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NACOGDOCHES COUNTY - ANGELINA COUNTY - SHELBY COUNTY



**MARCH 2023**

## There's a New Clown in Town

by David Stallings

Glenda Clare aka "Coco" recently left her goat farm in Central New York and moved to Nacogdoches County to be near family and friends. She is available for private parties, corporate events and public personal appearances, including face painting and balloon animal creations.



Coco began her career as a clown 35 years ago when her church called and asked that she come and do face painting for the children at "Mothers Day Out." After that event, people began calling the church requesting her number to have her come to their children's birthday parties. The first caller said "I'll pay you to come here." She thought that she'd dress the part, so she went as a clown. That began an award-winning career that has taken her worldwide, performing for schools, on cruise ships, The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, for Big Apple Circus and she was also actually a Jeopardy question!



She was born in Houston, a "NASA Brat," as her father was an electrical engineer for the agency. The family moved frequently, working with the technology of the day. Eventually, they settled in Friendswood where they were neighbors with the "Original Seven" astronauts. Deke Slayton lived nearby and his son, Kent, was her brother's best friend. She and her family witnessed the Apollo Soyuz lift off when the U.S. and Russia partnered for the mission. Her son also worked for nine years for NASA straight out of college. Coco spent 20 years as a Paramedic for the City

COCO THE CLOWN - Page 2

## Martin Kennel Now in Center and Nacogdoches

by Terri Lacher  
[talacher@sbcglobal.net](mailto:talacher@sbcglobal.net)

Martin Kennel has held the standard for boarding and grooming since 1994, when Gail and Doug Martin first opened the kennel in the Nacogdoches area. Steve and Becky Martin accepted the business from Doug in 2018 and continued to provide personalized care to Nacogdoches area pets, taking time with each and treating them with love and kindness always. With their son, Chris and his wife, Cathy, the Martins remodeled and expanded Martin Kennel. The kennel is truly a family endeavor, as the Martin grandchildren help out daily, and even during holidays when the rest of the family comes out, it is all hands on deck! Steve and Becky have a long-standing belief that the family that works together and plays together, stays together.



Stephen and Becky Martin and a couple of guests.

During the mess of the pandemic, Martin Kennel was able to stay open by adhering to safety regulations and due to the steadfastness of their wonderful customers who appreciated having a safe place to leave their pets when they absolutely could not postpone work or duties. The Martins greatly appreciate their loyal and supportive customers who brought things by to help keep "their kennel" open. The love experienced from the community was overwhelming!

Martin Kennel works to support the community by purchasing t-shirts and contributing to fundraisers for various school organizations and by joining area Chamber members for different occasions.

Martin Kennel & Grooming continues to grow and improve daily while treating your family pets as they would treat their own. They provide a home

MARTIN KENNEL - Page 2



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**COCO THE CLOWN**

of Galveston prior to her clown career. She decided that she wanted to perform for a living and made a five-year plan to transition from EMS to performing. She did it in four years and has performed for a living since then.

My visit with Coco was delightful and her love for entertaining people of all ages is evidenced by her stories, warm heart and big smile. Her tag line is "There's no age limit on fun!" To contact her for your event, please phone 315.534.5557.

**MARTIN KENNEL**

away from home for your furry friends to play, rest and feel secure while you have to be away. So many of their furry guests can be seen jumping around inside the vehicle or with their heads hanging out the windows excitedly when their owners are driving up to drop them off! Along with safety and well-being, your pet's enjoyment of the experience is the Martins' top priority, resulting in first class customer service for owners and pets. Martin Kennel & Grooming customizes their services for all pet types, ages and mannerisms, with the business completely focused on your pets.

In January of 2022, Steve and Becky Martin opened a second location in Center for the convenience of Shelby and San Augustine County pet owners. They offer pet boarding, day care and grooming with the same loving care and attention they are known for at their Nacogdoches location.

Martin Kennel locations offer grooming Monday through Friday during business hours. Grooming may also be done on Saturdays. Please call for assistance. Appointments are preferred. All appointments are worked at the pace to which your pet best responds. Older animals, or those with special needs or fears, are treated gently and never pushed or rushed. Puppies are introduced to grooming with the care necessary to insure they will see grooming as a pleasant and fun experience. Martin groomers never want to see anyone have to drag their pet into them for grooming! There are no timed grooming appointments at Martin Kennel. Everyone is allowed the time and freedom they need to make this a most enjoyable experience for all.

Boarding guests are welcome to arrive anytime during business hours. Checkout is at 11 am. Your pet is welcome to stay later as a day care visitor. If your plans change, just call. Martin Kennel also offers drop off and pick up hours on Sunday for their boarding guests.

Martin Kennel is working to provide Nacogdoches and Shelby counties with safe and affordable at home care for their pets and livestock, as well! If you have outdoor animals that need feeding while you are away, or your pets just won't tolerate the change in venue, Martin Kennel can come to you. Talk to Steve about your animal care needs.

Martin Kennel is located in Nacogdoches, off Appleby Sand Road, at 512 County Road 217, Nacogdoches TX 75965 and in Center, off Spur 699, at 148 County Road 3734, Center TX 75935. Both locations give your pets a great outdoor play experience and a secure, air-conditioned and heated indoor experience.

Hours are 7 AM to 6 PM, Monday to Friday and Saturday 7 AM to 1:30 PM in both Center and Nacogdoches.

Sunday drop off and pick up is by arrangement from 8 AM to 10 AM and 4 PM to 6 PM in Nacogdoches; and from 4 PM to 6 PM in Center.

Please call 936-560-3643 for the Nacogdoches location and 936-244-1930 for the Center location.

For further information, please see the website [www.martinkennel.com](http://www.martinkennel.com) or check out Facebook at @nacogdochespetcare.

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

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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.

# Everyone Has a Story to Tell — Shelby County Author’s Day

by Terri Lacher  
talacher@sbcglobal.net

The first ever “Author’s Day” in memory of Shelby County teacher, Portia Gaines, was held on Saturday, February 18, 2023, at the John D. Windham Civic Center in Center, Texas. The event, sponsored by the Fannie Brown Booth Library, was a huge success with seventeen authors represented from around Shelby and San Augustine counties.

The idea began more than ten years ago as a dream of local author, David Swanzy, publisher of “We The People of Shelby County.” Swanzy brought to life Shelby County history and surrounding areas through his online publication for several years. It was filled with stories of local residents, historic events, and backgrounds of much of the life in and around Shelby County, including very fascinating stories of their Irish castle courthouse. His love of history, and the people in East Texas came to life through the many pages of “We The People.”

David Swanzy’s dream came true this past weekend. Authors from the surrounding area of Shelby County and two from San Augustine gathered to share their love of the written word, and to honor a longtime resident, Mrs. Portia Payne Gaines.



Mrs. Portia Gaines  
Photo courtesy of Light and Champion

Mrs. Gaines was a teacher in the Center Independent School District for fifty years. She taught English primarily, first in the junior high classrooms, later as a high school teacher. She was hired fresh out of college, in her early twenties, to take on a couple of classes of junior high boys. The principal handed her a “board” and told her to use it if she needed on the young and rambunctious “almost” men in her classroom. She laughed later as she told this story, but never admitted if she had to use it. After teaching classes for fifty years, she then taught classes at Panola College. She said she thought she was the oldest living teacher in Shelby County.

This past weekend as the authors gathered in the Civic Center, a proclamation in memory and honor of Mrs. Gaines was declared to dedicate February 18th of each year, the official “Shelby County Author’s Day.”

Authors represented a wide variety of written works, including thrillers/espionage, historical romance, local East Texas history, Christian romance, inspirational, and children’s books. Following the success of the event, there are plans for next year’s Author Day to include more authors from around the East Texas area. If interested you may contact Sandra Davis at the Fannie Brown Booth Library at (936) 598-5522, or Terri Lacher at talacher@sbcglobal.net, to be included in next year’s Author Day.

The event was well attended as steady streams of visitors stopped by to talk with their favorite authors and friends. It also gave an opportunity for the local writers to get acquainted with each other for future events and support in their writing.



Center Mayor David Chadwick (eighth from left) and County Judge Allison Harbison (seventh from left) pose for a photo with the authors after officially making the proclamation declaring February 18th the first official Shelby County Author’s Day.

Because of health reasons, David Swanzy was unable to attend, however, his wife, Maelinda was there to represent Swanzy’s book, *Living and Fighting with the French Underground*, a World War II story told by American airmen and resistance fighters following an air battle over Southern France in July of 1944. Swanzy’s work took years of research and trips to France to document the tale of these brave men, including Swanzy’s brother, David.

Other authors in attendance were former Secret Service agent, Larry Enmon. Larry brought copies of his books, political thrillers, the Rob and Frank mystery series. His latest book, *Worst Case Scenario* deals with weapons of mass destruction.

Lamar Denby, Jr., pastor, singer, and writer grew up in Patroon, just south of Shelbyville. His book, *Blood and Courage* covers the story of Col. Moses F. Roberts, a third great grandfather who was a soldier and congressman in the



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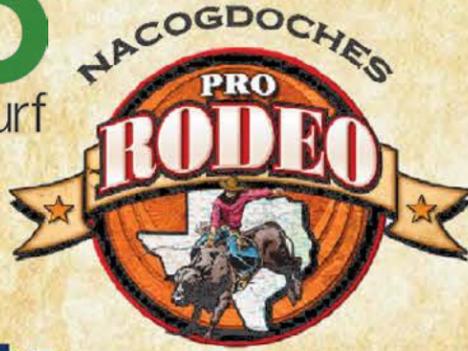
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**AUTHOR'S DAY**

Republic of Texas and a state representative after annexation.

Joann Bush, shared her book, *My Borrowed Angel*, she shares her story, including how 23 year old son, Jon, his wife, and their 10-month old daughter were killed in a car accident in 1999. From those experiences, Joann started a foundation in honor of Jon, Macy, and Misty, to help families with children who have major medical conditions. Her background before writing her story was working as a medical laboratory technologist for fifty years.

Another Shelbyville resident, author, Dan Fleming, has been teaching the Word of God for over 30 years, active in Sunday school classes and the pulpit for most of those years. He delivers the biblical teaching in a simple and easy to understand style, drawing people to his teaching. His book, *The Feasts of John*, shows how Jesus used the times of the feasts to teach the Jews about the importance of the feasts throughout their lives.

San Augustine County resident, Betty Wood Oglesbee, and her late husband, John, co-authored several books of regional history. Betty has been actively involved with the restoration and preservation and economic development for years. She says she is proud of the "gracious old homes shaded by towering pines and venerable pecan trees, the historic downtown buildings, and the old jail she was instrumental in transforming into a handsome law-enforcement museum." Since the passing of her husband, Betty has written more historic books, including her latest, *I'm Samson, Maybe a Dog* is the tale of a very large St. Bernard puppy who lived in the center of San Augustine in the Pineywoods.

Tiffany Bryant, a retired special education teacher and Arizona State University alumni, has completed her new book *Teddy the Chef: Adoption Day*. "Teddy is a puppy that loves to cook," says author Tiffany Bryant, "and he helps his foster parents prepare meals. This story is about how Teddy found his forever home." Tiffany Bryant's delightful tale begins on Teddy's littermate Sammy's adoption day.

Vanessa L. Davis is a wife, mother, and grandmother. She is an inspirational speaker and an advocate for mental health and wellness. Her passion is working with those who have suffered child abuse, domestic abuse, and drug addiction. Her motto is "Just Live Safe" created from the first letters of her son Justin L. Slaughter's name, (killed by a drunk driver in 2010). She and her husband, Pastor Alvin J. Davis to the Open-Door Baptist Worship Center, live in Center, Texas. "I believe in the power of resilience, that we can bounce back to bounce forward and REBOUND", the name of her first book.

New author, Carmen Whitaker, talks about her first book, saying, "You wanna make God laugh? Tell Him about your plans!" Through her fiction Christian romance story, *A Living Hope*, Carmen shares about learning to listen to the messages God sends, allowing Him to guide her steps on the road back to herself. Carmen Whitaker lives with her husband and children in a small town deep in the East Texas Piney Woods.

Neal Murphy resides in his birthplace of San Augustine with his wife, Clara. They have two children, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Murphy earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches and his master's degree in general insurance from the Insurance Institute of America. He also attended Baylor University in Waco, where he studied religion courses. He is a deacon at a Baptist church, has taught Sunday school classes and directed church choirs for many years.

Charlotte Corbell Ingle published a book of family stories and photos based in Deep East Texas and, in particular, the cities of Huxley, Nacogdoches, and Lufkin. She currently lives in Lufkin and has four children and three grandchildren. She studied art before moving into the field of psychology. She worked as a Licensed Professional Counselor and as a Licensed Psychological Associate before retiring to write full time at the beginning of the Covid pandemic. She is currently writing a novel and a book of Christmas stories and devotionals."

Regina Brazzel is a wife of 27 years, mother to three boys, teacher, photographer and author. She wrote her first book while battling depression in 2018. *A Taste for Tears* was named in the Top 10 Thriller Category in the Author Elite Awards in 2019, held in Ohio. Since then, she has written a sequel and began a series of four books called *Storyville*, for her honorary granddaughter.

Rose Deskin writing as Annabelle Blythe, is happy to be settled in Northeast Texas. Rose has written two historical Christian romances. She felt she finally found out what God meant when she read her Bible, pen in hand, and would ask him, "What am I supposed to BE when I ever grow up?" He would respond, "What is in your hand?"

Author, Laura Murphy, shares she is a believer in God and the hereafter. Her love has been in writing children's books where she is able to share the values she feels most strongly about. Laura is a retired Law Enforcement Officer with 3 daughters and 4 grandchildren, happy with the world she is living in.

Rosemary Fisher is an author, national conference, and event speaker. Rosemary has a bold and humorous style sharing how God turned her mess into a powerful message that woke her up from a deep slumber of living like the world to an awakened and purposeful Christian woman whose desire is to help others be prepared and ready for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Rosemary has written two books, *Recycled Women* and *The Smokin' Hot Bride of Christ* which can be found on Amazon. Rosemary has appeared on *CBN 700 Club*, *CTN (Christian Television Network)*, *Freedom Today* and numerous press and magazines.

New author, Cheryl Murphy, was raised in Tenaha, Texas. Cheryl was one of five children raised under the nurturing love and protection of a small-church preacher and a non-wavering mother. Cheryl met and married her true love of 47 years. They have four grown children, and ten "perfect" grandsons! Cheryl now resides in Harrison County in the small community of Harleton where she



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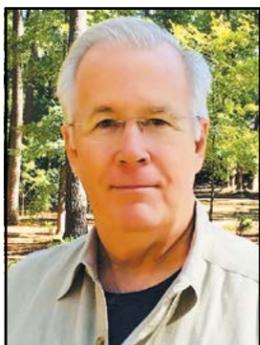
teaches school. She also teaches swimming and loves decorating cakes. *The Only Road That Leads Home* was written by Cheryl originally for her family to share the simplicity and love she experienced growing up. Word got out, and Cheryl was encouraged to publish her humorous and encouraging stories.

Terri Lacher is a freelance author/illustrator, and speaker, originally from the Southwest. She transplanted to the Pineywoods in 1990, making Shelby County, Texas her home. In addition to writing features articles for *Around the Town*, her column, "Cobwebs in the Attic," can be in the *Light and Champion*. Terri has also been a multiple contributor to *Chicken Soup for the Soul*, as well as *Becoming Women of Worth* books. She has written multiple articles about the East Texas area for "We the People of Shelby County" and "The Natural Texan." Currently, Terri is a contributing features writer for *Around the Town*. Terri's love for children has prompted her to author and illustrate children's books, including *The Queen of Pink*, and *Snips and Snails*. She lives in Center, Texas with her husband, Bob, and a few odd squirrels. They stay very busy with church and community activities, including working with preschoolers during Storytime at the Fannie Brown Booth Memorial Library and sharing their love of music and God's Word in the local nursing homes.

