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NACOGDOCHES COUNTY - ANGELINA COUNTY - SHELBY COUNTY

DECEMBER 2025

The Best Gift to Receive This December

by Todd Stallings

Most Americans are aware of the story of the birth of Jesus and many will celebrate that event this month. You'll likely hear or read about the Nativity story again in coming weeks, and you'll see depictions of it everywhere you look. It was in 1870 that President Ulysses S. Grant signed a law in the United States that designated December 25th as the Federal Holiday known as Christmas Day. It's the time of the year again when millions in the United States will observe what happened around 2000 years ago when Mary "...brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." – Luke 2:7



Norris Dudley, on the left, Pastor of Stallings Dr. Baptist Church, is pictured with church member Todd Stallings.

Some believe Jesus may have actually been born in the month of September, and others are happy with sticking to the December date. I don't claim to know the exact date for sure, but whatever day God sent His own Son "in the likeness of sinful flesh" for us, I'm sure happy that He did.

John 3:16, which I'll talk about in a moment, is perhaps the most well-known "3:16" verse in the Bible, because it tells us **WHY** Jesus came into the world. Out of curiosity, or maybe just because God put the thought in my head, I spent a full day looking up all the other "3:16" verses in the Bible when writing this story. Like **John 3:16**, many of them tell us quite a bit about God.

2 Timothy 3:16 says "All scripture is given by inspiration of God..." While men wrote the words of the Bible, this verse establishes ALL words found in

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Advanced Answering Solutions

3 Generations of Safe, Dependable Service

by Terri Lacher, Staff Writer
talacher@sbcglobal.net



Kara Wilson, owner and president of Advanced Answering Solutions has been providing trusted answering services to the East Texas area including Dallas, and all of DFW, Austin, Houston, Longview, Waco, Nacogdoches and the surrounding areas across the state, and much more since 1989. Born and raised in Nacogdoches, Kara is the third generation to continue a family-owned business which began in McKinney, Texas, with her grandmother. She grew up as a young child with memories of a multiline phone and switchboard and typewriters, and a lazy-Susan effect of the answering equipment. Her mother continued the business until 2018, when at that time, Kara took over the company's operation. Today, Advanced Answering Solutions uses the state-of-the-art equipment and highly trained communication specialists, with the capacity to offer over 350 languages in translation services.

"I love providing a service that helps people in all walks of life. Because our answering service is custom built by each client, we are able to provide service for any company in every area. This allows us as a company to interact with many different individuals and their various needs. Throughout my 20+ years

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scripture are approved of by God and ultimately come from God one way or another. Other verses teach us how God continues to preserve His words perfectly to this day such as *“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the WORD OF OUR GOD shall stand for ever.”* Perhaps the strongest declaration about His words come directly from the mouth of Jesus when He said *“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”*

1 Timothy 3:16 in the 1611 Authorized Version of the King James Bible, the only English version I believe, does not strip Jesus of His deity and makes it crystal clear exactly WHO Jesus is: *“...God was manifest in the flesh....”*

The Bible reveals that God is made up of 3 persons known as the Godhead, with God the Father as the first person, Jesus, the Son of God as the second, and the Holy Spirit as the third. **John 3:16** is about the first and second persons of the Godhead, and it is well-known because it’s the most encouraging message ever given to mankind: *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*

1 Corinthians 3:16 tells us a little about the third person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit, Who comes to live within those who believe on Jesus for salvation during the Church Age which we’re living in right now. When the Apostle Paul is speaking to believers and says *“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”*, he is speaking about the Holy Spirit.

After thousands of years of negotiations and one new law after another, man has been unable to sustain any kind of lasting peace on this Earth and wars continue to rage on to this day. While God is perfect Love, **Joel 3:16** is a verse that should be of great concern to anyone who reads it, as it says *“The Lord also shall roar out of Zion ... and the heavens and the earth shall shake...”*. You don’t want to be on the receiving end of this when it happens, and you don’t have to be, because it’s not going to be a good day for a lot of people. **Joel 3:16** is about the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, and He’s not returning as a sweet baby again when He comes back. He’s returning as a King. There are 10 times as many verses in the Bible about the Second Coming of Jesus Christ than His birth, and it’s going to be the event of all events, The world has never seen such a day as this one. The last prayer in the Bible is not for men to establish world peace. *“Even so, come, Lord Jesus”* is that last prayer, and it’s about when Jesus will be returning to make war. He alone will bring justice, peace, and restoration to the world, unlike we see today where man has failed.

Jesus is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. Jesus claimed to be God when He referred to Himself as **I AM**. This is what led to Him being crucified. **I AM** is first mentioned in Exodus 3 when God is talking to Moses and reveals that His name is **I AM**. When Jesus connected Himself with this name in the Gospel According to St. John, it enraged those who heard it so much that they picked up stones to throw at Him. Right after God revealed His name as **I AM** to Moses, we come to **Exodus 3:16** where God gives Moses even further clarification of Who He is. God tells Moses to tell the Elders of Israel that *“The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob....”* is Who has appeared to Moses.



Stallings and Dudley view Exodus Chapter 3 from an original 1st edition King James Bible leaf printed in London, England in 1611. Stallings obtained the page several years ago when specialty items were sold celebrating the 400th anniversary of the Authorized Version.

Jesus is the second person of the Godhead, the Son of God. Just as His claim to be God was exclusive when He called Himself **I AM**, His plan for everyone today is as exclusive as it gets. When Jesus said *“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me,”* He meant that He is the **ONLY** way to Heaven, and He still means that today.

Many world religions are based on some type of goodness scale where people believe they’ll go to Heaven based on whether their good deeds outweigh their bad ones. When rightly divided, the Bible just does not teach this for us today. Professing Christians can even get mixed up on this when they don’t pay

Continued at top of page 3

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Around the Town is published and distributed on the first day of each month. **FREE** copies are available in more than 220 locations in Nacogdoches, Angelina, Shelby & San Augustine Counties. The paper may also be viewed online **FREE** 24/7 at www.AroundTheTown.us.

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Our Pledge . . .

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

Continued from page 2

attention to who different books of the Bible are written to, even within the New Testament.

God has clearly let us know that His gift of salvation is free and you cannot earn it through good works, by giving to charity, by feeding the poor, or by any other way during this Church age that we're living in today. When Jesus said **"It is finished"** on the cross, it meant He did all the work. Salvation from your sins and from having to spend eternity in a lake of fire is a gift that has already been paid for in full. To try to add to that would suggest Jesus didn't do enough to finish the job of paying for all the sins of the world when he died on the cross. When Jesus said **"It is finished,"** that's exactly what He meant. There's nothing you and I can do to add to what He's already accomplished and completed.

Jesus is the only person in history to ever live a perfectly sinless life and that's why He is the only acceptable sacrifice God the Father accepts as good enough to pay for your sins and my sins. The Bible says that **"all our righteousness are as filthy rags"** in the sight of God. We cannot be good enough for God to accept no matter what we do. We need a substitute. We need Someone to step in for us and do what we cannot. That Someone is Jesus.

The Gospel message is **"that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day."** The Bible teaches **"ALL have sinned and come short of the glory of God"** and that **"the wages of sin is death; but the GIFT of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."** **"God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."** So, **"if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."** **"For WHOSOEVER shall call upon the name of the Lord SHALL BE SAVED."** Amen!

Salvation comes from you realizing and admitting you're a lost sinner to God, and from you believing that gospel message above and that Jesus is in fact the Son of God. Salvation comes from you believing that what Jesus did for you on the cross is the only acceptable thing that will pay for your sins. You must trust Jesus completely. Jesus is alive today, because He rose again from the dead and defeated death and Hell.

You **MAY** humbly come to Him **TODAY** as you are, no matter how bad you may think that you are, and **HE WILL SAVE YOU** if you are honest and repentant about what you are and if you will **BELIEVE** Him and trust Him. He'll help you with cleaning up your problems later. **TODAY** is the day of salvation. You may not be here tomorrow and then it will be too late. You **MAY** pray to God right where you are without the help of anyone else and you need to confess to Him that you are a sinner in the best way you know how. Tell Him that you believe what Jesus did for you is what paid for all your sins and that you would like to receive His free gift of salvation. If you mean it, **YOU WILL** receive that gift. The shed blood of Jesus is what washes our sins away, and God will cleanse you of all your sins forever. It's a one-time deal you don't have to keep repeating as the Holy Spirit will come to live within you, help you, and seal you until your day of redemption. In the Bible, Jesus says **"I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."**

TODAY is the day to receive this free gift from Him.

Jesus lives today and calls for ALL to believe on Him and be saved. Jesus paid it all. The window to get in on salvation during this Church age is closing quickly. We don't know when the last day will be, but it's speeding towards us like a bullet. Choose to receive the best gift you can receive this December, the free gift from God of salvation. The gift of an eternity in Heaven with the Lord with no more sorrow and no more pain.

Whether you were just recently saved or you've been out of Church and know God is calling you back, fortunately there are some good Bible Believing Churches in this area that can help you to grow in your walk with the Lord. I personally attend Stallings Dr. Baptist Church in Nacogdoches at 10:30 am on Sunday mornings at 728 SE Stallings Dr. There are also some wonderful people I know over at Heritage Baptist Church in Lufkin if you live in that area and they meet at 10:45 am at 1910 S John Redditt Dr.



Stallings Dr. Baptist Church in Nacogdoches (top) and Heritage Baptist Church in Lufkin (below) are two of the few remaining churches in this area that exclusively use the King James Bible.





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with the answering service I have had the pleasure of helping a young mother worried about her newborn baby, to a couple whose home was flooded and everything in between,” Kara said.

As a mother of five, with four still at home, Kara has learned that balance and patience is very important. Her amazing team of fifteen employees are trained and equipped to handle the day-to-day operations, allowing her to have a more flexible schedule, balancing work and home. This, coupled with “a lot of prayers to my Savior, Jesus” has helped the business to be successful.

The communication specialists at Advanced Answering Solutions are committed to helping Texas business grow and thrive. They provide phone answering services for many kinds of businesses in Texas, including all medical professional services, government entities, HVAC contractors, tree care specialists, roofers, plumbers, electricians, home builders, pest control, oil field services, private detectives, sign design companies, interior design firms, resorts, apartment complexes, law firms, insurance companies, churches, non-profit companies, horse-drawn carriage tour companies, and more.



With the help of the 24/7 Advanced Answering Solutions answering service, companies can rely on the personal and professional communications specialists to take messages and forward calls any time of the day or night. They maintain a HIPAA-compliant medical answering service to clients in Dallas and all of DFW, Austin, Houston, Longview, Waco, Nacogdoches and the surrounding areas, and much more. This allows their clients to feel at ease knowing that their personal information is safe and secure with a company they can put their trust in.

As President and independent owner of the U.S. based company, Advanced Answering Solutions, Kara Wilson is confident that her company will continue to grow offering services to all of the East Texas area and beyond.

To learn more about the varied services provided by Advanced Answering Solutions, you may call them at (877) 495-9625 or contact them through their Facebook page at Advanced Answering Solutions. You may also visit their website at advancedanswersolutions.com and submit a service request.

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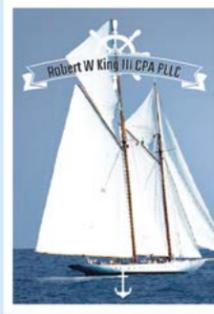
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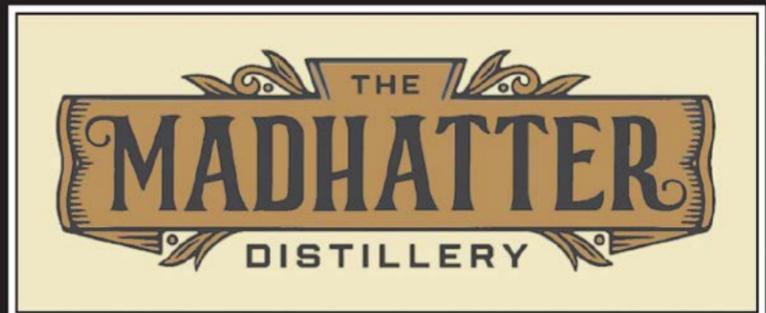
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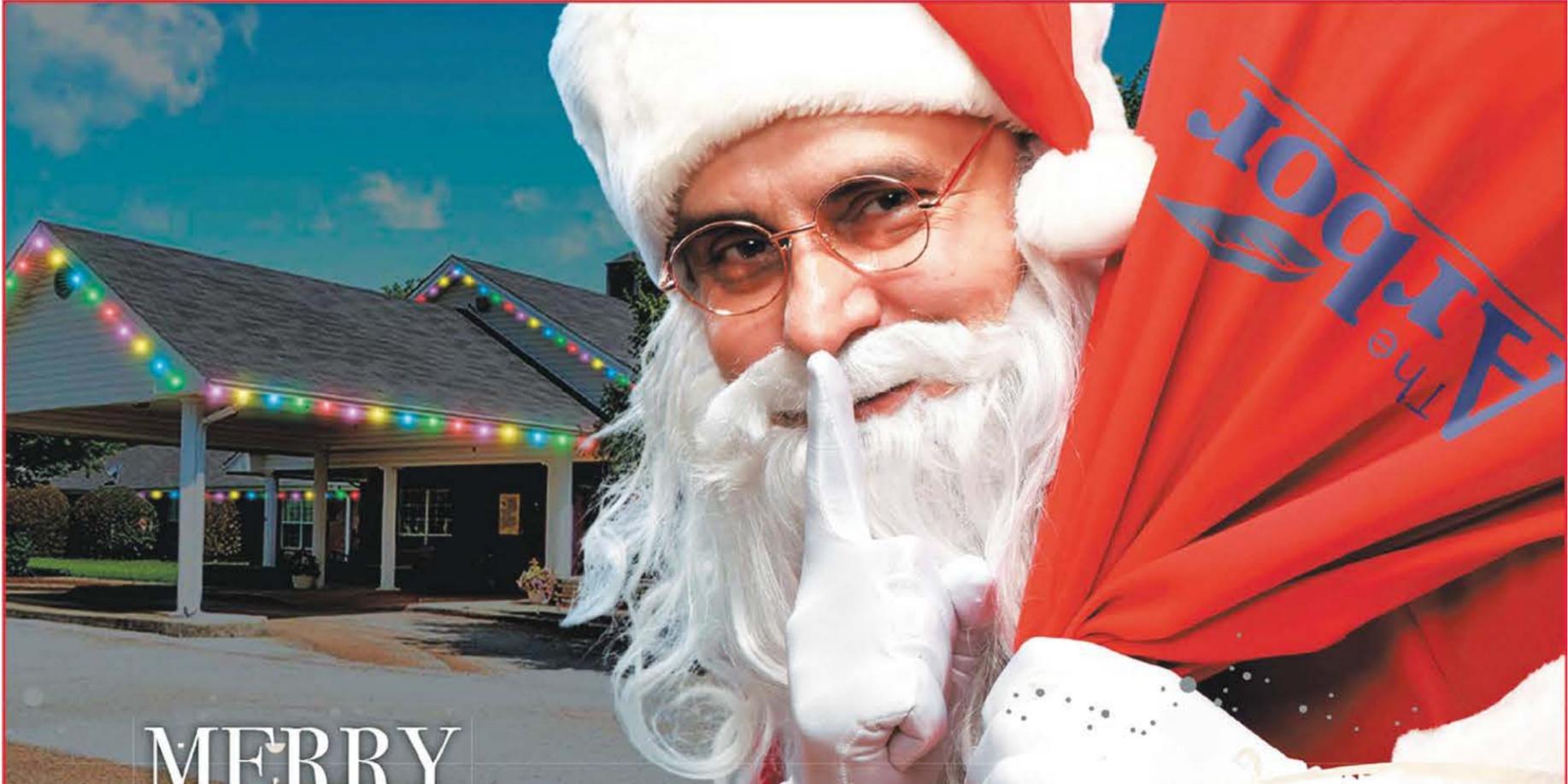
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Millard's Crossing News and Calendar

Good day readers,

Christmas is right around the corner, I am hoping you each have great plans for the holiday. December is also the time for Millard's Crossing Old Fashioned Christmas event. We will be hosting this event on December 13, 2025, from 1-9pm. Santa, cookies, hot coco, sponsored by Nacogdoches Junior Forum, petting zoo, pony, train, hayrides, crafts, vendors, music by the Looking Grass Revival and The Heart of the Pines, starting at 4:00pm.

