

Issue 10
Summer 2020

East Texan



CHANGE OF PLANS

Family rallies together to rebuild
after devastating tornado



Together we're better.

Whether looking to become a rural land owner, buy that ideal hunting property or finance your farm or ranching operation — with Capital Farm Credit, you're covered. We even have special programs for beginning farmers and veterans. Because we're a cooperative, your goals are our goals. And our patronage dividend program means we share our profits and put money back in your pocket.



CROCKETT 936.544.7582 | 1042 S. 4th St.

 capitalfarmcredit.com | NMLS493828

Sweet as Summer

AMERICAN CHERRY PIE *featuring*
Brownwood Farms Cherry Pie Filling & Topping



The White Peacock
— OLIVE OIL & VINEGAR COMPANY —

112 S. 1ST STREET | 936-238-2866
LUFKIN | WHITEPEACOCKOLIVEOIL.COM

Hours | TUESDAY - SATURDAY
12 - 5PM

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



This issue posed some historical challenges.

We are all dealing with fears that sound like they evolved from the plot of a scary novel. During a time where people are encouraged to stay locked down at home and keep clear of others, the team involved with the East Texan Magazine has still managed to bring you a variety of great stories.

Lisa found a sweet story about beekeeping from a few people who share the passion of cultivating liquid gold. Caleb went exploring deep into the woods to discover a lost town and shared photos of the structural remains.

Chris was able to catch up with our hometown girl Laci Booth and find out what exciting life changes are on her horizon. He was also able to spook up a local paranormal writer in the Big Thicket who finds inspiration in the unique personalities in her area.

Jeff went adventuring and brought us along for a historical treat in Shelby County. He couldn't help but meet colorful figures along the way and found a man with a creative skill. Mr. Whitehead carves fishing lures by hand and discovered he could make a living doing what he enjoys.

Kelli went shopping, and we all get to sneak a peek at the fantastic finds available right near our homes.

Debbie shared her story of surviving the recent tornado as her family clung together in their home in Onalaska. And how their community is working to rebuild from the terrible losses.

Along the way, we lost a team member and friend, Sherry Driskell, who was part of our advertising team, and we all mourn her passing.

That is just some of what you will find inside this issue. Everyone really came together to create these informative and entertaining stories.

~ Debbie Dickerson
East Texan editor

Publisher's Note: *It is with great sadness, that we say goodbye to our co-worker and friend, Sherry Driskell. She died of a rare and aggressive form of cancer, after a short illness. A beloved wife and mother, she was enthusiastic about selling the East Texan Magazine and had plans to keep selling even into retirement. Much love to you, Sherry.*



On The Cover



Photograph by Jim Powers.
See full story on page 20.

Meet the staff

Publisher

Kelli Barnes

Editor

Debbie Dickerson

Design & Graphics Team

Amanda Barker

Beth Faircloth

Amy Holzworth

Advertising Team

Madison Bland

Jeff Fatheree

Ashley Keenan

Kay Loy Schrimsher

Keitha Swann

Patsy Tompkins

Writers & Photographers

Kelli Barnes

Jason Chlapek

Kent Dickens

Chris Edwards

Jeff Fatheree

Caleb Fortenberry

Amy Holzworth

Lisa Polk

Jim Powers

Debbie Robins

Barbara White

East Texan

easttexanmag.com

Polk County Publishing Co.

Alvin Holley, owner

100 E Calhoun St. • P.O. Box 1726

Livingston, Tx 77351

936-327-4357

To contact the editor, email Debbie Dickerson at editor@easttexanmag.com.

East Texan magazine is published by Polk County Publishing Company, Inc. No portion may be reproduced, duplicated or reprinted without written permission from PCPC.

Scan to see additional photos and content or to subscribe.



Below is our coverage area. If you are interested in advertising and would like to find out more, please see 'How to Advertise' inside this issue.

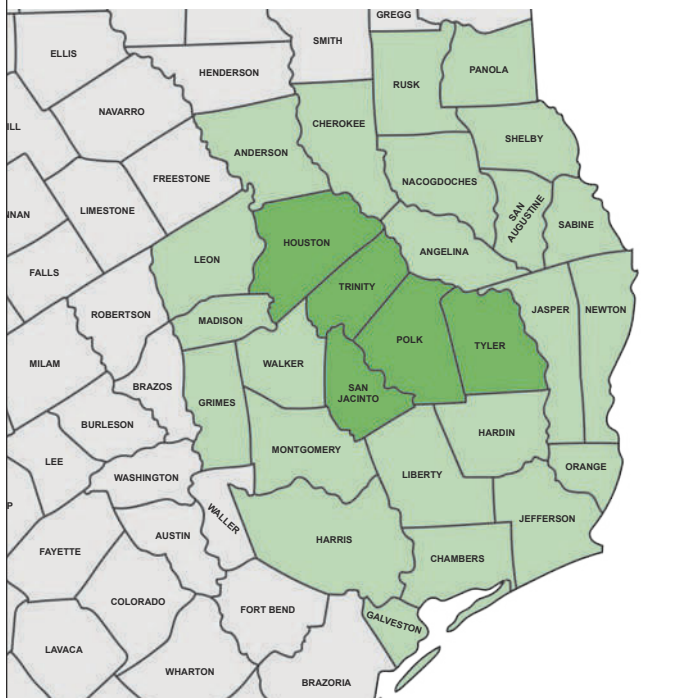


Table of Contents

- 16 Education
What does it look like?
- 32 Music
Booth eyes the big time
- 48 People
The story and inspiration of folk-art lures
- 52 Recipe
Fire & ice tomatoes
- 54 People
East Texas mysteries
- 56 Day Trip
The historic courthouse square
- 60 Observational
History will remain a mystery for a while
- 62 Shop East Texas
- 68 Calendar of Events

Features

- 6 Amazing Benefits of Beekeepers and Bees
- 20 Change of Plans
Family rallies together to rebuild after devastating tornado
- 38 Remnants of Rockland



Amazing Benefits of Beekeepers and Bees



Story by Lisa Polk

Photos by Kent Dickens & Lisa Polk

As summer arrives with breathtaking sunsets, soft subtle breezes, and expectations of the fun times it can afford, one buzzing conversation between neighborhood porches, yards, and walkways tends to be how the gardens and crops are doing. Scanning across the cultivated gardens and fields, we anxiously anticipate the beautiful blooms and produce from our planting efforts taken a couple of months ago. Many factors might come into play as to why gardens and crops are more prolific than others, but one believable certainty is the effects of bees. In order to better understand the full picture, we turn to the experts, the beekeepers. Gratefully, we have experts right here in our local area. Follow along with me down Highway 146 in Livingston, Texas to Rudy's Honey as we visit with friends who have been in the beekeeping business for over a few decades.

