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OCTOBER 2026

A Little Looking Back at Little League

by Craig Stripling

(This article was written by my lifelong friend, Craig Stripling, shortly before his recent death on August 22, 2026. Craig had an incredible memory about all things Nacogdoches and he loved sharing those memories. I miss his frequent phone calls, trips to restaurants, BBQ joints, country cafés and fish fries. David Stallings - Around the Town Publisher)

Time was early-mid 1950s when Hazle Field down at the end of South Mound Street in Nacogdoches was occupied by family and friends of a large number of Little League baseball players. The facility was actually quite nice. The Little League field/stands were closest to the street. Just beyond the Little League field (east of it) a larger field and stands were where the Pony League, Babe Ruth League, High School teams played, with parents on a volunteer basis operating the concession stand between the two fields. I and my family spent many nights at that ballpark. While I was later on the Pirate Pony League team coached by Joe Max Green, I'll reminisce here mainly about Little League, then available for young boy players aged 8-12.

I was on the Matthews-Davidson Insurance Agency sponsored Cardinals team. Best I recall there were six local Little League teams: Cardinals, Prudhome Grocery Yankees, DeWitt Hatchery Giants, Jaycee Phillies, Sisco Feed Red Sox



1956 Cardinals front row l-r: Dennis McDuffie, Larry Choate, David Campbell, Jim Kingham, Tommy Tucker; (Unidentified); back row l-r: James Aston, Craig Stripling, Buddy Russell, Donnie Martin, Richard Reagor?, Doug Reagor, Joe Ramsey, Coach Dr. Sam Gandy

Celebrating 100 Years - First Methodist Church, Garrison

by Dr. Vi Alexander, Staff Writer

In the piney woods of East Texas, a railroad town was born, and alongside it grew a church whose story would become woven into the history of Garrison itself. The history of this little Methodist church in Garrison, Texas, unfolded during a period of extraordinary change in America—the railroad age, the rise of modern industry, and a time of rapid American expansion. Railroads were transforming communities across the United States and around the world, often turning small rural settlements into thriving commercial centers almost overnight.

That transformation was taking place in Garrison located in northeastern Nacogdoches County in East Texas, approximately 18 miles northeast of Nacogdoches. Garrison grew up around the Houston, East & West Texas Railway after J. H. Garrison and William Craig conveyed land for the railroad and town site in 1884. The arrival of the railroad brought new residents, businesses, commerce, and opportunities, laying the foundation for the community that would become Garrison.

Against this backdrop, the Methodist congregation was establishing itself almost simultaneously with the town. By 1888, Methodist worship and Sunday school were already part of the growing community. Just two years later, in 1890, Garrison was officially incorporated as a town. The Methodist church, therefore, was not simply an institution that came to an established community, it grew alongside Garrison as the town emerged from a new railroad settlement into a permanent East Texas community.



First Methodist Church, Garrison today

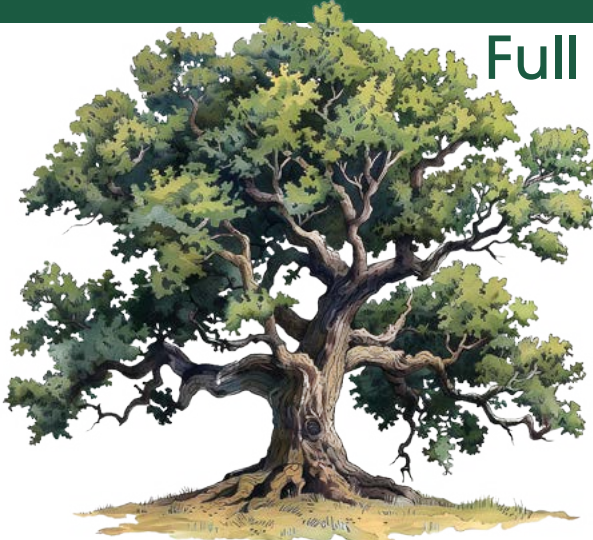


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Publisher - David Stallings - 936.554.5822 - aroundthetown@mail.com
Advertising Sales - David Stallings - 936.554.5822
Angelina County Advertising Sales - Carla McShan - 936.240.3013
Graphic Designer & Editor - James Aston - 936.553.1927
Staff Writer - Vi Alexander - 936.553.9950
Distribution & Advertising Sales - Todd Stallings - 936.569.4393

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.

METHODIST CHURCH

Establishing a church was an important step in helping transform the rail-road settlement. For forty years or more, a log church and schoolhouse, built on land in the A. Greenwood Survey, had served as a place of worship until it was destroyed by fire. A subsequent structure was erected on the Greenwood property, but the congregation there failed to flourish. Meanwhile, a new Methodist congregation had begun to form in the young town of Garrison, only a few miles away.

The year 1888 appears to have been a pivotal year, as the Methodist community began securing a constant footing in the new railroad town. The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, acquired Lots 1, 2, and 3 of Block 21 for a church site. The deed was secured by Zed Garrison, D. T. Pounds, and C. E. Broyles, all of whom had previously served as trustees of the Greenwood church. The purchase of this property marked an important transition in the history of Methodism in the area. The congregation was no longer dependent upon the older Greenwood site, it was establishing a perpetual presence in Garrison, a community that was itself emerging and growing.

According to an early record, Zed Garrison advanced the purchase money for the church site, but paying off the debt for the new church proved to be a much slower process. It was not until the lender threatened to padlock the church doors that the membership was compelled into action. The early 1900s ushered in a remarkable period of growth for the congregation. During a tent revival, with Rev. Frazier Smith serving as minister and Evangelist Lowery preaching, sixty-five new members were added to the church roll. The response was a powerful testament to the vitality of the congregation. Garrison First Methodist church was, indeed, a church on fire with the Spirit.

The church building that remains in use today was completed in 1926. The bell from the former church was preserved and installed in the belfry of the new sanctuary, carrying a cherished piece of the congregation’s history into its new home. Over the years, church members continued to find ways to enhance and expand their place of worship. In 1944, beautiful stained-glass memorial windows were installed in the sanctuary, adding both beauty and significance to the worship space. The church’s physical growth continued



First Methodist Church, Garrison circa 1926



Stained glass windows dedicated to WWII veterans

through the years with the addition of an education building (1959) providing space for ministry, learning, fellowship, and service to the congregation and the community, and later a parsonage (1970s). The education building was dedicated in 1974, when all debt on it was paid off.

A celebration of 100 years of worship in the sanctuary will be held on Sunday, October 25, 2026. Everyone is warmly invited to attend to celebrate a

century of faith, worship, and fellowship. The celebration service will begin at 11:05 a.m., followed by a luncheon in the church Fellowship Hall. First Methodist Church looks forward to gathering together to honor the past, celebrate the present, and give thanks for the future God has in store for the church.

First Methodist Church, Garrison, TX
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Rev. Stephen Smith, pastor



Stained glass window

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LITTLE LEAGUE

and Lions Club Cubs. Each team had a “farm team” (mostly the younger 8 and 9-year olds starting out) and a “main team,” the latter having actual uniforms instead of T-shirts.

Usually following the Little League games a parent would volunteer to buy the boys a soft drink at the concession stand; they sold for a dime a bottle then! Also if a fan retrieved and returned to the concession stand a foul ball, that was good for a soft drink! I remember the stand had stacks of baseball card bubble-gum packs. There were so many good professional players at that time whose cards now would be worth much money. I don’t remember how many cardboard baseball player cards were in each pack, maybe 6, but I do know I once had a pile probably 10” high. Some guys I knew had a couple of shoe boxes (that was then the typical kids’ “goodie” storage container) full. I hope some kept them or cashed in on them, but I suspect that 90% of them, like my own, were a few years after assembling gone with the wind courtesy of the moms cleaning out closets.

When I was in Little League such was the best times for America, for Texas, for communities like ours here in Nacogdoches. Kids could at any time safely ride their bikes about anywhere they wanted; bicycles were the key chattel to own, to allow one freedom! I, like so many, rode my bike to practice with the glove strapped to the handlebar. We practiced down at what was then called Rotary Anne Park, it was adjacent to and south of what was the SFA/City swimming pool near the intersection of Starr Avenue on Raguet Street. There was one water hydrant to drink from, no amenities, just a space sufficient for Little League players to practice and indeed learn the game of baseball. The boys would (school was out) usually late May, June be at the practice field about 5:00 p.m. or so. Our coach, Dr. Sam W. Gandy, would drive up Raguet on his way home from his dental office direction and wave at us and in about 10 minutes he’d be back having changed clothes, and gotten the large bag of bats and equipment to bring to practice. Tommy Atkins helped to coach one or two years, I can’t really remember. Winston Poe (he had several sons, with Butch and Rusty then playing on his team) and his Yankees ended up winning the Little League pennant usually each year. He was able to mold youngsters into Little Leaguers, that’s for sure. One year, and I believe it was 1957, our Cardinals team won the first place award and we all felt that was quite a desirable, admirable feat.

We had some pretty good, young baseball players; Donnie Martin, James Aston, Bill Gandy, Don Buchanan, etc., and there were a few of us “ok, just so-so” players. Any kid who wanted to sign up for Little League could, nobody that was willing to come practice was turned down as best I recall. While I’m sure there were some such episodes or events, I don’t recall and cursing, hollering, display of anger or fights among any boys during the Hazle Field games. The field had its name honoring Claude Hazle who managed and East Texas string of movie theaters and was the local “baseball commissioner” for many years supporting the institution of small town baseball. Back then you maybe could get on the radio a prime time baseball game, most likely the St. Louis Cardinals since Texas had no pro teams back then. Always on Sunday afternoon there was a baseball game of the week, sometime the spearheaders or announcers were Dizzy Dean or Pee Wee Reese, both retired legendary baseballers. The tow main sponsors I remember were Gillette Razors and Falstaff Beer.

Back to the local boys. I have two old team photos from the 1950s, both of them showing Dr. Gandy as the coach, both being taken down at Hazle Field. I don’t know who the photographer was, but most likely it’d’ve been Robinson Studio on North Street.

The proverbial lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer were indeed part and parcel of the evenings at Hazle Field in the early-mid 50s, and they were wonderful. Lots of folks in the community who didn’t have family members affiliated with the team came to watch; Victor Fain, editor of the *Daily Sentinel*, allowed daily coverage of the Little League games in the sports section of the *Sentinel*, mostly via Howard Ray Page’s articles. The syndrome was just another wonderful reason that those 1950s were as good as it ever got to be.

As I said earlier, in 1957 our Cardinal team won the Nacogdoches Little League pennant; we had some very good players. Donnie Martin was a tall, efficient first baseman; James Aston was an agile infielder who made All-Star; Don Buchanan and Bill Gandy alternated as pitchers with Bill being named to the All-Stars; and I was tolerable at catching the ball, poor at base running and throwing down to second base, but could hit the ball ok!

Again, I don’t recall anything other than good times-no arguments, no criticism, no jealousy at practice or games. I was especially appreciative of Dr. Gandy for his encouragement and loyalty as a coach, for all the parents who supported the endeavor, especially the Astons who never missed a game and who volunteered to buy soft drinks after nearly every game.

Indeed, those were the days! Why did they end? When did they change? All times must pass, they’ll always be evolving, but I am afraid good times, safe times, happy times as were afforded children (and adults) some, say 70 years ago, won’t similarly come back around. Too bad, so sad, not glad!



1957 Cardinals front row l-r: Jack Barrington, Craig Stripling, Bobby Miller, Jody Sory, James Aston, Bill Gandy; back row l-r: Coach Dr. Sam Gandy, Donnie Henderson, Stevie Shepherd, Donnie Martin, Mike Driver, Don Buchanan, Coach Tommy Atkins



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NHS Partners With CarePortal to Aid Students in Need

A number of factors can negatively impact the arc of success for students, notably ones that might have little or nothing to do with the classroom itself, Dr. Evelyn Saucedo said Tuesday during the official launch of Nacogdoches ISD’s relationship with CarePortal, a group that serves to link vital student needs with churches and community partners.

Expanding upon the story of a student in need of reading glasses, Saucedo recounted many of the frustrations some students encounter before they complete one homework assignment or take one test.

“Can you imagine being in a classroom, and the teacher says to open your text book to Page 15 and you just can’t see it?” asked Saucedo, Nacogdoches ISD’s Executive Director of Bilingual Education. “A simple pair of glasses and getting them within a week instead of five months makes a huge difference to a student who needs them.”

Tending to those basic necessities is at the heart of CarePortal’s role, according to its website, linking up “vulnerable children and families with caring neighbors in their own community.” And now NISD students will have access to that kind of support.

In addition to Saucedo’s duties related to the district’s substantial bilingual program, she also oversees the district’s social worker team that will be responsible for connecting needs with CarePortal resources.

So far, seven churches and five community partners have joined up with CarePortal. When an NISD social worker enters a student’s need into CarePortal, the affiliated partners will be notified via an app and provided with an opportunity to help out.

The anonymous requests can cover a wide range of needs. On Tuesday – in the first official entry from NISD submitted to CarePortal – a student at Nacogdoches High School required scrubs for a health science course but couldn’t afford to make the purchase. The request was filled before the launch celebration was complete.

“There’s a place for everyone,” said Rebekah Weigel, a national ambassador for CarePortal who lives in Nacogdoches. “There are so many incredible and generous people in Nacogdoches who have a heart for kids.”

The district first started discussing a relationship with CarePortal last December that would ultimately benefit student needs. The two organizations held an initial meeting in January and followed that up with a meeting with church representatives and community support groups.

There was interest from both sides. “We’re always concerned about and focused on academics and that’s important,” said Burton. “But we also 100 percent want to help our students have the opportunities in their lives they didn’t think were possible.”

That’s a targeted goal for the district even when problems from outside of school overshadow what takes place in classrooms.

“There are lots of things in their lives that they have no control over,” Burton said.

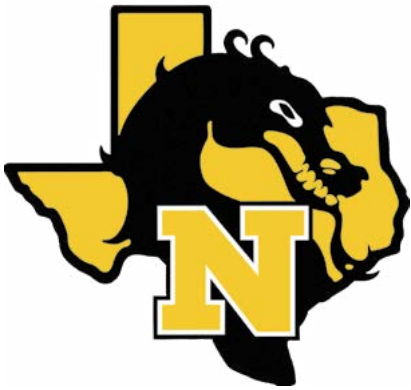
“And when that’s the case, that’s a huge



Grey Burton, NISD Superintendent

thing. You get up in the morning and you haven’t slept in a bed or eaten the night before, the last thing you want to do is go to math class.”

Church partners already signed up to help (and more are welcome) include Agape Life Church, First United Methodist Church, First Baptist Church, Timber Creek, Fredonia Hill Baptist Church, Mosaic Nac and University Church. Community organizations include Open Door, Seeds of Hope, Solid Foundation, Christian Women’s Job Corps and Ardmore Group.



Dr. Evelyn Saucedo, Nacogdoches ISD Executive Director of Bilingual Education



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Miranda Hoffman
Manager

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Thursday, October 8th is *FOX 51 - KETK Buddy Night*. One person buys ride tickets, two can ride!

Schedules for all events can be found on the Nacogdoches County Expo & Civic Center Facebook Page.

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Lufkin District Construction Updates

Mill and inlay work on US 259 has begun

Work to mill and inlay a portion of US 259 north of Nacogdoches was expected to begin mid-September.

Approximately 3.28 miles of road between Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 698 and State Highway (SH) 204 will be resurfaced. Minden, Louisiana-based Mad-den Contracting Company was awarded the contract for the work.

To minimize disruption to school traffic, work will only occur in the school zone between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Weather permitting, the project is expected to be completed by mid-November.

Drivers should stay alert for lane closures and changing traffic patterns in the area.

Turn-lane project on US 59 began Sept. 14

Work to improve safety conditions along a 6.6-mile stretch of US 59 south of Nacogdoches got underway last month.

Work will occur between the Nacogdoches city limits and the Angelina River.

On the northbound side of the road, turn lanes will be extended at County Road (CR) 620, Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 2782, and Old Ferry Road. The turn lane at CR 525 on the southbound side will also be extended. Four-foot-wide shoulders will be added at the locations as well.

Lane closures will occur while work is performed, and drivers should plan accordingly and follow all traffic control in the area.

Weather permitting, the project is expected to be completed in late summer 2027.

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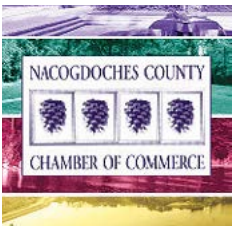
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Chamber Connection
by Kelly Augustine
IOM, President & CEO,
Nacogdoches County Chamber
of Commerce

Meet the 2026-2027 Chamber Executive Committee and Board of Directors

The Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce has a proud legacy of strong leadership, shaped by dedicated volunteers who invest their time, expertise and vision to advance our mission and strengthen our community.

Each generation of Chamber leaders builds upon the foundation laid by those who came before them. Their leadership helps ensure that our organization remains responsive to the needs of business, focused on opportunities for growth and committed to making Nacogdoches County a great place to live, work, play and do business.

In addition to good governance, effective Chamber leadership includes the willingness to serve a purpose greater than oneself. It requires strategic thinking and the courage to make decisions that will have a lasting impact on our business community and our region.

