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SERVING NACOGDOCHES & SAN AUGUSTINE COUNTIES

SEPTEMBER 2018

Welcome San Augustine County Readers and Advertisers!

In addition to Nacogdoches County, *Around the Town* will be distributed throughout San Augustine County each month beginning with this issue.

"We are pleased to announce distribution in San Augustine County and are excited about featuring stories of people, events, businesses and places in "The Cradle of Texas." My father's family lived in San Augustine back in the 1920s and 30s, operating a cafe' on the square where Mills Hardware is currently located. Dad's late sister, Hallie Pearce, lived in San Augustine for most of her life. I've always had friends in the county and I love the beauty and the history of the community.

We're looking forward to meeting and getting to know many new friends in San Augustine." David Stallings, *Around the Town* Publisher.

FREE classified ads for individuals, non-profits & fund-raisers!
Please visit www.AroundTheTown.us, read the rules and submit yours...*It's easy!*

Greatest Party in East Texas Comes to the Fredonia Hotel!

Step right up to the greatest party in East Texas! The historic Fredonia Hotel is hosting its Second Annual Gala on Saturday, September 15th from 7pm – 11pm. Attendees are sure to be mystified and entranced with the décor, food, and entertainment!

Guests will feel like a kid again as they join the hotel "Under the Big Top" for this circus themed event. The Gala will feature unique acts provided by Aqua Acro Entertainment from San Antonio, TX. The evening will also feature stilt walkers, a fortune teller, and many other surprises! Aqua Acro's aerialist performers will leave guests so amazed it will be hard for them to look away as the performers push the boundaries of both strength and flexibility with grace and ease.

The festivities will begin with a cocktail hour in the Banita Ballroom starting at 7pm, which will feature classic circus hors d'oeuvres with a gourmet twist. After the cocktail hour, guests will be moved to the Convention Center for the main attraction. There they will be treated to a plated meal unlike anything ever seen in East Texas! The dinner is sure to dazzle and delight. After dinner, guests that are still hungry can treat themselves to the dessert bar offering even more unique circus delicacies.

If the food, environment, and unique entertainment aren't enough, guests can dance the night away with music provided by DJ RLE of Austin. DJ RLE, also known as Raymond Cruz, is a Nacogdoches native who has been refining his craft in Austin and is one of the best DJ's around. The music selections for the evening are sure to get anyone up and dancing!

As part of the special event, The Fredonia is offering special room rates and packages. For one night only, rooms in the Tower section of the hotel are going for \$99, rather than the regular price of \$149 per night. These rooms are the perfect spot to unwind after a long night of celebrating and dancing.

This year's gala is being held to commemorate the one-year anniversary since the grand re-opening of the Fredonia after an extensive renovation by owners, Barbara and Richard Dewitt. The Dewitts and the entire hotel staff are looking forward to their anniversary with the community!

Tickets and room packages are available by visiting the Shop @ Fredonia, www.thefredonia.com, or by calling 936-564-1234.

the Fredonia Hotel



James Berg, M.D.

— LEHMANN EYE CENTER —

Welcomes DR. JAMES BERG

James Berg M.D. is excited to return home to East Texas and join Lehmann Eye Center. Dr. Berg is trained to perform laser cataract surgery and can deliver the latest advanced intraocular lenses allowing you to see near and far. He also specializes in treatment and management of glaucoma, including the use of minimally invasive glaucoma surgery (MIGS) to reduce the need for drops. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Berg please call 936-569-8278.



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Nacogdoches CVB Has a ‘Nac For Excellence’ in 2019



Stephanie Fontenot
CVB Marketing Director

As a fresh fiscal year approaches, the Nacogdoches Convention and Visitors Bureau staff is busy finalizing plans for the upcoming year. We’re analyzing the success of recent efforts, making final changes to our overall plans and gearing up for what we feel will be our most impactful year yet.

Our team has gone through quite a few changes within the last few years. Staff members have come and gone, leadership has changed hands and the tools we use to do our daily tasks have evolved as well.

We’re thrilled to step into this new year with a solid staff already in place. Our Executive Director Sherry Chaney Morgan joined our staff in December 2017 and has already made an extremely positive impact by bringing a world of creativity, insight and industry

knowledge to both our team and community. Joanna Temple, our meetings and sales guru, is now a seasoned oldest’ town ambassador and is ready to continue wowing visitors and meeting planners with all the amazing offerings our charming town and partners have to offer. Mike Bay, our dedicated visitor services coordinator, continuously delivers unmatched personal and authentic customer service. And me, well I’m extremely passionate about continuing to tell the beautiful stories of our city in as many compelling ways as possible.

Our team is especially proud of the marketing campaign that will highlight our city across multiple platforms and publications throughout 2019. There are many distinct and amazing things Nacogdoches is known for, and that’s just what we’re going to do – show how “We have a Nac for that.” Whether it’s wonderful historic preservation or gorgeous displays of natural beauty (just to name a couple) we certainly have a “Nac” for that. This campaign will highlight these unique oldest-town attributes in a way that will entice visitors to come and experience for themselves.

