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**NACOGDOCHES COUNTY - ANGELINA COUNTY  
SAN AUGUSTINE COUNTY - SHELBY COUNTY**



**MARCH 2021**

## Meals for Cops Comes to San Augustine County

by David Stallings, Publisher of *Around the Town*



L-R: Officers George Watson and Cameron Nichols, Michael Evans; from Sweets & Eats: Crystal Jackson, Denise Richey, Scott Ainsworth and Mariah Garrett; Sheriff Robert Cartwright, Police Chief Shannon Brazeal, Hunter Perry, Officers Terry Fountain and Mike Price. Photo courtesy of San Augustine Tribune.

*Around the Town's* Meals for Cops program continues this month by providing 41 meals for San Augustine County officers and employees.

Meal tickets for Sweets & Eats were provided by Hunter Perry, of Mike Perry Chevrolet, and Michael Evans, State Farm Insurance Agent, for all members of the San Augustine County Sheriff's Office, San Augustine Police Department, State Game Wardens, DPS Officers and all San Augustine County Constables. The program began last year as a way to honor and to show appreciation for area law enforcement officers and employees.

If you wish to offer your support, you may contribute to this project. 100% of the funds you contribute will be used to provide special meals each month for law enforcement agencies in Nacogdoches, Angelina, Shelby and San Augustine Counties. Please mail payments to: *Around the Town* - P. O. Box 630955 - Nacogdoches, TX 75963 or phone 936.554.5822 with debit or credit card. Or

MEALS FOR COPS - Page 2

## The Impacts of East Texas Rock & Roll!

by Johnny Luna & Bernard Garcia

In 1961 Johnny Luna, Bernard Garcia, and Alvin Poskey, all from the Moral community in Nacogdoches County, formed a group and began learning the words and the musicians' styles of various types of songs.

Frank Montes assisted by providing encouragement and comments of what sounded correct or needed improvement. The band became good at playing 20-25 songs all by ear; this was good because they could improvise, and change notes the way they wanted to feel the song for themselves. After a few months, the group settled on the name "The Impacts," and their first "gig" was at the Youth Center on Hughes Street, the meeting place for the Nacogdoches High School crowd. It was a joyful, but anxious moment, yet they were filled with pride to play in front of their fellow classmates. It went well but they were humbled when a song was requested, and they did not know it well enough.

The lesson learned was that they needed a larger play list with all types of music. Working hard to learn songs that were country, rhythm & blues, rock &



Impacts Band members around 1964-66. From left to right they are: Joe Wayne Arriola—Organ, Bernard Garcia—Electric Guitar, Fats Powell—Drums, Johnny Luna—Singer and Johnny Green—Bass Guitar.

THE IMPACTS - Page 3



### LEHMANN EYE CENTER ANNOUNCES 1ST TRI-FOCAL CATARACT LENS IMPLANT

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**MEALS FOR COPS**

you may use the GoFundMe page that has been set up. Go online to GoFundMe and search for 1000 FREE meals for East Texas Cops! and make your donation.

We recently visited San Augustine's newest business...What a treat! Amazing food, including home made pies, cake and pastries. It's worth the drive, we promise!

When you think of lunch during your busy work schedule, hard working East Texans are spoiled with fantastic options. If you happen to find yourself in San Augustine, make your way to the downtown square for a unique twist to the town's newest sandwich shop.

Sweets & Eats offers a variety of classic sandwich offerings as well as home-made chicken salad, Pimento cheese, or Tuna salad sandwiches on croissants. But please save room for a restaurant full of Sweets. You will have a difficult time making your choice of dessert selections from pies, cheesecakes, cookies, brownies and, of course, Blue Bell Ice cream. Your kids will love to pick from a unique blend of candy's that include salt water taffy's and gummies.

Scott Ainsworth along with his wife Lisa developed their concept for Sweets & Eats as our country was dealing with the Covid pandemic. Scott, who is originally from Houston, Texas, had a 30-year career at Blue Bell Creameries and met Lisa at SFA in 1989. Lisa is a native of San Augustine and is the daughter of Therman and Virginia Bridges who owned and operated the San Augustine Drug and Gifts. Scott and Lisa have two



Sweets & Eats staff l-r: Scott Ainsworth, Lisa Ainsworth, Mariah Garrett and Crystal Jackson.

adult children. Reid 25 and Hailey 22. After Hailey graduated high school in 2017, Scott and Lisa decided the time was right to move out to the country. There is no better place than coming out to the quiet countryside of San Augustine.

Lisa continued her teaching career at SAISD and after briefly working in Lufkin and Nacogdoches, Scott decided it was best to bring his food service experience to San Augustine and create a concept that would bring consistent and outstanding sandwiches that must meet the highest of quality.

Scott's sweet tooth and decades of experience with Blue Bell has brought unique dessert combinations that are like no other in the Deep East Texas area. You will definitely have to stop in and see these amazing creations.

For those who are looking for something lighter, Sweets & Eats offers fresh salads, and a different soup of the day.

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**THE IMPACTS**

roll, and dance songs for mixed crowds of all ages provided confidence to play any song requested. Playing music of all types that people could dance to would be the focus of the band. They would not be a one-dimensional band.

This focus or goal provided many opportunities and requests to play at the SFA College Student Center and its activities, fraternity and sorority parties, VFW dances, Elk Lodges, the Caraban Club, the Sunset Club, the MaiKai Club, Club Chateau, Jacks Lounge and many other opportunities that were requested of the band.

A story remembered by Johnny Luna: while playing at one of the night clubs, a gentleman came up to a band member and requested a song. He was told we did not know it. After politely showing us a firearm, we asked him to sing it and we would fill in. He did, we filled in, everyone was happy, and he gave us a big tip, and we were relieved. Playing all types of music will make people happy and dance.

Around 1964 the Impacts band members were Johnny Luna, singer; Bernard Garcia, lead guitar; Johnny Green, bass guitar; Joe Wayne Arriola, organ; and Fats Powell, drums. When members could not make it at times, fellow musicians would gladly fill in - they were Edwin Green (Johnny's father), Jackie Mayfield, Butch McIntyre, Danny Hall, Mike Gibbs, Fred Bright and Jimmy Daniels. These musicians were exceptional and played with various bands in East Texas.

The Impacts also had the pleasure of playing with Johnny Winter, a world-famous blues singer and guitarist from Beaumont, TX, and J. Frank Wilson from Lufkin, who had a 1964 #1 hit record "Last Kiss."

While the Impacts did not become famous, they did experience wonderful memories and friendships. And who can forget the good food, especially the chicken fried steaks at John's Restaurant on South Street at 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning after playing at the night clubs.

The Impacts continued playing steadily and providing dance music in the East Texas area until Bernard (Marcy) and Johnny (Lorraine) married and moved away from East Texas in 1968. Friendships that were developed during this band experience grew because of the love of music, enjoyment and the love of seeing people dance and have fun. Individuals having the experience of playing in a band in small venues regardless of length of time will always enjoy the feeling that they have made a difference in someone's life.

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

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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 Findisen at [marsha@ntsamson.com](mailto:marsha@ntsamson.com).



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# Good Reads from Shelby County's Talented Authors

by Terri Lacher  
talacher@sbcglobal.net

"This is how you do it: you sit down at the keyboard and you put one word after another until it's done. It's that easy, and it's that hard," said Neil Gaiman. There is a growing group of authors right here in Shelby County that are out to prove just that.

Vanessa Davis, author of *Rebound*, her first book, has brought to the pages her story of self-discovery and rediscovery regarding the stronghold of unforgiveness. She shares in her book that "everyone needs a coach and a game plan. God is our Supreme Coach. We must follow his instructions and his game plan for our lives by studying His playbook, (the Bible). She encourages her readers to "get into the Zone, (God's Presence), and to suit up in the whole armor to win in the "game of life." *Rebound* is a "testimony of God's favor and goodness, and His ability to do exceedingly and abundantly above all that we can ask or think!"



Vanessa Davis, author of *Rebound*.

