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AUGUST 2026

Legacy Rolls On: Family Tire Store Enters New Chapter — *The Lowery Family Takes the Reins*

by Dr. Vi Alexander

The soft ding of a bell once echoed across Herman Power’s service station each time a car rolled over the rubber hose, calling an attendant to greet drivers with a friendly “Fill ’er up?” In 1948, that kind of full service—checking oil, wiping windshields, topping off radiators, and even re-capping worn tires—was simply part of everyday life when Herman Power, Sr. opened his station in the 200 block of North Street. Seventy-five years later, though the business has expanded and changed locations twice, its legacy continues at 222 South Street, Nacogdoches.



The Lowerys—Matthew, Sarah, Garrett, Sonia and David; the Powers—Greg and Frank

HERMAN POWER - Page 2

Casa Morales Introduces New Daily Buffet!

Iconic Lufkin Mexican restaurant, Casa Morales, recently began offering a daily all-you-can-eat buffet and it has become an instant hit with regulars and new customers! The buffet is available from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., featuring: Fresh Cheese and Beef Enchiladas, Chicken Fajitas, Flautas, Burrito with chili and cheese, Carne Guisada, Relish, Guacamole, Sour Cream, Salad, Chips, Salsa, Chiles Tostados and dessert for only \$13.99. Tamales are included on the buffet on Fridays and Saturdays. Of course, their regular extensive menu is available, including the lowest-priced daily specials in town for \$8.99. In addition, they offer delicious breakfast tacos, as well as family-size take-home meals.



Ambrosio, Juanita, Angel and the hard-working, friendly staff welcome you to the new buffet at Casa Morales!

In the spring of 1972, Casa Morales became one of the first authentic Mexican restaurants in East Texas, opening at the intersection of Denman and Chestnut streets in Lufkin. The driving force behind this culinary gem was Juanita Aguilar, whose passion for creating delicious Mexican dishes had already gained her renown among family and friends. Juanita and her husband, Ambrosio, quickly built a loyal following with their amazing food and friendly atmosphere. In 1976, Casa Morales embarked on a significant move that would shape its destiny. The restaurant relocated to its current location after purchasing the property from another iconic restaurant of the 1960s, Iona’s. This move marked a pivotal moment in Casa Morales’ history, solidifying its presence in the

CASA MORALES - Page 3



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HERMAN POWER

Over the decades, the business passed from Herman Power, Sr. to his son, Herman Power, Jr., and later to his grandsons, Greg and Frank Power—each generation carrying forward the same values that first built the station. Customers came back not just for tires and automotive care, but for the familiar faces behind the counter and the kind of dependable service that felt more like visiting neighbors than doing business. “It was never just about selling tires,” Greg Power recalled, “It’s been about serving our neighbors and building relationships that last.” In many ways, the Power family’s story reflects something increasingly rare today: a family-owned business



Herman Power Tire 1964

sustained not only by hard work, but by trust, loyalty, and a deep sense of community pride.

The decision to sell did not come lightly. After 75 years of family ownership, it marked the close of a chapter filled with memories, lifelong friendships, and a steady commitment to the community they had long served. Still, the Power family found comfort in knowing the business would remain in the hands of another family—one that shares the same belief in hard work, integrity, and taking care of neighbors. On July 6, 2026, the David and Sonia Lowery family officially took the reins.



Herman Power Tire Today

The Lowerys understand what it means to build something together. For more than two decades, they worked side by side running a poultry farm in Douglas, Texas, learning the rhythms of family and business along the way. Today,

Continued on page 3

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Our Pledge . . .

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

CASA MORALES

community.

In 2007, tragedy struck when a kitchen fire ravaged the restaurant, threatening to extinguish the Casa Morales legacy. The loss was heavy as echoes of the past along with a landmark building that dated back to the early part of the twentieth century came down. However, the indomitable spirit of Juanita and Ambrosio ensured that the restaurant would not only survive but come back stronger than ever. The South First Street location was rebuilt, and Casa Morales continued to serve its loyal patrons with the same warmth and flavor they had come to love.



A crew from Truss Plumbing in Lufkin enjoying the buffet at Casa Morales. L-R: Donald Pittmon, Bryce Skrehot, Peter Savery and Rance Truss.



L-R: Tolo Basoria, Maria Elvia Salinas, Angel Diosdado and Silve Diosdado

loyal staff.

Casa Morales is located at 1001 South First Street in Lufkin. Phone 936.634.6811 or visit their website, casamorales1.com. Closed Sundays.

Throughout these changes and challenges, Casa Morales remained true to its roots. It continued to be a charming family-style café, a haven where patrons could savor the same authentic Mexican flavors that had made it a local institution.

The restaurant’s ability to adapt and persevere, even in the face of adversity, is a testament to the unwavering dedication of Juanita, Ambrosio, and their

Continued from page 2

that same spirit carries into Herman Power Tire. David and Sonia Lowery, along with their three children, each play a role: Matthew, now leading daily operations, brings business experience from TPF Nutrition at Texas Farm Products; Garrett also in operations balances his work at the shop with his service as a Nacogdoches firefighter; Sarah, a fourth-grade teacher in Douglass ISD, lends a hand when she can; Sonia serves as a school librarian and contributes in various ways; and David supports the business through outside sales while continuing his lifelong passion for raising cattle.



L-R: Garrett, Sonia, David, Sarah and Matthew Lowery

Rather than an ending, both families see the sale as the next chapter in a story that was decades in the making. The goal is not to change what has made the business special, but to carry it forward—preserving its reputation while carefully preparing for the years ahead. “We’re honored to carry forward the legacy built over the past 75 years,” Matthew said. “We understand the responsibility that comes with serving a community that has supported this business for generations.” For longtime employees—some of whom have spent much of their working lives there—the transition brings a mix of reflection and optimism. Their steady presence has helped shape the business into a trusted fixture, and their experience will guide it through this new chapter.

Though the names on the ownership papers have changed, the heart of the business remains much the same—dependable service, familiar faces, and a commitment to doing things the right way. Herman Power Tire continues to serve the community as a trusted tire dealer, offering a full range of automotive repairs and services. It also holds a distinction few can claim, standing as the oldest Michelin dealer in the state of Texas, while offering BF Goodrich and other trusted brands. “We’re honored to carry on the legacy built over the past 75 years,” Matthew said. “We know what it means to serve a community that has stood behind this business for generations. With experienced and courteous personnel, we can assure you quality products and auto service.” Services include, but are not limited to:

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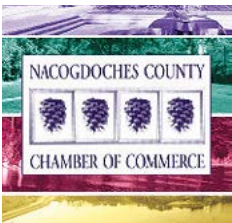
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Chamber Connection
by Kelly Augustine
IOM, President & CEO,
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Leadership Development Is Investing in Our Future

Strong communities do not happen by accident. They are built by people who are willing to step forward, take responsibility, ask thoughtful questions and work together toward a better future. That is why leadership development is important not only for our local businesses, but for the entire Nacogdoches community.

For businesses, investing in leadership development is an investment in long-term success. Effective leaders help build strong teams by improving communication, navigating challenges and creating workplaces where employees feel valued and motivated. Leadership development also helps businesses prepare for the future by identifying and equipping the next generation of decision-makers.

The need for strong leadership extends far beyond the workplace. Our community is shaped by the people who volunteer with nonprofits, serve on boards, support local initiatives, mentor young people, contribute to civic conversations and work to solve challenges. When individuals have the skills and confidence to lead, the entire community benefits.

This is one of the reasons the Nacogdoches County Chamber offers Leadership Nacogdoches (LN). The LN program is designed to bring together emerging and established leaders from across our community to learn, connect and gain a deeper understanding of the people, organizations and industries that make Nacogdoches unique.

Through hands-on experiences, meaningful conversations and exposure to the issues and opportunities facing our community, participants gain more than leadership skills. They develop relationships and a broader perspective. They begin to see how the decisions made in one area of our community can impact another and how collaboration can lead to meaningful progress.

Since 1982, LN has helped shape emerging leaders by giving them the resources needed to become more engaged and effective contributors. Many participants go on to serve their businesses, organizations and community in new and expanded ways. The impact of the program can be seen not only in the individuals who participate, but also in the ideas they bring forward and the relationships they continue to build.

The success of LN is made possible by the dedicated individuals who invest their time and expertise in the program, including the program co-chairs - currently Charlotte Ashcraft and Paul Smith, III; a dozen or more session leaders; and Leadership Nacogdoches alumni co-chairs - currently Monica Loa and Erin Windham. Their commitments are vital for ensuring that the LN program continues to develop leaders who are prepared to make a meaningful difference in Nacogdoches.

Leadership is not reserved for people with a certain title, position or number of years of experience. Each of us has the opportunity to lead in our homes, in our workplaces and in our community. The future of our community will be shaped by people who are willing to get involved, take responsibility and lead wherever they are. The question is not whether you can be a leader. The question is: Where will you choose to lead?

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Greg; Herman, Jr.; and Frank Power



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What Goes Around Comes Around

by Robert McCandless

It started as an irritation and still gets my attention...not positive attention, as I have just turned 78 and, as the quote goes, “If it’s too loud, you’re too old.” Being that I am not ready to leave just yet, the act constantly reminds of my past actions.

Noise seems to irritate me more today than it did a few years ago. Altered exhaust systems have become a multimillion dollar industry aimed, I believe, at disturbing my peace. Just as some say that it’s getting hotter I believe everything seems to be getting louder. Harleys, Kawasakis, Suzukis and Dodge pickups are currently at the top of my “hated” list...or was until a new attempt at disturbing my peace came along.

There is a new fad among the young of our town, as they attempt to gain attention from everyone. I mean, we all want to be noticed...don’t we? I wear shirts considered so “loud” at times that folks say they heard me coming.

It was during a vacation in Puerto Rico that I became flabbergasted at how the traffic sounded. Rrrrrrrr, Bzzzzz, Waaaaak. No two cars sounded exactly the same, buzzing around with specialized mufflers on 80% of the cars. When the fad began showing up in our country, I, comically, referred to the mufflers as San Juan Specials. Although I complain here of the falsetto sounds which cover the sound of horsepower, I do love the sound of the blue 65 Chevy in town with the 454 and a full-race cam.

All of a sudden, seemingly out of nowhere we have another fad which brings us loud music. I remember laughing as I pulled up to a red light and would hear bumpers and fenders rattling in rhythm to a bass contained inside the vehicle. Recently though there seems to be a group of individuals who wish to share their playlists with everyone by installing loud speakers in their grills and slowly cruise through town. It’s as if their plea with loud mufflers wasn’t being noticed. It may have been our failure not to have waved at them or rolled down our windows and complimented them on their bass or exhaust. What ever the reason, I am somewhat annoyed about it.

Although I am at risk of becoming an old grouch sometimes, the memory of my youth raises it’s head reminding me that I too sought this attention. Just as I and my cohorts of youth, these kids want to...fit in, look or sound cool... and then again...maybe they just want to annoy people.

I am reminded that we had less options in my youth and it was less expensive for me to get attention. Back in the day, in our socioeconomically struggling neighborhood, the best I could do was to just take the muffler off my 51 Mercury. Or, with a few bucks I could get a “Glass-pack” at Pep Boys, which, after pouring oil in it and setting fire to burn out the fiberglass interior made it even louder. Sound systems of that day made it difficult to share our music with the rest of the world though. Tape decks, CD’s and FM radio had not made the scene yet and AM radios, even if they worked, only picked up a couple of channels and most of which was commercials.