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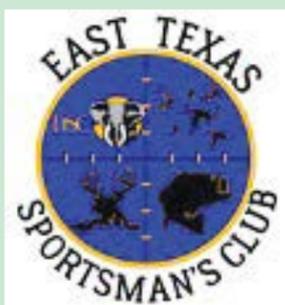
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# Cowboy Things

by Taylor Millard

In the summer of 1977, I considered myself a cowboy of sorts. I had an average sorrel horse called Red, and an Australian Shepherd named Rusty the Wonder Dog. My family had cattle on the north side of town, including a piece of land behind Sunset Cemetery, on North Street. The city bought the property from our family for the town to offer burial space, as Oak Grove and other places were filling up—people just dying to get in—to quote an old joke.

We had a group of yearling heifers on land not far from Sunset and this adventuresome group of teenage cows decided the grass was greener on the patch of land behind the graves. The police called the house, “Mr. Millard, you got some cows out.” A call we receive far too often since the phone was invented. I saddled up ole Red and whistled for Rusty and off we went to do cowboy things.

As the three of us entered the manicured landscape, a hearse and mourners pulled in behind me. I could see the familiar green canopy and the folding chairs set up toward the rear; I hoped my task would be quick. I rode to the far northwest corner to open the gate to allow the escapees access to their correct home. I then circled back to the southwest part of the big open field to gently encourage the cattle back to the pasture where they were supposed to be.

Now, many of you know what herding yearlings is like, but some may not. Imagine a group of teenagers, all with attitudes against any authority. Grown cattle normally follow one another in the opposite direction of the pressure applied, like a law of physics. Calves on the other hand respond with more Chaos Theory. This was one of those times.

The seven head moved methodically at first, but for some unknown reason, one of them, decided she was going to visit the mourners gathered at the back edge of the cemetery. Rusty broke after the lone criminal, with Red and I trailing at a full gallop. I shouted orders to the dog, now on the ear of the dashing troublemaker. I got ahead of the calf before she reached the graveyard edge, and Rusty and I turned her just in time.

I was able to get the herd back where they belonged and began to ride back to the house. The hearse and a lone sedan were all that was left at the gravesite. I approached the scene respectfully, careful to remove my hat when I spotted the elderly widow, staring at me.

“I’m so sorry ma’am. I sure didn’t mean that to happen.” I began humbly.

“No son, it wasn’t your fault. You see my husband was a cattleman. I do believe he loved cows more than he did me. I kind of think he had something to do with all this cow drama. He would have loved it. Don’t be sorry, in fact, I wanted to thank you.” She smiled broadly.

I rode away from there surprised, but happy. I guess we never know how things will work out in the end. I was fully prepared for my butt chewing, instead I got a thank you.

I have had many come up to me regarding these musings of mine and say nice things. I appreciate it and if you like, you can email me at [htmillard@yahoo.com](mailto:htmillard@yahoo.com) with any comments you like, even the occasional complaints are most welcome.



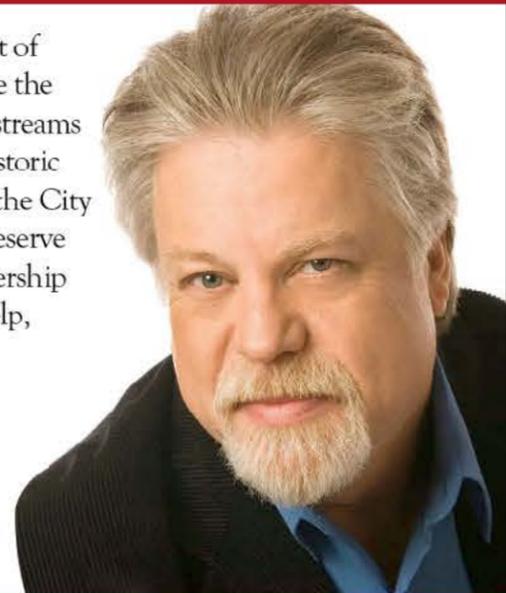
*Henry Taylor Millard, known as Taylor, to almost everyone, grew up in Nacogdoches with a story telling father and a history reading mother. Taylor is a seventh generation Texan and lives on the same family land dating back to the eighteen-thirties. He and his wife attend Old North Baptist Church that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

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- 30-year professional career in Los Angeles
- Two-time nominee, Best Supporting Actor - Daytime Emmy Awards
- Returned to the quiet & peace of Nacogdoches in 2005
- In the 17th year as a lecturer in filmmaking at SFA
- Local homeowner and taxpayer
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# Seniors Gone Wild

One can't imagine just how I felt when I saw the ruckus at the Nacogdoches Senior Center as I went to get a three dollar gourmet lunch prepared by Danton Blank and the staff. It must be their new digs. The former low ceiling and compact area at the old location kept everyone in line as roughly 150 attended daily. Now with a large open space and tall ceilings, I guess they think anything goes.

I had heard music being played previously at the Center but today the band seemed a little louder than normal and was playing rock and roll hits. I was shocked as I turned the corner from the lobby into the dining area to see a group line dancing as those in the lunch line swayed and patted their feet, lips mouthing and even uttering words of familiar songs. Others couldn't contain themselves and began dancing in the very long chow line as they worked their way toward the delicious meal being served.

I mean, "these people are old enough to know better than act like this." That was a quote my momma used to use. It seems today's seniors have a different outlook. Seniors, today, play sports, go dancing and find themselves in other active roles.

The Nacogdoches Senior Center is a gathering spot for those who are searching for new friendships and things to do. I hate lines but can't tell you how many wonderful people I have met just standing in the long one at the new senior center to get a great two dollar (currently three dollars) meal. Now it looks like a place to party also... count me in.



The Center is "not" a federal or state sponsored "hand out" for those in need. It began as a gracious gift from Nacogdoches County as a way of thanking our seniors and bringing them together as a community.

The Center has gone from serving around 150 meals a day at the old location to 300 and more many days at the new one. Where does the money come from to do this? It is sponsored by The Deep East Texas Council of Governments and through fundraisers, The Bright Foundation, T.L.L. Temple Foundation, random checks in the mail, and the blessing of those who place financial gifts in their wills. It is an example of what happens when we give back our time, talent and treasure to those we love.

The Center delivers around 1700 meals each week to those who can't come to the wild parties at 1601 Austin St. The deliveries bring five pre-prepared meals at a time for the homebound of Nacogdoches and to those far away in Panola and Shelby counties who can't drive that far each day. Not only does it provide great meals from a professional cooking staff but it serves to check on the recipients and make sure everything is okay with them. If no one answers the door or phone, emergency services can be called to help.

The Center provides movies, videos and books on tape (sorry, no 8 track) to take home for enjoyment. My wife and I hunker down during the winter months with the many jigsaw puzzles that are available for loan. Art and other classes are coming available soon, as the new location grows. Mahjong, forty-two and other games are scheduled at the Center and plans for a new activity center is in the making, providing dance events, and exercise classes.

Come eat one of the best meals in town and join us for the fun and camaraderie as we stay healthy with all levels of activity. You may even find yourself grooving out in the lunch line. Call (936) 569-6350 for more information.

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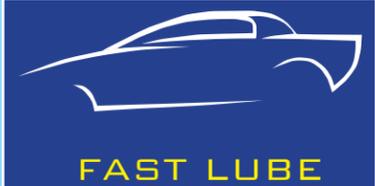
**Friday & Saturday**  
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# Lamp-Lite Theatre Presents Two One Acts

Lamp-Lite Theatre presents *TWO ONE ACTS* “TRIFLES,” by Susan Glaspell and “A QUESTION OF SEX,” by Arnold Bennett as the fifth production of its 50th PURE GOLD SEASON, Fridays & Saturdays, March 24th, 25th, & 31st, and April 1st, 7:30 pm, and Sundays, March 26th and April 2nd, 2:00 pm, at Lamp-Lite Theatre.

“Trifles,” by Susan Glaspell, was first performed in 1916. Written during the first wave feminist movement, the play contrasts how women act in public and in private, as well as how they perform in front of other women versus how they perform in front of men. Featured in this play are **Kevin Helmer, Skip Lewis, LaChanda Maxie, Elaine Lambright, and Lee Broadwater.**



The CAST of “TRIFLES”: (l to r) Skip Lewis, LaChanda Maxie, Elaine Lambright, Lee Broadwater

“A Question of Sex,” written by Arnold Bennett, is a British drawing room farce set in London and first performed in 1899. A baby has been born to George and Ada Gower. George’s bachelor uncle has promised a significant amount of money if the baby is a boy.



The CAST of “A QUESTION OF SEX”: (l to r) Brianna Lewis, Kasey Jobe, Trae Norman, Ameer Johnson

When George tries to cover up the true sex of the baby, he loses out. A funny twist of fate involving George’s sister and sister-in-law brings financial harmony to all. Lamp-Lite’s performing in this play include **Brianna Lewis, Kasey Jobe, Trae Norman, Ameer Johnson.**

**Ken Untiedt** directs the two one acts and **Carrel King** serves as set painter and decorator. **Brian Oswald** serves

as lighting designer with **Chris Sence** running lights. **Steve Chandler** is sound designer and operator for the two plays.

Tickets for *TWO ONE ACTS* are on sale at Kline’s/Wrap-It-Up and the CVB. The tickets are also on sale 45 minutes prior to all performances at Lamp-Lite Theatre. Prices are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors 60+ years old, and \$8 for students. All seats are general seating. Benefactors may reserve their seats by calling 936-564-8300 or emailing lamplitetheatre@gmail.com.

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# Changing Something That Doesn't Have to Happen

Recently in the nine county Lufkin District I have seen an alarming trend that I believe we all can work to change.

Within the last couple of months there have been several fatalities in the area, and the victims were not wearing seatbelts. Some of these were teenagers. That is where you come in. There is nothing more heartbreaking for a parent or family member than to lose a teenager when it could have been avoided by buckling a seatbelt.

The sad part is vehicle crashes continue to be the leading cause of death for teens in the United States. And I think we can encourage them – no, really preach it into them – about buckling up every seat, every time they get into a vehicle, we can change this trend. Whether you are a parent, a grandparent, a friend, a teacher, a law enforcement officer, or another motorist – if you see someone not wearing a seatbelt, remind them that it will save their life if they just choose to buckle it.

Statistically, seat belt use remains low among teens and their passengers. We know that to be a fact because in 2021, 45 percent of teens who died in vehicle crashes were not wearing one.

In 2021, there were 18 traffic crashes in the Lufkin District in which unrestrained teen occupants, ages 15-20, sustained fatal or serious injuries. These crashes resulted in five fatalities and 17 serious injuries. The 2022 statistics have not yet been finalized, but already in 2023, we are seeing this trend continue because they are choosing not to buckle up.

I know teens have everything else in the world on their minds when they get into a vehicle. Everything from what is happening at school, who their best friend is dating, that teacher they don't like, homework, work schedules, who said what to who, to what they are going to wear to Friday night's game. But the number one thing they should think about when they sit down in a vehicle is buckling up.

I have personally seen what wearing a seat belt will do. It saved the lives of my own family members a couple of years ago. Sadly, I have also seen what not wearing a seat belt will do. More than likely, you will be thrown from a rolling vehicle, or the injuries could be so critical, you might not survive.

The **TxDOT Teen Click It or Ticket** campaign is something we focus on in February in hopes of reaching everyone and enlisting their support to help us get this important message across to our teens. TxDOT has rolled out ads on TV, radio, digital and social media. Representatives have visited several high school campuses across the state with this message in hopes it will be shared in the classroom daily, not just once a year.

The lucky drivers are stopped by law enforcement. Yes, the lucky ones. Texas law requires drivers and all passengers to wear seat belts. Unbuckled drivers and passengers – even those in the back seat – can face fines up to \$200. We must make better choices and we must do all we can to ensure the teenagers in our community and around the state make better choices.

Because, like I said, there is nothing more heartbreaking than finding you have lost a loved one because of the choice not to wear a seat belt.

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# Valentines at Millard's Crossing Was a Big Success!

Dear Readers,

Hope you all had a wonderful Valentines weekend and Day! We certainly did here at Millard's Crossing on the 11th of February, it was our first Valentines Dinner and Dance, and was so much fun. Thank you to all who came out and celebrated your Valentines week kickoff with us. We had Prime Rib, green beans with mushrooms, seasoned red potatoes, salad, rolls, and Bananas Foster for dessert compliments of Chef Earl Welch and his wonderful crew, Brandie and John Cosby. Nac Swing Dance, The Old Town Brass Band, Cash Bar 7th Street Café, Dancing, Door Prizes, and departing gifts of Chocolate covered strawberries and red roses. I would like to say thank you to Chris McLaughlin, Robbie Morten, Ada Garcia, and Emily Cosby for doing an outstanding job taking care of our guests. Thanks University Rental for all your support. Hope to see the ones that missed out this year, in 2024.

We have our Easter Egg Hunt coming up on Palm Sunday. It will go from 11:00am – 5:00PM. We will be charging \$10.00 a person, we are still working on an Auto Show, so if you have an auto you would like to enter, please give us a call.

We are constantly trying to update Millard's Crossing, it takes a lot of money and work. If you would like to donate in any way, we have multi ways and levels, hopefully you can find one to fit your budget.

Thank you to our generous sponsors, volunteers, guests, board, employees and The Charles and Lois Marie Bright Foundation for helping Millard's Crossing.

If you would like to book your wedding, party, meeting, or something else here please give us a call. Sponsor, Volunteers, Donations, or for all other questions and information, please reach out to our office at 936-564-6631.

Have an awesome rest of your month!

Grace Handler  
Executive Director

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# The High Holy Days of Texas

by Tweed Scott

The high Holy Days have arrived. Here it is March once again. In Texas, March is a special time. It is the month Texas Independence was declared. It is when the Alamo fell and when nearly 350 Texas combatants were executed in a field in Goliad on Palm Sunday.

This is the time of year when we reflect on those events and the people who experienced them. Texas Independence was declared on March 2, 1836. The Alamo would fall four days after that. A common misconception is that the Alamo defenders fought and died for Texas independence. The declaration was signed in Washington-On-The-Brazos the better part of 300 miles away from the Alamo. There is no way the defenders of the Alamo had any idea the declaration had been declared. For them they were fighting against the tyranny of Santa Anna, and they wanted to have the Constitution of 1824 reinstated. That would never happen; however, they died for an idea that would, in the end, become a country.



About three weeks after the battle at the Alamo, the prisoners of the Mexican troops at Goliad were marched about a quarter of a mile outside the walls of the fortress at La Bahia and executed. That was an order from Santa Anna. He considered all those fighting for Texas nothing more than pirates. That was part of his way of doing things. He was brutally cruel and showed little if any mercy toward his adversaries. The Goliad Massacre might have actually proved to be Santa Anna's undoing. Consider this. Santa Anna personally watched over the demise of all the defenders at the Alamo. He orders the deaths of the prisoners at Goliad.

That infuriated Texans everywhere and raised the ire of people throughout the United States and as a result even more Americans came to Texas' aid to join the fight against Santa Anna. At the Battle of San Jacinto in April there will be military units from other states that came to Texas to help Texas fight in the Revolution. On the last day of the Revolution, military organizations from Louisiana and Kentucky were on the battlefield that day. The end result of those efforts resulted in Santa Anna being forced to surrender and the birth of the Republic of Texas.

As we ponder those events it is easy to see why we refer to them as the High Holy Days of Texas—and that is just in March. By the time the Goliad Massacre is over, the Runaway Scrape is in full course. That will end in April with the defeat of Santa Anna's army at San Jacinto.

The results of this chain of events are breath taking. Here were people who just wanted to be free to live their lives. They were willing to take a stand and were willing to die for that freedom. I think we owe them a heartfelt debt of gratitude, for without them and their sacrifice, there would be no Republic of Texas.

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# 2023 Nacogdoches Main Street Wine Swirl

The City of Nacogdoches Main Street program is excited to announce the 11th annual Wine Swirl is scheduled for Saturday, April



1st from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. The event will be held in downtown Nacogdoches and will have a 1920s theme. Tickets for the Wine Swirl are on sale now. Tickets can be bought online at [www.visitnacogdoches.org/wineswirl](http://www.visitnacogdoches.org/wineswirl) or in person at Hotel Fredonia, (200. N Fredonia St.), Red House Winery (108 E Pilar St.) or Well Body Solutions (3500 North St Suite 103). Event goers will also see new ticket options for 2023 with appetizer and VIP options.

