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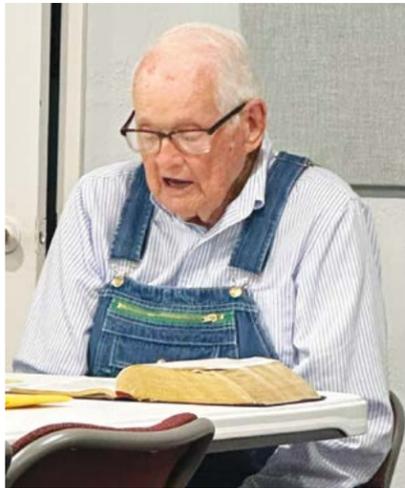
Build it—He Will Come *Pastor Buddy Pratt, Geneva Baptist Church*

by Dr. Vi Alexander, Staff Writer

In the 1980s classic *Field of Dreams*, an Iowa farmer hears a mysterious voice whisper, “If you build it, he will come.” The voice refers to the return of baseball legend Shoeless Joe Jackson, but the message has since transcended the movie. It’s now a cultural adage meaning that if you create something meaningful, people will be drawn to it. That theme has found new life in the small Texas town of Geneva, nestled at the junction of State Highway 21 and Farm Road 330 in Sabine County.

Geneva’s history runs deep, and one of its cornerstones is the Geneva Baptist Church, built in 1891. For generations, it served as a beacon for the faithful. But as time moved on, the once-thriving church fell silent, its structure deteriorating year after year. Then, fifteen years ago, a 90-year-old man named Lewis Duane “Buddy” Pratt heard his own version of that same call, “Build it and He will come.”

The neglected church had long stood as a relic of the past—until Buddy approached a former deacon with a simple idea—start a community Bible study in the old building. That seed of faith took root, eventually growing into a full restoration and the reopening of the church. Today, the Geneva Baptist Church thrives once again, with Pastor Buddy Pratt leading from the pulpit. Pastor Pratt is no stranger to ministry. Throughout his life, he had pastored several east Texas churches, carrying the gospel with gentle



Pastor Buddy Pratt

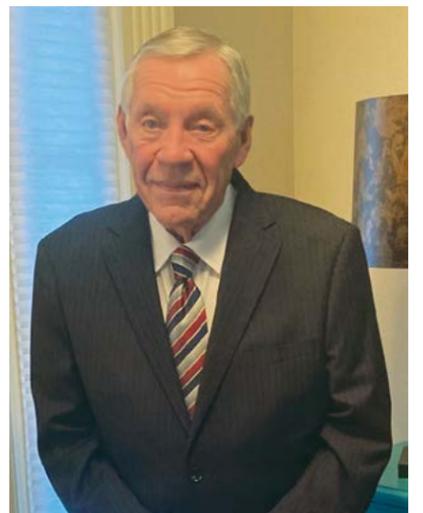
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Thank You From Our Publisher, David Stallings

I’m thankful for so many friends! After being on the road producing entertainment events for many years, I decided in 2016 to slow down and spend more time at home with family and friends. I began publishing a small monthly free newspaper titled *Around the Town* to promote and recognize businesses, events and the people of Nacogdoches County featuring only POSITIVE NEWS.

We started with only 16 pages and 3000 copies distributed in about 50 locations. Having been born and raised here, I know so many friends who own businesses and was amazed at the number of them who were willing to support the paper with their advertising. A few years later, we added a second publication titled *RECIPES from Around the Town & Beyond*. In 2022, we launched a free 24/7 website, *NacNewsNow.com*. We now distribute 20,000 copies of the papers each month in more than 200 locations in Nacogdoches, Angelina and Shelby Counties and have so much fun doing it!

A special thanks to my lifelong friend, James Aston, who’s done the layout and design of the papers from the start. James is a fine man and his God-given artistic talent is a blessing. Sharon Pinkston Roberts joined us several years ago and has done an outstanding job as our Advertising Sales Manager. My son, Todd, came on board last year to handle distribution. Austin Roberts is great at maintaining *NacNewsNow.com*. Our friends who submit monthly columns and articles are invaluable! We also appreciate the more than 200 businesses who allow us to place papers in their locations. In addition, I want to thank our thousands of loyal readers who continue to support our advertisers. Without you, we simply could not exist. We have BIG PLANS for 2026, so stay tuned!



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strength and unwavering conviction.

Born on July 13, 1935, in Timpson, Texas, to Lewis Crawford Pratt and Sayde Caroline Smith, Buddy grew up in humble and sometimes unsettled circumstances. After his parents' divorce, his childhood was marked by movement, but he found joy and belonging in Hemphill with his cousins, the Coussons. There, life was simple and full of country adventures—horseback rides, swimming holes, campouts, and cow hunts. His family roots run deep in Hemphill. His great-grandfather, Dr. Frank Smith, and uncle, Dr. Giles Smith, both served as local physicians, while cousin Charles William Coussons went on to practice medicine in Nacogdoches. Buddy graduated from Hemphill High School in 1953 before attending Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches.

From 1953 to 1955, Buddy proudly served in the U.S. Army, stationed in New York. While there, he attended a church in Clifton, New Jersey, pastored by Gordon Graves, who led him to Christ. That encounter changed the trajectory of Buddy's life. After his service, he returned to East Texas Baptist College, preparing for a lifelong ministry that would span nearly eight decades.

His first pastorate at Cold Springs Church in Garrison, Texas, came with both excitement and trepidation. "Since I wasn't raised in church and was a new believer myself, I was nervous about pastoring my first congregation," Buddy has said. Yet his faith—and a heartfelt desire to serve—guided him forward. Over the years, he led other churches, including Liberty Hill in San Augustine, Patroon in Shelby County, and numerous evangelistic opportunities and interim ministries throughout Texas.

Along the way, Buddy met and married the love of his life, Patricia Hancock. Together for 43 years, the couple built a home grounded in faith and service. They are blessed with two beautiful daughters, Louann Halbert (Joel) and Lyn Kurtz (Rick), along with three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Daughter Louann serves as the church pianist and son-in-law Joel, the church treasurer.



Buddy and Pat Pratt

Those who know Buddy describe him as a compassionate shepherd and a steadfast messenger of hope. "Buddy is a great man and a dedicated conveyor of the gospel," says friend and church member, Dan Peppard. Like Dan, visitors to Geneva Baptist Church often find not just fellowship, but a spiritual home. Buddy's faithfulness has inspired many—including Spence Peppard, lead guitarist for country artist and American Idol winner Scotty McCreery. During the Grand Ole Opry's 100th anniversary celebration, Spence honored his friend by wearing a Geneva Baptist Church cap onstage, later gifting the signed cap to Buddy in gratitude for his years of service to the Lord.



Country music star Scotty McCreery (left) and Spence Peppard (right) on stage

Today, Geneva Baptist Church stands once again as a vibrant part of the community. The church holds Sunday services and Wednesday night Bible studies. Dr. Kent Pate, formerly of Nacogdoches, serves as associate pastor, leading worship on the first Sunday of each month. In keeping with its mission of compassion, the church donates 25 percent of its funds to Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian humanitarian organization led by Franklin Graham. Just as in *Field of Dreams*, when faith meets action, hope returns. In the case of Geneva Baptist Church, someone did build it—and He and the faithful came.



Geneva Baptist Church

Geneva Baptist Church

Pastor: Buddy Pratt; Associate Pastor: Dr. Kent Pate
505 Geneva Sexton Road, Geneva, TX 75947
Facebook: Geneva Baptist Church; Website: genevabaptistchurch.churchtrac.com

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Publisher - David Stallings - 936.554.5822 - aroundthetown@mail.com
Advertising Manager - Sharon Roberts - 936.552.6758
Advertising Sales - David Stallings - 936.554.5822
Graphic Design - James Aston - 936.553.1927
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Distribution - Todd Stallings - 936.569.4393



The Buddy Pratt Family

Millard's Crossing News and Calendar

Good day readers,

Happy New Year!

We would like to extend our warmest wishes to everyone for a Happy New Year! As we look forward to another wonderful year, we want to express our sincere appreciation for your ongoing support and participation in our events.

Thank You for Supporting Our Old-Fashioned Christmas Event

We are deeply grateful to all who attended our Old-Fashioned Christmas event last month. As one of our primary fundraisers, this event plays a crucial role in supporting the ongoing operation of Millard's Crossing. Your presence and contributions make a significant difference in our ability to serve the community.



Special Thanks to Our Sponsors

We would like to give a huge shout out to our generous sponsors: Tipton Ford, CBTX, Brookshire Bros, Johnson Furniture, Linda Morgan, Appleby Sand Road Animal Clinic, Mr. & Mrs. Lasater, Nacogdoches Dental, Badders Law Firm, Lehmann Eye Center, Elliott Electric, Buchanan Wealth Management LLC, Servpro, Cadence Bank, Gregg Nichols Edward Jones, Citizens 1st, Rex Perry Autoplex, Animal Science, UBank, Charles Pool Real Estate, Eastex Glass, Clear Springs/Auntie Pasta, Nacogdoches Junior Forum, Richard & Carla Foshee, ETEC, and Austin Bank. If we have inadvertently omitted anyone, please know that we are profoundly grateful for each and every sponsor. Your support truly makes our events possible.

Gratitude for Volunteers and Staff

We would also like to thank our dedicated volunteers, including the US Army, who consistently show up and work diligently to ensure the success of our events. You are all truly amazing! Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to our staff for their hard work in the preparations leading up to, during, and after our events. We are also grateful to our board members for their presence and assistance throughout the process.

Upcoming Event: Valentine's Dinner and Dance

Join us for a memorable Valentine's Dinner and Dance on Saturday, February 14, 2026, from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM. Please remember that RSVPs are required no later than January 30, 2026. Tickets are \$75.00 per person, or \$600.00 for a table. Reservations help us plan accordingly for the evening's meal.

This special night will feature elegant attire, live music upon arrival, a cash bar, and assigned seating. After a period of mingling, our Chef will begin the meal with a green salad and bread, followed by prime rib with vegetables and a starch, and conclude with a spectacular flaming dessert.

Get Involved

If you are interested in being a sponsor, volunteering, or sharing a trade or skill with others, please do not hesitate to call or visit our office.

We wish each of you a wonderful and fulfilling 2026!

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.



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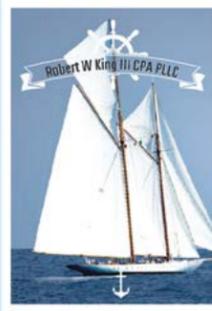
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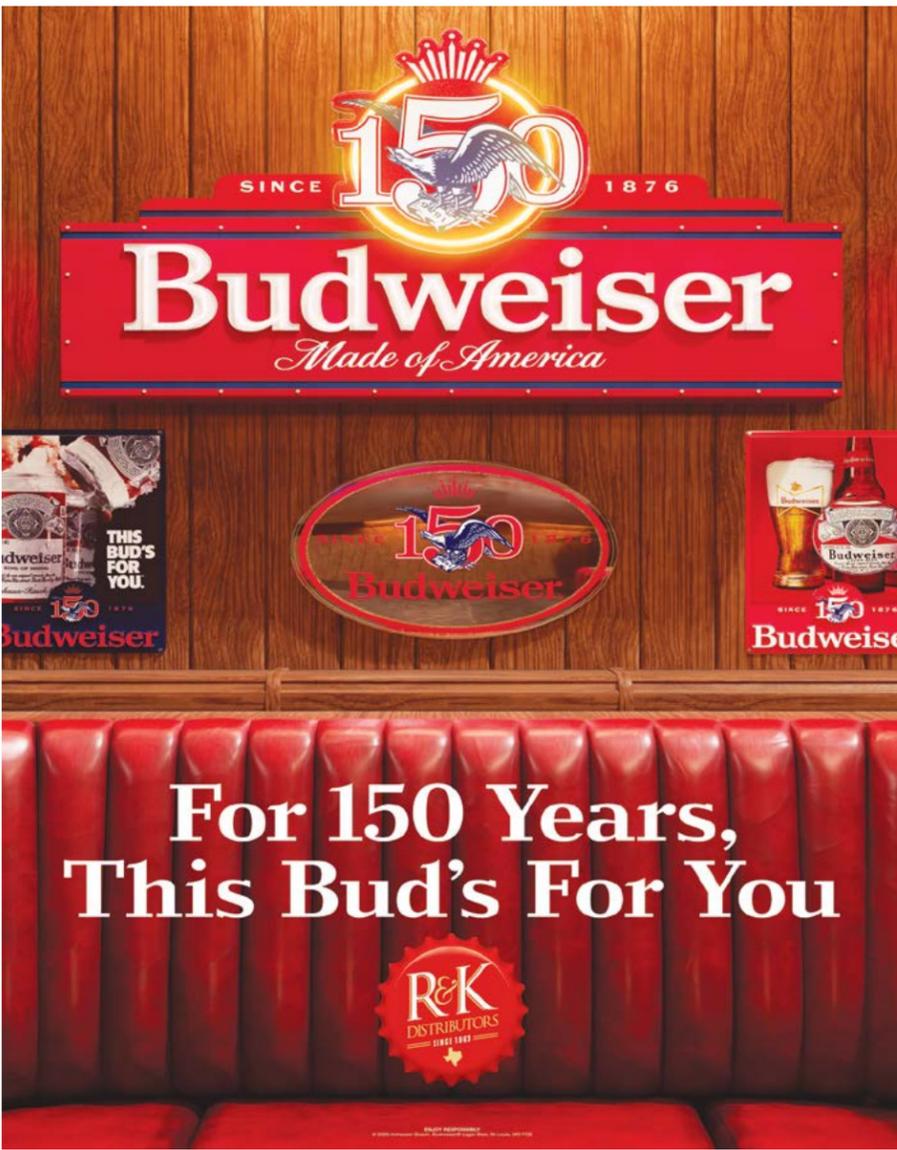
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Goals – January 2026

by Taylor Millard

In 1987 I was thirty years old, married, with a three-year-old daughter and doing my best to create a career path of financial success. A friend from college was living in Austin and had attended a weekend seminar called Camp Terrific and he was impressed with their message and convinced me to sign up. I am not a fan of cheerleader type encouragement as it usually has no lasting effect and is more of a sugar high that quickly descends back to our normal state of being, but there was one aspect I found appealing, the importance of goals.