Warm welcomes of "Hi! How are you?" amidst the many beautifully handcrafted products began the enlightening tour of knowledge about the many wonderful benefits of bees. Mr. Dan Rudebusch, an expert beekeeper, began bee farming right out of high school with a few bee hives, growing to over a couple of hundred, and then later reaching 2000 hives. From

Nebraska and North Dakota, to California and Texas, Mr. and Mrs. Rudebusch have been in the beekeeping business for close to forty years together and shared captivating information of the many benefits we gain from bees.

Health

Local honey has been found to help with allergies depending on what the allergies are and keeping in mind that it does take time to build up immunities.

Honey is a mild antibiotic and moisturizer. We use honey in our soap, sugar scrubs, face creams and lotion products. Beeswax is also used in our lip balms. These all natural products make your skin feel so smooth.

Honey was used back before World War I and before the use of Penicillin for minor cuts and burns. Now with so many people getting immune to antibiotics, some are going back to considering the use of honey.

Enjoyment

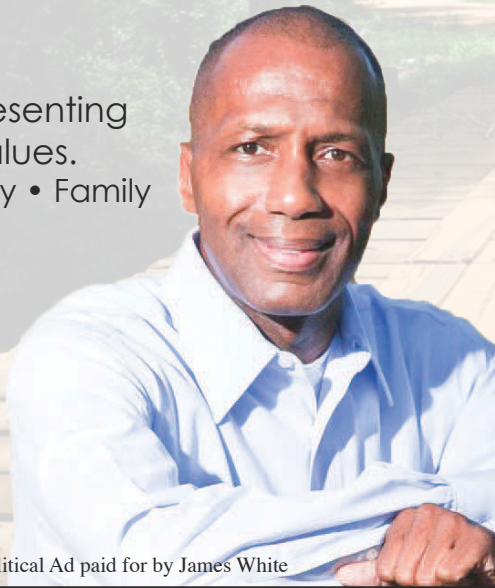
Candles with beeswax burn longer than other types and help clean the air. Many churches use beeswax candles.

Beeswax can help lubricate objects such as doors

STATE REPRESENTATIVE JAMES WHITE

*I would like to thank the people of East Texas
for again placing their trust in me!*

Proudly representing
East Texas values.
God • Country • Family



Political Ad paid for by James White

Fuel their
dreams
now...

You never know
how far it will
take them.



PAPPY'S HOBBY SHOP

409-331-6715

219 WEST BLUFF STREET
WOODVILLE, TX 75979

*Build your dreams
one deposit at a time.*



Open a savings account for yourself or a loved one. We want to be your bank.



FIRST STATE BANK

112 W. Polk | Livingston, TX
(936) 327-5211

2300 Hwy. 190 W. | Livingston, TX
(936) 327-5211

6320 Hwy. 59 S. | Shepherd, TX
(936) 628-3347

14200 US Hwy. 190 W. | Onalaska, TX
(936) 646-6600



Bees will happily get sugar to make their honey anywhere they can find it.



Worker bees tend to their queen, which has been marked by beekeepers to help them locate her.

that squeak, factory lines, thread that would otherwise get knotted, beadwork, surfboards, skateboards, and saddles.

Liquid honey as well as creamed honey with mix-ins such as cinnamon, pecans, dried fruit, and peanut butter offer a tasty spread and a delicious treat for anytime of the year.

For many years before going to the store to buy candy, the honeycomb was kept back for a special sweet treat after the honey had dripped out. This nostalgic memory still holds true today.

Produce

Bees pollinate our plants, so without the bees we wouldn't have the abundance of food that we have. In fact, local bees have helped California pollinate the almond crops. California is now the number one almond producer in the world.

West Texas cotton crops have also benefited from our local bees.

Observations, phases, and precautions that are necessary in the beekeeping business were interesting to learn about. The following information shared by the experts allows just a snapshot of what it takes for the year round process.

For instance, right now at the beginning of June is time to extract the honey and relocate the bees. Waiting for drier weather is not an option. Starting in January it's time to get a load of bees ready to go to California for pollination. Then, it's time to start making up our nucs and do the queen raising. In April, we start checking on boxes and as May arrives, we are putting on more boxes because we are making our honey. Now comes June, and they are taking more boxes off and we start extracting and relocating them for better conditions where they can thrive and get more natural pollen and nectar. One precaution is to consider if and when pesticides are being sprayed, and choosing a location where pesticides are not being sprayed is important for the bees, especially as



pesticides could kill them off. Finding nonpesticide areas where clover naturally grows is an ideal location where bees can thrive. The wildflowers here in Southeast Texas is the source that creates the wonderful smell and taste of honey. It's amazing what God has created the bees to be able to do!

Additional Interesting Facts about Bees

The worker bees are females and one bee in her lifetime makes 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey, so a big strong hive is needed to make an abundance of honey.

Warm nights and abundant pollen is what makes your bees grow.

When the weather gets too hot, the bees fan to keep the hive at a certain temperature. It's like creating their own air conditioner. However, in the winter time they rotate to keep heat.

Hives must be maintained for any pests so that a colony collapse does not occur. It takes a lot of maintenance to keep the hives in good condition.

It was an honor and joy to have taken a tour to learn about the processes involved with beekeeping along with the systems of extracting honey. If you find yourself traveling through the Livingston area down Highway 146, you'll see a sign displayed as Rudy's Honey, and it will be well worth your visit to buzz on in. Rudy's Honey is a family owned and operated business, and visiting with the Rudebusch family makes you feel right at home. You can also visit their website at www.rudyshoney.com where you can shop, access store hours and obtain contact information.

Reconnecting with friends is heartwarming and fun! I also reached out to a longtime family friend, Kent Dickens, from the Tyler and Polk County area who began beekeeping as a hobby a few years ago in Montgomery County. I enjoyed listening as he shared a wealth of knowledge about his experiences with beekeeping. Kent shared many ways of how bees have benefited his family. He's always been intrigued with and enjoys observing how bees work and communicate as well as the tremendous impact they make on his family's flowers and garden. A few years ago, he began talking with the guys at work who helped him get started with his first hive of bees. He was able to learn a lot from experiences with the first hive and build on ideas from friends and neighbors with the common interest of beekeeping. He shares how even though it's hot wearing all the equipment such as the ventilated veil, jacket, and gloves, beekeeping is actually kind of relaxing.

Kent shared about the many benefits we gain from bees.

Kent Dickens finds a 'little helper' in his daughter, Hayesleigh.

Family owned and operated, dedicated to providing top-notch Air Conditioning and Heating services, always with a smile.

Best AIR

(936) 967-4444

"Proudly serving East Texas since 1983."

FINANCING AVAILABLE!
PAYMENT STARTING AT **\$60/MONTH***

*On qualifying system. With approved credit. Subject to change. Call for complete details.

\$25 OFF OF ANY REPAIR
\$25 off of any repair of \$250 or more with Best Air Conditioning and Heating

*This offer cannot be combined with any other offers and can only be used once per household. Call today to schedule a visit.

