportunities for future generations.

Here in Nacogdoches County, we see this legacy every day. Family-owned businesses passed down through generations stand alongside new startups bringing fresh ideas and energy to our area. Together, they create jobs, strengthen our tax base, support local events and contribute to the quality of life that makes our community special.

As we commemorate 250 years of American independence, we should also celebrate the business leaders and workers who have helped make this nation strong. Their vision, and willingness to invest in their communities have fueled progress that we all enjoy.

The story of America is the story of opportunity. And business has always been one of the most powerful ways that opportunity becomes reality.

As we look toward the next 250 years, the future will once again be shaped by those who are willing to innovate, create and serve. The spirit that built America continues to thrive in businesses large and small, proving that economic freedom accompanied by hard work and community investment remain cornerstones of our nation’s success.

The Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce is proud to support the businesses that carry this legacy forward and will co-author the next chapters of the American story.



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Region 5

Honoring Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

Summer in East Texas means cookouts, fireworks, kids out of school, and full calendars. For many people, it also means carrying something intangible that doesn't quite shut down when the music starts. It's a worry, or a habit that's getting harder to manage. Perhaps it's even a family member they no longer quite know how to reach.

July is nationally recognized as Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, a time set aside to acknowledge that certain communities face added barriers when it comes to getting help with mental health and substance use. In rural East Texas, those barriers have names we recognize: pride, privacy, the belief that what happens at home stays at home, or the fear of running into someone you know at the door of a place "like that."

The observance has a story behind it. Bebe Moore Campbell was an author and advocate who spent years trying to find mental health resources for her daughter in a primarily Black and Brown neighborhood. What started as a mother's search for help grew into something much larger. After her passing, friends and fellow advocates carried on her work, and in 2008, Congress made it official, designating July in her honor. Campbell said it herself: it's not shameful to need help. Getting treatment is the courageous choice.

For many minority communities, there's a long history of handling things internally, of being strong, of not airing private matters. In a small town, where everyone knows everyone else, that instinct to keep private can run even deeper.

Substance use and mental health struggles reach every neighborhood, every income level, and every family. Most people never saw it coming, and most families never thought it would affect theirs.

What we want people to hear this July is simple. Help is meant for everyone who wants it. There's no threshold to meet, no circumstance too complicated, and no family too far gone to find their way back. The door isn't reserved for a certain kind of person or problem.

Cost and coverage shouldn't stand between someone and the help they need. ADAC's Outreach, Screening, Assessment, and Referral (OSAR) program is free and exists for people who need a place to start.

If you or someone you know is struggling with alcohol or substance misuse, help is available. Reach out to the Alcohol and Drug Awareness Council of Deep East Texas at adacdet.org or call 936-634-0210. You don't need to have it figured out to begin; you have to be willing to reach.

Paige Bentley, Public Relations Coordinator
Region 5 Prevention Resource Center
Alcohol & Drug Awareness Council

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In 2025, Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) saw a need in the community after free services in Nacogdoches ended. CWJC invested in the GED program and began offering it to women in the program. We initially purchased ten seats and they were soon filled with current and former CWJC students. This summer, we piloted a full GED program and it has been incredibly successful so far- so successful that we had to purchase twice the number of seats. The GED is designed to fill in the gaps of students who did not finish a high school diploma. Recently, due to pressures in our economy, businesses are having to make cuts to staff who do not have a GED or High School Diploma. Many students we have seen have lost their jobs and are coming to us. Additionally, they have to have a GED in order to achieve a promotion.

We now have several students who are beginning to take and pass the tests needed to earn a GED. Therefore, CWJC will continue purchasing more seats for people in need of a high school equivalency degree. Our students come from a variety of backgrounds. For younger clients, the challenge can be overcoming an insufficient homeschool background. For our clients who are mothers, it can be difficult for moms with younger children to find the time to work on their GED because they need someone to watch the children. Another obstacle is test anxiety. We have retired certified teachers who volunteer their time to help students understand concepts and problems. Most obstacles can be overcome by keeping your eyes on the goal. CWJC does what it can to minimize student issues by providing laptops for students who need them and help with transportation.

If you are willing to make the commitment, work hard, study, and update your skills, you will be successful. We have several students who are passing tests on the way to their GED. Currently, CWJC covers the expenses for the GED program. If you are interested in supporting a student, sponsorships and donations are welcome.

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Lessons Learned and Not Forgotten

by Robert McCandless

I was 9 when I overheard my mom’s conversation with her sister. My dad had three years to live. His profession as a painter/wallpaperer in the 40s and 50s, using lead based paint, had left him with cancer in every organ of his body. Not being able to work, left us financially dependent on the 4 rooms we rented on the second floor of the old 1920s wooden structure he had purchased at the height of his earning career.

It was one of those weekdays in summer when everyone was at work, leaving just my dad and I sitting together trying to catch a breeze. He sat with a flyswatter and a glass of sweet tea staring, it seemed to me, at nothingness as my obsession with making things with my hands had me weaving potholders from nylon/poly-ester loops on a little rack that had become popular in the 50s.

“I got an idea,” he said. So much for my theory of his staring. He was planning.

“Why don’t you make a bunch of different colors and designs in pairs and go around the neighborhood seeing if anyone wants to buy them?”

I knew most of the neighbors on our block but to venture even a block over was a little intimidating. It went well but it seemed after each sale, I lost a customer due to a household’s lack of need for many potholders.

A few days passed and I was called to the porch again where he showed me one of his wallpaper sample books, oddly enough with all the samples removed. “Come on, get in the car. I have an idea.”

A few blocks away on a busy boulevard sat a wholesale greeting card company where we stood at a counter and selected samples of the cards we thought would sell well. With several birthday, Christmas, sympathy and wedding cards, we returned to the house where dad carefully glued them into his old sample book and wrote the prices in his best longhand.

With detailed instruction he showed me how to take orders for cards I did not have on hand, in order to reduce inventory costs. Off I went with a fresh haircut and clean clothes knocking on doors up and down the streets of my neighborhood fanning through the pages of cards for potential customers. The Christmas season was a windfall but cards for other events slowed just as the potholders did when my clients had met their need.

Dad died shortly afterward and I gave up the sales. During this time of confusion and with the passage of time, I wandered through life not thinking much of these events. Somewhere along the way it occurred to me that I have never had a job or was required to do a task that didn’t pay off in some way later in life, many of which served only to convince me I never wanted to do it again. Among the events, I was reminded that learning to sell, was one of the most important.

My dad’s efforts became valuable later in life when my desire to succeed took me on working vacations as I would comb cities of San Francisco, Miami, New York and Dallas for fine craft galleries to sell my work, while my wife, Gail, saw the tourist sites. The skills my dad urged me to perform in the neighborhood were being awakened again as my “neighborhood” began to expand.

I have for a long time credited my mom for the desire to build things. As a way to keep me at home in a tough neighborhood, she purchased model cars for me to assemble. It was on the living room floor that I would develop the skills used in my profession. That along with my dad’s course in sales made it easier for me to get through life as I discovered ways to get buyers to come to me rather than having to beat the streets.

And the “nothingness” he seemed to stare into held a world of creative ideas that would serve to make my life work a pleasure.

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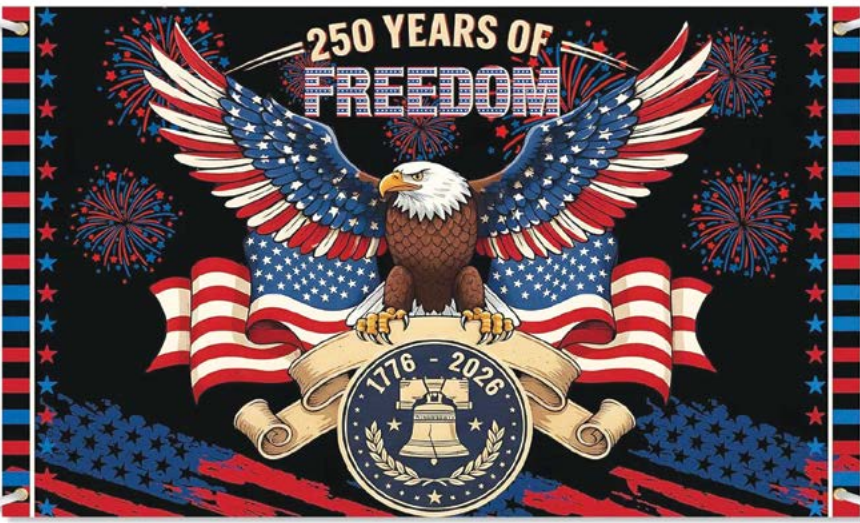
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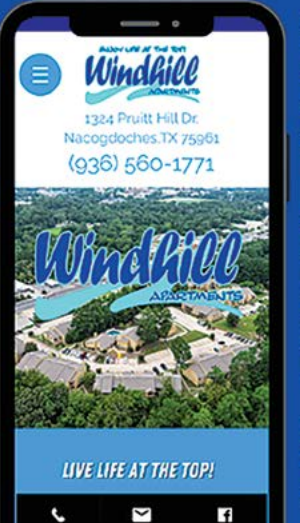
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Miranda Hoffman
Manager

Upcoming Events at the Nacogdoches County Expo – July 2026

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The all wooden little red caboose that calls Millard's Crossing Historic Village its home was donated by the Woodward-McKinney-Bussa family — and it has quite a story.

Nacogdoches was a sleepy little town in 1880, but Paul Bremond changed that. Known as the Father of Texas Railroads, Bremond laid tracks from Houston through Livingston and Lufkin, finally reaching Nacogdoches by May 1883. The arrival of the Houston East & West Texas (HE&WT) brought great celebration with barbecues, bands, banquets, and speeches! Since the HE&WT's first train rolled into town, railroads have been a vital part of Nacogdoches. We owe a great deal to the railroad that got here first!

Next to occupy Nacogdoches rails was the Nacogdoches & Southeastern Railroad (N&SE). Created by the Hayward Lumber Company of Davenport, Iowa in 1905, it hauled cut lumber from East Texas forests to the Hayward Mill, located roughly between Pilgrim's Pride and Longview Asphalt. When the Hayward Mill burned in 1909, it was immediately rebuilt — but financial troubles followed, and in 1910 the mill and railroad became property of the Frost-Johnson Lumber Company, who commissioned this caboose the following month.

A caboose was home base for the crew: a stove for cooking, a bed for sleeping, and lanterns to signal the engine if there was trouble at the rear. Crew members took turns eating, sleeping, and keeping watch while monitoring for overheated wheels and equipment problems. Caboosees were eventually eliminated from American railroads in the 1980s when technology replaced manpower. This little red caboose actually rode the rails that still cross Millard's Crossing today.

Frost-Johnson expanded their operation, providing freight and passenger services between Nacogdoches and San Augustine into the 1950s. The fare was 25¢. The N&SE was eventually absorbed into the Southern Pacific system, which later merged with Union Pacific in 1996 to form the modern railroad that continues to operate on the tracks bordering Millard's Crossing. When the passenger line was abandoned in 1954, this caboose was given to Clyde Joseph Woodward, Sr. (1888 - 1966), superintendent at the mill. He moved it to his farm on Upper Melrose Road, where it served as a playhouse for generations of children.

Clyde, Sr.'s daughter was Claudine, who married Jack Raines McKinney. They had a daughter, Mary Ann, who married Fred Bussa. The Bussa family graciously donated this little red caboose to Millard's Crossing, and we cannot be more thankful for their generosity. This rare survivor of the N&SE railroad is truly a blessing for our Village. If you listen, you may even hear the sound of the Union Pacific passing when you visit us at Millard's Crossing Historic Village.