We want Nacogdoches residents and community partners to know that we are passionate about Nacogdoches and we are passionate about our roles. We are truly honored to carry the ever-important responsibility of marketing our city to the outside world. We do not take the task lightly. We invite you to keep an eye on our efforts and join us in pointing out all the things our community has a “Nac” for. There are so many, and we are so proud to point them out.



In Defense of Hoarders

by Brad Maule

I’ve always heard about “Spring Cleaning,” but I’m also always a little late to the party, so this year I did “August Cleaning.” It was a huge mistake. First of all, it’s hot in Nacogdoches in August...and muggy. I think most of us have at least one closet, where everything you don’t use, but refuse to throw away, goes into it. Well, I went there.



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

I stepped into that windowless room and began to clean. I carried the first box into the living room, sat in the middle of the floor, and opened it up. My plan was to ruthlessly go through the “stuff” and throw at least fifty percent away regardless of sentimental value. The first thing I found was a tiny pink tennis shoe that had my daughter’s name written on the toe. Sigh. Since it was only one shoe, I had already thrown fifty percent away, so I kept that precious memory and moved on.

Next, I found letters from my mother from all my years away from home. Many of those letters contained dried sprigs of Lilacs that once grew in our yard. Okay. I took a big breath and dug a little deeper. I would try to find something else not quite so valuable.

My mother’s letters were all neatly saved and sorted by my sister, Charlotte, who passed away this past Spring. It was just too soon to throw anything from Charlotte away. Not enough time had passed.

Down in the bottom of the box was a stack of my report cards from grade school as well as little trophies from all the talent shows of my youth. These metal cups held the “head waters” of my show business career if you will, and there’s no way I’m ever going to throw any of that valuable historic stuff. Finally, in frustration, I tied the box back up just as I had found it. Nothing to see here, and certainly nothing to throw away. I put it back in the closet where I found it.

All day long I looked, read, remembered, and eventually put back up everything I intended to get rid of. At the end of the day, the closet pretty much looked just like it did when I opened that Pandora’s box of memories, except I had removed years of dust and was wearing that on my clothes and hands, so I did get something done.

There’s just stuff in life that’s too important to throw away. When I die, someone else can make those decisions, but for me, for now, I’m keeping it. Call me sentimental, call me a lot worse, but I value where I’ve been and sometimes on a hot August day, I remember, and it’s a good thing.

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Around the Town is published and distributed on the first day of each month. 8,000 **FREE** copies are available in more than 140 locations in Nacogdoches and San Augustine Counties. The paper may also be viewed online **FREE** at www.AroundTheTown.us.

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Our Pledge . . .

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

Jamie Rodrigues - State Farm Insurance

by Cheryl Harvey Hill

Whether you are looking for **Auto, Home, Life, Health Insurance, or Bank, Annuities** and... what? Wait a minute! Bank? Annuities? Yep, you read that correctly. In addition to helping you with any and all of your insurance needs, **Jamie Rodrigues** will also help you learn about **State Farm Bank®**. That's right! State Farm® **online banking** and **mobile banking** is here to help you manage your finances. Needless to say, Jamie's college degree in Finance is now coming in handy since, in addition to your everyday banking, they also help with home mortgages, vehicle loans, credit cards and more.



Jamie was born and raised in **Nacogdoches** and is pleased to have her family here too. She feels very fortunate to have been raised in beautiful East Texas where there is such a variety of landscapes. She loves the community and feels blessed that this has been her home, her entire life. Growing up, she was very involved in sports. She was a softball pitcher and when she played she was called **JRod** (long before a certain major league baseball player ever thought of being so clever with his name). She came from a family of pitchers. Her father was a baseball pitcher and her grandfather and great-grandfather were both fast-pitch softball pitchers. She says, "it's kind of cool that I was able to carry on that tradition. Sports were a huge part of my life. I'm certain they helped mold me and I'm sure that is where I got my competitive spirit. It has carried over into my business and allowed me to lead a successful team." Jamie now has a young daughter who is carrying on the tradition. She just started to play softball this year, for her, there is a new branch in her ancestry tree since Jamie's husband played baseball and he was also a pitcher.

Jamie loves being outdoors and especially enjoys being out on the water. She also loves to work out and running is one of her favorite forms of exercise. She says her great-grandmother, **Vera Rodrigues**, was always an inspiration to her. Vera was the first woman in their family to attend college. She graduated from **SFA**. She was a teacher and she also taught physical education. She played softball and she was known as Ms. Rod. She was a firm believer in exercising and she walked at least three or four miles every day. She lived to be 99 1/2 years old. Jamie says if exercising every day is what it takes to get to 99 1/2, well, she is going to keep it up.