Thank you to our sponsors: *Tipton Ford, CBTX, Johnson Furniture, Brookshire Bros, Appleby Sand Road Animal Clinic, Linda Morgan Unique Interiors, Nacogdoches Junior Forum, ServePro, Gregg Nichols, Edward Jones, Cadence Bank, Buchanan Wealth Management LLC. and Around the Town. I am sure I left someone off this list; please know we are grateful to you as well.*



We have three garden clubs that usually come about two weeks before the Christmas event, bringing the sights and smells of old-fashioned Christmas into select buildings. They come in with arms full of fresh cut greenery, oranges and cloves, pinecones and so much more. Huge thank you for the years of doing this. 4 Seasons, decorating the Millard Lee, Flora, decorating the School House, and Pines, decorating the Dog Trot.

BIG Shout out to one of our board members, Linda Morgan Unique Interiors, for sharing your talent with Millard's Crossing this year by decorating the village for Christmas. Thank you to you and your team for all the hard work. Looks great.

Thank you to my staff and volunteers for decorating some of the inside of the buildings. Helping with the event and so much more. I have the best team!!!

Our Old-fashioned Christmas serves as one of our main fundraisers and helps Millard's Crossing maintain the operation of the village. To anyone that has come to one of our three main events (Easter, Halloween, or Christmas), THANK YOU for your support.

Don't forget the Old-Fashioned Christmas event on December 13, 2025, Time 1-9pm.

If you would like to volunteer, sponsor an event, or donate to Millard's Crossing please call the office and someone will be able to help you out. 936-564-6631

Please feel free to stop by and have a cup of coffee or cold drink with us.

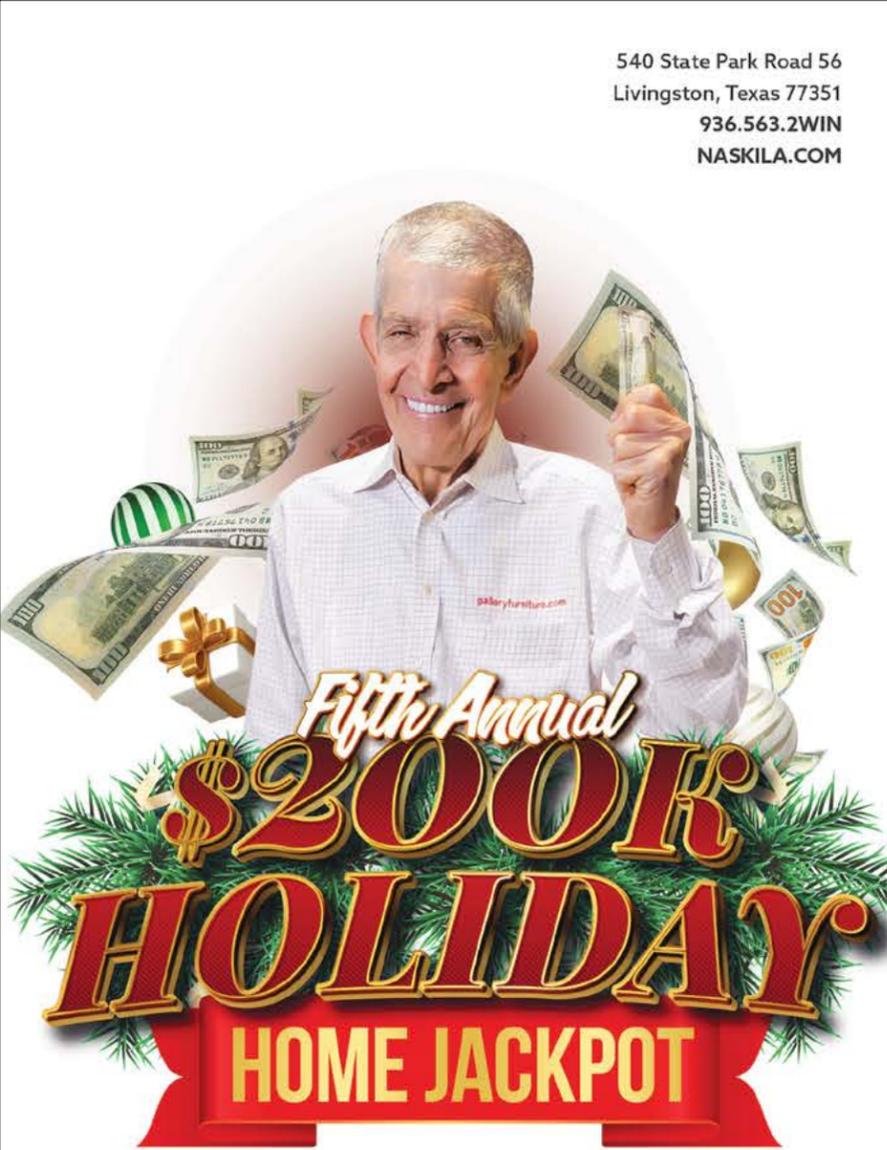
Millard's Crossing would like to extend a warm Merry Christmas to you and yours!

Best Regards,
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The Mission of Millard's Crossing Historic Village is to portray the spirit and ingenuity of pioneer settlements in East Texas and to connect present generations to those of the past.

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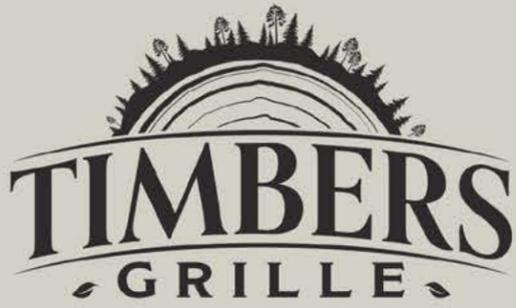
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Venture Not

by Jim Garrett

Of the various poems and allegories that I have written, what follows is one of my personal favorites. As indicated in the November issue, the poem *Venture Not* was written to a yet to be born son that I believed someday I would have. Although that was the case, he showed minimal interest in what I have written. Mary Beth's and my grandson, Daniel, on the other hand, personally showed considerable interest in the verse which I am pleased to share:



Mary Beth and Jim Garrett

Venture Not

Venture not too far into the sea, my son,
Venture not too far -
For waves and storms and currents strong
Will take you from where you are.
"Venture not..." I say and yet recall
Those years which have gone by
When steps I took along that sand
Which you now occupy.
"Venture not..." and yet the sound
Is diminished by the roar;
The sea is big - and still I call;
The sea is loud; it beacons more.
Yes, for every young man there comes a time
To stand and watch the tide -
A time to think, a time to wait,
A time to act or to decide.
Is it better to leave the beach
Since the sand be washed away?
Is it better to follow the tide
In fun and games and play?
This is the way it always was -
And ever more shall be;
A choice we have: to stay on the beach
Or drift on out to sea.
Venture not too far into the sea, my son -
Venture not too far -
For waves and storms and currents strong
Will take you from where you are.

And, as I conclude this poem, so am I concluding my series of articles in *Around the Town*. It was a little over three years ago that Publisher David Stallings was present in a Sunday School class in which I substituted for the regular teacher. I told some stories and had some light-hearted illustrations to make my points. A couple of weeks later, David asked if I had other stories - to which I answered in the affirmative. He then asked if I would give him a copy of the type of article I might write.

That night I sat down and as I wrote, the words flowed freely and easily. Very shortly I had a couple of introductory articles as well as individual articles on chickens, pigs, and snakes! Apparently, David was OK with what I had written and my first endeavor was published in the July 2022 edition of this paper. **NEVER** could I have ever imagined that a retired chemistry professor would be afforded the opportunity to share his family and friends with the readership of East Texas. During my tenure at *Around the Town*, David Stallings has been a constant encourager. I have really been impressed with James Aston who lays out the newspaper's graphics. What a marvelous job he has done with our articles!! Finally, a big thank you to those of you who have read these writings and offered positive words of affirmation which have been so appreciated. Now it is time to move on. And so, Mary Beth, my love and my proofreader, and I leave you with the following admonition:

Venture not too far into the sea, Dear Readers -
Venture not too far -
For waves and storms and currents strong
Will take you from where you are.
JG & MBG

Jim and Mary Beth, thanks so much for sharing your stories with us over the years. They have been a real joy to read. Best of luck to you both.

— Staff of *Around the Town*

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Redeemer Lutheran Church invites the community to experience the wonder of Christmas in a truly special way at its “**Journey to Bethlehem**” Drive-Thru Living Nativity on **Friday, December 5th, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM** at **2306 Appleby Sand Road** in Nacogdoches.

This unforgettable and unique **drive-thru Christmas experience** allows families to travel through a series of live scenes depicting the story of Jesus’s birth. From angel visits to the decree of Caesar Augustus to the peaceful manger in Bethlehem, guests will witness the story come to life — all from the comfort of their own vehicles. The event is free and open to the public, offering a safe and family-friendly way to celebrate the season and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

Event Details:

- **What:** Journey to Bethlehem – Drive-Thru Living Nativity
- **When:** Friday, December 5th, 6:00–8:00 PM
- **Where:** Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2306 Appleby Sand Rd, Nacogdoches, TX
- **Cost:** Free!
- Weather permitting

For more information, contact Pastor John Cain at Redeemer Lutheran Church at 936-564-6729 or visit www.facebook.com/RedeemerLutheranNacogdoches.

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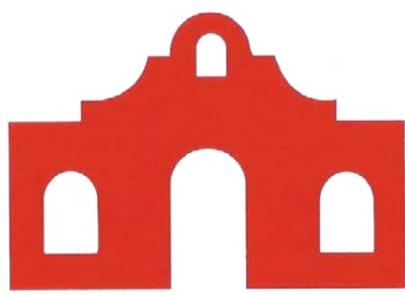
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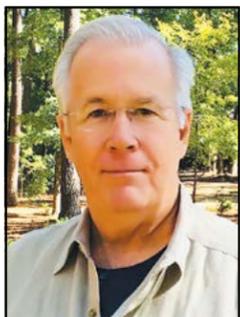
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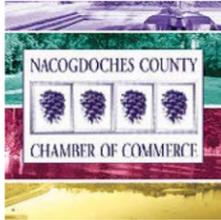


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Chamber Connection
by Kelly Augustine
IOM, President & CEO,
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When you do business with your neighbors, you are:

- **Strengthening Our Local Economy**
Every purchase made in a hometown shop keeps more dollars circulating right here in Nacogdoches. Local spending supports local paychecks, which supports local families — creating a positive ripple effect across the entire county.
- **Supporting the Businesses That Support Us**
Whether small business, large business, big box store or chain, our locals donate to school programs, sponsor community events, and show up for Nacogdoches year-round. Holiday shopping is a chance to return that support and help them thrive.
- **Preserving the Character of the Oldest Town in Texas**
Local shops reflect the personality, history, and charm you can only find in Nacogdoches. Choosing local helps maintain the one-of-a-kind places that make our community special.
- **Creating Jobs and Opportunities**
From seasonal hiring to long-term growth, strong holiday sales help businesses expand and create more jobs for local residents — including students, graduates, and families who want to build a future here.
- **Building a Stronger Community**
Holiday shopping locally fosters connection. You meet neighbors, discover new businesses, products and services, and enjoy the welcoming “Nacogdoches” spirit that defines our County. Every purchase helps build a thriving community where we are proud to call home.

Those are just a few of the behind-the-scenes actions happening when you tap that card, write that check, or hand over the bucks to businesses in Nacogdoches. The Chamber appreciates all who make the effort to shop local and support our thriving business environment.

Merry Christmas to all!

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Reese Earns Menopause Society Certified Practitioner Credentials

Nacogdoches Women's Center is proud to announce that Kristin Reese, RN, FNP-C, is a fully credentialed Menopause Society Certified Practitioner (MSCP). As a clinician with expertise in managing menopause, Kristin is now equipped with the most up-to-date knowledge on hormone therapy, lifestyle interventions, and symptom management strategies tailored specifically for women in perimenopause, menopause, and post menopause.

"After years caring for women in various stages of their reproductive lives, I decided to pursue my MSCP designation to become better informed on evidence-based treatment options for women in perimenopause and menopause," she said. "This timeframe can be a frustrating and difficult transition for many women, and my goal is to help them feel their best!"

This certification from the preeminent menopause organization is not only a personal milestone for Kristin, but also a meaningful advancement for Nacogdoches Women's Center. While menopause is a natural transition, the symptoms can be potentially confusing and have an adverse impact on women's daily lives. With this certification, Kristin can offer NWC patients an elevated standard of care that helps them feel heard and empowered in their health journey.

As the definitive, evidence-based resource for healthcare professionals, researchers, the media and the public, the Menopause Society leads the conversation about improving women's health and healthcare experiences during the menopause transition and beyond. MSCPs are healthcare providers with a special interest in menopause care and are credentialed after taking a certification exam on the most current data on menopause care and treatment. Information about menopause and perimenopause evolves rapidly, so seeing someone who is up to date on the most current evidence will give you the best chance of having effective treatment.

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

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

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Walker Announces Candidacy for the 217th District Court of Angelina County

Stephen Walker, Angelina County resident, experienced attorney and long-time community volunteer, has announced his candidacy to serve as district judge for the 217th District Court of Angelina County. Walker will seek the Republican nomination in the 2026 Republican Primary.

"As district judge, I will bring my diverse and formidable legal experience, coupled with an unwavering commitment to the impartiality of justice, to create a responsive, efficient and effective relationship between our courthouse and the people of Angelina County. I will treat everyone fairly and with respect, to ensure that the Constitution and the laws of the great state of Texas are served honestly and without bias."



With over 23 years of legal experience, leadership, and public service, Walker brings a rich mix of both technical knowledge and practical experience to the position. His campaign will focus on legal qualifications and experience, ethical standards, and an understanding of the matters important to Angelina County.

Walker's advanced educational background is broad and extensive, combining his passion for business and the law. Working and putting himself through school, he graduated with degrees in Finance and Spanish from the University of Texas at Austin. He then went on to receive an MBA in Finance from Baylor University and a law degree from St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio. No stranger to leadership positions, Walker was elected and served as student body president of both his MBA program at Baylor and his law school program at St. Mary's.

Before taking the Texas Bar Exam, Walker served as a judicial intern for a federal judge, and a legislative aide and staff counsel in the Texas Legislature. After passing the bar exam on the first attempt, Walker focused on getting experience in the courtroom.

"I was fortunate to be trained by great attorneys that believed a real trial lawyer should be able to grab a file and try a case to a verdict anytime and anywhere—no matter the complexity or subject matter."

In more than 20 years of experience working for law firms, Walker has litigated cases all over Texas representing the rights of individuals and companies on a wide variety of disputes. The breadth of the cases he has handled in his career is remarkable, which includes such diverse matters as serving as lead attorney on an oil field helicopter crash off the coast of Africa, judicially foreclosing on the first biomass powerplant in Texas, and representing a military police officer all the way to the United States Supreme Court.

