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JUNE 2018

Kool Solutions - *Stop the Heat*

by Cheryl Harvey Hill

Local business owners of Kool Solutions, Johnny and Kay Russell, are helping homeowners, and businesses, lower their utility bills, block UV rays, and protect their privacy, simply by providing custom, and yet very affordable, exterior window coverings. If you have installed screens from Kool Solutions and noticed a decrease in the cost of cooling your home, well, you can thank their first-born grandson... let me clarify.



Their daughter and son-in-law are both SFA Alumni. Their daughter now works in Student Affairs at SFA and her husband is a high school teacher and coach. Their son, who is finishing his degree in GIS at SFA, and his wife, also live in Nacogdoches. So not long after their daughter gave birth to their first grandchild, the Russell's decided to take an early retirement and move to Nacogdoches too. Lucky for them, the residents of the oldest town in Texas, many who have lived here for generations, went out of their way to make them feel right at home. "We love it here," says Johnny, and Kay quickly adds, "We really, really do. We love the people and the community. They have made us feel very welcomed." They also love that their grandson now has a baby sister and in September they will have another granddaughter.

When they made the move to Nac, it's obvious Johnny and Kay only thought they were ready to retire. They clearly enjoy being busy. Not long after starting Kool Solutions, Kay, who had been a nurse for 35 years, got the opportunity to go on a Medical Mission Trip to Ecuador. She not only went but she plans on going again this year.

If you aren't familiar with Kool Solutions Exterior Sun Control Products, they are designed to deflect, absorb and dissipate 80 to 90 percent of the sun's heat and glare before it reaches the glass of a window or door. This results in a more com-

KOOL SOLUTIONS - Page 2

Antiques on Main (and so much more)

by Cheryl Harvey Hill

Jerry Graham was born in Marshall, Texas but grew up in Blanchard, Louisiana. He graduated from Louisiana State University with a degree in radiology. He moved to Nacogdoches in 1976 when the new Nacogdoches Medical Center opened. He worked there for over thirty years as an X-ray/Cat Scan Technologist until December of 2010 when he was diagnosed with macular degeneration, a disease which affects your vision and, by law, it meant he couldn't drive anymore. Failing eyesight, and not being able to drive, may have slowed him down physically but it didn't slow his ingenuity, creativity, optimism or dampen his passion for the things he cares about.



Actually, the top three things he cares most about aren't things at all, they are his children. He is very proud of them, and rightfully so. His son, Benjamin, graduated from Texas A&M in 2016 with a degree as a Construction Engineer and is now serving as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. His daughter-in-law, Hallie, is still enrolled at Texas A&M and is going for her Ph.D. degree as a Chemical Engineer, while his daughter, Samantha, a graduate of St. Edwards University, works for Hospice of America in Austin.

Jerry has been gathering antiques and collectibles for far too many years to count so it wasn't long after his forced retirement in 2010 that he opened an antique shop at 411 E. Main Street called "Special Finds, Antiques, and Collectables." In 2013 his creativity took a dramatic turn in a whole different direction when he opened "Stuff N' Such Smoke Shop" at 408 E. Main Street. He then moved his "Special Finds, Antiques and Collectables" inside of "Antiques on Main" at 412 E. Main Street.

In January of 2017 he took over management of "Antiques on Main" and in July he decided to expand his business, so inside of the antique shop he designated a section for the "Lost and Found, Comic Books & Records

ANTIQUES ON MAIN - Page 2

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portable indoor temperature, more efficient air conditioning and, ultimately, energy conservation. In fact, studies have shown that shaded windows do cut the cost of your air conditioning when compared to unshaded windows.

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SunTex exterior shading fabric is made of strong vinyl-coated polyester, is mildew and fade resistant and needs only an occasional cleaning with mild soap and water. All of the Phifer Sun Control Screening products protect against annoying insects just like conventional fiberglass screening and offer good outward visibility.

Kool Solutions offers several frame colors and six SunTex Solar fabric colors that will complement your home or business providing a new look and curb appeal to the exterior. Give us a call to schedule an appointment to discuss how we can help you stop the heat and bring comfort and energy savings back into your home, mobile home, or business.

Please stop by our booth at the Nacogdoches Blueberry Festival on June 9, 2018. We hope to see you there.

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ANTIQUES ON MAIN

Store.” The popularity of this facet of his business caused it to grow much quicker than he anticipated. By March it had clearly outgrown the space he had allotted for it so he made the decision to relocate it to a store of its own. It was moved to 407 E. Hospital where it has continued to grow. In addition to comic books and records, they now have added sports memorabilia, purses, the largest selection of costume jewelry, and you'll find many more Texas style gifts to browse.

His success continued and his inventory grew, so on April 1, 2018 “Antiques on Main” had added so much, the store could no longer hold all the furniture they had, so once again, Jerry branched out and opened “Antiques on Main Furniture Gallery and Consignment Store” at 405 E. Hospital, but he still has the original store at 412 E. Main. He says he is very thankful that he can still see well enough to do all the things he does. He decided early on that just because he can't drive doesn't mean he has to stop living and doing the things he loves. He hired a chauffeur and stays pretty busy for someone who is retired, and he likes it that way.

**On June 8-10 – in honor of the Blueberry Festival
Everything in any of Jerry Graham's stores will be 10% off.**

Antiques on Main - 412 E. Main - Nacogdoches 75961 - (936) 553-4715
Hours: Tues - Sat - 10 AM - 5 PM – Sun 1 PM - 4 PM – Closed on Mon.

<https://www.facebook.com/antiquesonmainnac/>

Stuff N' Such - 408 E. Main, Nacogdoches 75961 - (936) 615-7666

Hours: open 7 days a week from 11 AM - 11 PM

<https://www.facebook.com/stuffinsuchheadshop/>

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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.

The Nacogdoches Art Alliance and Man In Black Tequila Present An Evening with The Man In Black, Kinky Friedman

(Austin) On June 20th, 2018 Kinky Friedman, self-described Governor Of The Heart Of Texas, will be performing a fundraiser for the Nacogdoches Art Alliance at Banita Creek Hall (401 W Main St, Nacogdoches). The Kinkster has promised his full show - including a reading - plus a book, bottle and CD signing event after the performance. To add to the fun, event hosts, TV icon Ruth Buzzi and her husband (and owner of Man In Black Tequila) Kent Perkins, will join Kinky for a tequila tasting prior to the show.



General admission tickets are \$35.00, and VIP tickets that include a meet and greet, signed poster and photo op with the Kinkster are \$75.00. Tickets are available at banitacreekhall.com. For those who want to eat and greet (or just eat), Brendyn's BBQ will be serving deliciousness in the parking lot.

The tequila tasting will start at 6:00pm, followed by an opening performance at 7:00pm by Kinky's long-time sidekick and original Texas Jewboy, Little Jewford. After a brief (and assuredly hilarious) set by Jewford, Kinky will take the stage with a whole new album full of songs artfully integrated with many of his most famous and outrageous tunes. Somebody will surely be offended. Everyone will surely be entertained.