Jamie wanted to be sure we mentioned that despite the fact that Nacogdoches is considered a small town, her agency has ranked in the top fifty of all the 18,000 State Farm Agencies in the country, for at least five of the last fifteen years. She definitely gives credit to her amazing team, after all, their collective experience adds up to more than 100 years. They are quite proud of that fact. Jamie feels very fortunate to have them to work with but although she and her team have won many awards, they definitely credit their wonderful customers for their overall success. She says, "Without our customers, fifteen years of being a successful State Farm agency would not be possible. I want to thank all of them for believing in us."

www.jamierodrigues.com - www.facebook.com/jamierodriguesagency
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*Source: Nacogdoches County MLS, Residential Listings and Sales

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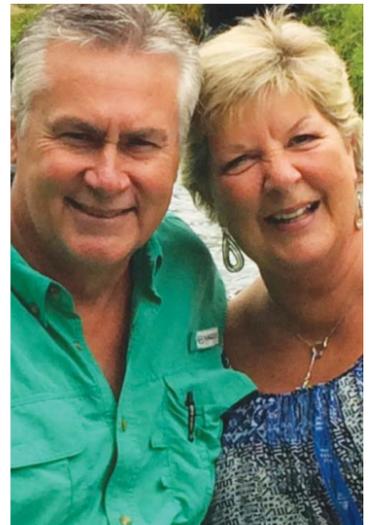
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Steve Traylor - Texas First Health

by Cheryl Harvey Hill



Steve Traylor says he has been proudly serving Texans for over three decades, ever since he moved to Nacogdoches in 1979. His wife and business partner, Sarah, was born and raised here. They are the owners of **Texas First Health**. They are a small family business, just the two of them, and they enjoy working together. Their goal is to help all of their clients find the right coverage for themselves, their families, and/or their business and always at the most affordable price. They specialize in **“Health Plans”** and **“Employee Benefits.”** As independent insurance agents, they work for their clients and not the insurance company. Nothing makes them happier than hearing they have met or exceeded their clients’ expectations. Steve says, “We don’t just sell insurance policies, we build relationships with our customers to provide the protection they require. By providing one-on-one service, we can better understand their specific obligations and demands, giving us the tools necessary to find the coverage that best fits their lifestyle, business, and most importantly, their budget.”

The **Medicare Open Enrollment Period** is an annual period of time which **begins October 15th** so they have been gearing up for that. This is when current Medicare users can choose to reevaluate part of their Medicare coverage (their Medicare Advantage and/or Part D plan) and compare it against all the other plans on the market. They make sure their clients are informed about their insurance choices so they can feel confident they are getting the best coverage at the most affordable price. When it comes to **Medicare Supplements, Medicare Advantage, ACA Health Insurance** and more, they can help you sort through your options and find the health plan best suited for your needs. For decades **Texas First Health** has helped individuals, families, and businesses find affordable coverage options with A+ rated insurers.

When they aren’t working they love to travel, they also love the outdoors and enjoy hiking, camping, and fishing. They have a boat so going out on Sam Rayburn Lake is always a relaxing option. On Sundays, you will find Steve teaching Adult Sunday School at **Calvary Baptist Church**. He says, “I love my family. I love my faith, so I just have to say something about it. I would like to say that truly, the biggest blessing I’ve received, and continue to receive from our business, besides being able to provide for my family, is all the wonderful relationships and friendships I have made with people, that I wouldn’t otherwise have. Life truly is all about relationships. The vertical one with our Lord, and the horizontal ones with our family and the people around us. When I leave this earth, no one will count how many policies I’ve sold over the years, however, they will look at how much I have loved the people that God has put in my life.”

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You are cordially invited to join the
Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce

at the
97th Annual Meeting and Membership Banquet

Presented by *The Fredonia Hotel & Convention Center*

In honoring

Gary Justice Business Excellence Awards

Small Business of the Year
 Twigs and Tin

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 Charles Pool Real Estate, Inc.

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and

Citizen of the Year

Dr. Judy A. Abbott

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Non-profit of the Year

Nacogdoches Area United Way

Sponsored by: **Charles Pool Real Estate, Inc.**

Tuesday, September 25, 2018
 6:00 p.m. Reception / 7:00 p.m. Dinner
 The Fredonia Hotel & Convention Center
 200 N. Fredonia Street

Gold Sponsor* - Corporate Recognition - Table of Eight - \$2,000
Silver Sponsor* - Corporate Recognition - Table of Eight - \$1,000
Bronze Sponsor* - Corporate Recognition - Table of Eight - \$750
Reserved Tables - No Recognition - Table of Eight - \$320
Individual Admissions - \$40

Please RSVP by September 14 to the Chamber at 936-560-5533 or email chamber@nactx.com, or online at Nacogdoches.org

• Call the Chamber for more information on sponsor benefits
 Please notify us in advance of any dietary restrictions



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Please include a contact phone number.

VFW Gun Raffle!

VFW Post 3893 in Nacogdoches is conducting a raffle for a Henry "God Bless America Edition Big Boy" .44 Magnum Rifle. This Collectors' Edition firearm features beautiful engraving with the words "God Bless America" and an outline of the 48 contiguous states on a 24K gold plate. The barrel is octagon blued steel and the stock is American Walnut. The magazine capacity is 10 rounds.

Proceeds from the raffle will be used for parking lot improvements and granting life memberships and legacy life memberships to long-time members.

Only 1000 tickets are available. The drawing will be held on August 1, 2019, or when all tickets are sold.

Tickets are priced at \$10 each and are available from Post Commander Don Kirkley at 936.554.6437, Senior Vice Commander Gailon Fletcher at 936.637.9347 or leave message at the VFW Post phone 936.569.9670.

Pictured are Post Commander Kirkley (R) and Senior Vice Commander Fletcher.