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.

I arrived at the “Camp,” a Hill Country facility with several cabins, and was introduced to the thirty other people of quite varying backgrounds trying to make ourselves a little better. The event was led by a dynamic young man blessed with all things attractive in his appearance and presentation and a woman in her forties that was short and a bit chunky with a permanent smile. She was the “Terrific” of Camp Terrific.

She had successfully battled serious illness, with the help of medical advances, but mostly her will to live.

She was a force of positivity and delivered a message of goals. It was the thing folder I used so many years ago.

January first is the designated day on the calendar to announce our resolutions as if the day possesses some magic power, it does not, but I suppose it is as good as any. We look in our mirrors, or scales or back accounts and vow for change. This is the year I do this thing, whatever this thing is, and for about eight days on average, the gym is full or the diet is strict.

There is one proven way that has stood the test more than any way to accomplish goals and that is to simply write them down. An often discussed 1979 Harvard survey of a class of MBA program students asked, “Have you set clear, written goals for your future and made plans to accomplish them?”

Here’s what the study revealed then:

3% in the class had written goals and plans, 13% had unwritten goals and 84% had no goals!

Ten years later 3% of individuals with written goals had a higher net worth than the other 97% combined! To be exact, the 13% with unwritten goals earned twice as much as the 84% with no goals. Even more incredible, the 3% with written goals and plans earned ten times as much as all the others put together.

It’s a fact. People who have clear, strong goals, especially written ones, are far more likely to succeed than those who don’t, so write your goals down and Happy New Year!!

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Craig Poche Announces Candidacy For Nacogdoches County Judge

Craig Poche, a local businessman and dedicated public servant with deep roots in East Texas, has officially announced his candidacy for Nacogdoches County Judge.

"I am motivated by a commitment to service, and I intend to build on the progress we've seen thanks to the outstanding leadership of Judge Greg Sowell," Poche said. "As Judge Sowell prepares to retire, I aim to step into the role with a clear vision: enhancing public safety, investing in infrastructure, fostering economic growth and ensuring transparent governance."

With a career spanning construction, development, poultry and real estate, Poche brings a wealth of experience to the table. He graduated from the Marine Military Academy in 1985 and moved to Nacogdoches to attend Stephen F. Austin State University. He began his career as a contractor for Indian River Poultry, and has served as assistant hatchery manager for Avian Farms, Inc. His business ventures include Poche Construction and Development, and he has owned a liquor store and a dry cleaner. He earned his real estate license in 1994 and honed his expertise with training from the Champion School of Realty and Avian Farms International Poultry Training School.

Poche is active in the community and has served on the Nacogdoches County Appraisal Review Board for many years. He is a member of the Texas Apartment Association and a former Nacogdoches Jaycee.

Poche have been married to Kristi Poche for 14 years and they have two children. Their son, Kraig Poche, is 10 years old and their daughter, Kaylyn Poche, is 13.



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Christian Women’s Job Corps

Christian Women’s Job Corps (CWJC) is a 501 ©(3) nonprofit organization which was begun by the Baptist Women’s Missionary Union. The Executive Director in Nacogdoches is Jasmine Hassan. The Program Director is Demetrius Waters. Our location is 903 North Street. We are in the two-story building attached to Westminister Presbyterian Church. The goal of CWJC is to encourage and empower women with job and life skills in a Christ-centered environment, “A hand-up. Not a handout!” (Quote from CWJC web page.) We seek to raise women up by increasing their competency in a variety of skills, goals, jobs, etc. This organization offers classes in Bible Study, Money Management, Computer skills, Interview and resumé preparation, and Personal Boundaries. We also provide access to free interview-appropriate clothing. Students receive books, pens and pencils, binders, and paper, etc.

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Why we are important to the community. At various stages of life, women can find themselves stuck, or jobless. Women who come through CWJC have gained interpersonal skills, self-confidence, and a support system that helps them handle life, gives them a place to restart.

If you need a speaker for your organizations, businesses, classes, or churches, contact Jasmine Hassan. She will present a program lasting from 30 minutes to an hour, depending on your needs. Contact her at (936)564-2952.

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We *Love* our advertisers!

Our friend, O. T. Allen, has advertised in our *Around The Town* and *RECIPES* newspapers for many years and we appreciate him so much! O. T. owns and operates **Clyde Partin Monument Company** in Cushing and Lufkin, as well as Dickie Allen Funeral Home in Cushing and O. T. Allen & Son Funeral Home in Alto. I purchased my Jean’s monument from O. T. when she passed away. It also includes my name and birth date, so all they have to do is engrave my death date when I croak! I even got a marker for our sweet doxie, Chloe, when she passed away. O. T. and his staff are wonderful, caring people and I urge you to give them the opportunity to serve you. Clyde Partin Monument Company is located at 869 Cypress Avenue (TX Hwy 204), Cushing, Texas 75760, Phone (936) 326-4766. Submitted by *Around the Town* Publisher, David Stallings.



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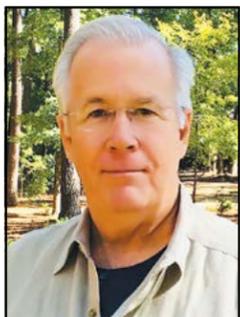
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Hats off to our frequent advertiser, **Roma's Italian Kitchen** in Nacogdoches! Owners Alban and Jehona Marevci, along with their wonderful staff, invite you to enjoy their delicious food and drinks. Roma's is located in the historic Wettermark Bank Building at 124 E. Main in Downtown Nacogdoches. Phone 936.879.6098 or visit www.RomasItalianNacogdoches.com to view their extensive menu and to order online. Dine in, pick up or they will deliver your orders. Roma's is one of our favorite dining experiences! Pictured with Alban is *Around the Town* Sales Manager, Sharon Roberts.



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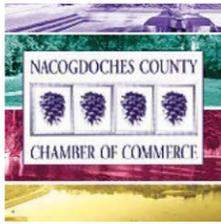
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Chamber Connection
by Kelly Augustine
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Why Choose Nacogdoches

Have you ever stopped and thought about why you live where you live?

Whether you were born-and-raised-and-stayed, or you found your current hometown through work or family connections, I like to think that there are real reasons we call the place we live “home.”

When I think about Nacogdoches, I appreciate how this community delivers the perfect blend of historic character, economic momentum, and a neighborly quality of life. As the oldest town in Texas, we offer an established foundation in East Texas that is paired with the innovation, talent and the opportunities of a growing regional hub.

Live in Nacogdoches

Nacogdoches is known for its welcoming neighborhoods, affordable cost of living and a pace that supports both families and professionals. With walkable historic districts, tree-lined streets and access to a variety of entertainment, residents enjoy a lifestyle that balances tradition with modern convenience. Our community spirit is strong, our business community leadership is engaged and our sense of pride runs deep.

Work in Nacogdoches

A diverse blend of industries powers the local economy—from education, healthcare, manufacturing and logistics to agriculture, retail and hospitality. Businesses benefit from a stable workforce, strong regional partnerships, and accessible leadership at both the city and county levels. Stephen F. Austin State University provides a consistent pipeline of talent, research connections, and professional development that strengthens every sector.

Play in Nacogdoches

Recreation here is shaped by East Texas’ natural beauty and a vibrant local cultural scene. Residents and visitors enjoy miles of trails along Banita and Lanana Creeks, Texas’ largest azalea garden, festivals year-round, historic attractions and a thriving arts, music and foodie community. Whether it is a weekend on the brick streets, a live entertainment performance or a day exploring our parks and waterways, Nacogdoches makes it easy to unwind and revive.

Do Business in Nacogdoches

Nacogdoches offers the advantages of a pro-business environment with the personal touch of a connected community. Entrepreneurs, small businesses, and major employers alike find support through the Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce and a central East Texas location with key transportation access.

Here, relationships still matter and collaboration drives our advancements. I am anticipating all good and prosperous things for our community in this year, and I look forward to every day of it!





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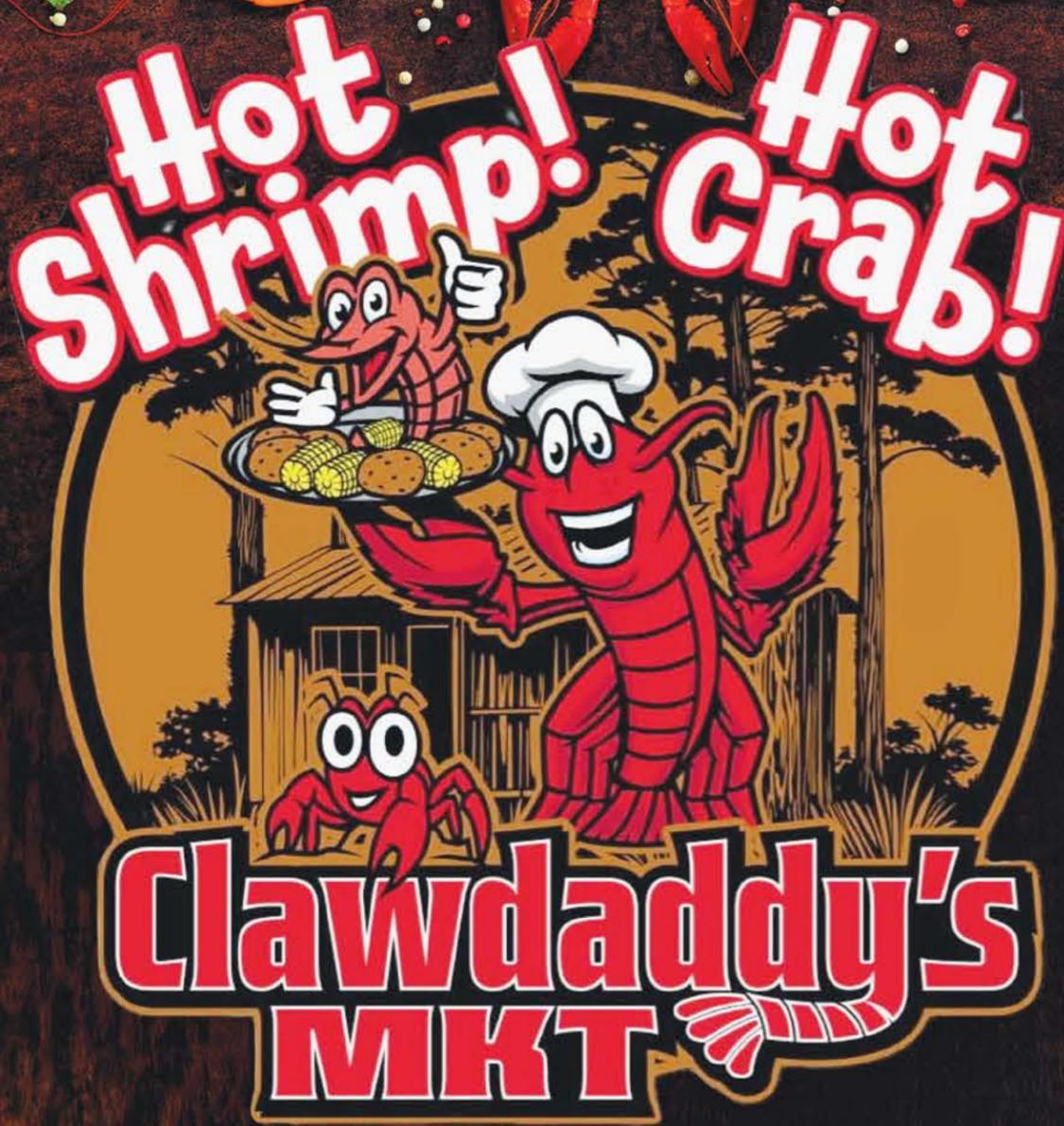


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Nacogdoches Women's Center Offering New In- Office Procedures

Nacogdoches Women's Center has expanded their in-office procedures, offering patients more flexibility in treatment options.

"We're always looking for better ways to serve our patients," said Kyle McMorries, MD, FACOG. "By offering these procedures in-office, we're giving our patients more choices, more convenience, and less expensive options to find relief from some common issues women deal with."

Nacogdoches Women's Center now performs the loop electrosurgical excision procedure (LEEP) in their Nacogdoches office. The LEEP involves removing a thin layer of cervical tissue that can be tested for precancerous cells. LEEPs usually take about 15 minutes and can be performed without general anesthesia.

For women with abnormal bleeding, a hysteroscopy can identify and remove irregularities that may be causing the problem. Now available in-office, this procedure is performed using a thin, lighted tube called a hysteroscope to examine the cervix and uterus. A hysteroscopy can last anywhere from five minutes to 30 minutes, depending on whether it's diagnostic or operative.

For women with heavy bleeding, the NovaSure® endometrial ablation is a one-time, five-minute, minimally invasive, procedure that can lighten or end heavy periods. The treatment can be performed at any point in your menstrual cycle, and no pretreatment is required. Using precisely measured radio-frequency energy, this small device safely removes the uterine lining that sheds during your period. It's a simple procedure that can be performed in the Nacogdoches Women's Center office without general anesthesia.

Nacogdoches Women's Center provides preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic women's health and wellness care and comprehensive treatment from adolescence through post-menopause. Providers deliver care using evidence-based practices and meet individual patient needs in a comfortable, efficient, and independent medical office environment.