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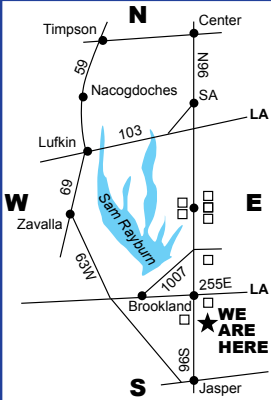
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Perspective

by Taylor Millard

On May 27, 1997, an F-5 tornado hit the small town of Jarrell, Texas forty miles north of Austin. As some of you know, I have spent my career as a property adjuster, and I was sent there and arrived two days after the tragedy. I pulled into the Double Creek Estates neighborhood on the west side of I-35 northwest of the small town of Jarrell to see something I will never forget. It was a level of destruction I had only seen in photos or videos; this hit me hard.

There was a sacred feeling as I stood where 27 people lost their lives in a sudden wave of violence they could not survive. The tornado struck them at 3:40 PM. Children were home from school but most of their parents were at work. Three entire families were killed. All lost, Mom and Dad and children.

I remember pulling into the rural neighborhood and passing a mobile home with no damage, the irony, but then the path of horror became clear. The first home I came past the mobile home looked normal from the front. It was a Hill Country style home with a porch across the entire front with an intact metal roof. A hummingbird feeder hung on the porch remained tied with a plastic string. I respectfully walked to the front and opened the door. As the light poured in from the other side, I saw the entire back half of the home ripped away.

It made no sense to me. How did this happen? The answer is 260 miles per hour winds swirling like a saw blade into whatever it touched. Beyond this only standing home, I could see the whole neighborhood. A few tree stumps stood with all the limbs plucked away. The asphalt road was torn as if a mile wide bulldozer pushed through the area.

One of the residents had a business selling reconditioned original parts for 1955 to 1957 Chevrolets. He owned over fifty of the cars he used in his business. His home, shop and every single car were gone. Lifted and tossed across miles of debris in smaller twisted pieces.

I saw the remains of home slabs with only concrete and plumbing lines sticking up as the only remnant of where a family once lived. The ground was strewn with small bits of debris as if everything was put through a grinder. I looked along the ground and saw a torn photograph. I picked it up and saw a wallet size family portrait. It was tattered but still whole. Mom, Dad, a daughter and son. All smiling for their Olan Mills portrait. Dad had a serious expression, Mom was pleasant and the kids, maybe 10 to twelve, were smiling in the way we teach our children to pose for pictures.

I do not know their names, but they represented a change in my life. On that day, for me, life became more precious. I put that tattered memory in my wallet. I needed it with me as a reminder that none of us are promised another day. That our world can change in an instant so be grateful for every second we are given.

Later that year I saw an old friend that was in a dark place. I handed them that photo for them to understand that their problem would get better, but for this family, this life was over. It is all about perspective I told my friend. I think about Jarrell, Texas when the news reports tornados which leads to that photo which takes me to perspective and the lesson that has stayed with me for 31 years.



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

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July/August 2026 Schedule

July			
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Tue 7th	Guacamoles	Nacogdoches	6:00 pm
Wed 15th	Tia Juanitas	Lufkin	5:30 pm
Thu 16th	Ralph & Kacoos	Lufkin	5:00 pm
Fri 17th	Dance Club	Nac VFW	7:00 pm
Tue 21st	Guacamoles	Nacogdoches	6:00 pm
Tue 28th	Guacamoles	Jacksonville	6:00 pm
August			
Tue 4th	Gucamoles	Nacogdoches	6:00 pm
Thu 6th	Tia Juanitas	Lufkin	5:30 pm
Tue 18th	Guacamoles	Nacogdoches	6:00 pm
Wed 19th	Tia Juanitas	Lufkin	5:30 pm
Thu 20th	Ralph & Kacoos	Lufkin	5:00 pm
Tue 25th	Guacamoles	Jacksonville	6:00 pm

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Summer Library Programs for Adults

The Nacogdoches Public Library is joining other libraries across the country in celebrating reading with the universal theme of *Unearth a Story*. Kids are not the only ones who can join in on the fun and win prizes. Some of the adult programs include Fiber Arts Club on the first Monday of each month, Books & Banter on the second Thursday of each month, two America 250-themed Paint Parties in June, weekly citizenship classes, and Bad Art Night in July. Adults can earn prizes at the end of the summer by attending library programs and tracking their reading using the ReadSquared app. For more information on specific program times and how to track your program attendance and reading, please visit nactx.us/library or visit the library. All library programs are free, but some may require registration.

City Of Nacogdoches Main Street Program Receives Designation as a 2026 Main Street America Accredited Program

This highest national designation recognizes Nacogdoches Main Street's exceptional commitment to community-based revitalization and positive local impact

Nacogdoches Main Street has been designated as a 2026 Accredited Main Street America program for meeting rigorous performance standards. Each year, Main Street America and its partners announce the roster of designated programs in recognition of their commitment to creating meaningful improvements in their downtowns through preservation-based economic development and community revitalization using the Main Street Approach™.

"We are proud to recognize Nacogdoches Main Street as a 2026 Accredited Main Street America program for your unwavering commitment to grassroots transformation and the extraordinary abilities of your staff, board of directors, and volunteers to respond to the needs of their community," said Erin Barnes, President and CEO at Main Street America. "Your Main Street demonstrates a dedication to investing in the people and places that make your downtown district special and contribute to the collective power of the Main Street movement to build vibrant spaces and durable economies."

Nacogdoches Main Street is one of only 838 nationally recognized Accredited Main Street America organizations and is a part of a network of over 1,600 communities leading positive commercial district transformation efforts throughout the United States.

Main Street America recognizes two tiers of national designation — Accredited and Affiliate. These designations are a badge of excellence and a powerful tool, signaling to community members, civic leaders, decision makers, funders, and others that the Main Street program holds an established position within a nationwide movement with a 45-year proven track record of generating transformative economic returns, fostering welcoming and inviting communities, and creating lasting positive impact.

Nacogdoches Main Street's performance was evaluated through assessments conducted by the organization's personnel and board of directors, and the Texas Main Street Program, which works in partnership with Main Street America to

identify local programs that meet rigorous national community evaluation standards.

These standards provide the Main Street America network with a strong framework for reviewing progress, recognizing strengths, understanding trends, and identifying strategies to move Main Street programs forward.

To qualify for Accredited status—Main Street America's top designation tier—communities must demonstrate a proven track record of achieving outcomes in alignment with the Main Street Approach and exceptional performance in six areas: broad-based community commitment to revitalization; inclusive leadership and organizational capacity; diversified funding and sustainable program operations; strategy-driven programming; preservation-based economic development; and demonstrated impact and results.

In 2025, Main Street America programs generated \$9.4 billion in local reinvestment, welcomed 6,936 net new businesses, facilitated the creation of 36,549 net new jobs, rehabilitated 10,623 historic buildings, and leveraged 1.8 million volunteer hours. On average, for every dollar a Main Street program spent on operations, \$23.13 was reinvested in its downtown district.

In 2025, Nacogdoches Main Street continued to build on downtown's momentum through business growth, reinvestment, and community partnerships. The district welcomed six new businesses, bringing the total number of downtown businesses to more than 100. Main Street awarded \$4,500 in Beautification Grants to support façade improvements and leveraged over \$514,000 in estimated public and private reinvestment throughout the district. Downtown also welcomed approximately 246,000 visitors in 2025, demonstrating the district's continued role as a major destination for residents and visitors alike. In addition, Main Street partnered with the City's Downtown Technical Advisory Committee to help guide future planning and investment priorities for downtown Nacogdoches.

"Maintaining Main Street America Accreditation reflects the continued commitment our community has made to investing in downtown Nacogdoches," said Mayor Randy Johnson. "Downtown remains the heart of our community, and the successes we saw in 2025—from new business growth and building improvements to state-level recognition for local businesses—demonstrate the positive momentum taking place. This achievement recognizes the hard work of our business and property owners, volunteers, community partners, and City staff who continue to make downtown a place where people want to invest, visit, and gather. With several exciting projects and opportunities on the horizon, this accreditation serves as a reminder that we are building on a strong foundation and moving downtown Nacogdoches in the right direction."

ABOUT Nacogdoches Main Street

Nacogdoches Main Street's mission is to preserve and promote historic downtown Nacogdoches through economic, historic and cultural revitalization. We envision a year round destination where visitors and locals experience the heart of our community rich with history, commerce, entertainment, cultural, and educational opportunities. Downtown Nacogdoches is managed by the Nacogdoches Main Street Advisory Board. For more information, visit <https://www.nactx.us/729/Main-Street>

ABOUT MAIN STREET AMERICA

Main Street America leads a movement committed to strengthening communities through preservation-based economic development in older and historic downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts. For more than 40 years, Main Street America has provided a practical, adaptable, and impactful framework for community-driven, comprehensive revitalization through the Main Street Approach™. Today, the network includes more than 1,600 communities across the country working to build stronger places through preservation-based economic development. Since 1980, the Main Street movement has resulted in \$124.67 billion reinvested locally, 188,583 net new businesses, 852,443 net gain in jobs, 356,424 buildings rehabbed, and 41 million volunteer hours. Main Street America is a nonprofit subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. For more information, visit mainstreet.org.

**Good News *Only* Featured
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Nacogdoches

MAIN STREET

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

REINVESTMENT NUMBERS

\$514,154 (Estimated)

Private Investments: \$470,274.35

Public Investments: \$43,879.86

MAIN STREET BEAUTIFICATION GRANTS AWARDED

2025

4 - \$4,500

Since 2023

17 - \$16,680

FUNDS RAISED FROM WINE SWIRL

2025 - \$21,281.74

The Nacogdoches Wine Swirl is the Main Street Program's premier fundraiser. Funds raised go toward downtown revitalization including, beautification grants, holiday decorations and other Main Street events.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Board Volunteer Hours

95

Community Volunteer Hours

257

Total Hours for 2025

352

DOWNTOWN VISITORS

246,000 (Estimated)

Includes day to day shoppers and event attendance including Old Town Rig Down, The Texas Blueberry Festival, Wine Swirl and Wassail Fest.

Battle of Nacogdoches Celebration

The Adolphus Sterne Chapter of the Sons of the Republic of Texas and the Stone Fort Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, in partnership with the City of Nacogdoches Historic Sites Division, invite the community to attend the 194th Anniversary Battle of Nacogdoches Celebration on Sunday, August 2, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at the Sterne-Hoya House Museum & Library, located at 211 S. Lanana St. in downtown Nacogdoches.

On August 2, 1832, settlers in the Department of Nacogdoches resisted an order from Mexican commander Col. José de las Piedras to surrender their arms. The confrontation that followed drove the Mexican garrison from the town and marked one of the earliest armed conflicts leading to the Texas Revolution.

The community program will feature a first-person interpretation by actor Brad Maule portraying Adolphus Sterne. Adolphus Sterne was an influential Nacogdoches merchant and community leader whose home served as an important gathering place during the conflict and whose support helped organize resistance efforts during the Battle of Nacogdoches.

Along with recognizing those who fought in the Battle of Nacogdoches, the event will serve as a time of remembrance, reflection, and celebration of the community's role in Texas history. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, visit Nacogdoches Historic Sites or email: historicsites@nactx.us.

191th Anniversary

BATTLE OF NACOGDOCHES CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2026 at 2:00 PM
Sterne-Hoya House 211 S. Lanana St. Nacogdoches, TX 75961

On August 2, 1832, settlers in the Department of Nacogdoches resisted an order from Mexican commander Col. José de las Piedras to surrender their arms. The confrontation that followed drove the Mexican garrison from the town and marked one of the earliest armed conflicts leading to the Texas Revolution.

The Sons and Daughters of the Republic of Texas invite the community to gather in remembrance of this important moment in Texas history.