In reference to the goal of young males using modern technology in bringing joy to everyone by blasting tunes through their grills, I am called to respond. Instead of throwing rocks at them, which I, at first, felt would be the appropriate response, I have developed a desire to join their throng. Next week I will be having tweeters and woofers installed in the grille of my truck and I found a yard sale last month where I found some reasonably priced old CDs by Sinatra, Dean Martin and Engelburt Humperdink. I will be presenting Old Blue Eyes and others in a way never before heard, so should you hear me coming through your neighborhood, be sure and wave...and please feel free to make a request.

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Naskila Casino Broke Ground on Naskila Casino Resort on June 18

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Photos top to bottom are: Rendering of Naskila Casino Hotel and Pool Deck, Naskila Casino Cafe & Lounge, and Naskila Casino Bar & Lounge.

Opening is scheduled for late 2028.



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Nacogdoches Author Releases New Book

Terry Curry's new book, *The Worship of God*, is now available at: westbowpress.com, amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com

"This small book has come about due to my increasing concern for the lack of biblical worship in an alarming number of Christian evangelical Protestant churches. I want to herald the confessional and orthodox position of the holiness of the person of our Triune God and the only worship that is acceptable by Him. His redemptive work in Christ Jesus deserves our obedience to His commands regarding this important issue."

Terry Curry lives with his wife, Christi, in Nacogdoches, Texas. As a Reformed Baptist, he is grounded in the Reformed theological tradition. Passionate about studying God's Word, he is committed to clearly teaching Scripture and faithfully passing on biblical truth to others.

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Lamp-Lite Theatre Will “Sell” Old Stage Lights And Host Clean-Up Day

The Lamp-Lite Players are replacing their stage lighting. On **Saturday, August 1st, 9:00 a.m., at Lamp-Lite Theatre, 4210 Lamp-Lite Lane, Nacogdoches**, the current lights, dimmer packs, and light cords will be available to any individual community members and organizations for a reasonable donation to the Lamp-Lite Players. For more information, contact Brian Oswald, Building and Grounds Director, at 936-645-7990.

In addition, the Lamp-Lite Players will host a **CLEAN-UP DAY, Saturday, August 8th, 9:00 a.m., Lamp-Lite Theatre, 4210 Lamp-Lite Lane, Nacogdoches**. Volunteers are needed for Clean-Up. For more information and to volunteer, contact Brian Oswald at 936-645-7990. Oswald encourages volunteers to bring work gloves and dress appropriately to clear large set pieces, lumber, and old stage lighting equipment.





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Miranda Hoffman
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Upcoming Events at the Nacogdoches County Expo – August 2026

For more information, visit
NACOGDOCHES, TX

August Adventures: SFA Returns, Students Back in Classroom and the Expo Center Comes ALIVE!

As the golden haze of summer begins to fade and the historic brick streets of Nacogdoches prepare for the energetic return of Stephen F. Austin State University students, our community is gearing up for a bustling month of events. From glitz and glamour to community fundraisers and youth events, August at the Expo and Civic Center promises something for everyone as we bid farewell to summer and ring in a brand-new season.

Here is a look at the exciting lineup hitting the calendar this August:

Dancing with the Nacogdoches Stars

- **Date:** August 8
- **Location:** Nacogdoches Expo Center

Kicking off the month in high style is “The Ruby Experience,” a brilliant fundraiser benefiting the Nacogdoches Senior Center. Modelled after classic ballroom glamour, this 21-and-older signature event features a dazzling evening of refined ruby-themed decor, a silent auction, a catered dinner, and breathtaking dance performances. It is an unforgettable night where local stars take the floor to support vital programs and services for our community’s seniors.

Pineywoods Youth Rodeo

- **Dates:** August 15–16

Mid-August brings a rush of cowboy hats, fast horses, and family-friendly grit to town with the annual Pineywoods Youth Rodeo. Showcasing the hard work, dedication, and incredible talent of young equestrian competitors from across the region, this event is a wonderful testament to local youth heritage and sportsmanship.

Nacogdoches County 4-H Banquet

- **Date:** August 15
- 5:30pm Upstairs Hall of Civic Center

Following right on the heels of the rodeo, the community will gather to celebrate our local youth leaders at the Nacogdoches County 4-H Banquet. This annual gathering honors the hard work, livestock projects, leadership milestones, and community service achievements of our phenomenal 4-H members over the past year.

Trick Your Tryke Fundraiser

- **Date:** August 22 (9:00 AM – 6:00 PM)

Mobility meets heart later in the month when the Pineywoods Chapter of National AMBUCS hosts its “Trick Your Tryke” fundraiser. Running all day from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, this impactful event raises crucial funds to provide adaptive tricycles, granting independence, joy, and mobility to individuals living with disabilities in our area.

Badges, Bags, and Bingo

- **Date:** August 27 (Doors open at 6:00 PM; Bingo starts at 7:00 PM)
- **Location:** Nacogdoches Civic Center

Dust off your favorite cowgirl boots and head over to the Civic Center for a wildly popular evening supporting Harold’s House – East Texas Alliance for Children. Attendees can enjoy light food, a cash bar, and rounds of high-stakes bingo where lucky winners walk away with name-brand designer purses. Most importantly, every ticket sold helps fund advocacy, forensic interviews, and trauma-focused healing for child abuse victims in our community.

As SFA students unpack their dorms and the academic year peeks over the horizon, make sure to mark your calendars and support these fantastic local causes!

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Region 5

This month’s calendar has two dates worth noting. August 30 is National Grief Awareness Day. August 31 is International Overdose Awareness Day, and the two land right next to each other on the page.

Grief is hard to hide in small communities. People notice, whether it’s an empty seat at church or a name that no longer comes up as often as it used to. Once a family is hurting, word gets around fast, usually through nothing more than an ordinary conversation. Nobody has to make an announcement. It just happens.

Overdose reaches families here, too. Some never saw it coming. Some had feared it for years. The people lost were not statistics. They were the guy who could fix just about anything with an engine. The girl whose voice stood out in the church choir. The friend who never had to be asked twice to help load a truck.

For decades, the Alcohol and Drug Awareness Council has worked with East Texas families dealing with addiction, and often grief right alongside it. Nobody there expects either one to resolve overnight. It helps to have somebody willing to stick around for the long haul, somebody who checks in a month later, not just the first week.

That may be why these two days land back-to-back on the calendar. Grief and overdose aren’t really different conversations. Both ask the same thing of the people nearby: notice, show up, and don’t assume someone struggling is a lost cause. Healing doesn’t move in a straight line; it’s a road with mountains, valleys, and curves. Neither one is meant to be carried by one person alone.

If you or someone you know needs help with substance use challenges, call the Alcohol and Drug Awareness Council at 936-634-5753 or visit adacdet.org.

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

ADAC serves the following counties: Angelina, Hardin, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, and Tyler.



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Dunning Kruger Effect

by Taylor Millard

I have been aware of this Effect for a couple of years and since I learned what it means, I notice it more often. If you are new to this term, I will do my best to provide an insight with some help from AI.

The Dunning-Kruger effect is a well-documented cognitive bias in which individuals with limited knowledge or competence in a domain tend to overestimate their abilities, while those with high expertise often underestimate theirs. First identified by psychologists David Dunning and Justin Kruger in their seminal 1999 paper published in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, the effect highlights a paradoxical relationship between competence and self-awareness.



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.

At its core, the bias stems from a metacognitive deficit—the inability to recognize one’s own shortcomings. Low-ability individuals lack the skills necessary to accurately evaluate performance, leading them to inflate their self-assessments. For example, novices in a field like chess or humor (as tested in the original studies) often rate themselves as above average, unaware of the complexities they overlook. Conversely, experts, possessing deeper insight into the nuances and difficulties of a subject, become acutely aware of what they do not know, resulting in more modest self-evaluations.

The effect has profound implications across society. In workplaces, overconfident but underqualified employees may resist feedback or pursue promotions prematurely, while talented individuals might hesitate to apply for opportunities. It contributes to phenomena such as misinformation spread on social media, where uninformed voices project undue certainty. Education and training can mitigate the bias by building both competence and reflective skills, encouraging humility and continuous learning.

Critics note that the effect is sometimes overstated or misapplied, but its fundamental insight remains valuable: true expertise often brings intellectual humility. Understanding the Dunning-Kruger effect fosters better decision-making, more empathetic discourse, and a healthier recognition that confidence does not always equate to competence. In an increasingly complex world, cultivating accurate self-assessment is not just psychologically beneficial—it is essential for personal growth and collective progress.

The crude definition is basically, the dumber you are, the smarter you think you are. We have seen this our whole lives, but never knew what to call it. I have been guilty of this, but if I admit it, then does that make it where I cannot have it? I can be very confident in my own opinions, but will try my best to admit I was incorrect when proven wrong. We see this clearly with the rise of socialism, where the proponents completely choose to ignore history and facts, but remain supremely confident they are right.

The school system that has passed failing students is creating more of these people. I passed so I must be smart, but they don’t pass, so it instills false belief in earned intelligence. Failure is undefeated in teaching the best lessons, and until we allow failure again, this phenomenon will continue to grow.

The more you know, the more you understand that you don’t know, the first step to wisdom.

David Holcomb

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Snapshot from Around the Town

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Online Public High School at Nacogdoches Public Library

The Nacogdoches Public Library is offering adults 21 years and older a second chance at earning a high school diploma through Gale Presents: Excel Adult High School. The program, provided to public libraries by Gale, part of Cengage Group, is designed to help adults obtain their high school diploma entirely online, as well as prepare them for college or the workplace. Currently, 14.1% of Nacogdoches County adults do not have a high school degree or equivalent.

Even during the best economic times, adults with less than a high school diploma face challenges to achieve success and financial stability. During an economic slowdown, it's even more apparent how interconnected education, earning potential, and unemployment can be. During the COVID-19 pandemic, those without high school diplomas suffered the highest unemployment rate and lowest median weekly earnings compared to all other education levels. In today's competitive workforce, a high school degree is essential for financial health and career advancement.

"We are proud to support this life-changing community effort by Nacogdoches Public Library in offering Gale Presents: Excel Adult High School. Earning a high school diploma leads to better jobs with larger salaries; attending college; and most importantly, a feeling of pride that comes with achieving your dreams," said Paul Gazzolo, senior vice president and general manager for Gale.

The Nacogdoches Public Library will award two scholarships for Gale Presents: Excel Adult High School to residents who qualify. Features of the program:

- The accredited high school diploma is accepted by colleges, employers, and the military (not an equivalency exam).
- The 21.5-credit curriculum is aligned to national standards. Learners can select from more than 100 core academic, elective, and college-level courses.
- There's no cost to eligible students.
- The program is 100% online, with 24/7 access to courses.
- The schedule is flexible and self-paced—learners can finish in 24 months or less. Students can graduate sooner with transfer credits.
- Transfer credits are accepted from previous high school(s) and passed portions of the GED®, HiSet®, or TASC exams.
- Unlimited one-on-one tutoring sessions and support from success coaches is offered.
- Course translations and read-aloud tools for English language learners are available.
- Students can earn up to 21 free college credits through ACE (American Council on Education) courses.
- The counseling team can assist with course selection, college planning, or career guidance.

Funds for the scholarships came from a grant by Rural LISC, whose initiatives provide opportunities for rural communities.

Interested residents can soon visit nactx.us/library to learn more about Gale Presents: Excel Adult High School and apply for one of the scholarships.



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THANK YOU NACOGDOCHES!