Nacogdoches Women's Center is located at 4710 N.E. Stallings Dr. in Nacogdoches. To schedule an appointment, call 936-560-2666.

Maisel Earns Hormone Therapy Specialist Credentials

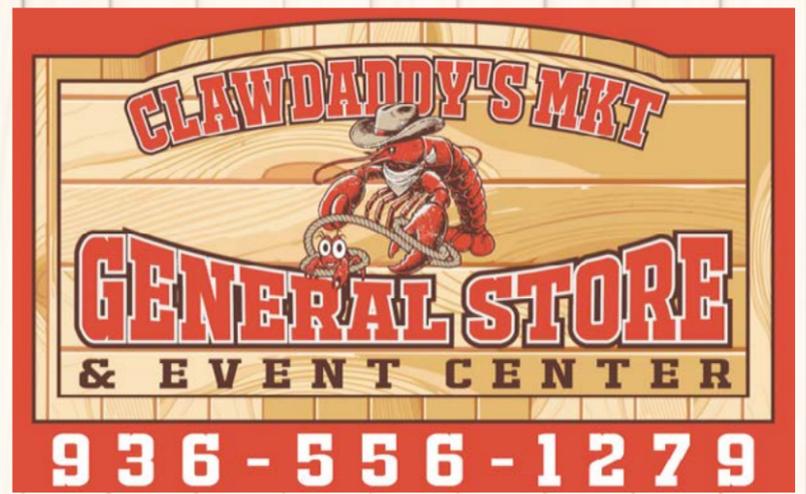
Nacogdoches Women's Center is proud to announce that Mallory Maisel, RN, FNP-C, has been certified by the Heather Hirsch Academy as a Women's Hormone Therapy Specialist. As one of only 25 providers in Texas to achieve this certification, Mallory has been trained by one of the nation's leading experts in FDA-approved hormone therapy management to expertly discuss the benefits and risks of hormone therapy compared to non-hormonal, over-the-counter options and to interpret the findings of clinical trials.

"I wanted to have this training so that I could better understand women's hormones, the effects that they have on their lives and health, and how to provide women in perimenopause and menopause the best possible care," Mallory said. "I love being able to help women through all stages of life. It brings me so much joy to see that our services can improve their lives. I look forward to many more years of providing care for women in our community."

As the leading source of menopause education for healthcare providers, the Heather Hirsch Academy provides advanced training under the guidance of Dr. Heather Hirsch, MD, MS, NCMP, one of the nation's leading experts in FDA-approved hormone therapy management for perimenopause and menopause.

Nacogdoches Women's Center provides preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic women's health and wellness care and comprehensive treatment from adolescence through post-menopause. Providers deliver care using evidence-based practices and meet individual patient needs in a comfortable, efficient, and independent medical office environment.

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Nac County Exposition and Civic Center Calendar



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January is packed with excitement in Nacogdoches! Kick things off with the **Law Enforcement Luncheon on January 8th**, followed by a night of fun at the **4-H Dance on January 9th**. Then don't miss the high-energy **Pineywoods Youth Rodeo, January 23rd-25th**, filling the Expo and Civic Center with youth competition and rodeo spirit.

Arena Riders Welcome at the Expo-The Nacogdoches Expo remains open for arena riders Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for just \$10 per horse. Riders are encouraged to call (936) 564-0849 for availability before arriving.

Nacogdoches Law Enforcement luncheon January 8th

The Nacogdoches Law Enforcement Luncheon on **January 8th** is a special event exclusively for law enforcement personnel. This luncheon provides an opportunity for officers and agencies to come together in fellowship, appreciation, and camaraderie as we recognize the dedication and service of those who protect our community every day.

Nacogdoches 4H Dance January 9th

Get ready for a fun-filled evening at the **Nacogdoches 4-H Dance!** Join friends and fellow 4-H members for a night of music, dancing, and great memories, all while celebrating the spirit of youth, leadership, and community that makes 4-H special.

Pineywoods Youth Rodeo January 23rd-25th

The PWYR will be at the exposition and Civic Center. The event emphasizes not just competition, but community and personal growth. President Brian Metteauer highlights PYRA's mission to provide young people a structured, supportive environment to experience rodeo while honing athleticism, determination, and discipline. Held over the weekend, PWYR includes dozens of runs—sometimes over 600 in a single day—with events scheduled from morning into the evening. Participants compete for prizes and recognition, while families and peers cheer them on, reinforcing the tight-knit, family-first atmosphere that rodeo culture embodies.

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Mission Nac... Taking Our City Back, One House at a Time

by Robert McCandless

I watched, over the years, as my old neighborhood in Dallas became “The Bishop Art’s District.” All I remember is that when I left it in 1975, it was becoming a wasteland of poverty and crime. My infrequent visits over the past 40 years has seen the dilapidated old neighborhood in Oak Cliff become a tourist destination and a sense of pride among the residents. Not only has the business district improved but a phenomenon has occurred among residential property owners. Yards are being kept, paint is being applied, and the overall safety of the neighborhood has increased. I have been curious about this effect as I drive through the old streets I was raised on. It’s easy to see how age contributes to the downfall of a neighborhood much like a new car eventually succumbs to “is it worth the money” to wash, polish or care for it’s appearance. Unlike automobiles, we don’t change residences every two or three years and many times the lack of interest in beautification ends shortly after the purchase. Over time, we see this gradual neglect begin, like a cancer, to take over a neighborhood as owners and renters think “Why should I fix my place up when no one else is?”

I was reminded of this trend when Tiki Perkins, of Mission Nac, mentioned how a new phenomena is occurring in Nacogdoches. Not only do we see it happening downtown as building owners like Kim Crisp, Dennis White and Bill Elliot put hard earned money into the old structures downtown, giving our town new life and prompting others to follow suit, but it has also been taking place in our neighborhoods.

A few years ago Mission Nac began a program of assisting those in need of help with their homes. Churches from all over the city have banded together with corporate donors to beautify and improve the homes of those who can’t afford to. One house gets some needed paint, another a roof or rotted wood is replaced as the volunteers of Mission Nac put their resources together along with local businesses in doing the work. The real “kicker”... just like my old neighborhood, now tourist destination, is that, before long, those who see and live around the improvement are motivated to join in, whether it be major redo or just mowing a yard more frequently, as neighbors get the bug to take better care of their property.

Unlike gentrification which occurs in large cities, raising property values as money moves in and takes over an area, building large homes and driving out former residents, painting and repair of existing homes to make them more energy efficient and attractive serves to bring back a former pride of ownership that may have diminished with lack of money, time or physical ability to keep it up.

Ramps for the disabled, leaking roofs, rotten wood, broken windows, house leveling and other issues are not the only thing addressed over a four day period as skilled and unskilled volunteer labor band together in accomplishing a goal. The owner, if able, is also invited to participate in the makeover as their yard is filled with twenty or more people of all ages running back and forth washing brushes, getting tools, and providing water and food for appetites.

The program not only benefits the homeowner and eventually the neighborhood, but everyone from teenagers to seniors learn important skills which may help them in facing similar challenges with their homes.

The vitality of our city may depend on those with deep pockets who take the risk to invest in downtown but our neighborhoods depend on it’s residents. Mission Nac is providing stimulus to neighborhoods and the result is amazing.

Your church is probably involved with Mission Nac as a coordinated effort that will be beautifying and repairing several homes in Nacogdoches this June 3rd thru 6th. Come, work and get to know others in your church or the Christian community of our city through the efforts of Mission Nac and it’s supporters. Be a part of making our city a better place to live.

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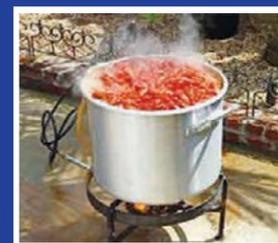
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“That by two immutable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for REFUGE to lay hold of the hope set before us.” (Hebrews 6:18, emphasis added)

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



New Year — Same Lord

For I am the Lord, I do not change – Malachi 3:6

Happy New Year—it’s 2026! January is the beginning of the new year. It will launch us into new days, weeks and months that we have not seen before, yet the Lord has always known of their existence and has seen them all in eternity. New Year. Same Lord.

This new year will be a year of change with many unavoidable situations and circumstances to test the believers faith. It will be a year of blessings received and blessings forfeited. It will be a year of highs and a year of lows. It will be a year of gains and a year of losses. It will be a year of giving and a year of taking. It will be a year of living and a year of dying. It will be a year of loving and a year of hating. It will be a year of weeping and a year of laughing. It will be a year of mourning and a year of dancing. It will be a year of sowing and a year of reaping. It will be a year of war and a year of peace.

We do not know what God intends to do with our lives in 2026—how He has purposed to use His people for His glory and the spread of the gospel. But we can rest in the confident assurance that the same God who brought us through 2025—who was with us every step of the way—is the same God who will be with us in this new year. He has promised to never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). When the waters rise, He will be there. When the storms are raging God will be there. When times are hard God will be there. When people forsake us and turn their backs on us, God will be there. When we are mistreated and misunderstood, God will be there. When we need a shoulder to cry on, God will be there. In all of the ups and downs of this life, all of the wicked schemes devised against the righteous, in all of the rejection of God’s moral absolutes as we speak the truth in love, God will be right there with us.

Our calling is to trust Him. To trust His character—that He is a good God, a faithful God, a righteous and a just God. Our calling is to have unwavering faith in God’s unfailing Word, no matter what He allows or causes to happen in our lives and in the world to fulfill His purposes. Because “we know all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose” (Rom. 8:28). Let’s not stop there but move on to the why of all things working together for good. They work together for good to conform us to the image of God’s Son (8:29). God wants to transform our character in order to showcase the life of Christ and His power working in and through His people. Imagine that, born again Christians are Christ’s image bearers in the world. When we see a Christian, we ought to see Christ. Jesus told Philip, “He who has seen Me has seen the Father” (John 14:9).

We serve a God who knows the future, has planned it out and will work “all things according to the counsel of His will” (Eph. 1:11). We serve a God who can be trusted with our future and all of life’s uncertainties. 2026 is a New Year. Our God is the same. He is the Lord and He does not change. Let us be faithful and committed in service to God in the body of Christ and in every opportunity that comes our way to do good (Acts 10:38) so that we may be witnesses of the new things the Lord is doing in 2026—all for His glory.

“Be at war with your vices, at Peace with your neighbors, and let every New Year find you a better man.” — Benjamin Franklin



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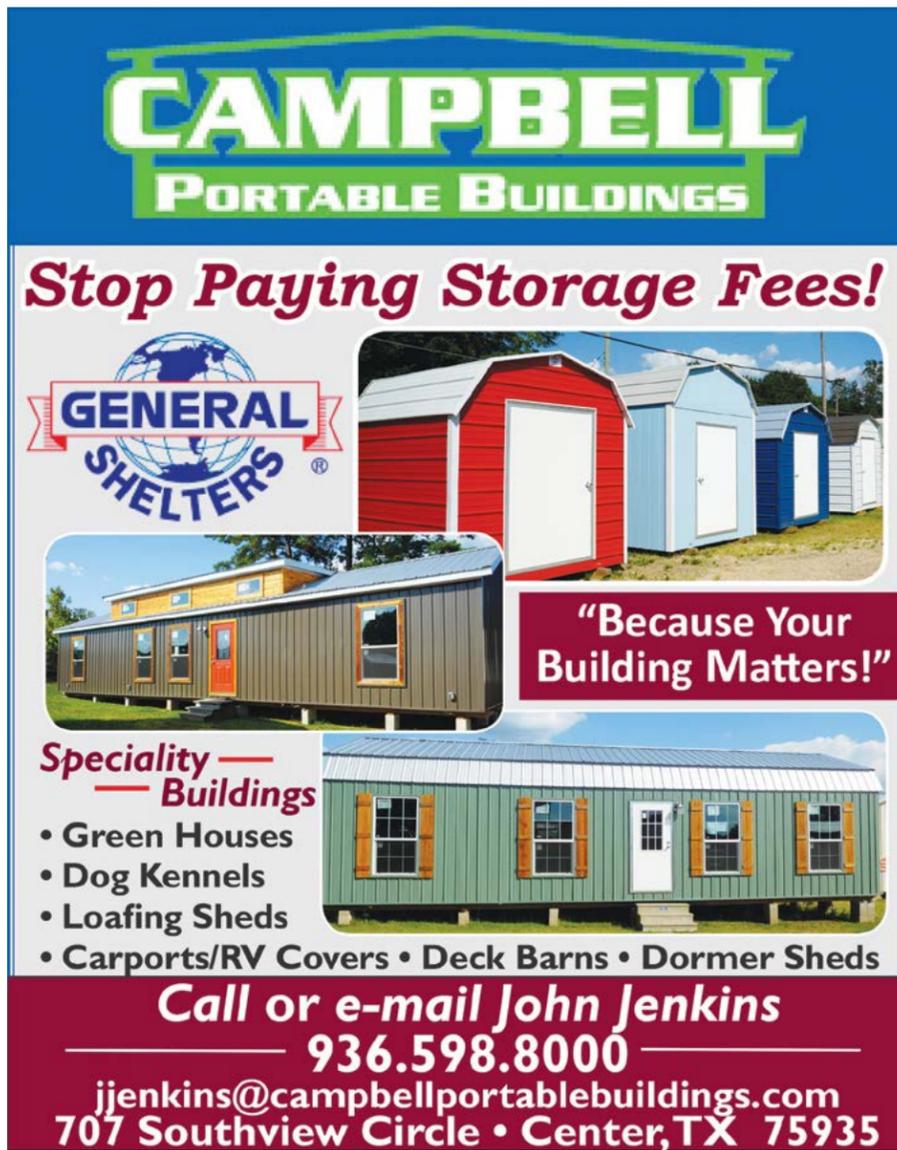
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The Pay Telephone

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.