The following are the 2026-2027 Executive Committee and Board of Directors:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Chair of the Board of Directors Hollie Smith, Ed.D., SFA Arnold Center for Entrepreneurship
- Chair Elect Jason Reese, PhD, SFA Nelson Rusche College of Business
- Immediate Past Chair Olivia Kiritsy, Loblolly Properties
- Treasurer Caroline Garner, Nacogdoches Area United Way
- Vice Chair- Public Policy Division Damon Ruckel, Ruckel Insurance & Financial Group
- Vice Chair- Membership Services Division Katie Blevins, SFA Nelson Rusche College of Business
- Vice Chair- Community Development Division Erin Windham, Nacogdoches ISD and Nacogdoches Education Foundation
- Vice Chair- Resource Development Division Chris Thomas, Motorhomes of Texas

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Corey Ashley, Huntington Bank
- Johnnie Beavers, Regions Bank
- Joann Black, SFASU Office of the President
- Henry Dekoeyer, NacSpace
- Stacy Dicks, Sales Engine
- Rusty Lee, Gaubert Oil
- Daniel Reid, Buchanan Wealth Management
- Amy Rushing, Rushing2Winders
- Teresa Solis, Citizens 1st Bank
- Jennifer Sowell, NMC Health Network
- Jessica Sowell, City of Nacogdoches
- Denise Thompson, Etech
- Robert Williams, Express Employment Professionals

As we recognize these leaders today, I would also challenge each of us to reflect on our own leadership responsibilities. Leadership isn't reserved for board members, elected officials or CEOs. It happens in our businesses, in our homes, in our churches, on nonprofit boards, on youth sports sidelines and in everyday interactions with others.

Our community becomes stronger when each of us chooses to lead with integrity, purpose, and a commitment to making things better than we found them. The future of Nacogdoches will not be shaped by a handful of leaders. It will be shaped by all of us accepting the responsibility and opportunity to lead where we are.

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EDUCATION & AGRICULTURE SCHEDULE

MONDAY OCTOBER 5, 2026

6:30 AM – 7:30 AM	Market Rabbits Arrive
8:00 AM	Market Rabbits Judging
9:00 AM	Public Speaking Contest
12:00 PM	Breeding Rabbits Arrive <i>Breeding Rabbits will show following Market Rabbits</i>
3:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Market Lambs & Goats Arrive



TUESDAY OCTOBER 6, 2026

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Youth Baking Contest Drop Off
3:00 PM	Ag Mechanics Arrive and In Place
6:00 PM	Market Lamb & Goat Show



WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 7, 2026

8:00 AM	Ag Mechanics Show
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Market Swine Arrive



THURSDAY OCTOBER 8, 2026

9:00 AM	Floral Contest
6:00 PM	Market Swine Show



FRIDAY OCTOBER 9, 2026

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Market Broilers Arrive
9:00 AM	Market Broiler Show



SATURDAY OCTOBER 10, 2026

6:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Breeding Heifers Arrive
10:00 AM	Breeding Heifer Show
5:30 PM	Buyers Auction



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SATURDAY		 WRISTBAND SPECIAL 6PM – 11PM • \$30
SUNDAY		 MIDWAY OPENS 5PM – 11PM



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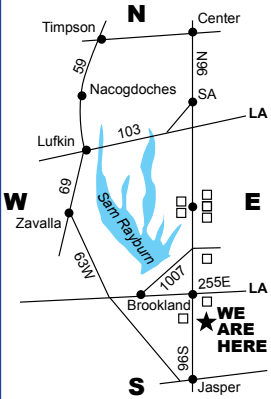
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Mayor Randy Johnson Will Not Seek Re-Election in May

Mayor Randy Johnson has announced that he will not seek another term as Mayor of Nacogdoches. Johnson, who is serving a second term as mayor and who first took office in 2023, will complete his term before retiring in May, 2027.

"It is an absolute honor to serve as mayor of my hometown," he said. "I'm grateful to the people of Nacogdoches for the opportunity to serve our city during such an exciting time. I look forward to finishing my term and placing the leadership of our city in very capable hands."



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Council Member Chad Huckaby Announces Candidacy for Mayor

Nacogdoches Councilman Chad Huckaby this week announced his intention to run for Nacogdoches mayor in the May 1 election. A three-term representative of the Southwest Ward, Huckaby was first elected to the council in 2022 and has served the past two years as mayor pro tem, a position elected by the members of the council.

“My desire to serve our city as mayor is based on seeing us build on the momentum created under the leadership of the current mayor and on energizing and unifying our council and our community,” said Huckaby. “The watershed events converging in our community at this moment are unprecedented in our long and celebrated history. The development of an interstate corridor on our doorstep, the boom occurring on the SFA campus, the investment in our historic downtown, the infrastructure rehabilitation made possible by the recent bond elections - how we embrace and navigate these extraordinary blessings will depend on who we elect to leadership.”

A native of Nacogdoches, Huckaby holds a PhD from Texas A & M University as well as both a Bachelors and Masters degree from SFA. He was appointed by Governor Greg Abbot to serve as student member of the SFA Board of Regents, he is a former Mr. SFA and is a member of the faculty at Angelina College. Huckaby has received a number of awards including 2024 Elected Official of the Year and designation as one of the Shining Stars of Nacogdoches.

During Huckaby’s terms, the council has hired a new city manager and a new city attorney and proposed seven bond proposals to voters totaling \$44 million. Huckaby vocally supported the proposals and all were overwhelmingly approved by residents.

Born and raised in Nacogdoches, Huckaby grew up in and around the church. He has served for 14 years as Director of Music at Martinsville Baptist Church. He and his wife, Candra, a public school administrator, have one son.

The election for mayor is May 1, 2027.



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Can't Stop Progress

by Taylor Millard

Our world is changing at a pace that my aging eyes have trouble focusing. It seems to be a blur of faster evolving technology that I am not prepared to embrace. I was born in 1957 or as my granddaughter likes to say, “The Mid Nineteen Hundreds” which somehow sounds much older. The current AI infrastructure investment is mind blowing, but not unlike other moments in history.

In the 1870s, U.S. railroads expanded explosively, laying tens of thousands of miles of track with massive capital, government land grants, and speculative fervor. This physical network unified markets, cut transport costs, and powered industrial growth, though it produced overbuilding and a few bankruptcies. Today's AI infrastructure boom mirrors that scale and urgency. Hyperscalers race to build vast data centers, secure GPUs, whatever that means, and expand power grids at extraordinary cost. Like the railroads, AI promises transformative productivity gains and national economic advantage, fueled by private investment and policy support. Both eras feature rapid network construction that reshapes society—yet risk excess capacity, resource constraints, and possible uneven benefits.

I wonder how many conversations my forefathers had on their front porches watching a railroad track being laid through their farm. I am sure there were arguments for and against back then but the tracks brought the world to the farm. My great uncle ordered a house from the Sears catalog in 1910. I can order a home from Amazon, which basically is the digital version of the old catalog.

Cybercabs are now a thing. A car pulls up to pick you up but when you get inside there is no driver, steering wheel, or pedals. Just a screen to provide instructions. Many of my generation will not ride in this new transport mode, just like the ones that would not get on a train or in a Model T. My old mind is trying to adapt but the pace is dizzying to say the least.

I will say that for self-driving cars, there is one sure way to know if they are safe, the price of insurance. The insurance industry is always the best indicator of true risk because if they are wrong, it cost them money. If it makes you feel less worried, the self-driving vehicles insurance premiums are priced 30-50 % less in today's market. Of course this does not eliminate being struck by a drunk driver, but that exists already. No drunk driving for a Cybercab though, so maybe this could help solve that issue.

I hear the predictions of doom and the promise of unparalleled abundance all on the same day. One says the robots will turn against man and kill us all, another says AI has done in a few weeks of medical research what it would have taken 110 years to accomplish under the prior model. The real fear is as ancient as mankind, the fear of the unknown. The unknown is undefeated in the imagination of bad, but I choose to imagine greatness and cannot wait to see what happens next!



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.

David Holcomb

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L-r: David Holcomb, Harlee McClendon, Becky Harding



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davidholcomb213@gmail.com - Visit us on Facebook

Saints Rest Cemetery Homecoming 2026

Saints Rest Cemetery Homecoming will be held **Sunday, Oct 4th. Lunch** on the grounds at **12 noon. Business Meeting** will follow at **1:00 pm**. Saints Rest Cemetery is located on CR 538, Nacogdoches, Texas. For those unable to attend, contributions for upkeep of the cemetery may be mailed to:

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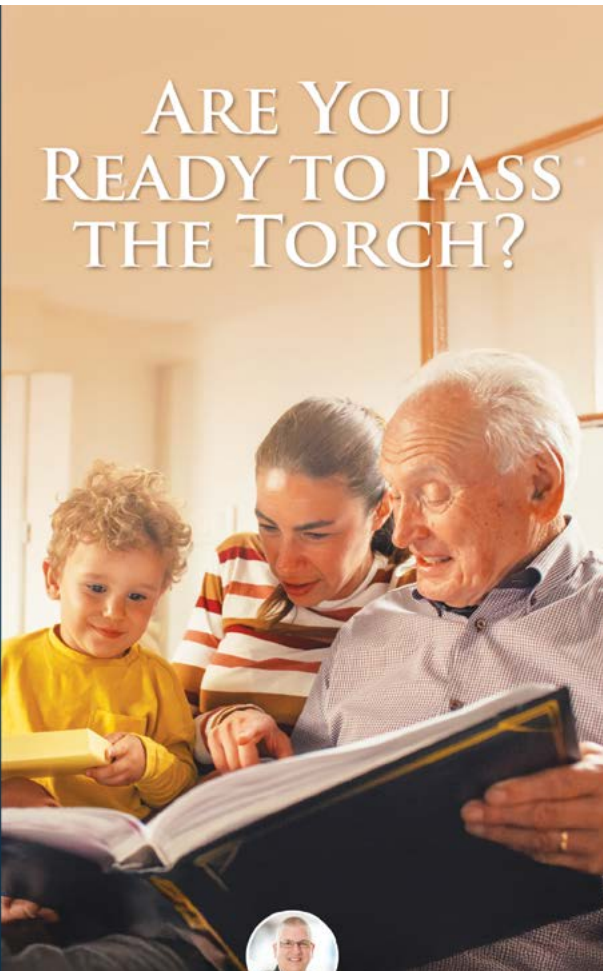


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Historic Sites Fall Programs



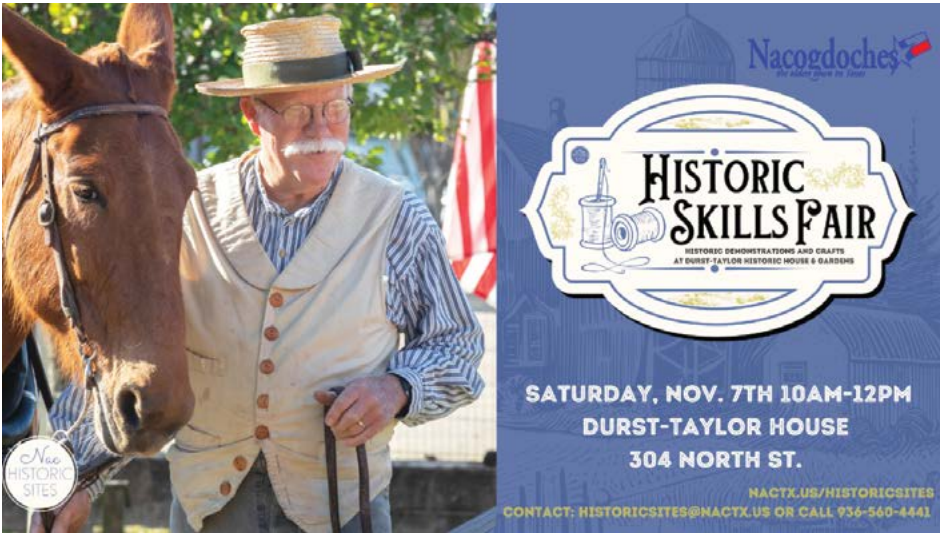
Get ready to dig, craft, and play your way through the past at Thursdays in the Garden; a FREE, hands-on history program made just for kids ages 2–10!

Step into the world of an 1800s farmstead at the Durst-Taylor House & Gardens (304 North St.), where every other Thursday brings a new adventure starting September 10th and ending November 19th.

Fall Dates: 9/10, 9/24, 10/8, 10/22, 11/5, 11/19

From potato sack races and clothespin dolls to paper plate farm animals and nature mosaic crafts, each session is packed with playful activities inspired by life long ago.

No RSVP required, every other Thursday starting at 10:00am.



Nacogdoches Historic Sites invites the community to take a step back in time at the Historic Skills Fair, happening Saturday, November 1st, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Durst-Taylor Historic House & Gardens (304 North St.). This free, family-friendly event offers a unique opportunity to explore life on a 19th-century farmstead through a variety of demonstrations and activities.

Visitors will have the chance to see and engage with traditional skills and crafts that were essential to daily life in the mid-1800s. Demonstrations may include everything from traditional crafts and textile work to old-fashioned methods of food preparation and preservation. You might even hear the lively sounds of period music filling the grounds!

Whether you're a history enthusiast or just looking for a fun and educational outing, the Historic Skills Fair offers something for all ages. Come learn, explore, and connect with the heritage of Nacogdoches.



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Laura Holcomb’s Call to Serve Bonita Methodist Church

by Dr. Vi Alexander, Staff Writer

Long before Laura Holcomb ever called Crockett home, her family’s Texas story was already being written. It began in Indiana in the 1860s, when her great-great-grandfather saw a “For Sale” sign advertising 3,000 acres in Crockett, Texas and decided to make the purchase—a decision that would shape the family’s history for generations. The land became a working ranch, and because the family remained in Indiana, a foreman was hired to oversee it. More than a century later, that family connection to Texas became much more personal.

In 1982, Laura’s family moved from Lafayette, Indiana to the Crockett property. Laura attended Crockett ISD, where she met Joseph Holcomb during her freshman year. In 1990, Laura and Joseph were married. At the time, Joseph was in his second year of dental school in Houston, while Laura was pursuing her studies at the University of St. Thomas, also in Houston. In 1993, Joseph completed dental school, and the couple moved back to Crockett. It was a place woven into her family’s history long before she was born—and, eventually, it became the place where she would build a history of her own.



In the early years of her marriage, Laura owned and operated WVT Transportation Company, a flatbed trucking business that continued a familiar family tradition of trucking that began in Indiana. For seven years, she managed the company while also building a family of her own. Laura and Joseph welcomed their daughter, Ann, in 1994, followed by their son, Will, in 1998. She balanced running a business, rearing two children, and supporting Joseph as he built his dental practice. Yet, amid all those responsibilities, Laura says she experienced a profound calling from God to enter the ministry. That calling opened a new chapter in her life, leading her into ministry within the Global Methodist Church.

A major milestone came in 2022 when Laura and Joseph, along with eighteen friends, founded a Global Methodist Church in Crockett. The Wesleyan congregation held its first worship service in a local medical facility. As Laura served in various positions within the new church, she began to sense a growing call to explore ministry. Her involvement soon extended beyond the local congregation, as she became active in the Trinity Conference of the Global Methodist Church, serving as the Pineywoods laity representative on the Connectional Council. Through this role, she became increasingly involved in the work of the Annual Conference and eventually served on its planning team.

One year later, Laura began attending conference training sessions. In October 2004, she completed her Certified Lay Ministry classes and received her certificate in June 2005. It was during the October 2004 training that Laura clearly sensed the Lord calling her to a new life in ministry. Following that call, she enrolled at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky, in January 2026. She is continuing on this path toward ordination, with plans to become an ordained Deacon in the Trinity Conference in 2028 and an Elder in 2030.

In December 2025, Pastor Brad McKenzie invited Laura to fill in for him one Sunday while he was away on a mission trip. That Sunday marked Laura’s first visit to Bonita Church in Central Heights. What began as a temporary opportunity to serve would soon become a significant turning point in Laura’s journey of faith and ministry. Since this past August, Laura has embraced the role with a clear vision for her desire in ministry: to love and serve the church well, involve all the members, and to bring others to Christ. At the heart of Laura’s ministry is a deep desire to share the faith that has become central to her own life and to help others experience that same hope and love. She believes God has called her to encourage those who are struggling and help others discover the hope and peace she has found through her relationship with Him. For Laura, ministry is more than a position or title; it is a way of life and a response to God’s calling. Her journey into ministry is another chapter in a life shaped by faith, family, service, and a willingness to follow wherever God leads.

Laura warmly invites you to join the family at Bonita Church for worship. You’ll find a welcoming congregation where you are loved, accepted, and encouraged—a place to grow in faith, build meaningful relationships, and feel truly at home.

Bonita Methodist Church; Global Methodist Church
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WHAT’S NEW IN NAC?

News from the Nacogdoches City Council

September 2026



Chad Huckaby
Mayor Pro Tem

FALL FUN IN NACOGDOCHES

I’m grateful to you for the opportunity to serve on your City Council and to members of the Council for asking me to serve as Mayor Pro Tem for the past two years. It’s an honor to help lead a city that has so many exciting things going on. This month the Old Town Rig Down has once again brought visitors to our downtown from all over the country. This unique event, organized by the Massey Rose Foundation, benefits our community in numerous ways and kicks off a long list of fall activities in our downtown. Your city works with organizations to prepare for street closures and logistics that help make these major downtown events so much fun.