The program will take place near the home of Adolphus Sterne and will feature a first-person interpretation. Along with recognizing those who fought in the Battle of Nacogdoches, the event will be a time of remembrance, reflection, and celebration of the community's role in Texas history. This event is free and open to the public.

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S O S

SERVING OUR SAVIOR

by Patti Goodrum

Executive Director, Love in the Name of Christ Nacogdoches

When Helping Hurts: Understanding Toxic Charity and Why the Love INC Model Brings Real Change

In every community, there are people who want to help and people who genuinely need help. The desire to give is good and God-honoring, but not all giving produces the fruit we intend. Sometimes, unintentionally, our efforts can create dependency and diminish dignity. This is what many call toxic charity.

Why the Love INC Model Is Different: Love In the Name of Christ was created to offer a healthier, more biblical way to help. Our model is grounded in the belief that every person is created with God-given worth, abilities, and purpose, and that the Church's role is not only to meet needs but also to walk alongside people toward wholeness.

Here's what makes the Love INC approach healthy and transformative:

- 1. We Validate Needs to Ensure Help Is Truly Needed:** Validation isn't about suspicion; it is about stewardship. By verifying needs, we ensure that resources are directed to families who genuinely need support.
- 2. We Build Relationships, Not Transactions:** Toxic charity is transactional: "You have a need; I have a resource." Love INC is relational: "Let's walk together toward stability."
- 3. We Empower People to Participate in Their Own Growth:** Healthy help invites people to take steps forward. Love INC encourages neighbors to: Set goals, learn new skills, make decisions, take responsibility and best of all, celebrate progress.
- 4. We Mobilize the Church to Serve in Ways That Transform Lives:** Love INC exists so the Body of Christ can serve together. When churches unite around a shared model of healthy helping, the community experiences consistent, dignifying, Christ-centered care.

What Is Toxic Charity? It is not toxic because the giver has bad motives. It is toxic because the method of giving stops short of real change. When help is offered without relationship, without accountability, and without a plan for growth, it can trap people in cycles of need. We have seen many givers focus on how the act of giving makes them feel, without fully considering the emotions and dignity of the person receiving the help. Urban activist Robert D. Lupton in his book, *Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help* studied and researched this concept for over 40 years. The term Toxic Charity was coined by him.

Why Teaching People to Help Themselves Is Healthy: Empowerment is not harsh. It is deeply compassionate. When we help people discover their strengths, take ownership of their lives, and move toward stability, we honor their dignity and God's design for them. Healthy helping builds confidence, restores hope, strengthens families, breaks cycles of crisis, creates long-term stability, and invites people into community and discipleship. Paul writes in 2 Thessalonians 3:10, "If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat," emphasizing personal responsibility and the importance of not placing an unnecessary burden on others. In Ephesians 4:28, he shows the positive side of that same principle where believers work hard "so that [they] may have something to share with anyone in need." Work is meant to free us to give. Work becomes both stewardship and generosity.

A Better Way Forward: Toxic charity gives things; Love INC gives opportunity. Toxic charity meets today's needs; Love INC strengthens tomorrow's foundation. Toxic charity rescues; Love INC walks with people toward restoration. When God's people demonstrate His love to those who need Him most, He is glorified.

Jesus is the goal.



Patti Goodrum, Executive Director Love INC Nacogdoches

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The Texas State Forest Festival: Where East Texas Comes Together

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

There are few things that capture the spirit of East Texas quite like the Texas State Forest Festival.

For 42 years, this beloved tradition has brought our community together to celebrate the people, industries, and traditions that make our region special. Hosted and produced by the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce and presented by Brookshire Brothers, the Texas State Forest Festival has grown into one of the premier annual events in Deep East Texas, welcoming more than 13,000 visitors each year.

This year's festival returns to the George H. Henderson, Jr. Exposition Center September 17-20, promising four days filled with excitement, entertainment, and unforgettable memories for all ages.

The beauty of the Texas State Forest Festival is that there truly is something for everyone.

Families can enjoy the excitement of the carnival, featuring classic rides, games, and attractions that create memories year after year. Animal lovers can experience the awe-inspiring Bengal Tiger Encounter and enjoy the colorful, high-energy performances of Wildlife Wendy's exotic birds. Children can spend hours exploring the free, hands-on activities at the Children's Festival, while shoppers can browse unique treasures and support small businesses during Market Days.

Festivalgoers can also enjoy live music each evening on the Swingin' Axe Stage, presented by Visit Lufkin, which showcases talented performers and celebrates Lufkin's designation as a Texas Music Friendly Community.

Of course, no festival would be complete without a little friendly competition. The Big Axe BBQ Competition will once again bring together talented pitmasters from across the region, while the seventh annual Lumber-JACKED 5K & Fun Run invites runners and walkers of all ages to kick off festival weekend around beautiful Ellen Trout Memorial Lake. The Pineywoods Car Show and East Texas Cheerleading & Pom/Dance Championships return on Sunday, highlighting the incredible talent and passion found throughout our communities.

And back by popular demand are many festival favorites, including the Bear Hollow Wood Carvers, the Exotic Petting Zoo, axe throwing, and the always-entertaining Mascot Dance-Off.

What many people may not realize is that behind every ride, attraction, and event is an incredible team of volunteers. More than 200 volunteers contribute approximately 2,500 hours each year to make the Texas State Forest Festival possible. Their dedication, along with the support of our sponsors, community partners, and attendees, transforms this festival from an event into a true community celebration.

The festival also serves an important purpose beyond entertainment. It brings visitors to our area, supports local businesses, showcases our community to guests from across the region, and creates opportunities for people to connect with one another. It is a reminder of what makes Lufkin and Angelina County such a special place to call home.

As we prepare for another incredible year, we invite everyone to mark their calendars for September 17-20 and join us at the George H. Henderson, Jr. Exposition Center. Whether you're attending for the first time or continuing a family tradition that spans generations, we can't wait to welcome you.

After all, the Texas State Forest Festival isn't just an event. It's where East Texas comes together.

For more information, visit TexasStateForestFestival.com.



Amanda Crocker

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The Refuge

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

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



When All is Said and Done

Jesus said to [Martha], “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”
John 11:25, 26

The day is coming when the things of this present life will be no more. The day we open our eyes for the final time to see the beauty of God’s creation; hear the birds singing and the laughter of family and friends. The day is coming when we will eat our final meal; shed our final tears of joy and sorrow; say our final hello and goodbye; sing our final song; perform the final good work prepared for us by God; speak our final words of truth; gather for the final time in the house of worship with the people of God; pray our final prayer and say our final amen. The day is coming

when we will take our final steps upon this earth and breathe our final breath in these little dirt bodies (Gen 3:19).

None of us know the day or the hour when we will have no more opportunities to say all we could have and should have said and do all we could have and should have done. According to WorldStats Pro, 6,500 deaths occur every hour. Death is a reality for everyone. Perhaps you have heard the saying, “We’re going to die just as sure as we’re born.” Death is no respecter of people. Death takes the rich man as well as the poor man. It takes away the wise as well as the fool. We don’t like to talk about death or plan for it. Yet everyone has an appointed time to die. The Bible says, “It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment” (Heb. 9:27). It is an appointment for which we will not be early or late. That appointment is on God’s calendar according to His timing (Ecc. 3:2).

Jesus talked about His own death and resurrection on several occasions (Matt. 16:21; Mark 8:31; Luke 9:22; Jn. 12:32-33). Mary anointed His feet with fragrant oil (John 12:3) that she kept “for the day of [Jesus] burial” (12:7). Death is not the end and there is hope beyond the grave. This hope is found only in Christ. It is found through faith in His name. His resurrection shows us there will be life after death. His resurrection is the hope and assurance of our resurrection (1 Cor. 15:12-19). Christians believe Jesus was raised from the dead because He lives in us and the Bible tells of a day that is coming when Jesus will judge the living and the dead. He has to be alive in order to judge.

It is in this life that we prepare for the next. How we prepare for death in this life is determined by what we believe about Jesus and about ourselves. Jesus Christ is the Son of God who came to save sinners. We all need a Savior for we all have sinned. The only escape from death caused by sin and hell’s fire is Jesus. The only escape from eternal separation from God is Jesus (Jn. 14:6). Jesus is the escape hatch through which sinners who are born-again as children of God are transferred from death to life, brought out of darkness into the light of salvation. Christ’s life in those who trust Him is the assurance that we will never die spiritually ever again, leading to separation from God (See Eph. 1:13, 14; Rom. 8:11).

Death may come suddenly, unexpectedly at a time we didn’t anticipate and had made no plans for its arrival. It may come after a long-protracted illness. It may come in the morning, at noon or during the night. No one but God knows when we will take our last breathe. The Bible says the body without the spirit is dead. When God takes away the breath of life the body has no other course but death (Gen.2:7). The death of the body is not the main thing. It is where we will spend eternity after our time here is finished, that is the main thing.

God could have left us in an eternal state of separation from Himself after Adam and Eve disobeyed His word. Yet God, knowing all things, had a plan to save us, to bring us back to Himself. That plan was the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8). John said of Jesus, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29). Jesus has settled the sin issue once for all by dying in our place on the cross.

When the final scene is played in your life, the lights turned off and the door closed preventing reentry, where will you go when death comes for you? Will you enter heaven where Christ is seated at the right hand of God (Mark 16:19; Rom. 8:34; Eph. 1:20; 1 Pet. 3:22; Jn. 14:1-4) or will you enter hell, the place prepared for the devil and his angels (Matt. 25:41; Luke 16:22-24)? When all about your life is said and done, and you stand before God to give an account of the life you lived, what will be said and done by God? Will you hear Him say, “Well done good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of your Lord” (Matt. 25:20-23). Or will He say, “Depart from Me I never knew you” (Matt. 7:21-23).

Broom Lore

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 lowly broom has been around our civilization for centuries. It is said that Benjamin Franklin introduced broomcorn to the United States in 1725. He is said to have picked a single broomcorn seed off a Philadelphia lady, planted it and grew the first broom corn in the United States.

Folklore and Old Wives tales include traditional beliefs, customs, songs, and sayings about the broom. Included are beliefs about marriage, childbearing, festivals, warfare, hunting, and farming. The old myths are passed along in cultures all over the world. Folklore comes from everywhere on the planet, current and extinct. The following are only a few of the more prominent beliefs concerning the broom:

- Do not lean a broom against a bed. The evil spirits in the broom will cast a spell on the bed.
- If you sweep trash out the door after dark, it will bring a stranger to visit.
- If someone is sweeping the floor and sweeps over your feet, you'll never get married.
- Never take a broom along when you move. Throw it out and buy a new one.
- To prevent an unwelcome guest from returning, sweep out the room they stayed in immediately after they leave.
- While you are sweeping near your front door, if the broom drops, be expecting company before the day is through.
- If you find a broom lying on the ground or floor, pick it up for good luck.
- When you are sweeping up dirt by your back door, be sure to sweep it out the back door instead of inward or you will be sweeping away the friendship of your best friend.
- Do not sweep at all using a broom on New Year's Day or bad luck will follow you all year long.
- Any trash that you decide to sweep up on New Years Day, be sure to burn it so you will have money all year long.
- When you are carrying a broom, carry it under your arm for good luck, if you carry it over your shoulder, you are sure to have bad luck.
- Do not get mad and hit someone with a broom; if you do, you will find yourself in jail before the week is up.
- Never sweep dirt out of your home before the sun comes up or you will be calling for bad luck to enter.
- If the broom you are using happens to fall, it will bring you bad luck.
- If you wish for someone that just entered your home to go away, all you have to do is sweep in front of them. This is a sign that you do not want them in your home.
- If you are visiting someone and you have to step over a broom in her home, or outside the home, this means that she is not a good housekeeper.
- Never hand someone a broom through an open window, it can bring you bad luck.
- It is bad luck to loan your broom to anyone, even a good friend.
- Stand a broom upside down and you will marry soon.
- If a wife sweeps a circle around her husband, it will keep him eternally true to her.
- There is a ceremony dating back to the 1600s which derived from Africa. Dating back to slave days, jumping the broom together has been part of weddings for couples who want to honor that tradition. The "Jumping the Broom" is a ceremony in which the bride and groom, either at the ceremony or at the reception, signify their entrance into a new life and their creation of a new family by symbolically "sweeping away" their former single lives, former problems and concerns, and jumping over the broom to enter upon a new adventure as husband and wife.