Teenagers today don't know much about pay telephones. They have telephones in their room at home, and cell phones to take with them everywhere they go. They are never without the means of communicating with their friends. It was not that way when I was in college in the mid 1950s. Dial phones were relatively new, and a cell phone was just something in the mind of the writer of Dick Tracy. The pay telephone was about the only means of communicating with friends, family, and significant others during my stint in a boarding house near the campus of Stephen F. Austin State College in Nacogdoches.

I never did like dormitory life, so I always lived in a boarding house. The one I liked was a large, two story home located on the corner of Wettermark and Pecan streets. It contained six large bedrooms, one large community bathroom, and one pay telephone on the wall in the upstairs hall. This telephone was our only means of contact with the outside world.

As I recall, the phone had slots for a nickel, dime, and a quarter. Local calls were a nickel per call. When the phone rang, even in the middle of the night, there was a stampede of hairy-legged boys racing to answer it. Who knew, it could have been a call from their girl friend.

Things went along nicely for a while, until a genius student figured out that he could take a nickel, put it in the entrance of the slot, and put a certain "spin" on the coin which then made it register as a quarter. So, many long distance calls were made using nickels only. After a couple of months of this, the telephone company got wise. For reasons I could never figure out, one day they took the square coin receptacle out of the phone, but left the phone in working order.

What a bonanza this presented to the residents. One could take a quarter, put it in the slot, and then catch it with your other hand as it came out, and use the same coin over and over. We were calling all over the country with a quarter. There were several call-in radio shows in Chicago and Los Angeles which we would call to dedicate songs to our girl friends, with the same quarter. We were really having a ball with that pay telephone. Apparently none of us ever had a pang of conscience, or felt any remorse for the phone company, we were too busy defrauding Ma Bell.

One day, I came home from classes and noticed that the pay phone was no longer on the wall. Only a couple of wires protruding from a hole where the phone once was greeted us. The telephone company had finally figured out that they were losing money big time on this phone and removed the object of our misdeeds. No longer could I call home, or call my girl friend, or receive calls. Isolation from the rest of the world was our punishment. Truly you do reap what you sow. Wouldn't a cell phone have come in handy, if only they had been invented in 1955?



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SERVING OUR SAVIOR

by Patti Goodrum
Executive Director, Love in the Name of Christ Nacogdoches

As we pen our final article for 2025, it's impossible not to reflect on the extraordinary collaboration that has defined this year. United as God's people, our volunteers at Love INC have been the heartbeat of every program, bringing hope and tangible support to our neighbors. It is a true privilege to walk alongside those in need, to share in their stories, and to serve God through acts of compassion and service. Together, we have witnessed how serving others not only meets needs but also deepens our faith and strengthens our community.



Patti Goodrum, Executive Director Love INC Nacogdoches

Connection Team Spotlight

Happy Willhoite, our Connection Coordinator, has provided an insightful overview of our team's efforts below. Alongside Happy, Addie, Debbie, Chris, Adrain, and Marilyn, as well as many dedicated volunteers, work tirelessly together to support and serve numerous families in our community. Their collaboration and commitment exemplify the spirit of service that defines our organization.

Happy – 2025 Review

As 2025 draws to a close, we find ourselves doing what many do at year's end. We look back. Not just at calendars and spreadsheets, but at moments. Conversations. Hard days and holy ones. The kind that stretches you, teach you, and sometimes make you laugh when you least expect it.

This year was not without hardship. We walked alongside neighbors facing job loss, housing instability, food insecurity, medical challenges, and seasons of deep uncertainty. Some situations did not resolve quickly or neatly. There were days when the need felt heavier than the resources, when the phone kept ringing, and when the right answer was simply to listen and show up again tomorrow. Those moments reminded us that transformation rarely happens overnight, and that faithfulness matters just as much as outcomes.

We learned a lot in 2025. We learned the importance of boundaries, of sustainable help, and of trusting the processes that exist to protect both neighbors and volunteers. We learned that collaboration takes patience and humility, but it multiplies impact in ways no single organization ever could. We were reminded that dignity matters, that people are not problems to be fixed, and that relationships are often the most powerful form of assistance we can offer.

And yes, there were laughs along the way. The unexpected comments that break tension during a tough appointment. The shared jokes while folding laundry, loading furniture, or stuffing envelopes late in the afternoon. The lightness that comes when people serve together long enough to feel like family. Those moments matter more than we sometimes realize. They carry us through the harder days.

Most of all, there were blessings! In 2025, Love INC mobilized close to 6,000 volunteer hours from over 130 individual church volunteers. Together, we served nearly 2,000 individuals, reaching approximately 1,000 adults and 900 children from more than 800 households right here in Nacogdoches County. Nearly 5,000 needs were met through food, prayer, referrals, laundry and shower services, home visits, and practical support. Behind every number is a story. A neighbor who felt seen. A volunteer who showed up. A church that said yes.

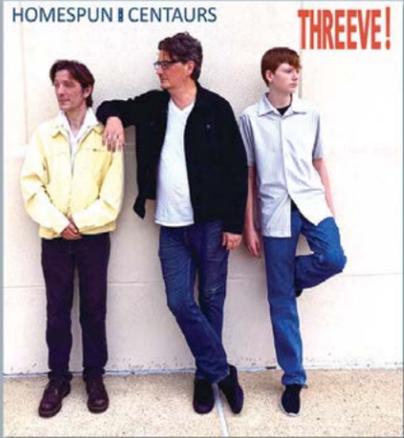
These numbers represent just a glimpse of what is possible when 59 partner churches choose to work together In the Name of Christ. Lives are being transformed. Communities are being strengthened. Hope is being lived out in practical, everyday ways. And the love of Jesus is being shared through the hands and feet of His Body.

As we head into a new year, we are so grateful. Grateful to the neighbors who trust us with their stories. Grateful to volunteers who give their time and hearts so generously. Grateful for churches who believe in unity is not just an idea, but a calling. Most of all, I'm grateful for the challenges that God uses to continue to shape me and make me better, and I'm thankful for each one of YOU!

A Joyful Christmas and Hopeful New Year

As we come together after celebrating the birth of our Savior, I hope each of you experienced a wonderful and meaningful Christmas. This special season reminds us of God's profound love and the gift of Jesus, which inspires us to serve with compassion and purpose. As we prepare to welcome a new year, let us continue looking forward to new opportunities to honor and serve Him through our work and kindness to others. May the spirit of Christmas carry us into the coming year, renewing our dedication to serve Him and our community. Jesus is the goal.





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Christmas Break: The Love INC office will re-open on January 5, 2026!

CHAIRished Blessings: The Love INC website will continue to offer the CHAIRished Blessings tickets. Please go to: www.loveincnac.org to purchase your tickets.

Prayers: Pray for the staff and volunteers as we rest, visit with our families and reflect on how we can serve and glorify God through Love In the Name of Christ in 2026.

Questions: messages are welcome anytime. Send to patti@loveincnac.org



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Natalee Dunn
CVB Creative Content Director

This Month in the Oldest Town in Texas

A new year brings a fresh opportunity to slow down, explore, and experience Nacogdoches in a more relaxed season. While January is a quieter month for large-scale events, it's the perfect time to dive into our rich history, enjoy local culture, and start looking ahead to some exciting celebrations on the horizon.

Winter is an ideal season to explore the historic treasures that make Nacogdoches the Oldest Town in Texas. Visit Zion Hill Baptist Church, one of the oldest African American churches in the state, and take in the stories that shaped our community. The Old University Building offers a glimpse into early Texas education, while the Durst-Taylor Historic House showcases beautiful architecture and local heritage. Don't miss the Stone Fort Museum on the SFA campus, where centuries of East Texas history come to life through engaging exhibits.

Gather around the table for a true community tradition at the annual Beefsteak Dinner on Friday, January 23rd, at Mast Hall, kicking off at 7 pm. This long-standing event draws inspiration from the beefsteak dinners of the early 1900s; gatherings known for generous servings of meat, beer, and bread, all enjoyed without plates or utensils.

SFA's Fine Arts season continues to shine with standout performances this January. On January 23rd, families are invited to enjoy the Children's Show Super Scientific Circus, featuring performances at 9:30 am and 12:30 pm, a lively, high-energy blend of science, comedy, and interactive fun. Later in the month, the University Series welcomes comedian James P. Connolly on January 30th at 7:30 pm for an evening of sharp wit, engaging storytelling, and plenty of laughs. Both events will take place at the SFA Turner Auditorium. These performances are just two of the many fine arts events happening this January!

Even as January invites a slower pace, there's plenty to look forward to in the months ahead. Wine lovers can sip and stroll through downtown during the Nacogdoches Wine Swirl on April 11th. The Texas Blueberry Festival returns on the second Saturday in June, celebrating one of Nacogdoches' sweetest traditions. Later in the year, the Old Town Rig Down on September 11th-12th brings big rigs, live music, and East Texas pride to the heart of the city. These beloved events are just a preview, with even more annual festivals and community traditions happening throughout the year in Nacogdoches.

Whether you're exploring history, enjoying local arts, or planning your next visit, January is a wonderful time to experience Nacogdoches, and get excited for what's ahead. To keep up with Nacogdoches and community events, make sure to check out our website at visitnacogdoches.org/events. We can't wait to see y'all around the town!

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January/February 2026 Schedule

January			
Sat 3rd	Private Party		
Tue 6th	Guacamoles	Nacogdoches	6:00 pm
Tue 13th	Guacamoles	Jacksonville	6:00 pm
Thu 15th	Ralph & Kacoos	Lufkin	6:00 pm
Tue 20th	Guacamoles	Nacogdoches	6:00 pm
Wed 21st	Tia Juanitas	Lufkin	6:00 pm
Thu 29th	Tia Juanitas	Lufkin	6:00 pm
February			
Tue 3rd	Guacamoles	Nacogdoches	6:00 pm
Thu 5th	Tia Juanitas	Lufkin	6:00 pm
Sat 14th	Crown Colony	Lufkin	6:00 pm
Tue 17th	Guacamoles	Nacogdoches	6:00 pm
Thu 19th	Ralph & Kacoos	Lufkin	6:00 pm
Thu 26th	Tia Juanitas	Lufkin	6:00 pm

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I Don't Like "Like!"

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.

Several things bother me about the degradation of language today. Perhaps the most long-running is the widespread overuse, especially among the youth, of the word, "like." You hear it all the time: "I was like, you are so rude!" has replaced, "I said, you are so rude!" The word "like" is also unnecessarily attached to the verb "was" to describe one's feelings: "I was, like, so annoyed." In other moments of vacuity, the heretics of proper language merely toss in the word insensibly: "He, like, took the wrong turn."



It wasn't long ago that I very nearly broke one of the cardinal rules of good breeding—the admonition to say nothing at all if you have nothing good to say. A young person (who would be almost anyone besides yours truly) within my earshot used the word "like" a total of 14 times in one soliloquy, when none of the utterances thereof were appropriate. Instead of saying something I might have regretted, however, I thought of the time our daughter, Mindy, was a teenager, traveling with us on a road trip. She had brought along a young classmate, and the two girls chatted endlessly in the rear seat of the car. Having been bludgeoned incessantly to learn grammar rules by a similarly obsessed English teacher, Mrs. Reed, in high school, I was, and still am, hypersensitive to infractions thereof. It wasn't long until the girls' wild overuse of "like" reached my ears with much the same effect as a swarm of bees. Thinking better of my initial means of correction, which involved duct tape, I thought of offering a generous financial incentive, something obviously irresistible to a young teenager. I told both girls I would give them \$25 each—a hefty sum in those days—if they would refrain from using the word "like" inappropriately for the rest of the trip. It worked—so much so, in fact, that Mindy permanently omitted the travesty from her speech from that point forward. I suppose she also knew she would never hear the end of it if she didn't comply.

Over the years, my obsession with proper grammar and punctuation has only deepened with my writing. My endless attempts to perfect it, along with its incorporation into my speech, have served me very well in retaining a management position for most of my long worklife. Having had the authority to interview, hire and fire employees for many years, I can tell you that the applicants who presented well in terms of their communication and professional visage stood a far greater chance of success in gaining employment.

I won't even get into other language pet peeves, such as butchering pronouns—especially "who" and "whom"—and the gratuitous use of profanity, which I can only assume one uses rather than to learn a far more esoteric and effective term from our incredibly rich English language.

You needn't worry about my calling you out, however, if you happen to omit, for example, a participle-required possessive pronoun (exemplified earlier in this sentence). This is a quick way for a language nerd to lose friends. My poor family, however, has had to endure decades of good-natured (?) abuse, and they still love me, I think. They did, however, present me with a t-shirt upon which was printed, "I'm silently correcting your grammar." It is not particularly well received in public, but it is, in fact, quite accurate. Mrs. Reed, rest in peace; you were my heroine.

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NAC ARTS COLLABORATIVE News

CONNECTING COMMUNITY | SUPPORTING ARTISTS

Nacogdoches Arts Collaborative (NAC) will host **Spring Break Creativity Camp March 9–13, 2026, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM**, at the **Boys & Girls Club of Nacogdoches**. The week-long camp offers a full-day, hands-on arts experience with daily sessions focused on **art, theatre, dance, creative writing, and music**. Tuition is **\$225 per camper**, with **\$175 for each additional sibling**. Space is limited to **40 campers**. All supplies are included.



Campers should bring a **packed lunch; snacks will be provided**. Families are invited to a **camp showcase on the Saturday following camp, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM**, featuring camper work and performances from the week. Scholarships are also available.