Customers can either purchase the Appetizer only ticket for \$25, Wine only for \$40, Wine and Appetizer for \$60 or the VIP option for \$125. “We are so excited to have these new ticket options for the Wine Swirl. The appetizer option is perfect for those who prefer not to drink, and the VIP ticket provides something special for those who are wanting to make an entire weekend of the event,” says Main Street Manager, Tori Huddleston.

The Nacogdoches Wine Swirl will showcase Texas wineries, local restaurants, food trucks, shopping vendors, and entertainment. Many downtown merchants will also be open for the evening, providing even more shopping options. Attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy wine samples from at least 18 Texas wineries and purchase a glass or bottle of their favorite sample. Attendees will also be able to sample appetizers from many Nacogdoches restaurants, and purchase meals from local food trucks. For those who like to shop, shopping vendors and many downtown businesses will be open. Monies raised from Wine Swirl ticket sales are used to continue the revitalization of Downtown Nacogdoches through beautification grants, holiday decor and other projects.

Tickets can be purchased in advance online at [www.visitnacogdoches.org/wineswirl](http://www.visitnacogdoches.org/wineswirl) or in person at Hotel Fredonia, Red House Winery or Well Body Solutions.

For details on the Nacogdoches Main Street Wine Swirl such as ticket information or sponsorship opportunities please call the City of Nacogdoches Main Street Office at 936-462-8267 or email [huddlestont@nactx.us](mailto:huddlestont@nactx.us).

For ticket sales go to [www.visitnacogdoches.org/wineswirl](http://www.visitnacogdoches.org/wineswirl). Be sure to like the Nacogdoches Wine Swirl page <https://www.facebook.com/NacogdochesSwirl> for the latest Wine Swirl updates.

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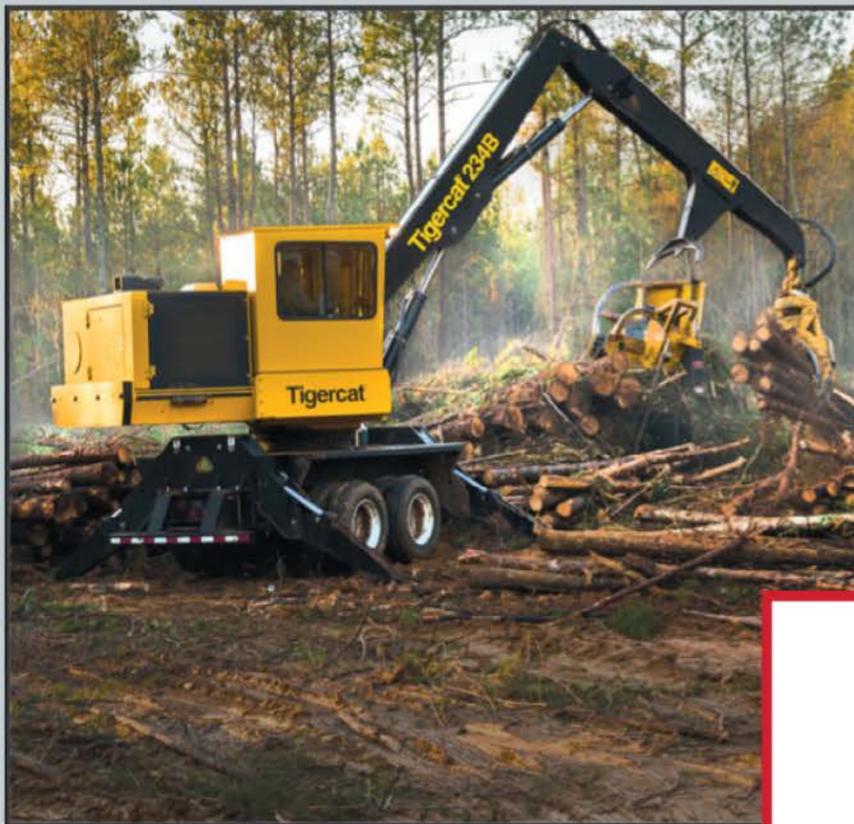
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Sat 4th	Annual Fund Raiser	Lufkin Civic Ctr	7:00 pm
Thu 9th	Naskila Casino	190 E	7:00 pm
Tue 14th	Guacamoles	Lufkin	6:00 pm
Wed 15th	Tia Juanitas	Lufkin	6:00 pm
Thu 16th	Ralph & Kacoos	Lufkin	6:00 pm
Fri 17th	Dance Club VFW	Lufkin	7:00 pm
Thu 23rd	Naskila Casino	190 E	7:00 pm
Tue 28th	Guacamoles	Lufkin	6:00 pm
Fri 31st	Conroe Dance	Conroe	6:00 pm

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# The Fortune Tellers' Feud

by Dan Norton

In January of 1977, I became the Criminal Investigator for the District (Herbert Hancock) and County (Bryan Davis) Attorneys' Offices in Nacogdoches County. My primary responsibilities consisted of: pre-trial investigations, witness gathering, grand jury investigations, and major crime assistance to law enforcement.

We had a major flaw in the procedure at the time which was that when local law enforcement was stumped with a complaint they tended to refer it directly to the appropriate prosecutor for them to review the facts and complete a complaint and warrant if appropriate. This is a system that often creates more problems than it solves. The best way to initially investigate an offense is when it happens and when all parties can be interviewed and assessed.

One day in 1978 or 1979, such a case was dropped into mine and Bryan's lap. A group of gypsies had been told to come by Bryan's office and sign a complaint against their new neighbors/competitors on South Street. It seems that gypsies from one tribe had opened a fortune telling operation and another tribe had opened a competing fortune telling business right across the street. All hell broke loose. Threats and other forms of mischief ensued and the first group made its way to the County Attorney's Office one Monday morning after a particularly nasty weekend of mayhem.

When one is the recipient of gypsy concerns, they tend to descend rather than gather. Usually you're confronted with 8 to 12 individuals with the patriarch doing the talking. Bryan called me down to his office and told me to find out what is going on. I interviewed their leader and learned that the new fortune tellers had been lobbing threats, as well as small rocks, at the more established seers. After a few minutes I tried to explain that absent an on-site investigation by law enforcement we were left with essentially two conflicting stories by an equal number of witnesses. I was then asked if we could proceed with a complaint if they had threats recorded on tape. I foolishly said that we could.

Within a few days, they were back and armed with a cassette recorder in which they claimed iron clad evidence was contained. He turned on the recorder and as the tape played, I heard the most hard language and raised voice that I had ever heard. I explained that there was no way of knowing what was being said and he said that he could interpret. I told him that I would seek out a disinterested third party. He left the tape and the recorder.

Somewhat intrigued by the whole situation, I made an appointment with the modern language department at SFA. The gentleman welcomed me to his office and listened to a portion of the tape. After listening, he told me that the best he could do was to pick out maybe one word in every twenty. He was a scholar, but explained that this was beyond the knowledge of anyone in the department.

The gypsy people, he explained, were and are essentially nomadic. Originating in India, they wandered to Europe during the Middle Ages and eventually to North and South America. They absorbed bits and pieces of the languages of the countries through which they traveled. Their language is called Romani. They first appeared in the United States in the 1880s.

While this is all very interesting, it did little to solve the immediate problem. What, if anything, were we going to do about these complainants beating on our doors every few days wanting updates on our progress? At our next meeting, I carefully and respectfully explained that any offense of which their spoken language was a part would not be prosecutable since the language was only understood by the parties involved. Acts of physical violence would be dealt with immediately and appropriately. He was unimpressed and left in a "huff."

His disappointment with me did not extend to Bryan, whom he saw, correctly, as the smarter of the two of us.

The tribe began coming to Bryan's office with alarming regularity to report new developments in the conflict, each new chapter as unsolvable as the previous one. Bryan told me at one point that the solution to their problem is to be found "In the next world, not this one."

The following was witnessed by no less than three reliable persons, excluding the principles. Sadly, I wasn't present.

Bryan had had enough of the gypsies, their demands and interruptions. They came en masse one day again. Bryan often left the door open between the reception room and his office.

Bryan had the diplomatic skills that I would put up against any Secretary of State of the 20th Century. However, his genius failed him in this last encounter. Bryan saw the tribe coming through the door and he jumped to his feet and shouted "Out! Out!" They were shocked and the leader started to protest, but before he could speak, Bryan said "And not a word from you, you little pipsqueak!" He was about to speak again and Bryan shouted "Not a word!" So forceful and final were Bryan's words that the whole group turned, left and was never seen by any of us again.

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# Come Join the Fun of Pickleball

by Robert McCandless

Pickleball is making its way up the ladder here in Nacogdoches. Our facilities currently outnumber the courts available in Tyler, Longview, Lufkin or Shreveport.

The City of Nacogdoches, along with volunteers and private donors, are making us the Pickleball Mecca of East Texas where even city officials can be found on the court. With the backing of our Chamber of Commerce and Tipton Ford's allowing us to be the premier event in last years "Annual Blueberry Festival," pickleball has grown from a scraggly group of six players in a church gym, meeting twice a week, to over two hundred players meeting at all times of the day and evenings to play on the twenty one courts available in locations around town. Those include 3 inside (available from 9am till noon), at the C.L. Simon Recreation Center at 1112 North St., 6 outside at Banita Creek and now we can boast 12 at Maroney Park from sunrise till past dusk, on lighted courts.

This April 5th pickleball will be a new event in the Corporate Challenge as local companies compete in various sports and trivia games to win the title as they battle the ball in Maroney Park beginning at 6:00 pm.

The Christian Womens Job Corps is currently planning a fundraiser tournament in October that will bring players from all over the Piney Woods and beyond to compete and support an organization that offers educational opportunities and mentors to those having difficulties in life's challenges.

Our courts are listed in a national registry website called "Places2play" and will bring those looking for pickleball vacations to Nacogdoches just as other locations cater to golfers, bird watchers and SCUBA divers.

We also have an equipment rep in town so you don't have to drive to Lufkin or Tyler to buy the things you need to play. Tom Reader reps ONIX and will give you a great discount on your purchase as well as let you try out paddles before you buy.

Plans are underway with USAPickleball to implement a program that will provide equipment in the Nacogdoches and Central Heights public school systems.

Come join us. "Old Town Pickleball" gives free instruction to beginners. We have courts for beginners, intermediate players and those who want to play hard. Skills to play begin around 9 years of age, with no ceiling, as some 80-plus year olds come to play. Come have fun, fellowship and learn the latest craze in sports that will become an Olympic sport in 2028.

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## Scholarships, leadership opportunities for Nacogdoches County youth

Nacogdoches County students have opportunities to earn scholarships and participate in leadership development activities through Nacogdoches County Farm Bureau.

Up to 10 scholarships valued at \$1,000 each are available to graduating high school seniors in Nacogdoches County. Applications are available in the Nacogdoches County Farm Bureau office or via email for Nacogdoches County Farm Bureau members. The deadline to apply is April 1.

Students in eighth through twelfth grade can participate in Texas Farm Bureau's four programs available through the Student Success Series. Details for the Student Success Series are available online at [texasfarmbureau.org/student-success-series](https://texasfarmbureau.org/student-success-series).

### Jumpstart

Students entering 8th grade in August 2023

are eligible to participate. Registration for the virtual event will open in late July.

### Activate

Students entering 9th grade in August 2023 are eligible to participate. Registration for the virtual event will open in late July.

### Engage

Students entering 10th or 11th grade in August 2023 are eligible to participate. This event will be held on May 19 at the Stephen F. Austin State University Beef Farm. Registration closes March 17.

### Thrive

Students entering 12th grade in August

2023 are eligible to participate. Registration will open in March. The Thrive event will be held in Waco on Aug. 4-6.



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# New Partnership Promotes Diversity and Inclusion in SFA's DeWitt School of Nursing

Stephen F. Austin State University's Office of Multicultural Affairs and the DeWitt School of Nursing have formed a partnership to train all nursing students and faculty in critical issues relating to diversity and multicultural education.

Dr. Katy Trotty, assistant professor and coordinator for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, said the training will focus on giving students and faculty tools to grow personally and professionally.

"Diversity, equity and inclusion are critical elements to both educating students and providing quality care for patients," Trotty said. "The Office of Multicultural Affairs has listened to exactly what we need and will provide focused training for our students and faculty. I believe this partnership will make the DeWitt School of Nursing a better place to learn and will impact the fantastic care SFA nurses give to their patients."

The partnership will provide nursing students and faculty fresh and different perspectives on ways to best support one another and to practice in their fields.

"We know informed nurses go on to improve patient outcomes for diverse groups, and we are so thankful to have OMA's help on this journey," Trotty said.

Ja'von Long, assistant director of the OMA, said he is proud of this new collaborative effort and hopes to continue creating a campus environment where all students, staff and faculty feel welcome and included.

"Outside of creating a campus environment of inclusion, we are helping to prepare our future nurses for issues they may encounter while working with the diverse populations they serve," Long said. "This partnership allows the OMA to create new networks of support and provide learning opportunities for meaningful cross-cultural interaction. We look forward to equipping our future nurses with the knowledge that will enhance the patient care they provide."

For more information on SFA's School of Nursing, visit [sfasu.edu/nursing](https://sfasu.edu/nursing).



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# SFA Makes Paul Harvey News

by Jim Garrett

On one of my trips to the University of Texas as a visiting professor, I had a young lady in class who was one of the most unpretentious, down-to-earth type persons you'd ever want to meet. She would often come by my office for help. One day when she came in, she was **livid!** It seems that her old tomcat had gotten her class notes and had torn some of them to shreds. We talked and were able to mostly piece back what she was missing. Two or three days later she returned to my



Jim and Mary Beth Garrett

office wearing the biggest smile you can imagine. "I got him!" she said. It seems that the old cat had crawled into one of her boots and she "took care of him." Let's just say that he never fathered any more kittens after that. I would guess that for the rest of his life, he NEVER crawled into a boot again!!

When we first moved to Nacogdoches we enjoyed listening to a local humorist/lawyer by the name of Bob Murphy on the radio. One of my favorite stories which he told concerned a hippie organ grinder. As this organ grinder would crank his organ on a street corner, his pet monkey would dance around with a tin cup taking donations. A local red-neck and his friend came upon the scene and the first guy put a dollar bill in the monkey's cup. "I thought that you hated hippies," his friend remarked. "Yes, I do," came the reply; "but, they're so cute when they're little!"

To this day I regret not calling and telling Mr. Murphy a true story which happened right here in our hometown. The overseer of a multi-million-dollar research foundation based in Houston, whom I'll simply refer to as Dr. M., made a special trip to Nacogdoches to look over the facilities of SFA's Chemistry Department. Upon his arrival, the Chair of the Department took Dr. M. out to breakfast at a local eating establishment. Once they were seated, the waitress came over and Dr. M. told her that he wanted a box of a certain type of cereal. "And don't tell me that you are out because I saw it on the shelf when I walked in!", the old gentleman firmly stated. When his coffee arrived, he poured it over his cereal and told his host that he ought to try it sometime. When the waitress came for his order, he told her to tell the cook to take a pat of butter and put it in a hot skillet and when it had melted, he was to break an egg into it. Following that, the cook was to flip the egg. Dr. M. assured her that the chef would know what he meant. The waitress left, but quickly returned and said, "Sir, the cook would like to meet you; he's **never** seen a kook like you before!" The Chair of our Department could just see our application for a grant take wings and fly out of the window; however, in spite of that rocky start, we were still able to get a sizable research grant from the foundation.

