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Help for Your Business! FREE Small Business Assistance Available!

Following the economic disaster of 2020, small business owners need quality business advising services more than ever. The Angelina College Small Business Development Center (SBDC) helps businesses in our community start, grow, and succeed by providing professional business advising and training. The goal of the Angelina College SBDC is to equip clients with the tools, professional advice, and expertise necessary to allow them to make informed decisions based on the knowledge they have acquired. Advisors at the Angelina College SBDC have over 100 years of practical business experience to assist local entrepreneurs.

The Angelina College SBDC is available to assist small businesses in every phase of their business cycle from start-up to expansion. Our business advisors are equipped with a variety of tools and a wealth of knowledge to assist with your business needs.

Free, confidential, one-on-one business consulting. Angelina College SBDC advisors can assist businesses with:

- Creating a comprehensive business plan
- Developing loan packages and identifying funding sources
- Preparing and analyzing financial statements, including financial projections
- Evaluating business opportunities for starting/purchasing a new business
- Business basics, marketing, and financing
- Technology and commercialization

Additional services include:

- Business training to new entrepreneurs and existing business owners
- Industry and market research

For a limited time, additional staff funded by CARES Act to assist with:

- Finance:
 - Financial Analysis
 - Debt Restructure
 - EIDL/PPP2 loan applications
- Marketing:
 - Market Strategy
 - Branding

SBDC SERVICES - Page 2

Never Be Left in the Dark!

by Terri Lacher
talacher@sbcglobal.net

Old Town Generator Service of Nacogdoches, Texas, owned and operated by Jacob and Rikki Willoughby, is a full service Generator shop serving the entire deep east Texas area. They offer sales, service, and installation of standby generator systems for residential, commercial, and agricultural applications. Old Town Generator Service is a distributor of Cummins Power Generation and Kohler Power Generation products, but they service all makes and models of generators.

Jacob began working in the generator business in 2009 as a wholesale supplier to installers all across Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. At that time residential generators were not very common but they managed to steadily grow the business over time until they were the largest distributor of home standby generators in the south. They install whole house generators, however, they can customize any unit to fit any application. Additionally, they have a master electrician and plumber on all jobs to insure that the building codes are strictly adhered to.

Jacob continued to expand his knowledge of the power generation industry and worked for several years in Houston for a large commercial and industrial generator shop selling new equipment, managing install projects and coordinating service work, but in the back of his mind he had always wanted to open his own shop back in Nacogdoches and serve the community where he grew up.

Old Town Generator Service was an idea Rikki Leigh and Jacob dreamed up, being able to start a business from scratch and then develop it into a way to not only provide for their family and provide a service for their local community and gaining the respect and trust of the community they served. But, even more so,



OLD TOWN GENERATOR - Page 2

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The SBDC program is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. The Angelina College SBDC is a business advising and training center of the Gulf Coast SBDC Network. The Gulf Coast SBDC Network serves 32 counties in Southeast Texas.

OLD TOWN GENERATOR

his ultimate accomplishment was to provide jobs for others.

“Old Town Generator Service was founded in 2015 by Jacob and Rikki Leigh Willoughby. With a desire to provide the highest quality power generation equipment and customer service in the industry, Old Town Generator Service strives every day to exceed our customers’ expectations by going above and beyond to ensure their satisfaction.”

Both Jacob and Rikki Leigh come from Nacogdoches families. Jacob is the son of Wayne and Melanie Musser, and his wife, Rikki Leigh, daughter of Ricky and Leslie Heard. They have lived in Nacogdoches for over thirty years. In 2018, their son, Emmett was born. They have attended First Baptist Church, and Jacob has been involved in the East Texas Sportsman’s Club for several years, serving on the Board of Directors, and Vice President of the Club.



Jacob, Emmett and Rikki Leigh Willoughby.

Jacob felt the call of duty and served in the Texas Army National Guard from 1999-2007. He was deployed shortly after 9/11 to work with US Customs, Immigration and Border Patrol. He was deployed once more in 2005-2006 to Operation Iraqi Freedom, or OIF3.

Besides enjoying time in the outdoors, and being able to travel, Jacob and Rikki Leigh also own the Red House Winery in downtown Nacogdoches. Red House Winery offers a variety of wines that are 100% Texas grown and made, produced in San Saba, Texas at the Wedding Oak Winery. Besides offering their wine and wine club selections, they also offer a pizza and charcuterie board menu.

Old Town Generators is located at 108 East Pilar Street, in Nacogdoches, Texas 75963. They are open Monday through Friday, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, closed Saturdays and Sundays. You may reach them at (936) 615-7857. You may also visit their webpage at oldtowngeneratorservice.com or take a look at their Facebook page.





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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.

Charles Meador, Making 90 Look Good!

by Terri Lacher
talacher@sbcglobal.net

It's not every day that someone gets to celebrate a 90th birthday, especially during a time of social distancing due to the Covid virus, but Charles Meador was showered with love by his family and friends and extended family as they helped him enjoy the day by having a "Telephone Birthday Celebration."

Daughter, Gae, came up with the idea, because of the restrictions and concern for her father's health. She contacted friends and family members, and assigned each a time slot for them to call Mr. Meador and share their well wishes for his birthday.

"I wanted to give Daddy a birthday party, and I just couldn't take the chance of me taking the virus or him. So, I planned a telephone party where each of his friends and family were appointed a time to call him on his day. If everyone calls, they have ten minutes to talk, and he will be getting fifty-two calls from day light 'til dark!"

Charles Meador, the fifth child of six, was born on January 20th in 1931, at home in Libby, Texas, to John Atticus Meador, and Leslie Carrie Banks Meador. His father, John was a farmer, raising cotton, peanuts and watermelons in the East Texas area. Once Charles was old enough he went into the Army, at Fort, Sill, Oklahoma, in 1952 through 1954, leaving the service with a Corporal status. At the time the list came out to serve in Korea, Charles did not want to go, so another serviceman, who Charles only knew as "Garcia," whose name wasn't on the list, volunteered and went in Charles' place. They lost track of each other after that, and Charles always wondered what happened to him.



Charles married Margaret Joe Shippey, and they had one child, Gae Lynn Meador. Gae married Robert Mitchell. With Gae and Robert's two girls, Courtney and Sarah Charles ended up with several grandchildren and great grandchildren, which

are all the loves of his heart.

Once Charles came home, he worked on his family farm for years, and then moved to Nacogdoches and began to do sheet rock and painting, a skill he learned from his father-in-law, Otis Shippey.

At one point, Charles applied for a job at Nibco, but because he only had a 6th grade education, they would only let him work in the foundry. They soon realized how good Charles was at fixing things, and he was moved into the machine shop, where he continued to work until his retirement thirty-four and a half years later.



In his retirement years, most of you who have met Charles, know you will find him either out in his shop making fish bait traps to sell, or sitting down inside his cozy home in his favorite chair cracking pecans, most of which he gives away. At the present time, Charles now has bait traps in twenty-eight states across the United States.

Turning ninety years old is a goal many of us have, especially as we get older. Charles does it with grace and charm. He is one of the most interesting persons to visit with, especially in his shop where he explains how he came about making his special fish bait traps. Having spent some time with him in a previous interview, this writer can say, Charles makes ninety years old look young!