Immediately following the show, the signing event shall commence, offering several choices of Kinky's books, all provided and sold by The Bosslight, the curated book store in downtown Nacogdoches. Bottles of Man In Black Tequila are being provided by Kent, and of course Kinky is bringing the CDs.

The Art Alliance has long been aligned with the Nacogdoches community and SFA and continues to promote the arts and culture of the community, including the Nacogdoches Film Festival, the Alliance's signature event, now in its eighth year. It will use proceeds for this event to provide scholarships to film students and fund this year's summer film feature by the SFA film school. As Kinky will tell you, "anything to keep those kids off the street."

For Kinky, this is the beginning of a second musical act. With the proclamation that it "is what music was, before it came homogenized, trivialized and sanitized," Kinky is dropping his first all new CD of original tunes in four decades. Called 'Circus Of Life,' it presents a side of Kinky that few would have suspected in the halcyon days of the Texas Jewboys, laying perhaps legit claim to the brand new title, the "Leonard Cohen of Texas." His Nacogdoches stop effectively kicks off an entire summer of touring behind his new record.

And he is releasing it on his own Echo Hill Records label. Harking to his early years, Kinky has chosen to ignore the Nashville ethos, that all must be concertedly "radio friendly," sweetened, and over-produced. What he and producer Brian Molnar have delivered is simply one of the most beautiful albums of this year or any other. The first single, 'Autographs In The Rain (Song To Willie),' is already in heavy rotation on SiriusXM Outlaw Country, and there are at least four more top shelf A sides on the CD.

The Kinkster will undoubtedly play many of the new cuts during the show, but you will definitely want to be the first kid on the block to own the CD, and the first kid on the block to pitch in to help the Arts Alliance. June 20th. 6:00pm. Banita Creek Hall.

Contact: Ron Johnson ronjohnson@suddenlinkmail.com 936.645.1499
Cleve Hattersley (for Kinky) cleve@greezywheels.com 512-873-8925

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Monograms on Main

by Cheryl Harvey Hill

Nacogdoches's newest monogramming and gift boutique is located in one of the oldest buildings on Main Street, the old Main Movie Theatre, so when Mandy Quarles Steff, the owner of Monograms on Main, heard that an award would be given to the business who demonstrated they were willing to go above and beyond to beautify and promote downtown Nacogdoches, she and her staff immediately got busy. Their hard work paid off when Ms. Steff became the very first recipient of the "Spring Downtown Beautification Award." The award stated, in part, "they have truly brought life to the Main Street Theater with new window displays and planters outside their store!" They also suggested you stop by this new boutique and see for yourself all that they offer, and we certainly agree. Oh, by the way, the old popcorn machine is still there and still working... just in case you get the munchies while you're browsing, trust me, there is much to browse.



Monograms on Main offers so much more than monograms. They specialize in custom embroidery and with the wedding season upon us, they can make it easy for you to shower the bride and groom with beautiful gifts, created just for them. They can even monogram wine glasses and create a custom wine tote to match. The tote will come in handy later, for the "Downtown Wine Swirls."

They have just about everything you need to celebrate a birthday, a wedding, graduation, a new job, a raise, or an anniversary. No matter what the special occasion is, they will have something to make it even more special. From party favors to decor, tee shirts to tablecloths, they have a multitude of gifts that can be personalized. Be sure to check out their "party circle" too, because they are pretty sure you will find everything you need to be the hostess with the mostest and if you find yourself needing something to wear to one of these celebrations, they have racks of beautiful dresses, blouses, skirts, and more. They also have handmade bracelets and earrings.



Monogrammed towels, purses, custom designed shirts, diaper bags, baseball caps, and even umbrellas, are some of the other things you will find in this delightful store. Or how about monogrammed coffee mugs or beer glasses? Okay, now we have your attention. They have a wide variety of enameled pins too and a large selection of HTV items. In fact, they are the only store in Nacogdoches that sells Heat Transfer Vinyl, which is used to personalize a plain white

T-shirt by embellishing it or you can use it to put a design on any cloth material.

For the kids' birthday parties, they have age appropriate party favors, many gifts that can be personalized, and decorations that can be customized. They have magnetic memory boards, cupcake pans, powder coated tumblers, cloth headbands, glitter pencils, fiesta carryalls and be sure to check them out for the hippest summer trends too. When the weather gets hot and the water is inviting, you will find they have the coolest pool gear in town, starting with those wild and crazy looking goggles.



They invite you to come check out all they have in store for you!

507 E. Main Inside – Nacogdoches, Texas 75961– Ph: (936) 553-5766
 Hours: Tues - Fri 10:00 AM - 5 PM – Saturday 10:00 AM - 2 PM – Sun - Mon Closed
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/monogramsonmainnac/>
<https://www.instagram.com/monogramsonmainnac/>

After receiving the "Spring Downtown Beautification Award" – Ms. Steff wrote on their Facebook page: We are so honored to have been chosen for this award! We have worked hard to get to where we are and can't wait to see what's in store! Exciting things to come!!!! Thanks to all who've helped us along the way!"

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Experience the Charm of Douglass Farmers' Market

The small but lively community of Douglass, TX is THE place to be on the first Saturday of every month! The brain child of local business owner, Shante' Brewer (Southern Bliss Salon), The Douglass Farmers' Market has exploded in size from the original four vendors to a parking lot full of folks offering a wide variety of home made, home grown and handcrafted items for your shopping pleasure; such as plants, fruit trees, handmade wooden toys, soaps, baked goods, crocheted items, vintage style aprons, decorated pottery, jewelry, and much more! Locally grown fruits and vegetables will be available, as well.



The Douglass Farmers' Market is hosted by Uncle Doug's BBQ, and is held on their parking lot at 14812 W Highway 21, in Douglass. To enhance your shopping experience, Uncle Doug's also sells mouth-watering East Texas style BBQ brisket, chicken, sausage

and ribs directly off the pit with delicious sides and drinks to enjoy with family and friends at one of the picnic tables that are set up under shade trees for a unique open air dining experience. Or, if you choose, all items are available for carryout.

New vendors are always welcomed, and there is no fee for setup on a 10ftx20ft space. For more information, contact Shante' Brewer, market director at 936.371.3076.



We invite everyone to come out, stroll among our vendors, visit with old friends and make some new ones, grab some of the best BBQ in the area for lunch or dinner, and enjoy a relaxed, southern style atmosphere with the greatest folks on earth!



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Advice For The Graduates

And just like that, it's graduation time. It's a day that leaves most parents wondering how 12 years passed by so fast.

There are many subjects I could use this space for this month – safety, seat belts, distractions, summer travel or future Interstate 69. As I thought it over, I realized that so many young, East Texas lives will change this month as they walk across a stage to receive a diploma.

Do I think many high school seniors will read this column? Probably not, but I am hoping that some parents will and maybe take a thought or two from it and repeat them to their graduates. In fact, repeat them over and over.

Tell them that life really is a journey and not a destination. They are turning a page and their journeys are continuing. There is no such thing as “arriving” at a place or time where life begins. All the more reason to make safe practices a way of life. Practice daily what will keep them safer, whether it's safety on a job, in college or in a vehicle.