Millard's Crossing Historic Village extends its warmest thanks to our community for supporting our inaugural Sip & Stroll. Those attending enjoyed sharing a meal with friends, strolling through the village, shopping in the gift store, and going in-and-out of some of Nacogdoches' oldest historic homes and structures. The Langston Brothers Gin — Continental Ginning System was opened, and Mr. John Langston and Mr. Stanley Jones were on site to enhance visitors' experiences of the gin. We would also like to thank Kinfolks, Newk's Eatery, and Row & Co. Cheesecake for supplying pies, cakes, and cheesecake!

UPCOMING EVENTS!

OCTOBER 24 ~ INAUGURAL PIONEER HARVEST FESTIVAL

Join us for our first Pioneer Harvest Festival, filled with fun, food, and laughter! You will attend demonstrations, take in live music, shop with vendors selling their handmade wares, join in games and carnival activities, and enjoy crafts for all ages! This event promises to be a day full of community spirit and old-fashioned fun for the whole family. Plan to be a part of this celebration of history, heritage, and hometown fun!

DECEMBER 4 ~ AN OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS AT THE VILLAGE

December kicks off with our annual Old Fashioned Christmas, hosted in the evening and filled with holiday cheer for the whole family. Join us for cozy story readings, cheerful carolers, hands-on children's crafts, live demonstrations, local vendors, and of course, a visit from jolly old Saint Nicholas. Bundle up and bring the family for an evening of timeless tradition, festive fun, and old-fashioned holiday spirit!

GET INVOLVED!

Because Millard's Crossing does not receive city, county, or state funding, your donations are greatly appreciated and necessary for this historic site to continue to serve the rich heritage of Nacogdoches. The Charles and Lois Marie Bright Foundation has been pivotal in their support as well as countless benefactors and visitors who continue to enjoy the legacy of a remarkable woman that never forgot her roots.

Drop by to visit with Savannah or Ciera to learn about ways you can support the Village, both financially and with your time and talents.

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Battle of Nacogdoches Celebration

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

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

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

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

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

194th Anniversary

BATTLE OF NACOGDOCHES CELEBRATION

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

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

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

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

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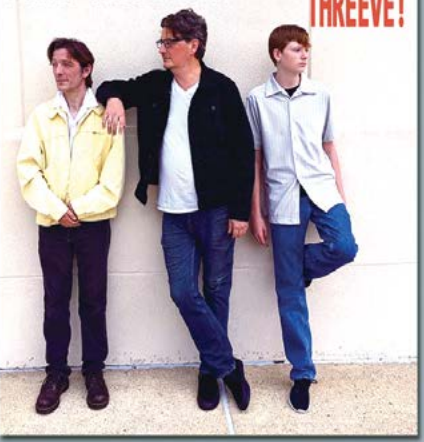
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by Patti Goodrum

Executive Director, Love in the Name of Christ Nacogdoches

The Real Freedom We Have in Jesus Christ

Reflecting on 250 Years of American Independence and the Eternal Freedom God Gave Us First

Freedom is a word our nation treasures. It's stitched into our founding documents, sung in our anthems, and celebrated every Fourth of July. As we recently celebrated the 250th birthday of the United States, many Americans looked back with gratitude for the courage, sacrifice, and conviction that shaped this country. And rightly so—our nation was deeply influenced by Christian principles: human dignity, moral responsibility, justice, and the belief that freedom is a gift from God, not granted by kings.

But long before 1776, long before the Declaration of Independence was signed, God had already declared a greater freedom—a freedom not won by muskets or militias, but by the cross of Jesus Christ.

Freedom in Christ: The First and Greatest Independence Day: When Jesus stepped into human history, He announced a freedom far deeper than political liberty: Freedom from sin, Freedom from shame, Freedom from fear, Freedom from spiritual death, Freedom from striving to earn God's love. This is the freedom Paul speaks of in Galatians 5:1: **"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free."** Not freedom to do whatever we want, but freedom to become who God created us to be. We belong to Him, not ourselves. Not freedom from responsibility, but freedom from bondage. We have all the tools in our souls to work for our families and others. Not freedom rooted in national identity, but freedom rooted in eternal identity. We are all God's people. He created us all, everyone of us and from all corners of this world we are all created in His image.

Christ's freedom is not outdated. It is not weakened by cultural shifts. It is not threatened by political turmoil. It is not dependent on national stability. It is as powerful today as it was the moment the stone rolled away from the tomb.

Jesus offers: **Freedom to forgive** in a world that clings to resentment, **Freedom to love** in a world that grows cold, **Freedom to serve** in a world obsessed with self, jealousy, competition, **Freedom to hope** in a world drowning in fear, **Freedom to stand firm in His word** living in a world that keeps shifting.

A Nation at 250 years old: A People Called Back to Christ: As America celebrated a milestone few nations ever reach, Christians had a unique opportunity: Not to idolize the past, not to despair over the present, but to shine the light of Christ into the future. Our nation was influenced by Christian principles, but **only Christ Himself can transform hearts**, heal division, restore dignity, anchor truth, and define freedom. The question is not whether America will survive another 250 years. The question is whether God's people will live out the freedom Christ died to give us—right now, in this generation.

America's freedom is precious. Christ's freedom is eternal. One protects our rights. The other transforms our souls. One shapes our nation. The other shapes our destiny. May we be people who understand the difference—and live boldly in freedom that can never be taken away.

Every day at Love INC Nacogdoches volunteers, the Church, carry the profound honor of standing before someone who comes seeking help and offering them a glimpse of Jesus. The way we speak, the way we listen, and the way we follow through, all communicate something. Our actions either draw a person closer to the hope found in Christ or give them no reason to look His way. As believers, we long to reveal the kind of freedom only Jesus can give—the freedom that leads to eternal peace. God—revealed to us in Jesus and speaking through the Holy Spirit—has entrusted us with the sacred calling to be His voice, to stand in His stead, and to faithfully proclaim His truth to His children.

The truth can be difficult for some to hear. Not long ago, someone asked why I believe so deeply in Jesus and in the promise of heaven. They wanted to know whether I truly believed it is true. I told them, "I believe Jesus is exactly who He says He is, and faith is a choice—a response to the gospel." Then I asked softly, "Are you absolutely certain it *isn't* true?"

Happy Birthday America! **Jesus is the goal.**



Patti Goodrum, Executive Director Love INC Nacogdoches

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GO TEXAN.

The Texas State Forest Festival: Where East Texas Comes Together

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

There's something special about September in East Texas. It's the time of year when families reunite, friends gather, and traditions continue at one of the region's most anticipated events, the Texas State Forest Festival.

Now in its 42nd year, the Texas State Forest Festival has become much more than a community celebration. Hosted and produced by the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce and presented by Brookshire Brothers, the festival welcomes more than 13,000 guests each year and showcases everything that makes East Texas such an incredible place to live, work, and visit.

This year's festival returns to the George H. Henderson, Jr. Exposition Center September 17-20, bringing four days packed with entertainment, family fun, live music, competitions, delicious food, and unforgettable experiences.

Whether you're coming for the thrill of the carnival, the excitement of the Bengal Tiger Encounter, or the colorful performances from Wildlife Wendy's exotic birds, there's something waiting around every corner. Families can spend hours exploring the Children's Festival with free hands-on activities, browse unique finds during Market Days, or cheer on competitors throughout the weekend.

Music lovers won't want to miss the Swingin' Axe Stage, presented by Visit Lufkin, featuring live performances each evening that celebrate Lufkin's designation as a Texas Music Friendly Community.

Festival favorites also return this year, including the Bear Hollow Wood Carvers, the Exotic Petting Zoo, axe throwing, and the always-popular Mascot Dance-Off, bringing smiles to guests of every age.

For those who enjoy a little friendly competition, the festival delivers. The Big Axe BBQ Competition will once again welcome talented pitmasters from across the region, while the seventh annual Lumber-JACKED 5K & Fun Run invites runners and walkers to kick off festival weekend around beautiful Ellen Trout Memorial Lake. Sunday brings even more excitement with the Pineywoods Car Show and the East Texas Cheerleading & Pom/Dance Championships, showcasing incredible talent from across the area.

While the attractions are what many people see, what truly makes the Texas State Forest Festival special is the community behind it. More than 200 dedicated volunteers contribute approximately 2,500 hours each year to make the festival possible. Combined with the generosity of sponsors, partners, vendors, entertainers, and attendees, their efforts create an event that reflects the very best of East Texas hospitality.

The festival also has a lasting impact beyond the four days of celebration. It brings thousands of visitors into our community, supports local businesses, highlights our forestry heritage, and creates meaningful economic opportunities throughout Angelina County. Most importantly, it gives people a reason to come together, celebrate our community, and make memories that last long after the festival ends.

As September approaches, now is the perfect time to make plans to attend. Whether you're continuing a family tradition or experiencing the Texas State Forest Festival for the very first time, we invite you to join us September 17-20 at the George H. Henderson, Jr. Exposition Center.

Because the Texas State Forest Festival isn't just another event on the calendar. It's where East Texas comes together.

For tickets, schedules, and the latest festival information, visit TexasStateForestFestival.com.



Amanda Crocker

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The Refuge

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

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



Longing for Heaven— Longing for Home

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Hebrews 11:13-16

I am not my human skin color nor am I my human ethnicity—meaning my humanity is not the dominate identity by which I live. Why? Because something very wonderful and beautiful, heavenly, eternal and life transforming happened to me and in me in August 1997. What? God forgave all my sins and chose to reside in me, giving me a new identity. My genetics was changed. I was born again, made a new creation, received the mind of Christ which allows me to think with a biblical world-

view (1 Cor. 2:16). All who are in Christ have this new identity. How? By the Spirit and the word. The Holy Spirit takes the word of God; the gospel of Jesus Christ and uses it to create spiritual life, a new birth, bringing us out of the darkness of spiritual death into the light of Christ’s life, redemption and salvation (1 Pet. 1:23-25). Grace found and rescued me at Grace chapel (Eph. 2:8). Responding in faith, my life since that day has never been the same.

The church has a spiritual identity crisis as evidenced by its incessant fixation on the outward appearance (1 Sam. 16:7). God has fixed the race problem by fixing the heart problem of man in Christ. He has created a new race of people for Himself—a holy race (2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; Heb. 10:10; 1 Pet 2:9-10). There is no genetic superiority or inferiority among God’s children. We are one in Christ Jesus. Our lives are hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:1-4). We must come away from being on the wrong side of history by taking sides with a world pushing hatred through racial division and is diabolically opposed to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and get on the right side of heaven and the word of God. We are called to love one another as Christ has loved us.

The Spirit living in me has created a longing for heaven, a longing for home, that place of God which lies beyond this present sin-infested world. The Spirit has inspired in me a longing for relationships with people, irrespective of color and ethnicity, who are now as I am, in Christ as members of God’s family. The Spirit has inspired different appetites which signifies a change has taken place—appetite for faith in Christ, loving and obeying God, loving my neighbor, righteousness, holiness, biblical truth, forgiveness, doing good works created by God for His glory, God’s will, ways and His plan for my life, to name a few. Life doesn’t get any better than this in this world. Think about it: Christians get to showcase a divine identity as Christ lives in us (Col. 1:27), making our sojourn home to heaven a beautiful experience of faith.

As followers of Christ, we should look to Him above all others as our example. The apostle Paul encouraged the believers at Corinth to “imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1). We must honestly evaluate our lives as Christians and ask, who am I imitating? Who has the greatest influence in my life? Is it Christ above clergy? Is it the word of God above the words of the podcaster, the social media personality, talk show host, actor, professional athlete, recording artist, religious celebrity, politician, news anchor or journalist? Is it the Spirit of truth or the spirit of lies influencing our decisions and behaviors? The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth who leads us into all truth. Truth characterizes the life of one who desires a heavenly country, one whose longing is for heaven, whose longing is for home.