I had always heard that witches ride brooms as their main mode of transportation. I've never actually seen one, so I will just have to place it in with the "old wife's tales" mentioned above. So, now you know to be especially careful when you handle your trusty broom. Seems to me one can get into a lot of trouble if not careful, especially on New Years day.

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Lamp-Lite Players Present *Annie*

The Lamp-Lite Players present *Annie*, by Charles Strouse, July 17, 18, 24, and 25, 2026, at 7:30 pm, and July 19 and 26, 2026, at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$15.00 Adults, \$12.00 Adults 60+, \$8.00 Students/Children and may be purchased online now at lampliteplayers.ludus.com. Any available tickets will be sold at the Box Office the day of the performance 45 minutes before curtain. All seats are reserved seats. An Audience Dress Rehearsal Preview Night will be held Thursday, July 16, 2026, 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$5.00 and are available online or at the door the night of the performance.

Shari Watterston Ellsworth directs this beloved musical, assisted by Cristóban Morones. Music is under the direction of Davy Thomas. Other production and technical members include Christen Smith, stage manager; Alyssa Faykus and Kim Fos, assistant stage managers; Nancy Smith, costumes; Brian Oswald, lighting; Charisse Gregory, bass guitar; David Hall, drums; Jody Ryan, percussion; Lisa Norman, flute; Jeff Holloway, guitar; Alyssa Faykus, social media; Sue Whatley, publicity, and Bill King, webmaster. Faith Kolosci is the featured artist and Kyri Clevenger serves as the Lamp-Liter.

The musical features Cadence Glazener in the title role of Annie, Nikolaas Van Kley as Warbucks, Lexi Moore as Grace, Jessie Licht as Miss Hannigan, Riley Nichols as Rooster, V Couch as Lily, Mark Hooker as President Roosevelt, and Heath McCormack as Drake. Other featured performers include Stihl Adams, Emily Cosby, Roz Couch, River Delcambre, Maximus Everett, Kenzi Hawkins, Amy Helmke, Samantha Johnson, Faith Kolosci, LaChanda Maxie, Adán Morones, David Morones, Cristóban Morones, Pablo Morones, Scott Parrish, Candyce Wagnon, Katherine Parrish Whitbeck, and Jeremiah Winslett.

Other members of the ensemble are Jennifer Adams, Cater Cartwright, Anna Donihoo, Matilyn Donihoo, Grayson Fos, McKenna Fos, Hadley Harris, Jonathan Helmke, Amirabella Higginbotham, Jocelyn Hunt, Caitlyn Hutson, Addison Lewis, Brianna Lewis, Patrick Lewis, Peyton Lewis, Sammie Lewis, Richard Malloy, Tammy Miller, Raven Moore, Jackson Smith, Faithlynn Stockman, Elizabeth Williamson, and Dominik Willis.

Annie's fellow orphans are played by Gabby Bloxson, Maddie Boyer, Estelle Burrow, Kenzie Clark, Josephine Contreras, Jaycee Cosby, Caroline Duncan, Eliza Falke, Hazel Licht, Vivian Licht, Radlynn May, Holly Odom, Atley Oliver, Kylie Pineda, Hadlee Sedgwick, Brooke Smith, Penelope Winslett, and Cassidy Witcher.

For assistance with purchasing online tickets, including using Season Passes to exchange for tickets, audience members may email lampliteticketing@gmail.com. It is recommended that audience members arrive at Lamp-Lite Theatre 15-30 minutes prior to curtain. More information about the Lamp-Lite Players and this production of *Annie*, by Charles Strouse, may be found at www.lamplitetheatre.com and at Lamp-Lite Theatre on Facebook and Instagram.



(l to r) Nikolaas Van Kley (Warbucks), Cadence Glazener (Annie), Lexi Moore (Grace)



The Orphans in ANNIE

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Some Assembly Required

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’m not sure how I came by my disdain for the requirement to assemble certain things I buy. My father was a tinkerer extraordinary, easily finding satisfaction in putting things together. Contributing, I suppose, was the likelihood that we boomers were unencumbered with the need to be frugal as our parents were, out of the necessity to repair things that were scarce during the depression and war years.



This little story is from twenty years ago when we began our quest to visit all the lower 48 states by RV, an amazing achievement ultimately completed some fifteen years later:

We were driving down I-40 in Oklahoma, where we stopped at the Marval resort in Gore, a tiny burg that billed itself as the “trout fishing capital of Oklahoma.” This was, indeed, a nice park, situated on the bank of the river formed by the water released from the Tenkiller Reservoir. The river was a fast-flowing, sparkling clear stream, cold as ice. One couldn’t possibly swim in it without a wet suit, but it was certainly appealing, as it was 95 degrees this afternoon.

We set up in a shady spot and I began assembling on a picnic table a portable charcoal grill I had bought for ten bucks as we were stocking our RV for this voyage. I was astonished at the amount of assembly required for so basic a device. There was no getting around this, and it took about an hour, using the dreaded “bolt A, washer B, locknut C” instruction diagram and dropping every other one of the infernal little parts through the cracks in the picnic table. This little grill was made in China, with all the parts arranged in such a way that the grill would barely fit into the box, which I utterly destroyed in the throes of birthing the grill from its cardboard womb. The Chinese went to a lot of trouble manufacturing, sorting and packaging the myriads of little parts in their little cellophane packages, not to mention printing the extensive instructions in three languages, one of which was nearly nonsensical English. Surely, it would have been less trouble for them just to have put the grill together in the first place. I really don’t know where we poor consumers are headed from here. I think pretty soon they’re going to just send us some iron ore, a tiny blast furnace and some engineering drawings and have us make the danged product ourselves!

If this weren’t enough, I found I had forgotten to buy charcoal starter before this trip. I thought about siphoning some diesel out of the truck’s fuel tank, but I didn’t have a hose and didn’t relish the thought of having a mouthful of fuel before dinner. Driving to a nearby country store, I found everything needed for a cookout—except charcoal starter. As a male, possessing as we do a natural loathing to ask directions to anything or to anywhere, I finally swallowed my pride and asked where the charcoal starter may be. “By the pickles,” came the answer. Go figure.

While this last part was a bit of a non sequitur, it somehow seemed to be a fitting end to this little story. (The steaks were great!)



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Community
News Items
on page 37.**

Lufkin District Construction Updates



District Wide Projects

We are Texans. We wear our Lone Contract sealcoat work is moving right along. Next week, work will occur on: State Highway (SH) 21 and SH 7 in Nacogdoches County; SH 7, SH 94, and Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 1271 in Angelina County; and FM 229 in Houston County. Trinity, Polk and San Jacinto will be the next phase of the project.

This is a moving operation requiring lane closures.

Area Office Projects

Lufkin Area Office (Angelina, Houston, and Sabine counties)

Angelina County

- US 59, Redland Project.**
Contractors will continue dirt and embankment work, and drill shafts at the Mill Creek Bridge.
- FM 324, bridge replacement and roadway rehabilitation.**
Concrete bridge caps will be poured by the contractor. There will be lane closures for construction vehicles and equipment to enter and exit the jobsite.
- US 69, cable median barrier.**
Contractors will pour concrete mow strip for the cable barrier on U.S. 69 south of Zavalla. Lane closures will be required, and the speed limit has been lowered in the work zone limits.
- State Loop (SL) 287, auxiliary lanes and turn lanes.**
Widening on the eastbound main lanes near Scenic Acres Drive will occur. Scenic Acres Drive at SL 287 will be closed to traffic daily and will be reopened at the end of each day's work.

Houston County

- SH 7 (Houston and Leon counties), Trinity River bridge and reliefs.**
Placing sod, mowing and seeding continues.
- SL 304 overlay.**
Slope and shoulder work will occur, requiring intermittent lane closures.
- FM 2076 rehabilitation and roadway widening.**
Daily lane closures will occur while asphalt work is performed.

Livingston Area Office (Polk, San Jacinto and Trinity counties)

Polk and San Jacinto counties

- US 59, Cable Median Barrier.**
Cable-barrier installation in the median will continue between Leggett and Livingston, and silt fence will be removed in Livingston.

Polk County

- US 59, Corrigan Relief Route.**
Crews will: tie reinforcing steel for the main lane US 287 bridge and other bridges; set deck panels and tie steel framing for the north railroad bridge; set rebar forms at the north tie-in on the southbound exit; place rock at the north tie-in drainage outfall; perform dirt work and culvert installation at the south tie-in, and shoulder work at the north tie-in; and place new reflective markers at the northbound exit and southbound entrance.
- FM 2610 at Menard Creek.**
Work on bridge approaches is scheduled.
- County road bridge projects.**
 - Piney Creek on Carmona Road: steel bridge cap structures will be built.
 - Long King Creek on Old Bearing Road: workers will construct work platforms and overhangs for the bridge.

San Jacinto County

- US 59, Shepherd to Cleveland upgrade to interstate standards.**
Crews will prepare the deck on the bridge for finishing work; build out approaches to the bridge; mix road base north of Red Road; continue installing wall panels and retaining wall embankments; and prime coat the north and southbound main lanes.
- SH 156, Stephen Creek bridge replacement.**
Debris clean-up and bridge demolition will continue.
- SH 150 sidewalk project.**
Riprap will continue to be installed.

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Nacogdoches Area Office (Nacogdoches, San Augustine and Shelby counties)

Nacogdoches County

- US 59 intersection improvements at SL 224.**
Crews will continue demolishing the old pavement.
- SH 7 and CR 724, Moral Bayou bridge project.**
The contractor will install hot mix on CR 724 and establis non-mow strips on SH 7 for guardrail installation. Guardrail installation on the SH 7 bridge is planned for June 22 and sealcoating is planned for June 24. There will be daily lane closures.

Sabine County

- US 96.**
Hot-mix operations will require daily lane closures.

Shelby County

- FM 139 at Tenaha Bayou.**
The contractor will be installing riprap.
- County road bridge projects.**
Hot mix application will occur at the bridge tie-ins on CR 3689 on Cypress Creek, CR 1440 at Irish Creek and CR 1049 at Straw Creek.

Reminder to Motorists

Drivers are urged to remain alert in work zones, obey posted traffic controls, and watch for construction crews and equipment. Remember to move over or slow down to 20 mph below the posted speed limit when passing or approaching TxDOT vehicles, law enforcement, tow trucks, utility vehicles, municipal waste trucks, and emergency responders with activated overhead lights on the side of the road.

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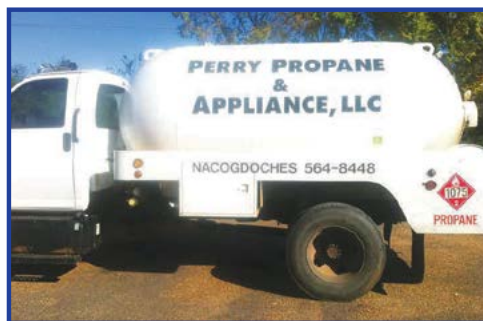
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Your Landscape Can Make a Difference

by Elaine Cameron, Angelina Master Gardener

Gardening is enjoyed by many folks in our area. Great tasting nutritious vegetables grace dinner tables, and ornamentals add color to our yards and homes. Gardening provides exercise and the time out in fresh air improves health. A well-maintained landscape adds up to 11% to the value of your property. Your garden and landscape also affects the environment around you.