Walker has tried several cases to a verdict in both Angelina and Nacogdoches counties, as well as other state and federal courts in Texas. These cases varied widely across breach of contract, insurance, probate, personal injury and civil rights disputes. Notably, Walker tried one of the first whistleblower cases under the Sarbanes Oxley statute, which was created by Congress after the Enron scandal to establish rigorous standards for financial reporting for publicly traded companies. Due to his vast legal experience, leadership, and hands-on understanding of complex legal issues, Walker was appointed by multiple judges to serve as liaison counsel in four different multi-district litigation ("MDL") cases. He has also served on panels for the Texas Center for the Judiciary to help judges and court coordinators understand the complexities of MDL cases.

More recently, in 2024, Walker began working as an in-house corporate litigation attorney for Corebridge Financial, Inc., a publicly traded Fortune 500 company based in Texas. He is on a dynamic legal team that manages the company's nationwide litigation docket.

"This job has allowed me to handle legal disputes across the nation while working with some truly amazing attorneys and further broadening my legal experience to see how the law impacts communities and people throughout our country."

Walker has always been dedicated to serving his community, locally and throughout the state, providing more than 2,000 hours of legal pro bono work and volunteer time.

"I am the first attorney in my family and I believe I have an obligation to use that knowledge to help people when they need it the most."

In addition to other activities, such as being a member of the Lufkin Host Lions Club since 2009, Walker has twice served as president of the board of directors for CASA of the Pines in Lufkin.

"Serving on this board almost continually since 2012 has been both heart-breaking and heartwarming. CASA organizations, like ours, serve abused and



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Walker and his wife, Hilary Haglund Walker, have been married since 2006. They believe in strong religious values, community and family as the bedrock of the values they share. The Walkers have two adventurous sons that attend public schools in Lufkin.

In his spare time, Walker enjoys being outdoors, especially hunting and fishing with his family and friends. *"With your support and faith in me, I promise that I will work hard for Angelina County as judge of the 217th District Court. I will also strive to carry on the tradition of giving back to our community, an example well set by all of our current and former judges."*

First Methodist Church of Shelbyville 200 Years and Still Standing Strong

by Terri Lacher, Staff Writer
talacher@sbcglobal.net

“You are about to embark upon a written tour through some of the most glorious years of Texas Methodism. You will meet just a few of those who have gone on before us in this great state and this great faith we know as the Methodist Christian faith...” “To be a part of this church is like being a part of a great family, past and present, yes, even future; for as long as our love remains there will be a church at Shelbyville.” 1963-64: Joe V. Clouse, Pastor, First Methodist Church, Shelbyville, Texas.



The words of Pastor Clouse, shared in his book, *The History of the First Methodist Church*, ring true today. The First Methodist Church of Shelbyville, Texas located off Highway 87 and FM 417, recently celebrated their 200th anniversary, the pews filled with local and area church members, all raising their voices in grateful praise for the legacy that still lives after all these years. Bishop Kenneth Livingston was the special speaker for this event. His message was one of encouragement, endurance, and faith to all. A reception was held in the fellowship hall following the service.

It is through the love for their church, their love for each other, and the love of the Lord that the First Methodist Church of Shelbyville has endured over two hundred years of growth and stability despite the hardships the church faced. From the early circuit rider preachers, and the leadership of Pastor Sherry Harding, currently serving as pastor, the strength and faith of the people have continuously worshipped within the walls of this quaint country church from its inception in 1825.

Texas was Spanish Territory from approximately 1540 until Mexico successfully revolted and won her independence from Spain in 1821. In 1803, the U.S. purchased the Louisiana Territory from France, and this brought the United States boundary near the Sabine River and Texas. To avoid bloodshed, the Americans and Spaniards “averted bloodshed” by setting aside a strip of land along the Sabine River, calling it the Neutral Ground, which became known for the groups of outlaws who gathered there. With their presence came trouble to both the United States and Texas, especially in the present Shelby County.

By 1825, this area in East Texas was considered “no man’s land.” The first Protestant worship services were Methodist Societies. Under Mexican rule Protestant churches were illegal. Methodist preachers would come into East Texas from other areas to preach; sometimes secretly, sometimes in open defiance of Mexican law.

One such minister was Brother James English, a circuit preacher from Louisiana. In 1825 Brother English came to this lawless neutral land, a strip of land set aside by the Americans and Spaniards because of a boundary dispute along the Sabine River. It is said he preached the first sermon, organized the first church, and built the first church building. During this same time, Bro. William Stevenson and Bro. Henry Stephenson worked as circuit preachers in this same area. Henry Stephenson later organized a Methodist Church just outside of San Augustine in 1834.

According to Pastor Joe Clouse, the church at Shelbyville, established in 1825, had 200 members by the time Shelbyville was incorporated as a town in 1826.

The first church building was built in the 1830s. When that structure was destroyed by a storm the trustees gathered to build a house of God that would make a statement. Architect J.M. Pigg was hired to design and build the structure.

The men of the church went into the Sabine River bottom on horses and in wagons. Cypress trees were cut down with axes and carried back to the church site on mule-drawn wagons. There the logs were carved and whittled into boards of varying lengths. The shingles were made using a drawing knife. One report says the shavings were piled so high the men could hardly be seen at work. The knob which topped the 120-foot steeple was carved from the end of a large timber that extended 8 – 10 feet down into the steeple.

As one can see, all the architectural features of this beautiful church point



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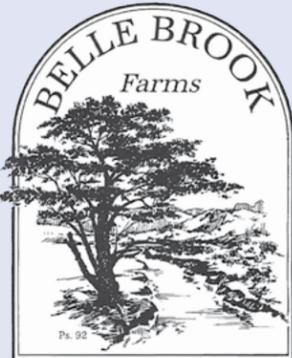


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to God. The steeple, the roof, the windows, and the pews. J. M. Pigg built the first pulpit and the original pews. In the 1970s the original pulpit was restored, and an identical pulpit was built by John Doggett of Center. Both are in use today.

In the summer of 1973 lightning caused damage to the steeple. Lightning struck again in 1985. The steeple is now capped with copper, and the wooden knob was replaced with a copper topped cone. The original wooden knob is on display in our history room.

The breathtaking “Easter Morn” painting by Fredrick W. Cole of Canterbury England was presented to the church by N. O. Thomas in 1974.

A few of the earliest ministers who served at First Methodist Church of Shelbyville were James English (1825), Henry Stephenson (1836), and William Carroll Crawford, a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence (1838).

One story relates that during the period of the Regulator-Moderator War in Shelbyville Sam Houston himself worshipped here at the Methodist Church.

Although this historic building is remarkable, the greatest accomplishment is by its past and present members of holding regular Methodist services and proclaiming God’s Holy Word for 200 years.



(Information provided by the First Methodist Church of Shelbyville historical references)





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Holiday Traditions

by Taylor Millard

All families have their own holiday traditions and who goes where for Thanksgiving or Christmas but for me this year, it will be a time of firsts. I lost my mom in January and my wife in February so our holiday table will be missing two. Grief has a way of appearing randomly, but this will have more of a scheduled group moment of sorrow.

The next generation is now in charge and at the tender age of only 41 my daughter is now leading the event. A passing of the duties of traditional dishes and some new things. I realize that 41 is not exactly "tender" but it is a sudden change and my sister's three kids and my two are now making the decisions.



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.

We now have moved the time of the meal and added some new dishes and maybe eliminated some old ones. The 1957 Betty Crocker cookbook may have contributed its last green bean casserole to the Millard table. I for one am okay with the loss. We now fry our turkey and I am a fan. The risk of death while frying the fowl is also an added point of tension. My son-in-law is quite the cook and I am thrilled to hand over as many of my former duties to him and my son.

My daughter and two nieces are a great team and the loud laughter coming from the kitchen is my favorite part of the day. The grandkids scurry around outside and one of them usually finds fire ants at some point. Another will fall while chasing a cousin and cry briefly but shake it off to rejoin the fun. We now have teen granddaughters with boyfriends that will come for the evening leftovers meal. The teasing is expected, but I will do my best to be nice.

I will say the Blessing and this year will be harder than before but I do feel truly Blessed. We have a choice every day to be grateful and not just once a year. We will have some new friends this year at our table that have nowhere to go and they will be welcomed as if they are family.

I wish you all a great Christmas and hope your Thanksgiving was perfect. Remember that no one is on a diet this time of year so eat up!

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God Bless You and Have a very Merry Christmas.



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Get ready for a busy and exciting December at the Expo Center! December is here — and Nacogdoches is sparkling with holiday magic! From festive markets to cheerful parades and cozy hometown fun, there’s an event for everyone to enjoy this season. Don’t miss a single merry moment!

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

Budweiser Clydesdales

December 2nd – 7th

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Thursday-10am - 4pm public viewing

Friday -10am - 3pm public Viewing

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Love Inc Christmas Blessings

December 9th -10th

The **Love INC Christmas Blessing at the Expo** is a heartwarming holiday event dedicated to sharing joy and generosity with local families in need. Filled with festive spirit, this celebration brings the community together to give, serve, and spread the true meaning of Christmas — love, hope, and kindness for all. For more information contact Love Inc in Nacogdoches.

Texas Agrilife car seat safety course

December 15th-18th

The **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension** offers various car safety seat programs, including training for professionals and public resources like car seat check events and demonstrations. While a single “public” course might not be a traditional e-learning module, they provide educational resources and community based programs focused on child passenger safety.

****Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Expo staff****

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Looking Back

by Robert McCandless

As I look back on life, I see a lot of mistakes I made. I could regret them, but instead, I have a tendency to laugh at them and realize I would not be where I am today if not for those choices I made earlier.

I am not suggesting one purposely make bad decisions in hopes of being blessed, later, as I have been. It doesn't always work out that way, as evidenced by many of those who I shared my former choices with, some of whom died in prison, others from drug overdoses and some from gangland executions.

I can't say why I was spared. If I take it upon myself to describe it, I can say there was always some small voice within me telling me to do better and I once thought the route to which that was attained was education. If I could just get smart enough, I could have a career like some of the successful people I had observed from a distance. No matter how hard I tried, my choices seemed to lead to failure.

Education wasn't powerful enough to compete with addictions and the acquaintances I had acquired. Its best work was to entertain my time during the six years of prison in which I served and to introduce me to a Christian household of complete strangers who would fight for my release and become my family.

Not being a believer in any sort of god, I had always prayed The Lord's Prayer every evening prior to falling asleep, just to cover my bases. I didn't realize my bases were already covered, by Him who obviously had something else in mind for my life.

I know experts and psychologists say it's not good to think long on our pasts, but I write and journal a lot about it only to see that He was involved at every turn, saving me from the horrors of prison life that some experience, from homelessness, from overdoses and killing myself or someone else while driving intoxicated.

Why? I can't answer, only to say there must be some plan for me to share what He did in my life.

Until that day of January 17th, 1975, when I went to the police station in Dallas to inquire what they wanted to see me about, my life just was not working out. The next 5 years 8 months and 3 days were a critical transition in change. It seemed, at times, like a retreat gone wrong, but in retrospect it was one of the greatest blessings of my life.

I realized the rebellion I so proudly displayed toward "The Establishment" and my dislike of "organized religion" had gotten me to where I was. My rebellious nature has not gone away, but changed direction. In a world that increasingly abhors anything religious or having authority, I have found myself on the opposite side.

Someone asked me a few days ago how I could take so conservative a stance in life, having been accused, convicted and sent away for something I didn't do? After some thought I realized that I came to have more respect for the guards who came and went each day having lives that produced, than those I had previously ran with who spent their time taking from others. It was the first conservative governor since Reconstruction, Bill Clements, who had let me out and it was the people at my new church who supported me in my positive growth both spiritually and professionally.

My dad used to say, "You will be known by the company you keep." No truer words were ever spoken.

Today I experience what the prophet Joel spoke of in 2:25... "I will restore all the years the locusts have eaten..." as I look at my life and all the blessings I have been given through God's grace. I laugh sometimes at my foolish life before and the things I did. I may have a lot of wild stories to tell but they nearly cost me my life, physically and spiritually. Recognition of God's presence in my life has given me a contrast so great from who I once was, I have a hard time believing I am where I am today. God has been so good to me.

I frequently think of and mention my past in an effort to let others know of God's insurmountable Grace that is awaiting everyone who will claim it.



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Christian Women's Job Corps

Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) wishes to recognize donors who gave the Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) held its Fall 2025 Graduation on November 9 at Fredonia Hill Baptist Church. This year Executive Director Jasmine Hassan, Program Director Demetrius Waters, and eight graduating students, volunteers, and the Board of Directors worked together to help the students achieve their goal of graduating with a diploma from Christian Women's Job Corps. To show you how these ladies changed during their time at CWJC, here are some excerpts from each of their graduation speeches.

• LaDyamund P., "I wanted a better life. ...This program has helped me become more accepting of others. I have learned to focus on the positive. Bible study reaffirmed who I was in Christ. ...I LOVE THESE WONDERFUL LADIES.... (Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.") My goal is to become a LVN by 2027. CWJC has opened the doors to help me see all of the different possibilities. I have a clear vision. I have a plan. I have amazing support and I have determination."

• Alexis S., "I am a returning student to CWJC to finish my GED and to do better for my children that I love so much. My goal is to follow my dreams by continuing my education to become a CNA and to come back to CWJC and be someone's mentor."

• Jessica J., "...the first time Jasmine told us we needed to show up for ourselves ...I decided she was right; I WAS here for myself. I have learned many things such as boundaries, digital skills, financing and job skills ...This program is great for women of any age with any amount of experience. My goals are to finish getting my GED and enroll in cosmetology school"

• Jennifer C., "I love the motto of Christian Women's Job Corps., "A hand up, not a hand out." They want to see women thriving in every aspect of life. Every class brings something different, but it all works together for the good in our lives to bring hope and healing, to bring life to dead dreams or birth a new dream. ...My goal is to pursue a ministry certificate as well as business management to one day be able to give back to the people of this community. I want to give glory to God that with Him all things are possible."

• Candace J., "I have learned many things, such as how to write a resumé, answer interview questions, and study the Bible (special thanks to Mrs. Jackie, Mrs. Gaye, and Mrs. Patricia.)" ...When we learned about writing resumés, I realized that my resumé was not written the way it should be. When we learned how to present ourselves and how to answer interview questions, I realized all the things that I had done wrong in my interviews. ...I plan to find ...employment and complete my certificate in medical billing and coding. My big dream is to return to school to complete my Bachelor's in psychology. I want to be a substance abuse counselor.

• Zahida A., "I decided to enroll in this program because I was lacking discipline in all aspects of my life. ...I learned about Christian Women's Job Corps. by scrolling through their Facebook page. I decided to enroll in this program because I was lacking discipline in all aspects of my life. ...Bible study... opened up my heart and mind to God's understanding and everlasting love for me.... I will pursue my education in becoming a public accountant."

• Sorangie O., "...to God be the glory for this moment. I cannot begin without first thanking for every breath, every step, and every challenge that has shaped the person I am today, His strength has carried me through, and His love is the foundation of my being.... I wanted to quit the program due to my father being sick, I was afraid every single day that I was going to lose him. ...had they (Mr. Gary Roberts, Jasmine Hassan) not stopped me from quitting on myself I wouldn't know where I would be today. After this program I will continue to pursue my education to ...one day be a hemodialysis technician."