NORTH STREET/TXDOT PARTNERSHIP

After hearing input from the city and residents regarding the Lloyd Street intersection with North Street, TXDOT is partnering with the city on a more comprehensive traffic study for North Street. This study, along with a federally funded look at pedestrian and bicycle connections between Austin Street/SFA and downtown create an opportunity to consider the possibilities of North Street as a gateway connecting SFA, downtown businesses and neighborhoods. It’s partnerships like these that make it possible for the city to look into the future and plan for coming development without shouldering all of the planning and execution costs.



MOVIES AND MORE

The City Council has approved an economic development agreement supporting ICON Cinema’s planned renovation of the former AMC Theater on North Street, bringing a first-class theater back to Nacogdoches. Also approved is a study to examine lodging demand and the feasibility of a downtown event venue as well as a look at potential investment needs and opportunities to attract private development. The goal is to collect data that can help guide future tourism and downtown economic-development decisions.

PLANNING AHEAD, CUTTING COSTS

When voters approved the city bond proposals, it allowed the Council to begin work on infrastructure construction that ultimately will accommodate future growth and save the city millions of dollars in repair costs. Just a few of the on-going projects are modernization of water and waste water operations, planning for long-term landfill capacity and rebuilding much of the Lanana and Banita sanitary sewer system.

LEVERAGING OUTSIDE DOLLARS TO SAVE LOCAL TAX DOLLARS

The City Council has also been able to leverage state, federal and grant resources to help conserve local tax dollars. In addition to federal and state funding for the North Street studies, which requires no local match, the city has pursued up to \$5.7 million in federal funding for construction at the airport as well as a Texas Community Development Block Grant for street improvements. It is these kinds of forward thinking efforts that are allowing our city to move forward on projects that otherwise would not be possible.

NACOGDOCHES CITY COUNCIL

CHAD HUCKABY

MAYOR PRO TEM

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mobile Phone Number: 936.552.1780

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Mailing Address:
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by Leisha Bryant

Our Helping Hands Create Great Change

As fall approaches, our community begins to shift. Children return to school, routines settle into place, the sounds of Friday Night Lights fill the air. Love In the Name of Christ, this season always reminds us of renewal. As leaves begin to change and temperatures cool, hearts often become more open to connection, compassion, and transformation.

Because of the faithful partnership of local churches and our community, lives are being touched, families are finding encouragement, hope is growing throughout Nacogdoches, and *meaningful relationships* are being built. We collaborate daily with community partners to ensure we are efficient stewards of our resources and to avoid duplication of services.

Our church partners are more than supporters. Each Love INC church partner plays a vital role in helping us reach people, meet needs, and advance God's mission in our community. Whether through volunteering, financial support, hosting events, or faithfully praying for this ministry, your involvement strengthens and inspires us. Your partnership impacts not only on the Love INC staff, but also the many volunteers who serve through churches across our community.



Patti Goodrum, Executive Director Love INC Nacogdoches

Christmas Shared Blessings

Mark your calendars for **December 9, 2026**, as we come together for our annual Christmas Shared Blessings. Churches are invited to begin collecting new gifts for boys and girls. Drop off starts **November 1st!**

Love INC serves as a connection point, linking needs with the gifts, talents, and compassionate hearts of God's people. We faithfully steward the resources entrusted to us, serving as record keepers for both churches and the community while helping ensure that assistance empowers individuals and families toward greater self-sufficiency.

When you volunteer with Love INC, you're doing more than meeting a need. You're building relationships, offering hope, sharing Christ's love, and helping transform lives. God has equipped each of us to make a difference. This fall, will you use yours? Join us as we serve our neighbors and strengthen relationships.

Applying is simple and easy!

For as little as 3 hours a week, you can help our community experience the transforming power of Jesus. There are so many new ways to serve, give me a call and let's discuss the details.

- Submit a volunteer application online from our website.
- Request volunteer application by email (leisha@loveincnac.org).
- Stop by our Nacogdoches Campus at 917 Ruby St., Nacogdoches.

Don't underestimate what God can do through one willing heart. Join us and discover how a few hours of service can have an eternal impact.

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The Odd Couple is presented by special arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

Lamp-Lite Players Present *The Odd Couple*

by Katherine Parrish Whitbeck
Lamp-Lite Players Board of Directors, Publicity

The Lamp-Lite Players open their 54th Season with *The Odd Couple*, by Neil Simon, October, 23, 24, 30, and 31, 2026, at 7:30 pm, and October 25 and November 1, 2026, at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$15.00 Adults, \$12.00 Adults 60+, \$8.00 Students/Children and may be purchased online now at lampliteplayers.ludus.com. Any available tickets will be sold at the Box Office the day of the performance 45 minutes before curtain. All seats are reserved seats. An Audience Dress Rehearsal Preview Night will be held Thursday, October 22, 2026, 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$5.00 and are available online or at the door the night of the performance.

Julie Gebhardt-Kilcullen directs this comedy about two mismatched roommates: Oscar Madison (Cristóban Morones), a sloppy easy-going sportswriter, and Felix Unger (Kevin Helmer) a fastidious, depressed news writer, newly separated from his wife. Their poker buddies, Murray (Todd Phillips), Roy (Tim Williams), Vinnie (Adan Morones), and Speed (Riley Nichols), as well as the Pigeon sisters, Gwendolyn (V Couch) and Cecily (Cindy Hughes), add to the hilarity.

Additional creative and technical staff include Tammy Miller, stage manager; LaChanda Maxie, assistant stage manager; Scott Cigich, set designer; Nancy Smith, costumes; Nikolaas Van Kley, lighting operator; Davy Thomas, sound; Alyssa Faykus-Smith, props mistress; Sue Whatley, publicity; Bill King, webmaster; and Kirsten Baker, Linda Licht, Paige Paulette, Amy Maurer, Kylie Hutto, Chris Sence, Elaine Lambright, Scott Parrish, and Faithlynn Stockman, running crew.

For assistance with purchasing online tickets, including using Season Passes to exchange for tickets, audience members may email lampliteticketing@gmail.com. It is recommended that audience members arrive at Lamp-Lite Theatre 15-30 minutes prior to curtain. More information about *The Odd Couple*, by Neil Simon, may be found at www.lamplitetheatre.com and at Lamp-Lite Theatre on Facebook and Instagram.



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The Refuge

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

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



I Ain't Got The Blues

Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God. Psalm 43:5

“Everybody wants to know why I sing the blues. Yes, I say everybody wanna know why I sing the blues.” These may be familiar lyrics to some of you reading this column. Lyrics from the song, “Why I Sing The Blues” by the late blues legend B.B. King. King, perhaps like you, was born and raised during a horrific period in our nation’s history. A period characterized by Jim Crow laws. A period where the denial of basic human rights was unashamedly practiced. There was violent persecution and widespread discrimination. Perhaps you, like King, sang the blues because you also had a low countenance, a melancholy state of mind due to your lived experience.

What about today in 21st century America, are you singing the blues? If you are a born again Christian and you are singing the blues, I wonder why you are singing the blues. Is it because of past experiences you have not forgiven? Is it because of someone else’s lived experience under racial segregation and oppression and all of the demonic activities associated with it that you now identify with, making it your experience? If you had a similar experience in your past life, what has the Lord done for you to give you better life experiences today? Has He been good to you? Has He brought you through? If God has given you the life of His Son, what do you have to be blue about? You are no longer of this world. You have been chosen by God. You have been set apart as a separate and distinct people of the living God. You have been

equipped with power and authority by God to live for Him and for His glory. You are already right now seated with God in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:6). You have what the world can never have, the Spirit of truth living in you to guide you into all truth.

Bad things have happened and will continue to happen as long as sin is active in the world. As for me, I ain’t got the blues, therefore I don’t sing the blues. My life is not a woe is me life. I’m not a victim of past or present circumstances. If you are a born-again Christian, you and I can be all Christ saved us to be for His glory. No man has power over Christ. We can go anywhere the Spirit leads us in order to fulfill God’s purpose and plan for our lives. We will have everything we need to carry out our strategic assignment in His kingdom. He will open doors for us no man can close and close doors no man can open. We are His children. He is with us, in us and for us. And when we find ourselves in hard times and difficult places we can learn as the apostle Paul learned, to be content in whatever state we are in (Phil. 4:11-13). We know whatever God allows He is performing His word in our lives to make us more like Christ (Rom. 8:28-29).

Our life’s success depends on living in obedience to God, following Christ as He leads us, regardless of what He allowed in people’s lives in the past or what He allows in people’s lives in the present. He is sovereign and in control of everything that happens in human history. Peter asked Jesus what would happen to John after he was told about his own future death. Jesus answered Peter and said, “If I will that he [John] remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me.” (Jn. 21:18-22)

I ain’t got the blues. I know I cannot change or vindicate another person’s lived experience of suffering at the hands of evil people. I cannot right the wrongs by doing evil against another person who had nothing to do with past or present injustices. What I can do is tell somebody today of the goodness of God. I can tell them that Jesus is alive. After being dead for three days He took up His life again (Jn. 10:17-18; 20:1-18). I can tell them how Jesus saved me by grace (share my testimony); how He took the one-way ticket to hell I was carrying and exchanged it for a one-way ticket to heaven (John 14:6). I can tell them how Jesus keeps hell from rejoicing when He saves lost sinners, preventing them from dying in their sins. I can tell them how to find forgiveness of their sins and peace with God in Christ. I can tell them of the abundant life they can have and enjoy now in this present world through faith in Jesus name (Jn. 10:10). I can tell them of the day that is coming when Jesus will “make all things new” (Rev 21:5). I can tell people of the day when there will be a great supper in heaven for the Lamb and His bride. I can tell them how they can be seated at that table through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

I ain’t got the blues. I sing the praises of God because what I got is the good news—the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is because of Christ’s gospel that we can hope in God. It is because Jesus chose to leave the glory He had with the Father in heaven and come into the world He created by donning a human body and performing the greatest act of love known to mankind (John 3:16; 17:1-5). Jesus died for sins He did not commit, paying a debt He did not owe so that we could walk free of the debt at no cost to us, free from the guilt and shame of our sins against a holy God (Jn. 8:36). Christians (especially those living in America) have much to be thankful for and to sing the praises of God about. We must stop allowing ourselves to be conformed to this world, its ways and its beliefs (Rom. 12:1-2). We need to read our Bible more, believe what it says by applying its teachings to our lives with the Spirit’s help so that we are conformed to the image of Christ. So that we can enjoy this present life with Christ.

I ain’t got the blues because I got Jesus. Have you got Jesus? If you’ve got Jesus and your soul is cast down, why? The psalmist in our text for this message is giving us a helpful reminder of the great hope we have in God. Instead of looking around into the world, allowing past or present experiences of difficult days and circumstances to dismay us, we should choose as the psalmist did, look above, to our God. As members of the body of Christ we can look even closer. We can look within where God lives inside our hearts because Christ in us is the hope of glory. I ain’t got the blues. What about you?

Five Things Nobody Told Me About Aging

by Neal Murphy

Neal Murphy grew up in the small town of San Augustine, Texas. He and wife Clara have two grown children. Moving back after retiring, now with five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, he began, as a hobby, writing short stories of humorous things that he observed over the years. He was an ambulance driver in college, worked for two funeral homes, then spent over forty years in the insurance business. He also writes stories of his forty-four years as a state certified police officer working for seven different departments. After living in five different states, he is now retired back in San Augustine and has his stories printed in seven different newspapers, and published five books. He is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin University, and the Insurance Institute of America. He is a Deacon in a Baptist Church and former Sunday School Teacher for many years, as well as Choir Director at several churches. He is also the docent in the 1919 Jail Museum in San Augustine and works three days a week. He was the director of the restoration of the old county records dating back to the 1800s.



I was shaving the other morning and I noticed something – my ears looked larger than I remembered. I examined them closely and sure enough, my ears are larger in my old age. Then I noticed my nose, it, too, is getting bulbous. Could my nose and ears still be growing? No one told me about that aspect of aging.

This revelation deserved a little research, and I found out that most dermatologists agree that your ears and nose continue to grow just a little as one ages. They say that the ears are fully grown by age six, and the nose by thirteen. But, as time goes by, both nose and ears droop as soft tissue, skin, and muscles relax as structural support ages. Since the ears and nose are mostly cartilage, they tend to get larger as loss of elasticity and collagen in the skin sags.

To compound the problem, heavy earrings stretch the soft tissue of the ear lobe making the ear look even larger. The nose has a large number of sebaceous glands that have greater growth potential. No one told me that I may have ears like a bloodhound in a few years.

The second thing no one told me about is that your front teeth seem to get larger due to gums receding. If you are getting “long in the tooth,” it is because your gums are deteriorating and have begun to shrink away from the crown position of the tooth. The length of the average front tooth is 10 to 12 millimeters. It can become as long as 15 to 20 millimeters in the same way our skin loses collagen fibers. So, I guess I can look forward in the next few years with front teeth that would do justice to any jackrabbit, along with the ears to match.

The third thing to look forward to is hands that get veiny and spotted. Hands lose the soft, plump, unmarked hands of youth to resemble a road map. Women tend to cover them up with large rings and bracelets. I used to refer to the brown spots as “liver spots,” but am not sure that is correct. Men just have to walk around with their hands hidden in their pockets, or just grin and bear the condition. I heard one man say, “My hands have been around a long time and served me well. They deserve to look any way they want to.”

The fourth item to look forward to – your feet get gnarly. Remember how in your youth your feet were smooth, toes straight, and you never hesitated to wear flip-flops or go barefooted? As we age the feet lose elasticity and flexibility in the soft tissues, tendons, and ligaments. Along with aging then come flat feet, hammertoes, and bunions. Occasionally some fungus invades the toe nails which make them look like something out of a horror movie. Women seem to fare much worse in this area due to wearing high-heeled shoes for many years, which puts stress on the bones which eventually give way and deform the foot.

Finally, old age brings on an increase in facial hair. Hair may fall out of a man’s head, but it grows prolifically in the ears and nose. I heard a man once say that he treated his balding head with green persimmon juice. He said that it did not grow new hair, but would shrink down the size of your head to match what hair that is left. Many older women get sideburns and moustaches due to an imbalance in hormones.

Yes, no one ever told me about these consequences of aging. It is amazing what our parents, Mother Nature and Father Time, have in store for our aging bodies. About all one can do is make the best of the hand you are dealt by your “age parents,” which include larger ears and noses, larger front teeth, spotty and veiny hands, gnarly feet, and lots of facial hair. It seems that age is no respecter of persons as we will all get there eventually.

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Answering the Call of Duty – The John Rulfs Story

by Dr. Vi Alexander, Staff Writer

In 1967, a young man walked across the stage at Stephen F. Austin State University and received his Bachelor of Arts degree, marking the completion of years of hard work. But for him, making future plans seemed almost pointless. He knew a letter from Uncle Sam was coming. With the Vietnam War raging, he understood that his future was not entirely his to decide. That envelope arrived in October 1968. With it came the end of the waiting—and the beginning of a journey that he and his lovely wife, Sherry Jacobs Rulfs, had known was coming all along.

During his military entry testing, John demonstrated a unique aptitude for interpreting aerial photographs, a skill that caught the attention of both Air Force and Navy. Each encouraged him to pursue pilot training, but he declined the opportunity. The Navy then offered him an alternative path in its Supply Corps, where he could serve as a Disbursing and Food Service Officer. He was assigned to the USS *La Salle*.

The USS *La Salle* began as LPD-3, an amphibious transport dock for Marines and equipment. In 1972, she was redesignated AGF-3 and converted at Philadelphia Naval Shipyard into the flagship of the U.S. Middle East Force. Equipped with command centers, communications systems, staff offices, and senior-officer quarters, she became a floating headquarters and, painted white to reflect the sun, earned the nickname “Great White Ghost of the Arabian Coast.”



As Disbursing and Food Service Officer on this enormous ship, John managed two essential responsibilities: military pay and feeding the crew. The role required careful financial accountability, along with overseeing food purchasing, inventory, preparation, sanitation, and personnel. For a young officer, it provided valuable experience in the administrative and logistical side of military life.

When the USS *La Salle* entered a port of call, the work of the Disbursing Officer often took him ashore. He would carry Treasury bills and other author-



rized financial instruments to a local bank, where they could be exchanged for several hundred thousand dollars needed to pay the crew. It was a task that required absolute trust and careful attention to detail. Once the local bank had converted the Treasury bills into cash, the Disbursing Officer faced the most sensitive part of his assignment—getting the money safely back to the ship. He made the return trip in an old white Chrysler, an intentionally unremarkable vehicle that helped him blend into traffic while carrying the Navy’s money.

The USS *La Salle* took good care of its crew, serving four meals a day, with hot dogs and hamburgers among the favorites. Hoping to surprise the sailors, Officer Rulfs ordered 600 pounds of lobster. But most had never eaten it and showed little interest. It was a humorous reminder that even the finest meal isn’t always the one a sailor wants on his tray.