Dr. David Tallamy, an entomologist, wrote “Bringing Nature Home—How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants.” When I read this book several years ago it changed the way I look at gardening. I love plants and shopping at a plant nursery is like being in a candy store. This book helped me to see that gardening is much more than choosing what plants would go in my design scheme, or choosing those plants that were new and different. We all need to think beyond what we want, and what we like and consider the benefits to the wildlife around us.

When the first settlers came, and established homes and farms North America’s natural areas were vast. When land was cleared the wildlife moved someplace else. But today there is no more “someplace else.” In most of the U.S. there are no undisturbed habitats. Wildlife needs large spaces for a wide diversity of species to thrive.

According to Tallamy, 70% of forests on the east coast of the U.S. are gone, and wildlife habitat is lost to development at the rate of 6000 acres a day. Fragmented and broken up natural areas mean fewer species of wildlife will survive. The state of Texas continues to grow at a rapid rate and space will be needed for new homes and services.

The four million miles of roads in our country, plus paved parking lots, driveways, and sidewalks take up a lot of acreage. The monocultures of well-maintained suburban lawns offer no food or shelter to insects, birds, or other animals.

Tallamy states that birds that migrate to central and South America have declined 1% a year since 1966. That’s a 50% decline in birds such as thrushes, warblers, catbirds, hawks, wrens, kingbirds, swallows and orioles. All other songbirds are declining in number as well.

This information is very discouraging. People need clean water, roads, homes, schools, stores and factories. We cannot turn back the clock, but we can “do what we can” to conserve as much of our wildlife as possible for future generations.

Doug Tallamy and Rick Darke wrote “The Living Landscape,” a book that tells us how to make a difference with the choices we make in our home landscapes. Tallamy wrote, “Gardens and the landscapes that surround them occupy such enormous areas of the country that they have great potential to address many of the environmental challenges today if given half a chance.”

This story from “The Living Landscape” shows what we homeowners, business owners and gardeners could accomplish if we used native plants instead of aliens from other continents. In Florida the Atala butterfly was once nearly extinct. South Florida was home to a plant called a coontie, a slow growing cycad. Seminole Indians used it as a starchy food and taught early settlers how to use it. The coontie became so popular that it disappeared. Once the coonties were gone the Atala butterfly also disappeared because the coontie was their only host plant. In the 1970s landscapers in South Florida rediscovered the coontie and started using it in home landscapes. Coonties are long lived, have interesting texture and soon it was widely planted. The Atala butterfly reappeared from a remnant that survived deep in the Everglades. Home landscapes brought back a threatened butterfly. This is an example of what could be done if we all made purposeful choices in our landscapes.

Whether you have an apartment balcony, a home in a subdivision, a ranch, thousands of acres, or a business property you can make a difference. Learn to appreciate and use the plants that grow in East Texas. Native plants are necessary to sustain wildlife because native plants, native insects, native birds, native mammals were all designed to live in balance with one another.

Here are things to do:

- Conserve native trees when developing land. Our native oak trees, for example, are the host plant to over 500 species of butterflies and moths. Their caterpillars are essential to the survival of baby songbirds. During construction put up barriers to protect roots from heavy equipment.
- Replace trees removed for development with native trees. Native trees will thrive and add beauty to your landscape while benefitting the local ecology.
- Use the plants that grow in East Texas. The National Wildlife Federation has lists of native plants online you can search by entering your zip code at this link: <https://nativeplantfinder.nwf.org> Plant sales by Angelina Master Gardeners the last Saturday in March and September offer a selection of native plants.
- Add native plant beds while reducing the size of lawns.
- Use native perennials in ornamental beds and plan so at least three vari-

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eties are blooming form early spring until frost. This will support native pollinators and provide beneficial insects.

- Plant native trees and shrubs that offer shelter, cover and food for birds and other wildlife. Layer plantings under trees to mimic natural areas.
- Leave some leaves to mulch under trees and shrubs. If possible, leave some natural areas on the borders of your yard.
- Minimize the use of insecticides, that threaten native pollinators and beneficial insects.

Adding native plants to your yard will add beauty, a sense of place, and provide a home to the birds, butterflies, and wildlife that belongs here.

The Noon Gardening Program, hosted by Angelina AgriLife Extension and Angelina Master Gardeners, will be held on Tuesday, July 14, noon to 1:00 pm at the AgriLife Extension office at 2201 S. Medford Drive in Lufkin. Dr. David Creech, Professor Emeritus and Director of SFA Gardens will present a talk titled, “Non-traditional Fruits.” The Noon Gardening program is free to the public, and you may bring your lunch.

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Natalee Dunn
CVB Creative Content Director

This Month in the Oldest Town in Texas

July in Nacogdoches is all about celebrating summer, making memories with family and friends, and honoring the rich history that makes our community special. Whether you're cooling off at a local splash pad, exploring historic sites, or enjoying patriotic festivities, there are plenty of ways to make the most of the season in the Oldest Town in Texas.

As America prepares to celebrate its 250th birthday, Nacogdoches is joining the festivities with a variety of events throughout the week. The celebration begins July 2nd with Picnic in the Park from 11 am to 2 pm at Banita Creek Park. Families can enjoy games, sports, giveaways, and Hot Dogs with Your Heroes alongside the Nacogdoches Police and Fire Departments. That evening, head to Zion Hill Baptist Church at 6 pm for a Hamilton Broadway Movie Sing-Along, where attendees can sing along to the award-winning musical's most beloved songs.

On Independence Day, July 4th, the celebration continues at the Old University Building beginning at 10 am. During the America 250 Celebration, visitors will hear the inspiring story behind the writing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" and witness the ringing of the bell 250 times in honor of America's birthday. Children are invited to help with the bell ringing, making this a memorable experience for the whole family. The festivities culminate with Freedom Fest at Festival Park beginning at 5:30 pm. Bring your lawn chairs and patriotic spirit for an evening of live music, great food, local vendors, and community fun. As the sun sets, a spectacular fireworks show will light up the night sky, creating the perfect finale to a day of celebration.

Looking for a way to stay cool this summer? Visit Nacogdoches has launched Nac Summer Sips, a new weekly event bringing one to two drink trucks, snow cone vendors, and other refreshing treats to the Downtown Square every Friday from 12 pm to 5 pm. Grab a cold drink while exploring local shops, historic sites, and attractions around downtown.

Families can also enjoy the Nacogdoches Summer Scavenger Hunt, an interactive adventure that encourages participants to explore local historic sites, cultural attractions, and community landmarks throughout the city. It's a fun way to discover hidden gems, learn more about Nacogdoches, and make lasting summer memories.

When the East Texas heat turns up, Nacogdoches offers plenty of ways to cool down. Spend the day splashing at Splashadoches or let the kids run through the water features at the Temple Park Splash Pad. For those looking to enjoy the outdoors, these family-friendly attractions provide the perfect way to beat the heat while enjoying the season.

From patriotic celebrations and family activities to cool treats and outdoor adventures, July offers countless opportunities to get out and enjoy everything Nacogdoches has to offer. For more information on upcoming events and activities, visit VisitNacogdoches.org. We look forward to seeing you *around the town* this summer!

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NAC ARTS COLLABORATIVE News

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Art shows/art camp



Our gallery, Falling Star Gallery @ NAC, is proud to host two fine local artists in a joint show “In the Summer Garden” with paintings by Lisa Stewart and ceramics by Cindy Glad. The opening reception is scheduled for Saturday, June 27 from 2-4pm, with artists in attendance. The show runs through August 1 and is open Saturdays 11-4 at the Williamsburg Plaza location, 320 North Street, back entrance.

The next show at the gallery will be a competition and exhibition titled “What the Constitution Means to Me.” Choose a passage from the esteemed document (including amendments) and make art inspired by it! Entries are currently open on our website, naccartscollab.com. Click on the Falling Star tab and that will lead you to the rules. Hurry, deadline is August 1. The show opens August 15 with cash prizes!



NAC is delighted to be in receipt of a grant from the Nacogdoches Junior Forum. This worthy organization gives to so many local non-profits with money and service. Thank you NJF!

NAC Kids Art Camp will be held July 13-17 at our Annex location, 141 Walker, behind the brewery. Scholarships available! See more details on our website.

July Artist Spotlight - Meet Lisa Stewart!

Lisa is a retired construction manager whose long career in corporate real estate took her all over the world. “Once, I was supposed to go to India for six weeks to set up an office for my employer, and no one on the American side of the business realized how long these internal bureaucratic transactions would actually take. I was there for a year.”

“I’ve always doodled and sketched,” Lisa said. “About 15 years ago, I took a painting class. I didn’t know anything about it, but I loved it. I like taking online classes and I am very inspired by other artists, so I’m learning all the time. I love that, so painting is perfect for me.”

Originally from Huntsville, Lisa grew up in Texas and following family tradition, attended Texas A&M where she earned a Bachelor of Science in construction. “I started out in architecture, but soon discovered I wasn’t a particularly gifted designer. Everyone is creative in some way, but not in every way. So I moved away from design and more into the actual construction process.”



After graduation in 1979, Lisa’s career flourished and she progressed to a level where she knew she needed more training to compete for executive jobs in the industry. Next came an MBA from Rice University in Houston, and Lisa continued to excel.

Little by little, her entire family moved to Nacogdoches. “First it was my sister and her husband. Then my parents came here to be near their grandchildren. Then my brother moved his family here. Soon I came to help look after my mother.” Lisa remains close to her family. “I’m their

bonus grandmother!” she said, laughing. Lisa likes to arrange Art Day with her great-nieces and great-nephews, all of whom are under the age of eight. “Some-

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times they come to my house, sometimes I go to theirs. But we always make stuff together and everybody has a great time.”

Lisa’s current works include small colorful floral paintings and gentle pet portraits for friends, all done in acrylic paint. Many of her paintings are posted on her Facebook page. “I used to work in oils but I’d get frustrated because they take so long to dry. With acrylics, not only does the paint set faster, but I make a lot of mistakes, and with acrylics, you can just cover those up quickly.”

“There are so many creative people in Nacogdoches. I am delighted to have found my tribe here, and the Arts Collaborative is a part of that. I’m so pleased to be part of such a supportive group.”

Lisa’s paintings will be featured along with ceramics by Cindy Glad at “In The Summer Garden,” scheduled to open June 27 at Falling Star Gallery. Nacogdoches Arts Collaborative is located inside Williamsburg Plaza, 320 North Street. Falling Star Gallery @ NAC is in Suite 306 and is open Saturdays from 11-4 or by appointment by texting 917-209-1050. We are also an easy walk from downtown at 415 N. Fredonia Street, one block north of the Fredonia Hotel. The NAC Annex is at 141 Walker Avenue behind the Fredonia Brewery.