ASK US ABOUT THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

- Repair Services
- Commercial Services
- Installation/Replacement
- Home Comfort Air Quality
- Maintenance Agreements

AVAILABLE 7 DAYS A WEEK

BESTAIRANDHEATLLC.COM

SONIC
America's Drive-In

Breakfast 6am - All Day

Meal Deals

Wacky Pack Kids Meals

Frozen Favorites

Happy Hour 2pm-5pm Everyday

1008 West Church • LIVINGSTON • 936-327-3101

Relax. Restore. Rejuvenate.

State-of-the-art skincare services and treatments in a beautiful spa environment that enhances beauty, well-being and serenity.

SKIN | BODY | HAIR

Monday-Thursday 9-5 (Thurs. by appt. only after 5)
Friday 10-5
Saturday 9-5



1200 E. Houston Ave. | Crockett, TX 75835
936.546.9117



Gifts • Home • Apparel
406 E. Houston Ave. • Downtown Crockett
(936)545-1906
www.BellaGiftsFromTheHeart.com





**EXTERIOR
CLEANING
Experts**

**SoftWash
SPECIALIST**

5 STAR RATED
★★★★★
thru Google, BBB & Facebook





In Business Since 2011

Residential & Commercial

Contact us to help you with all the services we have to offer

We Serve All of EAST TEXAS!!

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed

lopezpressurewash.com

Francisco & Ashley Lopez, Owner

936-676-9801 



Production

Kent explained how the bees have made a difference in the production of his peach trees and shared, “One tree has had over 100 peaches already, and I know it was from the bees because I saw them all over the blooms. The pollination and ability to increase production on anything that produces like that is due to the pollination and that just makes all the difference in the world to be able to have more yield.” Gardeners will also enjoy an increase in produce as a result of bee activity.

Allergies

Another benefit is being able to use the honey to help with allergies. Kent explains how the honey has all of the local pollen in it which has helped his family build up a resistance. Keeping honey on hand to eat a spoonful a day has helped them not have the trouble with allergies as in previous years.

Beekeeping involves many responsibilities and necessary precautions. Pest invasions are one threat that could hinder productivity.

Pesticides

Concerned about the bee population and the use of pesticides, Kent explains how he has started utilizing

natural products to help control the populations. He explains how the Varroa mites are a pest that can go in, attach themselves to the bees, and introduce disease into the hive. If the mite population gets too big, it can cause stress on the hive and change the bees’ behavior. The small hive beetle must be contended with in the spring and summer when the bees bring in the pollen. This pest feeds on the pollen and they will lay their eggs in the cells which can cause a lot of issues. If the bee population is strong enough, they can control them, but they can’t get rid of them. If the population out measures the bees, the bees will leave the hive.

Interesting Observations

Kent shares how bees are very interesting to observe. A full hive of bees is generally about 8,000 bees. There’s only one queen who lays about 2,000 eggs a day. All of the worker bees are females. The male bees (drones) in the hive are only there in the spring and summer to fertilize the queen and then die off in the winter.

Watching how they interact and communicate with each other is amazing! They communicate with pheromones. Once when helping get a swarm of bees in, Kent observed the bees line up along the entrance of the hive, flap their wings, and release pheromones to tell the other bees of their



A display of waxed-based candles made with local beeswax.

relocation to a new home. Kent explained the captivating communication and teamwork of bees.

Because of the pheromones, if you remove a colony as from a wall of a house, once you put the queen in a box, it will be like a line of soldiers marching to the box.

It is truly amazing to see how they all work together. The worker bees' lifespan is about 42 days. Once the queen lays the egg, in about 18 days they will hatch and immediately go to work taking care of the other eggs and larvae and helping them grow. Once they get a couple weeks old, they move onto another job in the hive. Toward the end of their life, they become foragers where they will go out and get the pollen and the nectar and bring it in. From the minute they emerge they start working.

Kent shared how the spring and summer months are the busy times of the year as the population starts building up, and if it gets too large, they will start swarming. Additionally, during this time too, the honey flow starts happening. About July, things start tapering off with the flowers and nectar sources, so we tend to leave a little honey in there for the bees to survive on over the dearth when it is still dry. From August in fall we treat for the mites so the bees don't have to deal with that. In the winter there is a small honey flow when the goldenrod

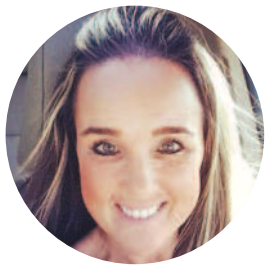
starts blooming, but I don't care for it as much. I leave it alone and let the bees use it to make it through the winter. You also make sure they have water to help them along. The queen will slow down on laying as they reduce their numbers down to conserve and stay warm in the winter. They slow down in the winter, and the cycle starts over again in the spring. The summer is my favorite time when the bees start building up and you really get to see them in action.

It was inspiring to visit with a longtime family friend about all of the interesting intricacies involved in beekeeping and the wonderful benefits we gain from bees. As we were winding down our conversation, talking about our families and how everyone was doing, I couldn't help but think about the stories and conversations about gardening and crops that our parents and grandparents must have shared in their early years as they enjoyed porch visits and church events together in the great Piney Woods of East Texas. If your memory can journey back in time to have ever had the opportunity to attend any of the East Texas church homecomings, singings, or dinner on the ground occasions, you've most likely enjoyed one of Patsy's (Kent's mom) delicious desserts. I'm quite sure if she were to share her recipe with us today, it would have Kent's honey on the list of ingredients. ■

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

Region 6 director analyzes the future of public education

Story by Jason Chlapek



Tally Jo Stout
Region 6 Director
Huntsville Center

There are a lot of uncertainties surrounding the COVID-19 outbreak.

One of these uncertainties is how will people get “back to normal” after months of social distancing. Tally Jo Stout of the Region 6 education center in Huntsville gave her analysis on it.

“When we left at Spring Break, we all had the notion that we would be back in five days,” she said. “The majority of the state left for Spring Break at that point. We all thought we would return back to school. Most schools are not on a one-to-one technology basis, so what we found was that it took a few weeks for us to find a groove for what education would look like for them. In our 60-plus school districts in Region 6, we have some districts that went completely online, we have some that went completely paper copy, and we have some that did a hybrid. Research conducted by the TEA suggested that students could be a year behind. I think some of our districts were very prepared. They had the relationships with students already to flip the model very quickly.”

Region 6 covers a 15-county region that includes Houston, Polk, San Jacinto and Trinity counties, and ranges from the Brazos Valley to the Gulf Coast and Deep East Texas. Other Region 6 counties include Austin, Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Milam, Montgomery, Robertson, Walker and Washington.

Stout is the career and technical education specialist at Region 6. She said that education definitely changed during the COVID-19 crisis.