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The Stranger On the Phone

"I bet you don't remember me," the woman on the other end of the line said in a cheerful voice. I talk to a lot of customers each day, so I couldn't imagine who she was. The stranger on the phone began to remind me of a night almost a year ago when she woke me just before 4 a.m., lost and afraid somewhere near Beaumont and headed straight into flood waters.

She makes a monthly business trip from Florida to Houston and in the pre-dawn hours as she approached the state line, she discovered Interstate 10 was closed due to flooding caused by Hurricane Harvey. She had driven north, detoured onto a couple of farm roads trying to go around the closure and now she was lost. She somehow found my state number online and couldn't believe she was talking to a real person.

We laughed as we recalled the events of that night, but it was no laughing matter at the time. It has been a year since Hurricane Harvey changed so many lives, dropping more than 60 inches of rain that caused catastrophic flooding along the Gulf Coast, Houston and Beaumont areas.

When I opened drivetexas.org to find her location, I realized she was driving straight into flood waters. I told her to turn around and she asked me to stay on the phone with her until she found her way to Interstate 49 in Louisiana where I directed her to drive north to Shreveport to safely cross the state line.

In the 30 minutes that we were on the phone we talked about kids, jobs, dogs, ex-husbands and anything else I could think of to keep her from feeling alone and afraid. She was mid-sentence when she spotted the interstate sign and shouted with relief. I figured that would be the last I heard from her. When she called last week, she told me that night she decided to find a hotel room. She returned to Florida the next day.

I told my caller that many people think TxDOT only builds and repairs roads. The truth is our resiliency has been tested over the past 100 years. We are strong and safety trained, ready to take on the challenges of storms the likes of Harvey. So many TxDOT employees helped to rescue and rebuild during those weeks of great need, leaving their own homes to work along the Gulf Coast.

On this first anniversary of Hurricane Harvey there are many people just like my caller who are looking back and counting their blessings, and like so many other TxDOT employees also remembering those days, we are glad we were there to help.

She said she will always remember this one night that could have turned out very differently had she not reached a stranger on the phone.



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What's Hot with Anita Scott

The Piney Woods Fair will be October 10th -14th. If you'd like to highlight your local dance, theater, or musical group on the Main Stage during the fair we have 30-45 minute spots available. No fee paid for the performance and no charge to appear. Vendor spaces are available if you're interested in promoting your business or personal creations. Contact our office at 936-564-0849 or emailnacexpo@tx.nacogdoches.tx.us.

SEPTEMBER 8-9, 2018 – REGION V JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL RODEO

Free admission/parking. Concessions open.

Saturday: Starting at Noon, Sunday: Starting at 10:00 AM. Bareback (steer), Saddle Bronc (steer), Barrel Racing, Pole Bending, Team Roping, Breakaway Calf Roping, Steer Wrestling, Goat Tying, and Ribbon Roping.

SEPTEMBER 8, 2018 - PINEY WOODS \$10,000 STEAK DINNER – 5:30 PM – 10:00 PM

Come enjoy a fabulous Ribeye steak dinner, cocktails, live and silent auctions and random drawings for CASH Prizes! The last ticket drawn will receive the \$10,000 Grand Prize! The tickets are \$100 for admission for two. Tickets can be purchased from Nacogdoches County Ag Teachers or contact Scott Smith at 936-554-3912.

SEPTEMBER 14, 2018 – AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY DANCING WITH THE STARS

Esteemed members of Nacogdoches will be taking part in this charity event to show off their dance moves. Tickets are sold out; you can be put on a waiting list. For more information contact the American Cancer Society at 936.634.2940 or email Jennifer.Garcia@cancer.org.

SEPTEMBER 17, 2018 – NACOGDOCHES COUNTY FALL AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

Ag Law in the Field with Tiffany Lashmet. Subjects include Pasture Leasing, Ag Estate Planning, and Fence Law. Free if you RSVP by September 10th to the Extension Office at 936-560-7711. Registration & Meal at 5:30 PM, program starts at 6:00 PM.

For more information contact Ricky Thompson at r-thompson@tamu.edu.

SEPTEMBER 23-24, 2018 – REGION V HIGH SCHOOL RODEO

Free admission/ parking. Concessions available.

Saturday: Starting at 10:00 AM, Sunday: Starting at 9:00 AM. Bareback, Saddle Bronc, Bull Riding, Barrel Racing, Pole Bending, Team Roping, Breakaway Calf Roping, Steer Wrestling and Goat Tying.

SEPTEMBER 28-29, 2018 – G & S GUN SHOW

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 your admission cost covers both days. There is also a special \$6.00 for all military service members.

For information on all our upcoming events like and follow us on Facebook!

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Shop Nac First

by Jessi Pinkert, City of Nac Content Coordinator



ShopNacFirst.com
 Nacogdoches County Chamber

The City of Nacogdoches and the Nacogdoches Chamber of Commerce—along with other constituents in the community— has launched a reboot of our citywide campaign, Shop Nac First! This campaign was created many years ago to raise awareness of the importance of buying local within our community. This campaign promotes local businesses and urges our residents and visitors to do their shopping and dining within Nacogdoches County. By shopping, dining, drinking, playing, and utilizing local services within our community, we can help Nacogdoches' local businesses to remain unique, successful, and vibrant!