The world, the flesh and the devil have far too many Christians yoked with spiritual bondage, entangled with lies and in allegiance with evil and sin. We affirm a lie as truth. We are engulfed in the flames of hell as evidenced by the words we speak and the things we do as Christians that are out of alignment with God’s unchanging truth. Any allegiance to anyone or any cause with our words, our money and our actions (both public and private support-God sees all things, nothing is hidden from Him) that opposes the truth of God’s word makes us hypocrites and liars. The world applauds it while rejecting our witness for Christ.

The Bible commands Christians, “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away” (1 Jn. 2:15-17). We need to check ourselves before we wreck ourselves with the things of this world. Our longing for Christ, sharing His gospel, and the place He is preparing must be greater than the things passing away—the eternal over the temporal.

Christians, this world is not our home. Our longing must be for heaven (set your mind on the things above, not on the things of the earth-Col. 3:2) while living as new creatures in the world but not of the world.

The Die Date

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.



We all know that some day we will die. Our journey on this earth will be over. God chose not to reveal the date of our death to us, which is a good thing. There is an interesting verse in the New Testament book of Hebrews, written by the Apostle Paul that touches on the subject of death. It reads as follows, “And as it is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment.”

I would like to take a closer look at the first half of that verse. It states that all persons born into this world have a die date. The word “appointed” means that we all have an appointment. Say you make an appointment with your doctor. The appointment will contain the year, month, day, and hour of your visit. So, then we all have a year, month, day, and hour of our death.

A couple of questions arise from this verse. One is this – does God assign a die date at the time of birth? Or, secondly, does God just know in his wisdom the date that a person will die? If God assigns a die date at birth, is it an arbitrary one based upon His knowledge? Could it be that at birth God looks into the future of this person and states, “This person will die on January 16th, 2045, at 8:31 minutes and 36 seconds in the afternoon”?

This scenario begs the question, “Why are some people allowed to live to a ripe old age, and some die at birth, or as a young child?” How does God decide this in His infinite wisdom? Of course, this is something that we mortals will never know, the how and why of all this. Perhaps the answer to this question is that God is all-knowing, thus He knows the date that a person will die. Thus, He does not cause a person to die of a heart attack or deadly accident on the die date.

Another question is this – If a person were to die earlier than his “die date,” would God be mistaken? Can God be wrong on anything? I think not. God is in control and no one will take God by surprise, thus no one will die on a date not prescribed by Him.

Another question on this subject is this – Do we mortals have Guardian Angels to protect us? Again in the Book of Hebrews we find the following verse, Hebrews 13:3, “Be not forgetful to entertain strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” So, here Paul is reminding us that Angels are real beings, and have interjected themselves into the affairs of mankind on earth. The question is, “why would they do that?” Perhaps the following scenario might explain why. Suppose that a person is born with an assigned die date of 86 years, 3 months, 5 days, and 15 minutes. As a 19 year-old, he/she is involved in a bad auto accident and is trapped inside a burning car. He/she is unable to get out and will soon be burned to death, much earlier than the assigned die date. Suppose God sees this event and dispatches the guardian angel who takes the form of a man. This man/angel suddenly appears on the scene and rescues the person. Otherwise, God would be proved incorrect as to the person’s die date.

This might explain why some people are miraculously cured of a deadly disease, or saved from a deadly accident. Many think it is because of fervent prayers offered up on behalf of the person. In actuality it was because the person had not reached their die date. When we reach our assigned die date, nothing will prevent our death, and conversely, if we have not, then we will not die prayers or no prayers. The thing is, we, as mortals, do not know a person’s die date, so prayers are recommended for any and all situations.

I have read of many situations in which a person was saved by an unknown male person who suddenly appears, then disappears suddenly. In the Bible, all angels are of the male gender. Over the years, angels have been feminized, but this representation of angels is not accurate. Angels are God’s warriors, and his messengers accomplishing His will on planet Earth. They are not feminine creatures.

So, in a sense, all we mortals may have a “guardian angel” watching over us to make sure that God’s timing is accurate as regards our death, and all other situations in which we may find ourselves. Thus, we must entertain strangers among us. Who knows, perhaps they are our guardian angels making sure that we live to our assigned die date. God cannot err...!

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Lamp-Lite Players Present Workshop for Adult Actors

The Lamp-Lite Players are offering an **ADULT ACTORS' WORKSHOP**, “Mastering the Art of Authenticity,” presented by director, actor, and writer **Pat Harris**, Monday-Friday, **August 17-21, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.** The registration deadline has been extended to **August 8, 2026**. The fee is \$50.00 and is due by August 17th. Each participant is required to prepare a 2-minute monologue to be presented at the first session. The registration form is available at lamplitetheatre.com, and more information may be obtained by emailing LampliteTheatreWorkshop@gmail.com.



Pat Harris, Lamp-Lite workshop presenter

Harris, a longtime Lamp-Lite actor, as well as director and playwright, will work with actors, helping them create authentic characters by being truthful on-stage. She will incorporate concepts she learned from Warren Robertson, the expert acting coach, while she lived in New York City. Session goals include improving dialogue, sensory memory, motivation, voice, and stage movement. Class size is limited to fifteen adults of all backgrounds and experiences.



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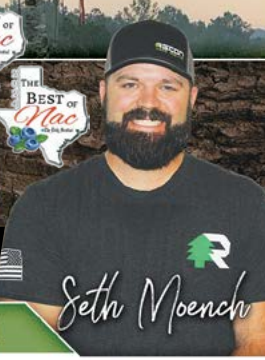
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Laughing at Yourself—Essential for Seniors

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.

One of the unfortunate things about getting older is the likelihood that one’s memory may not be as sharp as it used to be. In the incidents recounted below, it was becoming clear that the windows of my mind were becoming a bit fogged up. Since such lapses are probably inevitable, finding humor in them is definitely a good idea.

A few years ago, we were parked with fellow traveler friends at a lovely RV park by a mountain stream in Colorado and, on this day, I decided to take the garbage bag from our motorhome to the dumpster, which lay some fifty feet away and beyond our car, which we towed behind the motorhome when on the road. In the same hand, I also grabbed my small but fairly expensive Canon camera in its case. I intended to drop it off at the car on my way to the dumpster.



After descending the steps of the motorhome, I passed by our car and, without stopping, made a beeline to the dumpster with trash bag and camera strap firmly gripped in my fist. I was looking around, admiring the beautiful surroundings and enjoying the mild temperature. Passing by the car and reaching the dumpster, I lifted the lid and tossed in the items I had been carrying.

Passing the car again on my way back to the motorhome, it occurred to me that something wasn’t quite right...the camera! I wasn’t carrying it, and I didn’t remember putting it in the car. I opened the driver’s door and confirmed the absence of the camera; not yet wanting to believe I tossed it into the dumpster, I made a hurried dash back to the motorhome. I was pretty sure the camera bag wouldn’t be there and, of course, it wasn’t. I also knew, at that point, where it must be. Returning to the dumpster, I spotted the camera bag resting comfortably just beyond my reach. I tried to imagine a way to retrieve it without performing a dumpster-dive for all the other campground guests to witness. Given the degree of my agility, which is probably near zero, the gyrations required to levitate myself into the dumpster would be a legendary spectacle. Then, noticing my loitering at the dumpster, the couple traveling with us began walking from their campsite toward me. These people were treasured friends, but their harassment upon learning of my plight would be vicious and endless. If only I had a cyanide capsule, I thought.

There was no escape, of course, and their enjoyment of my dilemma was everything I feared. Thankfully, my buddy ultimately produced a steel rod with a hook on the end and quickly retrieved the camera. Naturally, a photo surfaced afterward—a gift that keeps on giving.

Alas, my mental lapses were not yet over. That afternoon, as our friends rode with us in the car for some sightseeing, I stopped at the Honda dealership to get an oil change. We were sitting with a number of other patrons inside the waiting room when I happened to look down at my feet. I noticed I was wearing shoes that certainly didn’t match—a deck shoe and a casual loafer. Amazingly, no one else had noticed, so I wondered if there could be any way to avoid further humiliation by our companions. I was even more surprised that Sandy hadn’t caught my fashion debacle; her powers of observation are such that she could spot a nose hair on a caterpillar. I walked nonchalantly to the restroom to contemplate my situation. Ruling out going barefoot or appearing in sock feet, I pulled out the leather string from the deck shoe and walked out casually. To my surprise, no one noticed—until now revealed, of course. If you’ve never gotten old before, be prepared for some surprises. Laughing at yourself is the best way to deal with them!





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Crisis Center Holds Food, Supply Drive

The Janelle Grum Family Crisis Center of East Texas is holding a supply drive for survivors of domestic violence and assault.

Among most immediate needs is unexpired, nonperishable food items for emergency and outreach services.

“Every can of soup, box of pasta or pantry staple makes a direct impact on families our agency services,” Executive Director Whitney Burran said. “Many survivors arrive with very little and knowing they have access to healthy meals while they focus on healing provides comfort during an incredibly difficult time.”

Needed items include coffee, canned foods such as chili, vegetables and Chef Boyardee meals, dish soap, peanut butter, pasta, tuna fish, cereal, syrup, sugar, diced tomatoes, cake mix and icing and cooking spray.

Food donations can be dropped off Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at any Family Crisis Center location.

For information, call 936-639-1681.

The Family Crisis Center of East Texas (FCCET) is a non-profit organization that empowers survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault by providing crisis intervention and advocacy services. The FCCET also engages the community through education to build awareness and prevent domestic violence and sexual assault.

Since 1979, the Janelle Grum Family Crisis Center of East Texas (Women’s Shelter of East Texas, Inc.) staffs a full array of professionals specializing in assistance for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. These services included emergency shelter, a 24-hour crisis hotline, access to food and clothing, information and referrals, legal and personal advocacy, child advocacy, self-sufficiency advocacy, counseling, support groups, transitional housing, prevention services, Battering Intervention & Prevention Program and more.

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NAC ARTS COLLABORATIVE News

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“In the Summer Garden” with paintings by Lisa Stewart and ceramics by Cindy Glad will close August 1 with a reception from 2-4pm. Many affordable pieces are still available to purchase. Artists are expected to be in attendance.

NAC will host two mask making workshops on August 15th and 22nd from 9-11am at the NAC Classroom @ 141 Walker Ave. These workshops are being conducted by the delightful Denise Stringer Davis. Details can be found on our website.

These mask workshops are a fun activity leading up to our big annual Arts Ball fundraiser, scheduled for October 3 at the Old Tobacco Warehouse. This year’s theme is MASQUERADE! Tickets go on sale August 15. Make plans to attend this fun, artsy event!

ArtFest 2026 will be on Saturday, September 26 at Banita Creek Park next to the Farmer’s Market from 9am-2pm. We will host about 40 local artists and creatives. We are registering vendors and food trucks. Find registration link on our website at nacartscollab.com/vendors. Be sure and add this event to your calendar!

July Artist Spotlight - Nancy Ellen Walker!

Hi, I’m Nancy Ellen Walker and I’m a volunteer with the Nacogdoches Arts Collaborative. Since Lisa Steed and I started this arts column in *Around the Town* in 2022, I’ve written dozens of profiles highlighting the lives and work of local artists in many disciplines: art, music, theater and more. It’s been a terrific opportunity to meet talented people and explore the magic of their impact on our community.

I have also served on the NAC’s planning committee for the Arts Ball since its inception. This fun annual event is not only an opportunity to express your creative side– this year’s theme is “Masquerade” and the costumes promise to be fantastic– you’ll also help us raise money to cover the basics of keeping our doors open to serve more artists in our community. Our organization serves everyone, from children to seniors, providing access to the arts for the public and providing artists with opportunities to showcase their specialties, and get paid for their work.