• Katherine M., I ...have a Bachelor's degree in Vocational Rehab. After I graduated I got sick and remained in the hospital for two months. Once I was able to look for a job I lost confidence so I took jobs in what I was familiar with just to bring income into the house. CWJC has changed me. I'm more confident and not afraid to fail. I'm here to face challenges and not let it cause me distress to the point I give up. During orientation there were things that I felt...were going to hinder me from attending physically. I prayed about it, I didn't want that to stop me because here was my opportunity to gain computer skills, Bible classes, and a group of ladies that I could become friends with and we all have something in common.




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Mid-Day Noel Community Concert Series
Thursdays, December 4, 11, and 18 at 12:00 noon; Westminster Presbyterian Church Sanctuary; Free and open to the public-Lunch follows each concert in Westminster Hall

Each December, for more than 30 years Westminster opens its doors for the Mid-Day Noel concerts—short mid-day performances designed to offer a moment of peace and beauty amid the busy holiday season. This year's lineup features an inspiring range of local musicians and ensembles:

- December 4: SFA Chamber Choir under the direction of Dr. Michael Murphy
- December 11: Organist Robbie Belk
- December 18: McMichael Middle School Choir under the direction of Aaron Dominguez

Concerts begin at noon, followed by a simple lunch. Donations are welcome to support local music outreach and hospitality ministries.

A Season of Welcome
"These gifts of music are our way of opening Westminster's doors to the whole community," said Rev. Kallie Pitcock, pastor of Westminster Presbyterian. "Amid the rush of the season, we hope these moments of song and story help people pause, breathe, and rediscover joy."

For more information:
Follow Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nacogdoches on Facebook for event updates and photos. Link to Facebook Page

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Look for an Ag update from Sam in another page in Around the Town!

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Nacogdoches Baseball Franchise Announces Jace Green as General Manager

Mid-America League Club Continues Momentum Toward Inaugural 2026 Season

The Nacogdoches Baseball Franchise of the Mid-America League announced Monday, November 17 that Nacogdoches resident Jace Green has been appointed as the club's first General Manager, marking a major milestone as the team prepares for its inaugural season in May 2026.

Green, a lifelong East Texan with deep community ties, will oversee all aspects of the franchise's business operations, community engagement, and fan experience. His appointment brings local leadership and familiarity to a team that aims to become a cornerstone of family entertainment and civic pride in the oldest town in Texas.

"Hiring a General Manager is one of the most important steps in launching a franchise, and we could not be more excited to have someone of Jace's character, energy, and commitment leading our Nacogdoches club," said Mark Schuster, Founder of the Mid-America League. "Jace understands the culture of this region and shares our vision of building a first-class baseball experience for fans. His passion for Nacogdoches will be the driving force behind this team's long-term success."

Green will immediately begin work on front office development, sponsorship outreach, youth baseball partnerships, and building strong relationships with local leaders, businesses, and community organizations. His early priorities also include shaping the team's fan experience, supporting the finalization of branding elements, and preparing for the upcoming season-ticket launch.

"I'm honored and humbled to serve as the first General Manager of the Nacogdoches Baseball Franchise," said Jace Green. "This community means everything to me. We're going to build something East Texas can be proud of — a place where families come together, kids fall in love with the game, and Nacogdoches shows the rest of the league what true home-field spirit looks like. This isn't just a team we're building — it's a community tradition in the making."

The next day the team proudly announced that the team will be officially known as the Nacogdoches Niners.

The Niners identity pays tribute to the nine flags that have flown over Nacogdoches throughout its more than 300-year history, a distinction that sets the community apart as the oldest town in Texas. League leadership shared that the Niners brand was designed to reflect the city's resilience, tradition and cultural diversity, while providing a modern and powerful look for the ballclub.

Launched in 2024, the Mid America League has quickly become one of the premier summer baseball leagues in America. The league features top collegiate players alongside post-college players pursuing professional baseball careers. These athletes include players who were undrafted, unsigned free agents, or former professionals working to return to affiliated baseball. The league compensates its players through a Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) program, which is closely monitored by the league.

The Nacogdoches franchise joins Fort Scott, KS, Bryan, TX and Beaumont, TX as one of four new expansion teams debuting in 2026. The Mid America League is committed to growing and strengthening baseball in the region.

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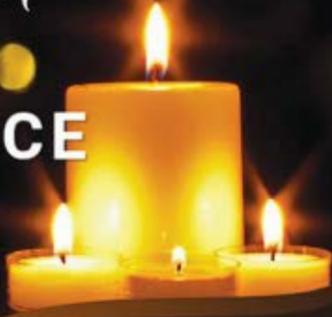
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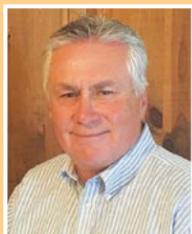
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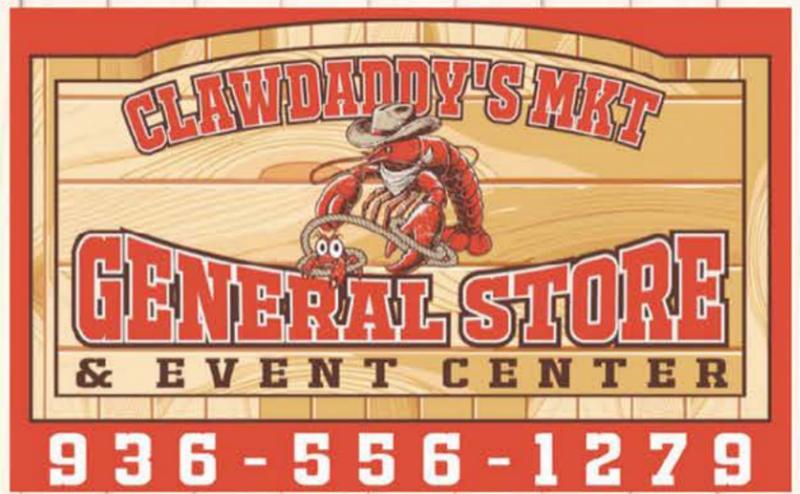


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S O S

SERVING OUR SAVIOR

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

Be Bold for Jesus

Be Bold for Jesus and Stand Firm in Truth: In every generation, followers of Christ are called to live boldly not by blending into the world, but by standing firm in the truth of God's Word. Jesus Himself modeled this courage. Though He faced ridicule, rejection, and even death, He never yielded to the ways of the world. His life was anchored in obedience to the Father, and His mission was clear: to proclaim truth, call sinners to repentance, and offer salvation through His sacrifice. He gave us the example to follow.



Patti Goodrum, Executive Director Love INC Nacogdoches

The Truth of God's Word: At the heart of boldness is conviction. The Bible is not a collection of suggestions or cultural opinions it is the living Word of God. Scripture reminds us: "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16). To be bold for Jesus is to trust that His Word is truth, even when it confronts our comfort or challenges the culture around us. And, especially when it makes us unpopular.

The Call to Repentance: We all fall short. Romans 3:23 declares, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." But Jesus does not leave us in our sin. He calls us to repent, to turn from our old ways, and to walk in newness of life. Boldness means not excusing sin but humbly acknowledging it and embracing the transforming power of Christ. We must remember that sin is not ours to redefine. Scripture speaks with clarity, and it is God's Word that sets the standard.

A Higher Standard for Teachers: For those who teach the Word, the responsibility is even greater. James 3:1 warns, "Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly." Teachers of the Word must not cherry-pick the passages that are easy or comfortable. To do so, risk sending a mixed message to those who are listening. Students of the Word deserve the whole truth, not a watered-down version that fits human preference. A teacher must be mindful of how biblical teaching is conveyed, attentive to the environment in which it is shared, and intentional about the example they set for their students.

Living Without Mixed Messages: The world is watching. Our families, our churches, and our communities are looking for authenticity. When our words and actions align with Scripture, we reflect Christ clearly. But when we compromise or present a partial gospel, we confuse those we are called to lead. Boldness for Jesus means living and teaching in such a way that others see consistency, integrity, and unwavering faith.

Conclusion: Courage Rooted in Christ: Being bold for Jesus is not about arrogance or self-righteousness. It is about humility, conviction, and courage rooted in Christ. It is about proclaiming the truth of God's Word, calling sin what it is, and pointing always to the hope of repentance and redemption. May we live and teach in such a way that no mixed message is found in us only the clear, unshakable truth of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the goal!!

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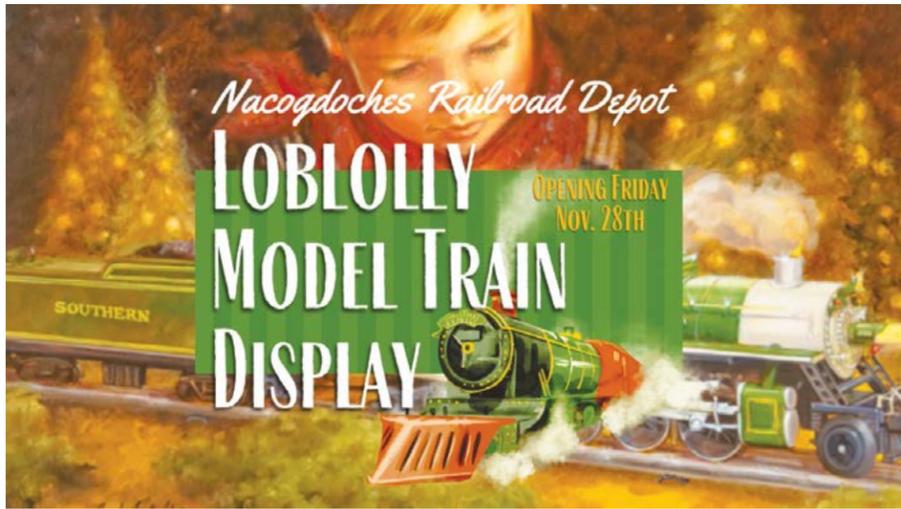
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Schedule of Events from Nacogdoches Historic Sites



As the holiday season arrives, we want to thank all of our visitors, volunteers, and community partners for making this past year such a wonderful one at Nacogdoches Historic Sites. Your support helps keep our historic places active, welcoming, and full of life.

We have several festive events coming up this season, including the Loblolly Model Train Display opening on Friday, November 28th, our Very Victorian Christmas Dinner on Friday, December 12th, and the Nacogdoches Christmas Tour of Homes on Saturday, December 13th.

More details about each event can be found below. We hope you'll join us as we celebrate the holidays across our historic sites.

The beloved Loblolly Model Train Display returns to the historic Nacogdoches Railroad Depot this holiday season, continuing one of Nacogdoches' favorite festive traditions.

Opening Friday, November 28, the display will be open Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. for three consecutive weekends. The event is free and open to the public.

Each year, the depot transforms into a miniature wonderland filled with intricate Lionel model trains winding through detailed landscapes and small town scenes, many of which feature recognizable businesses and landmarks from around Nacogdoches. Visitors of all ages will enjoy watching the trains in motion and discovering new details throughout the display.

To make the experience even more engaging for young visitors, the popular Loblolly Scavenger Hunt will once again be available, guiding children to search for special details hidden among the scenes.



Join us on Friday, December 12th at 6:30 PM at the beautifully decorated Zion Hill Baptist Church, located at 324 North Lanana Street.

The evening will begin with historic holiday beverages and Victorian dance lessons led by the Gobel School of Dance. Inside, attendees will enjoy Christmas crafts and practice gift-making traditions that were popular in the Victorian era. Guests will then gather for a traditional Christmas meal served at one communal table, accompanied by live string music throughout dinner. Guests are strongly

encouraged to dress in Victorian-era attire, and the evening will conclude with a Best Dressed Contest celebrating those who embrace the spirit of the era.

Tickets are \$50 and are available in-person (cash/check) at Zion Hill or online at eventbrite.com. For more information, visit nactx.us/historicsites or call 936-560-4441.



Step into the spirit of the holidays with the Nacogdoches Christmas Tour of Homes, presented by *The Daily Sentinel*. This event returns Saturday, December 13, from 1 to 5 p.m., inviting guests to explore beautifully decorated homes across the oldest town in Texas.

This year's tour features an exciting mix of locations, from historic landmarks to charming family residences, each uniquely adorned for the Christmas season. Guests will have the rare opportunity to visit the SFA President's Home, a stately 1957 neoclassical revival residence now home to President Neal Weaver and First Lady Kristi Weaver, who have decked the halls with welcoming holiday charm.

Also featured is the Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity House, a grand 1929 Colonial Revival mansion originally designed by architect Shirley Simons and later remodeled by Raiford Stripling. Recently restored, the home showcases the beauty of its historic architecture while blending tradition with a renewed sense of pride and preservation.

Rounding out this year's lineup are several distinctive private homes showcasing the variety and character of Nacogdoches architecture, including a mid-century home filled with vintage holiday collections and a country estate brimming with themed trees and festive displays. From traditional decorations and sparkling lights to historic craftsmanship and modern touches, each stop on the tour captures the magic of Christmas in its own unique way.

Tickets (\$25) are available now and can be purchased in advance at the Nacogdoches Visitors Center in downtown Nacogdoches, or on the day of the event at any of the participating homes. Each ticket includes a map of this year's featured locations to help guide visitors along their holiday journey.



Gospel Festival at Zion Hill

The Gospel Festival was filled with incredible music, fellowship, and community spirit.

A heartfelt thank you to Commercial Bank of Texas for presenting this event, and to the African American Heritage Project (AAHP) for organizing it in partnership with Nacogdoches Historic Sites.

We're especially grateful to Evangelist Alva Taylor, whose warmth and leadership helped bring the program together beautifully, along with Men of Praise and the choirs from Iron Wheel Baptist Church, Zion Hill First Baptist Church, and Austin Heights Baptist Church for sharing their voices and passion.

Thank you to everyone who joined us in celebrating gospel music and the history of Zion Hill!



Natalee Dunn
CVB Creative Content Director

This Month in the Oldest Town in Texas

There's something truly magical about the holiday season in Nacogdoches. As the oldest town in Texas transforms into a winter wonderland, twinkling lights, festive music, and cherished traditions fill every corner of our community. This December, Visit Nacogdoches invites residents and visitors alike to step into the season with a full lineup of events designed to bring joy, connection, and a little bit of holiday sparkle to everyone.

The festivities begin on December 6th with the beloved Winter Workshop, held from 10 am to 2 pm on the Downtown Square. This family-friendly arts fair is the perfect place to discover hand-crafted gifts, holiday treats, and unique creations made by local artisans. From homemade ornaments to seasonal goodies, the Winter Workshop offers a warm and welcoming way to kick off your holiday shopping while supporting small businesses and creators.

As the afternoon continues, the celebration transitions seamlessly into Jingle Jams on the Square, happening from 4 to 5:30 pm. Bring your chairs, grab a cozy spot, and enjoy festive holiday music as the community gathers for one of the most anticipated nights of the year. Jingle Jams sets the stage for the annual Nine Flags Lighted Christmas Parade, beginning at 6:30 pm on the Downtown Square. With storefronts glowing, floats sparkling, and the entire atmosphere buzzing with excitement, the parade feels straight out of a Hallmark movie, a true Nacogdoches tradition that delights all ages.

Holiday fun continues throughout the month with Main Street Movie Nights, set for December 5th and 19th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Held on the brick streets of downtown at the Visitor Center backstage, these evenings feature classic holiday films and animated favorites. Families are encouraged to bundle up, bring blankets, and settle in for a cozy night under the stars as beloved movies light up the big screen.

For those who love historic charm, the Christmas Tour of Homes on December 13th offers a rare opportunity to wander through beautifully decorated homes across Nacogdoches. This year's tour even includes the SFA President's House, adding an extra touch of tradition and elegance to the experience. Each stop showcases holiday décor, architectural beauty, and the warmth of the season.

The holiday spirit also takes center stage with the Lamp-Lite Players' presentation of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, a community theater favorite that brings humor, heart, and a timeless message to the stage on December 18th-21st.