Tell them they have to find something they love to do. Work will fill a large part of their lives and the only way to be happy and satisfied is to love their chosen work. Don't settle. All the more reason to check out txdot.gov. We are hiring and we offer life-long careers. We have engineers right here in the Lufkin District who have loved what they do for more than 30 years.

Tell them to always exercise control over what and how they think. Be conscious and aware enough to pay attention to things around them. All the more reason to talk to them about staying alert behind the wheel of a vehicle. Put the phone down and think only about driving. Tell them this over and over because life can turn on a dime when you drive distracted.

Tell them to get involved in a community and have a seat at the table. Heck, tell them not to quit until they have a seat at the head of the table, because we need them to make their own footprints that will lead East Texas further into the future. We need their bright, young minds as we build interstates and constantly change the landscape.

I could go on and on, but you get the picture. While you are it, don't forget to tell them to go slow enough to really enjoy their journey, always pay it forward, wear a seatbelt, learn to really listen to what others say, love a child, a dog and another person during their lifetime and always smile, no matter what.

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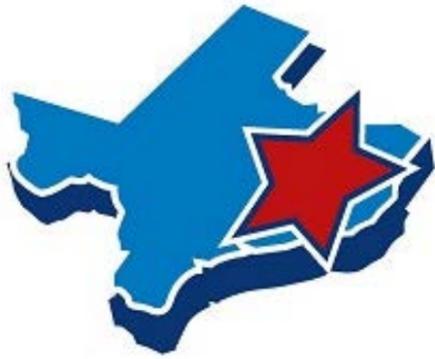
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Anita Scott



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What's Hot with Anita Scott

JUNE 8, 2018 – AGRICULTURE/FORESTRY SUMMIT

Texas Agriforestry Small Farmers and Ranchers and the Texas A&M Forest Service present the 2018 Agriculture and Forestry Summit "Remembering Our Past, Sustaining the Present and Planning for the Future." Attendees are invited to the Meet & Greet Thursday, June 7, 2018 from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm at the Fredonia Hotel.

The Summit will be here at the Nacogdoches County Expo & Civic Center on Friday, June 8, 2018 from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm. Registration for the Summit is \$35.00 and can be done by mail or online. Information on registration, hotel accommodations and sponsorships can be found at <http://www.visitnacogdoches.com/tasfr>.

Summit topics include: Sustainable Forestry, NRCS Programs, Outreach Programs, Renewable Energy, Heir Property along with other programs. Luncheon speaker will be Sid Miller, State Agriculture Commissioner.

For information on ads and donations call (936) 564-6437 or email TASFR.agriculture@gmail.com.

JUNE 16, 2018 – JUNKIN' ACROSS TEXAS PRESENTS JUNKIN' THROUGH JUNE

Come out and join us for a FUN FILLED day of shopping, food, and good old fashioned FUN! TONS of vendors from all over Texas will be there with boutiques, food, shabby chic, vintage, handmade crafts, wood work, metal art, and SO MUCH MORE! The first 50 people through the door will receive a special Goodie Bag, and door prizes will be given out all day.

Admission is \$5.00 for adults, kids 12 and under is free. In appreciation for their service, Veterans, First Responders, and Military Members are FREE!

JUNE 23-24, 2018 – G & S GUN SHOW

There's nothing like the smell of gunpowder in the morning! G & S offers a variety of vendors from firearms and ammo to concealed carry bags and purses. Hours are from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm on Saturday and 10:00 am-4:00 pm on Sunday. Admission is \$8.00 per person, come Saturday and it's good for both days.

Planning to stay overnight? Great! Be sure to visit www.nacexpo.net or www.visitnacogdoches.org for links to local hotels and discount offers.

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 Owner

A & D Hydraulics

by Cheryl Harvey Hill



Left to Right: Kyle Mach, Howard Packard, Emily Warren, Bryan McDowell, Beverly Horn, Dale Horn and David Horn.

David Horn started A & D Hydraulics back in 1986, that makes them the oldest hydraulics and battery specialists in Nacogdoches. For starters, they stock a wide variety of batteries. Whether it's for a motorhome, motorcycle, an alarm system, boat, car, RV, ATV, scooter, golf cart, truck, backup generators, backup UPS systems, and, well, if it depends on a battery to keep it running, they probably have whatever you need. They also stock hydraulic oils and the widest selection of hydraulic hoses and adapters in the area, including standard and metric styles. On the hydraulic side, it's a little more technical. For hydraulic hoses and fittings, they can make lines for just about anything from a lawnmower up to heavy equipment and they can repair or rebuild all types of hydraulic cylinders.

David says, "We keep pretty busy but I have such a wonderful crew. My crew is jam-up, they take care of business, so we get things done. I've been very fortunate." You can certainly tell he takes a lot of pride in the people he works with, some of them he hired when they were still teenagers. He says it's gratifying when a young person he mentored, stays with the company and turns out to be a really good worker. He is very proud of the fact that every employee they have is not only a hard worker, they are also wonderful human beings." He adds, "My wife, Beverly, is, by far, one of the smartest people in our business and she has a really sweet personality. She truly loves working with our customers. She definitely is the heart of this company, so she contributes greatly towards our success." When I say that she probably feels the same about him, I can sense the smile as he responds, "Probably."

They have two sons they are very proud of. Their older son moved to Houston, after getting his final degree, and has a successful business of his own. Their youngest son was hired, right out of college, by a company in California but after only a year there, he called and asked if he could come home and work at A & D for a while. David is delighted to say his son has now been with the company twelve years and has shown an interest in maybe one day running the company, which would make both of his parents very happy.

They appreciate the community of Nacogdoches and feel blessed to reside and work there. They like the fact that the community is large enough that it has everything they need but small enough that everybody knows everybody by name. During our interview, David often referred to Nacogdoches as "our town" and he emphasized that it is a beautiful place to live and a safe place to raise children. He talked about how very important the agricultural part of their community is and said it was why he started his business. For that reason, A & D Hydraulics supports, what David refers to as the "AG business," as much as he possibly can, especially during the county fair each year. He went on to say that this is something that should be important to everyone since it affects the vital health of our nation. He said people forget those big supermarkets don't grow food and he feels we should honor those who do. He says our country needs to be reminded where we would be without farmers and agriculture. For me, it's a definite no-brainer. I shudder to think of where we would be.

He says he and his wife have worked hard for 32 years and they are now looking forward to finally slowing down a bit and taking some time off. There are places they want to go and things they want to do. They feel they have earned some time to get away. They have spent a large part of their lives taking care of their family and their business. When I ask him what is the best part of this new freedom phase of their life? Without hesitation, he responds, "The best part just may be feeling 100% confident that the crew we have will be able to run the company in our absence and make us proud. Yep, we have been blessed."