Why do I volunteer for the NAC? First, because the arts, in all forms, enhance our community and create shared experiences across different backgrounds. I want to encourage them to flourish here. Second, because the arts are important to me. I’ve seen first hand how deeply they can affect people’s lives with transformational and healing power, giving them an opportunity to expand their perspectives, explore their sensitivities and even change their minds. And finally, because I’m an artist myself. I grew up in a musical family: my dad was a principal baritone with the Metropolitan Opera in the ‘60s and ‘70s. Mom played classical piano. Two of my three brothers are musicians, and I’m a contralto. [You might have seen me play a nun in the 2024 production of *The Sound of Music* at the Lamp-Lite Theater.] But I’m a word person, foremost.

I’m a native Texan, born in Fort Worth, but my education began in the public schools of New York City. They were adamant about exposing schoolchildren to culture, so we regularly attended symphony concerts in Lincoln Center, saw Broadway matinees and took field trips to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. I see now that those institutions established a benchmark for artistic integrity that I have carried with me ever since. I graduated from Churchill HS in San Antonio, then moved to Houston to study French and English at Rice University. I also hold a JD from the University of Houston Law Center. Writing carried me through college, law school, and my years as a litigator. It gave me a freelance career writing sketch comedy, which led to a couple of years writing for the *Houston Chronicle*. I got interested in foreign languages and linguistics as a child and many years later, I retired from a NYC career in media as a timed text editor (subtitles and closed captions for film, TV and internet).

My husband and I came to Nacogdoches in January 2022 after living on the same block in Brooklyn for more than 20 years and the NAC was my conduit to the arts community here. For that, I am grateful. I’m very proud of what the NAC has accomplished so far and of my role in helping to raise their profile here. The



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August 2026 Schedule

August			
Tue 4th	Gucamoles	Nacogdoches	6:00 pm
Thu 6th	Tia Juanitas	Lufkin	5:30 pm
Tue 18th	Guacamoles	Nacogdoches	6:00 pm
Wed 19th	Tia Juanitas	Lufkin	5:30 pm
Thu 20th	Ralph & Kacoos	Lufkin	5:00 pm
Tue 25th	Guacamoles	Jacksonville	6:00 pm

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arts are for everyone. We all have creative energy and it benefits everybody when we exercise it with joy and verve. So sing your song, recite your poem, paint your picture, dance your dance. Or maybe design and make a masquerade costume to wear on Saturday, October 3 to the Arts Ball, and come celebrate with like-minded folks. We would love to see you there.

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.



Do Fence Me In: Barbed Wire and the Texas Cattle Industry

by Scott Sosebee, Contributing Writer

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

Texas, and much of its identity, is synonymous with the cowboy, and he in turn is indelibly allied with the state’s ranching industry as no state is more closely affiliated with cattle than Texas. While the cowboy image is probably most often celebrated as part of Texas’ open-range ranching heritage, Texas’ prominence as a cattle raising state—the business side of “cowboying”—owes more to the passing of the open-range era than to that short romantic period so often portrayed in film and literature. Texas’ rise as the nation’s premier bovine producer is mostly due to the end of the open range, a demise largely brought about with the invention and wide-spread use of a specific kind of technology—the barbed wire fence.

When cattlemen in the 1870s first ventured onto the plains of Texas, the wide-open spaces that were so conducive to the raising of stock, they found a place that seemed perfect for the accepted Spanish/Mexican tradition of the open-range that had migrated to Texas from Mexico in the eighteenth century. A man could round up thousands of South Texas bovines, those primary descendants of the Spanish breeds brought to Texas in the 1700s that had evolved into the legendary “Texas longhorn,” and then simply let them loose upon the plains and allow them to feed and prosper on the natural buffalo grasses of the Texas plains. The Texas open range had become a reality.



The “Texas longhorn” of the late 19th century actually bore little resemblance to the longhorns of today. Instead, these were small, wiry, tough, feral cattle that had evolved in South Texas to protect themselves from predators, drought, and any conditions nature could throw at them. They were also not some beast genetically selected to produce high-grade beef. On the contrary, their meat was stringy, tough, and “gamey,” a product that a discerning palate

would probably call inedible. That did not matter in the 1870s because the teeming masses in the cities of the East wanted meat, and discerning was a term never used to describe their tastes in cuisine. For them, the Texas longhorn worked just fine. Open range cattle ranchers began to carve out a good existence on the West Texas plains.

Such a system worked just fine when hardly anyone lived in West Texas. Cattlemen could graze their herds on the open public lands, which meant there was no need to actually secure title to the range. A West Texas cattle raiser might buy (or claim) acres around a water source and a place to locate a headquarters building and pens, but there was no need for any more holdings. It was an economical system, one that allowed men of little means to become agricultural entrepreneurs.

The open-range system was economical, but it still had problems. One of those was efficiency. Open range stock could not be selectively bred, and the bovines could not be acutely culled; stock that was ill-suited to meat production continued to breed and taint the herd through generations. The only way to solve that problem was through fencing. Barriers were also the preference of the migrants who followed the cattlemen—farmers. The open-range was anathema to those who cultivated the soil; unpinned cattle trampled and ate crops. The two agricultural pursuits could not co-exist without fences. The problem was that fencing of the era was very expensive and not practical on the vast plains of West Texas. Stone and wood fences were the norm in East Texas, along with water-filled ditches, thick, planted hedges, and sod blockades. Stone large enough to build fencing was scarce in West Texas, and wood was almost non-existent. Even if those had been plentiful, the labor and expense to enclose thousands of acres, and given the scarcity of water and foliage on the plains that was the size of the ranches, was prohibitive. Thus, West Texas ranches faced two problems: population and town building depended on the establishment of farms, and selective beef breeds needed enclosure, but economics trumped such solutions.

Everything began to change in 1874. In that year, Joseph Glidden of Illinois



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gained a patent for a new fencing material, a series of sharp points wrapped around a single strand of wire that would eventually come to be known as “barbed wire” (not “bob wire” which is what many Texans call the material). The new material would prove perfect for the plains cattle industry. Barbed wire salesman began to sell miles of their strands to Texas ranchers, particularly after a famous demonstration of its effectiveness in holding a pen of cattle on Alamo Plaza in San Antonio. When large operations such as Charles Goodnight’s JA and the famed XIT began to enclose their holdings the die was cast—“the Devil’s rope” would become the preferred fencing material of cattle ranchers.

The invention of barbed wire changed Texas’ cattle industry. Cattlemen could now buy and gain title to huge tracts of land, which would give them clear grazing rights to develop herds. Also, they could now stock the fenced range with breeds specifically engineered as beef cattle, which ended the reign of the longhorn and ushered in the age of the Hereford, Angus, and other pure-bred cattle, the preferred product for human consumption. Farms could find their place on the plains as well, and that would lead to towns, which would bring the railroad, which then helped to end the era of the cattle drive. Ranchers became more prosperous, and West Texas grew in population. One could make a great case that one of the primary causes of the growth of West Texas was due to a cheap strand of wire studded with barbs. Sometimes, history turns on things that seem inconsequential at the time.





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Natalee Dunn
CVB Creative Content Director

This Month in the Oldest Town in Texas

August in Nacogdoches offers one last chance to soak up the slower pace of summer before the excitement of fall begins. From discovering centuries of Texas history to enjoying live music and refreshing downtown events, there’s no shortage of ways to make the most of these warm East Texas days. Whether you’re exploring for the first time or rediscovering your hometown, August is the perfect month to get out and experience all that Nacogdoches has to offer.

Step back in time by exploring some of Nacogdoches’ most treasured historic sites. Wander through the preserved 19th-century buildings at Millard’s Crossing Historic Village, where Texas history comes to life through authentic homes, a church, and more. Visit the Sterne-Hoya House Museum, home to one of the city’s most influential early families and a National Historic Landmark filled with fascinating stories. Then, make your way to Zion Hill Historic Site, where visitors can learn about one of the oldest African American congregations in Texas and the important role it played in shaping the community. Together, these sites offer a glimpse into the people and places that helped make Nacogdoches the Oldest Town in Texas.

History enthusiasts will also want to mark their calendars for August 3rd at 2 pm, when the Sterne-Hoya House Museum hosts a special ceremony commemorating the 194th anniversary of the Battle of Nacogdoches. The program will feature a first-person interpretation and recognition of those who fought, as well as a time for remembrance, reflection, and celebration of the community’s role in Texas history.

For a summer evening filled with live music, head to Banita Creek Hall on August 29th for an acoustic performance by the Logan Ryan Band with special guest Kanton Teen & The Penny Pickers. Doors open at 8 pm, and guests can enjoy an evening of authentic Texas country music in one of Nacogdoches’ favorite live music venues. Throughout the year, Banita Creek Hall also offers live concerts and line dancing Thursday through Saturday, making it a great destination for music lovers.

Don’t let the summer heat keep you indoors! Nac Summer Sips continues every Friday in August from 12 to 5 pm on the Downtown Square, bringing a rotating lineup of drink trucks, snow cones, Italian ice, dirty sodas, coffee, and other refreshing treats to the heart of downtown. It’s the perfect excuse to cool off while browsing local boutiques, grabbing lunch, and exploring the historic brick streets.

While you’re enjoying the final weeks of summer, it’s never too early to start planning for one of Nacogdoches’ biggest fall traditions. Old Town Rig Down returns September 11th-12th, bringing impressive custom trucks, food vendors, shopping, family activities, and entertainment to downtown. The weekend wraps up with a concert by country artist Tracy Lawrence at Festival Park on Saturday evening, making it a memorable way to kick off the fall event season.

As summer winds down, August is filled with opportunities to explore, learn, and make lasting memories in Nacogdoches. Whether you’re discovering local history, enjoying live entertainment, or spending time downtown with family and friends, there’s always something waiting just around the corner. We look forward to seeing you around the town! For more events, visit www.visitnacogdoches.org

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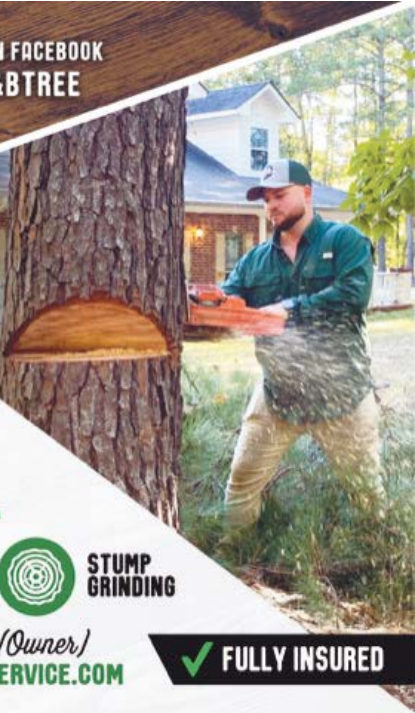
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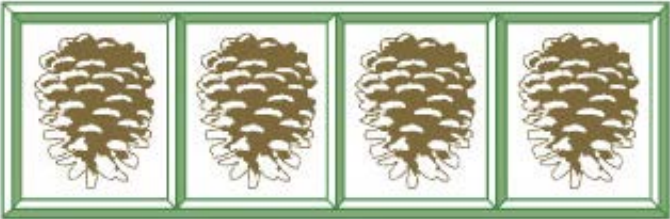
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A Little Bit of History



My husband Andrew's uncle James, a World War II veteran and Bataan Death March survivor, will celebrate his 105th birthday in August at his home in Lafayette, Louisiana. He has lived a remarkable life marked by valour, sacrifice, and accomplishment. We salute you, James Bollich!