What about online businesses? The lure of shopping online is sometimes hard to resist. Shopping local can also include online businesses owned by local Nacogdoches residents. Many of our Nacogdoches businesses have an online presence, and it is important to support them on their many platforms! Recent Supreme Court rulings regarding sales tax should make it easier for our city to collect sales tax from online businesses, however shopping in person in a brick and mortar store will always have the biggest economic impact in our community.

Businesses that have a location in Texas have been required for many years to pay sales tax to cities where their customers receive deliveries of online orders (For example, there may not be a Nordstrom's in Nacogdoches, but there is one in Texas. If you were to order a dress from Nordstrom.com and have it delivered to Nacogdoches, Nordstrom would pay the sales tax to Nacogdoches.) Recently, the Supreme Court ruled this in as a nationwide manner! The new ruling will ensure all cities in Texas are receiving the sales tax they are entitled to. Many local businesses, specifically boutique retailers have an online shop as well as a store, and can offer free ship to store options. Purchasing local helps grow other businesses as well as the city tax base. Approximately 1 dollar for every 100 spent in Nacogdoches goes back to the City.

Buying local helps preserve the character and prosperity of the city we all love. Nacogdoches is as unique as it sounds, and is unlike any other city in the world. The unique character of Nacogdoches is what brought us here and will keep us here. By choosing to support locally owned businesses, we help maintain the diversity and distinctive flair of Nacogdoches. This week, we encourage you to make a purchase from your favorite local business!

2018 Catfish Cookout Fundraiser

Friday, September 14 @ 5 PM
214 E. Pilar Street, Nacogdoches



NHS Announces Distinguished Alumni for 21018

The Nacogdoches High School Alumni Association is pleased to announce its Distinguished Alumni for 2018. These honorees, along with their families, friends, and former teachers, will be presented at home football games this fall.

Lt. Col. Michael Precella (USAF Retired), NHS 1974, will be honored on September 14, when the Dragons take on Tyler Lee. Mike played Dragon baseball and football, was co-captain his senior year at NHS, and remembers hitting the gridiron versus Lee a few times during his days on the field. Mike graduated from Texas A & M and received his Masters from Golden Gate University in California. He retired from active duty in 2006, last serving as Commander of the 625th Missile Operations Flight AFB in Nebraska. He currently is the Joint Training Specialist/Deputy Site Lead for the Garrett Group, J733 after actions branch of United States Strategic Command. His brother Joe is also an NHS graduate, class of 1968.



Lt. Col. Michael Precella, USAF Retired

The Dallas Baker Family will be honored at the Homecoming game on October 5 when the Dragons take on Lindale. NHS Alumni include Dallas Baker, NHS 1939; and his daughter Kathy Baker McGough, NHS 1968; Kathy's children Adam McGough, NHS 1995; and Lori McGough Harkness, NHS 1991; and Lori's sons Christopher, NHS 2019; and Chandler, NHS 2022. Dallas' son Tommy Joe Baker was a radio personality whose son Dallas Joe is an NHS 1987 graduate. Lori's husband Chris Harkness is a 1988 NHS graduate. Dallas Baker was captain of the football team and president of his senior class at NHS. Kathy entered NHS her senior year and was Pom Pom Girl of the Drill Team and loved being in the Senior Musical 'Oklahoma.' She was Miss Nacogdoches in 1968 and has enjoyed a career as a teacher at SFA and is still consulting for Lehmann Eye Center and still singing whenever she can. Lori is the director of the SFA Early Childhood Lab and Adam is an attorney in Dallas, where he also currently serves as the City Councilman for District 10.

Dr. Cory Roberts, NHS 1995, will be honored on October 12, when the Whitehouse Wildcats come to town. He played all sports while at NHS, most notably football and was Homecoming King his senior year. Cory's doctorate is in Organizational Management and Consulting, with a dissertation focus on 'The Millennial Generation in the Workplace.' His undergraduate degrees include an Associate's Degree from Angelina College and Bachelors Degree from Liberty University. He worked for Reliant Energy in Houston, receiving awards and accolades while there, then ventured into starting his own human resource assessment business. While pursuing his doctorate he began working as an actor, and he is now a well-known movie actor and producer in Los Angeles. His deceased sister Tryna Roberts was NHS 1987.

Terri Jo Box, NHS 1990 and SFA 1995, will be presented on October 26, when the Marshall Mavericks come to Dragon Stadium. TJ is a singer/songwriter currently living in Nashville, TN, who enjoyed singing in the choir at NHS along with cheerleading, softball, and theatre. Her music has been featured on many Country Music albums, most recently Miranda Lambert's ACM Album of the Year 'The Weight of These Wings' and new artist Ashley McBryde's current album that is receiving big industry and fan buzz. She has made a major contribution to the songwriting community by creating, booking and hosting two of the longest running writer's showcases in Music City. Her brother Wes Box graduated from NHS in 1987.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award was established in 1995. Its purpose is to honor NHS graduates and former students who are lifetime members of the NHS Alumni Association and have made significant contributions to society and whose accomplishments and careers have brought credit to Nacogdoches High School.

Lifetime Memberships are available on the NHSAA website <https://nhs-alumni.org>. Congratulations to the 2018 NHSAA Distinguished Alumni.