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

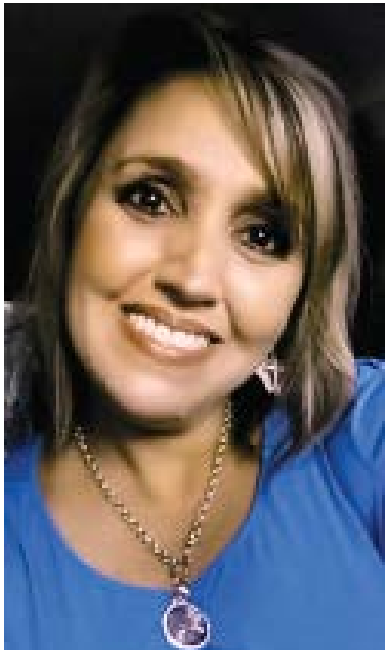
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A Little Bit of History



The Oldest Town in Texas Needs to Preserve Its Oldest Building

The recent decision by the Board of Regents of the University of Texas System to build a Science building in the place where the Old Stone Fort Museum now stands implies they will tear down the replica of the Old Stone Fort, but, according to Nacogdoches city officials, they don't know where it would be reconstructed, nor where the funding would come from to do so. Both SFASU signed a letter of intent in January, 2025 to preserve it. But—removing it from where it, the replica, now stands indicates a major historical disconnect between Stephen F. Austin State University and the history of Nacogdoches. Antonio Gil Y'barbo, who built the original Stone Fort (it was originally called the Old Stone House) in approximately 1779—three years after the Declaration of Independence—was also the leader of the “displaced persons” from the abandonment of East Texas missions and presidios who led them back to reestablish Nacogdoches in 1779. The replica of his Old Stone House on the SFASU campus is an emblem of the life of Antonio Gil Y'barbo, whose life embodies Spanish Texas. Born in Los Adaes, the first capital of Texas, relocated to San Antonio, founder of the new community Buccarelli, and re-founder of Nacogdoches—he is as much as anyone Nacogdoches. Granted, some of the replicas are not stones or wood from the original structure; however, it does represent some of the architecture of that period when Texas was governed under Spanish rule. Bear in mind that Antonio Gil Y'barbo was not Mexican in origin; his parents came from Andalusia, Spain. In Los Adaes, he lived from his birth in 1729 until the “displaced persons” were relocated to Bexar in 1773 because of the New Regulations for the Presidios. The Old Stone Fort was the center of daily life in Nacogdoches and of tumultuous events until my great-great-great-grandmother Rebecca Danzey Fenley acquired her half interest in it, buying Vincente Cordova's half interest because of the loss of her slave in the Cordova Rebellion. One of the largest buildings for many years in Nacogdoches, it saw Nacogdoches grow from 67 in the 1801 census to a city whose influence has been felt in many places. Please don't disrupt the continuity of the Old Stone Fort with the history of the Hispanic community in Nacogdoches.

Whatever it takes, please preserve the Old Stone Fort.

Kissin' Kuzzins

(1) Don't Give Up on the Old Stone Fort! In an unofficial meeting with a City of Nacogdoches official, I discovered SFASU and the City of Nacogdoches have jointly signed a letter of intent to preserve the replica. I printed this letter of intent on page 34 of the June issue of Around the Town. No total dollar figure was shared, nor was a location to move the structure to, nor has any funding been identified to preserve it. Write, call, email the following individuals: Office of the Board of Regents of the University of Texas System 210 West 7th Street Austin Texas 78701 Phone (512) 499-4402 Email: bor@utsystem.edu Office of the President Stephen F. Austin State University 1936 North Street Nacogdoches, Texas 75962 Phone (936) 468-4732 City Manager Rick Beverlin c/o City of Nacogdoches P.O. 635030 Nacogdoches, Texas 75961 Phone (936) 569-2500 (2) The Redland School reunion will take place on Saturday, July 11, 2026. Contact Sarah Calhoun Stevens at (936) 414-0168 for more information. (3) Dickie Dixon's topic will be “The Postal Service of the Confederate States of America,” when the Sons of the Confederate Veterans meets on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, in the meeting room of Ralph & Kacoo's on South First Street. For more information, contact Larry Howell at (940) 391-1628. (4) Jamie Carter Bollich will discuss “My American Revolution Heritage” at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, July 20, 2026, at the meeting room of Ralph & Kacoo's on South First Street in Lufkin. For more information, contact Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419 or dixonhershel51@aol.com (5) Let me thank Z.&O.O. Railroad Engineer Ron Adair for welcoming my Dixon Family to ride the train at the Ellen Trout Zoo, when my youngest daughter, Sara Patten, came to visit with her five North Carolina hooligans. Tyler Tippit, my oldest granddaughter, was there to ride it with us, too. Please see photo 2. (6) “The John Henry Kirby Sawmills with special reference to Bon Wier” will be Matt McBroom's topic when he speaks to the Angelina County Genealogical Society at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, August 17, 2026, at the Ellen and Buddy Community Meeting Room at the T. L. Temple Memorial Library in Diboll. For more information, contact Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419. (7) Let me thank you, nature scholars, David Lewis and Joe Liggio, for meeting Sara, her kids, and me at the Watson Rare Native Plant Preserve next to Lake Hyatt south of Woodville. David told us what the mushrooms were, and Joe showed us the wild orchids there and told us their names. (8) Thanks need to go out to Susan Shine Kilcrease, who operates the Ice House Museum in Silsbee. Her museum was a treat to see!

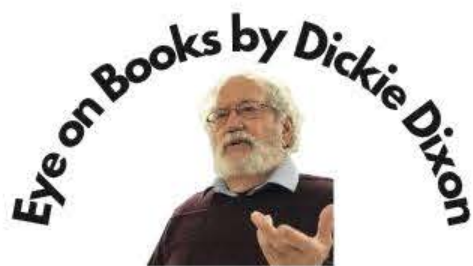
July 2026 Birthdays: 1st: Kim Weatherford 2nd: Aaliyah Martin, Katie Williams 4th: Sara Dixon Patten 5th: Wendy Johnson 6th: Roger Bradley Patten 7th: Sasha Dixon Sutton 8th: David Sterling



Dixons line up for a picture with train engineer Ron Adair after riding the Z.O.O. Railroad on Friday, May 22nd. Left to right are: Front row: Ron Adair, Laura Patten, Anelise Patten, Christopher Patten. Back row: Dickie Dixon, Emma Patten, and Winston Patten



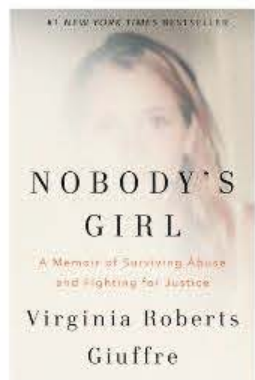
Buck Sloan at his 102nd birthday party on May 30th in Houston. From Lufkin, Buck drove a 2 and a half ton truck off the landing craft at Omaha Beach for D-Day.



Add these titles to your reading list

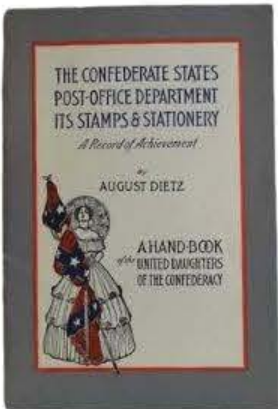
The choice of titles does not necessarily reflect the
opinion of the author of this column.

Epstein Files



**Nobody's Girl: A Memoir
of Surviving Abuse**
Virginia Roberts Giuffre

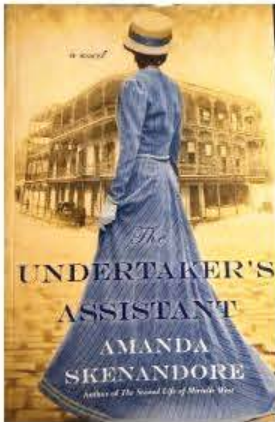
Civil War History



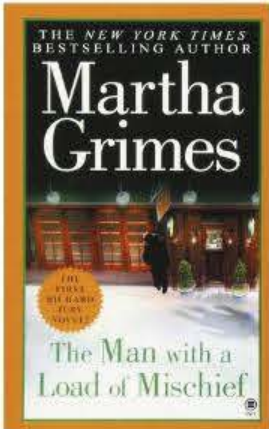
**The Postal Service of the
Confederate States of
America - August Dietz**



Fate is Against Me:
Celia Ann King Grove
Billie Grunden

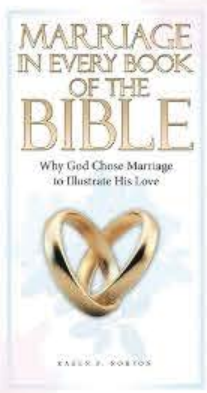


Undertaker's Assistant
Amanda Skenandore



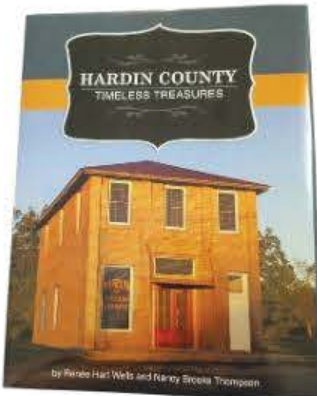
**The Man with a Load
of Mischief**
Martha Grimes