By Jamie Carter Bollich

James Bollich was born to a German and Acadian family on August 15, 1921, on a farm near Eunice, Louisiana, in a community called Mowata. The family's main crop was rice, but they also grew cotton, vegetables and raised livestock including cows, pigs, and chickens. He and his sixteen siblings found time to explore the woods, hunt, fish, and swim in addition to attending school and church and doing their share of chores. This upbringing honed his outdoor skills as well as feeding his mind and spirit, all of which would prove to be of vital importance by the time he was a young man.

Bollich left Southwestern Louisiana Industrial Institute (now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette) in August 1940 to join the Army Air Corps and participated in the pivotal Louisiana maneuvers at Fort Polk. In November of 1941, he was sent to the Philippines, just before the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. U.S. and Filipino forces retreated to the Bataan Peninsula when the Japanese invaded the Philippines, but after four months their food and ammunition ran out, and the 70,000 troops were forced to surrender.

The Japanese made no attempt to treat them humanely. "It was a miracle that anyone survived," Bollich recalls. The Americans and Filipinos were forced to march 65 miles with almost no food, water, or rest. Exhaustion, starvation, and illness took a huge toll. The guards killed and tortured many men as well. Bollich survived by his wits, seeking moments to grab a sip of water whenever the guards were distracted, and occasionally finding a bird or rabbit he could eat. By the end of the trek, 12,000 men had died, making the Bataan Death March an aptly named ordeal.

From there, Bollich was sent to a prison camp in Manchuria where he remained for 3 ½ years until the camp was liberated by Russian soldiers in the fall of 1945. While there, he became skeletal from lack of food and endured the daily horror of being forced to bury his fellow prisoners who had died. His brothers Andrew, Stephen, and Charlie were all in various branches of the military, but he knew nothing of their status or how the rest of his family was faring.

After his release, Bollich spent some time recuperating and gaining a bit of weight before returning to Louisiana. While getting a haircut near his home, he overheard a man talking about how sad it was that a local family had lost two sons in the war and had one who suffered in the death march and in prison. His heart sank when he realized it was his family. Before the war, Bollich was known for his carefree and happy nature. He was forever changed to a more serious person by his war experience.

He returned to college and received a BS degree at the University of Southwestern Louisiana, then continued his education in geology in New Mexico, Wyoming, and Australia on a Fulbright Scholarship. He and his wife Celia, now deceased, had two daughters and several grandchildren and great-grandsons. For many years he worked in the oil industry and was a senior geological consultant for Tenneco Oil Company before retiring in 1986. Since then he has written more than a dozen books as well as enjoying reading, oil painting, raising orchids, stained glass, wood carving, pine needle baskets, soapstone carving, and fishing. For many years he traveled widely to speak on his war experiences at many venues.

He is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, Sons of the Confederate Veterans, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, and American Ex-POWs. He received a Congressional Medal of Honor, Presidential Unit Citation with two oak leaf clusters, a Purple Heart, Bronze Star, POW medal, American Campaign medal, Asiatic-Pacific medal with two bronze stars, Army Good Conduct medal, American Defense with one bronze star, a WWII Victory medal, Philippine President's medal, Philippine Defense medal, Philippine Liberation medal, and the Philippine Independence medal.

He is currently writing a book about his late sister Edna, who became a Benedictine nun named Sister Isadore and had an eventful life which included working in a leper colony.

Kissin' Kuzzins

The Irons have released a new album!!!

(1) The Irons—with at least two band members hailing from Lufkin, Texas—released their newest album, The Bobby Blue Bongo Band, on April 21, 2026. Hayden Havard plays the keyboard and sings as vocalist; Caleb Tippit plays lead guitar. Check it out on Spotify. While you're there, check out two of their earlier songs, "Goodbye Too Soon" and "Taking It All In". (2) On Monday, August 3, 2026 Morris Weeks will discuss "Russell Long, Archeologist: In Memoriam at the monthly meeting of the Deep East Texas Archeological Society at about 6:15 p.m. at the Newton Civic Center on 213 East Court Street in Newton. Refreshments begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by a short business meeting at 6 pm. For more information, contact Ruth Dusan Garcia at (409) 336-9216 or ruthdusan35@gmail.com or Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419 or dixonhersh51@aol.com (3) "The John Henry Kirby Sawmills with special reference to Bon Wier" will be Matt McBroom's topic when he speaks to the Angelina County Genealogical Society at 5:30 p.m. on Monday August 17, 2026 at the Ellen and Buddy Community Meeting Room at the T. L. L. Temple Memorial Library in Diboll. For more information, contact Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419. (4) Dickie Dixon will present "The Postal Service of the Confederate States of America" to the Jasper chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy at a location and time to be determined. For more information, contact Billie Grunden at (409) 231-9123 or bilfre64@yahoo.com

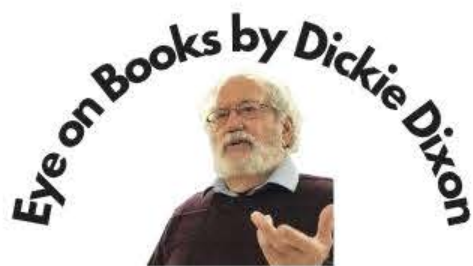
August 2026 Birthdays: 7th: Jacob Holmberg, Erika O'Quinn 15th: Carla Evett 23rd: Tyler Tippit 25th: Legend Jones, Legacy Jones 26th: Sophie Sterling



Left to right: Harold Molbert, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Department of Louisiana Veterans Affairs and right James Bollich, Bataan Death March Survivor.



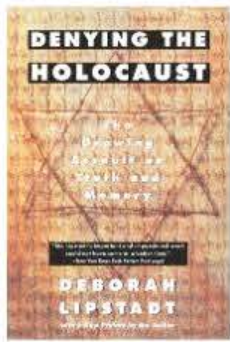
Dixons line up for a picture with train engineer Ron Adair after riding the Z.O.O. Railroad on Friday, May 22nd. Left to right are: Front row: Ron Adair, Laura Patten, Anelise Patten, Christopher Patten. Back row: Dickie Dixon, Emma Patten, and Winston Patten



Add these titles to your reading list

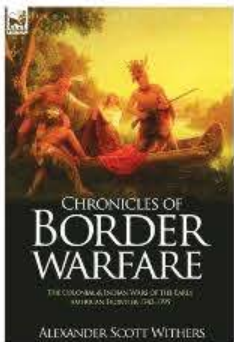
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Holocaust



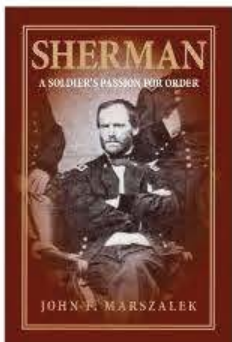
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the Growing Assault
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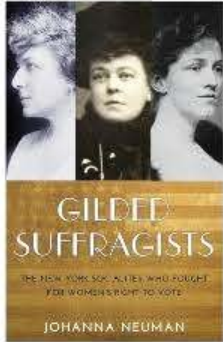
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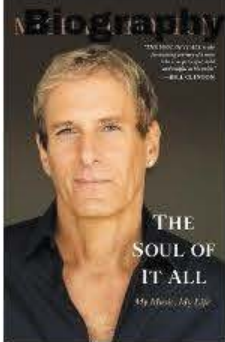
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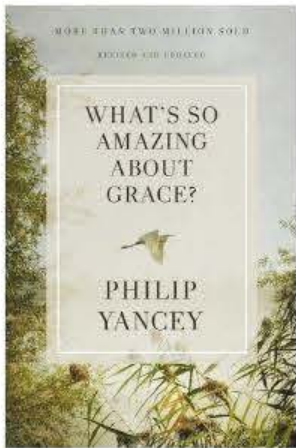
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Johanna Neuman

Christian Music

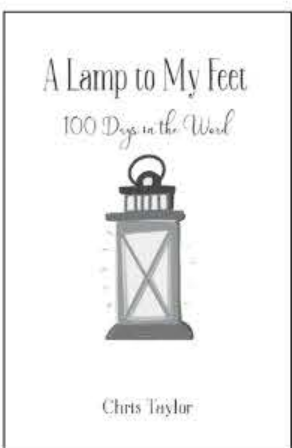


The Soul of It All My
Music, My Life
Michael Bolton

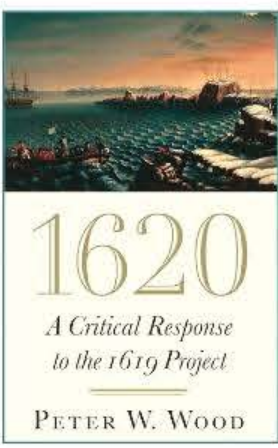
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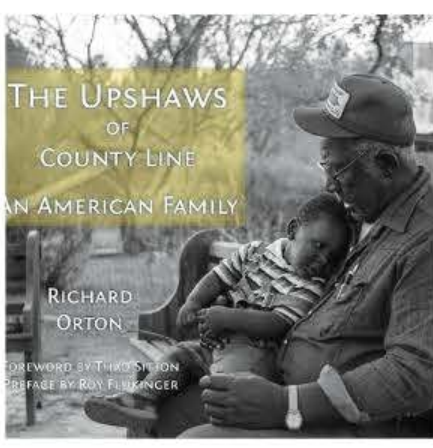
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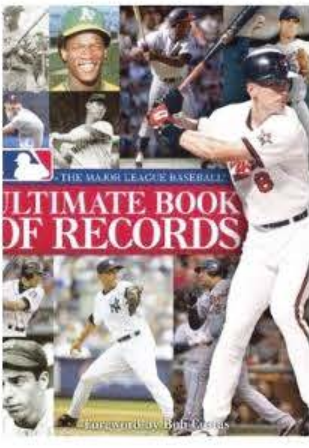
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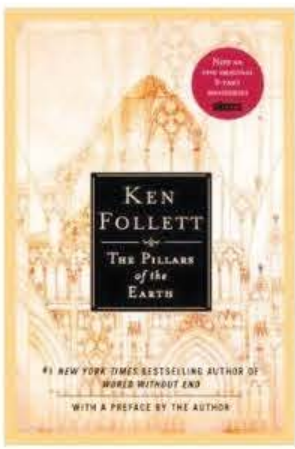
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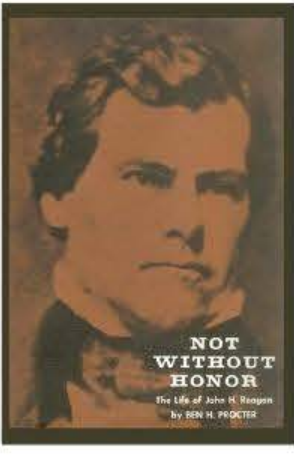
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Randy Frost
Gail Steketee