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Chamber Connection
 by Kelly Daniel
 Executive Vice President,
 Nacogdoches County Chamber
 of Commerce

Chamber Names Businesses, Non-Profit and Citizen of the Year

The Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met in July to review nominations and vote for the Chamber's annual awards recipients.

The 2018 Citizen of the Year, the Non Profit of the Year and the Gary Justice Business Excellence Awards recipients are:

- Dr. Judy Abbot, Citizen of the Year - award sponsored by Tipton Ford, Inc.
- Nacogdoches Area United Way, Non Profit of the Year - award sponsored by Charles Pool Real Estate, Inc.
- Twigs & Tin, Small Business of the Year - award sponsored by Heritage Land Bank.
- Charles Pool Real Estate, Inc., Medium Business of the Year - award sponsored by Regions Bank.
- Excel Car Wash & Quick Lube, Large Business of the Year - award sponsored by R&K Distributors, Inc.

The honorees will be recognized at the Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce 97th Annual Meeting and Membership Banquet on Tuesday, Sept. 25 at The Fredonia Hotel and Convention Center, 200 N. Fredonia St. The event begins at 6 p.m. with a social hour. Dinner is served at 7 p.m.

"Nacogdoches is fortunate to be the home of many deserving businesses and individuals," said Chairman Scott Waller, XETX Business Solutions. "My colleagues on the Chamber board are proud to recognize these members of our Chamber who make great contributions to better our community."

The 2018-2019 Chamber board of directors will be inducted at the event and Waller will "pass the gavel" to incoming Chairman Ray Mitchum, M&S Pharmacy.

Bronze sponsorships are available for \$750 and include corporate recognition and seating for eight or nine. Individual admission tickets are available for \$40. Contact the Chamber at 936-560-5533 for reservations. Seating is limited, and the reservation deadline is Sept. 17.

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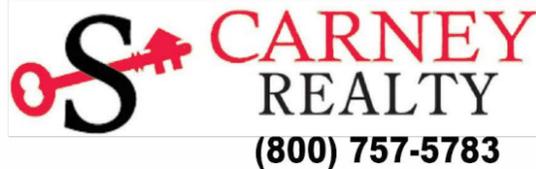
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With all of today's great young artists such as Kenny Chesney, Luke Bryan, Jason Aldean and others, many sometimes wonder; "where has the "real" classic Country music escaped to? Where are the entertainers these days who still love to perform the TRUE classics by such immortals as Ray Price, Merle Haggard, Ernest Tubb, Buck Owens, Willie Nelson and others? Well that's an easy question to answer, and in the Southeast Texas area it is only ONE NAME;... Chris Bergeron!

At a Chris Bergeron show you are liable to hear Country "classics" performed by no other Southeast Texas artist! Don't misunderstand Chris, he is a fan of ALL the Nashville superstars, he simply prefers the "classics." Chris loves to see his audience dancing and having an unforgettable experience! He understands that his job is to make certain his audience has a great time!

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Climbing the Mountain of Fear

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. (2 Timothy 1:7, NKJV)

Fear affects the rich and famous and the powerful: Howard Hughes was so afraid of germs that he used 4 boxes of Kleenex every day. Alfred Hitchcock was afraid of policemen. Sports commentator John Madden is afraid of flying in airplanes. Joseph Stalin was so afraid of being poisoned or

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

murdered that he had eight bedrooms which could be locked up like safes in a bank, and no one would ever know from one night to the next in which of these bedrooms he would sleep. Peter the Great, considered “the greatest czar of Russia,” was terrified of crossing bridges. Julius Caesar remarked that even the shouts of his enemies were music to his ears, but he suffered from brontophobia – the fear of thunder.

Jesus was continually confronted with the problem of fear. The words “fear,” “anxious,” “troubled,” and “afraid,” were often in His speech. “Fear not. Be not anxious.” “Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” He spoke often in this manner, for often He met fear in the lives of those He loved.

Faith overcomes fear when God is first. You must begin with faith or fear will flourish. The psalmist wrote, “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1). Fear in your life is like sand in machinery. Faith in your life is like oil – it lubricates the life.

A LITTLE HUMOR: One day Grandma sent her grandson down to the water hole to get some water for cooking dinner. As he was dipping the bucket into the water, he saw two big eyes looking back at him. He dropped the bucket and high-tailed it for Grandma’s kitchen.

“Well now, where’s my bucket and where’s my water?” Grandma asked him.

“I can’t get any water from that water hole, Grandma,” exclaimed her grandson. “There’s a big ol’ alligator down there!”

“Now don’t you mind that ol’ alligator. He’s been there for a few years now, and he’s never hurt no one. Why, he’s probably as scared of you as you are of him!”

“Well, Grandma,” replied her grandson, “if he’s as scared of me as I am of him, then that water ain’t fit to drink!”

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Angela's Monthly Recipe

It's Oyster Season!!

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

Ingredients:

- 24-30 Oysters about the size of a quarter
- 1 egg
- 2 cups cornmeal
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 2 tablespoons flour



Instructions:

Drain oysters. In a bowl, beat egg, add to drained oysters and let stand for 10 minutes.
 Mix cornmeal, salt, pepper and flour.
 Dredge oysters in cornmeal mixture and fry in batches in deep hot oil or shortening – at about 370 F – until golden brown.
 Drain on paper towels.
 To stretch the cost on these you can serve as Oyster Poboys.
 I always ask my guests how they want their oysters fried – soft, medium or crispy. I prefer mine soft fried!