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The East Texas Sportsman's Club (ETSC) is a responsive community of hunters and anglers in the East Texas region who work to protect fish and wildlife while promoting conservation and youth education. Our mission is "to conserve wildlife and wilderness lands, to educate youth and the general pub-

lic, and to promote and protect the rights and interest of hunters."

Meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at different locations. For meeting locations and other information, please contact Marsha Findeisen at marsha@ntsamson.com.

The Refuge

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

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



The Living and The Dead

"I see dead people" is a memorable line from the 1999 movie, *The Sixth Sense*. The film depicts a troubled eight-year-old boy who sees dead people. They do not know they are dead. This sums up the spiritual reality of what born-

again believers see: we see dead people walking among us who do not know they are dead. It is a spiritual death caused by sin and seen only through the eyes of those with spiritual life. Sin separates us from God.

Let us take a look at this spiritual contrast depicted in Genesis 4. It is here that God pulls back the curtain, allowing us to see faith and unbelief revealed after the Fall through the lives of two brothers—Cain and Abel. Though the Bible does not record it, in my sanctified imagination I envision our first parents telling of the events that transpired after they sinned. In the process of time Abel believed God's promise, Cain did not. What was the promise spoken by God? "I will put enmity between your seed and her Seed. He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heel" (Gen 3:15). Abel believed in the coming Messiah, a Savior. Faith was working in Abel as evidenced by his offering presented to and accepted by God. Unbelief of the promise was working in Cain as evidenced by his offering, God not respecting his offering, and who murdered Abel (Gen 4:1-10).

Like Cain and Abel, we were born of flesh and blood. We, like them, also made no contribution to being born unrighteous (immoral, sinful). Therefore, God holds no one responsible except Adam for our separation from Him because of sin (Rom 5:16-17). Yet God holds us individually accountable for the choice to remain separated from Him by not accepting His way to righteousness and a right relationship. God's way is Jesus Christ (John 14:6). Jesus, God's sacrificial Lamb, took away our sins. By God's grace, Jesus tasted death for everyone in the world (Heb 2:9). Christ's cross is the great exchange of death for life. He offers forgiveness of sins and life to everyone who believes.

We are no longer waiting for the promised Seed of the woman. Jesus Christ is the Seed, the Son of promise (Luke 2:10-11). The living are born-again carriers of Christ's Spirit. All who have the Son have life. The dead are those among us who are still in their sins, carriers of the spirit of Satan, the spirit of death. From a biblical perspective the human race is not divided along color lines but spiritual position. People are either children of God alive in Christ or children of the devil dead in trespasses and sins. God is not the God of the dead but of the living (Matt 22:32).



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The (ETME) East Texas Motorcycle Enthusiasts are having a benefit for Make-A-Wish Foundation. All proceeds will go to Make-A-Wish in memory of our good friend Uncky Crawford. As you all know we did not get to have our 2 rallies this year, so this is what we are doing for our donation. We will have an auction and raffle baskets, we will also be selling raffle tickets for a new mini-bike. We will have barbecue plates for \$10, including brisket with sides. Back Porch Band will be on hand for entertainment. Donations are appreciated. For info or for tickets for the mini-bike, please call Belinda at 936-404-4106. This event will be held at Lugnutz Bar N Grill, 5287 S US Highway 59, Nacogdoches, Texas 75964, February 13, 2021 from noon till 5 pm.


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

Not Forgotten Times Around the Town

by Craig Stripling

I suppose folks of all ages think that some of the days of their youth (“coming up”) were about as good as it got, and rightfully so since there’ve been so many wonderful things transpire in America, Texas, and, indeed, East Texas-especially during the last century. I count myself so blessed to have been able to spend a childhood in the post “World War Twice” years and in the 1950’s when outlooks and attitudes were positive and where people were energetic, enthusiastic, and optimistic. Our own East Texas towns (mine being Nacogdoches) were in most respects similar to or parallel in method with those all around this, then and now, still great country.

Downtown Nacogdoches was where 90% of the commerce and activity took place on a daily basis. Offices, stores were pretty much crammed into the small area of a few blocks-there were a couple of “strip centers” and several individually owned neighborhood grocery stores throughout town, but no major shopping centers nor many other destination businesses away from downtown. Upstairs offices above the stores were occupied by doctors, dentists, attorneys, insurance agents, and accountants-and not but a few of each of those professionals!

There were (talking about the 50’s, now) three “picture shows” (movie theaters) downtown (not meaning to neglect the Matteson family’s wonderful SFA Theater just north of the college in that great College Heights area). The biggest was the Main Theater-you could go to the kiddie show at 10:00 A.M. Saturday morning, watch 3 or 4 cartoons (*Daffy Duck*, *Bugs Bunny*, *Donald Duck*, *Mickey Mouse*, etc., etc.) a comedy (typically the *Three Stooges*), a serial or sequential series “short,” a (usually cowboy) movie-all for about a quarter counting admission, a coke, and a sack of popcorn. If you got forbearance from your folks you could stay at no additional admission ticket charge for the “main feature”- again, typically a cowboy movie. The Texan Theater was about a block and a half west of



The Main on the same side of Main Street. Just west of the square (old post office site occupied now by the Charles Bright Visitor’s Bureau) was the Stone Fort Theater. Years before my time, there was also The Palace Theater in the first block of E. Main on the north side, too.

There were four drugstores-Turner’s, Pool Perkins, Swift Brothers and Smith, and Stripling’s. I hung out pretty much at Stripling’s because my grandfather, Sam B. Stripling, Sr., (along with his partners Mr. Billy Haselwood and Mr. Thomas Baker) established it in 1901. By the time I was old enough to be aware of surroundings to any great extent, the drug store and most of that north side of Main Street had been burned to near destruction 2 or 3 times. By the 50’s, the store was rebuilt modern, large, and very viable. Its location across the street from the post office, where the mail was placed in boxes three times a day, funneled folks across the street 2 or 3 times daily to partake of iced fountain drinks, milkshakes, sodas, griddled doughnuts, or grilled sandwiches (maybe a Frito chili pie or a banana split on special occasions). The fountain-maybe 20 stools and five two person booth type tables were filled to capacity several times a day-it took Ms. Audrey Simon riding herd on 3 young lady servers and a dishwasher to handle the flow. The malts and homemade ingredient (ham salad, pimento cheese, chicken salad) sandwiches and other food were the talk of the town.

Mr. Sam had the belief that if you followed a five point plan (call your customers by name, extend them credit, offer free delivery, charge fair and reasonable prices for your merchandise, and treat all who enter with courtesy, respect, and kindness) you’d have all the commerce you could handle...and he made it stick selling Cardui Tonic (patent medicine) by the train car load and ordering more free-to-the-customer Cardui calendars and Ladies Birthday Almanacs than any similar such store in the country!

I was so fortunate! I got to hang out at what was referred to in the motto printed on the sides of the white paper sacks-The Big Drugstore-We Sell Everything-filling in at the cash register, waiting on customers, riding in the delivery truck during summers commencing when I was 12 years old. Every Saturday I’d run up the stairs to the office to get from the bookkeeper, Mr. Ray Alders, my \$9.40 net check, whereupon I’d promptly blow by buying either at Branch Patton or Cason Monk Hardware Stores a Case or Ka-Bar jiggled bone or stag handle pocket knife. Those \$5.00, \$7.00 or so knives from that era (Sambar stag handles, high carbon steel blades) now are worth \$150.00 to \$300.00 each, so my spendthrift ways weren’t without later justification!