Fiction

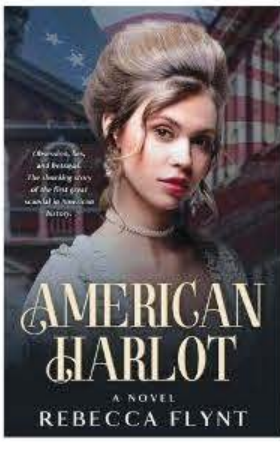


Pillars of the Earth
Ken Follett

American Biography

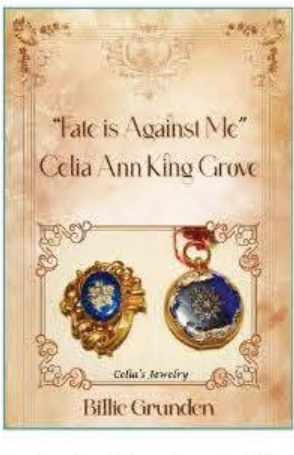


Not Without Honor
Ben Proctor



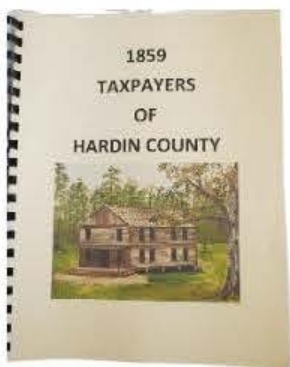
American Harlot
Rebecca Flynt

Genealogy

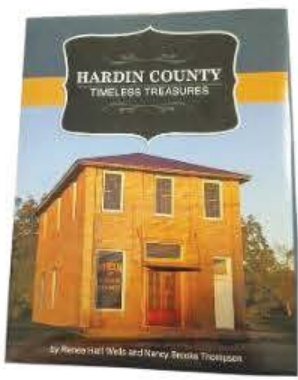


Fate is Against Me:
Celia Ann King Grove
Billie Grunden

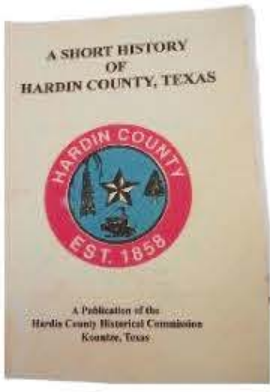
Local History



1859 Taxpayers
of Hardin County



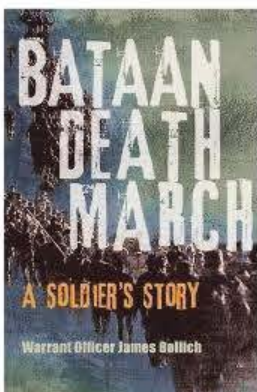
Hardin County
Timeless Treasures



A Short History
of Hardin County



Sisters Seeds and
Cedars: Sarah Fountain



Bataan Death March:
A Soldier's Story
James Bollich

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

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

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

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

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



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Lufkin Panthers

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

*District

Diboll Lumberjacks

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

*District

Huntington Red Devils

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

*District



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- SEPTEMBER 12, 2026 DICKIE DIXON, "THE CONFEDERATE POSTAL SYSTEM", UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY, JASPER, TEXAS. TIME AND PLACE TBD.
- SEPTEMBER 21, 2026, CINDY THOMAS, "SEPARATING FACT FROM FICTION: PROVING OR DISPROVING FAMILY STORIES", 5:30 P.M. MEETING ROOM, RALPH & KACOO'S, LUFKIN.
- OCTOBER 13, 2026 DICKIE DIXON, "THE NULLIFICATION CRISIS IN SOUTH CAROLINA", MEETING ROOM, RALPH & KACOO'S, LUFKIN.
- OCTOBER 16, 2026 GENEALOGY FALL FESTIVAL 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. ELLEN AND BUDDY TEMPLE COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM, T. L. TEMPLE MEMORIAL LIBRARY, DIBOLL, TEXAS.
- OCTOBER 19, 2026, NELTA NOLEN, "FINDING YOUR BIRTH PARENTS" 5:30 P.M. MEETING ROOM, RALPH & KACOO'S, LUFKIN.
- NOVEMBER 16, 2026, PATTI HUFF WILLIAMS, "USING DNA TO FIND YOUR BIRTH PARENTS", 5:30 P.M., MEETING ROOM, RALPH & KACOO'S, LUFKIN.
- DECEMBER 7, 2026 CHRISTMAS DINNER / IMPROMPTU AUCTION FOR DETAS 5-9 P.M. NEWTON CIVIC CENTER, NEWTON, TEXAS. CONTACT DICKIE DIXON (936) 671-1419 OR RUTH DUSAN GARCIA (409) 336-9216
- DECEMBER 14, 2026 CHRISTMAS DINNER / IMPROMPTU AUCTION FOR ACGS 3:00 P.M. SOLID ROCK CHURCH, HIGHWAY 103 WEST, LUFKIN, TEXAS.
- JANUARY 25, 2027 JANE CLARKE "THE MOSCOW CEMETERY" 5:30 P.M. MEETING ROOM, RALPH & KACOO'S, LUFKIN, TEXAS

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Appleby Church of Christ — 10494 FM 941, 75965 — 936.564.9792
Austin Heights Baptist Church — 2806 Appleby Sand Rd, 75965 — 936.564.0818
Bethel Temple Church of God in Christ — 1716 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, 75961 — 936.305.5138
Bethlehem Mission — 125 NE Stallings Drive, 75961 — 936.564.6278
Bonita Methodist Church — 10303 Hwy 259 @ Central Heights — 936.560.2028
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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
Christian Science Informal Group, Nacogdoches — 936.221.6377
Church of Christ — 3831 NE Stallings Drive, 75961 — 936.205.5956
Corner Post Cowboy Church — 8151 FM 1638, 75964 — 936.645.0123
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Nacogdoches Seventh-day Adventist Church — 4407 Old Tyler Rd, 75964 — 936.564.1905
New Birth Fellowship Church — 2910 E Main Street, 75961 — 936.569.7334
New Creation Nations Christian Center — 3806 NW Stallings Drive, 75964
New Hope Baptist Church — 819 Ritchie Street, 75961 — 936.225.8580
New Hope Methodist Church — 5301 E Main Street, 75961 — 936.564.7693
New Life Christian Fellowship — 4111 FM 1878, 75965 — 936.674.7339
North Street Church of Christ — 3914 North Street, 75965 — 936.564.2471
Northpointe Church of God — 3900 Appleby Sand Rd, 75965 — 936.560.2358
Northwood Baptist Church — 3224 NE Stallings Drive, 75965 — 936.564.2969
Oak Grove Baptist Church — 2603 SE Stallings Drive, 75961 — 936.569.0756
Old North Baptist Church — 332 County Rd 205, 75965
Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church — 4401 Old Lufkin Rd, 75964 — 936.560.3506
Pine Flat CME Church — 899 FM 3228, 75961 — 936.564.4224
Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church — 4922 FM 2864, 75965 — 936.559.5445
Power Of The Word — 1501 Industrial Drive, 75964
Redeemer Lutheran Church — 2306 Appleby Sand Rd, 75965 — 936.564.6729
Redemption Baptist Church — 3716 South Street, 75964 — 936.414.6777
Rey De Reyes Iglesia Cristiana — 1705 SW Stallings Drive, 75964 — 936.462.8008
Rock Springs Church — 203 County Rd 819, 75964
Sacred Heart Catholic Church — 2508 Appleby Sand Rd, 75965 — 936.564.7807
Sandy Ridge Church — 75964
Saint Paisios the Athonite Orthodox Christian Mission — 614 E Starr Ave, 75961 — 936.622.0622
Saints Temple Church of God in Christ — 2604 Ellis Street, 75964 — 936.560.3506
Shady Grove Baptist Church — 2548 FM 2112, 75961 — 936.560.2721
Shawnee Church of Christ — 612 Shawnee Street, 75961 — 936.564.2103
Southside Church of Christ — 3738 S Fredonia Street, 75964 — 936.559.1800
Stallings Drive Baptist Church — 728 SE Stallings Drive, 75964 — 936.564.2075
Star Hope Baptist Church — 2305 Looneyville Rd, 75964 — 936.564.1369
St James Baptist Church — 2633 Canyon Street, 75964 — 936.564.7887
St Mary’s Chapel — 215 College Street, 75965 — 936.564.0661
St Matthew Church — 2720 Matthew Street, 75964
St Paul’s Methodist Church — 601 Moore Street, 75961 — 936.564.3585
Stonewall Fellowship Church — 1303 S University Drive, 75961 — 936.587.9895
Sunset Galilee Missionary Baptist Church — 1609 S Rayburn Drive, 75961 — 936.564.3853
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints — 3307 Center Rd, 75961 — 936.564.0687
The Citizen Nac — 108 N Lanana Street, 75961 — 936.237.6395
Timber Creek Church — 3801 North Street, 75965 — 936.632.3540
Trawick Presbyterian Church — 4410 SH 204, 75964 — 254.702.0100
Union Cross Missionary Baptist Church — 2905 Old Tyler Rd, 75964 — 936.564.9838
University Church — 2505 North Street, 75965 — 936.205.3100
Vineyard Church — 4140 FM 1878, 75961 — 936.564.4600
Westminster Presbyterian Church — 903 North Street, 75961— 936.564.0203
Westside Missionary Baptist Church — 3109 Durst Street, 75964 — 936.564.0713
Woden United Pentecostal Church — 136 Rankin Rd, 75961 — 936.560.2733
Zion Hill First Baptist Church — 324 N Lanana Street, 75961

Lufkin Church Directory

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Carroway
FUNERAL HOME

2704 S John Redditt Dr
Lufkin, TX 75904

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Huntington, TX 75949

936-876-5555

204 E Front St
Corrigan, TX 75939

936-398-4141

www.carrowayfuneralhome.com

Allentown United Pentecostal Church — 4166 FM 843, 75904 — 972.921.6533

Angelina Church of Christ — 2213 Tulane Drive, 75901 — 936.634.4555

Angel of Joy Lutheran Church — 4003 Daniel McCall Drive, 75904 — 936.632.4777

Believers' Bible Church — 408 S Medford Drive, 75901 — 936.632.3818

Bethel Assembly of God Church — 3863 Ted Trout Drive, 75904 — 936.875.2444

Bountiful Blessings Ministries — 5730 SH 103W, 75904 — 936.671.0996

Breath of Life United Fellowship Of Churches Int'l — 1202 Cain Street, 75904 — 609.851.8541

Canaan Missionary Baptist Church — 1313 Paul Ave, 75901 — 936.632.5683

Carpenter's Way Church — 400 N John Redditt Drive, 75904 — 936.632.6599

Central Church of Christ — 711 N Second Street, 75901

Chestnut Drive Baptist Church — 1701 S Chestnut Street, 75901 — 972.632.1568

Christ Congregational Church — 105 Saddle Creek Drive, 75904 — 936.634.2009

Church At Lufkin — 205 Joyce Lane, 75901 — 936.632.6185

Church in the Park — Kiwanis Park Drive, 75901

Church of Christ — 2906 Atkinson Drive, 75901 — 936.632.1233

Church of Christ — 401 E Groesbeck Ave, 75901 — 936.634.7515

Church of Christ — 910 Oquinn Ave, 75904 — 936.632.3601

Church of the Living God — 212 S Garvan Street, 75901 — 936.632.4141

Church of the Living God — 613 Culverhouse Street, 75904 — 936.632.5144

City Church Lufkin — 711 N Second Street, 75901 — 936.632.3844

Collins Chapel CME Church — 801 Rowe Ave, 75904 — 936.637.2610

Covenant Presbyterian Church — 1303 E Denman Ave, 75901 — 936.637.6043

Cross Road Baptist Church — 5714 Old Union Rd, 75904 — 936.875.2810

Cross Timbers Cowboy Church — 4977 US 69, 75904 — 936.632.2535

Denman Avenue Baptist Church — 1807 E Denman Ave, 75901 — 936.634.6691

Dunn Chapel Church — 1212 Bethlehem Rd, 75904 — 936.637.3770

Eastview United Pentecostal Church — 1407 N Medford Drive, 75901 — 936.632.3525

Emanuel Assembly of God Church — 1818 N Timberland Drive, 75901 — 936.634.2483

Fairview Baptist Church — 3742 FM 2108, 75901 — 936.637.1466

Faith Family Church — 7020 US 59, 75901 — 936.632.8275

First Baptist Church Lufkin — 106 E Bremond Ave, 75901 — 936.634.3386

First Christian Church — 1300 S First Street, Suite 1, 75901 — 936.634.8341

First Church of the Nazarene — 1604 S Medford Drive, 75901 — 936.634.9443

First Lutheran Church — 1001 Atkinson Drive, 75901 — 936.634.7468

First Presbyterian Church — 607 Janeway Ave, 75904 — 936.634.3711

First United Methodist Church of Lufkin — 805 E Denman Ave, 75901 — 936.639.3141

First United Pentecostal Church — 3200 S Medford Drive, 75901 — 936.634.3515

Free Spirit Church — 610 Cain Street, 75904 — 936.639.6515

Fuller Springs Missionary Baptist Church — 5003 Fuller Springs Drive, 75901

Godtel Ministries — 323 Moody Street, 75901 — 936.637.2520

Goodwill Baptist Church — 812 E Lufkin Ave, 75901 — 936.634.7832

Grace Tabernacle Church — 408 Henderson Street, 75904 — 936.634.4589

Greater Shilo Baptist Church — 600 Weaver Ave, 75904 — 936.632.3630

Greater Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church — 1519 Williams Street, 75904 — 936.632.3629