Oyster Dipping Sauce:

1/3 cup Ketchup, 1 tablespoon of horseradish, 1 teaspoon of lemon juice and one teaspoon Worcestershire sauce. Simply mix together and ready to serve.

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The Old Farmer

by Jerry Permenter

There used to be an old farmer who lived off a dogleg road between Highway 21 and Highway 7 in my home county. He didn't drive, but lived in his one room farmhouse, still as a sharecropper for the land-owner.

He loved to go coon hunting with my old man, and he kept two or three blue or red tick hounds on his place that slept under his porch. I remember asking daddy if he had lights, and Daddy told me no, there was no electricity to his one room shack.

One moonlit night, after a hunt, he invited Daddy back to his farmhouse to see his new dog calling horn, one he'd honed to perfection from a cow horn. Both he and my daddy made their own for calling their dogs in and tried to get the finest one they could, with the strongest call when you blew through it.

I remember going into the shack, sitting by the old wood heater as he stoked the coals after our hunt. It wasn't until my eyes adjusted to the single lantern light, that I could see the single bed, neatly made, and I noticed there were stacks of Vicks cough syrup and vanilla flavoring bottles in one corner of the room. They were in one pile, and had accumulated over some time.

On the way home, I asked Daddy about it.

"Well, son, when his wife and kids left him, they say he turned to drinking anything he could get his hands on. But I didn't realize it was still that bad for him until I saw all those bottles tonight."

I never forgot that poor old farmer, and always wondered what happened to him. One day, his farmhouse was just empty and he was gone without a trace, along with his dogs as well. We knocked and it was as if he'd left sometime in the night, with just the dog chains hanging off his porch.



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.

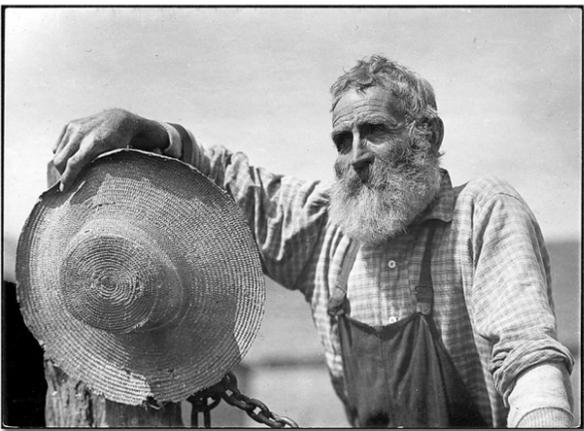


Photo from Jerry D Permenter's post in Red Dirt Memories.

Do You Remember...?



Old Nacogdoches County Courthouse built in 1911-12 in the Greek Revival style. It was built on the site of the Old Church Square, location of the early Catholic Church and the old Spanish Cemetery. It was replaced in 1958 by the present Nacogdoches County Courthouse. Its location marks the intersection of two of the oldest roads in North America: La Calle del Norte (US Hwy 59) and El Camino Real (Texas Hwy 21).

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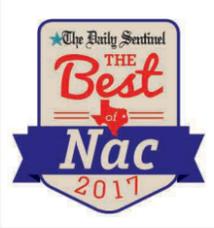
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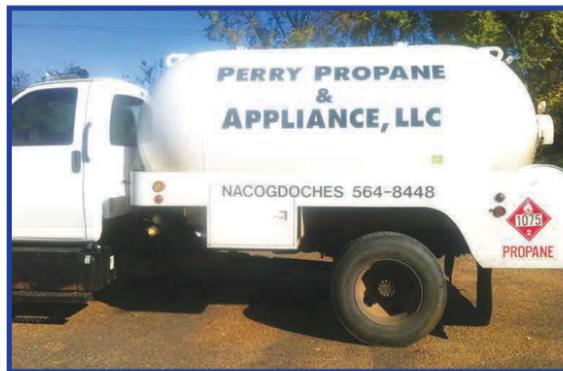
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BIG THANKS to David Stallings and James Aston from all of us at Appleby Sand Mercantile Cafe' for the new paper they've put together. All week we have had NEW customers...Locals who didn't know about us and travelers who picked up the paper in gas stations and hotels. As a business owner, I love to hear how the dollars spent advertising WORKED!!!

Thank you, David and James! If you are looking for a way to advertise that really works, give David a call at 936.554.5822. This has been the best results from an ad I've ever had!

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MONUMENT CORNER

One-half block south from last month's First United Methodist Church Monument is a monument that commemorates the site of the first Catholic Church in Nacogdoches. The monument is located on Pecan Street between Main and Hospital streets in the Commercial Bank parking lot. This monument reads as follows:

ORIGINAL LOCATION OF SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'S HISTORY HAS BEEN INTER-TWINED WITH THAT OF NACOGDOCHES SINCE THE FIRST SPANISH MISSIONS WERE CONSTRUCTED IN THE AREA DURING THE EARLY EIGHTEENTH CENTURY. DISRUPTIONS IN THE CHURCH'S ACTIVITIES OCCURRED 1719-1721 DURING FRENCH INCURSIONS INTO TEXAS, FROM 1773 UNTIL 1779 WHEN THE SPANISH ABANDONED NACOGDOCHES, AND FROM THE BEGINNINGS OF THE TEXAS REVOLUTION IN 1834 UNTIL 1847, AFTER TEXAS WAS ADMITTED INTO THE UNITED STATES.