Beginning **January 2026**, Nacogdoches Arts Collaborative (NAC) will bring its **Art Café experience** on the road to **local downtown businesses**, inviting community members to reserve an art activity while enjoying and supporting participating small businesses. Art Café on Tour will offer a rotating menu of creative options led by the NAC team, including **charcoal, watercolor, acrylic, and collage** experiences. Reservations for your materials will be made through Nacogdoches Arts Collaborative so we can prepare your experience and your seats will be reserved at the location. Let's rock our creativity all around town!! **2026 tour dates and locations will be announced soon**.

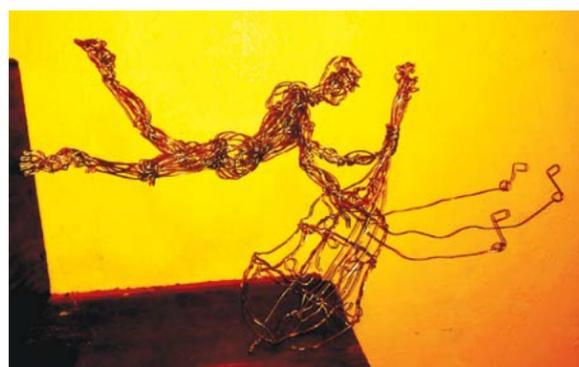
Falling Star Gallery @ NAC will open a new exhibition in January featuring four local artist educators. "Passports: New Work by Artist Educators" will be an opening reception Saturday, January 10 2-4pm with artists in attendance. The artists are: Amanda Abbott, Mandy Clay, Victoria Perry and Luke Russell. An art talk is planned prior to the reception. The show will be open Saturdays 11-4 through February 14.

January Artist Spotlight: Meet Luke Russell!

Luke Russell, who holds a degree in history and geology from SFA and is currently teaching art at Nacogdoches High School, considers himself an eclectic artist. "I prefer sculpture, but I paint a little. I like wire as a medium as well as found objects. Right now, I'm experimenting with 3D printing and cement. For me, what's important is that there is something that's being communicated, and that is more important than the medium. Sometimes it even dictates the medium."



Luke's creative drive started in childhood. "I grew up in the sticks outside Nacogdoches one generation from poverty and the gift of that was that there was a real ethos of making do with what you



and declared it art and told me I was an artist, and I've been wrestling with those labels ever since."

When asked about inspiration, Luke said "The whole world is on fire with inspiration. I draw on my fellow local artists and behemoths like Van Gogh, Pollock, and Warhol. Plus my grandfather, who was a rancher who made strange fences out of the springs from bed mattresses and whatever he found. Art is a way that I process reality. I don't really think in words. I think in abstractions, and visuals are a truer medium for packaging those thoughts and emotions than words. I often don't know what it is that I'm experiencing exactly until I make

have. I made toys from broken lawn mower parts or whatever was available. I always had a compulsion to make things. But they usually had some sort of function to justify their existence. I'd make a bench or a lamp. Then one day a friend of mine who was an artist saw what I was doing,

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the art. Sometimes I feel it rattling around in my body trying to get out. I support the Nacogdoches Arts Collaborative because they support me when the art emerges and needs an audience."

Nacogdoches Arts Collaborative is located inside Williamsburg Plaza, 320 North Street. Falling Star Gallery @ NAC is in Suite 306 and is open Saturdays from 11-4 or by appointment by texting 917-209-1050. We are also an easy walk from downtown at 415 N. Fredonia Street, one block north of the Fredonia Hotel. The NAC Annex is at 141 Walker Avenue behind the Fredonia Brewery.

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



NAC Arts Collaborative receives a \$1,500 check from NacoPalooza MusicFestival

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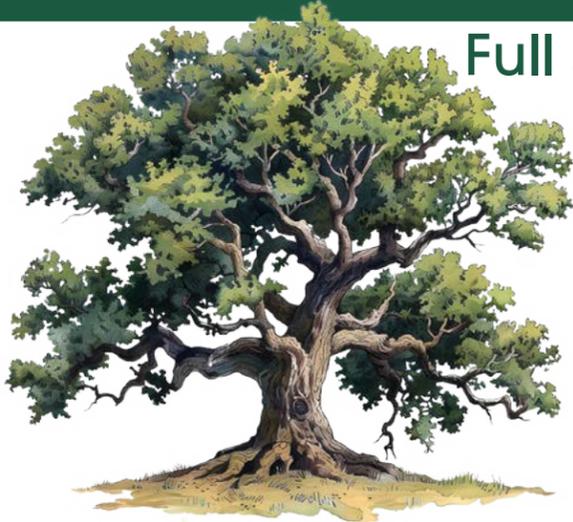
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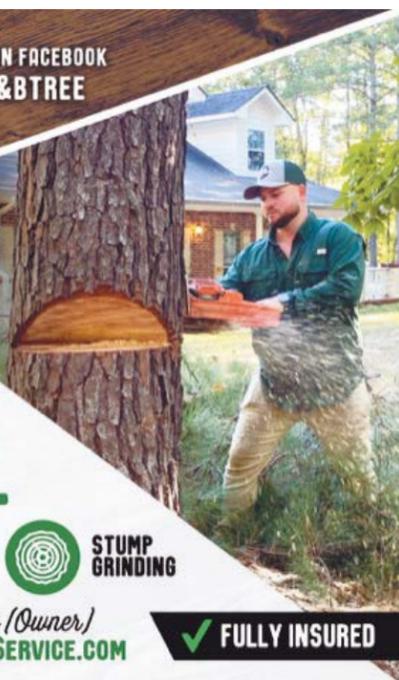


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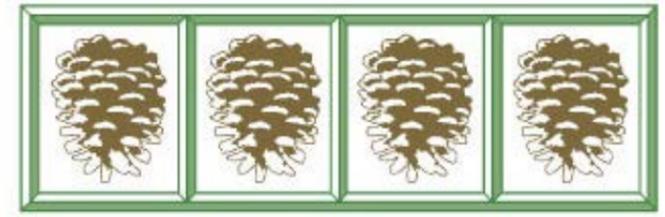
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I

Sign the petition to leave the Stone Fort Museum, where it is on the SFASU campus!

What follows is an urgent plea to sign the petition to the University of Texas Regents to leave the Stone Fort Museum, where it has been on the Stephen F. Austin State University campus since 1936.

Historical reasons abound. As a historical preservation icon of Spanish history in Nacogdoches, Texas, built about 1779 by Gil Ybarbo, a returned Adesano, after he and others came back from San Antonio via Bucarrelli without permission. Born in Los Adaes, Louisiana—the first colonial capital of Texas—because of the mandate issued by the Marquis de Rubi for everyone from the missions and presidios to move to San Antonio. When he came to Nacogdoches, he built the Old Stone Fort, which actually bore the name Old Stone House since it was his house. Over the years, it assumed quasi-governmental responsibilities.

Unfortunately for the Hispanic community of Nacogdoches, the Stone Fort Museum, as the replica of the Old Stone House, stands as the historical symbol of the transfer of power to the Anglos, because of the Cordova Rebellion, whereby my great-great-great-great-grandmother Rebecca Danzey Fenley acquired it in 1840, because her husband, Zechariah Phillips Fenley, and a slave were killed in that rebellion. She sold it to her sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Harriett Fenley Roberts and John S. Roberts, a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence.

What is there on the SFASU campus is the third edition of the Old Stone Fort: the first, the one Gil Ybarbo built, the second, the one the Cum Concilio Club constructed on Washington Square near the Thomas J. Rusk school; and the present one, reconstructed for the Texas Centennial almost 90 years ago.

Practical reasons abound, also. From the time the Old Stone Fort was torn down until the Cum Concilio constructed the second edition, some of the stones were pilfered by citizens of Nacogdoches County; one lady told me her family erected a wall on their property from these stones, and another told me her family had a fireplace made from these stones. If the integrity of the materials of the original was compromised, why would someone believe it won't happen again?

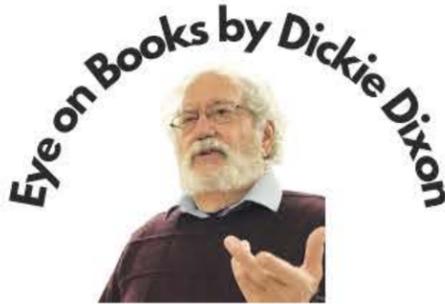
Go to the website for last month's A Little Bit of History, where we discussed the practical reasons SFASU needs to sign the petition

Kissin' Kuzzins

(1) Matt McBroom will discuss *"The John Henry Kirby Sawmills"* with special reference to the one at Bon Weir, when the Deep East Texas Archeological Society meets on Monday, January 5, 2025, at the Newton County Civic Center on 213 East Court Street in Newton. Sandra Litton will have desserts and refreshments ready at 5:30, followed by a short business meeting conducted by Ruth Dusan. Matt will speak at about 6:15 p.m. The public is invited to attend, and you do not have to be a member to attend. For more information, contact Ruth Dusan Garcia at (409) 336-9216 or ruthdusan35@gmail.com or Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419 or dixonhershel51@aol.com (2) On February 2, 2026, Dickie Dixon will discuss "The Significance of the Old Stone Fort: *Why SFASU Needs to Leave the Stone Fort Museum Where It Is*" at about 6:15 p.m. at the Iris and Anne Howard Civic Center on 213 Court Street in Newton Texas. For more information, contact Ruth Dusan Garcia at (409) 336-9216 or ruthdusan35@gmail.com or Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419 or dixonhershel51@aol.com. (3) Jeanelle McCall has written a children's book, *Stuffie and the Great Flood*, as a reaction to an image she saw of a stuffed rabbit and the contact of the owner about it. All profits go to flood victims and their families of the flash flood in Kerrville. You can buy your copy at the Museum of East Texas. (4) Dickie Dixon will discuss *"The Significance of the Old Stone Fort: Why SFASU Needs To Leave the Stone Fort Museum Where It Is"* at 6 p.m. for the Huntington Historical Society on Tuesday, January 6, 2025, at the meeting room of the Huntington Housing Authority at 210 East Walnut Street in Huntington, Texas. For more information, contact Pam Hooton at (936) 635-3306. (5) Randall Paul Holland, Angelina College policeman and first-time author, will discuss his first book, *"Journey To the Top Cop,"* at about 5:30 p.m. on Monday, January 19, 2026, at the meeting room of David Beard's Catfish King on the loop in Lufkin. Fortunately for him, Steinbeck Books published it, and Ron Howard is scheduled to direct a movie called *Texas Grit*. You don't have to be a member to attend; the public is invited to attend. For more information, contact Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419 or dixonhershel51@aol.com (6) The Newton County Historical Commission is pleased to announce it will hold the 2026 Newton County Genealogy Conference from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Iris and Anne Howard Civic Center on 213 East Court Street in Newton. \$20 is the cost of attending, including a box lunch; for more information, contact Terri Woods at the History Center at (409) 379-2109 or terri,woods@co.newton.tx.us

January 2026 birthdays: 5th: Andre Lamb, David Dykes 6th Brian Sterling 10th: Jayden Jones 13th: Richard Short 15th Amanda Cook Gilbert

Blasts from the Past: On January 13, 1913, Gladys Kathleen Hinson Dixon was born at the Boll Weevil Sawmill on John Massingill Road near Clawson.



Add these titles to your reading list

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

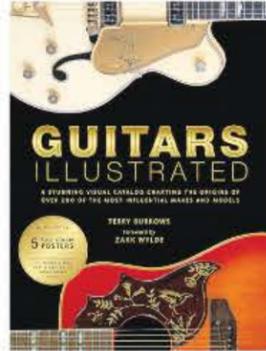
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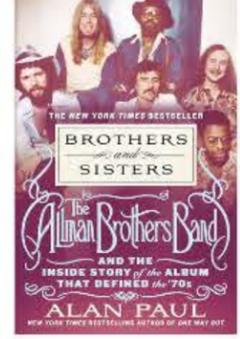
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Guitars Illustrated
Terry Burrows

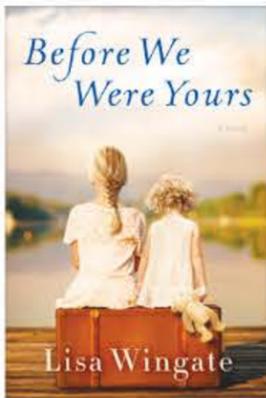


Capitol Records
Edited by Reuel Golden

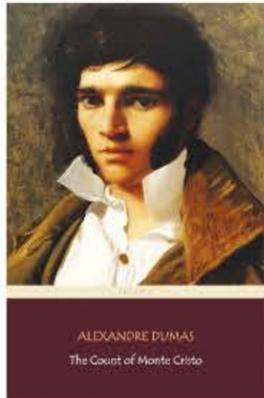


Brothers and Sisters, The Allman Brothers Band -Alan Paul

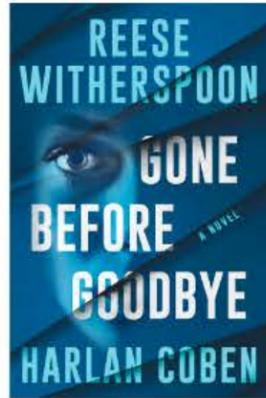
Fiction



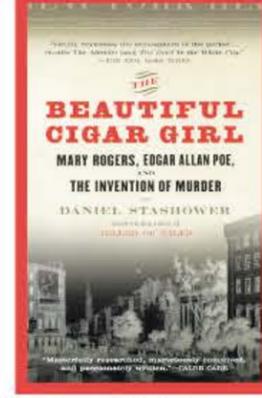
Before We Were Yours
Lisa Wingate



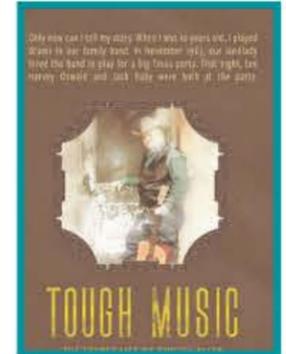
The Count of Monte Cristo
Alexandre Dumas



Gone Before Goodbye
Reese Witherspoon with Harlan Coben

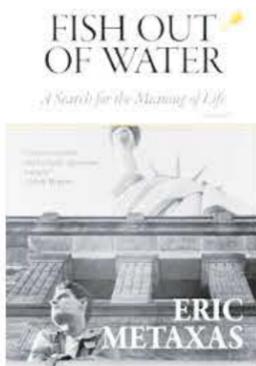


The Beautiful Cigar Girl
Daniel Stashower

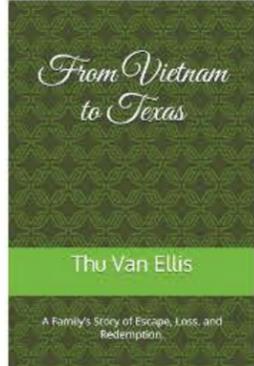


Tough Music: The Secret Life
Dudley Allen

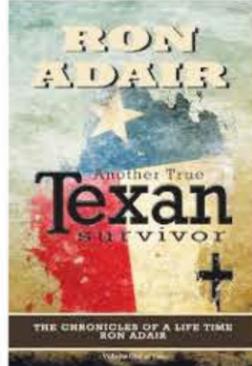
Autobiography Cont.