Vanessa, and her husband, Pastor Alvin J. Davis, share in the ministry to the Open-Door Baptist Worship Center, located in Center, Texas. As a wife, mother, and grandmother, Vanessa shares her love for Christ through "ministering at local churches, retreats, women's conferences, and other special events." As an advocate for mental health and wellness, she works with those who have suffered through child abuse, domestic abuse, and drug addiction. Through her life experiences of losing her son, Justin, who was killed by a drunk driver in 2010, it is her desire to see all people live abundant lives, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. "In this life, we must be able to adapt to change, adversities, losses, stressors, and other problems. *Rebound* is a testimony of God's goodness and His ability to do exceedingly and abundantly above all we can ask or think!"

Another new upcoming author, Carmen Whitaker, has published her first Christian novel as well. *A Living Hope* is a wonderful story of life turning upside down when least expected, and the journey of the main character, Eddie, as she returns home to make sense of it all.

"Do you want to make God laugh? Tell Him about your plans!" Eddie Rog-



Carmen Whitaker, author of *A Living Hope*.

ers, the main character in *A Living Hope*, has her "carefully crafted life" fall apart, and she returns to her East Texas home in the Piney Woods where she grew up. In spite of the years away, it doesn't take her long to embrace the support of the family and friends to help her heal from the pain of a broken relationship. "Eddie will learn, perhaps the hard way, that sometimes God whispers, and sometimes he raises His voice." The strong characters and delightful story draws readers in as Eddie must learn how to let go of her past and move into a future completely different from what she expected it to be.

Carmen is a Shelby County native. She lives with her husband, Charlie, and together they have a blended family of three sons and two daughters. She is already hard at work on her second novel.

Larry Enmon, long time Shelby County, was featured in a prior story in *Around the Town*. He retired from the U.S. Secret Service and began writing. When he needs to get away from the city, he enjoys spending time at his ranch in Shelby County, which includes two hundred plus acres, a private shooting range, and plenty of woodland trails to explore either on foot or four-wheelers and RTV's.

The first two books, *A Burial Place*, and *City of Fear*, are written around the two Dallas Police detectives, Rob Soliz, and Frank Pierce. They are fast-paced page turners, and difficult to put down until the reader has finished the story. In *A Burial Place*, the partners must "crack the case and save Katrina before it's too late."



Larry Enmon, author of *A Burial Place* and *City of Fear*.

The story finds our detectives in the woods of rural East Texas, and soon discover there is much more than the disappearance of the Dallas mayor's daughter, Katrina. *City of Fear* is a story woven in and around drug kingpins that are connected outside the Dallas area. The story races forward with gang war disputes, political pressure, and murder.

"Does a shy, six-year-old girl hold the key to the President's safety? The Secret Service has only days to figure it out in Larry Enmon's new political thriller, *Class III Threat*, which will be released sometime in July of 2021.

All of the above authors have grown up in Shelby County, and are well known to the locals. Each one is different in their writing styles, but each have brought great stories to print. Their books are all available on Amazon both in Kindle and hard copy. It's exciting to know that there is so much talent in our Piney Woods area. If you haven't had a chance to read any of the three, you may want to go to Amazon Books and look them up. You may also go to the local library and check out their books as they become available.

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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

# Roaming Thru Time Around the Town

by Craig Stripling

Where were we when we left off last time? Oh, yes, talking about how lucky I was as a lad in the 50s to be able to enjoy the benefits of roaming around downtown here in Nacogdoches, getting to know folks, meeting the business owners and employees, frequenting the picture shows, hanging out at my grandfather's soda fountain-all such wonderful memories!



Downtown 1940s.

Those folks who worked in the banks (Commercial National and Stone Fort National were all there were), workers in the stores, sold insurance or real estate, doctored the sick all came into the drugstore at least once but usually two or three times a day. Always they had time to speak to and answer the questions of the youngsters whose after school jobs or summer wanderings landed them downtown. My junior high (Thomas J. Rusk) and high school campus was just about 3 1/2 or 4 blocks from Main Street-an easy, quick back and forth hike for the teenagers inclined to make it happen. The commerce going on at all times provided the workforce that commingled with each other in a situation of camaraderie that doesn't quite so nicely exist today. Seemed like everyone had each other's back and all wanted and walked the same forward, onward, upward path.

I can remember five barbershops in the downtown area-each one keeping usually four barbers busy. Not many men or boys went more than 2 or 3 weeks without visiting their favorite preferred barber-

not infrequently was the haircut trip a combination for both father and son. Those establishments were great sources of news, practical jokes, and lasting friendships. I especially recall going to the barbershop section of the Walton-Ward beauty and barbershop at the intersection of Commerce and Church Streets some 65 years ago and I'm still there in the same building at the Milford family shop. For years I visited my barber cousin, Marvin W. Stripling, and decades later for years I visited my friend, Gene Milford, whose chair stood in just about the same place as my old cousin's did.



Milford's Barbershop.

How about hardware stores? We had several good ones downtown-Royal Teel's Western Auto Store, Pool's down a bit and across the street from the Main Theater, Farmer's next to the old A&P store (later occupied by the Palace Seed Store), Branch Patton in the old Jonathan Cox building at Pecan and Main, and Cason Monk just down from Perry Brothers. Who can forget Cason Monk and its famous toyland upstairs during the Christmas holidays having in brief attendance Santa Claus himself each year. The clerks knew just about everything about what nut, bolt, tool, utensil, sports equipment you needed, where they were, how much they cost! Appliances, radios, hunting clothes and fishing tackle-no problem. Up the road a piece on North Street south of First Baptist Church was Thomas Appliance whose motto was "We service what we sell"-and indeed they did.



Stripling's Drugstore.

Speaking about Palace Seed Store as we did briefly above, I don't know that I've ever had a better on the grill delicious greasy cheeseburger than those served at the back of that grocery store. The buns were grilled to a sheen in the fat on the hot iron seldom wiped down griddle, the meat having been several times a day ground from butcher cuttings from the beef sides or quarters or roasts being hand trimmed up front. The burgers were wrapped in a waxy type paper and put in small paper bags to go. There were no chairs or tables, but if indeed you wanted to sit on a stack of burlap seed bags and eat there, you certainly could. I've seen 10 or 12 people at a time in the little, maybe 12'x12' back room getting bags of the 20¢ (later 25¢) burgers to take back to their co-workers blocks away.

What about the dime stores? Every town large and small had a "five and ten cents" store that were meccas for kids-marbles, darts, checkers and other gameboards, yo-yo's, slingshots, comic books. Perry Brothers (owned by an old Lufkin family) on the north side of Main and McCrory's on the south side-what a great soda fountain, plus hot roasted nuts (pop-



Prudhome's Grocery.

corn, peanuts, cashews) were available there. Clothes? Bailey-McClain's Men's Wear, J.C. Penney's, Beall Brothers, J.B. White, Burrows Brothers, Mize's, Schmidt's, Sam Levy's, Shaw's, E.C. Best & Co., The



McCrory's 5 & Dime (on the left).

McCrory's 5 & Dime (on the left).

clothes? Bailey-McClain's Men's Wear, J.C. Penney's, Beall Brothers, J.B. White, Burrows Brothers, Mize's, Schmidt's, Sam Levy's, Shaw's, E.C. Best & Co., The

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Fashion Shop, The Youth Shop, Louis Harris's, not to mention the Sears Roebuck and Montgomery Ward catalog (then usually spelled "catalogue") stores.

We thought we had it all-little did we know what was to come with the big box and discount stores and on-line shopping some half century or less later. I personally much prefer the friendly local service that was the mode of the day in the 50s. Admittedly, I'm a dinosaur and have pretty much outlived what I feel were the best of times, ways, places, but so long as this newsletter's editor/proprietor allows these meandering reminiscences, some of us can still remember and wish and tell you how it was! See you next time.

A look at East Main looking east year's later with Shaw's on the left.





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

## A Nail in the Cash Register

*“Now concerning the collection for the saints . . . on the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.” 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 (NKJV)*

Dr. Albert Schweitzer, counted as one of the great Christians of the twentieth century, was one of those followers who was inspired by Christ’s example. Dr. Schweitzer could have had the riches of the world if he had stayed in the field of music. He was excellent with both the piano and the organ. But he felt he could not be happy unless he served God in a more personal way.