More to come in later issues.



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

Bury Your Bitterness

“Get rid of all bitterness” Ephesians 4:31 (NIV)

In Mount Hope Cemetery, Hiawatha, Kansas, you'll find several large grave-stones erected by John Milburn Davis. Davis began his working life as a lowly hired hand and managed to amass a considerable fortune. In the process, he didn't make many friends. Nor was he close to his wife's family, since they thought she had married beneath herself. Embittered, he vowed not to leave them a penny. When his wife died, Davis erected an elaborate

statue depicting himself and her sitting at opposite ends of a love seat. He was so pleased with it that he planned a second monument, showing his wife kneeling to place a wreath at his future graveside. Then he had a sculptor place a set of wings on her back. One idea led to another, until he had spent a quarter-of-a-million on tributes to his wife and himself. When people asked him to contribute to the local hospital, or a swimming pool for children, the old miser would say, “What's this town ever done for me?”

Davis spent his life's fortune on statues and died at ninety-two as a lonely, grim-faced resident of the poorhouse. And what happened to his monuments? Each and every one of them is slowly sinking into the Kansas soil – victims of time, vandalism, and neglect; memorials to spite and self-centered living.

There's a certain poetic justice in the fact that within a few years they'll all be gone. Oh, by the way, only one person attended Davis' funeral – Horace England, the tombstone salesman. Don't let that happen to you; make your life count for God!

A LITTLE HUMOR: I was taught to forgive but never forget. So now I walk around full of resentment and suspicion but don't remember why.

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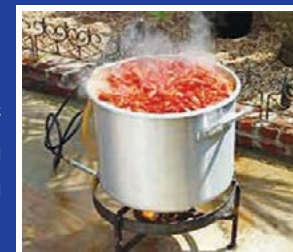
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UPCOMING IN MARCH 2021...

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MARCH 14, 2021 – DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME.. – Don’t forget to spring your clock’s Forward....

MARCH 25-27, 2021 – NACOGDOCHES PRO RODEO & STEER SHOW!...
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Gates open at 6:30 nightly, Mutton Bustin’ at 7:00, Pro Rodeo action begins at 7:30PM. All Presale Tickets & Tickets available online only at www.rodeoticket.com (20% online discount on 5 or more tickets!) Presale Prices: Adult Tickets: \$10.00; Child Tickets: (Child 4 & UP) \$7.00; and 3 Day Passes:\$20.00. \$1.00 Off if shared and liked on Social Media.

Due to COVID-19 Government restrictions; Rodeo will be operating at 50% capacity; so tickets are limited and will go fast. All tickets sold will be online and assigned seating only due to the COVID restrictions.

Sponsorships and Vendor spaces are still available. Please call the Expo at 936-564-0849 for information on how to become a Rodeo Sponsor or rent a vendor booth during the 2021 Nacogdoches Pro Rodeo & Steer Show.

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Amazing What a Little Snow Can Do

Sometimes all it takes is a little snow to give you a new perspective and put you in a good mood. I started getting excited about the possibility of snow days before it began to fall. That's because it's a rare event in deep East Texas.

We have our share of hurricanes and tornadoes, ice or horrific thunderstorms, but experiencing that quiet flutter of snowflakes as they descend from the clouds is something most of us around here get downright giddy about.

The flakes seemed huge when they began to fall. They drifted to the ground as if tiny snow angels were gently setting them down. Then it began to accumulate and most of us were planning a snow day from school or work the next day. Photos of excited children and adults gathering in their front yards on a Sunday afternoon began to pop up from friends on our social media pages. The conversation revolved around how many inches of snow fell. My phone began to ring with questions about road conditions and calls from the media asking for interviews and photos.

While all of this was going on, our TxDOT crews were working. They began days before the incoming weather by pre-treating roads, bridges and elevated surfaces. Those preparations would enhance the safety of the road and help prevent any moisture from freezing. Roads were re-treated with brine mixture while the snow was still falling as well as the day after.

If you follow me at TxDOT Lufkin on Facebook or Twitter, you saw the information and the photos of their work. Most people never took notice of the TxDOT trucks and crews working day and night.

Unfortunately, a few drivers forgot to slow down in winter weather. It's understandable since we see so little of it. Some vehicles slid off the roadway. Many drivers stayed off the road during the snow storm. They gave our crews room and time to work. Between Sunday night and Tuesday morning, roads were cleared and all were open. Trees, limbs and debris had been removed.

But for a brief couple of days, most of us made memories with our families. We were transported back to our own childhoods as we played with our children and grandchildren. Our cares disappeared and we gained a happy, relaxed perspective. We laughed as we sipped hot chocolate and watched children throw snowballs. The stress and worry of our present times faded away and all that mattered was that moment.

No doubt, we will talk about the snowstorm of 2021 for a long time. Our crews made it home safely, the snow melted and we are now back to the East Texas humidity and fast-approaching spring and summer temperatures. But there was this one Sunday afternoon that changed us, put us all in a good mood, and just like children, we played in the snow.

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For Seniors coping with Dementia, one of the greatest frustrations is the inability to do those things they once loved. The fact is Seniors with Alzheimer's feel worthless, a once successful businessman or a passionate housewife has nothing to live for as they cannot remember. You and I need a purpose each and every day, these folks are no different. There are stages for this disease and the community has the opportunity to slow the progression down so they don't go inside them self and are ALONE until they die.



We first need to know about their history so I have a special assessment the family and I do together. The family can provide items to assist us with their purpose. There should not be a TV in memory care as that is a babysitter. Physical activity, we also provide activities that stimulate their minds and their hunger for art and music. It's pretty simple as you use the 5 senses and individualize for each resident. It doesn't matter if they finish just get them to a point they feel successful. PURPOSE!

When someone has a memory issue the loved ones need to put a few things into priority. Everyone tries to make the resident come into our world. What needs to happen is we must go into theirs, even if they have a memory of something for a brief moment we need to validate it with them.

Behaviors are not handled properly, we usually try and remove them from the situation instead of finding out what is going on. It is fact there is a reason for every behavior, we must take the time to find out. Seniors with Alzheimer's have a lot of things stored, when things occur including behaviors you need to find out, talk with them and validate either their emotion or a memory that needs to be resolved so they can die in peace.



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Chamber Connection
 by Kelly Augustine
 Executive Vice President,
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Show Your Love for Our Businesses

This month, as we focus on showing love to those close to us, let’s also think about our local businesses. Let’s show some special attention to the folks who have chosen Nacogdoches as the location for their livelihood.

Whether it’s a small or large business, the fact is, doing business with our neighbors has great benefits: we keep more money in our local economy; more jobs are supported; our unique community stays vibrant and diverse; and more funds are invested in public services. In general, when YOU support local businesses, YOU have made a positive impact in YOUR community.

But back to what we celebrate in February, which is Valentine’s Day and “showing the love” to your special someone. Why not get creative with the experiences and gifts that are found in the Oldest Town in Texas?

Bonus, the Nacogdoches County Chamber has made it very easy for you! Go to www.Nacogdoches.org and find the online Membership Directory. Before you start typing in the search field, I encourage you to take a moment to browse the preset categories. You may find products and services that you didn’t know were available. Imagine!