One of the USS *La Salle*’s proudest accomplishments was receiving the Captain Edward F. Ney Memorial Award for excellence in Navy food service. Established in 1958, the Ney Award recognized outstanding performance in food quality, sanitation, inventory, organization, safety, training, and management. As Disbursing and Food Service Officer, John played a key role in the operation, making the award a reflection of both the food-service crew’s hard work and his leadership and attention to detail.



Toward the end of John’s tour in 1972, the USS *La Salle* departed the United States for Bahrain as part of the African and Middle East Cruise. During the voyage, the ship crossed the equator, giving first-time sailors, known as “pollywogs,” the chance to participate in the Navy’s traditional “Crossing the Line” ceremony. Following the good-natured initiation, they were officially recognized as “shellbacks.”

After returning to civilian life, John and Sherry began a new chapter. John joined Stephen F. Austin State University as Assistant Director of Purchasing, where his logistics and administrative experience quickly proved valuable. After five years, he advanced to Assistant Director and later Director of Physical Plant and Construction, overseeing the university’s facilities, construction, and infrastructure.

John, thank you for your important service during the Vietnam era. You answered the call when your country needed you and served honorably. We are grateful for the time and commitment you gave to our country. May God bless you.



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of our Armed Forces
NACOGDOCHES COUNTY

Sgt. Billy Frank Allen and the “Wolfhounds” of Vietnam

by Dr. Vi Alexander, Staff Writer

More than half a century has passed since a young Billy Frank Allen left Lufkin, Texas, to answer a letter from the United States Selective Service System. He was 20 years old. Like thousands of young Americans of his generation, Billy had little idea of how profoundly that letter would change his life. His journey took him from East Texas into the combat zone of Vietnam. Along the way, he became an infantryman, a proud Wolfhound, a sergeant, and a decorated combat veteran.

Billy’s military journey began at Fort Polk, where he underwent Advanced Infantry Training at Tigerland preparing him for the conditions in Southeast Asia, emphasizing field craft, weapons, patrols, movement, and jungle warfare. After approximately six months of training, he departed to the Philippines for military staging and transit. Then, to Cam Ranh Bay, the major U.S. arrival and logistics centers in Vietnam. From there, Billy continued to Cu Chi, where he joined A Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry—the Wolfhounds—25th Infantry Division, serving in the 2nd Platoon.

Cu Chi was the major base and headquarters area of the 25th Infantry Division. It was an active combat environment and sat atop and around an extensive Viet Cong tunnel network. From the base, infantrymen moved into the surrounding countryside for reconnaissance, patrols and combat operations. Helicopters became a familiar part of Billy’s life. He and his fellow



soldiers would be picked up at Cu Chi and flown to remote landing zones, where they were inserted into areas where enemy activity had been reported. There they conducted reconnaissance, patrols and search-and-destroy missions. Carrying their weapons, ammunition, water and field equipment, the infantrymen moved through terrain where danger could come from almost anywhere.

“Wolfhounds” is the nickname given to Billy’s unit, and they operated in and around some of the most heavily contested territories; including the Iron Triangle, a strategically important area north of Saigon. By late 1967 and into 1968, enemy activity throughout the Cu Chi and Saigon region was intensifying. Then, came the Tet Offensive in late January 1968. North Vietnamese



and Viet Cong forces launched coordinated attacks throughout South Vietnam during the Lunar New Year holiday. It was part of an increasingly dangerous combat environment in which the 25th Infantry Division was already heavily engaged.

Billy recalls terrifying days in Vietnam when he and his fellow Wolfhounds wondered if they would make it home. One day stands out: September 4, 1967, when squad leader William “Easy” Smith was seriously wounded. Despite being under attack, Billy went back for Easy and dragged him toward a helicopter evacuation point. Billy was wounded later that day and evacuated to Japan, and the two lost contact. For years, Billy believed Easy had died—until decades later, an internet search revealed that his friend had survived, turning a painful memory of loss into a remarkable story of survival and friendship.

However, not all of Billy’s memories of Vietnam were grim. When the Bob Hope Show came through, Billy was in the hospital and hoped for a visit from Ann-Margret. Instead, Ann B. Davis, better known as “Schultzy” from *The Bob Cummings Show*, stopped by his room. Rather than offering the usual words of encouragement, she grabbed Billy’s big toe and twisted it. After the hardships of combat and hospitalization, the unexpected prank gave him a laugh—and a story he would remember for the rest of his life.

Billy was honorably discharged in July 1968. His military honors included two Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB), recognizing his service as an infantryman in active ground combat. Returning home, Billy began building a new life. He became the proud father of two daughters, Amy and Katie, and started his civilian career as a traveling salesman in Austin, Texas, working in the tobacco industry. He later moved to Houston, where he entered the insurance business and built a successful career. Eventually, Billy returned to his roots in Lufkin, Texas. Today, he is retired and lives in Glendale with his beloved wife, Donna. Reflecting on his military service and the experiences he shared with his fellow Wolfhounds, Billy sums it up simply: “This was my greatest accomplishment in life.”



Billy, thank you for your important service during the Vietnam era. You answered the call when your country needed you and served honorably. We are grateful for the time and commitment you gave to our country. May God bless you.



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David Holcomb with his granddaughter, Harlee McClendon and daughter, Becky Harding, look forward to meeting you!

To Protect and To Serve...

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.

Sandy was napping, her head nestled in the soft leather of the front passenger seat as I guided the Escalade swiftly and smoothly toward Dallas from Little Rock on I-30 one Tuesday afternoon. The cruise control was set at 75 and, having occupied the passing lane for many miles, the big SUV drifted effortlessly past an unending queue of mostly trucks that were growling along in the right lane. Using the entertainment system controls on the steering wheel, I skipped from one tune to the next, not thinking about much of anything except how many bugs had given their lives as they collided with the windshield for the last couple of hundred miles.



Suddenly, I noticed far ahead a set of flashing red and blue emergency lights in one of the oncoming lanes. Instinctively, I pressed the cruise cancel button on the left side of the steering wheel and allowed the car to slow slightly. As the lights drew closer, I was able to discern their attachment to the roof of a black and white state police cruiser with the familiar gold symbol of the state of Texas on the door. Without warning, the oncoming trooper braked hard and made a skidding left turn onto the grassy median and into my lane, stopping crossways in front of us and the 18-wheeler beside us in the right lane. Fortunately, the distance was sufficient for me to bring the Escalade to a safe stop, but the Kenworth alongside headed for the right shoulder as he stood on his squalling brakes. I could see the other vehicles behind us scrambling as they dipped or skewed to either side of the roadway, the drivers in both lanes fighting to avoid collision with the stopped vehicles ahead of them.



I couldn’t imagine what had caused the trooper to execute this dangerous maneuver—that is, until I looked up, horrified, as a speeding car appeared directly ahead, on the other side of the cruiser, coming toward the now motionless lines of vehicles. The oncoming car quickly grew larger,

indicating the wrong-way driver was closing the distance at a very high rate of speed and in MY LANE! I glanced over at Sandy, who had awakened by now, and I heard myself shout, “Look...!” as the black BMW roared past on my left, missing the police cruiser and our car only by inches as the driver had taken to the shoulder to avoid collision. I don’t know what I was trying to say to Sandy... maybe “Look Out!” I still don’t know.

After the BMW passed, the trooper gunned his engine and sped off to our right, across a grassy embankment and onto the service road parallel to the Interstate, flashing his headlights and doing all he could to warn other drivers behind us of the danger. I noticed in the rearview mirror that he was being joined by other patrol units as they weaved through the opposing traffic and disappeared from view.

It took a few moments for the Kenworth driver and me to collect our thoughts and slowly begin to drive forward. We knew that things might have turned out very differently had it not been for the trooper who willingly placed himself in harm’s way between our car and the speeding BMW. The lawman obviously had no inkling of the wrong-way driver’s mindset; for all he knew, this could be someone too drunk to avoid a collision or a lunatic in a suicide attempt. Yet, the trooper sat there, motionless, as the glare of the BMW’s headlights outlined ever more starkly his silhouette at the cruiser’s steering wheel. Had there been a collision, the cruiser would certainly have been totaled and the survival of the trooper definitely in question.

I don’t know the ultimate outcome of the chase, but I’m pretty sure things got ugly when the BMW was finally stopped. I hope no one was injured by this madman. I wish I could have thanked the trooper for his bravery. Were it not for him, I might not be writing this.

This unknown brave trooper is now in our prayers; we’re counting on God to bless him. Where do we get such heroes?



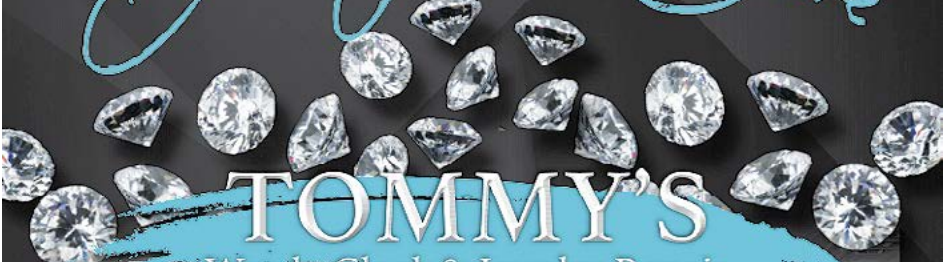
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A West Texas Educator Comes to East Texas: Ralph W. Steen

by Scott Sosebee, Contributing Writer

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

The traffic in Nacogdoches is heavier this weekend, the restaurants are more crowded, and there are a great number of young people milling about our city. Yes, it is time for a new fall semester, the beginning of a new academic year at Stephen F. Austin State University. Spring is the time for renewal by the calendar, but for those of us who spend our time on a college campus it is late summer that turns the page to a new year and when new freshmen arrive. Such a phase is our time for renewal.

New freshmen will probably begin to explore the campus, and they will no doubt immediately try to find the library—or at least we faculty members hope they will. They will (hopefully) discover that the outside of that building bears the name of Ralph W. Steen. Unfortunately, many of them will have no idea who he was. They will not realize that he remains an icon of our university, a nationally recognized historian, and a man who perhaps shaped the university we all now occupy more than any other figure in the past. So, allow me use this space to introduce them—and perhaps others—to Dr. Steen.

Born in the small West Texas town of Eula in 1905, Dr. Steen grew up in Clyde as the son of a hardware store owner. A bright student, in 1927 he received an undergraduate degree in history from McMurry College at nearby Abilene. Shortly after graduating from McMurry, he married native Louisianan Gladys Edmonds. Mrs. Steen taught English, and according to Dr. Steen's close friends she was his most important—and most strident—editor and confidant. After marriage, Steen and Gladys moved to Austin so that Ralph could begin post-graduate studies at the University of Texas. At UT, he received his MA and Ph.D degrees in History, and Steen chose to concentrate on Texas history as his research area. He wrote his MA thesis on colorful Texas governor James Ferguson, and his doctoral dissertation, directed by prominent Texas historian Eugene Barker, when published would become the first comprehensive study of twentieth century Texas. He was on his way to becoming a giant in the field.



Photo courtesy of Lufkin Daily News

After Steen finished his doctorate he took a job teaching at Hillsboro College for a year and then moved on to Texas A&M University in 1935. It would be at A&M that he began to forge a career that would make him one of the most gifted and noted Texas historians of his day. He would remain at A&M for twenty-three years, the last four as chair of the Department of History and Government. He made a reputation as perhaps the foremost authority on Texas political history. Steen cherished his time at Texas A&M, but in 1958 he was ready for a new challenge, so he took the job as President of Stephen F. Austin State College, a job he would hold until 1976.

It would be during Dr. Steen's tenure that SFA would begin to grow into the significant regional university it is today. Enrollment grew from just under 2,000 students to more than 11,000, and the campus physical structure began to grow significantly. Steen became the primary navigator as the school moved from being a teacher's college into a comprehensive regional university; it received university designation in 1969. Steen became instrumental in raising admission standards, establishing more stringent requirements for the faculty, and presiding over an increased emphasis on research.

Dr. Steen was not without his critics, and in the initial years of his term he ruffled some feathers. His predecessor, Dr. Paul Boynton, died suddenly in 1958. Boynton, of course, lived in the College's President's House and many people in the community believed that his widow should be allowed to remain there as long as she wished. Dr. Steen did allow Mrs. Boynton ample time to take care of affairs after her husband's death, but many members of the campus and city community came to believe that Steen had forced her out of the house before she was ready. For those critics, no amount of contrary evidence could convince them otherwise. Steen also agitated the city as the SFA campus grew, particularly when he decided to close access to Raguet Street. However, eventually the vast major-

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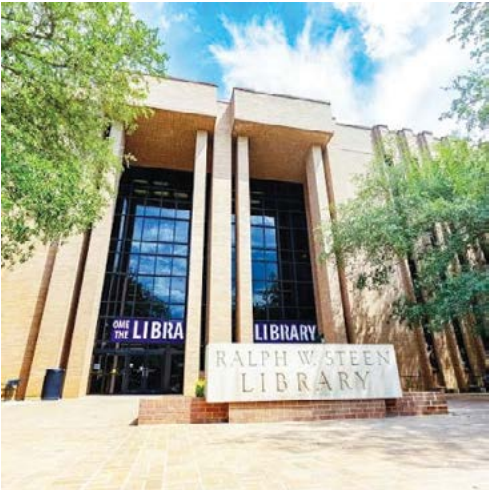
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ity of those in Nacogdoches and on campus came to realize that Dr. Steen was a force for positive change and progress.

Dr. Steen's accomplishments were many, but perhaps the one that he was most proud and the most significant was the successful integration of the university in 1964. Nacogdoches was a segregated southern city, and Stephen F. Austin State College, like all Texas state institutions, maintained a segregated campus. Steen became determined to change that, and his determination and leadership allowed SFA to traverse that tricky current a bit easier than many other similar institutions.

Dr. Steen was not an invisible president. According to those who remember him—fewer and fewer of those are around today—he delighted in walking the campus and interacting with students. It was also not uncommon for him to just casually stop by a classroom and listen to the instruction for a bit. Not coincidentally, he seemed to gravitate quite a bit toward the classrooms in which History was taught. Despite those early clashes with some parts of the Nacogdoches community, he also evolved into a cherished civic leader, and one who became a prominent booster of Nacogdoches when he made his many trips around the state on university business.

So, I hope when the new freshmen—or perhaps returning students—walk by the building that is the center of scholarship on the campus they will realize the vital contributions of the namesake of the library, a man who came out of West Texas to a small college and helped make it one of the best regional universities in the nation. Also, as the institution continues on the path to its second century, we should give a nod to a man who had quite a hand in making Stephen F. Austin State University what it is today.



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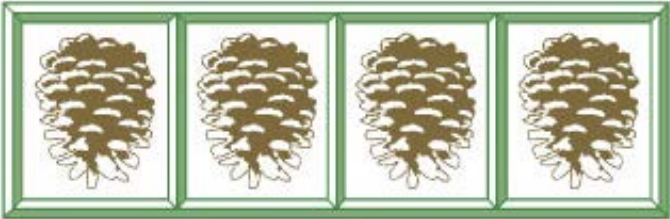
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This Month in the Oldest Town in Texas

October brings a fresh lineup of ways to experience Nacogdoches, from community gatherings and seasonal shopping to local flavors and traditions rooted in our town’s history. While Nacogdoches typically reaches peak fall color later in the season, cooler evenings and fall-inspired events offer plenty of reasons to get out and explore the Oldest Town in Texas.

The month begins with the **Farmers Market Fall Fling** on October 3rd from 9 am to 2 pm. Head to the Nacogdoches Farmers Market for a morning of local shopping and family-friendly entertainment. Browse vendor booths, discover handmade goods, grab a bite from food trucks, and enjoy live music while the kids explore the petting zoo and bounce house. It’s a great way to support local businesses and welcome the season.

Burger lovers can join the **Brick Street Burger Battle**, running through October 25th. Local restaurants are serving up creative, limited-time burgers made especially for the competition. Make your way around town, try the featured offerings, and cast your vote for your favorites. Follow the Nacogdoches Main Street Facebook page for participating restaurants and updates.

Garden enthusiasts can visit the **Fabulous Fall Festival Plant Sale** at the Pineywoods Native Plant Center on October 10th. Hosted by SFA Gardens, the sale offers Texas-tough plants perfect for adding seasonal interest to your landscape. Whether you’re an experienced gardener or just getting started, it’s a great opportunity to find something new for your garden and learn more about plants suited to East Texas.

The **Tobaccodoches Cigar Festival** brings an evening of live music, delicious food, and cigar culture to Nacogdoches on October 17th. Explore offerings from out-of-town cigar vendors, connect with fellow enthusiasts, and enjoy a relaxed atmosphere centered around conversation and community.

SFA Homecoming Weekend returns October 23rd–25th, bringing Lumberjack pride to campus and downtown. Highlights include the Homecoming Bonfire and Concert on October 23rd, the Homecoming Parade in Downtown Nacogdoches on October 24th, and the Homecoming football game at Homer Bryce Stadium that evening. It’s a special opportunity to celebrate university traditions and enjoy the excitement of game day.