When he reached the age of thirty, he read an article on the need for help in Africa. It was then that he decided to train as a doctor in order to go to Africa and serve God. It was perhaps no accident that it was on Good Friday, 1913, that he left his home for Africa. Once there he built a hospital where he was able to save many lives. Like his master, Dr. Schweitzer’s example touched millions of people.

At one time in the congregation of the City Temple in London, there was a restaurant owner named Emil Mettler, who was a close friend of Albert Schweitzer. Mettler served as a kind of agent for Schweitzer in Britain.

Emil Mettler would never allow a person in full-time Christian service to pay for a meal in his restaurant. That was part of his commitment to the missionary movement. Once he did happen to open his cash register in the presence of the secretary of the London Missionary Society. The secretary was astonished to see among the bills and coins a six-inch nail. What was it doing there?

Mettler explained, “I keep this nail with my money to remind me of the price that Christ paid for my salvation and of what I owe Him in return.”

**A LITTLE HUMOR:** A businessman had just given his young visitor a dollar, and was given an “associate membership” card in the local boys’ club, that said he had “full rights and privileges.”

“Now that I am a member,” the business man said, “just what are my rights and privileges?”

After a thoughtful silence, the boy said, “Well, mainly it gives you the right to contribute again next year.”

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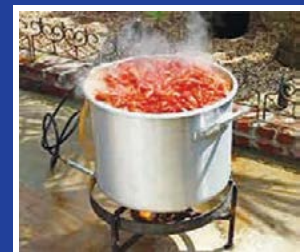
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Anita Scott



## Nac County Exposition and Civic Center Calendar

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#### UPCOMING IN MARCH 2021...

**MARCH 5-7, 2021 – REGION V HIGH SCHOOL RODEO ...** Free Admission and Free Parking. Concessions are available. Saturday: Starting at 10:00 am, Sunday: Starting at 9:00 am. Events include: Bareback, Saddle Bronc, Bull Riding, Barrel Racing, Pole Bending, Team Roping, Breakaway Calf Roping, Steer Wrestling and Goat Tying

**MARCH 6-7th, 2021 – G&S GUN SHOW...** Check out the G & S GUN SHOW –9:00 am – 5:00 pm on Saturday and 9:00 am-4:00 pm on Sunday. Admission is \$8.00 per person, come Saturday and your admission is good for both days. Limited number of admissions will be allowed into the Gun Show due to government restrictions. Aisles will be at least 8' wide. **Face covering and social distancing are required during the event. We ask our guests to remain at least 6 feet apart from other parties while on the premises.** For inquiries concerning Vendor Booths, etc... please feel free to contact Ms. Ellis at 918-635-5432.

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

**MARCH 25-27, 2021 – NACOGDOCHES PRO RODEO & STEER SHOW!...** Come see the best in Pro Rodeo, all part of the Pete Carr Rodeo Series. The Pro Rodeo benefits the Nacogdoches Jaycees. Brought to you by Title Sponsors KICKS 105 The Country Leader, RAM Rodeo, Badders Law Firm, GG Distributing, RV Outfitters, and Mike Perry Dodge. 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](http://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. COVID Restrictions will be required during the Rodeo.



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Lufkin District Public Information Officer  
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Texas Department of Transportation

# Rising After the Storm

Just a week removed from near zero temperatures across East Texas, we are enjoying the sunshine with temps well into the 70s. Only in Texas do we have such dramatic weather activity.

During the recent winter storm, TxDOT crews worked more than a week of 12-hour shifts. Crews will continue to monitor roadways for any problem areas and maintain them as needed. It is not unusual to see potholes following ice and snow on asphalt pavement, so our crews will be inspecting and working to fill these as they find them.

Many people don't realize all that it takes to get through a weather event like we had in February and still have passable, good roads. Prior to the winter storm and during the weather event, TxDOT crews placed 143,292 gallons of brine on district roadways in efforts to keep them passable and reduce the amount of snow and ice from freezing on the roadway. In addition, 3,265 pounds of melt down were placed where the build-up was heavier than what brine alone could handle. Also, 570 cubic yards, or about 48 dump trucks, of small rock were placed to help with traction. Another 150 tons of salt were also placed on district roadways.

During the event, several agencies and businesses worked to help TxDOT clear the roads including about 30 contractor personnel and 20 various county and city employees. Rising from this type of weather challenge was easier because of those who jumped in to help our crews clear the roads so they could remain open.

A huge thank you to the following: Drewery Construction, which helped TxDOT crews throughout the district with manpower and equipment; Texas Department of Public Safety, City of Lufkin Street Department, City of Lufkin Water Department, Lufkin Police Department, City of Diboll Water Department, Angelina County Commissioners and workers from Precincts 3 and 4, Sterling Lumber Company, Houston County Sheriff's Department, City of Crockett, Houston County Commissioners and crews, Shelby County Sheriff's Department, Polk County Commissioner's and crews, City of Livingston, Polk County Sheriff's Department, Onalaska Police Department, San Jacinto County volunteer fire departments, Trinity County Judge Doug Paige, Trinity County Commissioner Steven Truss and crew, and Area Wide Protective, Inc.

As we get back to our normal lives with our essential infrastructure elements such as electricity, water and heat, know that our East Texas roadways are ready for travel. Our workers rose to the challenge and we have emerged as a community realizing once again how much we need each other and that it truly takes us all working together and helping each other to get through the tough times.

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# The Refuge

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

*Cheryl Brady is a native of El Dorado, Arkansas. Following graduation from college as a ROTC Distinguished Military Graduate (DMG) she went on to serve twenty eight years as a U.S. Army logistics officer, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. She 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.*



## What Is Black Light – Part I

Hoodwinked. Bamboozled. Deceived. These words describe the state of the body of Christ, the Christian church. Since its inception, Satan has lied to and deceived the people of God in order to gain a foothold in the church. The devil is

in and he is not leaving without a fight. He is like a violent tornado and a category 5 hurricane. He leaves a path of immeasurable devastation and destruction every place he lands.

Satan is stealing, killing, and destroying in order to try to stop the gospel of Jesus Christ from advancing. Are we so blind that we cannot see what is going on in our nation? Are we aiding and abetting the enemy of God in his mission (supporting evil and shunning good)? How do we know good from evil—the Bible. Do we sit at the table eating the bread representing our Savior’s broken body and drinking the cup of His blood shed for our sins, only to leave the supper and go out and betray Him (living as the world lives)? This fight is spiritual, “for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds” (2 Cor 10:4).

The race card is a human tactic used by Satan to advance his kingdom. It is a stronghold in the body of Christ. A great many of us need to fold our hands and walk away from the table through repentance. Satan disguises himself as an angel of light and his servants as ministers of righteousness (2 Cor 11:14-15). We should never allow an individual’s outward appearance (skin shade), gender, position or status in society, or worldly achievements to drive our decisions or influence what we believe as children of God. The Bible should be the Christian’s primary resource used for learning what to believe, how to think and how to live as new creatures in this world but not of this world. God’s word never changes.

Here is an example to illustrate my point. I recently learned of one of Satan’s tactics to deceive in order to divide and conquer. It is called, “Black Light.” I received an email from an organization (political PAC) I had never heard of, promoting a candidate I do not know, from a state in which I do not live. Yet in the message introduction these words caught my attention, “We would like to shine our Black Light...”

This was, for me, one of those “What does the Bible say” moments. What is “Black Light?” Is it biblical? Where does it come from? What is its purpose in the world? Is it a force for good or evil in the world? Is it for or against God’s kingdom and the gospel? Stay tuned...to be continued.

## LET US HELP PUBLICIZE YOUR EVENT!

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

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### Chamber Connection

by Kelly Augustine  
Executive Vice President,  
Nacogdoches County Chamber  
of Commerce



# Warming Up to Networking Events

Along with warmer weather, the Nacogdoches County Chamber directors are looking forward to offering more in-person networking events in March. Chamber members and others are invited to attend these come-and-go receptions that provide the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new friends, too.

Oh, and did I mention? There is no charge to attend the Chamber's business-after-hours events. Plus the hosting businesses provide refreshments and chances to win nice door prizes. What a deal!

Look for two Alive After Five events:

**Alive After Five hosted by McWilliams & Son Heating and Air Conditioning**  
5:30 to 7 p.m., Thursday, March 18 at 2515 N.W. Stallings Dr.