“Education has been greatly affected because we all thought we’d be back in a classroom model after Spring Break,” Stout said. “I think we have a lot of learning curves that may positively affect us in the future. For education, we’ll have a new normal, but it’ll be a positive new normal. It’s things that some

of our districts have needed a push to do. We have districts across the state that now have the push to be on more of a one-to-one technology model. Some students are self paced who thrived at this model. You’ll see some students who prefer this new model. The adaptation of what we do is something that we may need to take into the future. Most of our districts are rural. Career and technical education probably saw a harder hit with this.”

Stout said two areas of concern are extracurricular activities and mental health. She discussed both issues.

“One of our biggest things in education is extracurricular activities and that took a big hit,” Stout said. “It’s a great epiphany to say that everyone loves to come to school. It’s hard on kids when they have activities like that to experience closures or postponements. Another one of the biggest things that education has seen a big need for is mental health assistance or making sure kids know that somebody cares. All of our schools provided meals of some type. The biggest thing that we’ll see coming from this is kids being in the home from March to August with no vacations planned between March and June because parents weren’t ready or prepared to go on vacation. They were in the home and stuck at home. That mental aspect will be something to deal with not just with the students and parents, but the faculty as well. We’ve never been in an pandemic before so this was new to us.”

With the school year approaching, school calendars are a hot topic of discussion. With each district governing itself on their respective school years, Stout mentioned some things that are worth considering.

“Every decision we make comes down to board and community approval,” Stout said. “District

"Education has been greatly effected because we all thought we'd be back in a classroom model after Spring Break. I think we have a lot of learning curves that may positively affect us in the future. For education, we'll have a new normal, but it'll be a positive new normal. ..."

Tally Jo Stout



calendars are huge. We have some that aren't making any changes and some that are going to a year-round model. You also have to know the needs of your communities. We don't have to be in a hurry to make decisions right now. We need to know what our stakeholders think of us. Do they feel confident enough that we're going to return to school in August? Some parents are not sure if they'll send their students back to class. How do you prepare for some students to be there face-to-face and some who do distance learning? How do you prepare to teach students in both models? How do you make sure all of your distance learning students have internet access? We've done types of research to see what infrastructure for the type of technology they need to put in for their hotspot. For us in education, we have to be flexible and willing to not do the norm. We have to be willing to adapt to things outside our comfort level. There's no true time because we're demanding and needing answers."

A former educator in Trinity, Stout believes the four school districts in the county - Apple Springs, Centerville, Groveton and

Trinity - "have done a wonderful job taking care of their students." However, she noted that there are many questions that still need to be answered.

"There are still so many unknowns," Stout said. "When you go back to sports, how does that look? Summer workouts opened June 8, but they have to stay in groups of 10, no locker rooms and no spotters in the weight room. We also have to adapt the kids to the heat. What does the band look like? You've played and practiced in a distance role, but you haven't marched together. These are things that we have to plan for. If you have classrooms that hold 26-32 kids, but you can only hold 10 at a time, where do the other 16-22 kids go? What does that look like? I don't know how the distance learning model will work for extracurricular activity. That will require local policy and procedures. I do think a lot of parents are ready to send their students back because they value education."

Perhaps there will be more certainty as the new school year approaches. ■

FREE MEAL PROGRAMS



(Top left) Trinity Middle School assistant principal Shaun Stout hands meals to a student and his family during a recent TISD Grab and Go meal service at Lansberry Elementary School. (Top right) Trinity ISD Superintendent Dr. John Kaufman (left) and TISD Director of Transportation John Foreman get meals prepared for serving to families during a recent TISD Grab and Go meal service at Lansberry Elementary School.



(Top left) Scott Roberts carries a cooler to his transportation vehicle. (Top right) From left, Groveton ISD food service staff members Heather Mansel, Cassandra Jones, Yvette Davis and Mary Torres prepare to put coolers of food into transportation vehicles.

POLK COUNTY PUBLISHING **PRINT SHOP**

Starting at only \$15



NOW TAKING T-SHIRT ORDERS

Call for custom quote. Call Jessica for details. 936-327-4357

**** Some limitations apply. Must call for quote. ****



Dedicated Orthopedic Center

Urgent Care

DON'T LET AN INJURY HOLD YOU BACK

AT DEDICATED ORTHOPEDIC CENTER URGENT CARE, PATIENTS CAN EXPECT HIGH QUALITY CARE... FAST! OUR ORTHOPEDIC CENTER PROVIDES IMMEDIATE SPECIALIST CARE FOR MINOR TO SERIOUS ORTHOPEDIC INJURIES IN ADULTS & CHILDREN WITH LITTLE TO NO WAIT TIME. ACCIDENTS DON'T TAKE THE DAY OFF, AND NEITHER DO WE. THAT'S WHY OUR FACILITY IS OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK, AND HAS CONVENIENT HOURS TO FIT YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE. VISIT US TODAY WITH NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED!



208 GASLIGHT BLVD., SUITE B • LUFKIN, TX 75904 • 936-634-0062 • ORTHOLUFKIN.COM • OPEN MON - FRI 8AM - 8PM & SAT - SUN 8 AM - 4 PM

FEATURE

Onalaska



Photo by Jim Powers



CHANGE OF PLANS

Family rallies together
to rebuild after devastating tornado

Story by Debbie Robins

If you ever want to make God laugh, just tell him your plans. We had “planned on simplifying our lives, and decided to move back to the lake house, which has been our primary home for 20 years. We loaded up a U-Haul, and moved all of our belongings from our rental apartment in Clear Lake, back to our home in Yaupon Cove. My husband, Kip Robins, had spent countless hours remodeling that house; driving nails into the walls, hanging sheetrock, painting, laying flooring. He took pride in his home and his yard. We were working to make everything updated, and comfortable, in order for us to have a nice home, and for when our grown kids came home to visit. We called 445 Laurel Cove West our home for the past 20 years. We raised our 7 children in this home, brought our twins home from the hospital to this home after they were born. Home is where we held countless birthday parties, high school graduation parties, wedding anniversaries, took prom pictures, and hosted many sleepovers. There were always swimming parties, bbq’s, cake and cookie baking, and just lounging around. We had just hung brand new blinds in the windows, just put fresh paint on the walls, and I had ordered new living room furniture, and unpacked the boxes just that afternoon. We could proudly say, we were finished with most of the work on the house. We had no idea that 3 hours later, a tornado was to touch down and destroy our home.

On April 22, 2020, at approximately 5:45 PM, the plans we thought we made for our lives and our newly remodeled home drastically changed, or at least came to a screeching halt. I cooked an early dinner, on that Wednesday afternoon, everyone ate, and went upstairs. Our daughter Kalyn Robins was upstairs on the top balcony outside, with her Standard Poodle, named Jenny, (after Forrest Gump’s Jen-nay). Kip was upstairs in the large area we refer to as the family/media room, where he had just finished putting the last coat of varnish on the window sill. Our son Kip Robins, had brought his girlfriend Skyler down to visit, and they went to Livingston that afternoon to see friends. I had texted my

son Kip not to come home yet, as the weather was getting bad at the house. He didn’t reply, but I’m sure he saw the text. (Kip and Kalyn are twins, who are Seniors, set to graduate on June 5th. But on top of Covid 19, loss of their Senior year activities and friends, now they had to deal with losing their family home to an F-3 tornado).