You may easily explore choices in recreation, home and garden, lodging and travel, arts and entertainment, specialty retail and shopping, spa and salon, and restaurants to name a few. Along with the traditional flowers and chocolates that can be found in our local florists, shops and markets, what would your valentine think if you threw in an unexpected twist? Maybe arrange for an afternoon stroll through a local nursery or a couples’ date at a winery, brewery, distillery or a staycation in a local hotel or bed and breakfast.

Who knows? Trying something a little different could create a new “I’ll never forget” experience and possibly become a standing tradition.

The point to this story is that good things are all around us in Nacogdoches. Sometimes we just need to stray a little off the well-known track to discover true treasures. Nacogdoches County is packed with businesses owned and operated by people who are doing what they love in the community they love. We can make the month of February a month of showing our love for them by doing business with them.

Find more at www.Nacogdoches.org or call 936-560-5533.

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Cushing in February

from Tiffany Duckworth
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Happy Valentines People! Wishing you all the love and romance your heart can contain.

My mind is kind of all over the place. Remember that Alligator I told you about last month? I'm afraid he has been spotted eating free speech! I'm a little nervous about what else he might be hungry for. And there is a herd of elephants in the room. I'm going to make a new T-shirt, "ZOO Life." Cause it's wild out there.

I watched the inauguration with bated breath. We have a new president. Some are happy about the change. Others are disappointed. But we move forward.

We had snow! How much fun was that? Nothing like a snow day to put a smile on the faces of the young and old alike!

I can not help but reflect how much can change in just one year. My personal state of mind is vastly different than it was just a year ago, and I'm better for it. Trials, challenges, even heart breaks, test our mettle; and how we come out of it on the other side is what counts! I have coined a new slogan for 2021 "Knee time!" Instead of "Me Time," cause that is what it is going to take.

When I first came to town, one of the first places I went was the Alexander Burger Company. We went every morning for breakfast and in the afternoon for hamburgers. We developed a sweet rapport with Mr. Timothy Alexander.

He made us a beautiful sign that we proudly hung on our barn. "Duckworth Farm." I thought I would stop by and say hi. See what's going on around town in his world. His food truck has grown a lot since we last spoke. He has practically built a restaurant around what was once a food truck. He also has added a drive through window.

He was telling me he was diagnosed with cancer last fall. He has been busy fighting that. But he is back! Doing great and working hard! And we here in Cushing are glad for that! So, if you don't happen to live here in Cushing, stop by and check out some of his crazy hamburgers, and my favorite the fried Jalapeños, on the side or on a burger! 419 Cypress Ave (Hwy 204). Online and of course on Facebook you can find him and his menu.

My other buddy in town, Jerry Fears, told me "Roosters Crawfish" is coming to 7th street! February 12th will be the first boil! So, c'mon down der now cherr. Live music on the patio and don't forget the jam next door at the domino hall.

Next month is my birthday! So, let's start celebrating that now! Look out 49 I'm coming for you! For me it seems like all the holidays run into each other and I am always celebrating something. But My Birthday is my favorite one.

See you next month around town.



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The High Holy Days of Texas

by Tweed Scott

We are coming up on a special time of year. I refer to it as the “High Holy Days of Texas.” These are the days from February 23rd to April 21st each year. That period covers the historical events of the Texas Revolution between the arrival of Santa Ana in San Antonio at the Alamo to the Battlefield at San Jacinto 59 days later, culminating in the Republic of Texas.

Texans love their state, perhaps more correctly, their Republic. They are keenly aware of the colorful history we enjoy remembering each year. We are about to visit that time again. Let me give you a brief overview and bring you up to speed just in case you are new to these parts.

In that span of less than 60 days several momentous events occurred in 1836 that galvanized a movement that led to the birth of a nation. Mexican General, Santa Ana, the self-proclaimed “Napoleon of the West,” showed up in San Antonio on February 23 to take down a group of what he referred to as “pirates.” Members of this group had thrown the Mexican Army under Gen. Cos out of San Antonio the previous December. Gen Cos was Santa Ana’s brother-in-law. When Santa Ana learned of the Mexican Army’s expulsion from Texas, Santa Ana had had enough.



He decided he would go back and make an example of any of the Texians he could find by killing them. You could call it a scorched earth policy. He was taking no prisoners and that included the Alamo.

After a 13-day siege the Alamo fell, killing every one of the 180-something people. Santa Ana then turned his sights on capturing Gen. Sam Houston and the Texian Army then camped near Gonzales. The word was out. The Mexican Army was on the move and they meant business. This is when the Runaway Scrape began. The “Scrape” was the civilian population fleeing their farms, homes, and towns ahead of the arrival of the Mexican Army. They mostly fled toward the relative safety of Sam Houston’s Texian Army.

Santa Ana broke his army into 3 parts, something he would later come to regret. One part was sent to capture the Texian government and one part to protect his supply lines. The third part he commanded himself to capture Sam Houston. Meanwhile the Texian forces were defeated in the two-day Battle of Coleto near Goliad. Some 300 prisoners were taken to the Presidio at La Bahia and imprisoned with some others.

Gen. Urrea asked Santa Ana to have mercy on these soldiers and Santa Ana insisted they must be executed. So, on Palm Sunday, March 27th, some 425-445 soldiers were marched out in three separate columns about a quarter of a mile from the fort and were executed. 28 men along with some others did escape, but most were killed. Some of the survivors would fight at the final battle at San Jacinto.

Sam Houston was dumb like a fox. He knew his army only had one battle in it. He could not afford to go head-to-head with Santa Ana. So, Sam Houston kept Santa Ana at arm’s length. He finally, got Santa Ana to move himself into a box at San Jacinto with his army backed up to a swamp near what is now the Houston Ship Channel. The date was April 21st, 1836. Santa Ana knew where Houston was about a quarter of a mile away. He decided he would finish off Ol’ Sam and his boys the next morning. He essentially took the rest of the afternoon off without posting sentries. Houston saw his chance and attacked late in the afternoon about 4:30. He caught the Mexicans totally by surprise. So much so that the main part of the battle was over in 18 minutes. I’ll talk about this in the April issue and show you some surprising facts about the battle you might already know and why it ended the way it did.

All of these events came together in a relatively short period of time. Every Texan knows the stories. If you don’t believe it, ask a ten-year-old or fourth grader and pull up a chair. You’ll be there a while. Part of what a Texan is can be found in these stories. They know they are part of something special—something bigger than they are. They are tremendously proud of all that. It gets to the heart of who they are. They know the source. They understand how they got here. It was all the result of the High Holy Days of Texas.

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The Federation of Women's Club is currently conducting a Capital Campaign to improve accessibility by adding an elevator, handicapped restrooms and making the building handicapped accessible. Additionally, electric and plumbing will be upgraded.