Guests will enjoy food by Tomé Catering and can visit with the McWilliams & Son team, learn more about the Armada product line and take selfies with Sailor Mac. This event had to be rescheduled from its original date in February due to inclement weather.

**Alive After Five hosted by R&K Distributors, Inc.**

5:30 to 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 24. R & K Distributors Branch Manager Jimmy Day has promised another business-after-hours event that won't disappoint with delicious food and entertainment.


In addition to learning more about the hosting businesses' products and services, guests will hear more about chamber of commerce activities and programs. Take this opportunity to meet and visit with the Chamber's leadership including Chairman of the Board of Directors Ted Smith.

We hope that all will consider attending. You may call the chamber at 936-560-5533 if you need more information. The events are come-and-go reception style, so no need to worry about being late or leaving early. This is a casual business networking opportunity that can bring big benefits to our locals. Please, bring friends and business cards.

An annual event that is rescheduled for March 17 is **Operation Thank You!** sponsored by Austin Bank. It also offers a "reconnect with customers" and make new contacts opportunity. If you are interested in participating, please call the Chamber. Volunteer responsibilities are fun and flexible! Simply schedule a time to come in to the Chamber to connect with our businesses. We appreciate the event's Presenting sponsor Austin Bank and Gold sponsors Excel ER and McWilliams & Son Heating and Air Conditioning for the continued support for Operation Thank You!

You may find more about Operation Thank You!, the Alive After Five programs and other chamber and community events at [www.Nacogdoches.org](http://www.Nacogdoches.org) on the Online Event Calendar. If your business or organization is holding an event, you may submit that to post on the calendar, too!

Please note: When visiting the Nacogdoches Chamber of Commerce office or attending a Chamber event or committee meeting ALL PARTICIPANTS ARE REQUIRED TO PRACTICE COVID-19 PROTOCOLS. We appreciate your compliance!



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# Cushing in March

from Tiffany Duckworth  
mermaid.311@hotmail.com

It's my Birthday! It's My Birthday! See me dancing cause it's my Birthday! I Love everything about my birthday. I Love that it's on the eleventh. I Love that it's in March. I Love that it is my birthday and I have been gifting myself with cute outfits and... Well, mostly cute outfits since February!

I am a bit like a bear. I hibernate when it is cold outside. I was driving to town one day a couple weeks ago and I saw my real cowboy neighbor on his four-wheeler going through a gate to count cattle or some cowboy thing. I thought to myself, "Self" you need to stop by and go for a visit.

So, I Did.

Terry Channel and his family have been on the same property in Happy Valley for 5 generations. Since the early 1800's. There used to be an old store around the Bend owned by his family called, "Wallace's." He told me much of the land was farmed until the 1950s.

He talked about his dad Chuck who was a musician and played regularly all around the area and even opened up for George Jones once. His dad also had a successful pest control business that was truly the family business. He and his brother and best friend James worked for Chuck's Pest Control till 2010.

Which is about the time when Terry took up cowboying.

I'd like to interrupt this program to say, "That giant alligator I have been referencing was spotted again in 'Snowmagedden 2021.' Hoping you were as warm as you possibly could be and survived with minimal damage." Now back to your regularly scheduled program.

Terry was extremely generous telling us all about his childhood and family when this old hound dog by the name of Cooter steals the show, Cooter and the Hog Dog Posse. Cooter recently had his guts ripped out by a wild hog down at the river bottom. Terry had him stitched up and he is ready to get back in the fight.

There seems to be three dogs in this band of brother outlaw dogs. He then introduced me to Old Red who literally had his paw shot off in a Hog fight. I can see it now, "you shot my paw." And then he took me over to the doggy jail, an old cattle trailer, and introduced me to the criminal element. The real mastermind behind all the hog hunt shenanigans, "Shorty." Shorty doesn't care if your paw just got shot or if you were gutted and gored by one of the oversized rodents. He puts his nose in the wind and when he gets the scent of wild boar, he loses his mind and the other two loyal brothers in the band follow him straight into danger. Which is why he has been arrested and locked up until Cooter gets just a little bit better. They will live to fight another day.

And, so will we! Sometimes life puts on the breaks. Be it the name we shall not speak, or Snowmagedden. We may not always understand it. But it is usually for our own good. See you next month around the town.



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## Snapshot from Around the Town

Ran into Desha McCasland and Melissa King in the parking lot of Kyle Brasher Insurance, 212 South Street, Nacvogdoches. That's where they have their food truck Señor Pete's set up from 11:00 am - 2:30 pm Monday-Friday.

They started their food truck business in memory of Melissa's dad Pete. Stop by and try one of their delicious "Emotional Support Burgers."

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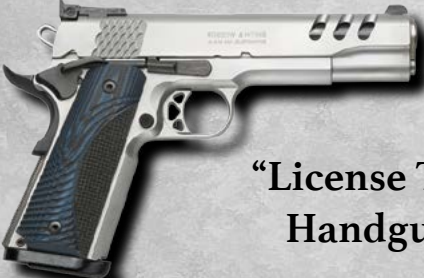
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*Steve & Sarah Traylor - Texas First Health Insurance*

### Angela's Monthly Recipe

#### Broccoli Salad with Bacon



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

**Ingredients:**

- 8 cups chopped broccoli florets
- 6 ounces sharp cheddar, cut into small cubes
- ¼ cup diced red onion
- ¼ cup thinly sliced almonds
- 8 slices bacon, fried and crumbled
- ½ cup mayo
- ¼ cup sour cream
- 2 tablespoons ranch seasoning mix
- 1 teaspoon white distilled vinegar

**Preparation:**

Add the broccoli, cheddar, onion, almonds, and bacon to a large mixing bowl and stir to combine. Add the mayo, sour cream, ranch seasoning, and vinegar to a small mixing bowl and stir well. Pour the dressing over the broccoli salad and stir well to coat. Serve immediately.



**Recipe courtesy of Angela Bradford's Appleby Sand Mercantile Cafe' Cookbook. You may purchase the book at the cafe', 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

# Hello, Is Anybody Out There?

If you're reading this, congratulations! You survived the latest curveball this decade threw at us – Snowpocalypse 2021. We've entered the recovery period, assessing the damages and counting our losses. For the Nacogdoches CVB, perhaps our biggest loss is the promise of azalea blooms, the largest tourism driver of the year. Another one bites the dust.

If you don't know by now, we're a positive bunch over here at the Charles Bright Visitors Center. After each punch over the past year, we've come back stronger each time. We came up with "We Bend Not Break," and we're sticking to it. And the beat goes on...

Now that we've got the bad news out of the way, the good news is things are about to start warming around here, which provides the perfect excuse to get outside and *celebrate good times, come on!*

There's plenty of live music planned for March, so be sure to check out our monthly "What's Happening" poster in this issue of *Around the Town!*

We'll be continuing "Nac Snack Fridays" with food trucks and live music around the Downtown Square on the fourth Friday of every month. Be sure to like and follow Visit Nacogdoches – Nacogdoches CVB on Facebook or go to [visitnacogdoches.org/nacsacks](http://visitnacogdoches.org/nacsacks) to see what food trucks and live bands will be there. This month's event will be Friday, March 26th from 11am-7pm. We'll see you there!

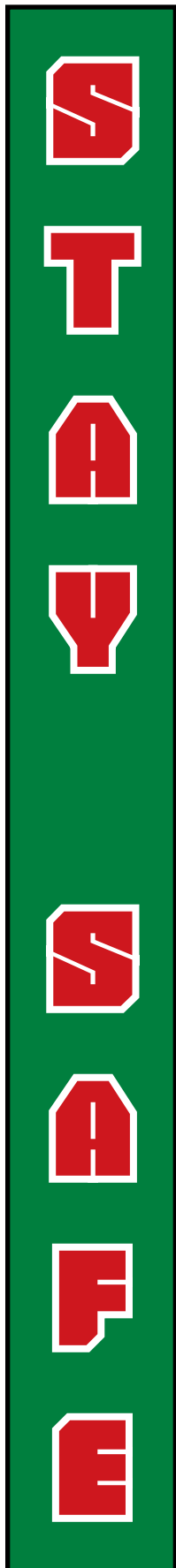
*It's a new dawn, a new day, a new life, and we're feeling good.*

Things are stirring in Downtown Nacogdoches, stay tuned for information on new businesses, new locations, and more to come!