Rounding out the month is the enchanting Loblolly Model Train Display, open December 5th-7th and 12th-14th. This annual display is a delight for train enthusiasts and families, featuring intricate layouts and festive scenes that capture the wonder of the season.

From music and parades to home tours and classic films, December in Nacogdoches is filled with opportunities to create unforgettable memories. Join us downtown and throughout the community as we celebrate the holiday magic that makes Nacogdoches shine brighter than ever. And that's just the beginning. To explore everything happening across town, visit www.visitnacogdoches.org/events.

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

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



Jesus—Teach Us What Love Has To Do With It

We love [Jesus] because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19

God’s love has no limits on its jurisdiction. God loves the whole world, “every tribe and tongue and people and nation” (Rev. 5:9). God acted first by sending His only begotten Son into the world to die for our sins so that in dying and being raised from the dead we could have life in Him through His victory over death and the grave. This life is eternal life for every born-again believer. It is a oneness with God through faith in Jesus that can never be lost, cancelled or broken.

The Christmas holiday is the time of year when Christians the world over celebrate the birth of Jesus, remembering God’s love in action. Mary was chosen by God to bring forth His Son into the world when the fullness

of the time had come (Luke 1:26-31; Gal. 4:4). Her conception was a divine, spiritual miracle (v.35). Jesus’ birthplace, Bethlehem, was as told by the prophet Micah (5:2). Every detail of Jesus’ birth was by divine design, led by the power of love.

If anyone wants to know what love is, look to Jesus. If you want to know what love is not, look to the world. God’s love in Jesus is a divine love. It is a love that is for everybody (John 3:16). However, the life of Jesus is only for those in whose heart the love of God has been poured out in by the Holy Spirit who is given to believers (Rom 5:5). This heart of love is reserved only for those who have the Son, those who have believed in God by believing in His Son (John 14:1). God’s love is inclusive; it extends to every sinner. The life of Jesus is exclusive, given only to those who by grace through faith receive the love God has for us in Jesus.

The apostle John writes in 1 John 4:7-8, “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.” God’s love received in Christ separates the believer from the deceiver and unbeliever.

The body of Christ does not have a sin problem because every born-again Christian has had all of his sins forgiven, taken away in Christ who became sin for us. The body of Christ has a love problem. We have a rebellious attitude toward loving one another, loving our neighbor as ourselves and loving our brother whom we see every day. If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen...he who loves God must love his brother also” (1 John 4:20-21). Jesus said if we love Him, we will keep His commandments. He commands us to love one another. When Christians in the family of God start loving right, we will start living right before God and those who are lost in this world.

Divine love gives without expectation of anything in return. It’s love that meets a need, regardless of whether we believe the recipient is worthy or deserves God’s love. The fallacy is we think the love is ours to do with it as we wish. It is not. It costs us nothing to love except surrendering our will and doing what Jesus commands.

Jesus prayed before His arrest in the garden of Gethsemane these words to the Father: “The glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one. I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me” (John 17:22, 23). God’s love in the believer engenders a spiritual unity like the oneness of the Father and the Son.

Hear the word of the Lord: “Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever” (1 Pet. 1:22-23).

How will you love this Christmas as you celebrate God’s love for us in the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? Will you love like Jesus has loved you? What about the days after Christmas, how will you love? When we divorce love from the way we live as followers of Christ, we separate God’s character from our lives. Love has everything to do with it.

The Day Santa Claus Robbed a Bank

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.



Who would have ever dreamed that Santa would rob a bank! But, it happened in Cisco, Texas. On December 23, 1927, a man dressed as Santa Claus walked down the sidewalk in downtown Cisco, followed by several small excited children, and into the First National Bank. After shooing the children away, he pulled out a gun and robbed the bank.

Santa – Marshall Ratliff – and three accomplices then conducted one of the most inept bank robberies in the annals of ineptitude. A general gun battle erupted during the robbery, owing to the general citizenry being armed, and a standing reward of \$5,000 available from the bank association for shooting a bank robber in the act. Over 200 bullet holes were found in the bank building.

When the four robbers finally fought their way out of the bank and to a get-away car, killing two police officers in the process, they realized the car was almost out of gas. The robbers drove off in a hail of gunfire but made it only a few miles out of town. After their car ran out of gas, they commandeered another car from a citizen, and continued their way north.

During the next three days they stole two more automobiles from other victims, but never made it more than about sixty miles from Cisco. After three days of dodging the largest manhunt in Texas history, everyone was rounded up, although one of them was shot dead. The other two received death sentences. Henry Helms was electrocuted by “ole sparky” in Texas’ electric chair on September 6, 1929.

Santa, rather Ratliff, had his execution delayed by a sanity hearing that brought him back to Eastland County, where he feigned illness and killed a guard in an abortive escape attempt. The good citizens of Cisco decided that they’d had about enough of due process.

The following is quoted from a newspaper report about what happened to Mr. Ratliff:

All yesterday they gathered in little groups about the town and muttered about (the guard) Jones’ shooting which physicians said probably would prove fatal. Last night a crowd in front of the jail swelled to nearly a thousand at 8:30 o’clock.

At about 9 o’clock, some 200 men slipped into a side door of the jail and asked for the man. Jailer Gilborn refused to give him up. They then overpowered Gilborn, took his keys and got Ratliff. He was dragged in the direction of the public square, but the crowd would not wait to go those few blocks.

At 200 yards from the jail a strong telephone cable was pointed out, a rope flung across it. A noose was put around Ratliff’s neck and a dozen men on the other end of the rope bent their weight, and Ratliff was jerked from the ground. The rope broke. Messengers were sent for another rope, and again the mob set to its task. Then someone remembered that men about to die are usually given a chance to say a last word. For another moment he was lowered to the ground, but, displeased at his mumblings, the crowd yelled “string him up!”

So, Santa Claus met his fate at the hands of the citizens of the town of Cisco. Amazingly, only six people were killed, considering all the shots that were fired. Two of them were police officers.

A plaque has been erected on the outside wall of the old First National Bank building in Cisco which reads, “Scene of daring Santa Claus Bank Robbery.” So far is known, Santa has never participated in another bank heist.

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A Big Bend Series: The Marfa Lights

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.

This is the final piece in this series that was comprised of several of my impressions of this storied land that I somehow failed to visit until later in life, much to my chagrin. Having grown up amidst the sylvan beauty of east Texas, it didn't really occur to me that the relative "badlands" of west Texas would hold much fascination. I was wrong, of course. I hope my previous observations included herein over the last few months have kindled some interest among potential visitors who may have wrongly shared my uninformed disinterest.



I'm not sure why, but I saved this piece about the Marfa Lights until last in this series. Perhaps I am intrigued more than some about unexplained natural phenomena. It may also have something to do with my enthusiasm for science fiction. For those whose journey of discovery may not have included such a phantasm, a brief history of the lights may be in order:

The Marfa Lights consist of a series of mysterious glowing orbs that have appeared on the horizon near the town of Marfa, Texas. These lights have fascinated locals, visitors and researchers for more than a century, inspiring both scientific investigation and speculation.

Reports of the Marfa Lights date back to at least 1883, when a young cattleman named Robert Reed Ellison first observed unusual glowing lights while driving cattle through Mitchell Flat. Native American stories suggest that these phenomena may have been witnessed even earlier, although no written accounts exist before the late 19th century.

As Marfa grew in the early 20th century, the lights continued to attract attention. Local residents and travelers alike began gathering along U.S. Highway 90, hoping to catch a glimpse of the enigmatic illuminations. The mystery deepened as observers noted that the lights often appeared to move, split, merge or change colors, but they could never be approached or explained with certainty.

Over the decades, scientists and enthusiasts have offered various explanations for the Marfa Lights, ranging from atmospheric reflections and mirages to car headlights and campfires. Despite several studies, including those conducted in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, no single theory has been universally accepted, and the lights remain an enduring mystery.



It was with considerable skepticism that we parked at the very nice pavilion constructed on U.S. 90 by the state of Texas on the legendary viewing site where we were not alone among the onlookers when nightfall arrived.

We strode onto the wide concrete apron facing toward the south and began to peer into the blackness of the moonless sky. After waiting in the darkness for a few minutes to ensure my eyes had adjusted, I raised my binoculars and felt my heartbeat quicken. I remember being anxious, irrespective of the possible outcomes. I knew that if I saw the lights, I would be jubilant, and if I didn't see them, I would be frustrated. Fortunately, I was able to discern, after several minutes, several glowing orbs, moving in the same direction at times and in different directions at other times. It was quite surreal. The accompanying photo is a fair representation of the visage I saw, except there were fewer of the lights visible than appear in the photo (at top right):

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The next day, we returned to the viewing site to assess the topography of the area where the lights appeared the night before. Raising the binoculars again, I couldn't see any sign of life or any structure, road or anything else that could possibly have produced the lights we saw. The accompanying (below) photo shows the Mitchell Flat area where we were looking.



And so it was—perhaps the strangest phenomenon encountered during our years of fulltime RV travel around the country. We had the good fortune to document it all, and we hope our fond memories of Big Bend will provide a useful diversion for our readers.

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For more information contact First United Methodist Church of Lufkin at 936-639-3141.

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The Lamp-Lite Players Present *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*

The Lamp-Lite Players present *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, by Barbara Robinson, December 18-21, 2025, **ONE WEEKEND ONLY**. Curtain is at 7:30 pm, December 18th, 19th, and 20th, and at 2:00 pm, December 21st. It is highly recommended that tickets be purchased online at lampliteplayers.ludus.com prior to the performances. Leftover tickets, if available, will be sold at the Box Office the day of the performance 45 minutes before curtain. All seats are reserved seats.

The Herdmans, played by **Lydia Smith, Maddox Gaona, Grayson Fos, Cadence Glazener, McKenna Fos, & Robert McDermand**, are "the worst kids in the world." After hearing about desserts at church, they take over the main



The HERDMANS portrayed by (l to r) McKenna Fos, Robert McDermand, Lydia Smith, Cadence Glazener, Maddox Gaona, and Grayson Fos

parts of the Annual Christmas Pageant, to the chagrin of the Bradleys, played by **Cristoban Morones, Jessie Licht, Holly Odom, & Stihl Adams**. Can Mrs. Bradley turn the impending fiasco around?

Mrs. Armstrong and the other Ladies of the Church, played by **Candyce Wagnon, Kim Fos, Jessica May, Alex Baeza, and Sue Whatley**, do not think so. They continually give advice to Rev. Hopkins, played by **Pablo Morones**, and his Deacon, **Richard Malloy**. In addition, Beth's best friend Alice, played by **Jocelyn Hunt**, provides her insights, and the Sunday School Kids, including Maxine, played by **Carli Shaw**, and the rest, played by **Jackson Smith, Morgan Stewart, Radlyn May, Kinsley Baeza, Vivian**

Licht, Hazel Licht, Kenzie Clark, Nash Coutee, Graham Payne, Madie Boyer, and Amirabella Higginbotham, enter the fray. Added to the chaos are the Firemen, played by **David Morones and Isaac Alejandro Calderon**. **Benjamin Smith** portrays the Almost Baby Jesus.

Roz Couch directs this cherished Christmas tradition featuring adult, youth,

and child Lamp-Lite Players. **Davy Thomas** directs the music and provides accompaniment, along with **Jody Ryan**. **Christen Smith** serves as Stage Manager, assisted by **Heath McCormack**. Rounding out the production leadership are **Chelsi Condon, Brian Oswald, and Nancy Smith**.



The Bradleys portrayed by (l to r) Cristoban Morones, Holly Odom, Jessie Licht, and Stihl Adams

Audience members are asked to arrive at Lamp-Lite Theatre 15-30 minutes prior to curtain. More information may be found at www.lamplitetheatre.com. *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com.



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Directed by Roz Couch

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NAC ARTS

COLLABORATIVE News

CONNECTING COMMUNITY | SUPPORTING ARTISTS

2025 Year in Review

2025 has been a landmark year for Nacogdoches Arts Collaborative as we expanded our reach, deepened our impact, and created more opportunities than ever for local artists and our community.

Our Falling Star Gallery showcased extraordinary talent through diverse exhibitions, including K.I., BA in Art at SFA; Richard Orton and Mary Fogel in our first collaborative photography and poetry show; Elton and Sharon Scifres' paintings and photography; and a stunning painting and pottery collaboration between Maggie Leyseth and Jim Leyseth. Each exhibition demonstrated the power of artistic collaboration and creative expression. Save the date for Passport, our next exhibition featuring four teaching artists, opening January 10.

Taking full advantage of our parking lot at 320 North Street, we hosted more arts markets than ever before, providing sales opportunities for nearly 100 local artists and small businesses. Our September ArtFest reached new heights with record attendance, enhanced by our prime location next to the Farmer's Market in Banita Creek Park. Special thanks to SFA for providing transportation to ensure parents and students could enjoy these vibrant community gatherings.



We celebrated our 17th annual NAC Kids Theatre Camp with 40 enthusiastic students and welcomed 20 young artists to our second NAC Kids Art Camp. Both programs thrived at our newest location at 141 Walker Street. We're deeply grateful to Nacogdoches Junior Forum for their generous financial support and volunteer dedication that made these camps possible.

Our annual fundraiser, Arts Ball 2025: I Want My 80's, was a tremendous success thanks to our incredible sponsors: Sean Hightower, Judge Steven Kirkland and Mark Parthie, Spirit Outfitters, Reach That LLC, Jerry and Patty Wood, Les and Cheri Neal, Weelynd and Kendra McMullan, Sharon and Elton Scifres, and many other generous donors, volunteers, and supporters.



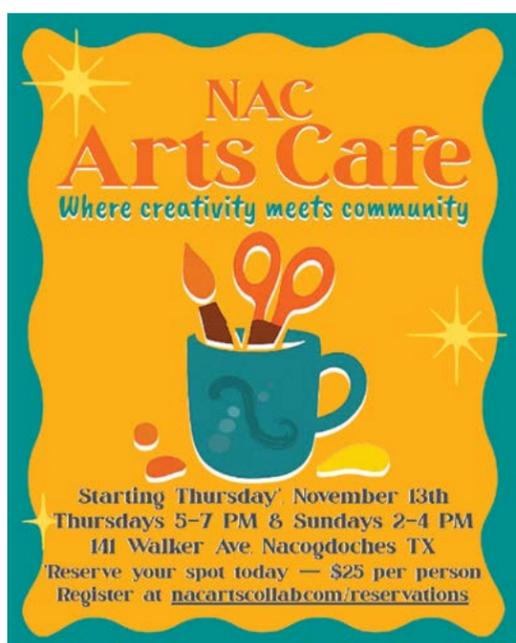
NAC Ball Committee

We're thrilled to introduce our new Art Cafe at 141 Walker Street, offering the perfect date night or group activity for our community. This creative space adds another dimension to NAC's mission of making the arts accessible to everyone. The Walker Street location will also be the new location for our art store featuring handmade local art and curated vintage.

Come celebrate the year with us at our final 2025 event: **Winter Workshop Arts Market** on the square, December 6 from 10am-2pm—your creative “preshow” to the Nine Flags Lighted Christmas Parade.

Stay tuned for our 2026 offerings coming soon, and get ready to support the arts in Nacogdoches!

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.