While I was cleaning up the kitchen, around 5:00 PM, my phone alerted me of a tornado warning in our area. It sounded just like the Amber Alerts we get on our phones. I immediately went to the front door to look outside. I saw grey clouds, and birds flying around. The wind was blowing mildly. It was just cloudy, nothing out of the ordinary. I glanced over to our neighbor’s house, to make sure everything looked ok over there. I spotted our sweet, elderly and widowed neighbor, Oma outside on her front porch, tending to her 3 cats, and looking at the weather. Oma is always on her front porch, ready for a friendly conversation. She delighted in making desserts for us. She lived alone, so Kip always tended to her yard, and we just took care of each other. She has a son, but he lives 3 hours away. If we didn’t see Oma everyday, or see a light on, we would go check on her to make sure she was ok.

After seeing that everything looked ok in the front of the house, I went back inside and saw Kalyn walking down the stairs. I met her halfway up, and I told her there are tornado warnings going off on my phone, that I’m nervous, to go get dressed just in case. She laughed at my silly “mom overreacting ways,” and went upstairs to get jeans on. She then went out on the deck where her dad Kip was, and asked him about the chance of a tornado touching down here, because “Mom said we are getting warnings.” He replied, “Well we have lived here all this time, and usually the lake makes the storms dissipate, so I’m not too worried.” Everyone went back to their business, and I went back downstairs. I heard another warning go off, but this time it was the tv in the living room. The screen was black, with big white letters, saying “TORNADO WARNING IN YOUR AREA, SEEK SHELTER NOW!”

I ran upstairs, and went to Kip. I told him of the tornado warnings, that we need to go downstairs. We both looked



out the front windows, and said, “Well it’s cloudy out there.” Then Kip turns toward the back of the house, and said, “Look at this.” (In more explicit words though) We both turned to look out of the back glass doors of the top deck, and saw that it was a dark grey, almost black sky. The wind was picking up. Tornado warnings were still screaming from both of our phones. Right at that moment, as we were standing in front of each other, we heard the sound. The train sound. Kip said it sounded more like a huge shop vac humming, but to me, it was a large train barreling down the tracks, coming right towards us. He looked at me, and said, “Do you hear that? That’s a TORNADO! RUN!” We both started running toward the stairs down to the living room, hollering for Kalyn to run. “KALYN RUN, we exclaimed. She barely heard us from

the upstairs top deck, and grabbed Jenny, and ran with us down the stairs into our disabled son, Mikie’s room. We had always said from years ago, that if there were ever an emergency, we would run into Mikie’s room as it was built halfway under the ground, due to the yard being multi-levels. Plus half of it was surrounded by concrete and brick. Mikie was lying in bed watching tv, unaware of anything going on. I went to get him up quickly, and he resisted me. Having Cerebral Palsy, he moves a little slow, and he’s stubborn. I looked at him face to face, and said, “Mikie, this is an emergency, GET UP NOW!” Well, it worked because we were all 4 in his closet within about 2 minutes from when we first heard the tornado, until it hit. We had both dogs with us in the closet. There are 2 windows in his room, so I was feeling unsafe at that moment. Kip grabs a blanket off of Mikie’s bed to put over us. I’m thinking, well that isn’t going to save us. Just then, we start hearing the tornado hit our house. In what felt like 10 minutes, maybe 30 seconds went by, while the tornado did it’s destruction. The moment that changed our lives were upon us. We clutched each other tightly in that closet, hunkered down, hoping for the best, and praying. This is the moment that Oma’s house would fall on top of her. The moment that Brooke and Taylor, and one other person would not survive the storm. The moment our neighborhood and community would forever be changed.

As we held on to each other tight, the room got pitch black. We could hear the extremely loud, angry and terrifying winds of the F-3 tornado upon us. We could hear tree limbs and debris hitting our house, we could hear the rain pounding us. The wind was so incredibly strong. Just then, the tornado was inside our house. The windows all around the house were busting out. The furniture was flying around inside the house, slamming up against the walls. Kip pushed Kalyn down to a squatting position to protect her, and one of our Standard Poodles, Marley, escaped Kip’s grip from fear. Marley ran into the living room, under the stair case, in his area that he likes to lay. He ran right into the storm debris that was flying around inside the house. Luckily he wasn’t injured, but now is very scared of any type of loud noises or bad weather. As Kip held Kalyn down, and as the storm grew stronger inside our house, we looked up at the ceiling. To our horror, we could see the house lifting up, and a large opening at the seam of the ceiling. We could see outside. Kip said,

“Pray, ya’ll just pray”. We were helpless at that moment. Had that tornado stayed over us a few more seconds, there is no doubt we would have been exposed to the elements outside, if not blown out.

And as fast as the storm was over us, it was gone. It felt like it was on top of us for an eternity. Now, all of a sudden, it was quiet. It was still sprinkling outside. The sky was dark grey with clouds. There was an eerie silence. Nothing or nobody was moving. Homes were demolished. Tops of trees were snapped off, or blown away. It looked like a bomb went off on our street; like an apocalypse in a movie. Kip ran outside, as Kalyn, Mikie, and Jenny stayed huddled in the closet for a moment, not knowing if it was safe to leave our area. I decided to go ahead and walk out, and I could hear Kip screaming, “Oma, Oma. Oh please no, Oma.” I could hear the despair in his voice. I ran out to the front porch, and was in total disbelief at what I saw. Oma’s house was flattened, and Kip was standing on top of the debris, searching for her. Digging. Screaming her name. I ran to his side. He said, “Oma’s gone Debbie, she’s just...gone.” He kept screaming her name. Silence. All of a sudden, he hears the slightest whisper of Oma saying his name. “Kip, Kip. Help me, I can’t breathe”. Kip exclaims, “Oma, I’m here, keep talking to me. I’m going to get you out.” He traced her voice to the debris where she was buried. She had 4 walls on top of her. She kept whispering, “Oh hurry. I can’t breathe.” He told her he wouldn’t let her die here. By the grace of God, Kip found the strength to lift that

Below: Kip on Oma’s house as he pulled away the rubble to find her. Photos by Debbie Robins





Photo by Debbie Robins

house off of her. I yelled for Kalyn to come help. She found a piece of wood that was just the right size to prop the house off of Oma's body. With the house now propped up by this piece of wood, we could see Oma's feet. She still had her house shoes on. Kip dug out some more debris from around her, and we saw her legs. She was face down in the carpeted area of where the living room meets her dining room. A dining chair that flipped over had saved her from being completely crushed, as it acted as a brace when the house fell on top of her. Kip couldn't move the house any further, as romax wire was impeding him. He had to leave her, to go find some wire cutters, and fast. We don't know how he found them so quickly in our garage, but he did. He cut the wires from the house, and we were able to see Oma completely. She said she can't move, and she couldn't move her legs. She had a broken shoulder blade, some cracked ribs, and bruised lungs. Her face was bloody and bruised, and she had a concussion. (Results after the ER visit). I'm a Registered Nurse, so I knew not to move her, for fear of more injury, but we had to get her out from under the house of course. I assessed her leg and back movement, and her breathing. She could move her legs, and she could feel me touching her legs. We encouraged her to help us get her out by her scooting out backward. She inched her way out by us yelling, "Scoot, scoot". We could see the imprint of her face in the carpet where she had laid under the fallen house. She was finally out, and we helped her into a dining chair Kalyn had collected from our house.