Also on October 23rd, enjoy **Nac Snack Friday** from 11 am to 2 pm in Downtown Nacogdoches. Local food trucks will gather around the square, offering lunch options and a chance to enjoy the historic brick streets with friends and family.

On October 24th, step into the past at the **Pioneer Harvest Festival** at Millard’s Crossing Historic Village. Enjoy pioneer demonstrations, crafts, food, local vendors, and activities for all ages while exploring the historic village and learning about the traditions of earlier generations.

From local markets and seasonal flavors to university traditions and historic celebrations, October offers plenty of ways to enjoy Nacogdoches. For the latest event details and a complete list of October happenings, visit visitnacogdoches.org/events and check out our October What’s Happening article in this paper. We’ll see you *Around the Town!*

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Please check out the
Community
News Items
on page 42.

NAC ARTS COLLABORATIVE News

CONNECTING COMMUNITY | SUPPORTING ARTISTS

A big thank you to the sponsors of our Arts Ball: Masquerade fundraiser to be held October 3. They include Hightower, Franklin & James PLLC, Mark Parthie & Judge Steve Kirkland, Cheri & Les Neal, Richard Orton & Mary Fogle, Solmonson Associates, Roslyn Fraser, and Lisa Steed.

Hurry, tickets still available! We are now accepting vendor applications for this year's Winter Workshop, our annual vendor fair & holiday event that takes place during the day of the lighted Christmas parade on December 5.

The next exhibition at Falling Star Gallery is "Cosmic Debris: New Work by Wally Knight." Opening reception with artist in attendance is Saturday, October 17 from 2-5pm. The show is open Saturdays from 11-4 through November 30.

Local artist Jenny Stokes will host a four-part painting class at our 141 Walker Street location. Classes will take place Wednesdays @ 6pm starting October 14, 21, 28 and November 4. Jenny will also host a Paint & Sip on Saturday, October 24 @ 6pm.

You can sign up for all of these events on our website www.nacartscollab.com.

Artist Spotlight: Meet Wally Knight!

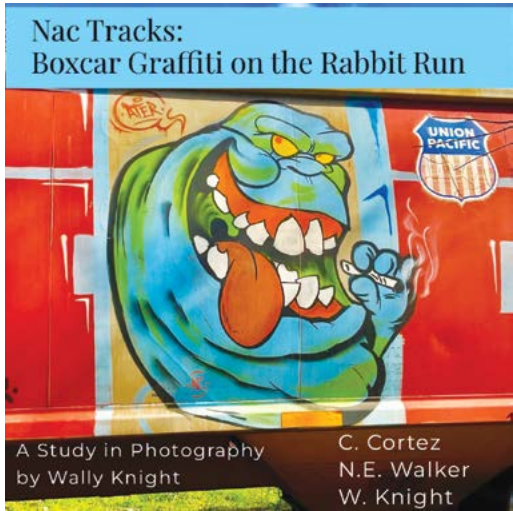
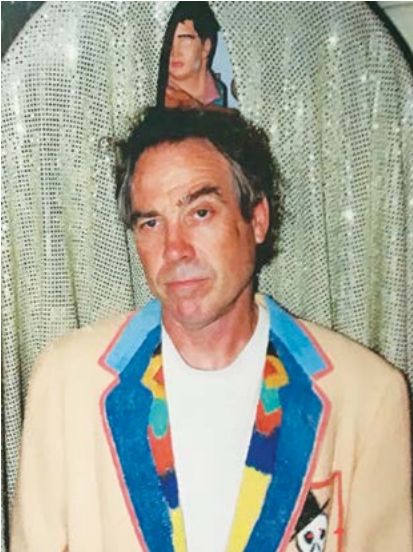
Wally has lived in the oldest town in Texas since the early '70s when he came here to study at SFA. Although this native Texan is not a BIN ("Born in Nac"), he calls himself a SIN ("Stayed in Nac"). Over the years since, he has become one of Nacogdoches' best known artists. His work can be found in many local collections and he has had numerous solo and group shows at the Cole Art Center, Falling Star Gallery, Arts on Fifth Avenue in Fort Worth, and Angelina College. A visit to Wally's "Cosmic Debris" home studio is always an adventure because the artist is always working on something interesting. Presently, he's preparing new work for his upcoming solo show, also named "Cosmic Debris," which opens October 17 at Falling Star Gallery. Wally is an assemblage artist, which means he takes found objects that somehow correspond and he makes new art from them. "You can't pre-determine anything," said Wally. "You have to let the objects tell you what works and what doesn't." Wally is frequently inspired to add an electrical element to his pieces, so much of his art plugs in and lights up. And his work is often playful in other ways. For example, Wally displayed a piece that began with an old brownie camera and a vintage coffee percolator. With the camera as its head, the coffee pot as its body, and some additional flourishes, Wally created a sculpture he calls "Can I Get You Anything Else?" You can't look at it without smiling. Other highlights in his studio include what Wally refers to as a light box, an assemblage that creates a multi-colored stained glass effect when it's plugged in and switched on. There are more works in progress, and each is truly one of a kind. "Cosmic Debris" will feature these whimsical pieces and other original work, all for sale.



Additionally, NAC is proud to announce that copies of Wally's new book, *Nac Tracks: Boxcar Graffiti on the Rabbit Run*



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October 2026 Schedule

October

Fri 9th	Nacogdoches Fair	Nacogdoches	7:00 pm
Tue 13th	Guacamoles	Nacogdoches	6:00 pm
Thu 15th	Ralph & Kacoos	Lufkin	5:00 pm
Fri 16th	Dance Club	Nacogdoches VFW	7:00 pm
Tue 20th	Guacamoles	Jacksonville	6:00 pm
Wed 21st	Tia Juanitas	Lufkin	5:30 pm
Tue 27th	Guacamoles	Nacogdoches	6:00 pm

*Lufkin VFW dance has been changed to the Nacogdoches VFW

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will also be available for purchase. It is a stunning collection of his photographs of graffiti painted on train cars passing through Nacogdoches on the Houston to Shreveport line, a route known as the Rabbit Run. All of the photos were taken in the Nacogdoches area, often from the South Street Bridge or along Bremond Street, which runs along the train yard. Nac Tracks is being published by the Nacogdoches Arts Collaborative, the first publishing venture for this local arts non-profit. Wally will be available to sign books at the opening reception, Saturday October 17 at Falling Star Gallery.

Nacogdoches Arts Collaborative is located inside Williamsburg Plaza, 320 North Street. Falling Star Gallery @ NAC is in Suite 306 and is open Saturday 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 Street, 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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ACGS to Host 25th Genealogy Lockin

(1) The Angelina County Genealogical Society will host the 25th Genealogy Lockin from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Friday, October 16, 2026, at the Buddy and Ellen Temple Community Room at T. L. L. Temple Memorial Library on 300 Park Street in Diboll. For more information, contact Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419. The whole day of genealogy videos is free of charge to the public, and you don't have to be a member to attend. If you want to attend this event in person, simply come that day. If you want to utilise this event virtually, contact Dickie Dixon with your contact information, including your email address, before the event. Dickie will email you the link to view the videos; the link will be good from midnight on Friday, October 16, 2026 until midnight the same day. (2) "A Blacksmithing Experience with Ed Cotten" will be the title of Ed Cotten's live presentation at The Depot Welcome Center in Newton on Monday, October 5, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The public is invited to attend; you don't have to be a member to attend. For more information, contact Ruth Dusan Garcia at (409) 336-9216 or Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419. (Please see flyer on this page.) (3) Dickie Dixon will discuss "Elmer Simmons' Jasper Steers: A Negro Leagues Baseball Team" at 2:45 p.m. on Thursday, October 8, 2026, at the Fredonia Hotel in Nacogdoches, Texas, for the Fall Meeting of the East Texas Historical Association. For more information, contact Christal Gill at (936) 468-2407. (3) Dickie Dixon will discuss "The Nullification Controversy in South Carolina" for the October 2026 meeting of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans, when it meets on Tuesday, October 13, 2026 at a meeting room of Ralph & Kacoo's on South First in Lufkin at 5:30 p.m. (4) Nelta Nolen will discuss "Finding Your Birth Parents" at the October monthly meeting of the Angelina County Genealogical Society, when it meets at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, October 19, 2026 in the Buddy and Ellen Temple Community Meeting Room in the T. L. L. Temple Memorial Library on 300 Park in Diboll. For more information, contact Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419. (5) The showing of "Raise Up Your Head: Freedom Colonies in America," a PBS documentary, will be the November 9, 2026 program of the Deep East Texas Archeological Society at about 6:15 p.m. on Monday, November 9, 2026, at the Newton Civic Center on 213 East Court Street in Lufkin. For more information, contact Ruth Dusan Garcia at (409) 336-9216 or Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419. (6) The Hardin County Genealogical Society had three history and/or genealogy books for sale: "1859 Taxpayers of Hardin County," "Hardin County Timeless Treasures," and "A Short History of Hardin County". Contact Owen Vaughn for more information at (409) 651-0990. (7) The Texas Cast Iron Museum is hosting a Cast Iron Chilli Cook-off on Saturday, November 7, 2026. Contact Curator/Director Chad Hughes at (409) 745-2127 for more information. The Museum is located at 9685 Highway 62 North, Orange, Texas 77632. (8) Congratulations to Christy Curry's husband on publishing his book on worship!

DON'T
miss
this!

Design by Jannetta Lamourt
jannettalamort@gmail.com

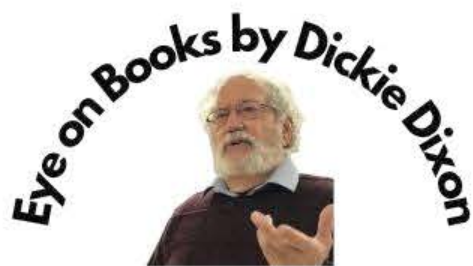
The Deep East Texas Archeological Society
Presents



A Blacksmithing Experience With Ed Cotten
Monday, October 5, 2026
8:30-10:30 a.m.
The Depot Welcome Center, Newton, Texas
Non students please bring a folding lawn chair with you.



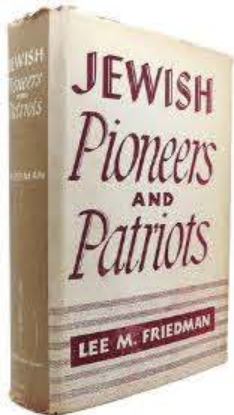
For more information, contact Dickie Dixon at (936) 671-1419 or Ruth Dusan Garcia at (409) 336-9216



Add these titles to your reading list

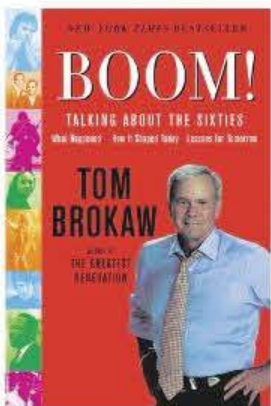
*The choice of titles does not necessarily reflect the
opinion of the author of this column.*

Jewish Studies



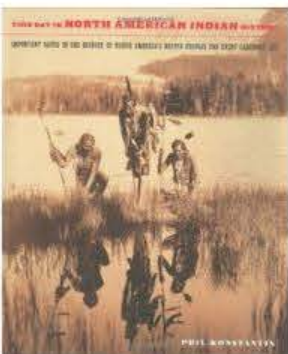
Jewish Pioneers
and Patriots
Lee M Friedman

The Sixties



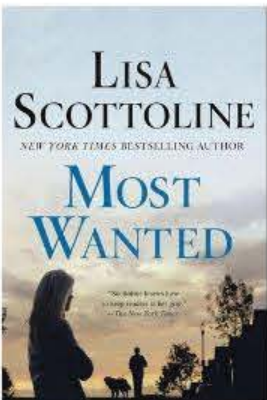
Boom!
Voices of the Sixties
Tom Brokaw

Native American Studies

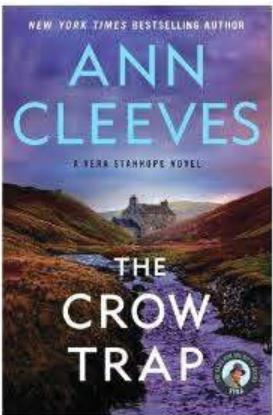


This Day in North American
Indian History
Phil Konstantin

Fiction

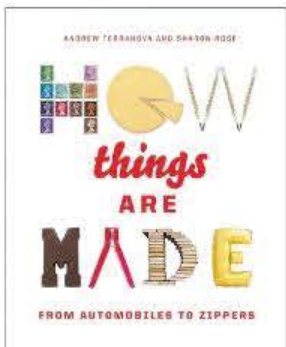


Most Wanted
by Lisa Scottoline



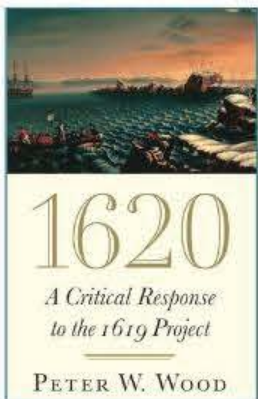
The Crow Trap
Ann Cleeves

Everyday Things



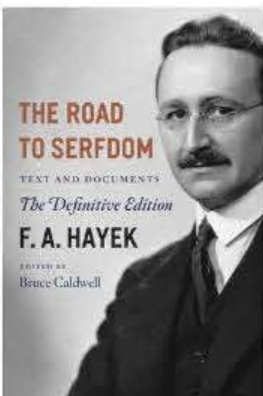
How Things Work
Sharon Rose and
Neil Schlager

American History



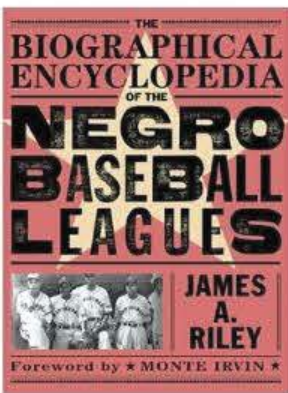
1620 A Critical
Response
Peter W. Wood

Economics

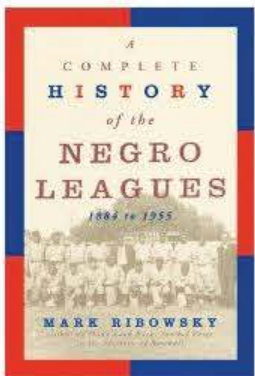


The Road to Serfdom
F. A. Hayek

Negro Leagues Baseball

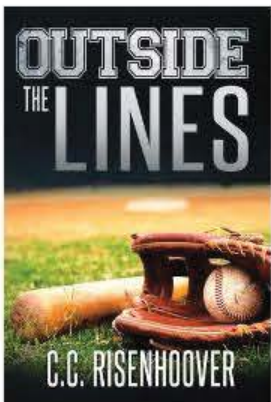


Encyclopedia of the
Negro Leagues
James A. Riley

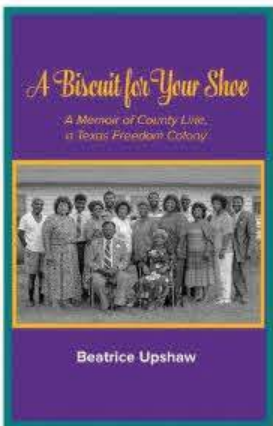


The Hstory of the Negro
Leagues (1884-1955)
Mark Ribowsky

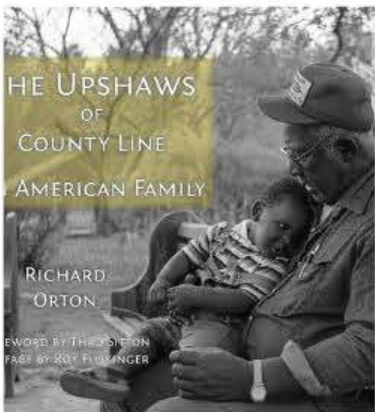
African American History



Outside the Lines
C. C. Risenhoover

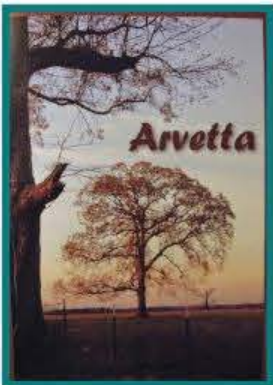


A Biscuit For Your Shoe
Beatrice Upshaw

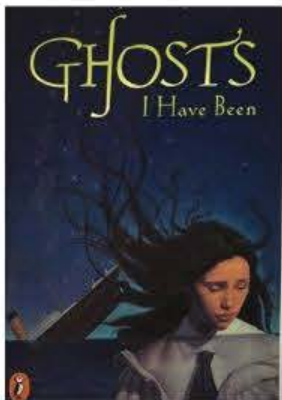


The Upshaws of
County Line
Richard S. Orton

African American Historical Fiction

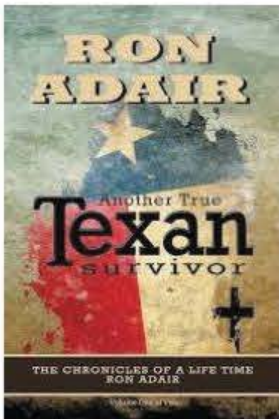


Arvetta
Herman Wright and
Jamie Carter Bollich



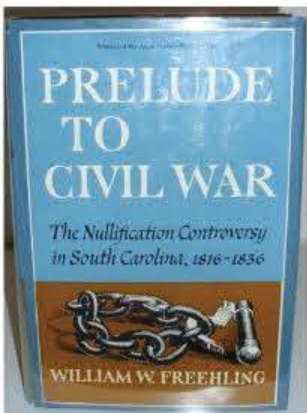
The Unpredictable
Future of Blossom Culp
Richard Peck