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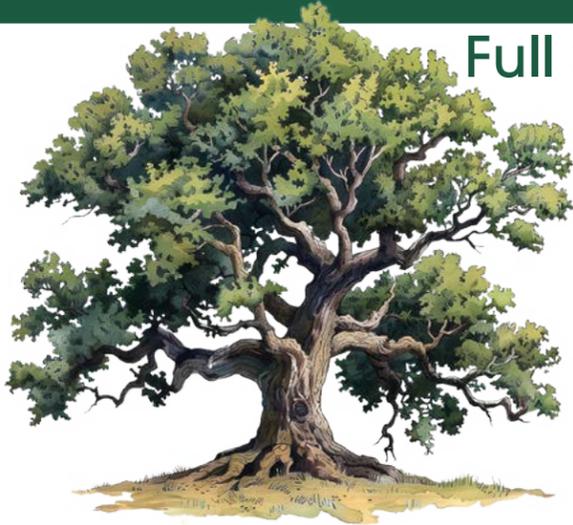
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The Internet: An Important Tool In Our Lives

by Marcella S Meeks

Marcella has been writing since 1988 and has articles and stories featured in several publications across the country. She writes regular Christian children's stories for *OUR LITTLE FRIEND*, *PRIMARY TREASURE* and *GUIDE MAGAZINES* (Pacific Press).

Marcella graduated from *WRITER'S DIGEST SCHOOL* of Nonfiction Writing; and *ICS School of Short Story/Journalism*, as well as *The Institute of Children's Literature: Writing for Children and Teens*.

In addition to writing, her next greatest passion is traveling around the country with her children and grandchildren. If you love to travel or just want to take a family vacation, check out her travel website at <http://familytravelhostusa.com/>

I remember a time in our lives when we didn't have Internet or Social Media. We relied on newspapers, radio, TV, telephone and postal mail for vital information. It seemed so much easier back in those days but we had to wait. I guess in a lot of ways I am still old school and rely on books a lot for entertainment. But that's because I love to read and books are 'my thing.'

But one day computers came out and then comes the Internet. Remember the dial up and those famous words: "You've Got Mail"? I used to think that was the best thing in the world back then. We finally had access to a world of information at our fingertips!

That was a new era for all of us and changed our lives to some extent. And the Internet is changing lives in a much greater way than ever before. We have access to so much information like never before.

The kids don't use books anymore at school – they use Chrome books for classroom work. Teachers use Smart Boards instead of chalk boards. Oh, how I remember getting to write on chalkboards after school sometimes!

The Internet has become a huge part of my own life in ways I never thought imaginable.

Many years ago, I started writing for magazines and newspapers across the country and I had to mail everything out at the post office and wait weeks for a reply. It was what I was used to at that time, but now I couldn't even imagine waiting that long for a letter to reach an editor or for a reply. I get impatient if our Internet goes down even for one day. It has become an essential tool in my house. If we have an outage, you better believe I'm on that phone trying to get it fixed!

My now grown children never had that luxury when they were kids, but they do now.

My grandchildren have smart phones and Internet, but I worry about that a lot and often caution them about talking with people they don't know and so do their parents.

Back in the day, if we needed to research anything, we had to go to public libraries or newspaper offices to find what we were looking for. There was no Internet available to us to help us in our research but we managed. At least I did. It was a long and slow process but I was used to 'slow.'

In this fast pace world of Internet, computers and smart phones, we can find just about anything instantly and not have to wait for it. I depend on it so much when I am writing and editors have the liberty of responding at their convenience. If they need a quick rewrite or some vital information concerning a story, all they have to do is email me and I respond accordingly.

I can be in touch with my doctors in a matter of minutes if I need to or to my family and friends.

There are so many benefits in having Internet access these days. It has made life somewhat easier for me. I am so accustomed to getting on Face Book with friends and writing posts or answering posts that it would be hard not to be able to anymore. I guess you could say that's how I stay connected even though I am still 'old school.'

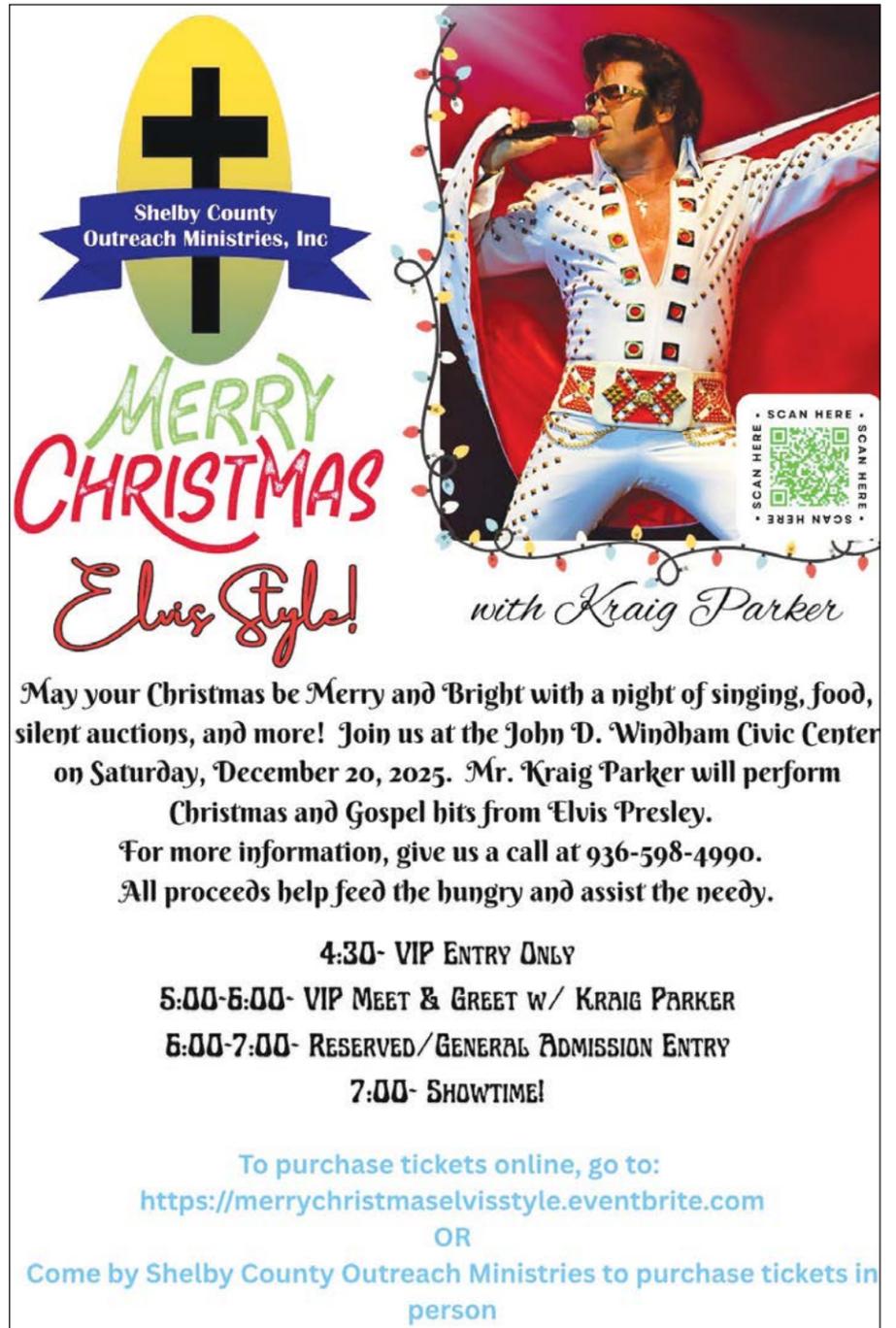
There is so much information out there on the web that is vital to us and some that is not. But for those of who know how to use this information in the right way, and not go searching for something that is illegal or not good, then the Internet is a good thing.

I know it's not a safe place for kids to be unsupervised. It would be like simply putting them out on a busy freeway with traffic going both ways. Even some adults can get caught up in the unsafe part of the web. It happens everyday when people are not careful or mindful about what they are doing.

The way I see it, if you have children and they have Internet access, it's wise to set parental boundaries with them. Find ways to block them from sites where they do not need to be. And one of those places is TicToc. No child under 18 should be allowed there. It's my **opinion** so you be the judge of your own child.

The Internet has its good points and its' bad points. If you are going to have access to it in your home, you have to be responsible for who surfs the web and the sites they visit. Otherwise, it might not be safe for your home.

We're not living in the 70s and 80s anymore. Times have definitely changed since those days.



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The Internet is an essential part of my writing career and I use it for my personal life as well. But I know how to surf the web and stay away from some places where I don't need to be. That's the advantage we have when using it.

Looking back, I don't see how we ever made it without it. I can do things so much faster than ever before and get things done in a matter of a few minutes or few hours where it used to take me days or weeks, sometimes even months. I may still be reading books in book form but when it comes to working, I'd rather be using my computer. Simple as that. It has made my life easier to some degree.

I can get on Google or a search engine of my choice and find what I am looking for so much more quickly than having to look for it with outside sources.

I remember last year when I was cooking Thanksgiving dinner and I needed a specific recipe – I called all my friends and no one knew what I needed but I found a recipe online that was similar to what I needed and it was really good. I simply told my friends it was my grandmothers' recipe with a couple of changes and no one minded! Thanksgiving dinner was a hit!

I utilize the Internet everyday either for work or for personal use and couldn't imagine life without it. But we do live in a fast pace world these days and sometimes, we need to slow down, pick up a good magazine, newspaper or book and read it. That's how I found *Around The Town* and I enjoy reading it every month. And I decided to write some stories for them from time to time.

Again, the Internet has its place in our daily lives but sometimes, just slow down and read something. Simple as that! Enjoy a little of both worlds. You'll be glad you did...

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December 2025 Schedule

Thu 4th	Tia Juanitas	Lufkin	6:00 pm
Tue 9th	Guacamoles	Nacogdoches	6:00 pm
Tue 16th	Guacamoles	Jacksonville	6:00 pm
Wed 17th	Tia Juanitas	Lufkin	6:00 pm
Thu 18th	Ralph & Kacoos	Lufkin	6:00 am
Tue 23rd	Guacamoles	Nacogdoches	6:00 pm
Wed 31st	Tia Juanitas	Lufkin	6:00 pm

Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber Event Calendar

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

Navigating 2026 with Purpose and Progress



As 2025 comes to a close, many of us feel a renewed sense of energy and momentum. The end of a year is a natural time to reflect on what we accomplished, what we learned, and how we grew. It also offers the perfect opportunity to look ahead, set new goals, and create a plan for the future. Thoughtful preparation now helps ensure steady personal and professional growth throughout the coming year.

Take a moment to look back on your achievements in 2025. What milestones did you reach in your business or career? What personal successes are you proud of? What lessons will help guide you in 2026? Maybe the year brought business growth, new opportunities, improved systems, new products, or new skills. Whether you are a business owner or a committed employee, this season is the ideal time to evaluate the path ahead. Are you entering 2026 with a clear plan or are you simply hoping things fall into place?

As you prepare for the new year, remember to take advantage of the resources available to you. Did you make use of the many opportunities the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce offered in 2025? Throughout the year, the Chamber hosted networking events, leadership development programs, skill-building workshops, business showcases, and community engagement initiatives. These experiences help strengthen connections and support a growing Angelina County.

No matter how your year ended, the Chamber is here to support you moving forward. Monthly events like the First Friday Luncheon, Women's Networking events, and Power Networking Breakfast offer valuable insights for professionals across all industries. Chamber University sessions provide timely and relevant education to help individuals at every level continue to develop and excel.

Engaging in these opportunities not only increases your return on investment, but it also expands your network and builds relationships. As we head into 2026, take a look at the updated Chamber calendar on LufkinTexas.org and discover new ways to participate, connect with fellow Chamber Investors, and grow your business.

Our mission remains clear. We strive to be the connector of leaders and influencers, the catalyst for business growth, and a strong champion for building a better community. As we step into 2026 together, let us know how we can partner with you to make the coming year one filled with purpose, progress, and success.

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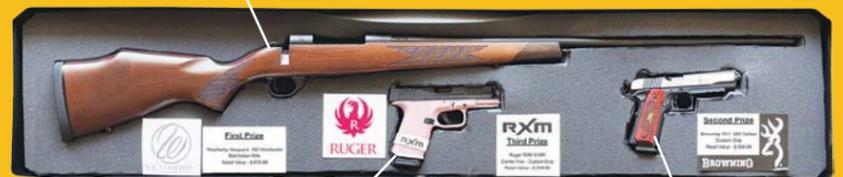


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A Little Bit of History



Designed by
Jannetta Lamourt
jannettalamort@gmail.com

Leave the Stone Fort Museum Where It Now Stands for Historical Reasons

In last month's *A Little Bit of History*, we discussed the practical reasons SFASU needs to leave the Stone Fort Museum, where it now stands on the University campus in Nacogdoches. Now we will turn to the historical reasons they need to leave it where it is.

Reason Number 1: The Stone Fort Museum stands as it is now—a replica of the original one downtown on Main Street—because it represents a historical icon of the Spanish colonial people of Nacogdoches before Texas became a republic and a state. Gil Y'barbo, an *adesano**, built it as his house sometime between 1779, after he and others returned from San Antonio via Buccarelli, and his return without permission to do so. Later, if I understand correctly, he built another house for himself, and the Old Stone Fort took on some quasi-governmental functions. Having been reared in Los Adaes, the first capital of colonial Texas in Louisiana near Robeline, Y'barbo assumed leadership because he was one of them, i.e., the ones who had been exiled by the Marquis de Rubi's order for all missions and presidios to be evacuated. Although at one time there were other remnants of Spanish colonial Texas in Nacogdoches, they have also been removed, e.g., the Red House on the corner of Pillar and South Street and the Spanish cemetery where the courthouse now stands.

When the Roberts family sold the original Stone Fort to be torn down, my understanding there was considerable angst far and wide, so much so that many believe its destruction may have fueled the impetus to save the Alamo. For over thirty years it looked like not much was going to be done with it, finally the Centennial Commission voted and the legislature appropriated the money for the intermediate structure erected by the Cum Concilio Club to be torn down and be rebuilt on the campus of Stephen F. Austin State Teachers College (with additional stones which had to be quarried because not enough of the original ones remained).

Reason Number 2: The Centennial Commission, consisting of J. Frank Doby, Louis Wiltz Kemp, and Father Foik deemed it important enough for the 1936-1937 Texas Centennial celebration that it should be reconstructed on the SFA campus. It is important to realize that, although 3000 historical markers were dedicated to the State of Texas, this was a larger project that required more funding than the markers themselves. It was ranked a priority to honor Nacogdoches' history and the Hispanics who helped build it into what it is today.

Reason 3: The Stone Fort Museum also stands as a symbol of the consolidation of power in Texas by Anglos who immigrated to it in the roughly twenty-odd years between Texas independence and the beginnings of Anglo colonization.

Reason 4: The Stone Fort Museum is so intertwined with the history of SFASU that its annual event is called The Stone Fort because, for almost ninety years, it has been resident on the campus.

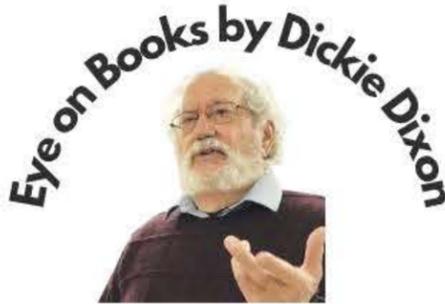
For these four reasons and many more, leave the Stone Fort Museum where it now stands.