WHEN THE CHURCH CREATED THE DIOCESE OF GALVESTON IN 1847, THE FIRST BISHOP, JEAN MARIE ODIN, UPGRADED NACOGDOCHES FROM MISSION TO PARISH STATUS. THE CREATION OF THE PARISH MARKED THE OFFICIAL ESTABLISHMENT OF SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH. FRENCH PRIEST FATHER LOUIS CHAMBODUT WAS APPOINTED AS THE FIRST PASTOR OF THE NEWLY FORMED PARISH. IN ITS EARLIEST DAYS, THE SACRED HEART PARISH ENCOMPASSED AN AREA FROM THE SABINE RIVER TO THE RED RIVER, AND WEST TO DALLAS, UNTIL THE FORMATION OF OTHER PARISHES DURING THE NEXT FOUR DECADES.

IN 1847, SACRED HEART PARISH BUILT A 50' X 26' FRAME CHURCH BUILDING ON THE EAST SIDE OF ELM (LATER PECAN) STREET, BETWEEN MAIN AND HOSPITAL STREETS. AS NEEDS CHANGED, SEVERAL ADDITIONS WERE MADE TO THE ORIGINAL STRUCTURE, INCLUDING A BELFRY AND RECTORY. THIS CENTRAL LOCATION, IN THE HEART OF NACOGDOCHES, SERVED THE PARISH UNTIL THE 1930s. THE CONGREGATION MOVED TO A LARGER HOME ON NORTH STREET AT THE CORNER OF MIMMS AVENUE IN 1936, AND LATER TO A THIRD LOCATION ON APPLEBY SAND ROAD IN 1992. THE 1847 CHURCH STRUCTURE, REMOVED FROM ITS ORIGINAL SITE AND RELOCATED SEVERAL TIMES, WAS FINALLY PLACED AT THE CHURCH'S CURRENT SITE FOR RESTORATION.

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SAN AUGUSTINE COUNTY

The Jail That Almost Wasn't

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.



The San Augustine County Sheriff's Department moved out of the old jail building into a new one in 2001. The old jail built in 1919 no longer passed muster with the state. So now the Sheriff's department's building is new, with modern equipment, and meets all the state of Texas' requirements. But what happened to the old jail that had served the county for so many years?

In 2002 the old jail was named the "Nathan Tindall" building honoring San Augustine County's longest serving sheriff of almost forty years. Soon after that the last remaining office, the Probation Office, moved out leaving the building vacant. Soon, it was being used as a storage building for many of the county offices. The old jail cells were filled with books, papers, furniture, and other items.

The citizens of San Augustine and several service clubs decided to raise money to restore the ancient building and turn it into a museum honoring our past and present law enforcement officers. It was amazing how the citizens responded with donations, and several grants were garnered. Soon they had collected enough money to completely restore the old building into something beautiful.



The building is now filled with artifacts, photographs, and memorabilia of past sheriffs, sheriff deputies, city police officers, game wardens, state troopers, constables and their deputies. Also included are county judges, district judges, and justices-of-the-peace. Visitors may climb the steel stairway to the second floor to see where most prisoners were housed in the past.

Visitors can research the computer database of over four million documents dating back to 1830, to check out their ancestors in San Augustine County. They can visit the "Texana" library comprised of hundreds of books once owned by Willie Earl Tindall, N. L. Tindall's wife.

The museum, located on the courthouse square, is open to the public five days a week from 11am to 3pm. Special arrangements can be made for group tours on Saturdays.

THE BACKSTORY

A study of the San Augustine County Commissioner's Court records reveals that Sheriff R.L. Watts had repeatedly asked the commissioners to grant him monies to repair the old jail. Records of these meetings in March of 1919 reveal that he was repeatedly denied. However, the court was evidently aware that a new jail was needed.

On March 10, 1919, the commissioner's court examined bids for erecting a new jail. Only two bids were received. The bid from Pauly Jail Building Company of St. Louis was \$21,640.00. The bid from the Southern Steel Company of San Antonio was \$20,000. The court dismissed and scheduled a meeting for the next day.



Old San Augustine jail before restoration.

The bids were again reviewed and discussed. Commissioner L.J. Rigsby made a motion to build the building and accept the bid of Southern Steel Company. The motion was seconded by Commissioner J. P. Loggins.

Commissioners Loggins and Rigsby voted "Yes" on the motion. Commissioners J. E. Fitzgerald and Joe Sumner voted "No." Thus, there was a tie which could be untied only by a vote of the county judge. Judge E. T. Anderson voted "Yes," therefore the motion passed.



San Augustine jail after restoration.

Consequently, the new two story steel, concrete, and brick building, the new jail, was constructed in 1919 and occupied by the end of the year. But for the vote of a brave county judge, the jail building probably would not exist today. The citizens today are truly thankful for his vote to build the new jail back in 1919. It has served its purpose well, even though it was approved by just a single vote. As is said today, "every vote counts."



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