Autobiography



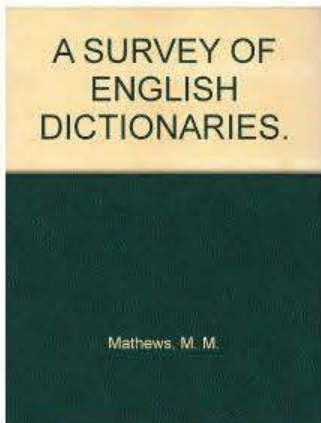
A True Texan Survivor
2 vols Ron Adair

Civil War



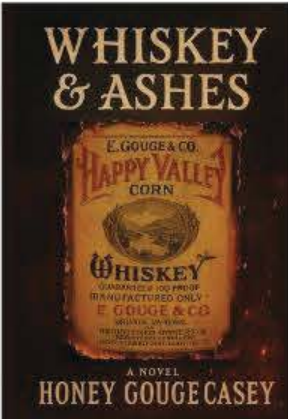
Prelude to Civil War
William W. Freehling

Lexicography



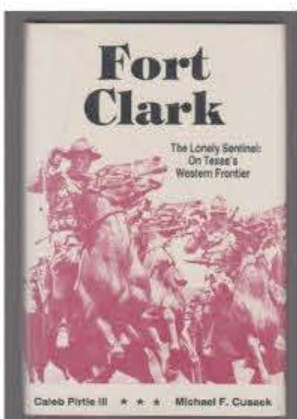
A Survey of English
Dictionaries
M. M. Mathews

Historical Fiction



Whiskey & Ashes
Honey Gouge Casey

Texas History



20 Fort Clark
Caleb Pirtle III Michael
F. Cusack

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

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SFA Lumberjacks

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

Nacogdoches Dragons

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

*District **Homecoming ***Senior Night

Cushing Bearkats

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

*District **Homecoming ***Senior Night

Garrison Bulldogs

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

*District

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Lufkin Panthers

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

*District

Diboll Lumberjacks

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

*District

Huntington Red Devils

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

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The “Joys” of the Road!

by Robert McCandless

We were just outside Shreveport when we began birthing alligators.

Just that morning as we pulled Myrtle, our trailer, out of it’s spot, we discussed the adventure as possibly being the last of this sort. We were headed out to see our last states in the Union and work at a church camp for a month in Michigan. Going north required we see the Natches Trace and the Ark Encounter on the way.

Should we sell Myrtle...and if we did, what would we do with the square gravel pad in our yard we parked her on. I secretly knew it would become another flower bed but refrained from starting a conversation that may give Gail an idea of encouragement which would only result in eventually pulling weeds on our knees further supporting our orthopedic surgeon.

By the time we crossed North Stallings, we already had agreed on a price as a sort of calm and peace came over us knowing that another chapter of our lives was ending or, maybe, we were reinventing ourselves. There was the drinking and partying years which brought us together. Then the making money period, 20 years of SCUBA, 7 years as a part of the affluent homeless traveling from camp to camp as volunteer labor, and now who knows what, as we have no plans to quit traveling.

Oh! Back to my story. Intermittent thunder showers began just outside the city when I felt a familiar tug at my gas pedal. A blowout. I was ready, or I thought. I had a spare. We learned that lesson, the hard way, on a piece of shoulder-less CA 101.

It was raining cats and the dogs were right behind them. I pulled out an old bottle jack and lying in the rain, with weeds sticking me in my nose, ears, eyes and mouth, I began to raise the curb side of the rig. It stopped and the tire was not even close to being high enough to change. That’s when the cussing began.

“Call our insurance company.” I decided not to change it.

“#%^^)&*&#%^^&)(.” I spurted out, getting louder as I thought of more words. Gail has gotten to where she shrugs her shoulders or smiles when I call up my Oak Cliff vocabulary. As she tried to get past the phone prompt in Spanish and their attempt to acquire her age so they could send her a “Life Alert” system, I became impatient with the futile attempts and returned to the truck to find a better jack.

“Cancel the insurance call,” I told her as the hub cleared the space needed.

“Oh no, I thought. Where is the lug-nut wrench for the wheel. I was already soaked when I thought the Japanese wrench from my Toyota would be a disaster with the American made trailer.

Wrong. It fit. But before traveling too far I stopped and bought another rim and tire...just in “CASE.” We were on our way even though our brake line to the trailer was severed and stopping called for a little more planning.

“CASE came just outside Jacksonville, Mississippi as I felt the tug again. This time, the highway side. One cannot pull far enough off onto the shoulder on IH-20 to feel safe. Another tire changed and another to replace it.

By this time the price we had determined to sell Myrtle for had just dropped to a point where it may be better to donate it as a tax write off.

All was well as we pulled into a RV park in Kentucky and took off to see the Ark.

“What’s that running out of the back of the trailer?” I said as we returned, seeing a puddle growing under the back of our trailer.

Cracked toilet valve. “I ain’t about to do no plumbing.”

Winging it to our destination the next day I called a mobile RV mechanic. By now, I am ready to leave Myrtle as a donation to the church camp we are in.

It’s in situations like this that God always shows His face. As always, one of the other volunteers on the project knew how to repair my brakes, making the value of Myrtle increase...as long as she behaved going home.

Having seen, now, all of the states, we considered the sale. Her value to us had begun to increase again as her market value dropped, the closer we got to home. With an uneventful return she now sits like an old pair of tennis shoes I can’t bring myself to retire, awaiting some impromptu trip or a journey to paint a mural at some church camp or go hang out at Big Bend.

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October Gardening

by Elaine Cameron, Angelina Master Gardener

The cooler temperatures and bright blue skies of October are welcomed by East Texans after enduring several weeks of drought and heat. Days are shorter, the sun is less intense, and soon autumn rains will return. Early fall is the time for gardeners to refresh their ornamental landscapes. The soil is still warm while cooler air temperatures help plants grow healthy root systems.

Fall garden tasks include weeding, removing spent annuals and diseased plants, and prepare areas for fall and winter annuals. It's an ideal time to plant perennials and spring bulbs. Fall and winter annuals like pansies, violas, and ornamental kale prefer cooler weather.

Water flower beds the day before your plan to start fall clean up if we haven't had rain. Remove weeds, diseased plants, and annual flowers that are finished for the season. Dispose of any diseased plants in the trash. Prepare areas for planting by adding a few inches of fresh compost and working it into the top few inches of soil.

Deadhead perennials and prune back as needed. Native bees use hollow stems to lay eggs and overwinter, so consider leaving some stems 8-20 inches tall on coneflowers and bee balm. Leave some seedheads for winter birds.

Native grasses are at their best in the fall. The seed heads add interest and motion to flower beds, while the grasses will feed birds and shelter pollinators over the winter. In February before new growth begins prune back native grasses and perennials stems.

Monarch butterflies will be migrating through our area in October. Maintain fall blooming plants so there are nectar sources available to sustain the butterflies on their long flight. Fall asters, goldenrod, lantana, sunflowers, and salvia are good nectar sources, so wait until after a killing frost to cut back and tidy up these fall bloomers.

Perennials may be planted in the fall. In area that has been prepared plant perennials by digging a hole that is the same depth as the plant is in the container. Read the information on the plant tag about light, moisture, and spacing. After watering in well apply a layer of mulch around the plants.

Spring flowering bulbs, such as daffodils and paperwhites, may be planted later in the fall when night time temperatures drop down to fifty degrees. Prepare the planting area by adding organic matter and working it in well. Bulbs need a well-drained area. Plant bulbs at the depth recommended, generally twice the height of the bulb. Add a packaged bulb food to the planting area using amounts recommended on the package. Avoid using bone meal as it attracts squirrels and other critters who may dig up the bulbs. Water area well after planting.

Enjoy October, and happy gardening.



Experience East Texas History at Millard's Crossing Pioneer Harvest Festival

Fall is the perfect time to step back into East Texas history at **Millard's Crossing Historic Village**, and this October, the Village will come alive for one of its biggest community events of the year—the **Pioneer Harvest Festival**.

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, October 24, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.** and spend the day experiencing the sights, sounds, traditions, and spirit of the East Texas pioneer.

The Pioneer Harvest Festival is a family-friendly celebration designed to bring history to life throughout the historic Village. Guests can explore Millard's Crossing while enjoying activities, demonstrations, vendors, food, and entertainment inspired by the traditions of generations past.

The festival is also an opportunity to support local vendors, spend time with family and friends, and experience Millard's Crossing in a completely different way. Whether you are a history enthusiast, a family looking for a fun Saturday outing, or someone who simply loves fall festivals, there will be something to discover around every corner.

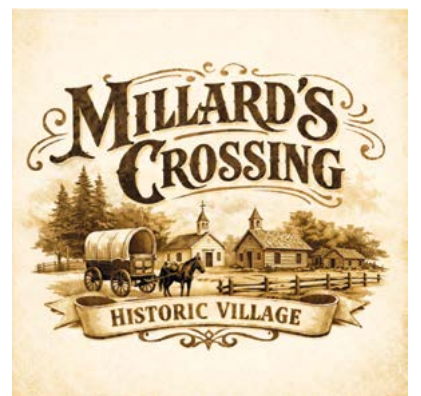
Located in Nacogdoches, Millard's Crossing Historic Village preserves historic homes, buildings, artifacts, and stories that offer visitors a glimpse into life in East Texas during the mid-1800s through the early 1900s. Special events such as the Pioneer Harvest Festival allow those stories to move beyond exhibits and become experiences visitors can see, hear, and enjoy.

And the fun will not end in October!

Millard's Crossing will welcome the Christmas season with its annual **Old Fashioned Christmas on Friday, December 4, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.** Visitors can experience the Village decorated for the holidays while enjoying Santa Claus, crafts, family activities, and plenty of old-fashioned Christmas cheer.

These events are part of Millard's Crossing's continuing work to preserve the history and traditions of East Texas while creating memorable experiences for today's community.

Make plans now to join us for the Pioneer Harvest Festival on October 24 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Bring the family, invite your friends, and come experience East Texas history where it happened—at Millard's Crossing Historic Village!





Brookshire Brothers to Host Career Fair for New Lufkin Flagship Store

As Brookshire Brothers prepares to open its long-awaited flagship store on November 4, the employee-owned company is seeking enthusiastic, customer-focused individuals to join its team.

Brookshire Brothers will host a two-day Career Fair on Wednesday, September 9, and Thursday, September 10, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day (closed for lunch from noon to 1 p.m.) in the Bluebonnet Room at the Courtyard by Marriott Lufkin, located at 2130 S. First St.

The company is hiring for positions across all departments and invites job seekers to learn more about available opportunities, meet members of the Brookshire Brothers team and discover the benefits of working for an employee-owned company.

“Our new flagship store represents an exciting investment in the future of Lufkin and the communities we serve,” said John Alston, President & CEO. “We’re looking for dedicated individuals who are passionate about serving others and want to build a rewarding career with a company that has been rooted in East Texas for more than 100 years.”

Applicants are encouraged to come dressed for success in retail-appropriate attire and should be prepared to discuss their experience and career interests with hiring managers.

Brookshire Brothers offers competitive pay, comprehensive benefits and opportunities for career growth within the organization. Please note that employment offers are contingent upon the successful completion of a pre-employment drug screening and background check.

For more information about career opportunities with Brookshire Brothers, visit the company’s Careers page or attend the Career Fair.

About Brookshire Brothers

Established in 1921, Brookshire Brothers is an employee-owned grocery company serving communities across Texas and western Louisiana with nearly 120 retail locations. While rooted in traditional grocery and pharmacy services, the company also features fuel centers, tobacco operations, coffee shops and event venues.

Guided by its mission to be good people who sell good food and do good deeds, Brookshire Brothers remains deeply committed to supporting its neighbors through charitable giving, active community engagement, high-quality food and superior customer service.

Visit www.brookshirebrothers.com for more information.

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Behind the Pine Curtain Film Festival Brings Filmmakers, Education and Opportunity to Lufkin

The inaugural Behind the Pine Curtain Film Festival will bring filmmakers, industry professionals, students and movie lovers to the historic Pines Theater in downtown Lufkin on December 18–19, 2026.

At the heart of the festival is a commitment to helping young and emerging filmmakers develop their craft. Through screenings, educational panels, networking opportunities and six \$500 filmmaker scholarships, the event will give aspiring storytellers access to people with practical experience in the industry.

Organizers Joe Morales, Erin Gentry, Candace Janis and Dr. Hebert Midgley envision an annual event that strengthens filmmaking throughout Deep East Texas. With connections across Lufkin, Nacogdoches, Tyler, Longview and Carthage, the festival aims to build relationships between communities while introducing local talent to professionals from across Texas and beyond.

The educational program will explore the many parts of bringing a story to the screen, including acting, production, music, sound, distribution and fundraising. The planned panel lineup includes:

- Dr. Herbert Midgley: Filmmaker and educator associated with Stephen F. Austin State University and the Nacogdoches Film Festival, serving as a moderator.
- D. Vincent Williams: ACM Award Winning Songwriter discussing soundtracks, songwriting and how music shapes emotion and storytelling in film.
- Craig O’Daniel: Representing Tyler Film Friendly and the Tyler Film Festival, sharing perspectives on regional filmmaking and film festivals.
- Cristina Treviño: Filmmaker and founder of Cinesurge, participating in discussions about film distribution.
- Gabriel Gemini: Filmmaker and featured panelist.
- JJ Fernández: Filmmaker and producer joining the panel discussions.
- Teresa Fernández: Producer and attorney bringing experience in the creative and business sides of film.
- Mousie Cervantes: Participating in discussions about sound engineering and sound design.
- Albi Sabani: Actor and filmmaker bringing experience in performance and production.
- Trevor Hicks: Featured panelist East Texas Film Society.
- Josiah Baldwin: Baldwin Video Productions will be discussing filmmaking on limited budgets, finding locations and building professional connections and will also serve as a judge.
- Chris Metzler: Documentary filmmaker sharing his filmmaking experience.
- Nadja Mark-Metzler: Discussing fundraising and grant writing, with a workshop intended to benefit film and the broader arts community and also serve as a judge.
- Texas Red Dirt Radio voice Steve Rixx will be Master of Ceremony.

Special programming will also include Stephen F. Austin State University Hall of Honor holder Cedric Walker, whose “Big Dreams, Small Town” message will draw on his journey from Lufkin to professional football and coaching, emphasizing the mindset and determination needed to pursue ambitious goals.

Chef Dennis Hicks, a Lufkin native, will be honored during the VIP celebration for his culinary accomplishments. Actor Brad Maule will serve as a film judge, and actor Chris Todd Durbin will attend as a special guest.

The festival’s competition features six categories: Narrative, Narrative Student, Documentary, Documentary Student, Animation and Animation Student. Each category will recognize first-, second- and third-place winners, along with an Audience Choice Award.

Each first-place winner will receive a \$500 filmmaker scholarship, providing \$3,000 in total scholarship support. The funds may help recipients pursue training, purchase equipment or software, or develop future film projects. Complete submission and award details are available on the festival’s FilmFreeway page (<https://filmfreeway.com/behindthepinecurtainff>).

For Morales and the organizing team, the long-term goal is to create opportunities close to home: a place where students can ask questions, filmmakers can find collaborators, and East Texas audiences can discover the stories being created around them.

For festival information, sponsorship opportunities or ways to participate, contact Joe Morales at 936-404-2347.



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ALCOHOL & DRUG AWARENESS COUNCIL

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Behind the Crazy Socks and Hair

In just a few weeks, East Texas students will show up to school in mismatched socks, pajamas, or wild hair, and by the end of the week, somebody’s second grader may wear a superhero cape to math class. Teachers will hand out red ribbons, and parents will dig through drawers the night before, hunting for anything red.

Kids love Red Ribbon Week. Although if you ask a third grader why the ribbon is red, you’ll probably get a shoulder shrug.

The answer goes back to Enrique “Kiki” Camarena, a 1968 graduate of Calxico Union High School in a small California border town. He became a special agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration and spent more than four years in Mexico investigating drug traffickers. In February 1985, Kiki sacrificed his life in the line of duty.

His high school friend, Henry Lozano, and Congressman Duncan Hunter started Camarena Clubs so students and teachers could take a stand against drugs together. The first club met that April at Kiki’s old school, and students began wearing red ribbons in his honor. The idea spread across the country, and in 1988, the first National Red Ribbon Week was held. For many East Texas families, the red ribbon has been part of October for two or three generations, and Kiki’s story belongs to that tradition as much as the ribbon does.