And now to shift gears quite a bit... The subject of **streaking** was a popular topic back in the early 70s, so much so that Ray Stevens had a delightful video entitled "The Streak." You may want to check it out on YOUTUBE if you are not familiar with Mr. Stevens' rendition of what was going on. Some of you might remember too, Dear Readers, that such nonsense was even occurring right here in Nacogdoches. In fact, SFA made the Paul Harvey radio program because of streaking which was taking place on campus. College kids who should have known better would remove all of their clothes and run around the campus buck-naked. They even had what they called a Streak Parade!! The Nacogdoches police took a somewhat hands-off approach if the students didn't leave the confines of the campus. Mary Beth and I never saw any of what I'm describing take place; we experienced our fill of streaking just having three children under the age of six who did the same thing in our home. As an SFA faculty member, I felt that I should have a get-tough policy on the matter so I announced to my classes that if I **ever** caught any of them streaking in lab WITHOUT THEIR SAFETY GOGGLES, it would result in an automatic "F." My students must have taken me seriously because we never had such an incident occur.

I do not rightly know why it is, Dear Readers, but when I take a short break in writing, Mary Beth's cooking seems to come to mind. She thoroughly enjoys learning new recipes and trying unusual foods. When we lived in Florida for a year, she made friends with a number of couples from India. The women would discuss Indian cooking and share recipes with her. There was one dessert in particular that MB wanted to try. It was an Indian sweet called Gulab Jamuns. GJs can best be described as spherical Indian donuts. The recipe called for heating milk at a low simmer while stirring until it became a thick paste (mawa). Flour as well as other ingredients were added to the paste and the final mixture was to be rolled into balls, fried, and then allowed to sit in a sugar solution. Mary Beth tried the recipe but it took just too much time and her tightly packed, marble-size balls did not absorb hardly any of the sweet solution. We had a special dinner in which Mary Beth prepared, in addition to other Indian dishes, her Gulab Jamuns. Following the dinner, none of our guests commented on the sweet but the next time any of them had us over to their homes, they served us **their** GJs. Theirs

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were the size of tennis balls and were quite sweet! Mary Beth had a friend named Saraswathi with whom she consulted on a number of recipes. Saraswathi told her that stirring the milk down was a waste of time; powdered milk would do just as well. Also, the balls did not need to be so tightly packed. To this day, Gulab Jamuns is one of our son's favorite desserts. When he was in high school, Mary Beth would put two or three in a sandwich bag and include them in his lunch. When his friends asked what they were, he told them that they were fried cow tonsils and offered to share. None of his friends ever took him up on the offer.

Speaking of Mary Beth's reputation for cooking unusual dishes, let me share an interesting incident with you, Dear Readers. One day my sweet wife decided to invite our next-door neighbors and their daughter over for a meal. For the entrée, Mary Beth prepared some meatballs which contained rice. The rice projected outward from the meatballs giving them a rather unusual appearance. The dish has the name "Porcupine Meatballs." Our neighbors' daughter refused to eat the meat balls - thinking that it had been made from some spiney little critter Mary Beth had caught.

A little humor: Did you hear about the senior citizen who got pulled over for speeding? He told the officer that his excuse was that he was trying to get somewhere before he forgot where he was going!

Sometimes we senior citizens find ourselves in awkward situations, especially if we fail to wear our hearing aids. My cardiologist had just completed a routine examination with a good report. He said something to me and then walked out of the room. I turned to Mary Beth and asked why he wanted to **look** in **my ears**. To which she replied, "He wants to **see** you **IN A YEAR!!**"

As we wrap up this article, Dear Readers, Mary Beth and I would like to acknowledge our friend, Margaret VanDover. Margaret and her husband, Byron, have been our close friends for a number of years. Sometime back, she said something that Mary Beth and I will never forget. Margaret said, "Y'all have some of the **best stories**; nothing like that ever happens to us!" We beg to disagree. We believe that **every** family has a story; ours is no exception. Her kind words did prompt Mary Beth to encourage me to write our stories down for the benefit of our children and grandchildren. This series of articles is the overflow of those thoughts. We hope that you enjoy!



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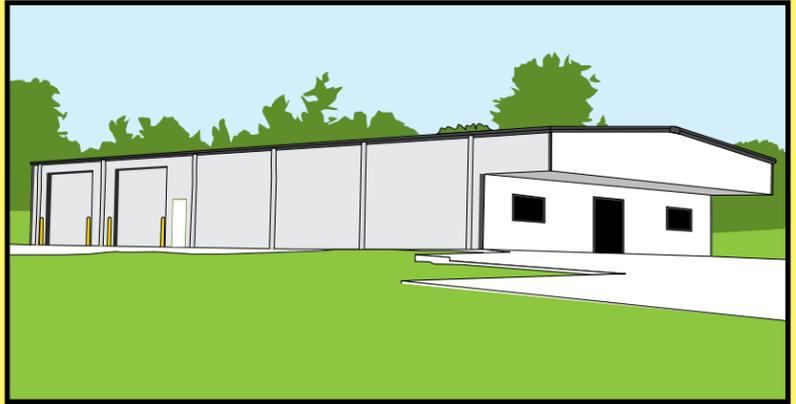


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## Mark Your Calendar

The Vietnam Veterans of America, Piney Woods Chapter 931 is hosting a program at the Nacogdoches Public Library located at 1112 North Street on Wednesday March 29, 2023, at 11:00 a. m. to honor the men and women who served in the Vietnam War and/ or served in the Vietnam Era.

March 29th has been declared as a day to honor the Vietnam Veterans. These men and women chose to put their personal lives on hold and put themselves in harm's way to serve their country.

The keynote speaker will be James P. Hogg, Veterans Service Officer for Nacogdoches County. James is also retired from the U.S. Army.

We want to invite everyone, especially Vietnam Veterans, their families, and friends; we look forward to seeing everyone there. For more information contact George Lowery at (936) 635-4179.



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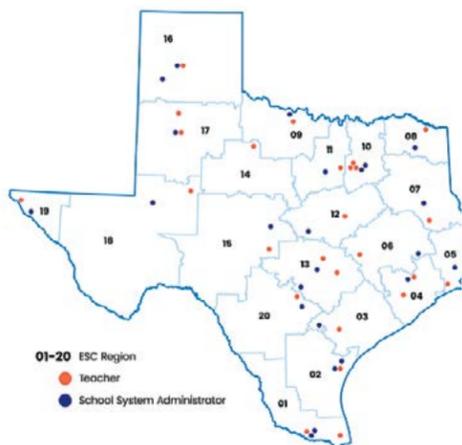
# The Recommendations of the Texas Teacher Vacancy Task Force

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

In March of 2022, Governor Greg Abbott requested the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to create a task force to address public school teacher shortages within the state. After one year of meetings, the task force recommendations are due to be released in late February. The 52-member task force was comprised of 26 school administrators and 26 teachers from across all 20 educational regions of Texas. The members that comprised the task force came from a wide variety of schools, each with unique challenges they were facing with the teacher shortage problem. I accepted the invitation to represent Region Seven as a member of the Texas Teacher Vacancy Task Force (TVTF). The charge given by the governor to the task force was straightforward, we were to identify the causes of and provide solutions for the current teacher shortages in Texas.



By providing a summary of the final recommendations of the task force, I hope that more people will read and understand what is needed to stop the mass exodus of teachers leaving the classroom. The final report will be over 60 pages in length. Because of the extensive length and specificity, it is unlikely many people will read it in its entirety. Once it is released in late February, it can be found on the TEA website. The task force recommended best practices for each of the eight themes. In this column, I am sharing most but not all of the recommendations.



Throughout the year-long task force, there were dozens of reports read and analyzed, mounds of data discussed and examined, and a host of experts who imparted various causations and solutions to members of the task force during our bi-monthly meetings. Eventually, three areas emerged as having the most impact on recruiting and retaining quality teachers in Texas; these areas are increased compensation, high-quality training and support, and improved working conditions. Each of these areas consists of common themes, eight in total, of which the TVTF issued recommendations to legislators and the TEA.

Areas of Concern	Themes
Compensation	1. Increase overall compensation
	2. Increase compensation package (benefits)
	3. Incentivize hard-to-staff areas
Training and Support	4. Improve teacher pipeline
	5. Teacher mentorship and leadership
	6. High-quality instructional materials
Working Conditions	7. Respect and value teacher time
	8. Discipline support

## Compensation

Understandably, teacher raises are included in the recommendations made by the task force. Currently, the average annual teacher salary in Texas ranks in the bottom ten nationally at \$58,000. The buying power for Texas teachers in 2023 is at the same level as it was in 2016 when inflation is considered. In many cases, effective teachers are leaving the classroom because they cannot afford to stay. Teacher salary is one component of overall compensation; other important parts are health care, childcare, and retirement.

The total compensation package offered to teachers is substandard. Teachers in Texas make far less than their counterparts in other states while also paying some of the highest premiums for healthcare. It is easy to understand how increasing salaries and lowering healthcare premiums would benefit our teachers. The current teacher salary schedule stops progressing at 20 years; however, with

current teacher retirement policies teachers are working 25 or more years to reach retirement age. The task force is recommending more years be added to the schedule, so an annual step raise occurs past 20 years of service. Another aspect of teacher pay is that it is based on experience alone and not on effectiveness. The task force is recommending a strategic compensation model be expanded so that the more effective teachers make more money.

## Training and Support

One of the looming problems with the current teacher shortage is that the pipeline from colleges has dried up. Schools are having to be creative and use other non-traditional means to find teachers. Two of the most notable ways schools are doing this are through alternative certification and grow your own. The alternative certification teacher has a bachelor's degree and earns their teacher certification during the first year they work in a teaching position. In the grow your own program, schools offset the costs of college for local community members as they earn their bachelor's degrees. Once alternatively certified teachers enter the classroom, they will need more support than the traditional teachers who learned about pedagogy and the lesson cycle in college. The task force is recommending the state develop and fund a teacher-led mentorship program for new teachers. When asked, new teachers say the reason they left the classroom after the first or second year was a lack of support at the campus level.

High-Quality Instructional Materials are designed to cover all state standards and are made so that the development and delivery are less time-consuming for teachers. These materials include differentiated lessons for all learners, implementation supports for teachers, and regular progress monitoring tools. Currently, not all districts have adopted these newer, more advantageous curriculums. According to a teacher survey, it takes about 15 hours a week for teachers to find and create their instructional materials when they use traditional curriculum. Educator preparation programs (EPPs) are in large part not currently teaching the lesson cycle and curriculum development to new teachers. This omission has created a gap in the novice teacher's ability to teach with the curriculum provided by most districts. The task force is recommending the TEA expand the awareness of these materials to school administrators and that the EPPs teach curriculum and lesson development to new teachers.

## Working Conditions

Teachers have unique working conditions. They are asked to teach students all day except for a 45-minute conference period and their lunch. At the end of the day, most do not have time to keep up with the workload and maintain a healthy work/life balance. When asked, teachers on the TVTF stated that correcting the working conditions issue would have the biggest impact on the teacher shortages afflicting the state. One surveyed Texas teacher said it best, "Teaching is like two full-time jobs. At school you teach and support students. At home you answer emails, grade, plan, and analyze data."

Two areas were common in teacher surveys regarding their working conditions. These were not having enough time each day and a lack of support for student discipline. Many teachers stated that student discipline occasionally keeps them from teaching. Teachers need to be supported by their administrators and want discipline issues that they cannot correct handled decisively and swiftly by their principals. One teacher on the TVTF told of how she would work additional hours to develop an effective lesson, only to have it derailed by a misbehaving student.

The task force made recommendations for working conditions. First, the TVTF would like to see student discipline training for administrators developed and expanded. Next, technical assistance should be provided to administrators on master scheduling so that more effective schedules are made. Last, the TVTF recommends expanding counseling staffing in all schools so that students and teachers can receive support.

Being a member of the Texas Teacher Vacancy Task Force over the past year provided many opportunities for me as a superintendent to see how my decisions can positively and negatively impact teachers. Solving the teacher shortage problem in Texas requires a multifaceted approach. A solution will require the state legislators to increase pay and reduce healthcare premiums, it will require the TEA to further develop High-Quality Instructional Materials, and it will require administrators to think differently about staffing patterns, master scheduling, and discipline techniques.

Our students need effective and passionate teachers. Most teachers will endure many obstacles and hardships to teach our children. But should they have to do so while being underpaid and undervalued? I humbly ask you to contact your legislators and tell them that you support public schools and public school teachers. Ask the legislators to support the recommendations of the Texas Teacher Vacancy Task Force. *State Rep. Lufkin*- Trent Ashby, trent.ashby@house.state.tx.us, 936-634-2762.



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# Pros and Cons of Doggy Daycare

by Steven Martin, *Owner of Martin Kennel*

For many pet parents, work gets in the way of something we'd much rather be doing: playing with our pups. But when you're working 9 to 5 (or potentially much longer), leaving your dog home alone all day long without any sort of entertainment or interaction would be just plain cruel.



And that's where, for some dogs, doggy daycare is the perfect solution. Dog daycare centers offer a place for your dog to exercise, get mental stimulation, and indulge in some good old-fashioned fun while you're at work. But while it's a great fit for some pups, doggy daycare isn't always the best option for all dogs.

Let's take a closer look at the pros and cons of doggy daycare to help you decide if it's the right choice for your fur-baby.

## Pros of doggy daycare

- **No more long days at home alone.** Can you imagine what it must be like for your dog spending all day at home, alone, with no one to talk to or play with? This can make some dogs completely miserable, but the problem can be easily solved with regular daycare visits.
- **Socialization.** Dogs are social creatures and staying in a daycare facility gives your pup a chance to play and interact with other dogs. This teaches them essential social skills, also offers wonderful mental stimulation.
- **Exercise.** Instead of sitting at home all day not getting any activity, daycare gives your dog a chance to play as much as they want with other pups. This not only helps them stay in shape, but it's also essential to their mental wellbeing.
- **No more destructive behavior.** Bored dogs can turn to destructive behavior (like chewing on furniture) to relieve their boredom and use up excess energy. But when your dog spends time at daycare, they'll hopefully come home tired and happy.
- **Some also offer training.** If your pup has some behavior issues you'd like to address, some daycare centers also offer one-on-one training services. So while you're at work, your dog can be hard at work becoming a better-behaved family member.
- **Wide range of facilities available.** If you live in a city, chances are you'll have several daycare facilities to choose from. As well as specialist doggy daycare facilities, you may also find some people offering in-home daycare to provide a more personalized touch.
- **Flexibility.** Doggy daycare centers are also flexible enough to fit in with your schedule. For example, you could book your dog in for a half day of care instead of a full day.

## Cons of doggy daycare

- **Overwhelming.** Going into a noisy and unfamiliar environment where there could potentially be 10 or more other dogs can be overwhelming and even downright intimidating for some pups.
- **No personalized care.** Some dogs need one-on-one care to be completely happy and comfortable. But when they stay at a doggy daycare facility, they're just 1 dog in a room full of them.
- **The level of supervision varies.** The professionalism and attentiveness of staff can vary from one daycare facility to the next. You'll need to compare a range of daycares to find one where your pup will receive a high standard of care.
- **Some dogs find it overstimulating.** The constant excitement or stress of a busy daycare facility can be a little too much for some dogs to handle. For those dogs that are naturally nervous or a little highly strung, daycare will often not be the best choice.
- **Risk of illness.** While reputable daycare facilities have strict health and vaccination policies in place, there's still a risk of illness — for example, Kennel Cough.
- **Developing bad behaviors.** There's a chance that your dog may pick up some undesirable behaviors from their doggy daycare peers. While you can prevent these becoming a problem with regular training, it's still an issue worth considering.
- **Expense.** Another factor to consider is the cost of doggy daycare. If you book your dog in for a visit 5 days a week, you'll be faced with an expensive care bill.



## Is doggy daycare the right choice for my dog?

Now that we've run through the main pros and cons of doggy daycare, is it



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suitable for your pup? The answer really depends on your dog, their personality, and where they'll feel happiest and most comfortable.

Take some time to ask yourself a few questions:

- How well does my dog get along with other dogs? Do they have good social skills?
- Are they comfortable in group settings, or do they get intimidated easily?
- How active is my dog?
- Will they cope well with all the noise, activity, and excitement of a daycare facility, or will they find it overwhelming?
- Do they have any special care needs that require careful management?

If your dog is confident, comfortable in groups, and doesn't require one-on-one care, doggy daycare could be a viable option. Start comparing facilities near you to find the best weekday care for your pup.