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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](mailto:AroundTheTown@mail.us).

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## A Man of Service, Valor and Courage - Milton Sowell

Story by Greg Patterson and Cindy Mansfield Patterson  
Photos by Greg Patterson | House of Photography



A man of service, valor, and courage. A man that is faithful, loyal, and purposed. A man with a sense of responsibility, humility, and integrity. Milton Connard Sowell, a man who served his country. An East Texan who spent 20 years of his youngest adult years, serving in the United States Army, for us. For you and I, Milton Connard Sowell served.



better at this duty than his sergeant.

He saw much of the world outside of Nacogdoches during his 20 years of service. First in Korea and then Korea again for a total of two tours. Germany for six years and finally Vietnam where he'd risen to the rank of SFC or sergeant first class.

He explains about his army career, "When I saw a private first class and I became a private first class; then I saw a drill sergeant, I became a drill sergeant." It was clear, he was driven to accomplish whatever he set his mind to do. It had been twenty years since he enlisted and much had happened in that time.

Mr. Sowell was born in August 1933, telling his story from the back porch of his nephew's house. He was born in Nacogdoches and raised in the country on Appleby Sand Road before you get to the high school. Of course, there was no high school there, but there was a lot of sand!

He grew up alongside five sisters and four brothers. His much older brother was by far his favorite; it may be because he mentioned to his older brother that he didn't have a bike to get around. That afternoon, his brother, who was 20 years older, had gotten him a bicycle. With this he could ride into town, and with the earnings he made at the filling station, he watched a lot of movies.

The fifty cents he earned cleaning car windows and such was better than whatever he made working as a "swamper" for 7-Up bottling plant. A swamper he explained rode in the truck on deliveries. His nephew and his older brother worked there too; in fact, his brother retired after 41 years of employment, passing just a few days later.

Milton Sowell grew up like any other boy in Nacogdoches going to the tall stately school in Washington Square, the one that's now TJR Elementary school. He said he was like all others in that he liked chasing after pretty girls and hanging out with his best friend, Floyd.

It may have been the movies he liked watching that led him to a life distinguished from the other boys, the ones that depicted John Wayne as a war hero. Right after graduation, he enlisted in the United States Army, soon finding out that boot camp was a far cry from what he saw in the movies. Drill sergeants were never this angry or violent towards the candidates in the movies, but this made Mr. Sowell more thickened to stay in. In fact, he became a drill sergeant himself and determined to be

Twelve months between 1969-1970 was spent in Vietnam in combat and that's when he decided it was to time for him to retire. Maybe it was the end of his career in Vietnam that created a bit of a dark cloud for the former years, because in the telling of this part, he became lost in his memories, as if struggling to put into words what he'd kept silent about until now.

First off, when he arrived in Vietnam, he explains that there was no time to think; you didn't look to the left or right, you just faced forward and kept going. There was no time in Vietnam, just combat. "Before I knew it, a year had passed without having time to think about what had happened," he explained.



He was a tank commander which is someone who received and passed on orders to three other tanks, each with four troops operating different aspects of the M48 Patton. As commander, he gave the orders to the driver and gunner all while leading other tanks and providing

infantry-support. He went from shooting a 22 as a boy to shooting a 90 mm from the M48 "heavy" he commanded.

The worst weapon the VC (Viet Cong) had against tanks was the RPG, a rifle propelled grenade. But, they also had unscrupulous battle tactics. At one point, they'd put a deceased woman in their path hoping to deter

**VETERANS**

them from their mission. Sowell explained that that was no place for a woman, she had no business being there. To this day he said he can still remember her face.

“As the enemy lay on the floor of the jungle waiting to ambush, they looked like leaves on the ground. There were so many of them,” he



explained. “It was kill or be killed. There’s a number stuck in my head, the number 360, but it might be 630; and that’s the number that I was told were killed.” It was as if Sowell’s mind could not comprehend that many people dying, let alone that he’d been part of it.

When asked about his faith, he said “I never thought about God (while in Vietnam).” He now enjoys reading his Bible and has given God thanks for bringing him back alive.

Seeing combat for a year must place tremendous strain on a person, and especially in Mr. Sowell’s position commanding troops half his age. “They called me grandpa,” he said. “You didn’t go anywhere at night if you wanted to live. And at night, we circled the tanks to create a perimeter, outside that three strands of alert wire. One soldier per tank was on watch while the others slept on the ground on the inside of that circle.”

The food was not bad, but fresh water was hard to find and there were times when we were “real thirsty.” A year after his return to the states from Vietnam, he discovered he had malaria. He thought he remembered a night when his patrol had found some water, treating it to prevent malaria, “we must not have waited long enough!” “I had no idea I had it. I was tough and didn’t let anything slow me down, but one day I just fell over!” Upon examination, the doctor guessed he’d had it almost a year.

He had married a young girl he had once seen looking up wide-eyed at him as he worked as a “swamper.” They had two children, William, and Laura. When he got home, his children hardly recognized him, his skin was so thick and dark from exposure to the sun. He was 39 years old having served half of his life in the army.

There was no parade or fanfare upon returning from Vietnam and adjusting to living was a challenge. “It was a different nation than what I remembered,” he explained.

Sowell was awarded the Bronze Star and the Army Commendation Metal with Valor, both issued due to meritorious service during combat situations.

With the money he earned in the service, he bought a house with some land west of Nacogdoches. It’s this house he still lives in and the yard of which he still mows to this day. He has five grandchildren whose weekly visits he really enjoys. They have a real love for him, too, and show it by doing chores for him. Greg Sowell, his nephew that lives next door is quick to say that he, too, shares in the chores by taking out his trash.

His second career, that also lasted 20 years was working for Lone Star Feed. He retired from that job when he turned 65.

He helped raise a son who serves as Nacogdoches County Constable Precinct 1 and a nephew who “might as well have been a son” who serves as our County Judge. You might conclude that these men saw something in Milton Sowell, something to which was important enough to attain. Winston Churchill once said, “Never, never, never, never—in nothing, great or small, large or petty—never give in, except to convictions of honor and good sense. Never yield to force. Never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy.”

Maybe it’s this perseverance or, maybe, a stubbornness that people had earlier on in the making of our great country that helped make this place in which we live a safe and fruitful country. To Mr. Sowell and ALL our veterans, we are thankful for your service and the freedoms it affords each of us to enjoy.

*Do you know someone that’s in their late 80s or older that needs their story told? We are rapidly losing “The Greatest Generation—those born 1900-early 1930s” and would like to help honor them by telling their story through photos and words! We are offering to photograph and tell their story free of charge, no strings attached. If you know someone you would like us to consider for this special project please send us a message. (Keeping this close to home, so only traveling within Nacogdoches County with this project, thanks.)*

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# Roofing Answers from a Local Roofing Contractor

## What Are IR and AR Ratings for Shingles?

by Carl Singleton, Discount Roofers  
2410 SE Stallings Drive, Nacogdoches 75961  
936.554.9100

IR "impact resistant" shingles are usually thicker than typical shingles and can better resist the "blow" of hail than the typical shingle. They are tested by the manufacturers by dropping a heavy object from a specified height to determine the damage that natural elements can cause. Most manufacturers of shingles make IR rated shingles. This is especially important in areas of the country where large hail is a common phenomenon.



The good news: they work and many home insurers will give you a significant discount on your premiums if you provide adequate documentation for them that you have an IR shingle installed on your house. Also, this insurance premium savings will offset the extra cost of the IR shingle in a period-of-time based on several factors.

To change the subject: Most shingles now produced have an additive in the "gravel" part of the shingle to resist the growth of algae. Of course, some shingles are more effective in resisting algae growth than others.

What to do if your shingles get streaks? Typically these streaks are not algae but mildew. We all know that a bleach mixture of 15% with water will help take the mildew off and "slow" it's return. My suggestion for most homeowners: if the "pitch" or angle of your roof isn't too steep for you to walk on, next time it rains, let the rain wet the roof, walk on the roof with a pump up sprayer and spray the bleach mixture onto the shingles and let the RAIN rinse off the roof. This way you won't need to use a water hose or pressurized water to clean the roof. And the bleach mixture will NOT damage your plants when it falls to the ground.