Kissin' Kuzzins

(1) On Thursday, December 4, 2025, **DETAS** will host its **Christmas Party/Impromptu Auction** beginning at 5 p.m. in the Iris and Anne Howard Civic Center on 213 East Court Street in Newton, Texas, a potluck affair with food furnished by members. After some Christmas music led by Ruth Dusan, Jamie Carter Bollich, and Dickie Dixon, members will auction off items they have brought for sale to help fund the expenses of DETAS for 2026. (2) Matt McBroom, Associate Dean of Forestry at Stephen F. Austin State University, will discuss the **John Henry Kirby sawmills with special reference to the one at Bon Weir in Newton County** at about 6:15 p.m. on Monday January 5, 2025 for the monthly meeting of the Deep East Texas Archeological Society at the Iris and Anne Howard Civic Center on 213 East Court Street in Newton, Texas. Refreshments and desserts will be prepared by Sandra Litton and other members at 5:30 p.m., and President Ruth Dusan Garcia will conduct a brief business meeting at 6:00 p.m. For more information, contact *Ruth Dusan Garcia* at (409) 336-9216 or ruthdusan35@gmail.com or *Dickie Dixon* at (936) 671-1419 or dixonhershel51@aol.com (3) On February 2, 2026, Dickie Dixon will discuss **"The Significance of the Old Stone Fort: Why SFASU Needs to Leave the Stone Fort Museum Where It Is"** at about 6:15 p.m. at the Iris and Anne Howard Civic Center on 213 Court Street in Newton Texas. For more information, contact *Ruth Dusan Garcia* at (409) 336-9216 or ruthdusan35@gmail.com or *Dickie Dixon* at (936) 671-1419 or dixonhershel51@aol.com (4) **ACGS** will host its **Christmas Party/Impromptu Auction** beginning at 3 p.m. on Monday, December 8, 2025, at the Fellowship Hall of Keltys United Methodist Church on 1867 Old Mill Road in Lufkin, Texas. Great food and great items to be auctioned off will abound. Christmas music will begin our time together, provided by Florence Donaghue, Jamie Carter Bollich, and Dickie Dixon. For more information, contact *Dickie Dixon* at (936) 671-1419 or dixonhershel51@aol.com. (5) Jeanelle McCall has written a children's book, **Stuffie and the Great Flood**, as a reaction to an image she saw of a stuffed rabbit. All profits go to flood victims and their families of the flash flood in Kerrville. You can buy your copy at the Museum of East Texas.

December 2025 birthdays: 1st: Corbin Havard 4th: Jean Wicker 13th: Seth Tippit 28th: Ken Donaghue 31st: Ann Parker Flournoy

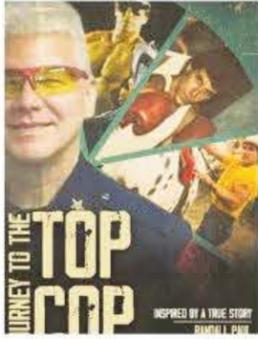
Blasts from the Past: Hershel Dixon, Sr. was born December 13, 1908. Nancy Emoline Reynolds Hinson was born on December 15, 1877.



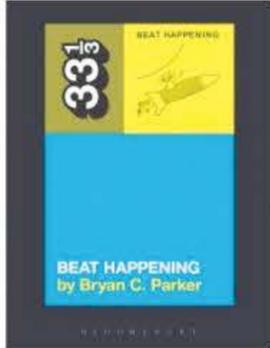
Add these titles to your reading list

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

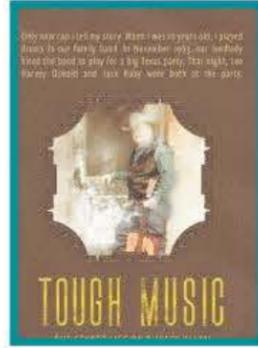
Historical Fiction



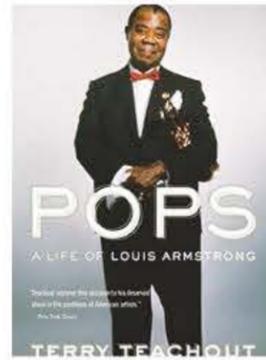
Journey to Top Cop
Randall Paul Holland



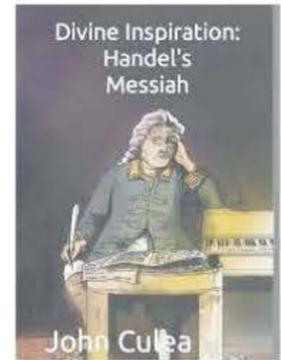
Beat Happening
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Tough Music: The Secret Life
Dudley Allen



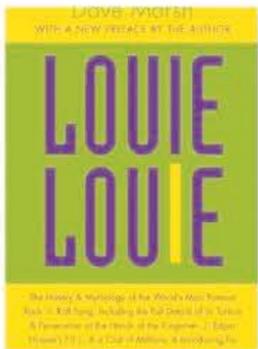
Pops: A Life of Louis Armstrong
Terry Teachout



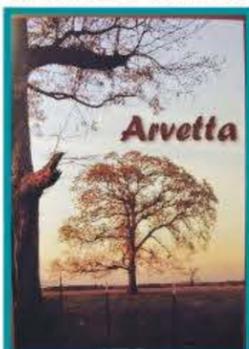
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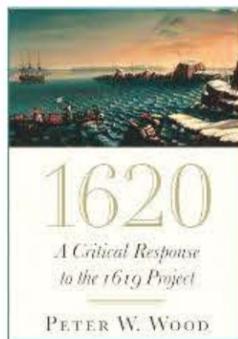
African American Historical Fiction



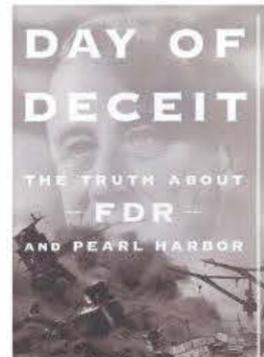
Louie Louie: The History and Mythology
Dave Marsh



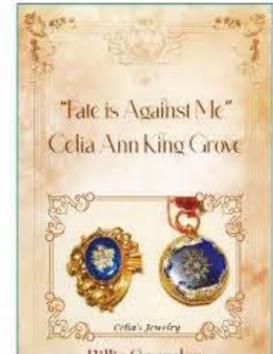
Arvetta
Herman Wright and Jamie Carter Bollich



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



Day of Deceit
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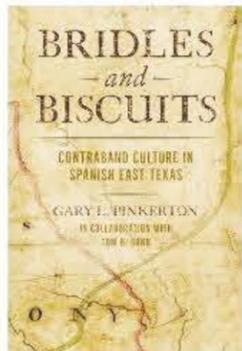
Fate is Against Me: Celia Ann King Grove
Billie Grunden

American History

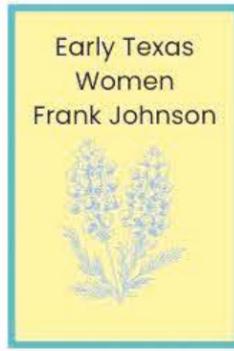
Texas History



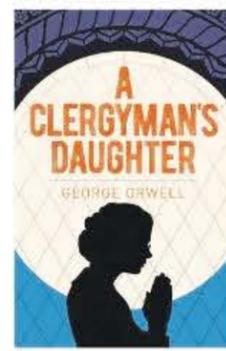
Blood and Courage:
Lamar Denby



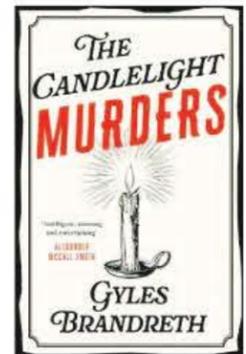
Bridles and Biscuits
Tom Gann and Gary Pinkerton



Early Texas Women
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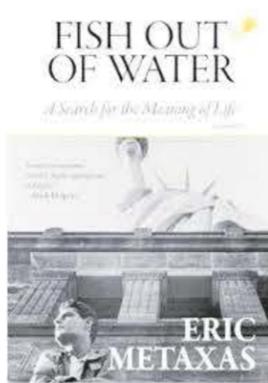
The Clergyman's Daughter
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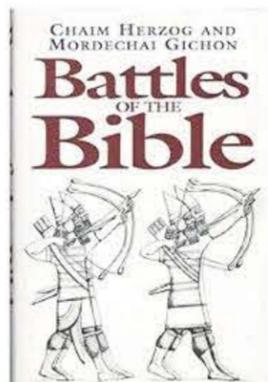
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Fiction

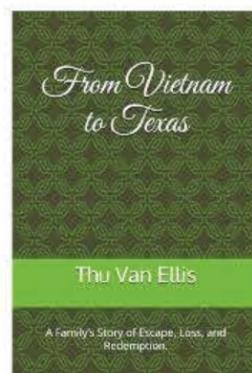
Biblical Studies



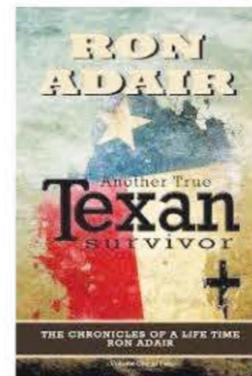
Fish Out of Water:
Eric Metaxas



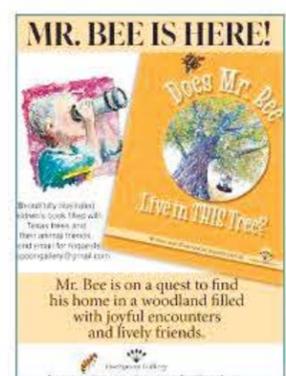
Battles of the Bible
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From Vietnam to Texas
Thu Van Ellis



Another True Texan Survivor
Ron Adair



Does Mr. Bee Live in That Tree?
Jeanelle McCall

Autobiography

Children's

[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!)]



Connecting families & communities through safety & hope

Bloom Christmas Joy for Survivor Parents and Children Through Adopt-a-Family Program

Shining a Beacon of Hope for Families in Need

In the true spirit of the holiday season, the Janelle Grum Family Crisis Center of East Texas proudly presents its cherished Adopt-a-Family program. This heartwarming tradition connects compassionate community members with survivors of abuse and their children—families who are courageously rebuilding their lives free from violence.

“For many of the families we serve, the holidays can be filled with uncertainty,” said Whitney Burran, Executive Director. “After leaving an abusive situation, parents often struggle to provide even the basics, much less gifts under the tree. This program helps restore a bit of joy and hope during Christmas to families who have already shown such incredible strength.”

Individuals, businesses, or groups can make a lasting difference by “adopting” a family currently receiving services at the Family Crisis Center. The agency provides a personalized wish list of gifts, including clothing and shoe sizes for each family member, making the process both simple and deeply meaningful.

The agency also welcomes donations of wrapping paper and supplies for each adopted family, allowing parents to wrap gifts themselves and share in the joy of giving during the holidays.

Families can be adopted through Thursday, December 11, with unwrapped gifts and wrapping supplies to be dropped off at the agency’s administrative or outreach offices between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

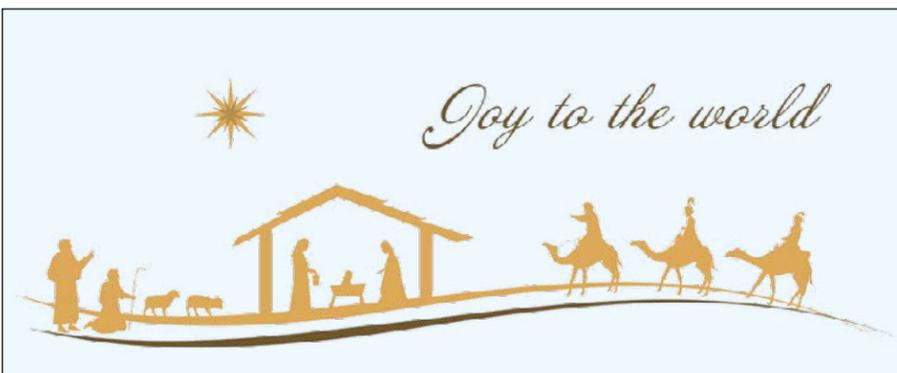
In 2024, the kindness of East Texans made the holidays brighter for 92 families and 225 children who received gifts through this program — a remarkable testament to the power of community compassion.

“This initiative is about more than presents,” Burran added. “Each family adopted represents a reminder that healing doesn’t happen in isolation — it happens when neighbors, businesses, and volunteers step up to show they care.”

To participate in this year’s Adopt-a-Family program or learn more, please contact Mallory Harris, Marketing & Communications Coordinator, at mharris@fccet.com or 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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- Shawnee Church of Christ** — 612 Shawnee Street, 75961 — 936.564.2103
- Southside Church of Christ** — 3738 S Fredonia Street, 75964 — 936.559.1800
- Stallings Drive Baptist Church** — 728 SE Stallings Drive, 75964 — 936.564.2075
- Star Hope Baptist Church** — 2305 Looneyville Rd, 75964 — 936.564.1369
- St James Baptist Church** — 2633 Canyon Street, 75964 — 936.564.7887
- St Mary's Chapel** — 215 College Street, 75965 — 936.564.0661
- St Matthew Church** — 2720 Matthew Street, 75964
- St Paul's Methodist Church** — 601 Moore Street, 75961 — 936.564.3585
- Stonewall Fellowship Church** — 1303 S University Drive, 75961 — 936.587.9895
- Sunset Galilee Missionary Baptist Church** — 1609 S Rayburn Drive, 75961 — 936.564.3853
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** — 3307 Center Rd, 75961 — 936.564.0687
- The Citizen Nac** — 108 N Lanana Street, 75961 — 936.237.6395
- Timber Creek Church** — 3801 North Street, 75965 — 936.632.3540
- Union Cross Missionary Baptist Church** — 2905 Old Tyler Rd, 75964 — 936.564.9838
- University Church** — 2505 North Street, 75965 — 936.205.3100
- Vineyard Church** — 4140 FM 1878, 75961 — 936.564.4600
- Westminster Presbyterian Church** — 903 North Street, 75961 — 936.564.0203
- Westside Missionary Baptist Church** — 3109 Durst Street, 75964 — 936.564.0713
- Woden United Pentecostal Church** — 136 Rankin Rd, 75961 — 936.560.2733
- Zion Hill First Baptist Church** — 324 N Lanana Street, 75961

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



December 2025

Budweiser Clydesdales Public Viewing

Tue, Dec. 2nd 10am-3pm
Thu, Dec. 4th 10am-4pm
Fri, Dec. 5th 10am-3pm
Sun, Dec. 7th 10am-3pm

Nacogdoches County Exposition & Civic Center

Toxins and Tinis

Fri, Dec. 5th 4-7pm
Well Body Solutions

Classic Car Cruise In

Fri, Dec. 5th 5-7pm
Clear Springs

Main Street Movie Night

Fri, Dec. 5th 6:30-8:30pm
Charles Bright Visitor Center Stage

Jingle Bell Run

Sat, Dec. 6th 7:30-11:30am
Red House Winery

Winter Workshop Arts Market

Sat, Dec. 6th 10am-2pm
Downtown Square

Market on Main

Sat, Dec. 6th 10am-2pm
305 East Main St.