## Doggy daycare alternatives

If a doggy daycare environment isn't the right fit for your pup, or if you don't feel comfortable leaving your dog at daycare all day long, don't despair. Martin Kennel has other ways your dog can get the care, exercise, and mental stimulation they need during those long workdays.

Another way to keep your dog occupied while you're at work is to book a drop in. During a drop-in visit, a trusted Pet Caregiver checks in on your dog for 20-30 minutes during the day. You can always add Stroll with our care givers for 20 minutes to an hour. We at Martin Kennel can take care of whatever special care needs your dog has — a potty break, play time, or just a quick cuddle and send you real-time updates.

It's a simple, convenient, and affordable alternative to doggy daycare, so spoil your pup with a Wag! drop-in visit today.

# East Texas Treasure – 7th Street Restaurant and Back Porch Bar & Grill – Come on Down!

by Terri Lacher  
talacher@sbcglobal.net

If you are looking for a nice drive in the country and great food in a fun atmosphere outside of the regular crowded restaurants, then head on down to Cushing and check out the 7th Street Restaurant and Back Porch Bar & Grill. It's a great place to go for dinner, catch some live entertainment, or just relax a bit after a busy day at work. Owner Jerry Fears has been serving up delicious down-home Southern meals for twenty years in downtown Cushing.

7th Street Restaurant began in 2000, as a dream and adventure for Jerry Fears and his best friend/side kick Dale Levings. After spending several years participating in the Do Dat BarBQ, they decided to fulfill that dream by purchasing the 100-year-old Nelson Feed Store building in downtown Cushing. Not only did they want to fulfill their dream, but they also wanted to give back to the small community they both loved so dearly. And so, the renovation began.

In the fall of 2003, 7th Street Restaurant became a reality. And now 20 years later, it remains a successful, steadfast business, serving its customers in Cushing and the large surrounding counties.

Jerry, and his wife Kim have truly enjoyed this adventure, and all the wonderful friends that have been made at 7th Street. "We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude of our customers for their loyal support all these years."

"However," Jerry said, "we would like to retire, and experience new adventures in the next chapter of our lives. So, it's time to pass on the torch to the next Entrepreneur to provide them with the opportunity to make a dream/vision a reality."

The 7th Street Restaurant is now available for sale to someone who also shares the dream and vision that Jerry and Dale began over twenty years ago. The location is ideal for large or small groups, and the facility lends itself to being more than just a restaurant, but a great place for friends and groups to gather for food and fun. The Back Porch area is set up perfectly for live music, accommodating musicians and music lovers alike in a laid back, partially enclosed outdoor setting. The reputation built over the past twenty years brings long time patrons back for the great food and entertainment. To find out more about this business adventure, you may contact Jerry at (936)585-0969, and make arrangements to meet with him at the restaurant.

Jerry and Kim are not moving away, and still plan to make 7th Street a frequent stop (in between road trips and traveling), and would be available to mentor anyone if needed. This "little Gem" can be as small or as large as anyone desires, as it has lots of opportunity for growth.

Their menu has been expanded to include a variety of appetizers, salads, sandwiches, and hand-cut steaks, along with those East Texas favorites such as chicken-fried steak, pork chops, and grilled or fried chicken. Their Friday and Saturday special features an all-you-can-eat fried catfish with popcorn shrimp, served up with fries, beans, cole slaw, hush puppies and homemade banana pudding. They also have a large selection of side dishes that include mashed potatoes, green beans, baked sweet potatoes, fried okra, and more. They also feature a Daily Special Tues-Thurs.

Besides the great menu, the 7th Street Restaurant and Back Porch Bar & Grill boasts live music and/or karaoke on the weekends – weather permitting.

The music is provided by many local talented artists, showcasing some of the best in the area, making it a great place to hang out with family and friends. The music genre runs from Christian, Country and Western, and good old rock and roll, and is sure to please most music lovers.

The interior of the restaurant is large enough to accommodate dining for small to large groups, with seating available on the main floor or upstairs. The atmosphere says "friendly" with an eclectic blend of "odds and ends, photos, vehicle license



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tags, tools, etc." The restaurant is available for special events such as weddings, company parties, and reunions, with the interior able to seat 85, along with the



Back Porch Patio providing room for an additional one hundred patrons. They also have available the event building right next door for those who prefer a more private setting, which seats approximately 75 patrons.

And people love their food. This writer had an opportunity to take the country drive to Cushing to have a dinner date at 7th Street Café. We were not

disappointed. The food, service, and entertainment were more than worth the drive from Center, Texas to Cushing. Other patrons had much to say about their dining experiences at 7th Street, an East Texas treasure.

"Loved the atmosphere and loved the seating choices; we ate on the top floor..."

"Absolutely loved this little place. Food was great, atmosphere was interesting, and the staff was friendly and courteous. Cool place with different dining areas. Want to be sure to go back in the fall to enjoy the patio..."

"Best burger I have had in ages..."

Don't miss out having a good time with your friends while enjoying a ribeye or t-bone steak cooked to order! You can enjoy your meal or relax in the upstairs full bar and watch your favorite sports team on their big screen television.

The 7th Street Restaurant and Back Porch Bar & Grill is located at 754 7th Street in downtown Cushing, Texas. The Back Porch Bar & Grill is a private club with memberships available. For more information, you may call them at (936)326-8457 or go to their web page at [7thstreetrestaurant.com](http://7thstreetrestaurant.com) or visit their Facebook page at 7th Street Restaurant.



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Ashley Morgan  
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# Exciting Spring Events at the CVB

It's almost Spring, and we couldn't be more excited over here at the CVB! Spring is a time of positive change, and there's certainly a lot of that happening around here.

We recently hired our new Group Sales & Services Coordinator, Shelby Lero. Shelby is already familiar with our operations, as she was an intern for us in Summer 2022. It was an easy decision, as Shelby is motivated, resourceful, and possesses the friendliness and hospitality that Visit Nacogdoches is known for. Come by and meet her Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays while she finishes up her degree at SFASU! You can contact her at the usual sales@visitnacogdoches.org or by calling 936-564-7351.

Another change coming up is the return of Nac Snack Fridays! Don't worry, they're still happening! We're just shifting the format. On the fourth Friday of every month, we'll have 4-5 food trucks parked on the Downtown "Square" (200 E. Main Street). We'll pipe music over the speakers and set up tables and chairs to provide a relaxing and upbeat lunch experience. For the evening, we recommend and encourage you all to check out our local venues like Fredonia Brewery, Banita Creek Hall, Naca Valley Vineyard and so many more!

Our next big event is the Nacogdoches Main Street "Wine Swirl!" Tickets are available now at visitnacogdoches.org/wineswirl. This year there are three options available: Wine Only for \$45, Appetizers Only for \$25, or \$60 for a combo ticket! This year restaurants city wide are participating and will have one or two of their appetizers available for ticket holders to sample. Don't worry, our food truck partners will still be on site for those who don't get appetizer tickets!

We're asking our local partners to submit their events to our website! We create our weekly and monthly "What's Happening" flyers by grabbing events from our online calendar. If you would like your event promoted on our flyers, submit it at visitnacogdoches.org/events. You can also find all of our upcoming events there any time! While you're there, take a peak at daytrip ideas, restaurants and more on our website. You might learn something new.

We've got lots of new merchandise at the Visitor Center, and a staff that's always ready to spark up a conversation. Come by and see us while you pick up tickets to an upcoming event like Wine Swirl or pick out a t-shirt for a far away friend. As always, thanks for helping us make Nacogdoches such a wonderful place to visit!



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# The Refuge

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

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



## Not Ashamed to Call Them Brethren

Every born-again Christian shares the same faith. A spiritual faith originating from its author and finisher—the Lord Jesus Christ. However, we do not all share the same degree of spiritual freedom found in Christ and this is a spiritual tragedy in Christendom. What freedom am I talking about? It is the freedom that comes from living in the world with a spiritual identity rooted and grounded in the recreated image of God in Christ. Christians are no longer of the image of God created in Adam; an image marred by sin.

Of what people are we? We are of Christ's people—the people of God. We are a people called by His name. The warfare between us has ended. We fight against God's wisdom when we reject those whom He has chosen to save. The Christian's identity is in Christ. Christ has abolished all earthly distinctions. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female. Christ makes us one in Him. When we draw attention to ourselves by putting an ethnic, socio-economic, gender or cultural identity before Christ, we glorify self instead of God who lives in us. Losing identities that divide us and keep us from being all we can be to fulfill our purpose is exactly what Satan does not want us to do.

God accepts everyone whom He has given the right to be called a child of God. Who has the right to be called a child of God? All people from all walks of sinful lifestyles who repent when the gospel is preached to them, believing in the name of Jesus for forgiveness of sin and salvation. God has cleansed all believers of sin. Our differences do not make us different. We have no right to treat one another differently than the way Christ treats us. If Jesus is not ashamed to call the children of God brethren, neither should we be ashamed.

One of the greatest sins to accepting the brethren is we have put the words of man above the Word of God. We have allowed the voice of man to drown out the voice of God and it prohibits the effective working of His grace and truth in our lives. It is time for Christians to stop letting hirelings in the pulpit who don't care about the sheep and the godless, uncircumcised of heart people under Satan's power influence how we think and what we believe. We must read and believe what the Bible says. It is only when we start believing right according to the truth of God's holy word will we live right before God, people separated from Him because of sin, and before our spiritual family in the body of Christ.

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# Nac County Exposition and Civic Center Calendar

## What's Hot with Anita Scott

The Nacogdoches Expo is open to Arena Rider's 7AM-4PM, M-F for just \$10.00 per horse. Give us a call at 936-564-0849 for availability.

## UPCOMING IN MARCH 2023...

**National Wild Turkey Federation Banquet – March 10th, 2023 – 6:00 PM**

**MARCH 3-5, 2023 – DRILL IN THE PINES – PRESENTED BY ROSELAKE RANCH ...** Come join in the excitement of the Equestrian Drill Team Competition Saturday March 4th, 2023 from **8:00AM-6:30PM** – This event includes dancing horses, riders of all ages and costumes galore. You're invited to enjoy this free family entertainment! It is a **FREE ADMISSION!** It is truly an exhilarating day of adventure; highlighting a unique style of horseback riding. Stalls and RV Hook-Ups are available and concessions will be open on Saturday.

For more information, call Miriam Mumm at (936) 559-8222!

**MARCH 23-25, 2023 – NACOGDOCHES PRO RODEO & STEER SHOW!...** Come see the best in Pro-Rodeo action, 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, Mike Perry Dodge and United Ag & Turf. Gates open at 6:30 nightly, Mutton Bustin' at 7:00, Pro Rodeo action begins at 7:30PM.

Slack will be held on Friday, starting at 9AM. Free admission for Slack.

Saddle up early on Saturday morning and join the Trail Seekers Trail Ride or Shawnee Trail Riders for a day of fun on horseback. Contact Pam Hamby at 936-564-1119 or Kristie Wisener at 936-615-9701.

We can't get enough rodeo! That's why we are hosting the Nacogdoches Exceptional Kids Rodeo. All special needs children are invited to come join the fun on Saturday morning, here at the Expo Center from 10AM-1PM. To register, please contact Katlyn Humphreys at 936-569-3273.

Bring all of the kiddos to meet our pro rodeo contestants & personnel from 1:30PM-3:30PM at Boot Barn in Nac on Saturday. It's a chance to meet their favorite pro rodeo contestants and get autographs.

Wear your yellow ribbons on Friday Night for Childhood Cancer and pink shirts on Saturday Night in support of Breast Cancer.

**ALL Rodeo Admission Tickets** are available online only at **stallhigh.rodeoticket.com** (20% online discount on 5 or more tickets!) Presale Prices: VIP Tickets: \$20.00; Adult Tickets: \$10.00; Child Tickets: (Child 4 to 12) \$7.00; \$1.00 off if shared and liked on Social Media.

**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 2023 Nacogdoches Pro Rodeo. Mutton Bustin' registration will be at the local Boot Barn in Nacogdoches – More details to follow.

**RODEO TICKET QR CODE**



Also, check out our Special to 2023 Nacogdoches Pro Rodeo Merchandise! The QR code and pictures of items are below.



### MARCH 30-31, 2023 – 2023 STEER SHOW SCHEDULE Nacogdoches County Exposition Center

**Thursday March 30, 2023 - 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM** Weigh-In & Classification  
 5:00 PM All Steers in Place, 6:00 PM Showmanship  
 Junior First, Senior to follow

**Friday March 31, 2023 - 10:00 AM** Steer Show  
 Set Sale Order  
 Photos (All Exhibitors)  
 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM Buyers Reception, 6:00 PM Premium Sale

# They Have to Come Out

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.



I had been to Dr. Harris several times with infected tonsils during 1965. We were living in Houston, Texas at the time when he finally looked me straight in the eye and said, "They have to come out, and soon."

Those are not the words one wants to hear from your doctor. Those words are right up there with the word "oops" when your surgeon is operating on you. So, at around 29 years of age, I was planning on my very first surgery, you know, the kind where they put you to sleep and cut on your body. Dr. Harris reassured me that a tonsillectomy was a very safe, common surgery, though not as common on someone my age.

The surgery was scheduled at Herman Hospital in Houston the following week. I was somewhat apprehensive about "going under the knife" as well as the recovery time involved. Anything that interferes with the ability to eat is pretty serious.

The morning of the surgery came too soon and I was getting cold feet. But, a nurse pranced into my room early and gave me a shot. "What's that for?", I inquired. She smiled sweetly and responded, "Oh, this medicine will make you feel great. It takes away the apprehension so you won't worry." She sure knew what she was talking about. In a few minutes I did not have a care in the world. In fact, while being rolled down the long hall to the surgery rooms, I busied myself with trying to count the number of tiles on the ceiling. They pushed my bed on wheels up against an outside wall of an operating room and left me alone.

I could hear a lot of loud talking and some laughter. I guess the doctors and nurses have a great time cutting up, I thought to myself. It came to me suddenly that I had made a joke about surgeons being cut-ups, but there was no one to tell it to. I'll just file that one away in my memory bank for future use, I decided in my stupor.

Suddenly a surgical nurse walked up to my bed, looked me over, then asked a question that really affected me. "What's this one in here for?", she yelled across to the others. A slight panic hit me as I realized that I was waiting for surgery and no one seemed to know which part of my body to cut on. Then she yelled out the same question again and I knew that I had to muster up enough strength to let them know the answer to her question. "A tonsillectomy, you're taking out my tonsils," I blurted out in my happy stupor. I had read about people who had the wrong leg amputated and other horror stories. I had wondered how such a mistake could occur...now I felt I knew the answer.

I remember being rolled into the operating room and crawling on to the surgery table still mumbling "A tonsillectomy - Dr. Harris - take out my tonsils." Then I remember a feeling of Oh, who cares. Who needs two legs anyhow came over me. I awoke with terrible pain in my throat and unable to swallow. I knew then that they had taken out the right part of my body.

I went home late on a Friday evening to recoup. Chipped ice was my first nourishment, followed by chicken soup without the noodles. On Saturday the lady that we had hired to clean the house and cook, Iona, added insult to injury. She cooked up a great meal of meatloaf, fried potatoes, corn bread, and other vegetables. The aroma of these wonderful dishes wafted into my bedroom making my mouth water. But, I could not yet eat any of them. How could she be so cruel? Well, I suppose the rest of the family has to eat.

My recovery was uneventful and the surgery cured me of the many tonsil infections I had suffered over the years. But, there were some anxious moments right before they were going to cut off one of my legs. I just knew I had saved the day.

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# Air Mail: The Early Days and a Second Time Around—Right Here in East Texas

by Mike Mills

*Mike Mills is a 1965 graduate of Nacogdoches High School. After careers in airline flying and FAA management, he and wife Sandy, a retired teacher, took to the road in a motorhome, writing about their journeys. Their blog, "Phannie and Mae" has had more than a million views since its inception.*



Some folks are vaguely aware through their studies in history of the beginnings of air mail flights in the United States during the earliest days of aviation. The experiment began in 1911 by the U. S. Army Signal Corps, which developed into the U. S. Army Air Corps in 1926 and, ultimately, into the U. S. Air Force in 1947. Because of the primitive nature of the earliest "production" aircraft—open-cockpit biplanes whose fabric-covered wings were held in position largely by wires—and the inexperience of the pilots, who largely had to learn to fly on their own, air crashes were numerous and deadly.