Fish Out of Water:
Eric Metaxas



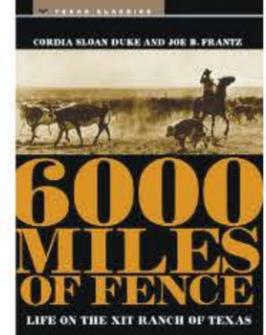
From Vietnam to Texas
Thu Van Ellis



Another True Texan Survivor
Ron Adair

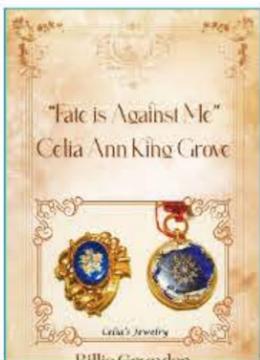


The Old Stone Fort
Dr. Archie P. McDonald

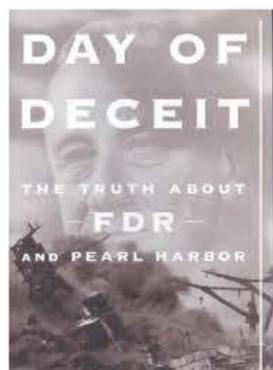


14,600 Miles of Fence
Cordia Sloan Duke and Joe B. Frantz

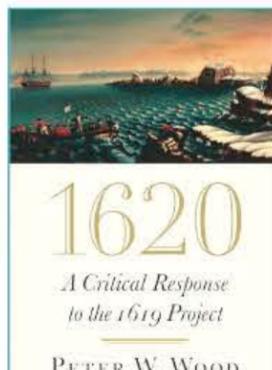
American History



Fate is Against Me:
Celia Ann King Grove
Billie Grunden



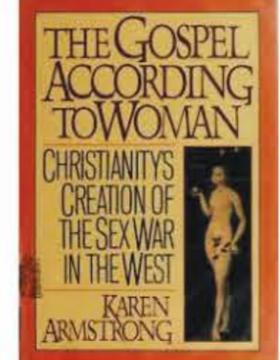
Day of Deceit
Robert Stinnett



1620 A Critical Response to the 1619 Project
Peter W. Wood



Religion and Healing in America
Linda L. Barnes and Susan S. Sered



The Gospel According to Woman:
Karen Armstrong

Church History

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

We Love our advertisers!

Gary Adkison has advertised his **Adkison Body & Repair Shop** for many years with us and we sincerely appreciate him!

Gary's mission is to provide high quality, convenient and comprehensive auto and motorhome repair at a low cost. His number one goal is to maintain 100% customer satisfaction with regards to quality, friendliness and time to completion. While accomplishing this goal, Gary and his staff strive to develop personal relationships with customers in order to relieve some of the stress that arises while waiting for a repair to take place. He has always put his family and friends first. While he has never met a stranger, he is always dedicated to treating others with honesty and integrity. His customers can trust they are in good hands with his services.

Adkison's is located at 8946 US Highway 259 in Nacogdoches. Phone (936) 569-2966 or visit adkisonbodyrepair.com for more information. Pictured with Gary is *Around the Town* Publisher, David Stallings.



We Love our advertisers!

Loreli DelaTorre (left) and Jasmine Wahner are always ready to serve you at **Kinfolks!** We love the entire staff, the owner, Sheryl Chumley, and we appreciate them as friends and advertisers. They specialize in "down home" cookin' and friendly service. Their breakfasts are amazing, as are their daily lunch specials. From omelets to burgers to chicken fried steaks, they have something for everyone. Visit Kinfolks at 4817 NW Stallings Drive in Nacogdoches. Phone (936) 569-2422.



We Love our advertisers!

Our thanks to long-time advertiser, Joey Renfro, and his **Renfro's Glass**. They've been with us from the start 8 years ago and we appreciate their continued support. Joey and his staff are experts in all types of glass installation and service. Visit them at 714 North Street in Nacogdoches or phone 936.564.6602 and they'll be happy to help you! Pictured with Joey is *Around the Town* Advertising Sales Manager, Sharon Pinkston-Roberts.



We Love our advertisers!

Many thanks to our friends, Tom and Len Ma, at **Ma's Jewelry Sales and Service** for being long-time advertisers.

They offer custom design, special order, watch battery replacement, appraisals and can service all your jewelry needs.

Visit them at 2423 North Street in Nacogdoches. Phone 936.553.1984 or visit Masjewelersshowcase.com for more information.

Pictured with Tom and Len is *Around the Town* Advertising Sales Manager, Sharon Roberts.



Good News *Only* Featured in *Around The Town*

ANGELINA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

*Dig into your past!*

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE ACGS OPPORTUNITIES!

- **JANUARY 19** RANDALL PAUL HOLLAND "JOURNEY TO THE TOP COP" 5:30 PM DAVID BEARD'S CATFISH KING MEETING ROOM, LUFKIN, TEXAS
- **FEBRUARY 23**, CHUCK DENDY "J. J. COLLINS" 5:30 PM DAVID BEARD'S CATFISH KING MEETING ROOM, LUFKIN, TEXAS
- **FEBRUARY 28**, NEWTON COUNTY GENEALOGY CONFERENCE 10 AM-4 PM NEWTON CIVIC CENTER 213 EAST COURT STREET NEWTON
- **MARCH 19** DICKIE DIXON "THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE OLD STONE FORT" 5:30 PM DAVID BEARD'S CATFISH KING MEETING ROOM LUFKIN, TEXAS
- **OCTOBER 17** GENEALOGY FALL FESTIVAL 10 AM-5 PM COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM KURTH MEMORIAL LIBRARY 706 SOUTH RAGUET STREET, LUFKIN, TEXAS

All meetings are free to the public; you do not have to be a member to attend. For more information, contact Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419 or dixonherrshel51@aol.com

Hosted by: Angelina County Genealogical Society

LET US HELP PUBLICIZE YOUR EVENT!

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

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

Lamp-Lite Players Present *Barefoot in the Park*

The Lamp-Lite Players present *Barefoot in the Park*, by Neil Simon, February 13, 14, 20, 21, 2026, at 7:30 pm, and February 15 and 22, 2026, at 2:00 pm. Tickets may be purchased online at lampliteplayers.ludus.com prior to the performances. Leftover tickets, if available, will be sold at the Box Office the day of the performance 45 minutes before curtain. All seats are reserved seats.

Performing in the comedy about newlyweds in New York City are **Cristoban Morones, V Couch, Tim Williams, Mark Hooker, Samantha Johnson, and Pablo Morones. Katherine Parrish Whitbeck** directs, assisted by **Todd Phillips and Tari Dean**.

Audience members are asked to arrive at Lamp-Lite Theatre 15-30 minutes prior to curtain. More information may be found at www.lamplitetheatre.com.



We *Love* our advertisers!

A big thanks to our long-time advertiser, **Boles Feed Company, Inc.**, located at 101 Porter Street in Center.

Ken Boles and his wife, Cecilia, own this amazing store. They feature old-time personal service and are knowledgeable about all of their products for farm or home use.

Pictured with Ken is *Around the Town* Sales Manager, Sharon Pinkston-Roberts. Phone them at 936.598.3061 for information.



We *Love* our advertisers!

If you've never been to **Taqueria El 21** at 1422 Douglass Road (West Main or Hwy 21W), you've missed a real treat! Nemorio Martinez and his staff serve up authentic Mexican food unlike any other in the area. We absolutely love this place, his sweet staff and watching Nemorio work in the kitchen! Phone 936.205.4474 for more info, but you're better off just going there and pointing to the pictures on the wall showing the menu items! We thank them so much for advertising with us every month!



**SHARON ROBERTS
FOR ADVERTISING - 936.552.6758**

We *Love* our advertisers!

Rex Perry Autoplex, 3916 NW Stallings Drive in Nacogdoches has advertised with us from the very start and we appreciate them so much! General Manager Art Rodriguez, his sales and service department staff will put you in and take care of your Buick, GMC, Hyundai or pre-owned vehicle. We've known and respected the Perry Family for many years and they'll treat you like you're part of their family! Contact them today at 936.564.4688 or visit www.rexperryautoplex.com for more information. Pictured with Art is *Around the Town* Publisher, David Stallings.



Nacogdoches

the oldest town in Texas

News from City of Nacogdoches

Below is information from the City of Nacogdoches regarding upcoming events and programs. For questions regarding specific events, please refer to the contact listed in each press release.



Nacogdoches History Talk: The Life of Father Margil, presented by Father George Elliott

Presented by: Nacogdoches Historic Sites
Date/Time: Tuesday, January 20th, at 6:30pm
Location: Zion Hill, 324 N. Lanana St.
Free event, no registration needed, open to the public

Summary:

Father Margil was a Spanish Catholic missionary in Nacogdoches, and this program will explore his life and the impact of his work on the city's early history.

Event Contact:
 Veronica Amoe, Historic Sites Manager
 amoev@nactx.us
 936-560-4441

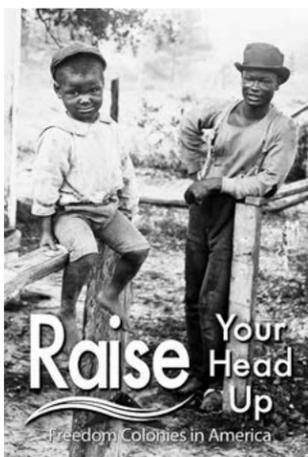


Nacogdoches Beefsteak Dinner

Presented by: Nacogdoches Historic Sites
Date/Time: Friday, January 23rd at 7:00pm
Location: Mast Hall 17 E Main St, Nacogdoches, TX 75961
Tickets: \$50

Summary:
 The Nacogdoches County Historical Foundation, together with Nacogdoches Historic Sites, invites you to the ninth annual Nacogdoches Beefsteak Dinner on Friday, January 23rd, at Mast Hall.

Event Contact:
 Veronica Amoe, Historic Sites Manager
 amoev@nactx.us
 936-560-4441



Film Screening: Raise Your Head Up, a Documentary by Richard Orton

Presented by: Nacogdoches Historic Sites & Community Partners
Date/Time: Friday, February 20th, at 7:00pm
Location: Zion Hill 324 N. Lanana St.
Free event, registration required.

Summary:
 Raise your head up explores the history and legacy of freedom colonies in East Texas. The screening will include an introduction by Orton, followed by a Q&A session with the filmmaker.

Event Contact:
 Veronica Amoe,
 Historic Sites Manager
 amoev@nactx.us
 936-560-4441

We Love our advertisers!

Many thanks to our monthly advertiser, **Complete Ag Services** and **Complete Ag Tractor and Equipment**, 3915 NW Stallings Dr in Nacogdoches. Sam Sharp, Clay Jones and their staff are experts who can help with all of your farm needs. I've known Sam's and Clay's parents all my life and they raised these boys right! You'll always be treated right when you deal with them. Phone 936.305.3346, visit www.completeag.us or email sales@completeag.us for more information. Pictured with Sam Sharp is *Around the Town* Publisher, David Stallings.



We Love our advertisers!

A big "Thank You" to **Monday Sign Service** and **Armadillo Signs**, of Nacogdoches. Jason and Milinda Monday can help you with everything from HUGE outdoor signs to small decals. They have many years of experience and are some of the most talented people we know. They also do so much for our community and individuals that you never hear about. The next time that you need any type of signs, banners or custom decals, please contact our friends at 936.564.4304 or visit www.mondaysignservice.com.



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NEWS

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SPORTS

EVENTS

WEATHER



WHAT'S HAPPENING



January 2026

Classic Car Cruise In
Fri, Jan. 2nd 4-6pm
Clear Springs

Market on Main
Sat, Jan. 3rd 9am-1pm
305 East Main St.