Red Ribbon Week runs Oct. 23 through 31 this year. At the Alcohol and Drug Awareness Council (ADAC), we spend the entire month of October, starting today, honoring Kiki Camarena and cheering on the East Texas kids who choose to stay drug-free. Our prevention staff visit schools, hand out ribbons, and talk with students about the choices ahead of them. At Red Ribbon Rallies, ADAC’s mascot, Leo the Drug-Free Lion, is often right in the middle of the crowd, getting students on their feet and carrying the drug-free message in a way younger kids remember.

Age-appropriate Prevention Education continues all year. ADAC’s prevention team returns to East Texas classrooms month after month to talk about tobacco, vaping, alcohol, and teaching skills for resisting peer pressure.

Parents and grandparents can carry the story home. When your child returns from school wearing a red ribbon this month, ask them if they know why we wear red ribbons. If they don’t know, take this opportunity to talk with them about Kiki Camarena’s story.

And, be sure to talk about whom they could turn to and how they might respond to peer-pressure situations. Kids are more likely to use words they came up with themselves, so let them try out a few.

The conversation doesn’t have to end in October. It can come up again on the way to ball practice, over Sunday lunch, or whenever your child seems willing to talk.

The crazy socks, wild hair, and superhero capes make Red Ribbon Week fun. But behind all of it is a story that began more than 40 years ago with one man’s commitment to stand against drugs.

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

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

Two Events, One Community Worth Celebrating

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

There is something special about a community that knows how to come together. Whether it’s gathering for a night of fun, supporting local businesses or recognizing the people who make a difference, Angelina County has a way of showing up.

This fall, the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce is hosting two events that offer opportunities to connect, celebrate, and support our local business community: Reverse Raffle Remix and the Celebrate Business Awards.



Amanda Crocker

A \$10,000 Reason to Join the Fun

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 17, as we bring back our Reverse Raffle with a fun new twist! Presented by Texas Farm Bureau Insurance, Reverse Raffle Remix promises an evening of dinner, drinks, entertainment, and plenty of chances to win, including a shot at \$10,000.

Unlike a traditional raffle, where the first ticket drawn wins, the excitement builds throughout the evening as tickets are eliminated. The last ticket remaining has the chance to walk away with our \$10,000 grand prize.

And the fun doesn’t stop there. We’re also bringing back our Whiskey Pull, Bucket Raffle, and Live Auction, giving guests even more opportunities to take home something special.

Tickets are \$150 for Chamber Investors and \$175 for non-investors. Each ticket includes admission and dinner for two people, plus one Reverse Raffle entry. It’s a great excuse to plan a date night, grab a friend, or enjoy an evening with fellow members of our business community.

Beyond the excitement of the raffle, this event is an important fundraiser supporting the Chamber’s mission to strengthen our local business community, develop leaders, and create opportunities throughout Angelina County. Every ticket purchased helps us continue that work.

Celebrating the Businesses and People Behind Our Community

On November 12, we’ll trade the excitement of the raffle for an evening of recognition as we gather at The Pines for our Celebrate Business Awards.

Behind every successful business is a story of hard work, determination, and people who believe in what they’re building. Some businesses have served our community for generations, while others are just beginning to make their mark. Each plays a role in making Angelina County a great place to live, work, and do business.

Celebrate Business gives us an opportunity to recognize those accomplishments and shine a spotlight on the businesses and individuals whose efforts make a difference in our community.

The evening will also include our annual Salute to Healthcare, recognizing the healthcare professionals and organizations that care for our families, friends, and neighbors. Their dedication reaches far beyond the walls of their facilities, and we’re proud to recognize the important role they play in Angelina County.

There’s a Place for You

One of the things I appreciate most about our community is its willingness to show up for one another. We see it through businesses investing locally, volunteers giving their time, and neighbors celebrating each other’s successes.

These two events offer different ways to be part of that spirit. Join us October 17 for a chance to win \$10,000 and enjoy a memorable night with friends. Then, on November 12, help us recognize the businesses, individuals, and healthcare professionals who deserve a moment in the spotlight.

Whether you’re hoping to take home the grand prize or simply want to celebrate the people making a difference, we hope you’ll join us.

For tickets, registration, and more information about upcoming Chamber events, visit LufkinTexas.org.

Christian Women’s Job Corps

The Fall Semester of Christian Women’s Job Corps (CWJC) is well underway at our location at 903 North Street. God has blessed us with both challenges and opportunities for this Fall. Come see what we’re about if you’d like to have more information, or to see the facilities.

We currently have 20 students enrolled in the GED (high school equivalency degree) program. We also have a waitlist for the GED program. We will have several GED graduates by December.

We are so grateful to our donors who have provided meals for our job readiness program. However, we still have openings for meals to be supplied for October and November. Remember you can sign up through the Meal Train App available on our website or come by with a donation of money.

Reminder: This is Pinetop Pickleball Tournament season. Our tournament runs from October 2-October 4. New this year, we have a junior league!

And to our Donors who contribute to our job readiness or GED and Employment Readiness Program, we say thanks! We are grateful. Praise God for His many gifts!



Jasmine Hassan - Executive Director

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We are seeking new members!

Shrine Contacts:
Robert Parrish 936-645-2883 cell; 936-560-4881 home
Calvin Taylor 936-591-1580

FREE MEAL & BIBLES

What: Free meal and Bibles for anyone
When: October 11, 2026
Time: 3:00 - 5:00 PM or later
Where: 102 North Street and Main, Nacogdoches; Johnson Furniture and Appliance, next to Firestone.
Why: To show the love of Jesus

Every second Sunday of each month. This month's TBD. We also have hot dogs and water every month.

Jesus loves you and so does **Friends of Jesus**.
Prayer request box or we will pray with you.
Thanks to Randy Johnson for allowing us to use his property at Johnson Furniture at no cost.
Thanks to David Stallings for allowing us to advertise at no cost.



LUFKIN DANCE CLUB

Our dances are ALWAYS on the third Friday of every month.
7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Nacogdoches VFW Post, 2406 Hunter Street, Nacogdoches.
Bring a covered dish, dessert or snack of your choice.

\$12.00 members • \$15.00 non-members
Ticket price may be slightly more for some bands.
\$15.00 yearly membership per person may be obtained at the door.



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Admission & dinner for two + one Reverse Raffle ticket

OCTOBER 2026 BLOOD DRIVES

October 12, 2026: Blood Drive at St. Luke's Health Memorial in Livingston from 9:00am to 1:00pm in the Community Conference Center. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome.

October 15, 2026: Power of Pink will be held at Pitser Garrison Convention Center in Lufkin from 11:30am-1:00pm. For tickets or more information, contact Tina Alexander-Sellers #936-639-7676 or email tina.alexander-sellers@commonspirit.org

October 21, 2026: Blood Drive at St. Luke's Health Memorial in Lufkin from 11:00am to 3:30pm inside their Donor Bus located in the parking lot. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome.

October 22, 2026: Power of Pink at Livingston at the Polk County Commerce Center from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. For tickets or more information, contact Tina Alexander-Sellers #936-639-7676 or email tina.alexander-sellers@commonspirit.org

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



October 2026

Brick Street Burger Battle
Oct. 1st - Oct. 25th
Downtown Restaurants

Classic Car Cruise in
Fri, Oct. 2nd 4-7pm
Clear Springs Restaurant

4th Annual Pinetop Pickleball Tournament
Oct. 2nd - Oct. 4th
Maroney Park

Farmers Market Fall Fling
Sat, Oct. 3rd 9am-1pm
Nacogdoches Farmers Market

Market on Main
Sat, Oct. 3rd 10am-2pm
305 East Main St.

Pineywoods Fair
Oct. 7th - Oct. 11th
Nacogdoches County Exposition & Civic Center

Fabulous Fall Plant Sale
Sat, Oct. 10th 9am-2pm
Pineywoods Native Plant Center

Swing in the Streets
Fri, Oct. 16th 6:30pm
Downtown Square

Tobaccodoches Cigar Festival
Sat, Oct. 17th 3-9pm
Nacogdoches Cigar Co.

Nac Snack Friday
Fri, Oct. 23rd 11am-2pm
Downtown Nacogdoches Square

8th Annual Boo-tique Crawl
Fri, Oct. 23rd 5-9pm
Downtown Boutiques

SFA Homecoming
10/23: SFA Bonfire & Concert at SFA Intramural Fields
10/24: Homecoming Parade in Downtown Nacogdoches
10/24: Homecoming Tailgate & Football Game

Pioneer Harvest Festival
Sat, Oct. 23rd 11am-6pm
Millard's Crossing Historic Village

"The Odd Couple"
10/23, 10/24, 10/30, & 10/31 7:30pm
10/25 & 11/1 2pm
Lamp-Lite Players

Lone Star Trivia
All times are 7pm unless stated otherwise
Tuesday: 10/6 & 10/20 Bottlecap Alley
Thursday: 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22,
& 10/29 Fredonia Brewery

Nacogdoches Arts Collaborative
10/3: Masquerade Ball 2-10pm
10/17: Opening Reception: "Cosmic Debris" 2-5pm
10/24: Arts Market 10am-2pm

Both Bloom Studio
10/13: Pumpkin Spice & Petals
with White Farmhouse Bakery
10/21: Halloween Theme Floral Workshop
10/27: Book Club Gathering

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

Maklemore's Ale House & Bistro
Wine Down Wednesdays: Live Music

Naca Valley Vineyard
Pizza on the Pavilion:
Thursdays-Saturdays: Andy's Wood-Fired Pizza
10/3: Randy C Moore Live 5:30pm
10/10: Andrew Toole Live 5:30pm
10/17: Ramoth Gilead Live 5:30pm
10/24: Country Willie Live 5:30pm
10/31: Abel & Aaron Live 5:30pm

The Fredonia Hotel
Music on the Patio every Friday:
10/2: Larry Greer & The Shades of Blue Live 6-9pm
10/9: Enrique Munguia Live 6-9pm
10/16: Logan McCune Live 6-9pm
10/23: Ryan Lawless Live 6-9pm
10/30: Marshall Hance Live 6-9pm

Madhatter Distillery
Events are 21+ | No cover unless stated otherwise
10/9: Pineywoods Charcuterie Class &
Cocktail Pairing 6:30-9pm \$60
10/16: Tobaccodoches VIP 6-9 pm
10/24: Homecoming Drink Specials
10/31: Halloween Party & Costume Contest

Slash-O-Meadery
Saturdays: Experience Mead: Wine
Made with Honey 2-8pm
10/17: 1st Anniversary Celebration 2-8pm

Lumberjack Harley-Davidson
10/2: BBQ Bike Night 6-9pm
10/3: BBQ Cook-Off 12-3pm
10/10: 6 Store Tour Kick-Off 9am-3pm
10/15-10/18: Born Free Texas Rally
at Yellow Rose Canyon
10/24: Bike Wash 12-3pm
10/30: Costume Contest for \$2,000 Cash! 5-8pm
10/31: Car & Bike Show Trunk or Treat 10am-2pm

Aperitivo Cafe & Gelato
Tuesdays-Fridays: Happy Hour 2-6pm
Saturdays: Brunch 10am-2pm
Sundays: Brunch 10am-4pm

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

Banita Creek Hall
Thursdays: Ladies Night
Fridays: Dollar Night
10/3: Pecos & The Rooftops & guest Parker Ryan
10/10: Jackson Wendell
10/17: Nothin But 90s Night
10/23: Randy Rogers Acoustic
10/31: Kicks 105 \$1005 Costume Contest

Farmers Market
Every Saturday 9am-12pm
10/3: Fall Fling 9am-2pm
Nacogdoches Farmers Market

Fredonia Brewery
Thursdays: Trivia 7pm
Fridays & Saturdays: Live Music
10/2: SFA Jazz Concert 6-9pm
10/3: All Shirts No Pants Live 6-9pm
10/7: Books & Beer 6-7pm
10/9: Lefty Gardner Live 6:30-8:30pm
10/10: Country Willie Edwards Live 6-9pm
10/11: Fall Makers Market 12-5pm
10/16: Jeff Jurgonski Live 6:30-8:30pm
10/17: Oktoberfest & Wrights & Wrongs Live 6-9pm
10/18: FredTalk Lecture Series 2-3pm
10/23: Paul Noyola Live 6:30-8:30pm
10/24: Books, Boos, & Brews 12-5pm
10/24: Zach Mason & The Jars Live 6-9pm
10/30: SFA Music Groups 6:30-8:30pm
10/31: Nessa & Bailey Acoustic Duo 6-9pm

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

SFA Football & Tailgates
Locations are Italicized
Homer Bryce Stadium:
10/3: SFA VS Incarnate Word 5pm
10/24: SFA VS Southeastern Louisiana 5pm
10/31: SFA VS Houston Christian 2pm
Pineywoods Dining Hall:
10/3: Alumni Corner Tailgate 2-4:45pm
10/24: Alumni Corner Tailgate 2-4:45pm
10/31: Alumni Corner Tailgate 11am-1:45pm

SFA Soccer
SFA Soccer Fields
10/11: SFA vs Lamar 1pm
10/15: SFA vs SLU 7pm

SFA Volleyball
SFA Shelton Gym
10/8: SFA vs UIW 6pm
10/24: SFA vs Northwestern State 12pm

SFA Fine Arts
Locations are Italicized
The Cole Art Center:
10/6-11/7: FVA 12x12 Art Fundraiser & Auction
Griffith Fine Arts Building, Turner Auditorium:
10/6: Wind Ensemble Concert
10/13: Wind Symphony & Symphonic Band Concert
Griffith Fine Arts Bldg, Flex Theater:
10/8-10/11: The Last Days of Judas Iscariot
Griffith Fine Arts Bldg, Black Box Theater:
10/16 & 10/17: Born with Teeth

SFA Planetarium Shows
Saturdays: 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, & 10/31
3pm, 4:40pm, & 7pm

SFA Gardens
Locations are Italicized
Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden:
Now-3/6/27: Sculpture in the SFA Gardens
Pineywoods Native Plant Center:
10/1: Pollinator Picnic: Monarch Migration 10am-1pm
10/3: Fabulous Fall Plant Sale 9am-2pm
Brundrett Conservation Education Building:
10/8: Blooms & Beyond, a New
Perspective for Your Plants 7-8pm

For tickets, information and more go to
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Nacogdoches Church Directory

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Agape Life Church — 3500 North Street #3, 75965 — 936.559.3081
Antioch Baptist Church — 1421 Greer Street, 75961 — 936.569.7432
Apostolic Lighthouse — 1801 Durst Street
Appleby Baptist Church — 13995 US-59, 75965
Appleby Church of Christ — 10494 FM 941, 75965 — 936.564.9792
Austin Heights Baptist Church — 2806 Appleby Sand Rd, 75965 — 936.564.0818
Bethel Baptist Church (Appleby) — 429 Happy Land Road, 75965
Bethel Temple Church of God in Christ — 1716 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, 75961 — 936.305.5138
Bethlehem Mission — 125 NE Stallings Drive, 75961 — 936.564.6278
Bonita Global Methodist Church — 10303 Hwy 259 @ Central Heights — 936.560.2028
Calvary Baptist Church — 3732 NE Stallings Drive, 75965 — 936.564.4539
Calvary Pentecostal Church — 2800 Old Lufkin Rd, 75964 — 936.564.6835
Cariker Street Seventh-day Adventist Church— 909 Cariker Street, 75961 — 936.564.2197
Centro De Vida Cristiana — 2933 Hunter Street, 75964 — 936.615.4753
Christ Episcopal Church — 502 E Starr Ave, 75961 — 936.564.0421
Christian Life Center | Pentecostal Church — 2604 Stallings Drive N, 75964 — 936.560.1431
Christian Science Informal Group, Nacogdoches — 936.221.6377
Church of Christ — 3831 NE Stallings Drive, 75961 — 936.205.5956
Corner Post Cowboy Church — 8151 FM 1638, 75964 — 936.645.0123
Davis Memorial Church of God — 1614 Gasaway Rd, 75964 — 936.564.8401
Eastside United Pentecostal Church — 3801 Center Rd, 75961 — 936.564.6432
Fairview United Methodist Church — 6296 TX-21, 75961
Faith Temple Church — 217 Sweetgum Street, 75961 — 936.559.1502
First Baptist Church — 411 North Street, 75961 — 936.564.7379
First Christian Church — 702 Mound Street, 75961 — 936.564.7389
First Pentecostal Church — 1622 Douglass Rd, 75964 — 936.569.6784
First United Methodist Church — 201 E Hospital Street, 75961 — 936.564.8308
Forest Pine Church — 3738 S Fredonia Street, 75964
Fredonia Hill Baptist Church — 1711 South Street, 75964 — 936.564.8386
Glory Gang — 1610 SW Stallings Drive, 75964 — 1.855.456.7944
Godtel Ministries — 330 E. Main Street, 75961 — 936.569.7914
Gospel Assembly Church — 2916 Lilly Street, 75964 — 936.219.0251
Grace Baptist Church — 4120 NW Stallings Drive, 75964 — 936.552.8988
Grace Bible Church — 2305 Raguet Street, 75965 — 936.564.8867
Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church — SE Loop 224, 75961 — 936.559.0952
Gravel Ridge Missionary Baptist Church — 7425 FM 225, 75964
Greater Faith Tabernacle — 2800 Old Lufkin Rd, 75964 — 936.564.6835
Harmonia Baptist Church — 2547 Old Post Oak Rd, 75965 — 936.552.1956
Harmony Baptist Church — 268 County Rd 726, 75964 — 936.569.7381
Harvest Point Church — 2708 South Street, 75964 — 936.569.9342
Heritage Primitive Baptist Church — 128 Hunt Street, 75965 — 936.554.0102
High Praise Tabernacle — 1607 Douglass Rd, 75964
Iglesia Bautista Cristiana — 1917 S Fredonia Street, 75964 — 936.462.8692
Iglesia Bautista Vida Eterna — 2612 Williams Street, 75964 — 936.462.0719
Iglesia Evangelica Cristiana Espiritual — 501 Lenwood Drive, 75964
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church — 1422 County Rd 724, 75964 — 936.560.3200
Impact Cowboy Church of Nacogdoches — 415 FM 2112, 75961 — 936.569.8559
International Church of Nacogdoches — 1610 SW Stallings Drive, 75964 — 936.564.7265
Iron Wheel Baptist Church — 820 1st Street, 75961 — 936.569.8358
Jacob’s Memorial Cogic — 1717 Castleberry Street, 75961 — 936.564.7493
Johnson Chapel CME Church — 614 3rd Street, 75961 — 936.569.9703
Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses — 2832 NE Stallings Drive, 75965 — 936.560.6571
Life Church — 702 N University Drive, 75961 — 936.205.5956
Little Zion Baptist Church — 305 Shawnee Street, 75961 — 936.564.4577
Macedonia Baptist Church — 169 County Rd 719, 75964 — 936.564.3148
Martinsville Baptist Church — 10892 FM 95, 75961 — 936.552.7884
Miracle Tabernacle — 3214 E Main Street, 75961 — 936.4624.8575