Lamp-Lite Players: A Christmas Carol

Sat, Dec. 6th 1pm, 2pm, & 3pm
First United Methodist Church Chapel

Jingle Jams on the Square

Sat, Dec. 6th 4-5:30pm
Charles Bright Visitor Center

Merry Tuba Christmas

Sat, Dec. 6th 5pm
FirstNac United Methodist Church

Nine Flags Lighted Christmas Parade

Sat, Dec. 6th 6:30pm
Downtown Nacogdoches

Very Victorian Christmas Dinner

Fri, Dec. 12th 6:30pm
Zion Hill Historic

Christmas Tour of Homes

Sat, Dec. 13th 1-5pm
Various Locations in Nacogdoches

Old Fashioned Christmas

Sat, Dec. 13th 1-9pm
Millard's Crossing Historic Village

Main Street Movie Night

Fri, Dec. 19th 6:30-8:30pm
Charles Bright Visitor Center Stage

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

Dec. 18th, 19th, & 20th 7:30pm
Dec. 21st 2:00 pm
Lamp-Lite Theatre

Stocking Stuffer Stroll

Fri, Dec. 19th 10am-5pm & Sat, Dec. 20th 10am-3pm
Various Downtown Businesses

Art Cafe

Sundays: 12/7, 12/14, 12/21, & 12/28 10am-2pm
Thursdays: 12/4, 12/11, & 12/28 5-7pm
141 Walker Ave

Loblolly Model Train Display

Dec. 5th, 6th, 7th, 12th, 13th, 14th
Nacogdoches Railroad Depot

Toys for Tots

Dec. 1st - Dec. 8th
Johnson Furniture

Christmas Lighted Drive Through

Mondays in December
Millard's Crossing Historic Village

Banita Creek Hall

Thursdays: Ladies Night
Fridays: Dollar Night
12/4: Randall King
12/31: NYE Bash (Free Champagne at midnight)

Aperitivo Cafe & Gelato

12/4: Open House & Live Music 7-11pm
12/4: Cars & Coffee 7-11pm
12/11: Piano & Pour 5-11pm
12/13: Aperitivo Provisions Mini Market 8am-2pm
2/18: Piano & Pour 5-11pm

Lone Star Trivia

All times are 7pm unless stated otherwise
Tuesday: 12/2 & 12/30 Bottlecap Alley
Thursday: 12/4 & 12/11 Fredonia Brewery

Naca Valley Vineyard

Pizza on the Pavilion:
Andy's Wood-Fired Pizza every Thurs-Sat.
12/6: Randy C Moore Live 5:30pm
12/13: Gabe Shipp Live 5:30pm
12/20: Tyler Dhone Live 5:30pm

Maklemore's Ale House & Bistro

Wine Down Wednesdays: Live Music

Madhatter Distillery

12/5: Roaring '20's Prohibition Ended Party, Daniel McMahon Live, Revolution Road Pizza 7-10pm
12/6: Haylee Lewis & Smash n Pass Food Truck 7-10pm
12/12: Jay and Linda Kay 7-9:30pm
12/13: Haylee Lewis & Oma's Wurst Haus 7-10pm
12/20: Ugly Sweater Party, Haylee Lewis, Oma's Wurst Haus 7-10pm
12/27: Daniel McMahon 7-9:30pm
12/31: New Year's Eve Party 7pm-Midnight

Farmers Market

Every Saturday 9am-12pm
Nacogdoches Farmers Market

Pemberley's Afternoon Tea

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

Fredonia Brewery

Trivia every Thursday @ 7pm
Live Music every Friday & Saturday
12/3: Books & Beer 6-7pm
12/5: Huffie & The Paintfish 6:30-8:30pm
12/6: Christmas Parade Watch Location 6-10pm
12/7: Christmas Market 12-5pm
12/13: Ally Fuller 6-9pm
12/19: Mike Freiley Show 6:30-8:30pm

Lumberjack Harley Davidson

12/6: Oak Creek Center Toy Drive 12-3pm
12/13: Ugly Sweater & Gingerbread House Contest 12-3pm
12/20: Party with Santa 12-3pm
12/27: Frosty Hour 12-3pm

SFA Alumni Association

Locations are Italicized
Banita Creek Hall:
12/2: Fall 2025 Senior Send-Off 5:30-7:30pm
SFA Grand Ballroom:
12/5: Big Dip 2025- Fall Ring Ceremony

SFA Fine Arts

Locations are Italicized
Cole Art Center:
10/14-1/4: REFINED: The Foreseeable Future
11/20-1/31: Celebrating Light & Color by Peter Andrew
Griffith Fine Arts Building, Turner Auditorium:
12/2: SFA Symphony Orchestra 7:30pm
12/6: Seasonal Celebration Combined Choirs 7:30pm
12/9: Eileen Ivers | University Series 7:30pm
Griffith Fine Arts Building, Flex Theatre:
12/4-12/5: Danceworks 7:30pm
12/6: Danceworks 2pm

SFA Gardens

Locations are Italicized
Brundrett Conservation Education Building
12/6: "Deck the Halls: Using Evergreens to Decorate for the Holidays" 9am-12pm & 1-4pm
12/11: SFA Gardens Against the Odds - A year in the garden 7-8pm

SFA Planetarium Shows

Sat, Dec. 6th & 13th
3:00pm, 4:30pm, & 7:00pm
SFA Stem Building

LugNutz Bar & Grill

Thursday Steak Nights
Karaoke & Burger Fridays
Live Music Saturdays

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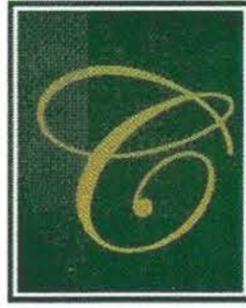
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- Allentown United Pentecostal Church** — 4166 FM 843, 75904 — 972.921.6533
Angelina Church of Christ — 2213 Tulane Drive, 75901 — 936.634.4555
Angel of Joy Lutheran Church — 4003 Daniel McCall Drive, 75904 — 936.632.4777
Believers' Bible Church — 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
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Bright Morning Baptist Church — 623 Martin Luther King Drive, 75935 — 936.598.4560
Called Out Church — 1077 Southview Circle, 75935 — 936.598.2333
Carroll's Chapel CME Church — 302 FM 2694, 75935 — 936.598.2260
Central Baptist Church — 909 Cora Street, 75935 — 936.598.3642
Center Christian Church — SH 87, 75935 — 936.598.2645
Center Christian Fellowship — 75935
Center Church of Christ — 110 Hurst Street, 75935 — 936.598.2945
Center Church of the Nazarene — 400 Hurst Street, 75935 — 936.598.3785
Center First Pentecostal Church — 610 Hurst Street, 75935 — 936.598.3646
Center Missionary Baptist Church — 443 Moffett Drive, 75935
Clever Creek Baptist Church — 199 CR 1042 at FM 417 West, 75935
CME Church Lanetown — 3709 FM 711, 75935 — 936.288.0434
East Liberty Church — 75935
First Baptist Church — 117 Cora Street, 75935 — 936.598.5605
First Christian Church — 124 Cora Street, 75935 — 936.598.3512
First Methodist Church — 211 Porter Street, 75935 — 936.598.2707
First Pentecostal Church-Jesus — 480 FM 2026, 75935 — 936.598.4276
Good Hope Church — 75935
Heritage Baptist Church — 1001 Tenaha Street, 75935 — 936.332.0310
Hillcrest Baptist Church — 901 Southview Circle, 75935 — 936.598.2704
HORAM — 205 Church Street, 75935
House of Refuge Ministries — 215 Church Street, 75935 — 936.591.8941
Iglesia Apostolic de la Fe en Cristo Jesus — 176 US 96, 75935 — 9156.706.6236
Iglesia Bautista Misionera Getsemani — 204 Travis Street, 75935 — 936.634.8341
James Church of Christ — 4873 SH 7, 75935
Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses-Center — 3751 Loop 500 E, 75935
Lone Star Baptist Church — 2026 SH 87 S, 75935 — 936.598.5396
Loop 500 Church of Christ — 3216 Loop 500, 75935 — 409.382.0535
McClelland Community Church — 733 CR 2571, 75935
Mt Zion CME Church — Martin Luther King Drive, 75935 — 936.598.4059
Neuville Baptist Church — 1258 FM 2140, 75935
New Hope Church — 1986 FM 2974, 75935 — 936.598.3500
New Life Church — 822 Hurst Street, 75935 — 936.598.3286
North Jericho Church — 335 CR 3671, 75935
Northside Church of Christ — 192 US 96, 75935 — 936.332.9872
Open Door Baptist Church — 900 Cotton Ford Rd, 75935 — 936.590.9454
Primera Iglesia Bautista — 615 Loop 500, 75935
Providence Missionary Baptist Church — 1129 CR 1265, 75935 — 318.230.1415
Revival Tabernacle — 2398 SH 87 N, 75935 — 936.280.4790
Sardis Pentecostal Family Life — 430 CR 3054, 75935 — 936.598.5010
Shelby County Outreach — 906 Shelbyville Street, 75935 — 936.598.4990
Southview Family Church — 1229 Southview Circle, 75935
Stepstones Ministry International — 101 Hurst Street, 75935 — 254.718.5040
St Johns Baptist Church — 2308 CR 2050, 75935 — 936.598.4769
St John's Episcopal Church — 1063 Southview Circle, 75935 — 936.598.4101
St Paul Missionary Baptist Church — 617 Hopkins Street, 75935
St Therese Catholic Church — 717 FM 2974, 75935 — 936.505.8402
The Luke Church, Inc. at San Augustine Texas — 1110 Tenaha Street, Suite 2, 75935 — 936.679.2060
Todd Spring Baptist Church — Old San Augustine Hwy, 75935 — 936.591.0300
Triumph Church — 908 Daniels Street, 75935 — 936.598.8982

JOAQUIN:

Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church — 13127 SH 7, 75954
FBC Haslam — 154 CR 3590, 75954 — 936.269.3587
First Baptist Church — 100 Connell Ferry Rd, 75954 — 936.269.3582
Friendship Baptist Church — 6796 US 84, 75954 — 936.269.4056

Friendship Missionary Baptist — 140 CR 3569, 75954 — 936.269.3132
Hosanna Full Gospel Church — 7619 SH 198, 75954 — 903.848.0737
Jackson Missionary Baptist Church — 11120 SH 7, 75954 — 936.269.3370
Joaquin United Methodist Church — 105 Faulkville Rd, 75954 — 936.269.3661
Lone Cedar Church — 75954
The Pentecostals of Joaquin — 11113 SH 7, 75954 — 936.269.4245
Willow Grove Community Church — 4635 CR 3790, 75954 — 936.269.4756
Word of Faith Outreach Center — 12413 SH 7, 75954 — 936.269.4133

SHELBYVILLE:

Bennett Chapel Missionary Baptist Church — 674 CR 2582, 75973 — 936.368.7195
East Hamilton Church — 7325 FM 2261, 75973
Ephesus Church — 75973 — 936.332.4001
First Baptist Church of Shelbyville — 5030 SH 87 S, 75973 — 936.598.7348
Lone Star Church — 75973
Lydia Missionary Baptist Church — 14998 FM 139, 75973 — 936.368.2462
Patroon Baptist Church — 310 FM 2261, 75973 — 936.275.2977
Shelbyville Methodist Church — 252 FM 417, 75973 — 936.598.7388
Smyrna Church — 177 CR 2450, 75973 — 936.368.2457
Toleda Bend Baptist Mission — 2543 FM 3172, 75973 — 936.368.7252

TENAHA:

Benford Chapel Baptist Church — 126 Martin Luther King Street, 75974 — 936.248.2916
Bobo Church — 1411 CR 4648, 75974
Bright Morning Star Baptist — RR 2, 75974 — 936.248.3002
First Baptist Church — 200 S George Bowers Drive, 75974 — 936.248.3207
House of Prayer Church and Campground — 526 CR 4356, 75974 — 936.332.3087
Iglesia Bautista El Olam — 2998 US 84, 75974
Iglesia Bautista Monte Sinai — 200 Towneast Rd, 75974 — 936.248.3075
Iglesia Nueva Esperanza — 8001 US 96, 75974
International Missionary — 645 CR 4356, 75974 — 936.591.9112
Old Center Baptist Church — 7086 FM 699, 75974 — 936.248.2796
Old Home Church — 75974
Pleasant Hill Church — 2010 FM 2660, 75974
Ramah Church — 75974 — 936.248.6432
St John Missionary Baptist Church — 102 Booker T. Washington Drive, 75974 — 936.248.2999
Tenaha United Methodist Church — US 84, 75974 — 936.248.2246
Woods New Hope Baptist Church — 120 CR 425, 75974
Woods United Methodist Church — 75974

TIMPSON:

Buena Vista Missionary Baptist — 1943 FM 1645, 75975 — 936.254.3235
Clayton Temple Church of God — Francis Street, 75975 — 936.254.9898
Corinth Baptist Church — FM 1979, 75975
Countryside Cowboy Church — 408 US 59, 75975
County Line Baptist Church — RR 2 Box 97, 75975 — 903.898.2499
East Texas Baptist Family Ministry — 75975 — 903.822.3474
Epiphany Catholic Mission — 3072 US 59, 75975 — 936.254.9662
First Christian Church — 811 N 2nd Street, 75975 — 936.254.3389
Good Hope Baptist Church — 1813 FM 2667, 75975 — 936.254.9294
Messiah Baptist Church — 459 Ross Graves Drive, 75975 — 936.254.3702
Mount Olive Church — 75975
Pleasant Grove Church — 1440 CR 1470, 75975
Smith Chapel Baptist Church — 919 CR 4704, 75975
Smyrna Baptist Church — 100 Francis Street, 75975 — 936.254.3613
Timpson First Assembly of God — 652 Houston Street, 75975 — 936.254.3178
Timpson First Baptist Church — 715 N 2nd Street, 75975 — 936.254.2220
Timpson First Methodist Church — 312 Austin Street, 75975 — 936.254.3428
Timpson Missionary Baptist Church — 2142 US 59, 75975 — 903.692.0716
Weaver Church — 75901
Woodland Christian Church — 220 US 59, 75975 — 936.254.2894

COMMUNITY NEWS ITEMS



VFW POST #3893

2406 Hunter Rd.
Nacogdoches, TX
936.569.9670

VFW DANCE

Every Saturday Night!
7 pm - 11 pm
\$15.00 Admission

**Now accepting Credit Cards
and Debit Cards for
admission and at the bar.**

Open to the public - No membership required!

Smashing Out Addiction: Life Line Housing Fundraiser

Join us for an unforgettable, high-energy morning of fun, freedom, and faith as we come together to Smash Out Addiction and raise awareness for Life Line Housing — a local nonprofit dedicated to helping individuals rebuild their lives through faith-based recovery and supportive housing.

Date: Saturday, December 6, 2025

Time: 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Location: 1329 N. University Dr., Nacogdoches, TX (McKnight Properties)

What: “Alto Health for All”

(Virtual monthly health, wellness, and safety presentations)

When: December 11, 2025

Time: 12:00 - 12:45 in the afternoon

**Where: “LIVE” on Facebook.com/alto.edc
AND via Zoom**

**Why: BECAUSE YOUR OVERALL
HEALTH MATTERS...AND WE CARE!!**

**Who: Special featuring - Dr. Dorman, General
Surgeon from UT Health**

NACOGDOCHES SHRINERS



SHARON TEMPLE

The Nacogdoches Shrine Club Building is available for event rentals. We can accommodate 250 people. Tables and chairs available. Large paved parking lot.

208 CR 703 • Nacogdoches, TX 75964

Rental Managers:
Michael and Leshia Harrell
936-404-1776

We are seeking new members!
Shrine Contacts:
Robert Parrish 936-645-2883 cell; 936-560-4881 home
Calvin Taylor 936-591-1580

The Lamp-Lite Players present

A Christmas Carol

Saturday,
December 6, 2025

1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m.
& 3:00 p.m.

First United Methodist
Church Chapel
201 E. Hospital Street
Nacogdoches

FREE TO THE
PUBLIC.
SEATING IS
LIMITED.



St. Luke's Health- Memorial Lufkin

LAST BLOOD DRIVE of 2025

Wednesday December 17, 2025

11:00 AM to 05:00 PM

To preregister and reserve your place in line click on the below link

https://www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/390785

For your donation, you will receive this comfortable hoodie.

Hope to see you there!!

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