Biblical Studies

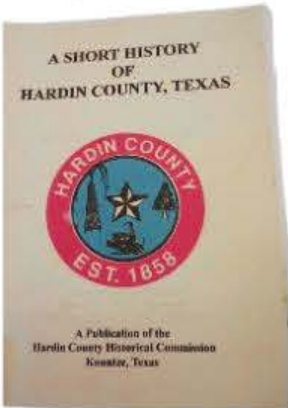


**Marriage in Every Book
of the Bible**
Karen Howell Norton

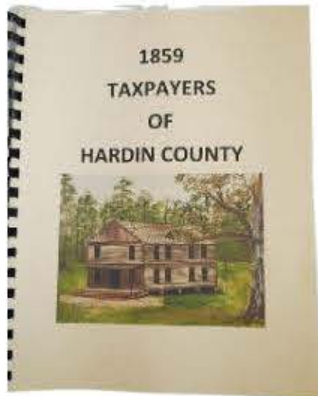
Texas History



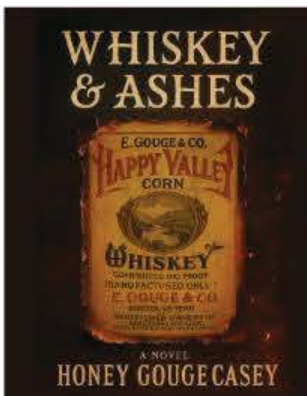
**Hardin County
Timeless Treasures**



**A Short History
of Hardin County**



**1859 Taxpayers
of Hardin County**

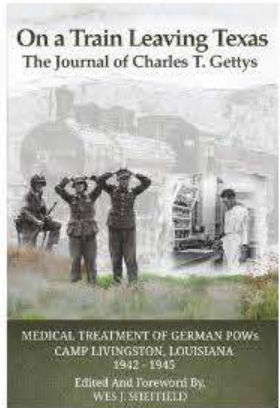


Whiskey & Ashes
Honey Gouge Casey

Genealogy

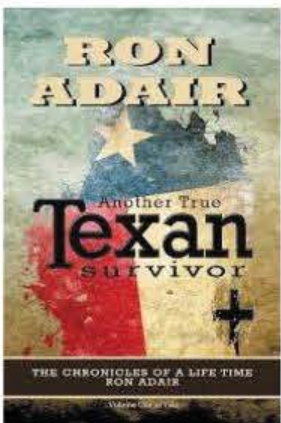
Historical Fiction

Louisiana History

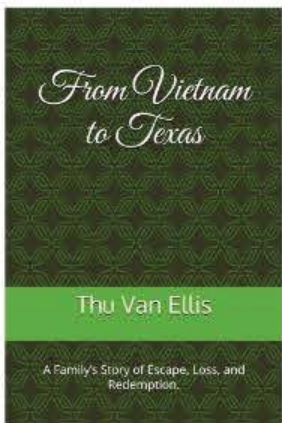


**On a Train Leaving
Texas,**
Wes Sheffield

Autobiography

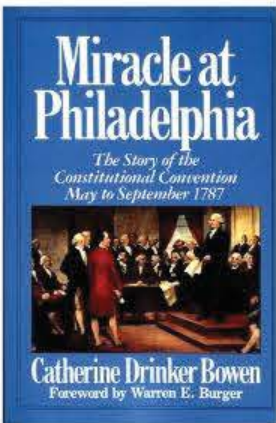


**Another True Texan
Survivor**
Vol 1 and 2 Ron Adair

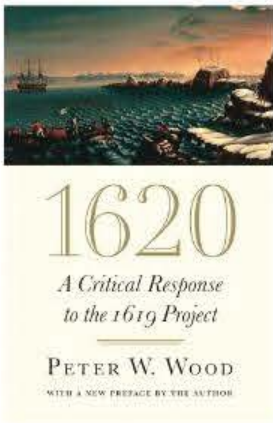


From Vietnam to Texas
Thu Van Ellis

American History

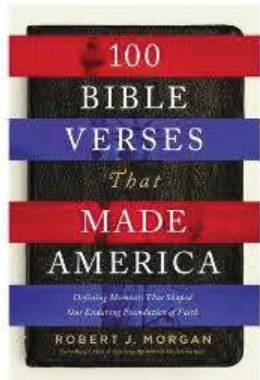


Miracle at Philadelphia:
Catherine Drinker Bowen

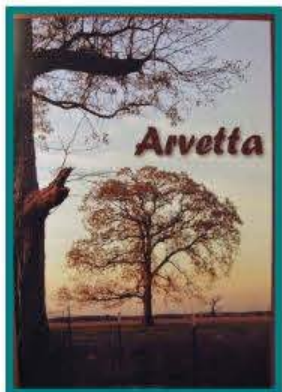


**1620: A Critical
Response**
Peter W. Wood

African American Historical Fiction

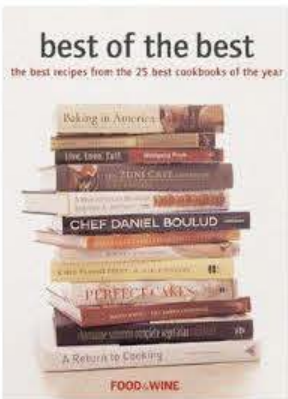


**100 Bible Verses
That Made America**



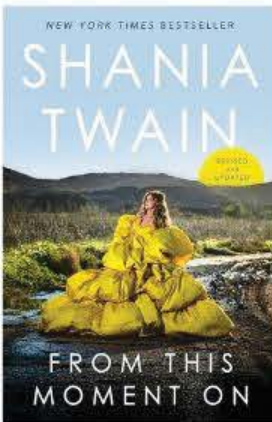
Arvetta
Herman Wright and
Jamie Carter Bollich

Cooking



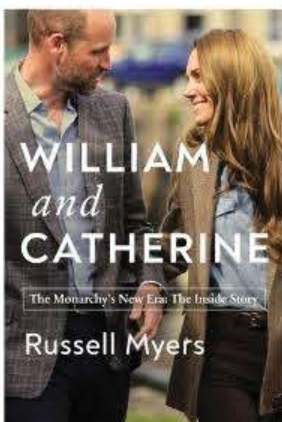
**Best of the Best: Best 25
Recipes from the Best 25
Cookbooks of the Year**

Music History



From This Moment On
Shania Twain

British History



**William & Catherine: The
intimate Insider Story**
Russell Myers

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

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SFA Lumberjacks

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
AUGUST 29	@McNeese State Univ.	TBA
SEPTEMBER 5	East Texas A&M	7:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 12	@Abilene Christian Univ.	7:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 19	@Prairie View A&M	7:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 26	Northeastern State Univ.	5:00 PM
OCTOBER 3	Univ. of the Incarnate Word	5:00 PM
OCTOBER 10	OPEN	
OCTOBER 17	@Nicholls State Univ.	TBA
OCTOBER 24	Southeastern La. Univ.	5:00 PM
OCTOBER 31	Houston Christian Univ.	2:00 PM
NOVEMBER 7	@Lamar University	TBA
NOVEMBER 14	@Univ. of Texas RGV	TBA
NOVEMBER 19	Northwestern State Univ.	6:00 PM

Nacogdoches Dragons

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
AUGUST 28	Athens	7:30 PM
SEPTEMBER 4	@Lufkin	7:30 PM
SEPTEMBER 11	Center	7:30 PM
SEPTEMBER 18	@Marshall	7:30 PM
SEPTEMBER 25	Whitehouse* **	7:30 PM
OCTOBER 9	Texas High*	7:30 PM
OCTOBER 16	@Hallsville*	7:30 PM
OCTOBER 23	Mt. Pleasant*	7:30 PM
OCTOBER 30	@Greenville*	7:30 PM
NOVEMBER 6	Terrell* ***	7:30 PM

*District **Homecoming ***Senior Night

Cushing Bearkats

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
AUGUST 14	Huntington-SCRIMMAGE	6:00 PM
AUGUST 20	@Frankston-SCRIMMAGE	6:00 PM
AUGUST 28	@Colmesneil	7:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 4	Maud	7:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 11	Evadale**	7:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 18	@Alba Golden	7:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 25	Grapeland* (Black Out)	7:00 PM
OCTOBER 2	@Mt. Enterprise*	7:00 PM
OCTOBER 9	Bye	Bye
OCTOBER 16	Alto*	7:00 PM
OCTOBER 23	@Tenaha*	7:00 PM
OCTOBER 30	Crossroads* ***	7:00 PM
NOVEMBER 6	@Overton*	7:00 PM

*District **Homecoming ***Senior Night

Garrison Bulldogs

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
AUGUST 27	Maroon & White*	7:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 4	@Arp	7:30 PM
SEPTEMBER 11	DeKalb	7:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 18	West Rusk	7:30 PM
SEPTEMBER 25	@Westwood	7:30 PM
OCTOBER 2	Bye	Bye
OCTOBER 9	@Hemphill*	7:30 PM
OCTOBER 16	@San Augustine*	7:30 PM
OCTOBER 23	Joaquin*	7:30 PM
OCTOBER 30	@Shelbyville*	7:30 PM
NOVEMBER 6	Timpson*	7:30 PM

*District

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Lufkin Panthers

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
AUGUST 22	Huntsville (Scrimmage)	
AUGUST 28	Longview	7:30 PM
SEPTEMBER 4	Nacogdoches	7:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 11	Port Arthur Memorial*	7:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 18	@Baytown Sterling*	7:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 25	Beaumont United*	7:00 PM
OCTOBER 1	@New Caney	7:00 PM
OCTOBER 9	BYE	BYE
OCTOBER 16	Galveston Ball	7:00 PM
OCTOBER 23	@Goose Creek Memorial	7:00 PM
OCTOBER 30	Beaumont West Brook	7:00 PM
NOVEMBER 6	@LaPorte	7:00 PM

*District

Diboll Lumberjacks

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
AUGUST 14	Jasper (Scrimmage)	TBD
AUGUST 20	Liberty (Scrimmage)	TBD
AUGUST 28	@Troup	7:30 PM
SEPTEMBER 4	@West Rusk	7:30 PM
SEPTEMBER 11	Tatum	7:30 PM
SEPTEMBER 18	Kirbyville	7:30 PM
SEPTEMBER 25	Brook Hill	7:30 PM
OCTOBER 2	OPEN	OPEN
OCTOBER 9	@Crockett*	7:30 PM
OCTOBER 16	Huntington*	7:30 PM
OCTOBER 23	@Trinity*	7:30 PM
OCTOBER 30	@Fairfield*	7:30 PM
NOVEMBER 6	Westwood*	7:30 PM

*District

Huntington Red Devils

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
AUGUST 28	@Evadale	7:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 4	@Warren	7:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 11	Buna	7:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 18	Hemphill	7:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 25	@Anderson-Shiro	7:00 PM
OCTOBER 2	Bye	Bye
OCTOBER 9	@Trinity*	7:30 PM
OCTOBER 16	@Diboll*	7:30 PM
OCTOBER 23	Fairfield*	7:30 PM
OCTOBER 30	@Westwood*	7:30 PM
NOVEMBER 6	Crockett*	7:30 PM

*District



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LUFKIN DANCE CLUB

Our dances are ALWAYS on the third Friday of every month.
7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Nacogdoches VFW Post, 2406 Hunter Street, Nacogdoches.
Bring a covered dish, dessert or snack of your choice.

\$12.00 members • \$15.00 non-members
Ticket price may be slightly more for some bands.
\$15.00 yearly membership per person may be obtained at the door.

FREE MEAL

What: Free meal, water, and Bibles for anyone.
When: July 12, 2026
Time: 2:00 - 4:30 PM or later
Where: 102 North Street and Main, Nacogdoches; Johnson Appliance and Furniture, next to Firestone.
Why: To show the love of Jesus.

Every second Sunday of each month. The meal will be Shepherd's Pie, Cabbage, Salad and Peach Cobbler. We also have hot dogs every month.

Jesus loves you and so does *Friends of Jesus*.
Prayer request box or we will pray with you.

Thanks to Randy Johnson for allowing us to use his property at Johnson Furniture at no cost.
Thanks to David Stallings for allowing us to advertise at no cost.

ADVERTISE IN

AROUND the TOWN

David Stallings 936.554.5822

LET US HELP PUBLICIZE YOUR EVENT!

If your church, service organization or non-profit has an upcoming event or fundraiser, please send to
AroundTheTown@mail.com.

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

Nacogdoches Newcomers and Friends Honors Sisters

The Nacogdoches Newcomers and Friends recently honored two sisters who have volunteered their time and money to the organization. The executive board recognized Barbara Thompson (l) as the 2025-26 Member of the Year for her contributions to the club's major fundraiser, Bag Lady Bingo. In addition, incoming President Sharon Bradberry has dedicated the 2026-27 NNF Yearbook in honor of Treasurer Rose Guilbeau (rt), who has worked tirelessly to make Bag Lady Bingo a success. For more information about Nacogdoches Newcomers and Friends, email nacogdochesnewcomers@gmail.com.



Nacogdoches Church Directory

SPONSORED BY



Cason Monk-Metcalf FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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