Winter Concert: East Texas Chamber Winds
Sat, Jan. 3rd 7pm
Fredonia Hotel

Swing Dancing Class
Thu, Jan. 8th 7:30-8:45pm
C. L. Simon Recreation Center

Piney Woods Entrepreneurship Network
Thu, Jan. 22nd 5:30-7pm
Buffalo Wild Wings

Both Bloom's 5th Birthday Party
Fri, Jan. 23rd 10am-5pm
Both Bloom Studio

Nacogdoches Beefsteak Dinner
Fri, Jan. 23rd 7pm
Mast Hall

Pineywoods Youth Rodeo
Jan. 23rd-25th
Nacogdoches County Expo & Civic Center

Kid Fish
Sat, Jan. 24th 9am-12pm
4800 Pearl Street

Craft Haven Paint Night
1/8, 1/15, 1/22, & 1/29 6-8:30pm
118 North Church Street

Naca Valley Vineyard
Pizza on the Pavilion:
Andy's Wood-Fired Pizza every Thurs-Sat.
1/3:Randy C Moore LIVE 5:30pm

Historic Sites Hours

Locations are Italicized

Old University Building:
Tue-Fri 1-4pm & Sat 10am-4pm
Durst-Taylor Historic House and Gardens:
Wed-Sat 10am-4pm
Zion Hill Baptist Church:
Wed-Fri & 1st & 2nd Sat of the month 10am-4pm
Stone Fort Museum:
Wed-Sat 10am-4pm & Sun 1-5pm
Nacogdoches Railroad Depot:
Thu-Sat 10am-4pm

Maklemore's Ale House & Bistro
Wine Down Wednesdays: Live Music
1/9: Saloan's Solo Gig 6pm

Banita Creek Hall
Thursdays: Ladies Night
Fridays: Dollar Night
1/3: Chris Wells
1/24: Aaron Watson with Dax Davis

Lone Star Trivia
All times are 7pm unless stated otherwise
Tuesday: 1/13 & 1/27 Bottlecap Alley
Thursday: 1/8, 1/15, 1/22, & 1/29 Fredonia Brewery

Madhatter Distillery
All Events 21+
1/3: Jay & Linda Kaye 7-9:30pm
1/10: Nessa & Bailey 7-10pm
1/16: Guided Paint & Sip 6:30-9:30pm
1/17: Scott Floyd Live 7-9:30pm
1/24: Jay & Linda Kaye 7-9:30pm
1/30: Glaze & Sip with Muddy Pants Pottery 6:30-9:30
1/31: A'na & Micah Live 7-9

Lumberjack Harley Davidson
1/3: New Year, New Rider Party 12-3pm
1/10: Beat the Winter Blues: Sale + Social 12-3pm
1/17: Bike Blessings 12-3pm
1/24: Cup Pong Royale 12-3pm
1/31: Winter Wash & Jam 12-3pm

Farmers Market

Every Saturday 9am-12pm
Nacogdoches Farmers Market

Aperitivo Cafe & Gelato
Thursdays: Piano & Pour 6-9pm
1/3: Cars & Coffee 9am-12pm

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

Fredonia Brewery
1/1-1/6: Closed
Trivia every Thursday @ 7pm
Live Music every Friday & Saturday
1/24: Chili Cookoff 12-3pm

SFA Fine Arts
Locations are Italicized
Cole Art Center:
1/1-1/31: Celebrating Light & Color by Peter Andrew
Griffith Fine Arts Building, Turner Auditorium:
1/22: "The Outsiders" Screening Ft. Special Guest C. Thomas Howell
1/23: Children's Show: Super Scientific Circus 9:30am & 12:30pm
1/30: University Series: Comedian James P. Connolly 7:30pm
Wright Music Building:
1/22: Eight Hands Piano Concert
1/30-1/31: Seventh Annual Choral Conducting Symposium

SFA Gardens
Locations are Italicized
Brundrett Conservation Education Building:
1/8: Everything You Wanted to Know About Maples But Were Afraid to Ask 7-8pm

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

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

LET US HELP PUBLICIZE YOUR EVENT!

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

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

Nacogdoches Church Directory

SPONSORED BY



Cason Monk-Metcalf FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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

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

- Agape Life Church** — 3500 North Street #3, 75965 — 936.559.3081
- Antioch Baptist Church** — 1421 Greer Street, 75961 — 936.569.7432
- Apostolic Lighthouse** — 1801 Durst Street
- Appleby Baptist Church** — 13995 US-59, 75965
- Austin Heights Baptist Church** — 2806 Appleby Sand Rd, 75965 — 936.564.0818
- Bethel Temple Church of God in Christ** — 1716 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, 75961 — 936.305.5138
- Bethlehem Mission** — 125 NE Stallings Drive, 75961 — 936.564.6278
- Bonita Methodist Church** — 10303 Hwy 259 @ Central Heights — 936.560.2028
- Calvary Baptist Church** — 3732 NE Stallings Drive, 75965 — 936.564.4539
- Calvary Pentecostal Church** — 2800 Old Lufkin Rd, 75964 — 936.564.6835
- Cariker Street Seventh-day Adventist Church**— 909 Cariker Street, 75961 — 936.564.2197
- Centro De Vida Cristiana** — 2933 Hunter Street, 75964 — 936.615.4753
- Christ Episcopal Church** — 502 E Starr Ave, 75961 — 936.564.0421
- Christian Life Center | Pentecostal Church** — 2604 Stallings Drive N, 75964 — 936.560.1431
- Church of Christ** — 3831 NE Stallings Drive, 75961 — 936.205.5956
- Corner Post Cowboy Church** — 8151 FM 1638, 75964 — 936.645.0123
- Davis Memorial Church of God** — 1614 Gasaway Rd, 75964 — 936.564.8401
- Eastside United Pentecostal Church** — 3801 Center Rd, 75961 — 936.564.6432
- Fairview United Methodist Church** — 6296 TX-21, 75961
- Faith Temple Church** — 217 Sweetgum Street, 75961 — 936.559.1502
- First Baptist Church** — 411 North Street, 75961 — 936.564.7379
- First Christian Church** — 702 Mound Street, 75961 — 936.564.7389
- First Pentecostal Church** — 1622 Douglass Rd, 75964 — 936.569.6784
- First United Methodist Church** — 201 E Hospital Street, 75961 — 936.564.8308
- Forest Pine Church** — 3738 S Fredonia Street, 75964
- Fredonia Hill Baptist Church** — 1711 South Street, 75964 — 936.564.8386
- Glory Gang** — 1610 SW Stallings Drive, 75964 — 1.855.456.7944
- Godtel Ministries** — 330 E. Main Street, 75961 — 936.569.7914
- Gospel Assembly Church** — 2916 Lilly Street, 75964 — 936.219.0251
- Grace Baptist Church** — 4120 NW Stallings Drive, 75964 — 936.552.8988
- Grace Bible Church** — 2305 Raguet Street, 75965 — 936.564.8867
- Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church** — SE Loop 224, 75961 — 936.559.0952
- Gravel Ridge Missionary Baptist Church** — 7425 FM 225, 75964
- Greater Faith Tabernacle** — 2800 Old Lufkin Rd, 75964 — 936.564.6835
- Harmonia Baptist Church** — 2547 Old Post Oak Rd, 75965 — 936.552.1956
- Harmony Baptist Church** — 268 County Rd 726, 75964 — 936.569.7381
- Harvest Point Church** — 2708 South Street, 75964 — 936.569.9342
- Heritage Primitive Baptist Church** — 128 Hunt Street, 75965 — 936.554.0102
- High Praise Tabernacle** — 1607 Douglass Rd, 75964
- Iglesia Bautista Cristiana** — 1917 S Fredonia Street, 75964 — 936.462.8692
- Iglesia Bautista Vida Eterna** — 2612 Williams Street, 75964 — 936.462.0719
- Iglesia Evangelica Cristiana Espiritual** — 501 Lenwood Drive, 75964
- Immaculate Conception Catholic Church** — 1422 County Rd 724, 75964 — 936.560.3200
- Impact Cowboy Church of Nacogdoches** — 415 FM 2112, 75961 — 936.569.8559
- International Church of Nacogdoches** — 1610 SW Stallings Drive, 75964 — 936.564.7265
- Iron Wheel Baptist Church** — 820 1st Street, 75961 — 936.569.8358
- Jacob's Memorial Cogic** — 1717 Castleberry Street, 75961 — 936.564.7493
- Johnson Chapel CME Church** — 614 3rd Street, 75961 — 936.569.9703
- Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses** — 2832 NE Stallings Drive, 75965 — 936.560.6571
- Life Church** — 702 N University Drive, 75961 — 936.205.5956
- Little Zion Baptist Church** — 305 Shawnee Street, 75961 — 936.564.4577
- Macedonia Baptist Church** — 169 County Rd 719, 75964 — 936.564.3148
- Martinsville Baptist Church** — 10892 FM 95, 75961 — 936.554.1344
- Miracle Tabernacle** — 3214 E Main Street, 75961 — 936.4624.8575
- Mosaic Church | Nacogdoches** — 2603 SE Stallings Drive, 75961 — 936.615.3199
- Mt Moriah Baptist Church** — 1413 Powers Street, 75964 — 936.564.3058
- Mt-Zion Baptist Church** — 3767 SE Stallings Drive, 75961 — 936.554.7294
- Nacogdoches Bible Fellowship** — 2220 E Main Street, 75961 — 936.569.7077
- Nacogdoches Christian Fellowship** — 1701 E Main Street, 75961 — 936.560.1948
- Nacogdoches Community Church / Victory Fellowship** — 1907 Stallings Drive N, 75964 — 936.569.2720
- Nacogdoches First Church of the Nazarene** — 211 SE Stallings Drive, 75964 — 936.305.5351
- Nacogdoches Korean Baptist Church** — 1711 South Street, 75964 — 972.632.0560
- Nacogdoches Seventh-day Adventist Church** — 4407 Old Tyler Rd, 75964 — 936.564.1905
- New Birth Fellowship Church** — 2910 E Main Street, 75961 — 936.569.7334
- New Creation Nations Christian Center** — 3806 NW Stallings Drive, 75964
- New Hope Baptist Church** — 819 Ritchie Street, 75961 — 936.225.8580
- New Hope Methodist Church** — 5301 E Main Street, 75961 — 936.564.7693
- New Life Christian Fellowship** — 4111 FM 1878, 75965 — 936.674.7339
- North Street Church of Christ** — 3914 North Street, 75965 — 936.564.2471
- Northpointe Church of God** — 3900 Appleby Sand Rd, 75965 — 936.560.2358
- Northwood Baptist Church** — 3224 NE Stallings Drive, 75965 — 936.564.2969
- Oak Grove Baptist Church** — 2603 SE Stallings Drive, 75961 — 936.569.0756
- Old North Baptist Church** — 332 County Rd 205, 75965
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church** — 4401 Old Lufkin Rd, 75964 — 936.560.3506
- Pine Flat CME Church** — 899 FM 3228, 75961 — 936.564.4224
- Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church** — 4922 FM 2864, 75965 — 936.559.5445
- Power Of The Word** — 1501 Industrial Drive, 75964
- Redeemer Lutheran Church** — 2306 Appleby Sand Rd, 75965 — 936.564.6729
- Redemption Baptist Church** — 3716 South Street, 75964 — 936.414.6777
- Rey De Reyes Iglesia Cristiana** — 1705 SW Stallings Drive, 75964 — 936.462.8008
- Rock Springs Church** — 203 County Rd 819, 75964
- Sacred Heart Catholic Church** — 2508 Appleby Sand Rd, 75965 — 936.564.7807
- Sandy Ridge Church** — 75964
- Saint Paisios the Athonite Orthodox Christian Mission** — 614 E Starr Ave, 75961 — 936.622.0622
- Saints Temple Church of God in Christ** — 2604 Ellis Street, 75964 — 936.560.3506
- Shady Grove Baptist Church** — 2548 FM 2112, 75961 — 936.560.2721
- Shawnee Church of Christ** — 612 Shawnee Street, 75961 — 936.564.2103
- Southside Church of Christ** — 3738 S Fredonia Street, 75964 — 936.559.1800
- Stallings Drive Baptist Church** — 728 SE Stallings Drive, 75964 — 936.564.2075
- Star Hope Baptist Church** — 2305 Looneyville Rd, 75964 — 936.564.1369
- St James Baptist Church** — 2633 Canyon Street, 75964 — 936.564.7887
- St Mary's Chapel** — 215 College Street, 75965 — 936.564.0661
- St Matthew Church** — 2720 Matthew Street, 75964
- St Paul's Methodist Church** — 601 Moore Street, 75961 — 936.564.3585
- Stonewall Fellowship Church** — 1303 S University Drive, 75961 — 936.587.9895
- Sunset Galilee Missionary Baptist Church** — 1609 S Rayburn Drive, 75961 — 936.564.3853
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** — 3307 Center Rd, 75961 — 936.564.0687
- The Citizen Nac** — 108 N Lanana Street, 75961 — 936.237.6395
- Timber Creek Church** — 3801 North Street, 75965 — 936.632.3540
- Union Cross Missionary Baptist Church** — 2905 Old Tyler Rd, 75964 — 936.564.9838
- University Church** — 2505 North Street, 75965 — 936.205.3100
- Vineyard Church** — 4140 FM 1878, 75961 — 936.564.4600
- Westminster Presbyterian Church** — 903 North Street, 75961 — 936.564.0203
- Westside Missionary Baptist Church** — 3109 Durst Street, 75964 — 936.564.0713
- Woden United Pentecostal Church** — 136 Rankin Rd, 75961 — 936.560.2733
- Zion Hill First Baptist Church** — 324 N Lanana Street, 75961

STATEPOINT MEDIA

THEME: YEAR-IN-REVIEW

ACROSS

1. W.E.B Du Bois' org.
6. Rascal
9. Ho-hum
13. "Pomp and Circumstance" composer
14. Tropical constrictor
15. Forgo
16. Tequila source
17. + or - atom
18. Reason by deduction
19. *Trade war "weapon," pl.
21. *2025 MLB World Series winners
23. ____-tzu
24. C&H crop
25. Dunce
28. Western necktie
30. Catch in a snare
35. Ginger cookie
37. Master of his castle
39. Use a razor
40. British slang for donkey
41. Arch and ball locations
43. Winglike
44. March celebrants
46. *Arthur Sze, 2025 ____ Laureate
47. Dam-like structure
48. *BeyoncE's "Cowboy ____," 2025 Grammy winner
50. King Kong and Curious George, e.g.
52. Like a fox
53. What Pinocchio did
55. *Florida Panthers won this org.'s '25 championship
57. *"Wicked: ____"
61. *Late environmentalist and chimpanzee expert
65. German submarine destroyer
66. *2025 Ryder Cup loser
68. Manuscript sheet
69. Brazilian coins
70. Roll-your-own one, for short
71. To the left, on a boat
72. Orpheus' instrument
73. Geological time period
74. They are cut by Federal Reserve