Texas Blueberry Festival Highlights June Calendar at CVB



Stephanie Fontenot
CVB Marketing Director

The Visit Nacogdoches staff is always excited for the month of June to arrive, because that means thousands of visitors from all around the state and beyond are about to travel to Texas oldest town for one of our most highly anticipated annual events the Texas Blueberry Festival. This year's festival is scheduled to take place Saturday, June 9, on the brick streets of our historic downtown. While the festival is certainly our busiest blueberry highlight, we have days full of additional events leading up to the festival itself. Local businesses are participating by creating blueberry inspired items, such as delicious blueberry infused drinks and desserts. Area attractions such as Zip Nac also are celebrating all-things-blueberry by offering special discounts for groups. To view a full list of blue-

berry specials, go to www.VisitNacogdoches.org.

Another event that's taking place the same week is the Agriculture/Forestry 2018 Summit hosted by the Texas AgriForestry Small Farmers and Ranchers. The event will take place June 7-8 at the Nacogdoches County Exposition and Civic Center. The summit will allow small farmers and ranchers to hear from USDA agriculture and forestry agencies regarding programs that can assist with improving farming operations. It also will address stewardship issues along with other barriers facing small farmers and ranchers, especially Socially Disadvantaged (SD) Landowners in rural communities where information is critical. For more information about the summit, go to www.VisitNacogdoches.org/TASFR.

Later this month, make plans to experience a brand new walking tour in town, the Brick Street Sip & Stroll Tour, which is hosted by the Nacogdoches CVB and sponsored by The Fredonia Hotel and Convention Center. This tour will kick off at 5 p.m. Thursday, June 21, and will include libations and fun at three downtown locations beginning with the recently opened Red House Winery. The fun will continue as the group strolls over to Fredonia Brewery to view the location and take part in Trivia Night hosted by Geeks Who Drink Pub Quizzes. The tour will continue to Nine Flags Bar, which is located inside the newly-renovated Fredonia Hotel. Guests will enjoy a signature drink and music on the patio. Tickets are \$35 each and can be purchased through the Visit Nacogdoches Facebook page or the hotel. Be sure to stick around for the entire weekend. There's lots more fun to be had, including a comedy show at Fredonia Brewery Friday night.



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Chamber Connection
 by Kelly Daniel
 Executive Vice President,
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Enjoy a Cool Blue Day at Texas Blueberry Festival

*Tastiest Festival in Texas Offers
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Downtown Nacogdoches will burst with tons of blueberry fun at the 29th Annual Texas Blueberry Festival presented by Tipton Ford-Lincoln, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, June 9.

A newly added event is Pickin' on the Square featuring impromptu bluegrass jam sessions in three different "air-conditioned" locations: City Council Chambers at City Hall; the Regions Bank Community Room; and the Visitors Center downstairs display and meeting room. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. anyone may venture into these cool spaces, sit and relax and enjoy the music. If you play an instrument, bring it with you and join in the pickin'!

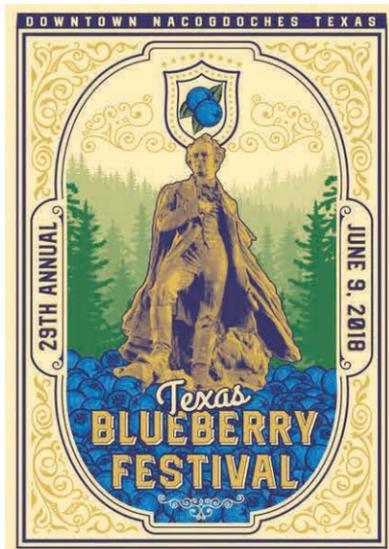
A super cool attraction is making its way back. The Ford Raptor Racing Experience Simulator offers festival guests a taste of racing in the Baja deserts of California. The simulator seats up to four with no age requirement, and it is equipped with video footage from the Race Raptors Best in the Desert journey. Find the racing experience simulator in the Regions Bank parking lot at the corner of Fredonia and Pilar streets. Plan on enjoying the view from the bonus observation deck on top of the simulator. Look down on festival activities including the Vehicle Funcase Car Show, also in the parking lot.

The car show will prove to be a popular attraction in itself! It is open to anyone that has a sweet ride to show off. Registration is only \$15/vehicle, and you will want to register early to ensure a place for your cool ride.



judged show, vendors, demos, displays, silent auction, County Store, gift baskets and information about the newly created Pineywoods Barn Quilt Trail. Plus, get your raffle tickets for a chance to win a gorgeous hand-made quilt. Proceeds from the quilt raffle will benefit Habitat for Humanity and the Nacogdoches Treatment Center.

If you and your furry four-legged friend plan to be in the Running of the Blue-



Please, don't miss the coolest Blueberry Festival of Quilts show produced by the Nacogdoches Quilters Guild. Local quilters craft works of art for display, and you have two days to visit the show. It is open both Friday, June 8 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, June 9 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The quilt show will be held in Fredonia Hill Baptist Church and features a



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berries 5K, make sure you get to Coy Simms Softball Fields by 7:30 a.m. The run takes you along the scenic Lanana Creek Trail and proceeds benefit the City Dog Park. Then make your way over to the Main Street Stage in the 400 block of Main St. by 9:30 a.m. to register and participate in the True Blue Pet Parade that begins at 10 a.m. at that location. The parade is open to all types of pets, and some sport really creative blueberry-inspired costumes.

Catch the Cookin' Up the Blues cooking demonstrations in Commercial Bank of Texas and enjoy sweet treats at Regions Bank Blueberry Hill Soda & Sweet Shoppe. The Pick Your Own Blueberries shuttle pick up is staying put on N. Church St. near The Jones House Bed & Breakfast.



Flats of fresh blueberries brought to you by Brookshire Brothers will be available for sale close to the downtown square at the intersection of Pilar St. and Pecan St., near City Hall. The Brookshire Brothers booth will open at 8 a.m., selling pints and flats of delicious, plump, sweet blueberries and other blueberry treats until 4 p.m. or until they are gone.

Also located in the downtown square and the Charles Bright Visitor Center at 200 E. Main St. are the Blue Pies Smiling at Me Pie Eating Contest with competition times for children and adults, the Plaza Principal Stage where winners of the Mr. & Miss Blueberry Pageant will be presented, the Nacogdoches County Chamber's Information Booth, the Kiwanis Blueberry Pancake Breakfast and the Blueberry Cupcake Battle.

Be sure to check into the Tipton Ford-Lincoln Hug a Hero booth on Main St. in front of the Visitor Center. You will have an opportunity to meet, thank, take photos with and hug our peace officers, first responders and those serving in the military - the people that serve our community every day!

Festival Park will be churning with blueberry children's activities. The Kids Splash & Bounce Park, Kids Crafts tent and the KSWP/KAVX Obstacle Course are near the park's entrance just south of the downtown brick streets. Festival Park stage will be pumping with music and performances.

For the competitive-natured folks, registration is open now for the Blue Washer Board Tourney and the Paul Kendrick Memorial 42 Tourney.

The festival is a project of the Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce. Find all the details and contest registration information at www.TexasBlueberry-Festival.com as well as more about the Blueberry Bluegrass Concert in the Park presented by Rex Perry Autoplex set for 6 p.m., Friday, June 8 and much, much more going on during the entire Blueberry Festival Weekend!