Mosaic Church | Nacogdoches — 2603 SE Stallings Drive, 75961 — 936.615.3199
Mt Moriah Baptist Church — 1413 Powers Street, 75964 — 936.564.3058
Mt-Zion Baptist Church — 3767 SE Stallings Drive, 75961 — 936.554.7294
Nacogdoches Bible Fellowship — 2220 E Main Street, 75961 — 936.569.7077
Nacogdoches Christian Fellowship — 1701 E Main Street, 75961 — 936.560.1948
Nacogdoches Community Church / Victory Fellowship — 1907 Stallings Drive N, 75964 — 936.569.2720
Nacogdoches First Church of the Nazarene — 211 SE Stallings Drive, 75964 — 936.305.5351
Nacogdoches Korean Baptist Church — 1711 South Street, 75964 — 972.632.0560
Nacogdoches Seventh-day Adventist Church — 4407 Old Tyler Rd, 75964 — 936.564.1905
New Birth Fellowship Church — 2910 E Main Street, 75961 — 936.569.7334
New Creation Nations Christian Center — 3806 NW Stallings Drive, 75964
New Hope Baptist Church — 819 Ritchie Street, 75961 — 936.225.8580
New Hope Methodist Church — 5301 E Main Street, 75961 — 936.564.7693
New Life Christian Fellowship — 4111 FM 1878, 75965 — 936.674.7339
North Street Church of Christ — 3914 North Street, 75965 — 936.564.2471
Northpointe Church of God — 3900 Appleby Sand Rd, 75965 — 936.560.2358
Northwood Baptist Church — 3224 NE Stallings Drive, 75965 — 936.564.2969
Oak Grove Baptist Church — 2603 SE Stallings Drive, 75961 — 936.569.0756
Old North Baptist Church — 332 County Rd 205, 75965
Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church — 4401 Old Lufkin Rd, 75964 — 936.560.3506
Pine Flat CME Church — 899 FM 3228, 75961 — 936.564.4224
Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church — 4922 FM 2864, 75965 — 936.559.5445
Power Of The Word — 1501 Industrial Drive, 75964
Redeemer Lutheran Church — 2306 Appleby Sand Rd, 75965 — 936.564.6729
Redemption Baptist Church — 3716 South Street, 75964 — 936.414.6777
Rey De Reyes Iglesia Cristiana — 1705 SW Stallings Drive, 75964 — 936.462.8008
Rock Springs Church — 203 County Rd 819, 75964
Sacred Heart Catholic Church — 2508 Appleby Sand Rd, 75965 — 936.564.7807
Sandy Ridge Church — 75964
Saint Paisios the Athonite Orthodox Christian Mission — 614 E Starr Ave, 75961 — 936.622.0622
Saints Temple Church of God in Christ — 2604 Ellis Street, 75964 — 936.560.3506
Shady Grove Baptist Church — 2548 FM 2112, 75961 — 936.560.2721
Shawnee Church of Christ — 612 Shawnee Street, 75961 — 936.564.2103
Southside Church of Christ — 3738 S Fredonia Street, 75964 — 936.559.1800
Stallings Drive Baptist Church — 728 SE Stallings Drive, 75964 — 936.564.2075
Star Hope Baptist Church — 2305 Looneyville Rd, 75964 — 936.564.1369
St James Baptist Church — 2633 Canyon Street, 75964 — 936.564.7887
St Mary’s Chapel — 215 College Street, 75965 — 936.564.0661
St Matthew Church — 2720 Matthew Street, 75964
St Paul’s Methodist Church — 601 Moore Street, 75961 — 936.564.3585
Stonewall Fellowship Church — 1303 S University Drive, 75961 — 936.587.9895
Sunset Galilee Missionary Baptist Church — 1609 S Rayburn Drive, 75961 — 936.564.3853
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints — 3307 Center Rd, 75961 — 936.564.0687
The Citizen Nac — 108 N Lanana Street, 75961 — 936.237.6395
Timber Creek Church — 3801 North Street, 75965 — 936.632.3540
Trawick Presbyterian Church — 4410 SH 204, 75964 — 254.702.0100
Union Cross Missionary Baptist Church — 2905 Old Tyler Rd, 75964 — 936.564.9838
University Church — 2505 North Street, 75965 — 936.205.3100
Vineyard Church — 4140 FM 1878, 75961 — 936.564.4600
Westminster Presbyterian Church — 903 North Street, 75961— 936.564.0203
Westside Missionary Baptist Church — 3109 Durst Street, 75964 — 936.564.0713
Woden United Pentecostal Church — 136 Rankin Rd, 75961 — 936.560.2733
Zion Hill First Baptist Church — 324 N Lanana Street, 75961

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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
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St Thomas Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church — 2112 N Timberland Drive, 75901
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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
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Word of Life Church — 1407 Ellis Ave, 75904 — 936.639.2000



Family Crisis Center Recognizes Domestic Violence Awareness Month with “Every 1 Knows Some 1” Campaign and Passion for Purple Luncheon

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and the Janelle Grum Family Crisis Center of East Texas (FCCET) is using this year’s campaign, **“Every 1 Knows Some 1,”** to remind the community that domestic violence affects far more people than we may realize.

Domestic violence does not happen in one type of family, one neighborhood, one age group, or one socioeconomic environment. It can affect people across East Texas and can impact survivors, children, family members, friends, coworkers, classmates, neighbors, and entire communities. While domestic violence may sometimes be visible, many of the most significant signs of abuse can remain hidden.

“Every 1 Knows Some 1” is a reminder to look beyond what we can see,” said Whitney Burran, Executive Director. “Domestic violence can take many forms, and sometimes the person experiencing it may be the last person we would expect. We want our community to understand that abuse can be hidden in plain sight, and that listening, believing survivors, and knowing where to turn for help can make a meaningful difference.”

Abuse is not always something that can be seen from the outside. Controlling finances, monitoring phones and social media, isolating someone from family and friends, using children to exert control, threatening to share private information, interfering with employment or transportation, and other forms of coercive control can be difficult for others to recognize. Survivors may also face barriers that make reaching out for help difficult or unsafe. As a result, someone we know may be experiencing abuse without us ever realizing it.

Throughout October, FCCET staff will be out in the community at tabling events, educational opportunities, and other activities to share information about domestic violence, available resources, and ways community members can support survivors. The agency encourages residents to stop by, ask questions, learn about the signs of abuse, and help spread awareness throughout their own circles of family, friends, workplaces, schools, and communities.

Passion for Purple Luncheon Highlights Domestic Violence Awareness Month

As part of its Domestic Violence Awareness Month efforts, FCCET will host its 4th Annual Passion for Purple Luncheon on Thursday, October 8, 2026, at the Pitser Garrison Convention Center in Lufkin.

The event will begin with a free, optional **Meet & Greet with keynote speaker Melissa Dohme-Hill at 10:30 a.m.,** followed by the luncheon at **11:30 a.m.,** featuring lunch from **Grandough Baking Company.**

Dohme-Hill is a nationally recognized domestic violence survivor, advocate, and inspirational speaker whose story is one of survival, healing, resilience, and purpose. After surviving a near-fatal domestic violence attack in 2012, Melissa made an extraordinary recovery and went on to dedicate her life to advocating for victims and survivors and speaking openly about life after trauma. She currently serves as Executive Director of Julie Weintraub’s Hands Across the Bay, a nonprofit dedicated to helping families in crisis. Her story has been featured by national media outlets including *People Magazine*, *48 HOURS: Live to Tell*, *20/20: In An Instant*, and *Investigation Discovery*.

“Passion for Purple is about much more than one luncheon,” Burran said. “It is an opportunity for our community to come together during Domestic Violence Awareness Month and say that survivors matter, their experiences matter, and they deserve access to safety, support, and a path forward. We are honored

to have Melissa share her story and grateful to every single community member who continues to stand alongside the survivors we serve.”

The Janelle Grum Family Crisis Center of East Texas extends its sincere appreciation to the businesses and organizations helping make this year’s Passion for Purple Luncheon possible:

- **Williams Electric** — Meet & Greet Sponsor
- **Summit Fire & Security** — Gold Sponsor
- **Ellen Temple** — Gold Sponsor
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The support of these sponsors and others helps the agency continue its work supporting survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault throughout East Texas.

Supporting Survivors Beyond October

Passion for Purple directly supports the life-saving services provided by the Janelle Grum Family Crisis Center of East Texas. FCCET serves adult and child survivors through a **24/7 crisis hotline, emergency shelter, transitional housing, counseling, personal and legal advocacy, outreach services, and other support designed to help survivors navigate the immediate and long-term effects of abuse.**

The agency’s work also extends beyond crisis response. FCCET provides public education and prevention programming throughout the community, including presentations in schools focused on topics such as online safety, healthy friendships and relationships, bullying, and other issues that help young people recognize unhealthy behaviors and build safer relationships. The agency also operates a Battering Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP) as part of its broader efforts to address domestic violence and promote accountability and prevention.

“When we talk about ending domestic violence, we are talking about more than responding after abuse happens,” Burran said. “We are also talking about education, prevention, early intervention, and creating communities where people recognize unhealthy and abusive behaviors and know how to respond. Every 1 Knows Some 1 gives all of us an opportunity to be more aware, more informed, and more willing to stand with survivors.”

Tickets for the **4th Annual Passion for Purple Luncheon** are still available, but seating is limited. Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/passion-for-purple-luncheon—2026> or through fccet.org or the link can also be found on the agency’s Facebook and Instagram pages.

For more information about Passion for Purple, contact **Mallory Harris at (936) 639-1681 or mharris@fccet.com.**

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence or sexual assault, help is available. The Janelle Grum Family Crisis Center of East Texas operates a **24/7 crisis hotline at 1-800-828-7233 (1-800-828-SAFE)** and a **confidential text line at 936-552-9256.**

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.



Family Crisis Center staff gather at the 2025 Passion for Purple Luncheon, an annual agency event bringing the East Texas community together to raise awareness of domestic violence and support survivors.

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Metabolic Wellness: Small Changes That Can Make a Big Difference

Metabolic Wellness: Small Changes That Can Make a Big Difference

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Your metabolism is much more than how quickly you burn calories. It includes how your body turns food into energy, regulates blood sugar, and keeps your cells functioning properly.

The good news? Small, everyday choices can help support a healthier metabolism.

1. Start Your Day With Protein

Eggs, plain Greek yogurt, cottage cheese, or other protein-rich foods can help make your first meal more satisfying. Protein also helps maintain muscle, which plays an important role in metabolic health.

Try this: Build breakfast around protein instead of making carbohydrates the centerpiece.

2. Take a Walk After You Eat

You don't need an hour at the gym to help your metabolism. A short walk after a meal gets your muscles moving and can help your body manage glucose.

Try this: Walk for 10–15 minutes after lunch or dinner.

3. Eat Your Vegetables First

Starting your meal with fiber-rich, non-starchy vegetables can slow digestion and help moderate the rise in blood sugar after eating.

Try this: Begin with salad, broccoli, green beans, cabbage, peppers, or other vegetables before moving on to the rest of your meal.

4. Don't Drink Your Sugar

Sweet tea, sodas, flavored coffees, sports drinks, and fruit drinks can contain surprising amounts of sugar.

Try this: Make water your everyday beverage. Add lemon, lime, cucumber, mint, or berries if you want more flavor.

5. Protect Your Sleep

Sleep affects much more than how rested you feel. Consistently poor sleep can influence appetite, energy, and blood sugar regulation.

Try this: Keep a regular bedtime and put away phones and tablets 30 minutes before going to sleep.

6. Build and Protect Muscle

Muscle helps your body use glucose, making strength an important part of metabolic wellness.

Try this: Add resistance activities two or three times a week—chair squats, wall push-ups, resistance bands, or light weights all count.

Start Small

Improving metabolic health doesn't require changing everything at once. Choose one new habit this week. When it becomes part of your routine, add another.

Small changes, repeated consistently, can make a meaningful difference in how you feel and function.

Provided as a community health education message by East Texas Center for Metabolic Wellness in Nacogdoches.



Fall Programs Bring Hands-On History to Nacogdoches Historic Sites

Nacogdoches Historic Sites invites families and visitors to enjoy a full season of fall programming with opportunities to learn, explore, and experience the past.

Thursdays in the Garden is a free program that introduces young visitors to life on an early Nacogdoches homestead through gardening, crafts, games, and other activities. Families can take part in Thursdays in the Garden every other Thursday at 10:00am at the Durst-Taylor House at 304 North St.

The Historic Skills Fair returns to the Durst-Taylor Historic House and Gardens on Saturday, November 7. Visitors can watch the site's sugar cane mill in action as demonstrators process cane using traditional methods, along with demonstrations of other skills and trades from the past. Previous fairs have included blacksmithing, spinning, weaving, food preservation, traditional music, and more.

There are still a few openings for historic demonstrations. Information and sign-up forms for those interested in sharing a craft or skill can be found at nactx.us/historicsites.

The Nacogdoches Railroad Depot will be open Friday, November 6, through Sunday, November 8, for the annual Veterans Day Loblolly Model Train Display. Created by longtime model train enthusiast George Ellis, the display features



Lionel trains traveling through detailed miniature scenes, with military-themed elements incorporated throughout in recognition of Veterans Day.

These programs are free and open to the public and are part of Nacogdoches Historic Sites' ongoing efforts to provide engaging ways for the community to discover local history.

For more information about upcoming programs, visit nactx.us/historicsites, email historicsites@nactx.us, or call 936-560-4441.



Oak Grove Cemetery Living History Tour Returns for a Special Fall Tour

On Saturday, November 14, 2026, Friends of Historic Nacogdoches, Inc., in partnership with Nacogdoches Historic Sites, will present the Living History of Oak Grove Cemetery Tour. This treasured local event gives guests an opportunity to meet the individuals who helped shape Nacogdoches.

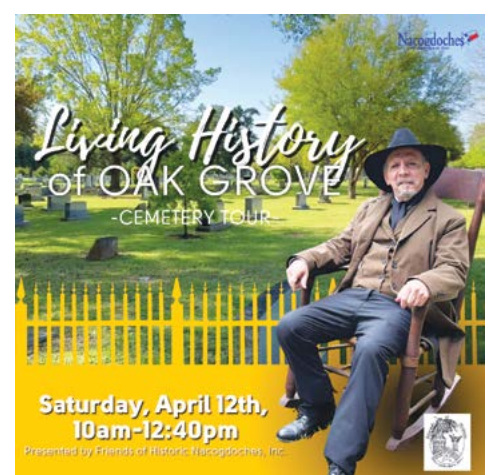
Guided tours will lead guests through the cemetery, where reenactors will portray historical figures and share their stories through first-person interpretation. Along the way, attendees can admire the aged gravestones, towering magnolia trees, and beauty of one of the oldest cemeteries in Texas.

Established in 1837, Oak Grove Cemetery is recognized by the Texas Historical Commission as a Historic Texas Cemetery. It is the final resting place of signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence, veterans of the Texas Revolution and other conflicts, and numerous individuals whose lives helped shape Nacogdoches and East Texas.

Tickets for the Living History of Oak Grove Cemetery Tour will be available

for purchase at the event for \$10 per person, with children ages 10 and under admitted free. Tours begin at 10 a.m. and depart every 20 minutes, with the final tour beginning at 12:40 p.m. Proceeds from the tour benefit Friends of Historic Nacogdoches, Inc. and support the organization's ongoing efforts to preserve and share the history of Nacogdoches.

For more information, visit the Friends of Historic Nacogdoches Facebook page, email historicsites@nactx.us, or call 936-560-4441.



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