DOWN

1. At room temperature, bar order
2. Algae, sing.
3. Petri dish filler
4. Raise trivial objections
5. Ready to be assembled
6. Avian wader
7. Farm sound
8. China's goodwill " ____ diplomacy"
9. Collision, onomatopoeically speaking
10. *Taylor Swift's "The ____ of a Showgirl"
11. Affirm solemnly
12. Third-person possessive pronoun
15. Makes broader
20. Why do they fall in love?
22. *Aryna Sabalenka's seed
24. Auto contents
25. Pertaining to osmium
26. *2025 Academy Awards Best Picture winner
27. Faquir, alt.spelling
29. Pilot's stunt
31. Spring event
32. Pneumonia symptom, pl.
33. Be of use
34. *Blue Origin's 2025 singing passenger
36. Boll weevil, e.g.
38. * ____ Seek
42. Shorthand typist, for short
45. Serfs
49. 2016 Olympics host, for short
51. Ram's horn at a synagogue
54. Draw a conclusion
56. Parkinson's disease drug
57. Roll up
58. Heed
59. Lion sound
60. Dorothy's last name
61. *Lady of "The Mayhem Ball"
62. Tons (2 words)
63. Lira, pl.
64. Land parcels
67. *Gary Oldman received this honorific in 2025

CROSSWORD														
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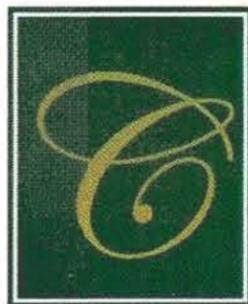
Answers to puzzles from page 43

N	A	A	C	P		I	M	P		B	L	A	H			
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7	5	2	3	8	1	6	9	4
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Fairview Baptist Church — 3742 FM 2108, 75901 — 936.637.1466
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First Baptist Church Lufkin — 106 E Bremond Ave, 75901 — 936.634.3386
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Promise Land Baptist Church — 208 Whitehouse Drive, 75901 — 936.639.9633
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St Cyprian's Episcopal Church — 919 S John Redditt Drive, 75904 — 936.639.1253
St Paul's United Methodist Church — 1505 S John Redditt Drive, 75904 — 936.634.7810
St Thomas Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church — 2112 N Timberland Drive, 75901
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints — 606 Bending Oak Street, 75904
The River Lufkin — 617 S Bynum Street, 75904
The River Lufkin, A Church For Whosoever — 105 Holmes Rd, 75904 — 936.632.7407
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Northside Church of Christ — 192 US 96, 75935 — 936.332.9872
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 Big's - 3122 Adkinson Dr. (Hwy 103E)
 Big's - 4609 Hwy 103E
 Big's - 620 N. Raguet
 Big's Valero - 1910 N. Timberland
 Big's Texaco - 1203 S. Chestnut St.
 Bodacious BBQ - 2207 W. Frank Ave. (Hwy 94)
 Brookshire Brothers - 301 S. Chestnut
 Brookshire Brothers Gaslight Plaza - 1807 W. Frank Ave.
 Brookshire Brothers Express - 2106 S. 1st St.
 Casa Morales Mexican Restaurant - 1001 S. 1st St.
 Catfish King - 806 S. Medford Dr.
 Chen's - 302 S. Timberland Dr.
 Cherry's Grocery & Valero - 2701 N. Raguet
 Crown Colony Shell/Snappy's - 101 Champion Dr.
 Food Mart Exxon - 612 Frank Ave.
 Food Mart Exxon - 6480 Hwy 69S
 JR Food Mart - 1114 E. Denman Ave.
 Lone Star Charlie's Family Restaurant - 1910 E. Denman Ave.
 Lucky's Valero - 1707 N. John Redditt Dr.
 Massingill's Meat Mkt - 3728 Hwy 69N
 Maytag Laundry - 601 S. 1st
 Mexico Express - 1603 W. Frank Ave. (Hwy 94W)
 Mom's Diner - 420 W. Frank Ave.
 Napoli's Restaurant - 107 W. Lufkin Ave.
 On the Road - 4110 S. 1st St.
 On the Road - 3503 S. Chestnut
 On the Road - 1001 E. Denman Ave.
 On the Road - 2909 E. Denman Ave (Hwy 69S)
 On the Road - 3049 Hwy 103 W
 Pablo's BBQ & Mexican Food - 3900 Hwy 69N
 Pelican Pointe Cajun Kitchen - 1302 N. John Redditt Dr.
 Ralph and Kacoo's - 3107 S. 1st (Hwy 59S)
 Ray's Drive In - 420 N. Timberland Dr.
 Rustica's Kitchen - 317 S. Timberland Dr.
 Shell Food Mart - 3008 Adkinson Dr. (Hwy 103E)
 Sleep Inn/MainStay Suites - 2409 N. Timberland Dr.
 Stringer's Lufkin Barbecue - 203 S. Chestnut St.
 Tia Juanita's Fish Camp - 3102 S. John Redditt Dr.
 Timberland Chevron - 804 N. Timberland Dr.
 Tommy's Watch & Jewelry - 800 S. Timberland Dr.
 Walgreens - 102 N. Timberland Dr.
 Walgreens - 1000 W. Frank Ave.
 Wash & Dry Washateria - 114 E. Laurel Ave.
 West Loop Chevron - 904 S. John Redditt Dr.

In Diboll:

Brookshire Brothers - 221 N. Temple Dr. (U.S. Hwy 59)
 Diboll Depot - 1605 N. Temple Dr. (U.S. Hwy 59)
 On The Road - 1580 N. Temple Dr. (US Hwy 59)

In Homer:

Homer Mini Grocery - 7075 Hwy 69S

In Hudson:

Brookshire Brothers Express - 5750 Ted Trout Dr. (Hwy 94W)
 Brookshire Brothers Express - 6564 Ted Trout Dr. (Hwy 94W)

In Huntington:

Brookshire Brothers - 885-A Hwy 69S
 Little Boots Grocery & Chevron - 101 Hwy 69S
 Papa's Pit & More - 501 N. Main St.

In Pollok:

Brookshire Brothers/Polk's - 6925 Hwy 69N

In Redland:

JOC Stop Exxon - 5389 US Hwy 59N

In Zavalla:

Brookshire Brothers Express - 198 E. Main St.
 Coleman's Store - 188 Hwy 147 (@ Hwy 63)

NACOGDOCHES COUNTY

In the City of Nacogdoches:

Appleby Sand Mercantile Cafe' - 6530 FM 2609
 Appleby Sand Depot - 3023 Appleby Sand Rd.
 Arbor - 3002 Westward Dr.
 Auntie Pastas - 211 Old Tyler Road
 Barbecue House - 704 N. Stallings Dr.
 Barkeeps - 3308 North St.
 Big's - 2430 SE Stallings Dr.
 Big's - 540 NE Stallings Dr.
 Blue Eyed Coco's Market Square - 412 E. Main St.
 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 St.
 Brown Family Health Center - 1407 E. Main St.
 Buckle Up Insurance - 1122 N. University Drive - Suite 119
 Butcher Boy's - 603 North St.
 Cataract, Glaucoma & Retina Consultants - 3302 NE Stallings Dr.
 CC's Smokehouse - 2709 Westward Dr.
 Chamber of Commerce - 2516 North St.
 Charles Pool Real Estate - 3505 North St.
 Chevron - 1000 N. University Dr.
 Chevron - 3228 North St.
 Chique-n-Tiques on Main - 409 E. Main St.
 CiCi's Pizza - 3801 North St. - Suite 19
 Claw Daddy's Market - 3322 Center Hwy
 Clear Springs - 211 Old Tyler Rd.
 Coldwell-Banker Blueberry Realty - 112 E. Main St.
 Copy Center Nac - 2618 North St.
 Country Kettle Buffet - 3205 N. University Drive - Suite S
 Days Inn and Suites by Wyndham - 2724 North St;
 Doches Credit Union - 920 NW Stallings Dr. @ Hwy 21W
 Dr. Ronnie Hancock Family Dentistry - 1302 Raguet St..
 El Rancho Restaurant - 123 King St.
 El Taco Salsa - 4512 North St.
 Exxon - 3104 N. University Dr.
 Farmers State Bank - 3540 NE Stallings Dr.
 Fitness 360 - 4822 N. University Dr.
 G & G Lock & Safe - 916 Park St.
 Gound Chevrolet - 1015 North Street
 Granary Health Foods - 4411 South St.
 Guacamole's - 1315 North St.
 H & Z Valero - 1626 N. University Dr.
 Herman Power Tire - 222 South St.
 HoneyBee Health Foods - 3801 North St. - Suite 17
 Hop In/Roady's Chevron - 4919 NW Stallings Dr.
 Independence Manor - 1501 Pruitt Hill Dr.
 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.
 Kline's Wrap-It-Up - 628 N. University Dr.
 Kroger - 3205 N. University Dr.
 Kyle Brasher Insurance - 212 South St.
 Lehmann Eye Center - 5300 North St.
 Linda's Cutting Edge - 2211 S. University Dr.
 Lone Star Farm & Home Center - 608 W. Main St.
 M & S Pharmacy - 917 E. Austin St.
 Ma's Jewelry - 2423 North St.
 Martin Kennel - 512 CR 217
 McCoy's Building Materials - 4009 NW Stallings Dr.
 Meadow Ridge Outdoors - 1090 CR 231
 Memory Lane - 3205 N. Univrsity Dr. - Suite F
 Mike Perry Motors - 3812 South St.
 Mike's BBQ - 1622 South St.
 Mustard Seed - 1330 N. University Dr.
 NacBurger - 3205 N. University Dr.
 Nacogdoches Arts Collaborative - 320 North St - Suite 307
 Nacogdoches County Expo/Civic Center - 3805 NW Stallings Dr.
 Nacogdoches CVB - 200 E. Main St.
 Nacogdoches Senior Center - 1601 W. Austin St.
 Napoli's Restaurant - 2119 North St.
 Nikki Evans-Wallace State Farm Insurance - 332 N. University Dr.

NACOGDOCHES COUNTY

In the City of Nacogdoches

On The Road Valero - 1304 NW Stallings Dr.
 Papi's Mexican Restaurant - 422 E. Main St.
 Perry Propane - 6500 Franklin St
 Pike Saw & Tool - 2502 NW Stallings Dr.
 Pineywoods Financial - 303 Creek Bend Blvd - Suite B
 R & K Distributors - 6821 North St.
 Red House Winery - 108 E. Pilar St.
 Renfro's Glass - 714 North St.
 Rick's Valero/Dickies BBQ - 3505 South St.
 Roma's Italian Kitchen - 124 E. Main St.
 Sam's Southern Eatery - 1220 North St.
 Simpson Real Estate - 104 North St.
 Sombreros - 3000 North St..
 Sunshine Food Mart - 2013 North St.
 Taquitos El Jalisciense - 3217 North St.
 Taqueria El 21 - 1422 Douglass Road
 Texas Bank - 500 North St.
 Texas State Optical - 4729 NE Stallings Dr.
 Thrall's Grocery, Deli & Cafe' - 7144 Hwy 21 East
 VIP Cleaners - 4515 North St. - Suite 1
 Walmart - 4810 North St.
 Windhill Apartments - 1324 Pruitt Hill Dr.
 Woden Rd. Qwik Stop - 2500 Woden Rd

In Appleby:

Gimme's Exxon - 14542 North U.S. Hwy 59
 Stuckey's - 14084 North U.S. Hwy 59

In Central Heights:

Brookshire Brother's Express - 9855 U.S. Hwy 259 North
 Central Heights Depot/Whataburger - 10175 U.S Hwy 259 North

In Garrison:

Bulldog Express/J & S Food Mart - 381 N U.S. Hwy 59
 Garrison Gas & Convenience Store Exxon - 432 N U.S. Hwy 59

In Martinsville:

L & M Quick Stop - 13101 Hwy 7

In Woden:

Dollar General Store - 5130 FM 226

SHELBY COUNTY

In the City of Center:

Boles Feed Co. - 101 Porter St.
 Boyd Adams Barber Shop - 424 U.S. Hwy 96N
 Brookshire Brothers - 105 Hurst St.
 Covington Lumber & Bldg Materials - 1595 Tenaha St.
 Farmers State Bank - 115 Shelbyville St.
 H & S Discount Foods - 705 Shelbyville St..
 Rancho Grande - 816 Tenaha St.
 ReSale Mall - 730 Shelbyville St.
 Shelby County Chamber of Commerce - 100 Courthouse Square A-101
 T/R's Steaks & More - 892 Hurst St.

In Huxley:

Trail's End Grocery & RV Park - 5437 FM 3172

In Joaquin:

Bink's Joaquin Quick Stop - 12762 U.S. Hwy 84
 Brookshire Brothers - 113 Haslam Sawmill Rd. - Hwy 84

In Shelbyville:

Shelbyville Grocery and Valero - 5270 Hwy 87S

In Tenaha

Bink's Quick Stop - 300 S. George Bowers Dr. (Hwy 59)

In Timpson:

Bink's Timpson Quick Stop - 674 N. 1st St. - Hwy 59
 Brookshire Brothers - 829 N. 1st St. - Hwy 59
 Tie & Timber Lodge & Event Center - 397 Jacob St.

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