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News from the Nacogdoches County Attorney's Office

How Prosecutors Determine What Value to Place on a Particular Case



John Fleming
Nacogdoches County Attorney

Many know the County Attorney's Office prosecutes misdemeanor criminal cases. Many don't know how recommendations are made. Will, for example, a defendant be offered probation or jail time? Approximately 2,500 misdemeanor criminal cases are annually presented to the County Attorney's Office for review by law enforcement agencies and a charging decision must be made on all of them.

After an arrest, most cases are presented to our office electronically by the arresting agency. The cases are reviewed by 3 prosecutors. Each prosecutor is responsible for one third of the cases presented. The most common offenses presented for review include DWI, Assault Family Violence, Theft, Criminal Mischief,

Criminal Trespass and Possession of Marijuana.

If the prosecutor believes the case has merit and chooses to file it, the prosecutor will put an initial offer on the file. The offer may be for probation or jail time. Many factors determine what kind of offer will be made to the defendant and/or his attorney. Those factors usually include 1) past criminal history 2) impact of the purported crime on the community 3) public safety concerns 4) victim input 5) restitution owed to a victim and/or the community 6) and the likelihood of offending again. While that list is not exhaustive, it includes factors frequently considered.

Against those factors and others, a prosecutor must satisfy her primary duty pursuant to Art. 2.01 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure: "It shall be the primary duty of all prosecuting attorneys . . . not to convict, but to see that justice is done." Any recommendation made on a case must be consistent with that mandate. The justice contemplated in the mandate is justice for the community, justice for the victim and justice for the defendant. Justice in one case may require an offer of significant jail time while justice in another may require a dismissal of the case against the accused. In yet another case, probation may be recommended. A defendant with past criminal history will likely be offered a jail time sentence only while a first time offender may be offered probation depending on the type of case.

Regardless of the type of offense, each case is different. As one defense attorney friend puts it, "Cases are like snow flakes: they look the same from afar but are different up close." So each case must be carefully considered so that an appropriate offer may be extended. Of course, whether or not a defendant accepts the offer is another matter and the subject of another discussion!

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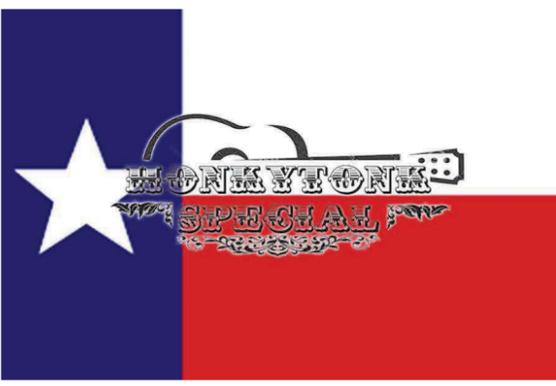
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The members of this group come from some serious country music backgrounds. Doug has had a rich history in shaping the music scene around their Beaumont home base. He was the band leader and founding member of the original Charlie Pruitt Show house band, Blackwater. Kenny has shared the stage with acts such as Clay Walker and Johnny Lee. Tracy has been one of the most solid bassist in the Southeast Texas area, and he has helped ground the group very nicely with his bass playing. Tim is a new-age drummer who has experience in technical things like sequencers and such, while keeping the classic beats true to the way they should be played. "JR" is on fiddle, mandolin, and vocals. He has played with several major names such as Johnny Rodriguez, and Ray Price, to name a couple. Newest member of the group is "Jo Jo." He helps round things out with his piano work and vocals. Joe logged some road time with country superstar Jason Aldean. Keith has opened for national acts such as Parmalee, Aaron Watson, Easton Corbin, Johnny Lee, The Bellamy Brothers, and Frankie Ballard. All this experience makes for one heck of a show, so get out and go see them!

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The Blessings of Loneliness

“Jesus said, ‘An hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave Me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.’” (John 16:32, NASB).

Loneliness is a growing problem in our society. A study by the American Council of Life Insurance reported that the most lonely group in America is college students. That’s surprising! Next on the list are divorced people, welfare recip-

“REED ALL ABOUT IT!” by Dr. Allen Reed

ipients, single mothers, rural students, housewives, and the elderly. To point out how lonely people can be, Chuck Swindoll mentioned an ad in a Kansas newspaper. It read, “I will listen to you talk for 30 minutes without comment for \$5.00.” Did anyone call? You bet. Swindoll says that it wasn’t long before this individual was receiving 10 to 20 calls a day. The pain of loneliness was so sharp that some were willing to try anything for a half hour of companionship.

Loneliness, however, can be a blessing. Men like Shakespeare, Leonardo da Vinci, Benjamin Franklin, Abraham Lincoln never saw a movie, nor heard a radio, nor watched television. Imagine that! They still became men of gigantic achievement, emotionally stable, mentally balanced, and properly developed human beings. Almost incredible! How did those men become great? They learned the blessing of being alone; for when they were alone, the creative mood in them was let loose to do its magnificent work. A great amount of good can be accomplished when you’re alone.

Many times Jesus went off to be alone to pray, to meditate, and to think. In His solitude, He found strength; and in quietness, He met with God. Jesus has promised never to leave us alone (*Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5*). At one point, however, Jesus did feel the absence of the Father (*Matthew 27:46*). When He was made sin for us, He was separated from the Father. He was alone that we might never be alone. He was forsaken that we might never be forsaken. The greatest medicine for loneliness is God in you.

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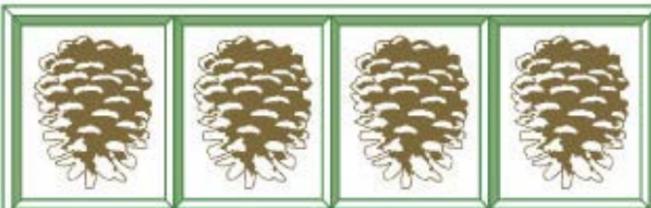


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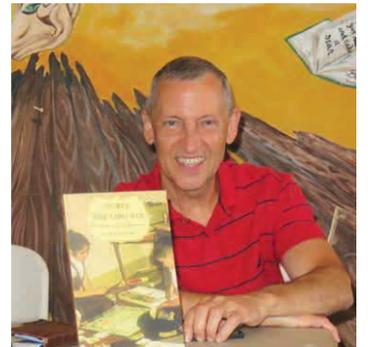
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Gary Brice, Son of Nacogdoches, Unveils First Book

It has been over 40 years since I last resided in Nacogdoches. Since that time, my life has been filled with family, seminary, ministry, wife, children, births and deaths, churches, moves, classrooms, students, bosses, subordinates, and more up's and down's than a typical day on Wall Street. But one component (other than God's presence and grace) that has been a part of every day of those 40 years is Nacogdoches. The lessons and memories of my days there have been a comforting and grounding influence in every good thing I have done and any lasting accomplishment I have made. Dear friends, family, church members, coaches, teachers and a cast of thousands beside have literally built the man that I am, and I am eternally grateful. It has been over 40 years since I last resided in Nacogdoches...but I have lived there all my life. "The Birds, Their Carols Raise" is my sincere tribute to those people, that time and that very special place.