Harbor Light Church — 109 Jones Street, 75901

Harmony Hill Baptist Church — 2708 S Chestnut Street, 75901 — 936.632.1350

Harvest Family Worship Center — 4176 FM 2251, 75904

Heritage Baptist Church — 1910 S John Redditt Drive, 75904 — 936.632.8188

Hillcrest Baptist Church — 2005 Ford Chapel Rd, 75901 — 936.634.3419

Homer Methodist Church — 5265 FM 326, 75901

Impact Outreach Ministries — 440 FM 2021, 75901 — 936.632.2611

Keltys First Baptist Church — 2402 N John Redditt Drive, 75904 — 936.634.4019

Keltys United Methodist Church — 1867 Old Mill Rd, 75904 — 936.634.3950

La Vina Church — 516 Montrose Street, 75901 — 936.366.1821

LifeGate Church — 2511 E Lufkin Ave, 75901 — 936.632.1517

LifePoint Church — 4737 Ted Trout Drive, 75904 — 936.634.6674

Little Flock Baptist Church — 2769 FM 1475, 75901 — 936.824.3633

Long Chapel CME Church — 514 Lining Street, 75901 — 936.634.4049

Loop 287 Church of Christ — 1911 S John Redditt Drive, 75904 — 936.212.0605

Lufkin First Missionary Baptist Church — 410 Scarborough Street, 75904 — 936.632.2426

Lufkin Seventh-day Adventist Church — 1209 S John Redditt Drive, 75904 — 936.639.1898

Memorial Baptist Church — 904 N John Redditt Drive, 75904 — 936.634.9288

Monastery of the Infant Jesus — 1501 Lotus Lane, 75904 — 936.634.4233

Mt Calvary Baptist Church — 208 Calvary Street, 75904 — 936.634.6266

Mt Carmel Baptist Church — 595 Mt Carmel Rd, 75904 — 936.875.2218

Mt Zion Baptist Church — 4303 FM 842, 75901 — 936.632.6447

New Beginning Baptist Church — 1002 Pershing Ave, 75904 — 936.699.7729

New Life Church of Lufkin — 4707 FM 843, 75904

New Life Church on the Rock — 4333 SH 103, 75904 — 936.632.2678

New Zion Temple of Deliverance, Inc — 1202 Cain Street, 75904 — 936.634.6759

Our Father's House of Faith — 518 S 3rd Street, 75901 — 936.639.9431

Overcomers Through Faith — 202 Forest Park Blvd, 75901 — 936.632.8149

Parkview Baptist Church — 111 Parkview Circle, 75904 — 936.634.6717

Peaceful Rest Baptist Church — 105 Fair Street, 75904 — 936.634.5700

Promise Land Baptist Church — 208 Whitehouse Drive, 75901 — 936.639.9633

Providence Baptist Church — 4423 Ted Trout Drive, 75904 — 936.875.2613

Redland Baptist Church — 234 Redland Church Rd, 75904 — 936.634.7437

Solid Rock Church — 3476 SH 103, 75904 — 936.639.8808

Southside Baptist Church — 1615 Tulane Drive, 75901 — 936.632.3292

St Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church — 1611 Feagin Drive, 75904 — 936.632.9100

Timber Creek Church — 2021 S John Redditt Drive, 75904 — 936.632.3540

The Foundry Assembly of God — 1405 S Chestnut Street, 75901 — 936.634.1444

St Patrick's Catholic Church — 2118 Lowry Street, 75901 — 936.634.6833

St Cyprian's Episcopal Church — 919 S John Redditt Drive, 75904 — 936.639.1253

St Paul's United Methodist Church — 1505 S John Redditt Drive, 75904 — 936.634.7810

St Thomas Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church — 2112 N Timberland Drive, 75901

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints — 606 Bending Oak Street, 75904

The River Lufkin — 617 S Bynum Street, 75904

The River Lufkin, A Church For Whosoever — 105 Holmes Rd, 75904 — 936.632.7407

Timber Creek Church — 2021 S John Redditt Drive, 75904 — 936.632.3540

Timberland Drive Church of Christ — 912 S Timberland Drive, 75901, 75901 — 936.634.7110

Timberland Unitarian Universalist Fellowship — 1510 N Timberland Drive, 75901 — 936.208.7955

Trinity Baptist Church — 1641 FM 325, 75901 — 972.632.8450

Union Road Church of Christ — 3504 Old Union Rd, 75904 — 936.634.4144

United Pentecostal Church — 4109 S First Street, 75901 — 936.632.7718

Warren Temple True Light Church — 405 S Warren Street, 75901 — 936.634.4637

West End Church-God In Christ — 2014 Cairo Street, 75904 — 936.634.7807

Woods Memorial Temple Church — 230 Leach Street, 75904 — 936.632.9701

Word of Life Church — 1407 Ellis Ave, 75904 — 936.639.2000



WHAT'S HAPPENING



August 2026

300th Anniversary Celebration of Venerable Antonio Margil
Sat, Aug. 1st 9am-7pm
106 E Main St.

194th Battle of Nacogdoches Celebration
Sun, Aug. 2nd 2pm
Sterne-Hoya Museum & Library

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

Classic Car Cruise in
Fri, Aug. 7th 4-7pm
Clear Springs Restaurant

Dancing with the Nacogdoches Stars
Sat, Aug. 8th 5pm
Nacogdoches Senior Center

Flowers After Hours
Wed, Aug. 12th 5-7pm
Both Bloom Studio

Meet the Jacks Family Fan Fest
Sat, Aug. 15th 9-11am
Homer Bryce Stadium

Flowers After Hours
Wed, Aug. 26th 5-7pm
Both Bloom Studio

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

Lone Star Trivia
All times are 7pm unless stated otherwise
Tuesday: 8/11 & 8/25 Bottlecap Alley
Thursday: 8/6, 8/13, 8/20, & 8/27 Fredonia Brewery

Historic Sites
Mon-Sat: Millard's Crossing Historic Village
Tues-Sat: Old University Building
Wed-Sat: Durst Taylor House and Gardens
Wed-Sat: Sterne Hoya House, Museum, & Library
Wed-Sat: Zion Hill Historic Site
Thurs-Sat: Nacogdoches Railroad Depot
Thurs-Sun: Stone Fort Museum

Aperitivo Cafe & Gelato
Tuesdays-Fridays: Happy Hour 2-6pm
Sundays: Brunch every Sunday 10am-4pm
8/29: Dueling Pianos

The Fredonia Hotel
Music on the Patio every Friday 6-9pm:
8/7: Larry Greer & The Shades of Blue
8/14: Enrique Munguia
8/21: Logan McCune
8/28: Ryan Lawless

Nacogdoches Arts Collaborative
Locations are Italicized
Falling Star Gallery 320 North St:
8/1: Closing of Summer Garden Art Show 2-4pm
141 Walker Street:
8/15 & 8/22: Mask Making Workshop 9-11am

Naca Valley Vineyard
Pizza on the Pavilion:
Thursdays-Saturdays: Andy's Wood-Fired Pizza
8/1: Randy C Moore Live 5:30pm

Madhatter Distillery
Events are 21+ | No cover unless stated otherwise
8/1: Alyssa Fuller Live 7-9:30pm
8/6: Singo Bingo 6-7:30pm
8/8: Lefty & Dixie Live 7-9:30pm
8/15: Jay & Linda Kaye Live 7-9:30pm
8/20: Singo Bingo 6-7:30pm
8/22: Barry McKenna Live 7-9:30pm
8/27: THE NET Networking Event 5:30-7:30pm
8/29: Daniel McMahon Live 7-9:30pm

Nacogdoches County Exposition & Civic Center
8/8: Dancing with the Nacogdoches Stars 5pm
8/15-8/16: Pineywoods Youth Rodeo
8/16: Nacogdoches County 4H Banquet
8/22: Pinywoods Ambucs 9am-6pm
8/27: Badges, Bags & Bingo 7pm

Lumberjack Harley-Davidson
8/1: Get Rally Ready (\$30 oil changes) 12-3pm
8/8: Back to School Backpack Drive 12-3pm
8/15: Bikes, Burgers, & Beer 12-3pm
8/22: Dog Days of Summer 12-3pm
8/29: Test Ride Days 12-3pm

Banita Creek Hall
Line Dancing & Two-Stepping
Thursdays: Ladies Night
Fridays: Dollar Night
8/29: Logan Ryan Band with special guest Kanton Teen & The Penny Pickers

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

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

Maklemore's Ale House & Bistro
Wine Down Wednesdays: Live Music
8/1: Sirens Speakeasy 7pm

Fredonia Brewery
Thursday: Trivia 7pm
Live Music every Friday & Saturday
8/1: Float Fest & Skippy Diggler & Russ Havard Live 6-9pm
8/5: Books & Brews 6-7pm
8/7: Enrique Munguia Live 6:30-8:30pm
8/8: MoAnn Revival Live 6-9pm
8/14: Haylee Lewis 6:30-8:30pm
8/15: Blaggards Live 6:30-8:30pm
8/20: FredTalk Lecture Series 3pm
8/21: Steffany Karback 6:30-8:30pm
8/22: Zach Mason & The Jars 6-9pm
8/28: Jared Lostracco 6:30-8:30pm
8/29: The Bamboo Tones 6-9pm

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

Slash-O-Meadery
Saturdays: Experience Mead: Wine Made with Honey 2-8pm
8/15: Logan McCune Live 4-7pm

LugNutz Bar & Grill
Thursdays: Steak Nights
Fridays: Karaoke & Burgers
Live Music Saturdays

SFA Soccer
SFA Soccer Fields:
8/1: SFA Ladyjacks Purple & White Match 6-7:30pm
8/13: SFA Ladyjacks vs Sul Ross State University 11am-1pm
8/20: SFA Ladyjacks vs Tulsa 7-9pm
8/30: SFA Ladyjacks vs Louisiana Tech 6-8:30pm

SFA Planetarium Shows
Saturdays: 8/15, 8/22, & 8/29
3pm, 4:40pm, & 7pm

SFA Gardens
Locations are Italicized
Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden:
Now-3/6/27: Sculpture in the SFA Gardens
Brundrett Conservation Education Building:
8/13: Postmortem: The Decline of Post Oaks & an Entire Ecosystem Lecture 7pm
8/22: Project WILD Professional Development Workshop 9am-3:30pm

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.