- 1) **Why do you need an elevator?**
We have approximately 2500 visitors to the building each year. With the winding, narrow staircase to the second floor where the exhibits are, many of our visitors cannot take advantage of viewing the museum and exhibits on the second floor.
- 2) **Is the building structurally sound to house an elevator?**
An annex is located on the North side and adjacent to the Old Nacogdoches University Building. The elevator shaft is to be placed in this annex and will service the second floor. The structure of the building will not be compromised in any way. Very large windows on each floor, located directly above each other, will be removed for the elevator doors to be accessed.
- 3) **Why is handicapped accessibility needed?**
There is one ramp on the East side of the building for handicapped access. The restroom does not allow for a wheelchair. Handicapped individuals cannot access the second floor to view the museum and exhibits.
- 4) **I would like to make a donation but need to break my donation into several smaller amounts. Can I do this, and, is there a deadline for making contributions?**
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Angela's
Monthly Recipe

Candied Nuts

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



Ingredients:

- ¼ tsp salt
- 6 Tbsp milk
- 1 cup sugar
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- 1 Tbsp Vanilla
- 2 cups mixed nuts or pecans

Preparation:

Mix first 4 ingredients and bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring occasionally. A heavy pan does better as thinner pans sometimes cause it to burn. Cook to soft boil stage (when you drop in cold water forms soft ball). Remove from heat; add vanilla and nuts. Stir until all are coated well and until coating crystallizes. Quickly pour onto waxed paper and separate with 2 forks.

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

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Ashley Morgan
 CVB Creative Content Director

For the Love of Mardi Gras

With 2020 in our rearview mirror, we hope you're ready for some fun! It's our 25th birthday and we want to celebrate. Starting in February, the Nacogdoches Convention & Visitors Bureau has plans for every month.

February brings us Valentine's Day and Mardi Gras. We're not one to choose favorites, so we've created "For the Love of Mardi Gras," a month-long celebration of all things love and great food!

If you're feeling a little Cajun, don't miss Beers and Beads on February 13th at Fredonia Brewery. With boudin from Chambers Smokehouse, beignets from Merci's World Cuisine, live music by Sabine River Brass Band, this is an event that will give you some major FOMO (Fear of Missing Out.)

If love is what you're looking for, book a room at the Fredonia Hotel with the "Romance Package" that includes champagne, chocolate covered strawberries and two breakfast vouchers. Mockingbird Suites is offering \$20 off any stay for Valentine's Day weekend and the last weekend of February as well.

The CVB's last scheduled Drive-In movie will be Friday, February 12th at the A.L. Mangham Jr. Regional Airport, with a Valentine's showing of "You've Got Mail." Tickets are available at visitnacogdoches.org/nac-at-night.

On February 9th, Front Porch Distillery is offering a cookie decorating class with White Farmhouse Baking Company, and a Valentine's Brunch with food from Chambers Smokehouse on February 13th. Check out the Front Porch Distillery Facebook page for more details.

Naca Valley Vineyard has live music planned the first three Saturdays in February, with Andy's Food Truck each week! Warm up with your sweetie next to the fire pit for a romantic night out.

Last but certainly not least, the CVB is partnering with Main Street to offer the first of many "Nac Snack Fridays!" Every month on the 4th Friday, there will be food trucks (local and traveling) parked around the Downtown Square from 11am to 7pm. Grab lunch with your coworkers or stay through the evening for live music! Join us February 26th for the pilot event!



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A Salute to our East Texas

VETERANS



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

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Being a Part of Tiger Bravo - a Rendezvous With Destiny

Told by Joe Adams to Terri Lacher



Joe Adams is a “born and raised-in” Nacogdoches native. Following graduation from high school, he was first called up to the draft in July of 1964, but was unable to go at that time, due to chronic health problems. He recalls that he was sent six different draft notices, and finally went into the Army in December of 1967. Joe did his basic training and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Tiger Land, Ft. Polk, Louisiana. He remembered it was the worst ice storm in seventy-three years. Because of the storm, their training was suspended, and the servicemen ended up spending time in their barracks doing physical training and studying the Code of Military Justice, along with weapons familiarization.



Two weeks after training, Joe went to Vietnam in May of 1968. He first landed at Bien Hoa, and felt the heat and humidity right away, reminding him of living in “East Texas on a summer afternoon.” They were then put on a bus with chain-link over the windows.

“Guess they think we’ll jump out,” one fellow passenger said. Actually, though, the chain-link was there to keep anyone from throwing a grenade into the bus. From Bein Hoa, they went on to Long Bihn as a replacement company.



Joe Adams and his mom just prior to his departure for Vietnam.

“There were so many that there were not bunks for everyone.” Joe and a few others were placed at the Special Forces Camp near by. Joe said that place got mortared and rocketed every night. From there, Joe was assigned to the 101st AIRBORNE Screaming Eagles. According to Joe, someone had made another big mistake. From there he went back to Bien Hoa and SERTS – the Screaming Eagle Replacement Training School. He then was sent to Phuoc Vinh and assigned to Bravo Company, 2/506th, 101st Airborne Division (the old Band of Brothers

unit reactivated for Vietnam). He recalls a large four foot by eight foot sign at the headquarters that read, “TIGER BRAVO...Top of the CURRAHEES...2/506th...101st AIRBORNE. Joe said it was another “uh oh,” because he was “a leg” and not “jump” qualified. It is believed by his Tiger Bravo Brothers that Joe Adams was the first leg replacement in the Tiger Bravo unit. Tiger Bravo was an elite rifle company.



Joe Adams, far right, and some of his Battalion buddies relax for chow.

“How I ended up there, I’ll never know...glad I did. Perhaps it was by my “rendezvous with destiny,” Joe said. He was a Private First Class (PFC) squad leader several times when E-5 personnel were not available. They became known as “The Wandering Warriors” in all four corps.

They left Phuoc Vinh and flew to Camp Eagle, and from there they went to Camp Evans, leaving War Zone D and Binh Duong Province behind, continuing north all the way. Who knew what lay ahead.

“After an initial seven months in combat, Sergeant Major Trent, who had been Tiger Bravo’s First Sergeant, pulled me off line and placed me at S-4...Battalion Supply. I later became Battalion PLL (Prescribed Load List) Clerk, handling and ordering repair parts for everything used by the unit. After Vietnam, I was stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado at Special Processing Detachment (SPD), handling military prisoners and transporting prisoners and driver for the First Sergeant. I served two years on active duty. The Army didn’t ask me back,” Joe said.

Former members of the Tiger Bravo group continued to have reunions every two years, however, 2020’s outbreak of Covid “sure put a hit on it.” Not many were able to attend, but, members still keep in touch via emails and phone calls.

VETERANS

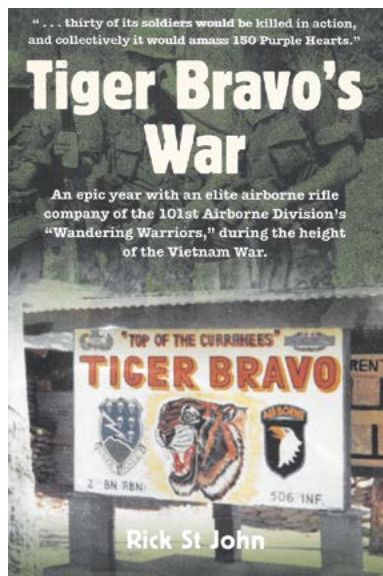
"I don't believe that my beliefs were altered any by my tour in Vietnam. I always thought of myself as a patriot...I went because I believed it was my duty and so many had gone before me," Joe said.

After getting out of the service, Joe said he "sort of wandered around for a while," not unlike many who had returned from Vietnam. His many jobs included running a service station, a laundry route, convenience store clerk, hardware store clerk, and he even cut and hauled firewood. He later went to work in the Nacogdoches Fire Marshall's Office where he retired after twenty-three years. Additionally, he served as a Reserve Deputy Constable in Nacogdoches County Pct. 1 for thirteen years. He was a licensed and commissioned Peace Officer for thirty-seven plus years, obtaining a Master Peace Officer's license. During his time with the City of Nacogdoches, he was an instructor at Texas A&M University and Angelina College. He obtained a degree in Criminal Justice from Stephen F. Austin State University.