Gary Brice is a proud son of Texas and of Nacogdoches in particular. He moved to Nacogdoches as a first grader in 1957 when his father accepted the pastorate of the First Christian Church, graduated from Nacogdoches High School, completed two degrees at SFA, and taught math at NHS for four years. It was during those years that he met the love of his life, Anita, who has become his best friend and his wife over the past 40 years. After graduating from Dallas Theological Seminary in 1982, Brice served in pastoral ministry in Bellingham, WA and Beaumont, TX for over 20 years. During those years, he and Anita were joined by their five children: Charis, Calen, Kensey, Kendall and Collin. In 2008 Brice returned to the classroom where he teaches Algebra to his beloved students at Lamar University in Beaumont, TX to the present day. When not solving quadratic equations, he loves to run, fish, and scour garage sales for books. *The Birds, Their Carols Raise* is his first published work.



It was August of 1960 and nine year-old Kyle Dexter couldn't wait for the new school year at Raguet Elementary to begin. It would be a season of adventure - long division, cursive writing, ink pens, flutophone lessons, and new friends. As a pastor's kid in Nacogdoches, Texas, Kyle enjoyed an idyllic life of wonder and delight. Kyle was White.

Not half a mile from Kyle's home, Jasmine Washington was not nearly as excited about the coming year. Life had dealt her a bum hand and had, in the process, fashioned a young girl who was most sensitive to all of life's injustices. Jasmine got by with last year's dress and faced each morning with not enough to eat; her heart broke daily as she watched her hard-working mother bend under the weight of her responsibilities. Jasmine rode the Colored bus to the Colored school with her Colored friends, and all the time, a boiling cauldron of resentment simmered in her heart.

For Kyle and Jasmine, the last months of 1960 would become a season of revelation and awakening. These two pilgrims would encounter racism, hypocrisy, poverty and shame; but they would also encounter kindness, grace, forgiveness and moments of life-changing beauty.

In a small East Texas town, in a season of social unrest, God would weave together the lives of two very different people and two very different families into a single, stunning strand of grace.

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Town Day

by Jerry Permenter

We lived fourteen miles outside Nacogdoches, Texas yet it seemed like an entire world away from the rural life we experienced daily.

On Saturday mornings, Mama would allow me to go along with my sister, as we were the two youngest. We'd wait in our old Ford pickup while Ma did her shopping, and I'd lean against my daddy, while he smoked his unfiltered camel out the open window, nodding or greeting folks as they passed by.

When Ma came out, we'd all jump to attention and help the bag boy load the sacks into the truck bed. I was so short then, I'd have to raise them up to Daddy, who'd take care of settling them in back. Sometimes, we'd go by the feed store afterward, if we had a cow or pig at home to raise, and as we approached I'd notice all the farmers gathered out front, discussing their crops that year or the effects of local weather on their labors. While Ma went in to look for flower seeds or onion starts, my Daddy would wander over to Branch Patton Hardware, eyeing a new shotgun that was shining in one of their long glass cases. Once on a quick visit, he bought all three of us boys a new flashlight, to keep us from "stepping on a moccasin" during our regular nighttime coon hunts. I'd also use mine to sneak up to my sister's window at night, lighting my face from below to put the fear of God in her. On our hunts, we were quite a sight, coming across an East Texas pasture, then disappearing into the woods, like a lost swarm of lightning bugs flickering through the night.

Whenever we returned from Daddy's occasional side excursion, he'd mention he saw a nice new gun, but Ma would pull him up short.

"You're not getting a new gun. School starts in three months, and we've got to get new shoes and supplies for all the kids."

Daddy lifted me up off the red brick street by one barefoot leg like a sack of onions.



Jerry Permenter was born in East Texas and grew up in Nacogdoches County. He is transitioning to creative writing, with a memoir, "Red Dirt Boy" to be released in 2018. You can follow Jerry on Facebook at Red Dirtboy or on Instagram as @theredditboy.



"I sure wish we could shoe these kids like a herd of horses. It'd be cheaper and last a lot longer than those brogans you buy at Shaw's." He'd joke while I giggled at being held upside down. "If wishes were ponies, beggars would ride." Mama always said in return. I didn't understand that until much later. I learned a lot on those town trips with my parents, as I saw them in a completely different light. I'd notice Ma eyeing a new dress in the window of

J.B. White, or Daddy looking at a beautiful rifle with a scope. He'd always wanted a metal detector like his cousin Benard, but those were luxuries well beyond both their realities.

On those excursions, I'd hear Ma and Pa talk about the family budget, anticipating expenses for the next season ahead, while also noting the things they did without to make sure our family was looked after properly. For all their sacrifices, I never once heard either truly complain. Though we were poor, my parents maintained a quiet dignity, always keeping a sense of humor and perspective about what truly held value. In later years, they were rewarded tenfold, as their children remembered all they'd foregone for us, and as adults, we looked after them and supplied them with more than they could ever have desired.

And while I always felt all the treasures of the world should be laid at their feet as they aged, they were modest folks who never wanted much, and regardless of the gift, always said, "You didn't have to do that."

Today, I'm still learning the lessons offered by my family, most now gone for many years. I hear all their words of wisdom and realize now more than ever, they remain a testament on how to live a truly good life, one of dignity and grace, in service to those they loved.

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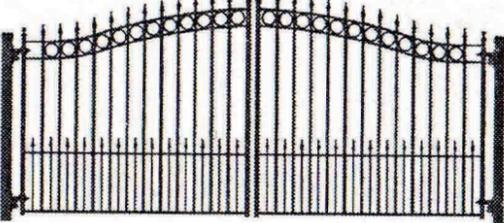
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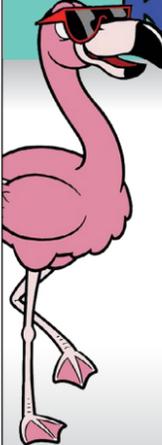


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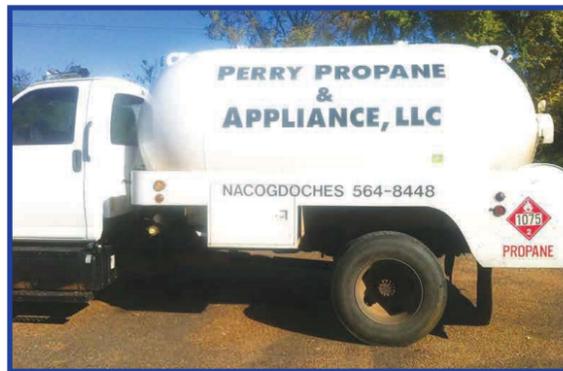
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It's a Dog's Life

by Brad Maule

I don't have a dog, but I am one. I just realized this lately. My whole childhood was centered around dogs. When I was five I had a Collie named "Duke" (named I'm sure after John Wayne), a big old canine with long yellow hair that in my five-year-old mind was my best friend, my protector, and an incredibly wonderful listener. If things didn't go my way, or I scraped my knee, or someone hurt my feelings, Duke would sit spell-bound as I told him the terrible facts. His big eyes would tear up as I described the wound on my leg or my soul. I don't care if you don't believe me, it's true. When I hurt, Duke hurt, till we both felt better.