Some people believe that steel roofs do not get streaks like shingle roofs, but that is simply not true. Here in Nacogdoches we have many steel roofs that have "streaked" due to the growth of mildew. What causes the mildew growth? Moisture. We are in a humid climate here in East Texas and mildew is an unavoidable part of living in the prettiest part of the State of Texas.

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## Around the Town is a proud member of the



## Snapshot from Around the Town

Had a delicious meal the other day and met some great ladies of the Heritage Society of Garrison's First Friday Luncheon at the Hotel Wiley. Visit any First Friday (except June-August) between 11:00 and 1:00 for a terrific \$10 lunch, with all proceeds going to the upkeep of the hotel. The meal is presently carry-out only due to Covid.






*Ladies of the Heritage Society of Garrison (left to right): Betty Stokes-Treasurer, Sue Provine, Judy Stoddard, Michelle Matlock-President, Linda Honea, Beren Cranford-Secretary, Claudia Strong, Betty McGaughy, Pat Thompson and Kay Russell.*




# News from the Shelby County Chamber of Commerce



by Deborah Chadwick

I had started writing this March column before the deep freeze of 2021. Considering what we have all gone through, I deleted what I started, saving that for next month.

East Texas is a wonderful place to live. Crisis after crisis everyone turns to help each other – to get through whatever is thrown our way, together – hurricanes, a pandemic and a record setting deep freeze. But that is who we are, neighbors helping neighbors.

To a non-native Texan, Texas is associated with kind, hardworking, friendly people. To someone who lives in Texas (native or not), Texas exemplifies kind, hardworking, friendly people as was exhibited last week. So many individuals ventured out in icy cold dangerous conditions, working tirelessly to make sure everyone has water, power and necessary supplies and food. Make sure to say THANK YOU and THANK YOU!

As we thaw, please continue to check on your family, friends, neighbors and strangers. As we return to school and work etc. continue to love and support your local businesses. Shop Local, Eat Local, Bank Local and Do Business Local - because that is who we are, neighbors helping neighbors.



Fresh snow on Monday morning February 15 on South Church Street in Historic Downtaown Nacogdoches. Photo by Wendy Floyd from Simply Pictures: Shooting Nacogdoches people, places and things.

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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 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 First Responder to be featured, please send your name and contact information to [AroundTheTown@mail.us](mailto:AroundTheTown@mail.us).

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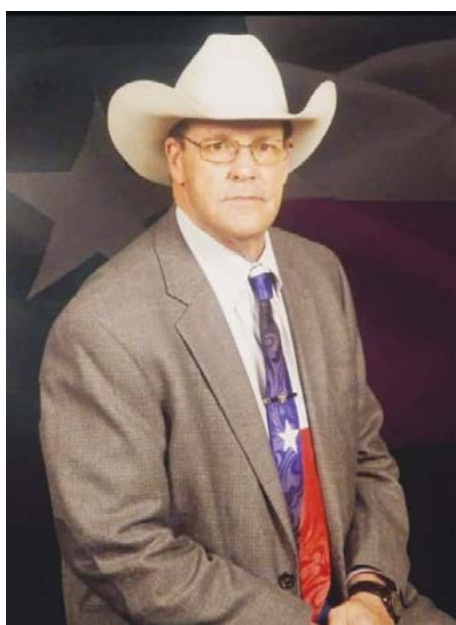


## Sheriff Kevin Windham – Serving Shelby County With Integrity and Professionalism



by Terri Lacher

Raised in the Patroon/Shelbyville area, Sheriff Kevin Windham is very aware and knowledgeable of the needs in Shelby County. Born to the late James Wyatt Windham and Nettie Brittain Windham, he grew up with three brothers, Keith, Kyle, and Kenny. He attended Texas Baptist Institute and Seminary in Henderson, Texas for two years, the only time he was away from home.



Prior to his twenty-nine years in law enforcement, Kevin worked as a truck driver, and served as a pastor to several churches throughout Shelby County. In addition to being the sheriff of Shelby County, he has continued to serve as pastor to Camp Springs Baptist Church in Sabine County for the past six years.

Sheriff Windham was elected as Constable in Precinct #2 in Shelby County. He began his law enforcement career in 1992, graduating from the East Texas Police Academy in April of 1993, and achieved the Masters Peace Officer Certification from Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. He continued to serve as constable until July of 2005. In October of 2005 he went to work for the Center Police Department until March of 2008. In July that same year, he went to work at the Shelby County District Attorney's Office as Chief Investigator until 2013. He worked briefly in Sabine County as a patrol deputy before returning to work for the Shelby County Sheriff's Department in 2014, to the present day, where he was elected and serves currently as Sheriff of Shelby County.

One of the things "Sheriff Kevin" likes most about his job is the "opportunity to meet and help other people. I have told my officers to always remember that the people we deal with usually are going through one of the worst days of their lives. Have compassion for people," he said.

The mission statement of the Shelby County Sheriff's Department is as follows: "To provide quality public safety services to the residents and visitors of Shelby County with integrity and professionalism."

"Integrity is doing the right thing when no one is looking," Sheriff Kevin says. His goals for the department are that he will be an effective leader, leading by

example and not words only. Through diligence and commitment, he hopes to bring the Shelby County Sheriff's Department into the future, leaving the office better than when he began working there.

Besides his twenty-four-seven hour job as sheriff, and serving as pastor to Camp Springs, Kevin Windham spends as much time as he can with his family. He and his wife, Brenda, have two children, son, Josh Windham and wife, Joni White Windham, and daughter, Jennifer, and husband Nick Sims. Their lives are full of joy with their eight grandchildren, Avery, Tyson, Molly, Kaden, Preslee, Chadly, Karma, and Aubrey, keeping them quite busy in their free time. Sheriff Kevin is also active in the Sheriff's Association of Texas.

Being in law enforcement today is not an easy job, nor is it always appreciated, but Sheriff Kevin Windham hopes to be known as the sheriff "who treated all people with respect, and enforced the law fairly, not based on what a person had or did not have."



Sheriff Windham along with his wife Brenda.

"There is no one above the law, nor is anyone beneath the law." (Unknown). Sheriff Kevin believes that all are created equally and deserve to be treated the same. His goal as sheriff of Shelby County would be to "be remembered as the sheriff who had a heart for people."

With his love of family, his church, and his community, and especially his faith in the Lord, it should come as no surprise for others to "see Jesus" coming through in everything Sheriff Kevin Windham does.





# MONUMENT CORNER

This month's Monument Corner travels to Garrison in Nacogdoches County. We visit the Hotel Wiley. The hotel located downtown on the east side of the railroad tracks bears on its front porch an historical marker from the Texas Historical Commission. The marker reads as follows:

## HOTEL WILEY

THE TOWN OF GARRISON WAS FOUNDED IN 1885. BY ABOUT 1900 THE HOTEL WILEY, OWNED BY MRS. S. A. (MATTIE) WILEY, WAS IN FULL OPERATION. THE HOTEL WAS FREQUENTED BY RAILROAD AND TELEPHONE WORKERS, TRAVELING SALESMEN AND TOWNSPEOPLE WHO ENJOYED MRS. WILEY'S FAMILY STYLE MEALS IN THE DINING ROOM. AT ONE TIME THE HOTEL HAD ABOUT 38 ROOMS INCLUDING A TWO-STORY ANNEX THAT LATER WAS REMOVED. THE STRUCTURE IS A FINE EXAMPLE OF AN EARLY 20TH CENTURY RAILROAD HOTEL, EXHIBITING QUEEN ANNE STYLE INFLUENCES IN ITS HIPPED ROOF, DECORATIVE SPINDLE WORK IN THE LOWER CROSS GABLES, MULTI-LIGHT DORMER WINDOWS AND WRAPAROUND PORCH.

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Hotel Wiley



Hotel Wiley Marker

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# Planning Summer Vacations Again

Traveling with my family as a girl was always an unforgettable experience. Even into young adulthood the trips were memorable.