We had placed Mikie outside, in a safe area, in a chair. We weren't sure if our house would fall or not at that moment. We started to see a few more people emerge, as I sat with



The Gateway to Fun in the Great Outdoors



WWW.CLEVELANDTEXAS.COM

Plan Your Visit



Download it today!



— Since 1949 —

AXLEY & RODE LLP

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Tax • Audits • Accounting • Payroll • Quickbooks

203 N. Houston Ave. | Livingston, TX 77351

For information or questions, please call
936-327-3166 or Fax 936-327-3522

Oma, calling 911 and her son while Kip went to check on our other neighbors. 911 couldn't make it back there to us. We could smell natural gas, and we watched as the electric lines were popping on the ground. We saw our neighbor Duke walk by, and he was very dazed. His house was gone. Kip instructed him to turn off all the gas to the homes, which thankfully, he was able to do.

There was no help for anyone at that moment, and possibly for hours. Kip decided to call Dr. Brent Hawkins, and we aren't sure how, but Dr. Hawkins and Dr. Paul Drake from Livingston ISD made it to our house to help.

About that time, we spotted a couple driving a pontoon boat across the lake, heading our way. We live on the boat launch, so we figured it was a good way to get help in and out. We waved them down, and they stopped the boat at the boat launch. They explained they saw the storm, and wanted to come see if they can help anybody. We got Oma loaded up into the boat using Mikie's wheelchair, and were about to head to the Kickapoo Creek Marina, where an ambulance should be able to get to us. A bass boat approached us as we were backing out from the pier, and said there are some people behind our house and peninsula that need help. Their homes imploded, and they were thrown through the air. They were actually inside the tornado. While we were steering the boat through the debris filled lake, we were horrified to see the amount of destruction. From roof debris, home debris, aluminum, to clothes and suitcases, we couldn't even see the water from all of the storm debris floating in our path. We had to push wood out of the boat's path so it wouldn't tear up the motor. We made it to the other side of the peninsula, close to Oak Lee street in Yaupon Cove. This was directly behind our house. We found a family desperately searching for a lost young lady who got thrown from the home that imploded. Kip had already made it back there to find injured neighbors laying on the wet ground; dirty from rain, dirt, and debris. They were bleeding, had

broken bones, in shock, and needed immediate medical attention. Again, ambulances couldn't make it back there. We had to get them loaded onto the boat some how, to get them to a location where ambulances could pick them up. We called 911, and had Officer Dubose dispatch to Kickapoo Marina, where we could meet them in the boat with the patients. But the three patients were so badly injured, we had to use household doors that were laying on the ground as gurneys. We loaded them up on these homemade gurneys, and got them onto the boat. We had three patients, a young man, a young boy, and Oma. The grandmother of the boy was by his side, trying to soothe him. The boat next to us loaded up another family member, who was injured badly. She was the mother of the young boy that we had on our boat. We ran out of room in the pontoon boat, because we had two people laying on doors. We had to put the young man that was laying on the homemade gurney, on the side railing of the pontoon, and I had to balance that door and hold on to him tight so he wouldn't fall off the railing into the water. I had my finger through his belt loop of his jeans, and my other hand wrapped through his shirt tightly to secure him. He kept telling me he can't breathe, and he was moving from side to side while lying down. I kept reassuring him that we were taking him to the ambulance. I told him that he's strong, he's got this. I told him just stay with us, we will be there soon. The younger boy's color was grey, he was in shock. He kept screaming in pain; his legs were in a position that showed he had obviously broken some bones. He became nauseated and wanted to throw up. We were in a dire situation. The injured young man kept telling me to hurry, he can't breathe. I just kept talking to him, trying to keep him awake, calm, and breathing. Oma was telling me she just wants to sleep. She was dazed and confused. She told me it's time for her to go be with Jerry now, her deceased husband. I told her, "No Oma, not yet, we aren't ready for



Tuesday - Friday 10:00 a.m.-6:00p.m.
Saturday 10:00-2:00p.m.

130 W. San Antonio 936-858-2280 Alto Texas 75925

BLACK RAVEN

GRAPELAND PEANUT FESTIVAL

Grapeland, Texas

October 15-17

2020

75th

Anniversary Jubilee

Continuing our legacy

CARNIVAL • PARADE • QUEEN CONTEST



Remembering The Past, Celebrating The Present,
Creating A Foundation For The Future!

H.E.A.R.T.S VETERANS MUSEUM

Huntsville, Texas

Monday - Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

463 State Highway 75 N

936-295-5959

www.heartsmuseum.com

THE ORIGINAL
Ray's
DRIVE IN SINCE 1959

CAFE

Lufkin's Favorite
Drive-In Since 1959

420 N. TIMBERLAND • LUFKIN • 936-634-3262



BEST OF LUFKIN
SINCE 2009





Photo by Jim Powers

you to be with Jerry yet”.

We continuously called 911 to make sure an ambulance would be there. Dispatch told us they were en route, but didn't have an eta. It took us 30 minutes to make it across the lake from the debris, and ambulances still weren't able to make it through the subdivision. I didn't want to leave my family behind at the house, but I knew they were OK, and these people needed help. It started to rain, and the sky was beginning to show signs that the evening was falling upon us. My phone battery had 9% left on it. I wished I had charged my phone earlier. We finally made it to Kickapoo Marina, and found some Game Wardens loading up their boat. We asked them for help, if they could get some ambulance out here to us. They tried calling as well. The young man started having more labored breathing. I was getting desperate and had no supplies to help him. I needed an ambulance now. I yelled for someone to get on the phone again and get us help. Dispatch again told us that they are en route, and they don't have a time frame for us. We explained our situation and our location, but just had to wait. I even thought for a second to load them into cars, to get them to an ambulance faster, but that wouldn't work, as traffic was backed up.