Brad Maule is a two-time Emmy-nominated actor now living in beautiful Nacogdoches where he teaches filmmaking for the School of Art and acting for the School of Theatre at Stephen F. Austin State University.

At some point Duke disappeared, vanished into thin air. Dogs do that on farms when you're little. You get older and dogs start to come into your life in pairs. Ten years old, still innocent, but also a tougher, meaner kid, I had Tippy and Tuffy. These two mutts were constantly getting into some kind of trouble. There was a lot of "good cop/bad cop" in them, but both bad to the bone. They smelled of cigarettes and skunks. After supper, when I scraped left-overs from the table into their metal bowl, it sounded like a knife fight. Howling, gnashing, snarling, swallowing, barely chewing, dinner was over in a flash. I had to go with them everywhere. One day they found a badger going down a hole, and though I helped dig around the edges with a hoe, Tippy and Tuffy are the ones that really fought the fiend. They won, sort of, but were left with big red slashes across their faces and bellies from the claws of that beast. It's also true that we did some scientific examination on a dead cow on the way home that day and got a few extra fleas from standing in that mess, but my mother way over-reacted when she sprayed me and my dogs with the water hose in the front yard.

When I entered my terrible teens, dogs were still around, but only to bark at me as I rolled up late at night and tried to sneak in the house.

Dogs, they came and went, but still they mirror my life. I had a couple of bad years in the eighties where I went to the gym every day and blow-dried my hair. That dog chased Frisbees and wore a red bandana. Painful to remember.

Then suddenly it was just me. Kids' grown, wife's gone, the little blind Shiatsu died several years ago. That dog was so insecure he had to sleep next to me. (I pretended to love him.) I am the dog now. I have to listen to myself talk. Dinner still sounds like a knife fight, but it's me eating last night's left-overs. I stopped smoking years ago, and don't hang around skunks anymore, but I have also stopped wearing cologne. Who's to smell? It's bedtime that really got me thinking about all this. I've noticed that lately I have to do a few circles around my bed to get the blankets just right before I can sleep. I wake myself up from the snoring. When I dream, my legs and arms make circles like I'm running from a badger. I don't have a chew toy yet, but I'm not adverse to the idea. Woof.

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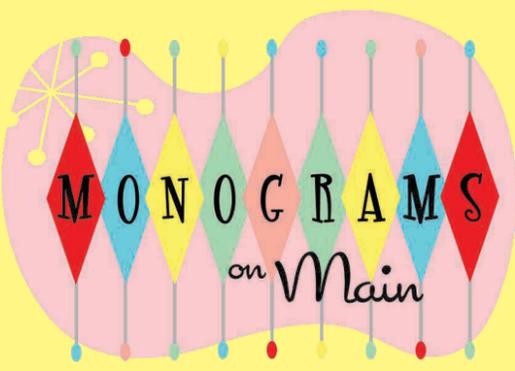
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Angela's Monthly Recipe

Easy Summer Cucumber Salad

Angela Bradford is the owner/operator of Appleby Sand Mercantile Café in Nacogdoches.

Ingredients:

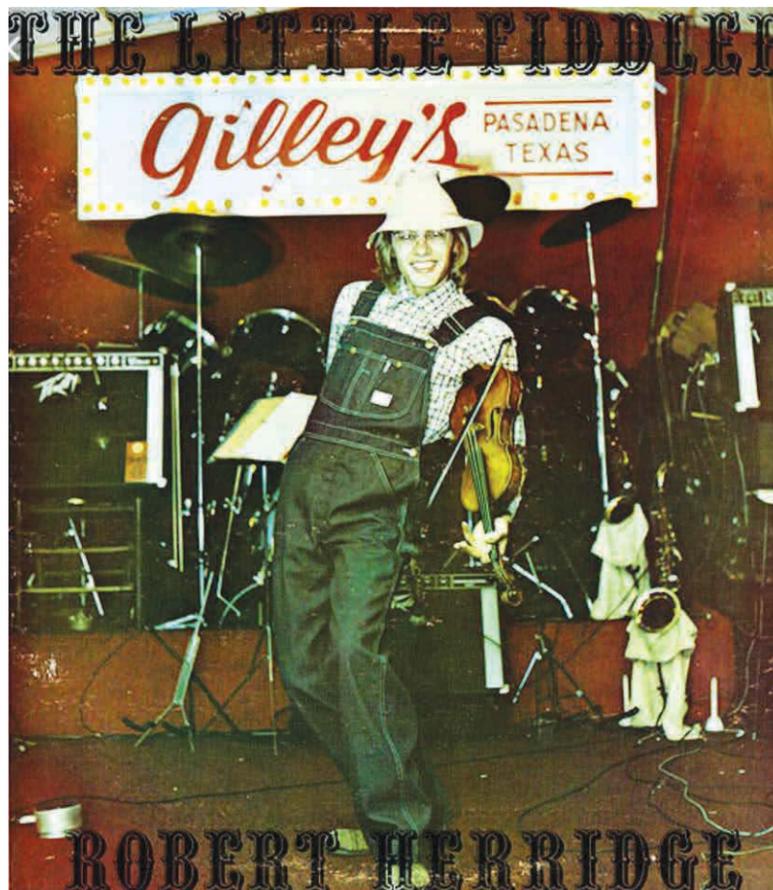
- 2 large cucumbers, peeled and thinly sliced
- 1 sweet onion, thinly sliced
- 1 tablespoon sea salt
- 1 1/2 cups mayonnaise, or more to taste
- 2 tablespoons vinegar
- 1 teaspoon dried dill weed
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper



Instructions:

1. Mix cucumbers, sweet onion, and sea salt together in a bowl. Cover bowl with plastic wrap and let sit for 30 minutes.
2. Turn cucumber mixture into a colander set over a bowl or in a sink; let drain, stirring occasionally, until most of the liquid has drained, about 30 minutes more. Transfer drained cucumber mixture to a large bowl.
3. Stir mayonnaise, vinegar, sugar, dill, garlic powder, and black pepper together in a bowl with a whisk until smooth; pour over the cucumber mixture and stir to coat vegetables with the dressing.
4. Cover bowl with plastic wrap and refrigerate at least 2 hours.

Note :You can use this dressing on cut fresh garden tomatoes and thinly sliced purple onion also. This is a southern favorite on hot summer days!



Oldest Town in Texas Road Show Returns on June 9th

by Kim Crisp aka "Camo Elvis"

Mr. Robert Herridge "The Little Fiddler" from Gilley's in Pasadena, Texas, will be playing at this show. You may remember him from the movie Urban Cowboy. We won't have the mechanical bucking bull but you can still come dance to the Cotton Eyed Joe! Don't miss this chance to see a living legend in the Music industry.