On our way to Nashville by way of Memphis, Dad chose the wrong road from what looked like a woven basket of highways. Trying to turn a cab-over Winnebago around is not easy, and being unaccustomed to maneuvering through a spaghetti bowl of roadways; Dad spotted what he thought would be an easier way.

Jumping the curb, we swerved up a side street and landed at the front gates of Graceland where a television news crew was filming. We had no idea where we were and as we stepped out to check for damage to the motor home. They turned the camera on us and began asking for our thoughts on the anniversary of Elvis' death. We laughed until we cried every time we talked about that trip.

As a child, my parents planned vacations on a small budget. Our routine included loading my sister and me into the Chevrolet Impala, along with pillows, blankets and enough food that made stopping at restaurants unnecessary. The vacation money went a little further that way. One particular trip stands out in comparison to the others. Driving to West Texas to visit friends, my sister and I were settled in for the night on the backseat and in the floor board after the usual fight over who got the seat. The only time Dad stopped was to take a quick nap near the roadside before continuing the drive. No need to waste money on a hotel either.

I had lost the fight that particular night and was snuggled into the floor board sound asleep. I was awakened by my parents calling for us to look out the window.

Raising a sleepy head, I looked out the backseat window on the driver's side to see the moon. Full and orange, it lit the night sky to an amber glow. It looked as if it was sitting on the ground. The unobstructed view across the flat West Texas plain was something this wide-eyed little girl had never seen.

The next morning would find us in search of a place to stop and stretch our legs. Dad pulled into the first Travel Center (we called them rest stops) that I had ever visited. Not only did it have nice restrooms, but it had outdoor tables where Mom stretched out a picnic that she had tucked away in the Styrofoam ice chest. The grass was a beautiful green and the shade trees were perfect. It made for an awesome place to run off the excess energy.

It also had huge maps. That's where my Dad hung out. For several minutes he stood and pondered the highways, plotting and choosing how best to reach our destination. As soon as he was sure, we loaded up and kept going.

With no Google Maps or vehicle GPS systems, we had only the travel center maps or the one tucked into the glove compartment of that old Impala on which to rely.

We made it to our destination and I don't remember much else about that vacation except that full moon and the fun travel center. I hope as we all begin to think of travel and summer vacations again, we will appreciate the small things more than we used to, and make plans to make some great memories.

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# In the Loop... Expo Center in Lufkin

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

Hello East Texas!

The George H. Henderson Exposition Center started 2021 off great with Pineywoods Youth Rodeo Association and Region V High School and Jr. High Rodeos. Pineywoods Youth Rodeo was back in February, but due to the Great Ice Storm of 2021 others had to cancel. However, with bad weather behind us we are looking forward to a great Spring.

The Expo has been honored to provide a staging area for Oncor and their associates during the storm weeks and days afterwards. They have worked tirelessly to restore power to East Texas. We appreciate them very much!

Also, on February 23rd The Expo welcomed the East Texas Food Bank of Tyler for a produce and water distribution to the community. This is a free service to anyone needing assistance.

March 5 & 6 we host the Mayhem Monster Trucks Show. Tickets are available on-line. Tickets - \$12 - \$35 www.eventbrite.com/e/137512689155. Seating will be limited, and social distancing will be observed.

Pineywoods Youth Rodeo will return for their Finals the 2nd weekend of March. Then the Expo will begin set-up for the 2021 Angelina County Fair. The show is scheduled for the week of March 23rd - 27th. Please mark March 27th as that will be the annual auction. This has been a hard year on our kids who work so diligently with their animals all year. The Auction needs your support!

April will see a new event at the Expo Center - A Next Generation Calf Roping will be here April 16-18. We are excited to host this new event in Lufkin.

The ANGELINA BENEFIT RODEO WILL RETURN IN APRIL! Dates are April 21st - 24th.

See you soon at The Expo!



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# The Twins

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.



You never know when or where you might meet twins. At the movies, at the grocery store, at church, or at the mall they may be found. Most of the time they are dressed alike to further confuse the general public. Remember the advertisement for "Double Mint" gum – "double the pleasure, double the fun with Double Mint gum." Of course, there were twin young ladies showing off a package of gum.

I recall meeting a set of twins in the summer of 1973 in Houston, Texas. Unfortunately, the meeting was not planned, nor was it a positive situation. At the time I was a deputy sheriff with the Harris County Sheriff department, on patrol with a partner along Little York Road. This road was the northern city limit marker for the city of Houston from the East Texas Freeway west to Interstate 45. The south side of the road was in the city of Houston, and the north side was Harris county territory.

We had ceased patrolling long enough to stop in at O'Neal's Sinclair station at the corner of Aldine-Westfield and Little York Road to refuel our Plymouth patrol car. O'Neal's station was a "contract station" for the county's vehicles for many years and he was a good friend of all the sheriff department personnel. Mr. O'Neal always had a revolver strapped on his hip in plain view as a silent warning to those who would dare think of robbing him. It was a good deterrent, as were the constant stream of county patrol cars.

On this particular evening, as we were completing the refueling task, a car drove up to us, the driver yelling in our direction, "See that old car there on Little York," pointing to an old Chevrolet headed west. "Yes, I see it," I replied. "What's the problem?" The excited driver yelled, "He's drunk as a skunk. He almost ran me off the road!" I waved at the citizen as we got into the patrol car while assuring him that we would go check out the driver.

Pulling our powerful Plymouth Fury out on Little York we sped up to the point that we could see the weaving Chevrolet a couple of blocks ahead. We finally were close enough to pull him over to the shoulder of the road. My partner walked up to the driver side, and I covered the passenger side. Neither of us was quite ready for the sight that greeted us inside that vehicle. The driver and passenger were identical twins, and both identically drunk. There was a strange aroma in the vehicle – not cigarette smoke, cigar smoke, or pot, but a different smell.

After getting both men out of the vehicle, I examined the interior of the car while my partner put handcuffs on both of them. I found several empty wine bottles on the back seat, and one about half empty on the front. I spotted a couple of partially eaten sandwiches on the dash. I picked one up and there it was, the strange smell. I took a quick whiff and dropped the sandwich on the seat.

It turned out that these twins both worked at a butcher shop in north Houston. They had made several sandwiches out of raw ground meat before leaving their store. I suppose it is like the man said once when he kissed a cow – everyone to his own taste. Apparently raw meat between slices of white bread, washed down by wine, makes a good meal for some people. However, you can't prove it by me.

After placing both of them in the Humble jail, we headed for the restroom to wash the delicacy off our hands, but the smell lingered for the rest of our shift. One just does not find twins like these two very often, for which I thank the good Lord.

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### **G&S Gun Show**

**March 6th-7th**

Nacogdoches Expo Center

Sat: 9-5, Sun: 9-4

### **Live Music at Purple Haze Vapes**

Saturday, March 6th 6pm

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### **Fredonia Brewery**

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Saturday, March 6th

### **Paint The Plane**

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Community event by Nac Public Library

Saturday, March 6th 10am-4pm

### **Community Seed Swap**

Saturday, March 6th

by the Farmers Market

10am

### **Escape Your Bubble - Join the Circus!**

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March 8th-13th

Reserve spot at [nactx.us/library](http://nactx.us/library)