Joe Adam's experience in Vietnam in the Tiger Bravo unit has been documented in two books that he recommends for anyone interested in Vietnam history and the 2/506th 101st AIRBORNE Division: *NAM SENSE...Surviving Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division*, by Arthur Wiknik, Jr. "Art was with the Alpha Company 2/506th and "participated" in Hamburger Hill. Art has been featured in several of the documentaries on Vietnam."

The other book Joe highly recommends is *TIGER BRAVO'S War* by Rick St. John. Rick was the CO and was with Tiger Bravo "an unheard of three times." Several of the Tiger Bravo warriors contributed to and help edit this book. *Tiger Bravo's War* is available on Amazon.



Over all, there were one hundred fifty Purple Hearts awarded to the Tiger Bravo troopers, several Silver Stars, and at least one Distinguished Service Cross. There were Air Medals, Army commendations, Vietnam Gallantry Crosses, and the Combat Infantry Badge (CIB) that were held by the Jump Wings of Tiger Bravo.

The Tiger Bravo warriors "fought across the battlefields of Vietnam, as part of an elite Strike Force nicknamed the "Wandering Warriors." Throughout their time in Vietnam they suffered the loss of thirty brothers in arms. They served in a time when it was an honor to serve and fight for a country they believed in. *Tiger Bravo's War* shares the story of those brave men. Joe Adams was one warrior who was able to come home and start over, but the memories of his comrades and their duties have stayed with him for a lifetime.

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THEME: VALENTINE'S DAY

ACROSS

1. "You're the ____!"
5. Horse color
8. Interesting person, acr.
11. *Feeling of the heart
12. Nevada city
13. City in Belgium
15. Use a whisk
16. Greek H's
17. *Popular Valentine's Day delivery, pl.
18. *"Love means never having to say you're sorry" movie
20. Ballpark calls
21. Strong adhesive
22. Greek letter N, pl.
23. Lord's subordinate
26. Given to drinking
30. Ovine mom
31. Old storage medium
34. Fairy-tale beginning
35. Politician Pelosi
37. Tokyo, once
38. Bone hollows
39. Sky bear
40. Fitted with a name tag, e.g.
42. "Ever" to a poet
43. With more seeds
45. Attic
47. Summer sandwich?
48. Fraternity letter
50. Medieval headdress
52. *Only day more popular than Valentine's for card giving
56. Like blue sky
57. Walk the Pacific Crest Trail, e.g.
58. Samoan money
59. *Dionysus' pipe-playing companion
60. Affirm
61. Give off
62. Plays for pay
63. *Color of Valentine's Day
64. *Lovers' reunion

DOWN

1. Cry like a baby
2. Canyon sound
3. Convict's weapon
4. Conical dwellings
5. Get on juice diet, e.g.
6. Opposite of binary
7. Like a gossipmonger
8. Exterminator's target
9. Change for a five
10. Part of T.G.I.F.
12. Like an abridged classic
13. Tiler's paste
14. *"I Will Always Love You" singer
19. Stupefied
22. Us, in Mexico
23. *Cupid's mother
24. In the know
25. Common thing?
26. Smoke plus fog
27. Lay to rest
28. Rocks at mountain base
29. *Symbol of Valentine's Day
32. Infantry's last row
33. Roulette bet
36. *Chocolatier, pioneer of the heart-shaped box
38. ____ apple
40. Risk something
41. Between eggy and eggier
44. Feeling worse than before
46. Gave away
48. Thin piece
49. Annoyed
50. Russia's alternative to caesar
51. Aries or Taurus, e.g.
52. Burn to a crisp
53. MADD member, colloquially
54. Climbed down, as from a carriage
55. Fill beyond full
56. Pharaoh's cobra

CROSSWORD												
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Answers to Crossword and Sudoku Puzzles on next page.

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.



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*Answers to Crossword
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A Salute to our East Texas



FIRST RESPONDERS



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

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Angelina County Sheriff's Dept. Captain Alton Lenderman



by Terri Lacher

Lifelong resident of Angelina County, Captain Alton Lenderman of the Lufkin Police Department is just one of three generations of Lenderman men who have served Angelina County in the capacity of law enforcement officers. Both Alton and his brother Jim followed their father's footsteps, as well as two of Alton, Sr.'s grandsons.

Alton Lenderman, Sr. served on the Lufkin Police Department from 1966 until 1979, following his election as Angelina County's Precinct 2 constable, where he continued to serve until he retired twenty years later at the age of 72. Jim, Alton's brother retired from the Diboll Police Department, and Jim's son is employed by Stephen F. Austin State University Police Department. Alton's son, Trey, works for the Lufkin Police Department.



Following graduation from Central High School in 1972, Alton went on to attend Angelina College, majoring in Criminal Justice. His early days in law enforcement were working as a security guard, and as a reserve officer for Angelina County Sheriff Burl "Pete" McBride. In 1977, he went to work for the Diboll Police Department, until 1978 when he attended the Kilgore Police Academy. Upon completion, he began working for the Angelina County Sheriff's Office as a full time deputy. When his father retired from the Lufkin Police Department in 1979, Alton applied for a job, and served thirty-four years with the Lufkin PD until January of 2013, when he retired as a Lieutenant over patrol. One day following his retirement, he went to work for Sheriff Greg Sanches, in the capacity of Captain over the Law Enforcement division, where he is still working today. Captain Alton Lenderman is proud to say he has been "a full time law enforcement officer for forty-four years. His goal is to retire in January of 2025 "Lord willing," at the same age his father, Alton, Sr., was when he retired.

Over the years, Captain Lenderman has had opportunities to work in various areas of law enforcement, including Patrol, Public Relations, K9, Traffic, SWAT, and training. Of them all, he said working for the K9 Patrol was his most enjoyable. He worked with the Narcotic Detector Dogs for thirteen years. In addition, he spent a lot of time working with the students in the school systems presenting drug education classes.

Another facet of Captain Lenderman's career has allowed him to be a firearms instructor for over thirty years, and also working as an adjunct instructor for the Angelina College Police Academy. Through the teaching opportunities, he has been able to meet and mentor many young people who are just beginning their careers.

The hardest part of any law enforcement job is being a first responder and dealing with the tragedies officers deal with on a daily basis.

"Sometimes an officer has to be not only an enforcer but also a counselor that has to attempt to comfort families and deal with being the bearer of bad news," said Captain Lenderman. Over the many years in which he has been in law enforcement, Captain Lenderman has been the first one on the scene of many tragic events. His devotion to his job, and the influence of his father's career in law enforcement has deeply ingrained his desire to "protect and serve." Being a member of the Crimestoppers Band gives him another outlet and opportunity to give back to the community.

"Probably my greatest claim to fame is being a founding member of the Crimestoppers Band. I have been playing in the band for over thirty years, promoting the Crimestoppers Program and helping raise money for them. We also support Volunteer Fire Departments and several local charities while promoting Crimestoppers and goodwill for law enforcement."

The mission statement for the Angelina County Sheriff's Department is "...to provide a safe and secure community to the citizens of Angelina County." Captain Alton Lenderman has been proud to be a part of three-generations dedicated to serving the people of Angelina County.