The Signal Corps decided that assisting in the longtime goal of the U. S. Post Office for faster mail delivery might be accomplished by flying mail via its airplanes—initially from New York to Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. The Corps had their own motive, however; they thought the straight routes between large cities with plenty of landmarks could help the pilots gain more experience, both in flying and navigating, thereby helping reduce the horrendous accident rate. It was not uncommon then for pilots frequently to find themselves lost, as there were few, if any, radio navigation aids at the time and no radios in the cockpits to receive signals. The pilots had only rather primitive maps that pointed out cities and significant objects on the ground, and the airplanes had compasses that were notoriously unstable and difficult to read.

This mail-flying experiment had some success, finally stretching coast-to-coast, but accidents, while lessened in number, were many, and the air mail was eventually tendered in 1926 to the nascent airlines that had begun to develop.

Few people know that the U. S. Postal Service tried flying the mail a second time nationwide some fifty years later. Even fewer know that east Texas—the same area reached by the very publication you're reading right now—was involved. And you might be surprised to learn that the pilot who flew those nightly mail runs from Lufkin to Dallas was none other than yours truly, the humble author of this piece.



I was 21 years old, and it was my first real flying job. My first flight began on May 8, 1968, almost exactly fifty years after the first of those primitive mail flights began on May 15, 1918. While, like most young men, I felt indestructible at the time, so I had little hesitation about a checkout in an ancient Beech 18, a type derived from an old military C-45 and considerably more challenging than is normally allowed for a relatively novice pilot like me. It had Pratt and Whitney R-985 radial engines and was considered by most pilots as a bit squirrely, especially upon landing, due to its tailwheel configuration, requiring the initial



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Governor Henderson had a varied career during his life in the Republic of Texas, then in the state of Texas. As a lawyer, he once had a law practice and office in San Augustine. If you want to hear 'the rest of the story' come see Brad on March 18th. For more information, contact Pattie DeLamar at pcdelamar1@gmail.com

*Not only is Brad known from his years in Hollywood, but locally as he teaches at SFA. Like the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Brad encourages the preservation of Texas history, as he is a member of the Sons of the Republic of Texas.*

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touchdown on the main landing gear then lowering the tail to the runway. This could be tricky with the then-reduced forward visibility, especially in a crosswind.

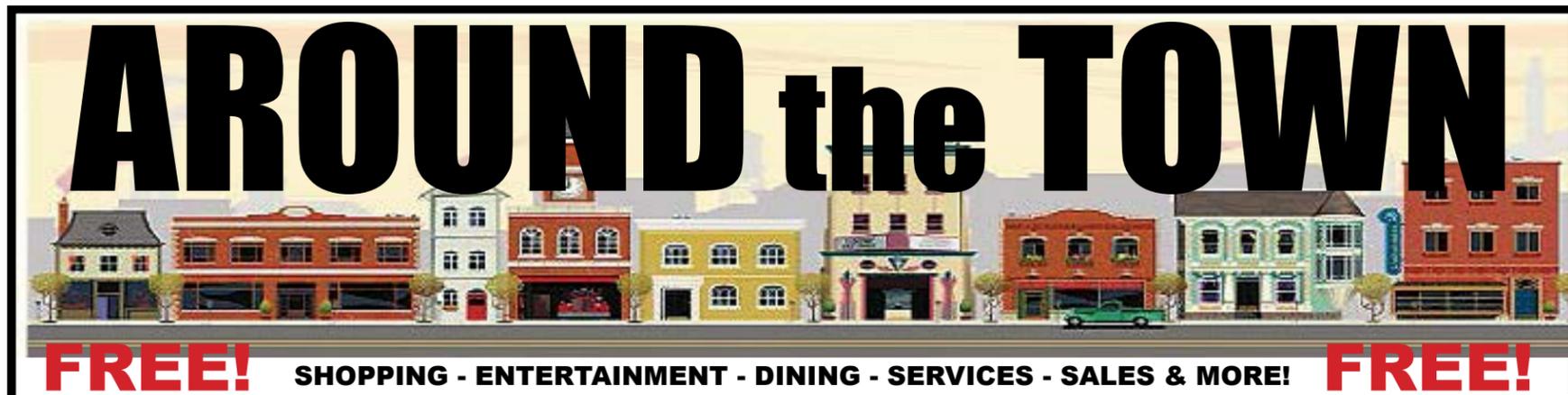
I loved flying the old airplane, and, after a while, it felt a part of me. I must admit, however, that the many flights I made in it were not without a few tense moments. Like the pioneer mail pilots of 1918, I learned more about flying during the five years of flying east Texas' nightly mail than in most of the rest of my aviation career. I'm including a photo (right) of one of the Beech 18s I flew at the time, taken at what was then called Del Rentzel field in Nacogdoches.

The postal carriers would gather mail in trucks from all over east Texas during the day and bring it to the Lufkin post office, where it would be sorted and sent out to the Angelina Country Airport, where it would be loaded onto my airplane for its flight to Dallas Love Field. Takeoff time was about 9 p.m., and I made a stop in Palestine to pick up another load that had been gathered from that area. I arrived in Dallas at about 10:30 p.m., along with as many as a dozen other mail planes that had arrived from other cities around Texas. Postal workers would take the mail from the airplanes in trucks to a sorting facility and, at about 2:00 a.m., the armada of mail planes would depart for their return trips, loaded with the next day's mail that would be flown out to their airports of origin and distributed among the dozens of small towns from which the previous day's loads had originated. I would touch down in Lufkin at about 3:30 a.m., after which the mail was taken to the Lufkin post office and sorted again for delivery around east Texas.

During this era, first-class mail was carried along with the air mail in order to have a sufficient load; first-class was placed in green sacks, and air mail in gold ones. Eventually, air mail would cease to exist; it would become "Priority Mail." This same scenario was carried out in a hub-and-spoke system across the U. S. five or six nights per week.

This second mail-by-airplane experiment lasted about as long as it did the first time in 1918. By 1976, it was largely over. I'm not sure why it ceased, for I had moved on to airline flying by then.

Flying the mail was a heady time for this east Texas-bred boy from Nacogdoches, and I have a few stories to tell about it, including how a mail pilot (me) got to visit with Ray Price under these unusual circumstances. Those stories will have to wait for future editions.



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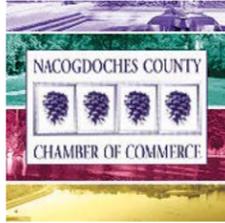
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**Chamber Connection**  
 by C. Wayne Mitchell  
 IOM, President & CEO,  
 Nacogdoches County Chamber  
 of Commerce

# Chamber Days in Austin 2023!

Last month more than 200 people from Nacogdoches and Angelina Counties visited Austin, Texas, to convey our legislative priorities while State Legislature was in the early stages of the 88th Legislative Session. The two-day event, known as “Chamber Days in Austin” was coordinated by the Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce and the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce.

Participants visited with legislative leaders and state department heads to discuss issues important to East Texas including mental health; transportation; broadband; and health care, just to name a few.

As President/CEO of the Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce, I evaluate the return on our investment of time and money spent on this trip to the State Capitol, and the initial feedback from attendees is positive. It is important that we remind those representing us in the public policy arena that we have legislative needs in East Texas. I am also proud of the partnership with our neighbors from Lufkin/Angelina County. Working together, we can accomplish great things for our region of this great state.

State Senator Robert Nichols and Representative Travis Clardy and Representative Trent Ashby and their staff helped to identify and schedule. We have a wonderful team here in East Texas and with the assistance of our legislative delegation, were able to identify women and men to meet with us to discuss our issues of concern.

The 2023 Leadership Nacogdoches class participated in this program, completing their State Government Session. They visited the offices of major business organizations and heard from a variety of business leaders. I was impressed by their interest in the issues and the questions they had for presenters. I believe that they have a much greater appreciation for the issues facing Texas lawmakers.

The program concluded with a legislative reception sponsored by both Chambers of Commerce at The Austin Club in downtown Austin. Over 200 were in attendance and presenters included Senator Nichols and Representatives Clardy and Ashby, Stephen F. Austin State University President Dr. Steve Westbrook and Angelina College President Dr. Michael J. Simon.

Now the challenge will be to convert this great initiative into dividends for Nacogdoches County and our region. We must keep policy makers aware of what will make our businesses continue to grow and the people who call East Texas home prosper!



*Nacogdoches County Chamber CEO C. Wayne Mitchell and Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber CEO Tara Watson-Watkins speaking to community groups at Chamber Days in Austin 2023.*

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# MONUMENT CORNER

Several historical markers dot the landscape in Oak Grove Cemetery on North Lanana Street in Nacogdoches. We will examine each of them over the next few months. The first two monuments read as follows:

## KELSEY HARRIS DOUGLASS

MEMBER OF THE SECOND CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC

COMMANDER OF THE TEXAS FORCES IN THE DECISIVE BATTLE WITH THE CHEROKEE INDIANS  
JULY 16, 1839

CHARTER MEMBER OF GRAND MASONIC LODGE OF TEXAS

DIED OCT. 4, 1840  
HIS DAUGHTER ANNE ELIZABETH DOUGLASS DIED IN JULY, 1840

Erected by the State of Texas 1936



## HADEN EDWARDS

EMPRESARIO LEADER OF THE FREDONIAN REBELLION, 1826-27 SENT TO THE UNITED STATES TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE TEXAS REVOLUTION, 1836 A LEADER IN THE DEVELOPMENT

OF A NATION BORN IN VIRGINIA AUGUST 12, 1771 DIED AUGUST 14, 1849

HIS WIFE SUSAN BEALL EDWARDS

BORN IN MARYLAND APRIL 10, 1774 DIED APRIL 6, 1849

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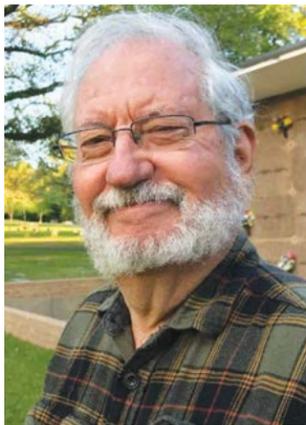
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# A Little Bit of History...

by Hershel "Dickie" Dixon

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

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

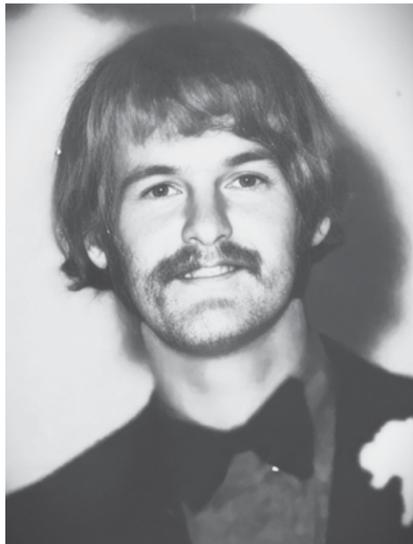


## We Will All Miss Larry Ingle

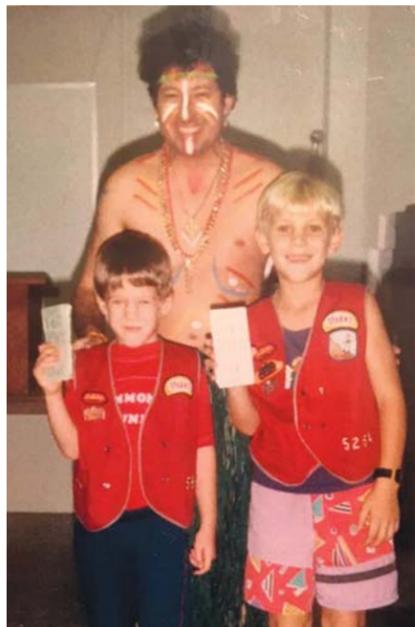
Very recently my good friend Larry Ingle passed away, a friend I knew from my work, from church, and from socializing with him and his family.

I met him, I think, in 1985 in Lufkin, either at church or when he became my advertising salesman for the *Lufkin Daily News*; he became my salesman when I came to manage my Dad's store, Dixon Furniture Company, in Diboll about March 27, 1985.

A number of times he helped me with projects I was implementing. In the fall of 1985 or 1986, Diane Marshall and others helped me start an Awana Youth Club at Believers Bible Church, and, because they teased me so much about being so zealous about Awana, they called me the Awana Bwana. I competed with the kids on memorizing Scripture, and to make it even more fun Larry designed and built an Awana spinning wheel. In 1987, Larry sold the print job for a 12-page insert for the Diboll Arts and Crafts Fair; we printed 65,000 of those and inserted them in six area newspapers including the *Lufkin Daily News*. Being busy with Awana, teaching Sunday School, and managing my Dad's store, my time was thin, so Larry designed and wrote much of the insert. I doubt that his managers ever knew how much he went above and beyond the call of duty on that occasion. In 1989, I left the interim pastorate at Believers Bible Church to explore being a tribal translator with New Tribes Mission. To help us take our things to Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania, Larry bolted plywood to the sides of the 6 foot by 10 foot utility trailer and hooks around the bottom of it so we could tie a tarp on it. Finally, some years after Jana died, he came to visit, and, before he left, he asked if he could mow my yard. I was touched because I realized that more often than not I



Larry Ingle, former employee of the *Lufkin Daily News*, on his wedding day August 14, 1971



Dickie Dixon, the Awana Bwana, with two Sparks in their vests: Kevin Ingle (left) and Nathan Handberry

was the giver not the receiver.

It was reciprocal. At times when Larry needed me, I was there.

Larry Parr Ingle, 1948-2023



## High and Tight: How I Started Working at Yellow Freight

Early in January of 1976, I started calling in to try my best to get on at Yellow Freight on Irving Boulevard in Dallas. From June of 1975 until December 31, 1975, I had worked as a desk clerk and relief night auditor for the Lynn Hotel on 3401 Gaston Avenue, owned by the same people who owned the Adolphus and right across the street from Baylor Hospital. Until later in that year, my wage was \$2.00 per hour, until the government made the hotel pay us \$2.25, because there was a work release halfway house on the second floor rented by the Bureau of Prisons. Wages were much better at the freight docks, and I wanted to get on the payroll.

From early January, every week Monday through Saturday, I called in to get on and never had, and I was getting discouraged. My former roommate in Lufkin, Tim Hoke, had even arranged for me to meet his supervisor Ben Dawson, so my chances might get better. During these months, I supplemented our income by painting apartments and by refinishing furniture for hire for a man from Rosebud named Reverend Abby Lewis, a supervisor at the Lighthouse for the Blind in Dallas. Luck was with me on March 31st, though, for when I called to ask to come in, they gave me the go ahead. Not being able yet to load/unload trucks on the dock, that first day I cleaned up around the dock; as I recall, someone had dropped a box of 4 gallons of house paint on the pavement, and I got it on my shirt cleaning it up. However, pay was \$6.78 per hour—three times what I had been making at the hotel.

However, it gets even better than that. Since this was a union dock, the Teamsters went on strike, and, as I recall, in about a week, they had crippled the nation and we were back at work. The next day I worked, they let me load/unload the trucks, and my first truck to unload held 26,000 pounds of unpalletized Havoline oil I needed to unload in 6 hours. The best part of the day was the good news: because we were day casuals, the government made the freight dock pay us an extra \$1.50 per hour for hospitalization coverage we didn't have.



Trailers like this were the ones I loaded/unloaded at Yellow Freight.

So, I worked one day and received a \$1.50 pay raise; now I was making \$8.28 per hour—almost four times what I was making at the hotel.

Because of my background in furniture, I was a natural for the freight docks, unloading countless freight trucks driven by Myron Byrd and Charlie and dealing with countless invoices and bills of lading. Later, once I got my Teamsters card, I worked at Singleton's, Gordon's, and ICX, and, in all that time, never once did they have to question the bills of lading I had dealt with to load or unload freight. The public may not realize the magnitude of what we did as freight dock workers: we would load a 48-foot trailer with 53,000 pounds of freight for which the company was charging the customer a minimum of \$14 per hundred pounds.