### **Pickin' On The Porch**

Ryan Paul Davis live

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Friday, March 19th 7pm

### **St. Patrick's Day Celebration**

Fredonia Brewery

Saturday, March 20th

### **Lumberjack Harley Davidson**

5th Annual Chili Cook-off

Saturday, March 20th 11am

### **2021 Nacogdoches Pro Rodeo & Steer Show**

Nacogdoches Expo Center

March 20th-21st

### **Nac Snack Friday**

Friday, March 26th 11am-7pm

Food trucks around Downtown Square

Live Music starts at 5pm

### **Flower Market Mini Sessions**

Photos by Amy Mehaffey

The Plant Shed

Saturday, March 27th 9am-2pm

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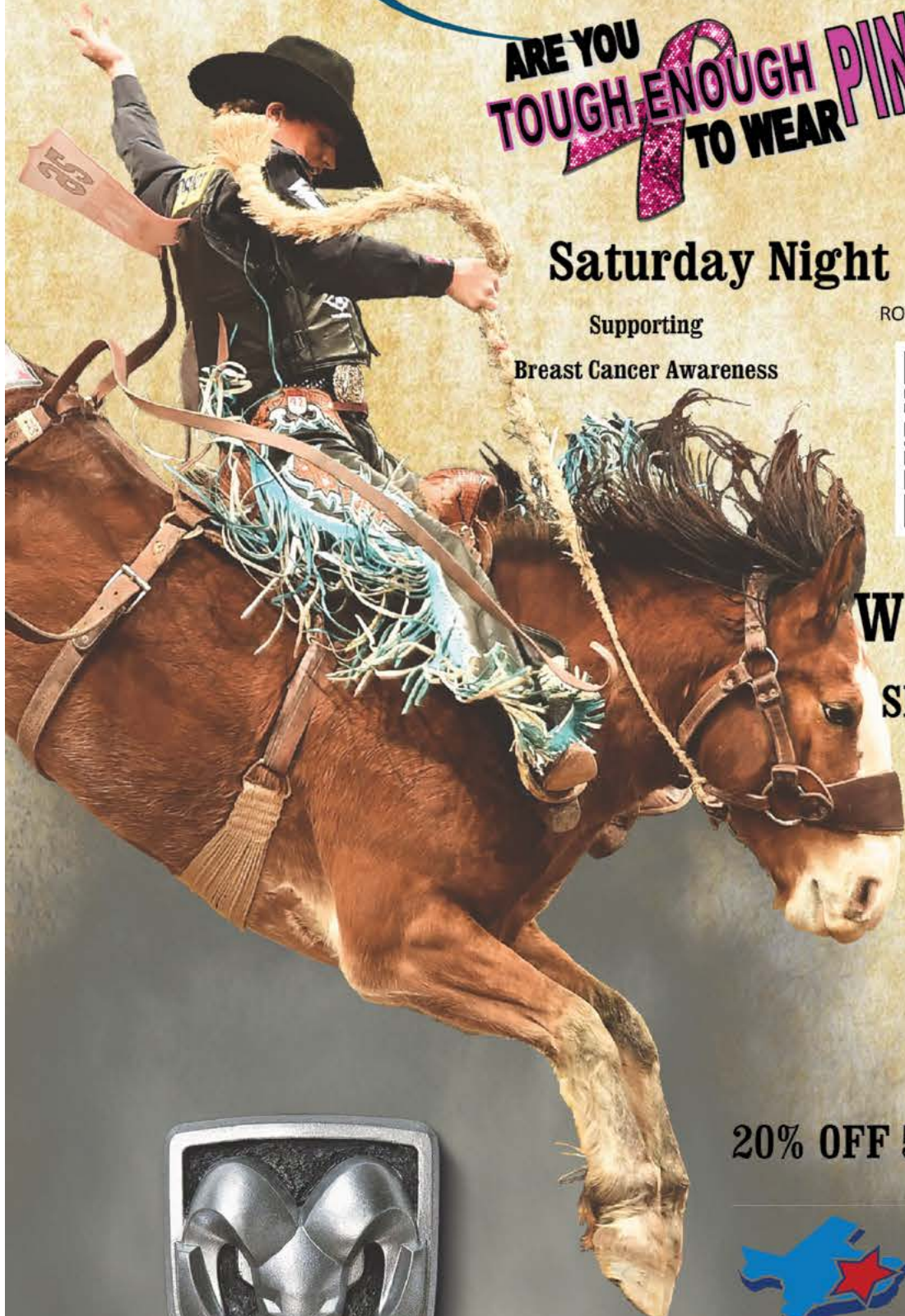
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- 2019 Salem, SBT26RLHL 4130 TT . . . \$24,000
- 2019 Wildcat, WCF29RXL 4135 FW . . . \$37,500
- 2019 Shasta Oasis, SST32DS 4161 TT \$24,500
- ~~SOLD~~ 2019 Wildcat, WCF37WB 49L 4170 FW \$46,900
- ~~SOLD~~ 2018 Sierra, SEF379FLOK 4195 . . . . \$53,500
- 2021 Winn. Micro Minnie, 2306BHS 4287 TT \$24,900
- 2021 Winn. Micro Minnie, 2108DS 4288 TT \$23,900
- 2021 Winnebago Voyage, 2932RL 4289 FW \$47,900
- 2021 Winnebago Voyage, 3134RL 4290 FW \$48,900
- 2021 Winnebago Voyage, 2108DS 4292 FW \$54,500
- 2021 Winnebago V2427RB 4295 TT . . . \$29,500
- 2021 Sierra SEF39BARK 4296 . . . . . \$55,900
- 2021 Winnebago V2831RB 4291 TT . . . \$36,900

2021 Winnebago V3436FL  
**\$54,500** STK# 4292

**1995 Oak Creek 28x76  
9 OFFICES 3 HALF-BATHS  
2,075 sq', kitchenette  
10% OFF - WAS \$50,000, NOW  
\$45,000**

PLUS DELIVERY, HEAT & AIR **TOP CONDITION!**

**MANUFACTURED HOUSING SPECIALS!**  
Authorized Fleetwood Dealer  
2021 Fleetwood Americana  
18x76 3-BR, 2-BATH  
**ON SALE NOW FOR \$66,900**

**OR BEST OFFER**

**\*\*2-Used Lennox Updraft Furnaces:  
One w/2 Ton A/C - \$950.00  
One w/3 Ton A/C - \$1,350.00**

**\*\* 10-New Break Axles 50" Box w/Brakes and Springs:  
\$100.00/ea**

*In our 30-plus year history, our prices have never been lower!  
This inventory is priced to move!*

**USED A/C UNITS IN STOCK!**

**WE BUY MOBILE HOMES**

## USED

- 2009 Heartland/North Trail, 3030 FW . \$15,000
- 2009 Wildcat, 3030LOFT 3157 FW . . . \$18,500
- 2005 Sierra, 285RL 3251 FW . . . . . \$16,500
- 2009 Wildcat, 32QBBS 3276 FW . . . . \$17,500
- 2007 Wildcat, 28RK 3296 FW . . . . . \$19,900
- 1999 Prowler, 3420 FW . . . . . \$ 6,500
- 1997 Travel Supreme, 3512 FW . . . . . \$9,950
- 2004 Cardinal, 31LE 3528 FW . . . . . \$16,500
- 2011 Wildcat, 34FLR 3532 FW . . . . . \$21,500
- 2008 Wildcat, 30LSBS 3534 FW . . . . \$19,900
- 2009 Coachmen, 340QBS 3536 FW . . . \$13,500
- 2006 Grand Surveyor, 3537 FW . . . . \$10,000
- 2005 Tahoe 33 Toy Hauler, 3573 FW . . \$9,000
- 2005 Laredo, 3592 FW . . . . . \$13,0200
- 2011 Open Range, 316RLS 3597 FW . . \$22,000
- 2011 Crossroad, 3646 FW . . . . . \$11,900
- 2009 Keystone, 3664 FW . . . . . \$15,880
- 2005 Wildcat, 3668 FW . . . . . \$10,000
- 2012 Wildcat, 30RL 3716 FW . . . . . \$24,000
- 2008 Sierra, 295RLT 3743 FW . . . . . \$16,000
- 2008 Heartland/Big Country, 3776 FW . \$14,900
- 2012 iGO-Lite, 3779 TT . . . . . \$16,000
- 2013 Starcraft, 3806 TT . . . . . \$9,000
- 2006 KZ, 3827 FW . . . . . \$ 6,500
- 2011 Cooper Canyon, 3906 FW . . . . \$18,500
- 2015 Wildcat, WCF34408FM 3927 FW . \$31,900
- 2013 Wildcat, 3949 FW . . . . . \$18,000
- 1995 Travel Supreme, 3966 FW . . . . \$ 4,750
- 2007 Cedar Creek, 4000 FW . . . . . \$10,900
- 1990 Jayco, 4005 FW . . . . . \$ 3,000
- 2009 Coachman MH, 4049 MH . . . . . \$29,000
- 2016 Coachman, 293RLDS 4096 FW . . \$20,000
- 2013 Koala, 30SS 4122 FW . . . . . \$16,000
- 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
- 2019 Salem, SBF34RL 4181 FW . . . . \$42,000

*Discounted & used fixer/upper RV's - AS IS - NO Warranty*

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