From left to right: Eli Lenderman, Jim Lenderman, Alton Lenderman, Jr. and Try Lenderman with Jim and Alton holding a picture of their dad, Alton Lenderman, Sr.

MONUMENT CORNER

This month's Monument Corner visits San Augustine County. We look at the Site of Mission Nuestra Señora de los Dolores de los Ais. The monument, accompanied by a visitor center and museum, is located on State Hwy 147 (S. Broadway) just a few blocks south of downtown. Across the Highway, to the southeast, is the Mission Dolores Campground and RV Park. Mission Dolores is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a designated State Antiquities Landmark. El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail also passes through the property. The monument reads as follows:

SITE OF MISSION NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LOS DOLORES DE LOS AIS

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Rhonda Oaks

Homecoming

It was homecoming night at Hudson High School, 1973. I was a senior, and although I was never nominated for homecoming court, I was proud to sit in the pep squad and cheer on our Hornet basketball team as they headed toward the playoffs.

The gymnasium thundered with stomping, clapping, cheering and applause as each of our high school boys took their shot at the goal during the warm up. We played Central High School, a good team and a worthy opponent and rival.

Their team dressed in the girl's locker room. Back in the day, we had locked wire baskets that held our gym uniforms – a one piece blue romper with our name on it. It was never comfortable. The morning after homecoming, that uniform was missing. It was taken the night before in hopes they would win the game. Come 8 am, it was flying on the flagpole at Central High School and Mom had to purchase another one. She was not happy with the prank.

As I looked around the gymnasium that night, I could have never prepared myself for how life would change in the coming months following graduation. Many of the people there I would never see again. My teachers would become a part of my past as I set goals for the future. My classmates, most of my friends and even the pranksters would be a distant memory of high school years. I am proud that in the last few years I have been able to reconnect with some of my friends and teachers.

I remembered homecoming this week when I saw the announcement for this year's Hudson High School homecoming. I have two granddaughters in high school there who will be attending. Making memories of their own.

Many local high schools will be enjoying a watered-down version of homecoming this year, trying to preserve traditions while observing protocols to keep the students healthy. I hope they enjoy every minute of it and all that lies ahead for them. I hope they stay safe and healthy and observe all the rules in place to help keep them that way.

I hope when they look back somewhere down the road, they wouldn't have changed a thing, except maybe those old locked wire baskets made just for a prankster, and making sure they stay close to old friends and teachers. Happy homecoming.

Hi David,
Thank you and your wonderful staff for the great article in the paper! I really appreciate the way you look after our town in many different capacities. *Around the Town* has really become quite a popular newspaper in a time when print hasn't been as effective a means of advertisement as it was years ago. You have done a great job with the articles and local stories that people want to read.

Keep up the good work ol' buddy and again, thank you so much.

Jason Gound

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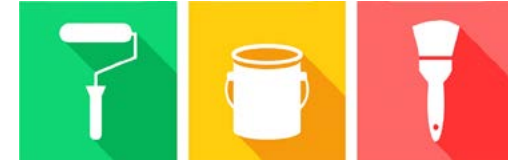
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Hello East Texas,

2021 is off to a great start here at the Expo. We hit the Trifecta of youth rodeo this January! In three consecutive weekends we hosted: Texas High School Rodeo Association Region V/Texas Junior High Rodeo Association/ Pineywoods Youth Rodeo Association. These are all socially distant style events and we appreciate the leadership of Angelina County letting us operate in a responsible manner. The contestants at our January events were the first to get to use our new stalls and let me say, the feedback was great!

Looking at February, the youth rodeo action continues with the **Pineywoods Youth Rodeo Association** coming back on the first weekend, **February 6-7** and **Region V High School Rodeo the 20-21**. The **Angelina 4-H Horse Club** is back! They will have their regular meeting here on **February 16 at 5:30 pm**. Ryan Merrill and Ruth Keeling-Holt have done a great job of developing our 4-H members into horsemen and horsewomen! If you have a young person that is interested in learning about horses and riding, this is the perfect opportunity.

In addition to horse and cattle events, we also serve the community in other ways. For example, we are happy to have the **State Supported Living Center** make use of our parking lot on a regular basis to train their van drivers who transport residents safely. Don't Forget, the **East Texas Food Bank** will have their regular distribution on **Tuesday, February 26. Gates open at 10am until noon.**

Coming up in March: Don't miss DRF Motorsport's Night of Destruction Monster Truck Show. Two big nights! Friday March 5 and Saturday March 6. We have plenty of space to practice social distancing in a well-ventilated and spacious venue.

Angelina County Fair Week is coming up March 23-27!

I look forward to seeing you soon at the Expo!

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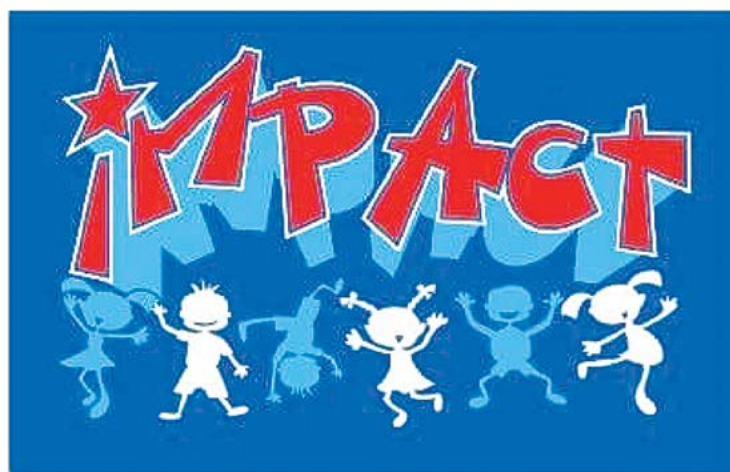
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The Texas UFO

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.



Unidentified Flying Objects have been around for a long time now, the most notorious of these being the Roswell, New Mexico event. On July 7, 1947, a UFO crashed northwest of Roswell on a cattle ranch, scattering debris over a wide area. Several bodies of extraterrestrial beings were reportedly recovered and autopsied. The event was explained by the military as a weather balloon crash, there were no beings, and thus began the most notable cover up in American history.

The New Mexico event, however, was not the first of its kind. Some fifty years earlier a UFO crashed in Aurora, Texas but never received much notoriety. Around 6:00 am on April 17, 1897, a cigar shaped UFO crashed near the small town of Aurora, Texas. The UFO had been seen flying over Missouri and Arkansas earlier before it crashed. We must remember that this event happened some five years before the Wright brother's successful airplane flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

There were a number of eye witnesses of this UFO crash. In fact, one of them, S. E. Haydon, wrote an article for the *Dallas Morning News* on April 19, 1897. Mr. Haydon reported: "About six o'clock this morning the early risers of Aurora were astonished at the sudden appearance of the airship which has been sailing through the country.

"It was traveling due north, and nearer the earth than ever before. Evidently some of the machinery was out of order, for it was traveling at a speed of only ten or twelve miles an hour, and steadily settling toward the earth. It sailed directly over the public square, and when it reached the north part of town collided with the tower of Judge Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a terrific explosion, scattering debris over several acres of ground, wrecking the windmill and water tank and destroying the Judge's flower garden.