The BEST comedy, musicians, band and singers in East Texas; plus regularly featured young upcoming talent, Radio and Sirius XM Legends, such as Willie P. Richardson, the 'Phone Prankster' and all this hosted by a True Legend of TV, Movies and Stage, 'Dr. Tony Jones' of General Hospital Brad Maule. Brad will sing Texas Swing and 50/60s favorites, plus tell some Texas Tall Tales.

Band features the super talented Stephen Pate who is an accomplished guitarist and vocalist who has played all over Texas and Louisiana. He will amaze even the best in the business with his guitar skills.

Jan Pate, lead female vocalist, knows how to belt out all your favorite real country tunes. She is always a favorite and loved by all who see her.

Bo Miller will tickle your funny bones with his Irrational Exuberance as he tickles the keys to tunes like "Whole Lotta Shakin Goin' On!"

Jason the "Atomic Clock" is a true professional on drums and is as good as they get!

Buddy Harpham, with over 5 decades of Bass experience, can play and sing and is superb.

I'll be there, Camo Elvis, to run the elevator for all my Ol' friends and guests plus serve up Bluebell and Blueberries in honor of the annual Blueberry Festival.

Hope to C U!!!!

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City of Nacogdoches Launches the People's Budget

by Amy Mehaffey

Since the main role of a local government is to provide integral services to citizens who live inside the city limits, it is important to fully execute city operations by utilizing limited funding and maintaining a balanced budget. In order to adequately provide services such as sanitation, water service, and public safety, it is important each department has appropriate funding resources. I personally am always impressed at the level of customer service City of Nacogdoches provides – as every department is working on a shoestring budget.

However, it is equally important to educate the public on the amount of funds available and allow you, the taxpayers to provide us input. This is why I'm so excited to announce the "People's Budget." This game-like platform allows users to be "mayor for a day" and will harness the power of the people to help get information from the citizens of Nacogdoches.

When playing, users can assign blueberries (way more fun than dollars) to each department, and also take quick polls about various departments to consider the implications of over or under funding a certain city service. At the end, users are asked to take a survey and we will utilize that information to send a follow up about how others in the community shaped their budgets.

City budgets can be complicated and ours is a lengthy process which welcomes citizen input. This game helps simplify the process and allow users to formulate their own balanced budget for our community, while also educating citizens on the many, many services City of Nacogdoches employees provide. Results from the game will be shared with the community, city staff, and elected officials.

We must recognize our community is diverse and those currently active in the local government process are most often interested in special projects or certain areas of our community. This passion is a wonderful aspect of the civic engagement process—one that we encourage. Additionally, we must also balance the needs and the wants of the community and each special interest group throughout the budget's development. Although this simulation will allow users to provide us input on special interest areas, the City Council will approve a final budget based on the overall needs of the community. Input is generated in multiples ways and this great new tool is one element of a complicated annual puzzle.

Currently, City staff breaks down the budget process during City Council meetings—where public input is always welcomed and this game is a first step in a multi-week series to educate citizens about city budgets and the services it must fund. It is our long-term hope that everyone will understand the development of our budget and feel more comfortable engaging in the process as we build it each year. So, we hope you consider taking 10-15 minutes of your time to learn about what the City of Nacogdoches does and provide us some awesome crowd-sourced information. This tool is wonderful for children, families, and individuals who just want to know more about their community. The People's Budget can be accessed at: <https://nacogdoches.peoplesbudget.com/>

Happy Budgeting!

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MONUMENT CORNER

This month MONUMENT CORNER features the second of two monuments at the La Nana Creek bridge at Park Street. This monument marks the location of Zion Hill Baptist Church Cemetery. It reads as follows:

ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY

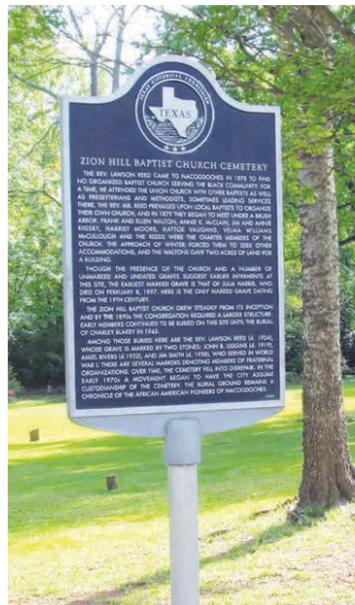
THE REV. LAWSON REED CAME TO NACOGDOCHES IN 1878 TO FIND NO ORGANIZED BAPTIST CHURCH SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY. FOR A TIME, HE ATTENDED THE UNION CHURCH WITH OTHER BAPTISTS AS WELL AS PRESBYTERIANS AND METHODISTS, SOMETIMES LEADING SERVICES THERE, THE REV. MR. REED PREVAILED UPON LOCAL BAPTISTS TO ORGANIZE THEIR OWN CHURCH, AND IN 1879 THEY BEGAN TO MEET UNDER A BRUSH ARBOR. FRANK AND ELLEN WALTON, ANNIE K. McCLAIN, JIM AND ANNIE RIGSBY, HARRIET MOORE, HATTOE VAUGHNS, VELMA WILLIAMS McCULLOUGH AND THE REEDS WERE THGE CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH. THE APPROACH OF WINTER FORCED THEM TO SEEK OTHER ACCOMMODATIONS, AND THE WALTONS GAVE TWO ACRES OF LAND FOR A BUILDING.

THOUGH THE PRESENCE OF THE CHURCH AND A NUMBER OF UNMARKED AND UNDATED GRAVES SUGGEST EARLIER INTERMENTS AT THIS SITE, THE EARLIEST MARKED GRAVE IS THAT OF JULIA HARRIS, WHO DIED ON FEBRUARY 8, 1897. HERS IS THE ONLY MARTKED GRAVE DATING FROM THE 19TH CENTYRY.

THE ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH GREW STEADILY FROM ITS INCEPTION AND BY THE 1890s THE CONGREGATION REQUIRED A LARGER STRUCTURE. EARLY MEMBERS CONTINUED TO BE BURIED ON THIS SITE UNTIL THE BURIAL OF CHARLEY BLAKEY IN 1945.

AMONG THOSE BURIED HERE ARE THE REV. LAWSON REED (d. 1924), WHOSE GRAVE IS MARKED BY TWO STONES; JOHN B. LIGGINS (d. 1919), AMIEL RIVERS (d. 1932), AND JIM SMITH (d. 1938), WHO SERVED IN WORLD WAR I, THERE ARE SEVERAL MARKERS DENOTING MEMBERS OF FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS. OVER TIME, THE CEMETERY FELL INTO DISREPAIR. IN THE EARLY 1970s A MOVEMENT BEGAN TO HAVE THE CITY ASSUME CUSTODIANSHIP OF THE CEMETERY. THE BURIAL GROUND REMAINS A CHRONICLE OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN PIONEERS OF NACOGDOCHES.

(2000)



All Photos by James Aston.



Counterclockwise from top-left: Lots for sale, Spec Home 2 under construction, Spec Home 1 is completed.

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