The freight docks were a man's world, and you were never called by your first name. I remember one day, my supervisor Hal Greer said to me: "Dixon, I want that freight in there, high and tight! High and tight! So now I have dumped the whole load on you of how I started working at Yellow Freight on March 31, 1975!"

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## Kissin' Kuzzins

by Hershel "Dickie" Dixon

(1) Joe Liggio will present "Wildflowers of the Big Thicket" to the Deep East Texas Archeological Society at about 7:15 p.m. on Monday, March 6, 2023 at the Fellowship Hall of First Methodist Church on 308 High Street in Newton. Refreshments will be served up at 6:30 p.m. by Sandra Litton and her culinary associates, and President Ruth Dusan will conduct a short business meeting at 7 p.m. The door prize will be the book he and his late wife wrote entitled "Wild Orchids of Texas"; a copy of it has been donated to the Newton County Public Library by a DETAS member and is ready to check out. For more information about checking it out, contact Stephanie Ducote at (409) 379-8300 or stephanie.ducote\_ncpl@outlook.com. Joe will also have copies of his book for sale for \$20. For more information, contact Ruth Dusan at (409) 379-5694 or jrdusan@windstream.net or Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419 or dixonhershel51@gmail.com

(2) Dickie Dixon will present "Getting Started in Genealogy" to the Retired Teachers Association of Angelina County at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at Southside Baptist Church on Tulane in Lufkin. For more information contact Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419 or dixonhershel51@gmail.com

(3) The Angelina County Genealogical Society will host the Angelina County Texas History Conference on Saturday, March 25, 2023 at the Office of the Huntington Housing Authority on 210 East Walnut Street in Huntington from 9 am to 4 pm. The cost is only \$10 for the all day conference and \$10 for the homemade meal for a grand total of \$20 for everything for the day. The schedule is as follows: 9 am Stanley Fletcher "Kisatchie Wold: Nature's Road West"; 10 am Lamar Denby; 11 am Carolyn Spears "George Lewis Crocket"; 11:50 am -1 pm Lunch; 1 pm Linda Reynolds "The Content and Value of the R. B. Blake Collection"; 2 pm Kyle Ainsworth "Choices and Challenges of Runaway Slaves in Texas, 1835-1865"; 3 pm Darrell Bryan "TEXAS Free Masons from the First 300, the Masonic Oak, to the Presidents of the Republic." Please RSVP by Saturday, March 18, 2023. You can mail a check or money order in the amount of \$20 to Angelina County Genealogical Society; mail it to Betty Dufner Treasurer c/o Angelina County Genealogical Society P. O. Box 150631 Lufkin Texas 75915-0631. For more information, contact Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419 or dixonhershel51@gmail.com

(4) The Angelina County Genealogical Society will meet on March 21, 2023, a Tuesday not a Monday, at 4 p.m. not 5 p.m. in the Ora McMullen Genealogy Room of Kurth Memorial Library on 706 South Raguet Street in Lufkin. The program will be learning how to access genealogical materials in the room.

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

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# In the Loop... Expo Center in Lufkin

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

Greetings from the Expo!

Spring has arrived early at the Expo! The last two months have been hectic at 1200 Ellen Trout Drive. Youth Rodeos and more to come. Get ready and make plans for Scotty McCreery presented by UBankMarch 4. Gates open at 6pm. If you have not purchased tickets yet, get them now. Go to [www.scottymccreery.com](http://www.scottymccreery.com) to learn more. We are proud and excited to host the "American Idol" winner to Lufkin. This will be a sellout event. Nacogdoches native and Nashville resident, Spence Peppard will be featured on lead guitar. I had a nice visit with Spence's dad, Dan a few days ago. By the way, if you are ever in the market for a good pre-owned vehicle Dan Peppard is your man at Peppard Autoplex.

On March 11-12 we welcome the Pineywoods Youth Rodeo Association back to the Expo for their 2023 Finals. Go to [www.pineywoodsouthrodeo.com](http://www.pineywoodsouthrodeo.com) to learn more.

The Angelina County Fair is coming up March 21-25. Youth, hard work, and leadership will be on full display in the arena. Come out to see some great exhibits. Enjoy some good food (especially the Round Table Ribeye sandwiches!). Chickens, rabbits, lambs, goats, pigs, cattle, ag mechanic projects, art and baked goods will make for a full week for sure. The live auction and premium sale will start at 4pm on Saturday March 25. One of the most competitive BBQ cookoff contests in East Texas also happens during the ACF on that Saturday as well. Make plans to come out.

As always,

See you at the Expo!  
Burt Hairgrove, Executive Director

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# Improve Your Leadership Skills by Thinking Differently

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

Is your team stagnant, or is there a sense of tension in your department? It may not be “just your gut feeling,” but rather an indication that your team is in a “flight or fight” mode. Today, we’re looking at three distinct emotional states in the workplace, fight, flight, and flow, and the implications when leaders shift out of flow and into flight or fight.



## Start With Team Analysis

The condition of your workplace may reflect your own state of mind as a leader. If you’re feeling in flight-or-fight mode, it’s hard to lead your team in a creative, problem-solving flow.

Let’s look at the emotional state of each “zone”:

**Fight** is a feeling of anxiety or a need to trump a co-worker in being right. The fight feeling is one where people feel threatened or there is a noticeable divide between groups in a team. Stress in the work environment and a lack of direction or resources can lead to infighting. Office politics and unskilled leadership can lead to people being more focused on fear of failure or retribution, and the team loses cohesiveness.

**Flight** feels like wanting to hide and avoid conflict. In this environment, employees feel like there’s little they can do to change things and mainly keep their heads down. Innovation stagnates, and enthusiasm for the team’s goals wanes.

The **flow** state is one where collaboration and innovation are at their highest. Everyone on the team feels relaxed and excited about the project or new ideas. “Flow state” is a feeling of creative energy, cited by professional athletes, musicians, and writers as a time when they’re focused on a goal. For collaborative teams, flow state is the kind of working environment where everyone is focused on the task and feels they’re heard.

Becoming more self-aware of your own working emotional state and the state of others around you can help you make better leadership decisions.

## Solving Fight or Flight Mode to Achieve Flow

A new project, start-up company, or special team often starts with a lot of energy and enthusiasm. Over time, however, and with poor leadership, the organization can shift from a productive, cohesive team to a more toxic workplace, and leaders lose a sense of cohesiveness and flow.

So how can leaders keep their team from slipping into a fight or flight mode? The first way is to look at your emotional state. Are you tense and hyper-focused on being “right” more than team success? Or maybe you feel like your suggestions for improvements are like yelling into the void, and your team has given up. If you note that you’re consistently in flight or fight, your team has probably picked up on it, and they, too, are mimicking your state.

Stop, take a breath, and calm yourself. Once you’re calm, assess the workplace situation to determine what’s causing your frustration. Is there competition among team members for scarce resources? Is your team frustrated because their suggestions are falling on deaf ears? Is office politics or territorialism reducing efficiency? Once you’ve found the problems, you can work toward a solution.

When your employees see you working to change and address their concerns, they, in turn, may follow your lead. However, moving from a fight or flight workplace environment can take time, so it’s essential that you show patience and a commitment to resolving the issues that caused your team to stagnate.

SPECIAL REPORT

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# Tragedy in Our East Texas Sky

by Mary Francis Johannessen

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



Twenty years is two decades, but it can seem like yesterday, as we remember the disaster of the devastating explosion of the Columbia shuttle.

During the first few minutes after hearing the loud sonic boom, not one of us was sure of what had happened right above our own East Texas counties of Nacogdoches, Sabine, and San Augustine. As media and word of mouth news spread, we all became deeply saddened and shocked, knowing seven lives and shuttle debris were falling from the skies right above us. Debris and human remains were being reported as found on the ground in all areas of East Texas.

Large groups of local search volunteers, National Guard teams, Hazardous Research teams were being deployed to search on foot, horseback, ATVs, helicopters, boats, etc. Searching continued for three months following the crash. Located debris was sent to one location to be reassembled for an in depth study of the cause of this disintegration of the shuttle.

Reconstructing the thirty-eight percent of found shuttle pieces from lakes, forests, swamps, pastures, yards, streets, and highways provided information. Shuttle's left wing was damaged during launch sixteen days prior. A small piece of insulation foam hit the left wing which allowed hot gases to pass through the orbiter's thermal protection system upon reentry. The seven crew members were never aware of this possible danger in their landing due that morning at Florida's Kennedy Space Center.

Hemphill became the primary location for search and recovery. The small community now has a museum, J.R. Huffman Museum, dedicated to Columbia's twenty seven prior missions and exhibits of personal items left on earth by the seven crew members that perished in the STS107 downed shuttle mission on 2-1-2003 at 08:59:32. Later during the weeks of intense search, two male searchers in a downed helicopter over the area, lost their lives during search, as well, and are recognized. Many exhibits show the pictures and movie of the Hemphill community search plans.

Signal was lost by NASA Mission Control that Saturday morning and by 09:35 it was estimated that all debris and crew remains had impacted the grounds.

Each year during that February day, special events are held. If you visit J.R. Huffman Museum in Hemphill, it is quite an exhibition and we all go away with such a sad memory.

NASA Johnson Space Center located in Clear Lake, Texas, is situated in over 1000 acres and goes about managing space flight and many other programs there to pioneer the future in space exploration. NASA is an independent agency of the executive branch of the U.S. Federal government and has ten field offices with headquarters in Washington DC. Ongoing research efforts and working discoveries are continuing to make our planet a better place to live. The satellite space station, future launches to Mars and, again, trips to the moon are certainly in our future.

Let us all never forget Columbia's devastating reentry and those seven brave men and women. Numerous newspaper articles, history books, CDs, local remembrance events, and the internet all continue to bring that history to us each year. However, many of us still remember and tell our stories of our own personal memory of that day – twenty years ago.



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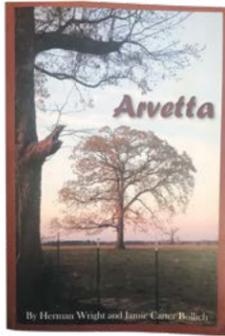


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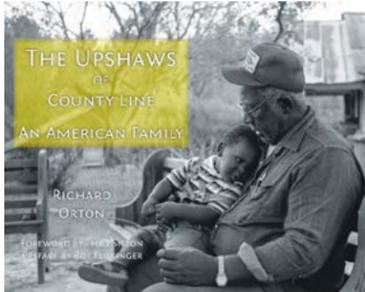
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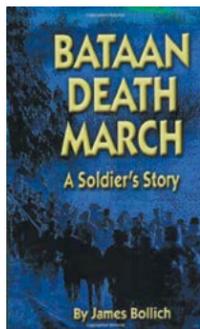
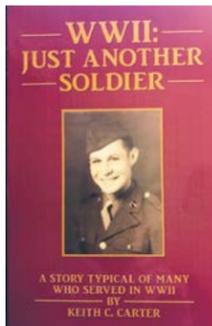
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**News from our authors**

The report of George Avery, staff archeologist at Stephen F. Austin State University, to the Summerlee Foundation on excavation at freedom colonies Shankleville and Sand Hill in two East Texas counties, will be published in June, 2023.

"Falling Stars," the new novel by Julie Rogers, will be released on May 26, 2023.

K. D. Willow has finished her second book, "Luminous: The Fractured Knight" and is awaiting publication.

**Recent releases**

Huntington minister Lamar Denby recently published his first book "Blood and Courage: The Story of Colonel Moses Fisk Roberts." He will have copies for sale when he speaks at 10 am on Saturday, March 25, 2023 at the Angelina County Texas History Conference at the office of the Huntington Housing Authority on 210 East Walnut Street in Huntington.



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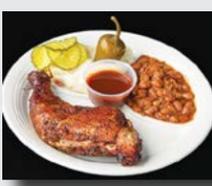
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# Area Woodworkers Get Organized and Invite You to Join

Someone found out I worked with wood when I arrived in Nacogdoches, almost four years ago. I get calls from friends now every-time a tree falls.

Seems to me every guy I have met since I got here is a woodworker. Makes sense that you would want to do something with the major asset of East Texas. Problem is, what DO you do with it? That question is being answered right here in Nac.

A secret society has been investigating ways to turn this asset into beautiful, fun and useful things for some time.

“Why haven’t I heard about this,” you ask?

Instead of spending time looking at computers, they have been sawing, re-sawing, routing, planing, sanding, staining, carving, and finishing wood in garages, small workshops and major facilities located in their homes. Unlike younger folks who set up a Facebook or web page even before they start a club, this older group of gentlemen have found no need to advertise their group...until now.

Members of the Woodworkers Club of East Texas have become tired of looking at the same faces for so long that they have decided to invite new blood into the group. They meet every first Saturday of the month at the forestry building on Raguet to share skills and knowledge with one another. Ever wondered how to do something with wood and had no clue? This group of guys, and now gals, will show you. Hundreds of years of knowledge are available for the amateur as well as the professional woodworker. How to make boxes, jigs, and toys are just a few of the presentations provided by skilled woodworkers at our meetings.

Saturday mornings often include “ROAD TRIPS” to private workshops, show and tell, and trips to saw mills around our area. You will find out how to organize your shop, where to find lumber for your next project, and what to do with it when you take it home. It is a source for craftsmen who look to find commissions or to just play.

The friendly faces and gentle atmosphere will make you feel right at home asking questions. You will certainly get answers to them. Come join us.

See the rapidly developing website or visit us at their Facebook page at: woodworkersclubeasttexas.com or visit the Facebook site at Woodworkers Club of East Texas or search for them on YouTube for more information.

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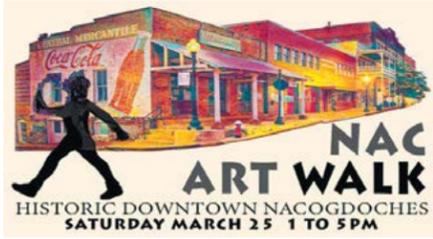
**The office of**  
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**is closed due to his retirement**

*Dr. Hibbard would like to express his sincere gratitude to all his patients over the years.*

# March Nac Art News Master Gardeners Beautifying the City

Nacogdoches Arts Collaborative is delighted to announce that the "Love the Arts Ball," held February 5 at Mast Hall, was wildly successful and brought in \$20,000 to help fund an arts center for our community. Almost 200 people attended, many in original "art & artist" costumes, with groups coming from as far as Houston to support our efforts.



Have you seen it? How could you not see it... the new park in town? Well, I'm not sure it's officially a park, but it certainly looks like one. New beautification efforts began last year as master gardeners, growing in numbers here in the Garden Capitol of Texas, began to evaluate how to effectively and aesthetically develop a beautiful educational garden for our city that will be physically manageable.

**Next up in March:**

Plein Air painting classes by Michelle Filer and the Spring version of Nac Art Walk, Saturday, March 25, 1-5pm in downtown Nacogdoches.

Plein Air painting, or outdoor live painting, is a wonderful way to engage with nature, while learning how to "see" lines, colors and light. Artist Michelle Puchalski Filer will teach four Plein Air classes in March at various locations around Nacogdoches. The first three classes will be on Sundays, March 5, 12 & 19 from 10am to 2pm. The last class will be on Saturday, March 25 to coincide with the Spring Nac ArtWalk downtown Nacogdoches, an invitational showcase highlighting established local artists.



Michelle Filer with her "Plein Air" painting of Zion Hill Church

These classes are not beginning painting classes. You will be required to bring your own supplies in whatever medium you feel most comfortable.

Michelle will start with a demo and then will walk around guiding and encouraging the painters with their chosen scene. Class sizes are limited. Artists can do one or all four classes. Individual classes are \$30 each or prepay for all four at \$100. The first 3 class locations will be in and around Nacogdoches. The 4th will be downtown around the square.