"The pilot of the ship is supposed to have been the only one on board, and while his remains are badly disfigured, enough of the original has been picked up to show that he was not an inhabitant of this world.

"Mr. T. J. Weems, the United States' signal service officer at this place, and an authority on astronomy, gives it as his opinion that he was a native of the planet Mars. Papers found on his person – evidently the record of his travels – are written in some unknown hieroglyphics, and can not be deciphered.

"The ship was too badly damaged to form any conclusion as to its construction or motive power. It was built of an unknown metal, resembling somewhat a mixture of aluminum and silver, and must have weighed several tons.

"The town is full of people today who are viewing the wreck, and gathering samples of the strange metal from the debris. The pilot's funeral will take place at noon tomorrow."

Records indicate that the "pilot" was indeed buried in the Aurora cemetery "with Christian rites." Today the cemetery contains a Texas Historical Commission marker mentioning the incident.



Aurora Cemetery

Reportedly, wreckage from the crash site was dumped into the well located under the damaged windmill, while some ended up with the alien in the grave. A large stone was placed at the head of the grave to mark the spot.

Adding to the mystery was the story of Mr. Brawley Oates, who purchased Judge Proctor's property around 1945. Oates cleaned out the

well in order to use it as a water source, but later developed an extremely severe case of arthritis, which he claimed to be the result of contaminated water from the wreckage dumped into the well. As a result, Oates sealed up the well with a concrete slab and placed an outbuilding atop the slab in 1957. The event was eventually forgotten for many years. In fact there was developed a Hoax Theory.

The Hoax Theory is primarily based on historical research performed by Barbara Brammer, a former mayor of Aurora, located thirty miles northwest of Ft. Worth, Texas. In the months prior to the alleged crash, Aurora had been beset by a series of tragic incidents. First, the local cotton crop was destroyed by a boll weevil infestation. Second, a fire on the town's west side claimed several buildings and lives. Third, a spotted fever epidemic hit the town, nearly wiping out the remaining citizens

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and placing the town under quarantine. Finally, a planned railroad got within 27 miles of Aurora, but never made it into the town.

The theory was that Mr. Haydon was known in the town to be a bit of a jokester, and her conclusion is that Haydon's article was a last-ditch attempt to keep Aurora alive.

It was not until 1998 that the event was resurrected by Dallas TV station KDFW who aired a lengthy report about the Aurora incident. The investigation revealed that something had crashed in 1897, but could find no evidence of extraterrestrial life or technology.

In 2005 *UFO Files* aired an episode related to this incident titled "Texas' Roswell." They uncovered two new eyewitnesses to the crash. Mary Evans, who was 15 at the time, told of how her parents went to the crash site and the discovery of the alien body. They refused to allow her to go with them. Charlie Stephens, who was 10, told how he saw the airship trailing smoke as it headed north toward Aurora. He wanted to go see what had happened, but his father made him finish his chores. He later went to the site and saw the wreckage from the crash.

In 2008 *UFO Hunters* aired another documentary regarding the Aurora incident, titled "First Contact." This film featured one notable change from the *UFO Files* story. Tim Oates, nephew of Brawley Oates and the now-owner of the property with the sealed well where the UFO wreckage was purportedly buried, allowed the investigators to unseal the well in order to examine it for possible debris.

Water was taken from the well and tested normal except for large amounts of aluminum present. The well had no significant contents, as any large pieces of metal had been removed from the well by a past owner of the property. Further, the remains of a windmill base were found near the well site as earlier reported by witnesses. In addition, the Aurora Cemetery was again examined. Although the cemetery association refused exhumation of the body, an unmarked grave was found in the area near other 1890's graves. However, the condition of the grave was badly deteriorated, and radar could not conclusively prove what type of remains existed.

Although the Aurora UFO event was never commercialized as was the Roswell event, there still remain questions as to exactly what happened over 116 years ago in the tiny town. Today, in the town of 1,044 people, about half believe that a real UFO crashed and an alien was buried there, and half believe the event was one huge hoax. What do you believe?

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 Polk's Pick It Up Truck Stop - Hwy 259 North
 Taco Riendo - Hwy 259 North
In Chireno:
 Chireno's Cafe' - Downtown on FM 95
In Cushing:
 7th St. Cafe - 754 7th St.
 Clyde Partin Monument Co. - Hwy 204
 Cushing Food Mart - Hwy 204
 Rawhide's Tire Service - 470 6th St.
In Douglass:
 Douglass Cafe' - State Hwy 21
 Douglass General Store - State Hwy 21
 Uncle Doug's Community Market - State Hwy 21
In Etoile:
 Etoile Shell - Hwy 103 @ FM 226
 Shirley Creek Marina Office - FM 226
In Garrison:
 Bulldog Express/J & S Food Mart - U.S. Hwy 59
 Garrison Gas & Convenience Store Exxon - U.S. Hwy 59
In Martinsville:
 Martinsville Cafe' - Hwy 7

SAN AUGUSTINE COUNTY

In the City of San Augustine:

Chamber of Commerce - 611 W. Columbia
 Heart of Texas Grill - 409 E. Columbia St.
 Jail Museum - On the Square
 Mary Kay's Country Diner - 806 Hwy 96 N
 Mike Perry Motors - 101 W. Main
 San Augustine Drug. Co. - 104 E. Columbia St.

SHELBY COUNTY

In the City of Center:

Boles Feed Co. - 101 Porter St.
 Boyd Adams Barber Shop - 504 Hurst St.
 Brookshire Brothers - 105 Hurst St.
 Chamber of Commerce - In the old jail on the square downtown
 Mathews Realty - 616 Teneha St.
 Piney Woods Seafood - 1003 Hurst St.
 Rancho Grande - 816 Teneha St.
 TR's Steaks & More - 892 Hurst St.

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- 2011 Everlite, 31BHS 3092 FW\$16,900
- 2012 Everlite, EL31DS 3264 TT\$19,500
- 2012 Everlite, 31RLS 3265 TT\$19,500
- 2012 Everlite, EL29FK 3318 TT\$18,500
- 2012 Everlite, EL32MKS 3383 TT\$22,500
- 2013 Wildcat 313RE 3427 FW\$25,000
- 2013 Koala, 30SS 3428 FW\$15,900
- 2015 Shasta Flyte, SYT265DB 3673 TT \$17,000
- 2015 Shasta Flyte, SYT285BK 3680 TT \$19,000
- 2015 Wildcat, WCF282RKX 3698 FW ..\$29,900
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- 2015 Ascend, A231RKB 3720 TT\$19,000
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- 2018 Wildcat, WCF26CK 3990 FW\$27,000
- 2018 Wildcat, WCF30GT 4013 FW\$29,000
- ~~SOLD~~ 2018 Salem, SBT300BH 4037 TT\$31,900
- 2019 Salem, SBT26RLHL 4130 TT\$24,000
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- ~~SOLD~~ 2018 Sierra, SEF379FLOK 4195\$53,500
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- 1990 Jayco, 4005 FW \$ 3,000
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- 2012 Keystone Cougar, 4145 FW \$12,000
- 2009 Wildcat, 31TS 4154 FW \$10,500
- 2013 Wildcat, 313RE 4156 FW \$14,900
- 2006 Zinger, 4163 TT \$ 4,000
- 2011 Everlite 3389 TT \$18,900
- 2011 Everlite, EL31RKS 3638 FW \$25,000
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