We were still parked at the pier of Kickapoo Creek Marina, sitting on the pontoon boat, waiting for the ambulances to arrive. The young man's breathing became more labored, and he became unresponsive. Things had just become even more desperate. At that moment, it started pouring down rain. It was dark from the night time; so we barely had any visibility. Our phone batteries were drained, and we needed them for communication, and flash lights to see. Some gentlemen approached us at the pier, where we tied off the boat, and carried the young man that was lying on the door gurney onto a flat surface under the covered patio, to get him in a secure, dry area. They had started CPR on him. We were losing him. I called 911 again, and exclaimed, "CPR in progress, I need an ETA NOW." The dispatcher explained they are on their way, but still, no eta. We had done CPR for a long time until the ambulances arrived. They took over on all of the patients, and loaded them into ambulances. Oma was loaded into one ambulance with the young boy, and the young man was loaded into the other, CPR still in progress on him. The ambulances pulled out, and I was left standing there soaked from the rain, no cell phone, and in disbelief of what transpired tonight.

Three hours went by until I saw Kip again. He came to the marina to pick me up. Kalyn's car was all busted up, dogs in backseat. Kip, Kalyn, Mikie, myself, and the poodles were headed to a hotel in Livingston, that our great friend Jennifer Hughes and Mallory McWhorther had arranged for us to stay at for a few nights. On the way to the hotel, we discussed what just happened. This discussion would last a month, and will for many years. Our lives were changed. Our home was gone. Lives were lost.

We made it to the hotel, and Good Morning America was calling Kip on his phone, asking him for a live

interview that evening. He obliged, and was doing an interview past midnight. We couldn't sleep anyway. We still have a hard time sleeping, from the thoughts and memories of the tornado.

We went back to the house the next morning, and the amount of destruction was indescribable. You just had to see it for yourself. We spent the next weeks with our friends that graciously drove out in truckloads to help us clean up debris, and gather anything salvageable that we could. The community has been amazing. People were driving by each house, handing out bottled water, ice, and food. We had people delivering turkey legs, hot dogs, sandwiches, snacks, lunch bags, fajitas. You name it, people in the community were handing it out. It was incredible; and gave us hope for humanity once again. Men were coming by from the fire department cutting down or pushing down trees and debris for us. Church members were handing out food. SHECO worked tirelessly to get power lines up. It was incredible. There was light at the end of the tunnel.

I'd like to mention our twins, Kip and Kalyn Robins. Not only did they lose their home and their belongings in this tornado, but they also lost their Senior year due to Covid-19. They didn't get to attend prom. They will, thankfully get to participate in a live graduation ceremony with their classmates on June 5th, and for this we are glad for them. We have watched the twins come out of this stronger than ever. They haven't complained or whined. They haven't felt sorry for themselves. They instead lent a helping hand to those that needed it. They were there when we had to knock out walls, sweat, and see the destruction. They have had to relocate and live in a hotel or with friends for the past month, which they are grateful for. They are grateful to have a roof over their heads, and grateful to still have each other, and a family. They continued to go to work at their place of employment, to help support any needs the family may have. They realized that material things weren't important; that life was important, and that we are still alive and together as a family. For all of our kids, family, friends, neighbors, co-workers: We are forever grateful for all of your love and support. Kip currently works as a Technology Director for Santa Fe ISD, and the outpouring of love and support from his staff has been incredible.

For those 3 that didn't survive, you will always be in our hearts and in our minds. We will NEVER forget you. During a visit to the house a few days ago, while it was raining, Kip found a picture of a double rainbow we had taken, overlooking the lake. God's promise. We will rebuild, and we will be stronger than ever, but we won't make any plans; those are for God to do. ■

Update: Oma is recovering with family and does not plan to return to rebuild. The young boy is still recovering from multiple injuries in the hospital. The young man did not survive.

How to Advertise in the *East Texan*



Jeff Fatheree

936-404-2109

jfatheree@polkcountypublishing.com



Keitha Swann

936-327-4357 ext 1007

keitha@polkenterprise.com



Kay Loy Schrimsher

936-327-4357 ext 1006

kayloy@polkenterprise.com



Ashley Keenan

936-204-6843

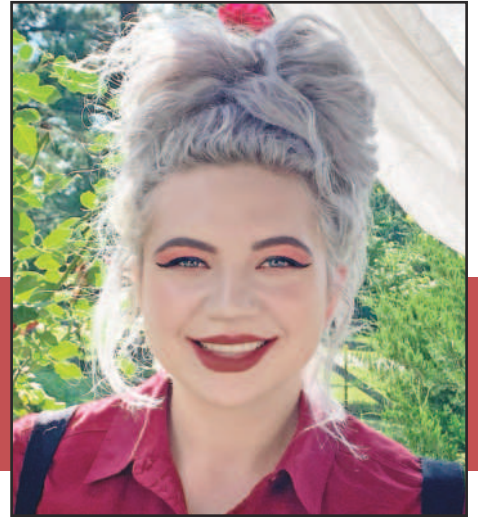
marketing@hccourier.com



Patsy Tompkins

936-327-4357

advertising@polkenterprise.com



Madison Bland

936-327-4357 ext 1005

madison@polkcountypublishing.com

Polk County Publishing Company



100 E Calhoun | Livingston | 936-327-4357



Happy
4TH OF
July

WACO, TEXAS
Front PORCH
DISTILLERY

FRONTPORCHDISTILLERY.COM  

ESTATES
BY *Lou*

Estate Sales, Home
Staging & Garage Sales
We sell for you at your place or ours!

Sam & Lou Chumley
Cell - 936.329.0671
samnlou@eastex.net

 Auction Services Available
facebook.com/estatesbylou




LIVINGSTON FARMER'S MARKET

BUY LOCAL, BUY FRESH

EVERY SATURDAY STARTING
MAY 23, 2020 - AUGUST 1, 2020
7AM - 10 AM

In Anniversary Park Next To Melbos

Our #1 priority is the health & safety of everyone. Our vendors will take all precautions and safety measures to ensure this. In return we ask that you, as customers, also practice this and Do Not Touch the produce or merchandise unless you are purchasing it. Thank you!

For more Information call 936-327-3656

MUSIC

Livingston

Booth eyes the big-time

With a major label record deal in hand,
Livingston's Laci Kaye Booth gets ready for stardom

Story by Chris Edwards

*"Lightning strikes maybe once, maybe twice."
— Fleetwood Mac, "Gypsy"*

Ogden's Country Jubilee is like many old-time jamboree-style shows that used to be commonplace in rural areas. The semi-regular Livingston production, which takes place at the Polk County Commerce Center in Livingston, typically features a lot of homegrown talent, backed by studio musicians, and is interspersed with corn-pone comedy bits. These kinds of shows are big on talent; full of performers who may only get the chance to share their gifts with audiences once in a while, but could cut it with full-time performing artists any day of the week.

Occasionally, something out of the ordinary takes place at the Jubilee, like the time a couple of years ago the legendary country singer/songwriter (and Livingston resident) Doug Supernaw rocked the stage. Another aspect of the wholesome variety shows like Ogden's County Jubilee is the opportunity for young talents to shine. It was at one of these shows several years ago that an eight-year-old girl performed Patsy Cline's classic "Crazy."