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

Agape Life Church — 3500 North Street #3, 75965 — 936.559.3081
Antioch Baptist Church — 1421 Greer Street, 75961 — 936.569.7432
Apostolic Lighthouse — 1801 Durst Street
Appleby Baptist Church — 13995 US-59, 75965
Appleby Church of Christ — 10494 FM 941, 75965 — 936.564.9792
Austin Heights Baptist Church — 2806 Appleby Sand Rd, 75965 — 936.564.0818
Bethel Temple Church of God in Christ — 1716 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, 75961 — 936.305.5138
Bethlehem Mission — 125 NE Stallings Drive, 75961 — 936.564.6278
Bonita Methodist Church — 10303 Hwy 259 @ Central Heights — 936.560.2028
Calvary Baptist Church — 3732 NE Stallings Drive, 75965 — 936.564.4539
Calvary Pentecostal Church — 2800 Old Lufkin Rd, 75964 — 936.564.6835
Cariker Street Seventh-day Adventist Church— 909 Cariker Street, 75961 — 936.564.2197
Centro De Vida Cristiana — 2933 Hunter Street, 75964 — 936.615.4753
Christ Episcopal Church — 502 E Starr Ave, 75961 — 936.564.0421
Christian Life Center | Pentecostal Church — 2604 Stallings Drive N, 75964 — 936.560.1431
Church of Christ — 3831 NE Stallings Drive, 75961 — 936.205.5956
Corner Post Cowboy Church — 8151 FM 1638, 75964 — 936.645.0123
Davis Memorial Church of God — 1614 Gasaway Rd, 75964 — 936.564.8401
Eastside United Pentecostal Church — 3801 Center Rd, 75961 — 936.564.6432
Fairview United Methodist Church — 6296 TX-21, 75961
Faith Temple Church — 217 Sweetgum Street, 75961 — 936.559.1502
First Baptist Church — 411 North Street, 75961 — 936.564.7379
First Christian Church — 702 Mound Street, 75961 — 936.564.7389
First Pentecostal Church — 1622 Douglass Rd, 75964 — 936.569.6784
First United Methodist Church — 201 E Hospital Street, 75961 — 936.564.8308
Forest Pine Church — 3738 S Fredonia Street, 75964
Fredonia Hill Baptist Church — 1711 South Street, 75964 — 936.564.8386
Glory Gang — 1610 SW Stallings Drive, 75964 — 1.855.456.7944
Godtel Ministries — 330 E. Main Street, 75961 — 936.569.7914
Gospel Assembly Church — 2916 Lilly Street, 75964 — 936.219.0251
Grace Baptist Church — 4120 NW Stallings Drive, 75964 — 936.552.8988
Grace Bible Church — 2305 Raguet Street, 75965 — 936.564.8867
Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church — SE Loop 224, 75961 — 936.559.0952
Gravel Ridge Missionary Baptist Church — 7425 FM 225, 75964
Greater Faith Tabernacle — 2800 Old Lufkin Rd, 75964 — 936.564.6835
Harmonia Baptist Church — 2547 Old Post Oak Rd, 75965 — 936.552.1956
Harmony Baptist Church — 268 County Rd 726, 75964 — 936.569.7381
Harvest Point Church — 2708 South Street, 75964 — 936.569.9342
Heritage Primitive Baptist Church — 128 Hunt Street, 75965 — 936.554.0102
High Praise Tabernacle — 1607 Douglass Rd, 75964
Iglesia Bautista Cristiana — 1917 S Fredonia Street, 75964 — 936.462.8692
Iglesia Bautista Vida Eterna — 2612 Williams Street, 75964 — 936.462.0719
Iglesia Evangelica Cristiana Espiritual — 501 Lenwood Drive, 75964
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church — 1422 County Rd 724, 75964 — 936.560.3200
Impact Cowboy Church of Nacogdoches — 415 FM 2112, 75961 — 936.569.8559
International Church of Nacogdoches — 1610 SW Stallings Drive, 75964 — 936.564.7265
Iron Wheel Baptist Church — 820 1st Street, 75961 — 936.569.8358
Jacob's Memorial Cogic — 1717 Castleberry Street, 75961 — 936.564.7493
Johnson Chapel CME Church — 614 3rd Street, 75961 — 936.569.9703
Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses — 2832 NE Stallings Drive, 75965 — 936.560.6571
Life Church — 702 N University Drive, 75961 — 936.205.5956
Little Zion Baptist Church — 305 Shawnee Street, 75961 — 936.564.4577
Macedonia Baptist Church — 169 County Rd 719, 75964 — 936.564.3148
Martinsville Baptist Church — 10892 FM 95, 75961 — 936.554.1344
Miracle Tabernacle — 3214 E Main Street, 75961 — 936.4624.8575

Mosaic Church | Nacogdoches — 2603 SE Stallings Drive, 75961 — 936.615.3199
Mt Moriah Baptist Church — 1413 Powers Street, 75964 — 936.564.3058
Mt-Zion Baptist Church — 3767 SE Stallings Drive, 75961 — 936.554.7294
Nacogdoches Bible Fellowship — 2220 E Main Street, 75961 — 936.569.7077
Nacogdoches Christian Fellowship — 1701 E Main Street, 75961 — 936.560.1948
Nacogdoches Community Church / Victory Fellowship — 1907 Stallings Drive N, 75964 — 936.569.2720
Nacogdoches First Church of the Nazarene — 211 SE Stallings Drive, 75964 — 936.305.5351
Nacogdoches Korean Baptist Church — 1711 South Street, 75964 — 972.632.0560
Nacogdoches Seventh-day Adventist Church — 4407 Old Tyler Rd, 75964 — 936.564.1905
New Birth Fellowship Church — 2910 E Main Street, 75961 — 936.569.7334
New Creation Nations Christian Center — 3806 NW Stallings Drive, 75964
New Hope Baptist Church — 819 Ritchie Street, 75961 — 936.225.8580
New Hope Methodist Church — 5301 E Main Street, 75961 — 936.564.7693
New Life Christian Fellowship — 4111 FM 1878, 75965 — 936.674.7339
North Street Church of Christ — 3914 North Street, 75965 — 936.564.2471
Northpointe Church of God — 3900 Appleby Sand Rd, 75965 — 936.560.2358
Northwood Baptist Church — 3224 NE Stallings Drive, 75965 — 936.564.2969
Oak Grove Baptist Church — 2603 SE Stallings Drive, 75961 — 936.569.0756
Old North Baptist Church — 332 County Rd 205, 75965
Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church — 4401 Old Lufkin Rd, 75964 — 936.560.3506
Pine Flat CME Church — 899 FM 3228, 75961 — 936.564.4224
Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church — 4922 FM 2864, 75965 — 936.559.5445
Power Of The Word — 1501 Industrial Drive, 75964
Redeemer Lutheran Church — 2306 Appleby Sand Rd, 75965 — 936.564.6729
Redemption Baptist Church — 3716 South Street, 75964 — 936.414.6777
Rey De Reyes Iglesia Cristiana — 1705 SW Stallings Drive, 75964 — 936.462.8008
Rock Springs Church — 203 County Rd 819, 75964
Sacred Heart Catholic Church — 2508 Appleby Sand Rd, 75965 — 936.564.7807
Sandy Ridge Church — 75964
Saint Paisios the Athonite Orthodox Christian Mission — 614 E Starr Ave, 75961 — 936.622.0622
Saints Temple Church of God in Christ — 2604 Ellis Street, 75964 — 936.560.3506
Shady Grove Baptist Church — 2548 FM 2112, 75961 — 936.560.2721
Shawnee Church of Christ — 612 Shawnee Street, 75961 — 936.564.2103
Southside Church of Christ — 3738 S Fredonia Street, 75964 — 936.559.1800
Stallings Drive Baptist Church — 728 SE Stallings Drive, 75964 — 936.564.2075
Star Hope Baptist Church — 2305 Looneyville Rd, 75964 — 936.564.1369
St James Baptist Church — 2633 Canyon Street, 75964 — 936.564.7887
St Mary's Chapel — 215 College Street, 75965 — 936.564.0661
St Matthew Church — 2720 Matthew Street, 75964
St Paul's Methodist Church — 601 Moore Street, 75961 — 936.564.3585
Stonewall Fellowship Church — 1303 S University Drive, 75961 — 936.587.9895
Sunset Galilee Missionary Baptist Church — 1609 S Rayburn Drive, 75961 — 936.564.3853
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints — 3307 Center Rd, 75961 — 936.564.0687
The Citizen Nac — 108 N Lanana Street, 75961 — 936.237.6395
Timber Creek Church — 3801 North Street, 75965 — 936.632.3540
Trawick Presbyterian Church — 4410 SH 204, 75964 — 254.702.0100
Union Cross Missionary Baptist Church — 2905 Old Tyler Rd, 75964 — 936.564.9838
University Church — 2505 North Street, 75965 — 936.205.3100
Vineyard Church — 4140 FM 1878, 75961 — 936.564.4600
Westminster Presbyterian Church — 903 North Street, 75961— 936.564.0203
Westside Missionary Baptist Church — 3109 Durst Street, 75964 — 936.564.0713
Woden United Pentecostal Church — 136 Rankin Rd, 75961 — 936.560.2733
Zion Hill First Baptist Church — 324 N Lanana Street, 75961

Lufkin Church Directory

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www.carrowayfuneralhome.com		

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

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



WHAT'S HAPPENING



July 2026

Flowers After Hours
Wed. July 1st 5-7pm
Both Bloom Studio

Picnic in the Park
Thu. July 2nd 11am-1pm
Banita Creek Park

Hamilton Broadway Movie Sing-Along
Thu. July 2nd 6pm
Zion Hill Baptist Church

America 250 Celebration
Sat. July 4th 10am
Old University Building

Freedom Fest
Sat. July 4th 5:30pm
Festival Park

G&S Gun Show
July 17th - 19th
Nacogdoches County Exposition and Civic Center

Annie the Musical
7/17, 7/18, 7/24, & 7/25: 7:30pm
7/19 & 7/26: 2pm
Lamp-Lite Theater

Christmas in July
Fri. July 24th 4-7pm
Well Body Solutions

Flowers After Hours
Wed. July 29th 5-7pm
Both Bloom Studio

Nacogdoches Summer Scavenger Hunt
Now-Aug. 7th
Various Locations in Nacogdoches

Junior Engineer Days
Every Thursday 10am-12pm
Nacogdoches Railroad Depot

Nac Summer Sips
Every Friday 12-5pm
Downtown Nacogdoches Square

Lone Star Trivia
All times are 7pm unless stated otherwise
Tuesday: 7/14 & 7/28 Bottlecap Alley
Thursday: 7/2, 7/9, 7/16, 7/23, & 7/30 Fredonia Brewery

Nacogdoches Niners
Professional Minor League Baseball Team
7/7-7/9: Nac Niners VS Piney Woods Timberhogs
7/10-7/12: Nac Niners VS Fort Scott Dragoons
7/21-7/23: Nac Niners VS Beaumont Oil Barons
7/27-7/29: Nac Niners VS Piney Woods Timberhogs

The Fredonia Hotel
Music on the Patio every Friday 6-9pm:
7/3: Ryan Lawless
7/10: Enrique Munguia
7/17: Logan McCune
7/24: Larry Greer & The Shades of Blue
7/31: Marshall Hance

Nacogdoches Arts Collaborative
Locations are Italicized
Falling Star Gallery 320 North St:
7/11, 7/18, & 7/25: In the Summer
Garden Art Show 11am-4pm
141 Walker Street:
7/13-7/17: NAC Kids Art Camp
7/18: Art Camp Show

Naca Valley Vineyard
Pizza on the Pavilion:
Andy's Wood-Fired Pizza every Thu.-Sat.
Live Music 5:30pm:
7/4: Randy C Moore

SFA Recreation Center
Summer Music Series 4:30-6:30pm
Live music: 7/10, 7/24, & 7/31

SFA Planetarium Shows
Saturday: 7/11, 7/18, & 7/25
3pm, 4:40pm, & 7pm

SFA Summer Movie Series
SFA Student Center
Tuesdays: 10am | Wednesdays: 1:30pm

SFA Gardens
Locations are Italicized
Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden:
Now-3/6/27: Sculpture in the SFA Gardens
Brundrett Conservation Education Building:
7/9: Tips for Success in Home Orchards 7pm

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

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

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

Fredonia Brewery
Trivia every Thursday 7pm
Live Music every Friday & Saturday
7/1: Books & Brews 6-7pm
7/3: Ally Fuller Live 6:30-8:30pm
7/4: FREEdonia Fest America's 250th Birthday 12-10pm
7/10: Lefty Gardner Live 6:30-8:30pm
7/19: FredTalk Lecture Series 2-3pm
7/24: Haylee Lewis Live 6:30-8:30pm
7/25: Huffie & The Paintfish Live 6-9pm

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

Madhatter Distillery
Events are 21+ | No cover unless stated otherwise
7/2: Singo Bingo 6-7:30pm
7/3: Jay & Linda Kaye Live 7-9:30pm
7/10: Glaze & Sip with Muddy Pants Pottery 6:30-9pm
7/11: Zach Mason Live 7-9:30pm
7/16: Singo Bingo 6-7:30pm
7/17: Paint & Sip 6:30-9pm
7/18: Haylee Lewis Live 7-9:30pm
7/25: Skippy Diggler Live 7-9:30pm

Aperitivo Cafe & Gelato
Thursdays: Piano & Pour 6-9pm

Slash-O-Meadery
Saturdays: Mead with the Highlands 2-8pm
7/18: Tommy Simpson Live 4-7pm

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

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

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

LET US HELP PUBLICIZE YOUR EVENT!

If your church, service organization or non-profit has an
upcoming event or fundraiser,
please send to AroundTheTown@mail.com.

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