The goal of these lessons are for Nacogdoches Arts Collaborative to host an official "Plein Air Paintout" in the near future. In a "paintout" artists paint all over town while visitors tour around to see the artists in progress. It culminates with a sales event where the art is available for purchase and/or bidding. The proceeds are split between the artist and NAC non-profit.

Registration information can be found here: <https://cbo.io/tickets/pleinair/tix>. Or email [alstead@aol.com](mailto:alstead@aol.com), or text 917-209-1050 for additional information. [www.nacartscollab.com](http://www.nacartscollab.com)

Master Gardeners took it upon themselves last year to paint and sell garden totems at their annual plant sale in order to buy paint for the colorful water tanks visible from University Dr. A group of volunteers met frequently for a month to fellowship, break bread and give them new life. The response from those passing by on University was positive as photographers took interest in adding it to their collection of photos and sharing them with our town.

One of our master gardeners, while working in the demonstration garden one day, took the opportunity to ask a city employee how master gardeners could design a space that would make it easier for the city to mow and upkeep the area around the gardens. Joining forces with the city, rather than just doing things on their own, heavy equipment was brought in and a massive cleanup by the city began and with master gardeners and over 200 SFA volunteers, it was done. Dead trees cut down, old edging and brush removed, unwanted plants removed and re-potted yielded a view from both Main and University that is a "gem" in our city. Cookies were distributed to thank those involved.

Master gardeners plan to turn the new and refurbished gardens into an educational experience with descriptions of plantings and horticultural information about each.

The Master gardener membership is growing.

Want to be a part of making Nacogdoches beautiful? All talents are needed. You don't have to pull weeds unless you want to and with the new downsized beds, there will be fewer to pull.

Nacogdoches County Master Gardeners plan on offering a course in September for certification through Texas A&M Agri-Life. You may contact them for more information at the Nacogdoches County Extension Office at (936) 560-7711 or see them at the farmers market the first Saturday of each month in the "Ask a Master Gardener" tent where questions about gardening are frequently answered, as are questions about the Fall master gardener class.

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- SEPTEMBER 9TH CIVIL WAR HISTORY CONFERENCE
- OCTOBER 20TH GENEALOGY LOCKIN \*
- NOVEMBER 10TH VETERANS DAY CONFERENCE

Hosted by: Angelina County Genealogical Society at Office Huntington Housing Authority 210 East Walnut Street Huntington Texas 75949

\*at Kurth Memorial Library Info: Betty Dufner (936) 635-3765 [bdufner@consolidated.net](mailto:bdufner@consolidated.net) or call/text Dickie Dixon, Director at (936) 671-1419



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## CAP Color Guard Presents the Colors

The Color Guard of the Nacogdoches Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol presented the colors at a ceremony February 4th in Linden, Texas marking the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War conflict and honoring the last Airman killed in the Vietnam War.

The city of Linden organized the event which honored Air Force Staff Sergeant John O'Neal Rucker of Linden who was a crew chief on a C-119. He was killed by a rocket attack on his barracks in the last days of the conflict.

Hundreds turned out for the event at the Cass County Courthouse including many Vietnam veterans.

A wreath was placed on Rucker's gravesite in Linden, and another was placed to honor him at the courthouse monument.

Cass County and Linden elected officials, along with dignitaries from the National Air and Space Forces Association participated in the ceremony.

The Nacogdoches Color Guard members who presented the colors were Cadet CMSgt Abel Ketchen, Cadet TSgt Nate Smith, Cadet SSgt Wyatt Anderson and Cadet SSgt Micah Spradley. Cadets who assisted at the event and greeted guests were Cadet SSgt Nate Weiner, Cadet Senior Airman Lucas Weiner and Cadet Senior Airman Nikolai Doncarlos.



*Pictured left to right at the Linden event are Cadet SSgt Wyatt Anderson, Cadet CMSgt Abel Ketchen, Cadet C/TSgt Nate Smith and Cadet SSgt Micah Spradley*

# Wendy Buchanan Named as One of Forbes Top Women Wealth Advisors Best-in-State

Wendy Wyatt Buchanan, AAMS®, AWMA® ranks #42 in Forbes Top Women Wealth Advisors Best-In-State 2023 for the State of Texas. Buchanan is the Managing Director – Investments at Buchanan Wealth Management located in Nacogdoches, Texas. In 2022 Buchanan was ranked #49 in that category, and was also ranked #104 in the Forbes Best-In-State Top Wealth Advisors category.



With 35 years of financial experience, Buchanan assists individuals and businesses with

their long-term financial goals. She helps clients focus on estate and investment planning and working with attorneys and tax professionals in developing each individual plan. Buchanan is FINRA Series 7 and Series 65 registered and holds the professional designations of Accredited Asset Management Specialist and Accredited Wealth Management Advisor. Her complete Forbes profile is available online at [www.forbes.com/profile/wendy-buchanan](http://www.forbes.com/profile/wendy-buchanan).

“With extensive experience throughout major shifts in the markets, I have dedicated my career to delivering the personalized investment planning services that my clients and their families deserve,” Buchanan said. “At Buchanan Wealth Management, we strive to be the premier advisors of choice for people looking to accumulate, preserve, enjoy, and distribute wealth. We offer personalized recommendations and service to help our clients reach their long-term financial goals. We have a dedicated team with over 150 years of combined experience.”

Building on her years of experience with Wells Fargo Advisors, Buchanan formed Buchanan Wealth Management of Trinity Capital Management in 2021, working to provide the best resources and support of Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network. Buchanan was recognized as a Premier Advisor from 2008-2023. The Premier Advisor distinction is held by a select group of Financial Advisors within Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network as measured by completion of risk and compliance training, business production based on the past year and professionalism. Net asset flow (NAF) may also be used to determine recipients.

Buchanan and her Nacogdoches High School sweetheart, Mike, have celebrated more than 37 years of marriage. She attends First Baptist Church of Nacogdoches and serves on the Stephen F. Austin State University Foundation Board of Trustees and on the Nacogdoches United Way board. She served as past president of the Kiwanis Club and the NHS Alumni Association Board and is past Chairman of the Finance Committee for the SFA Alumni Association Board of Directors. In her spare time, she likes to travel and explore new places around the world.

The Forbes Top Women Wealth Advisors Best-in-State rating algorithm is based on the previous year's industry experience, interviews, compliance records, assets under management, revenue and other criteria by SHOOK Research, LLC. Investment performance is not a criterion. Self-completed survey was used for ranking. This rating is not related to the quality of the investment advice and based solely on the disclosed criteria.

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 Big's - 1902 W. Frank  
 Big's - 2701 N. Raguet  
 Big's - 3644 Hwy 69N  
 Big's - 3122 Adkinson Dr. (Hwy 103E)  
 Big's - 4609 Hwy 103E  
 Big's - 620 N. Raguet St.

Big's - 1910 N. Timberland  
 Bodacious BBQ - 2207 W. Frank  
 Brookshire Brothers - 301 S. Chestnut  
 Brookshire Brothers - 1807 W. Frank - Gaslight Plaza  
 Casa Morales Mexican Restaurant - 1001 S. 1st St.  
 Catfish King - 806 S. Medford  
 Chen's - 302 S. Timberland Dr.  
 Comfort Suites - 4402 S. 1st St. (U. S. Hwy 59)  
 Crown Colony Shell - 101 Champion Dr.  
 Food Mart Exxon - 612 Frank  
 Food Mart Exxon - 6480 Hwy 69S  
 Guacamole's Restaurant - 2660 W. Frank (Hwy 94W)  
 Holiday Inn Express 4404 S. 1st  
 JR Food Mart - 1114 E. Denman Ave  
 Lone Star Charlie's Family Restaurant - 1910 E. Denman  
 Lucky's Valero - 3385 Tom Temple (Hwy 94W)  
 Lucky's Valero - 1707 John Redditt Dr.  
 Lufkin Barbecue - 203 S. Chestnut  
 Lufkin Farm Supply - 1217 E. Lufkin Ave.  
 Maddux Lumber & Hardware - 1603 Atkinson Dr.  
 Manhattan Fine Dining - 107 W. Lufkin Ave.  
 Massingill's Meat Mkt - 3728 Hwy 69N  
 Maytag Washateria - 601 S. 1st  
 Midway Shell #29 - 3008 Atkinson Dr. (Hwy 103 E)  
 Mom's Diner - 420 W. Frank  
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 On the Road - 2902 E. Denman Ave (Hwy 69S)  
 On the Road - 3503 S. Chestnut  
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 Pelican Pointe Cajun Kitchen - 1302 N. John Redditt Dr.  
 Quality Inn - 4306 S. 1st  
 Restoration Bistro - 210 S. 1st  
 Tia Juanita's Fish Camp - 3102 S. John Redditt Dr.  
 Timberland Chevron - 804 N. Timberland  
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#### *In Pollok:*

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#### *In Redland:*

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#### *In Zavalla:*

Coleman's Store - Intersection of Hwys 63 & 147

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#### *In the City of Nacogdoches:*

A & D Hydraulics - 2124 NW Stallings Dr.  
 Appleby Sand Valero (just outside loop) FM 2609  
 Auntie Pastas - 211 Old Tyler Road  
 Barbecue House - 704 N. Stallings Drive  
 Barkeeps - 3308 North St.  
 Best Western - US 59 South  
 Best Western - 4809 NW Stallings Dr  
 Big's - University Drive @ SE Stallings Drive  
 Big's - Center Hwy (Hwy 7E) @ Loop 224  
 Boatman Tire & Service - 315 N. University Dr.  
 Boles Feed - 913 South St.  
 Brendyn's BBQ - 601 E. Main St.  
 Brookshire Brothers - 1402 N. University Dr.  
 Brookshire Brothers - 1216 South Street  
 Butcher Boy's - 603 North St.  
 Carney Real Estate - 3001 North St.  
 Cataract, Glaucoma & Retina Consultants - 3302 NE Stallings  
 Chamber of Commerce - 2516 North St.  
 Charles Pool Real Estate - 3505 North St.  
 CiCi's Pizza -3801 North St. #19  
 Clear Springs - 211 Old Tyler Rd.  
 Coldwell Banker Blueberry Realty - 112 E. Main St.  
 Comfort Suites - US 59 South  
 Cowboy Jack's Saloon - 422 E. Main St.  
 Decades Downtown - 412 E. Main St.  
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 Doches Credit Union - 920 NW Stallings Dr. @ Hwy 21W  
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 Eastex Glass & Mirror - 3102 South St.  
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 El Tia Beto - 4512 North St.  
 Fitness 360 - 4822 N. University Dr.  
 Fortney Home - 310 N. Mound  
 Gateway Shell/Denny's - 2615 N. Stallings Dr.  
 Goose Landing - 11332 S FM 225 (Lake Nacogdoches)  
 Gound Chev - 1015 North Street  
 Guacamole's Mexican Restaurant - 1315 North St.  
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 Harry's Building Material - 7008 North St.  
 Herman Power Tire - 222 South St.  
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 IMPACT Store - 720 E. Main Stree  
 J & S Small Engine Repair - 12769 State Hwy 7W  
 Java Jack's - 1122 North Street  
 Johnson Furniture - 106 E. Main  
 K.J.'s Convenience Store/Exxon - 5713 South St.  
 Kinfolks - 4817 NW Stallings Dr.  
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 L & M Quick Stop - 13101 Hwy 7  
***In Reklaw:***  
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 H & S Discount Foods - 705 Shelbyville St.  
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March 2023

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305 E. Main Street  
Sat. Mar 4th: 10am-2pm

**Three-Off-1 Texas Tour**  
Lake Nacogdoches  
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**Stew, Stroll, Strum**  
Millard's Crossing  
Mar 9th: 6-9pm

**Day for Kids Spring Fest**  
Festival Park  
Mar 18th 12pm-3pm

**Swing in the Streets**  
Downtown Nacogdoches  
Mar 24th 7-10pm

**SFA Symphony Orchestra**  
Cole Concert Hall  
Mar 24th: 7:30pm

**The Bob Sitton Classic**  
Woodland Hills Golf Course  
Mar 24th 9am

**Two ONE-ACTS: "Trifles" & "A Question of Sex"**  
Mar. 24th, 25th, 31st, 7:30 pm  
Mar 26th, 2:00 pm  
Lamp-Lite Theatre

**"Persona" Art Exhibitions**  
Cole Art Center @ The Old Opera House  
Feb 07-Mar 24

**Bright Star: Musical**  
Baker Pattillo Student Center  
Mar 31st 7:30pm; Apr 1st 7:30pm;  
April 2nd 2:30pm & 7:30pm

**Cottage Wine Bar**  
Live Music Every Thurs, Fri, & Sat  
Sunday: Mimosa Brunch

**Flea Market Fabulous**  
Nacogdoches Trade Days  
Sat, Mar 4th & Sun, Mar 5th 9am-5pm  
Sat, Mar 18th & Sun, Mar 19th 9am-5pm

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

**Nacogdoches Public Library**  
3/11: Reptile Friends W  
East Texas Herpetology Club  
3/21: Adult Art Series: Embroidery  
3/25: How-To Festival

**Nacogdoches County Expo & Civic Center**  
3/4: Drill In The Pines 8am-6pm  
3/10: National Wild Turkey Federation Banquet  
3/23-3/25: Nacogdoches Pro Rodeo  
3/30-3/31: 2023 Nacogdoches County Steer Show

**Front Porch Distillery**  
Pickin' on the Porch  
LIVE music and Food every Fri. & Sat.

**Fredonia Hotel**  
Music on the Patio  
3/3: Jonathan Webster  
3/10: Larry Greer  
3/17: Sean Christopher  
3/24: Josh Mullins  
3/31: Ryan Paul Davis

**Red House Winery**  
3/9: Pop-Up with Milk+Honey Baking Co. 4-8 PM  
3/17: Live Music with Jay White 6-8 PM  
3/31: Wine Swirl VIP Tasting; time TBA

**Cowboy Jack's Saloon**  
3/7: Trivia Night  
3/25: East Texas Drag Show  
Live Music Schedule:  
3/2: Josh Mullin  
3/3: Steffan Karback  
3/9: Haylee Lewis  
3/10: Jordan Lewis  
3/16: Steffany Karback  
3/17: Josh Mullin  
3/18: Ana and Micah  
3/23: Haylee Lewis  
3/24: Ian Chandler  
3/30: Josh Mullin

**Banita Creek Hall**  
Thursdays: Ladies Night  
Fridays: Dollar Night

**Fredonia Brewery**  
Wednesday Game Nights & \$1 off pints,  
Trivia Thursdays, Open Sundays 12-5pm  
3/4: Fredonia Brewery's 6th Anniversary!  
3/15: Books & Beer  
3/17 - 3/18: Let's Get SHAMROCKED  
Music Schedule:  
3/3: Selah Burns  
3/4: Loose Gravel Band  
3/10: Jeff Jurgonski  
3/11: The Kirby's  
3/17: Boone Dugan  
3/18: Huffie & The Paintfish  
3/24: Danny Sharpe  
3/25: Brightwire Official  
3/31: Steffany Karback

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

**Maklemore's Ale House & Bistro**  
Trivia Monday's  
Wine Down Wednesday's  
Live Music Schedule:  
3/10: Live Music w Haylee Lewis  
3/11: Nac First Annual Alt-Rock Fest  
3/15: Live Music w Haylee Lewis  
3/22: Ana & Micah  
3/24: Spiral Eye, The Xebellion Triangle, Sinara

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

**Naca Valley Vineyard**  
Pizza on the Pavilion:  
Every Thurs. & Fri. 5-9pm & Sat. 12-9pm  
3/4: Randy C Moore LIVE @5:30pm  
3/11: Ian Chandler LIVE @5:30pm  
3/18: Steve & Sheryl Hartz w/Jay  
White LIVE @5:30pm  
3/25: Maryah and Martyn LIVE @5:30pm

**Lumberjack Harley-Davidson**  
3/4: Scavenger Hunt 10am - 4pm  
3/11: Spring Break Happy Hour Noon - 3pm  
3/18: Chili Cook-Off 11am - 3pm  
3/25: Dawgs & Hawgs Noon - 3pm  
3/31: Bike Night 6pm - 9pm

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

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