Flash forward to 2020, and that same little girl from Livingston won the lottery in terms of national exposure for a musician, with a successful run on American Idol, and just recently let the ink dry on a major label recording contract. With her newly acquired status as a Big Machine Label Group recording artist, 24-year-old Laci Kaye Booth is poised to join the ranks of some of her heroes.

Booth relocated to Nashville following her Idol run, which ended in a Top Five finish. When she announced her signing to the label in early May, she found herself on a successful Music City-based label that made a superstar out of Taylor Swift and has also released albums by such established acts as Keith Urban, Tim McGraw and Darius Rucker. Earlier this year, fellow Texan and country/roots legend Ray Wylie Hubbard also joined the Big Machine ranks.

The news of Booth's good fortune came from Idol host Ryan Seacrest, who announced her deal on the recent season finale. "We have some exciting news from last season's finalist, Laci Kaye Booth," Seacrest said before an audience of an estimated 7.26 million viewers. For most of America, the hit television show was the first exposure they'd had to the blonde songstress from Texas, but music has been a nearly lifelong journey for Booth.

From her humble debut onstage at the jubilee show, to picking up guitar about a year later, Booth came by it naturally. Her father, Jody Booth, is a veteran of the Texas honky-tonk circuit and the state's rich singer/songwriter scene, with his songs having been cut by such acts as Roger Creager and Cory Morrow. Jody Booth was present at his daughter's Idol audition, and in a tender moment, was shown to households all across the country embracing Laci with tears in his eyes after she wowed the judges with a version of Merle Haggard's classic "Mama Tried."





Both her troubadour father and her mother Priscilla Cockrell were supportive of her natural drive to make music and continue to provide encouragement. "They tell me all the time to believe in myself and to have more confidence," she said. "With every step of the way I've gotten more confident." Laci's mother has also managed her career. "She helps me with everything," said Laci.

One of the judges on the show, pop-country hitmaker Luke Bryan said that Booth possesses "a timbre in [her] voice that we haven't seen in any girl." Those pipes were put to good use throughout her appearances on the show. Viewers who witnessed Booth wrapping her smoky vocals around such classics as Cheap Trick's "I Want You to Want Me" and Fleetwood Mac's "As Long as You Follow" got to see and hear a versatile songbird at work. In one memorable performance, she even sang the June Carter-Cash parts of the classic duet "Jackson," originally recorded by June and Johnny Cash. Booth sang the song with Laine Hardy, the rootsy Louisianan (also hailing from a town called Livingston) who wound up winning for the season.

That versatility, which encompasses a love of everything from classic country to pop-rock ballads and power-pop anthems, is another product of her upbringing. "Music was always so natural for me because there were always guitars around the house," she said. "I grew up with all that. Guitars were right in front of me and I could tell when a string was in tune or not."

Booth said when she was 10 or 11, she heard the song "Gypsy" and became obsessed with Fleetwood Mac and its iconic front-woman Stevie Nicks. "I bought the Fleetwood Mac Greatest Hits album on a CD from Walmart and that thing stayed everywhere with me. Stevie Nicks is still my idol," she said.

When she got old enough to start singing onstage, she found it to be her natural path to take. After that hometown debut performance, she began growing as a performer and musician, and along with accompanying herself with her guitar, she also got into writing songs. Booth said she came to love song-swap style shows, a favorite format for singer/songwriters in Texas. She played many song swaps with her father, and prior to her Idol audition, she waxed a couple of her original songs at the famed Rosewood Studios in Tyler, also a favorite recording haunt of Jody Booth.

Her vocal style, which has been described as "soulful" and "smoky" is something that she did not think of as a special ability. "I've always had this airy kind of sound. I never thought of myself as a strong singer. I just always worked with what I had; just came up with something I knew that was me."

Her vocals, however, merited different takes from the Idol judges and the show's many fans. The panel of Idol judges, all of whom are music industry legends within their respective genres, were impressed by her sound at the audition.

Idol judge and pop star Katy Perry said Booth possessed "something different sounding than anyone else," vocally, and also referred to her as "a diamond in the rough."

With her run on American Idol, Booth joined a group of several other East Texan musicians who have had successful turns on Idol and similar shows.

Hit singer/songwriter Kacey Musgraves, a native of the Lindale area, found her first national exposure on Nashville Star, while Woodville native Kree Harrison was the runner-up on season 12 of Idol.

Dave Fenley, originally from Lufkin, and Port Arthur's DeAndre Nico also had noteworthy runs on The Voice. Steady hitmaker Miranda Lambert, also a Lindale area native, also first rose to prominence on Nashville Star.

Booth said she was encouraged by the many East Texans who have found fame on Idol and similar shows, particularly Musgraves and Harrison. During her Idol run, Booth said "Kree messaged me on social media to voice her support, and I fangirled."

Hometown support was also voluminous for Booth. Livingston mayor Judy Cochran said "We are very proud of her and we are very proud to claim her as our own." During her Idol run, a parade was held in Booth's honor in Livingston, complete with a homecoming reception and concert, which took place at the Polk County Commerce Center. "She's so special to all of us," said Cochran.

The continued support has been beneficial to the young singer-songwriter, both during her Idol days and afterward. "It's definitely pushed me so hard," she said. "Livingston is such a great community and they are so, so, so supportive."

At present, from her home in Music City, Laci Kaye Booth is working on her debut album, with Dann Huff in the producer's chair. Huff, a guitarist and studio wizard, has produced or played on hundreds of big-selling projects, and the collaboration between he and Booth is sure to show that she hasn't rested on the laurels of her Idol fame.

Along with the record that's in the works, she is looking forward to bringing her act to stages across the country, and maybe beyond. One prime gig that she has coming up is the famous Stagecoach festival in California. The COVID-19 crisis put the damper on live music for a good chunk of this year, but the festival, which usually takes place in April, will go on in October. At it, Booth will get to share the stage with other Texans like ZZ Top, Ryan Bingham, Hayes Carll and the legendary Willie Nelson.

"I can't wait to share all this music with the world. This is truly the beginning of my journey," she said.

Whatever the outcome might be for the record that is in the works, Booth is determined to continue sharing her music with audiences. "I just want to put my own music out there," she said. "This might sound really cheesy, but I want to share my heart, my story and my blessings." ■

The insurance Texans trust.



LAWSON INSURANCE AGENCY
936-897-2573 Zavalla, Texas

Angie Neal, Agent

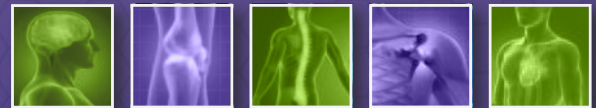
Paradise Gardens
Everything under the sun...

10 Highway 150
Coldspring
936-653-2332
(at the 4-way stop across from the courthouse)

Open Tuesday-Saturday 10-5
Sunday 11-2
Closed Monday

Furniture | Texas
Western & Home Decor
Unique Gifts
Apparel | Accessories
& much more

Don't forget to
"LIKE" Paradise Gardens on Facebook



Dedicated MRI Center of East Texas

REVOLUTIONIZING MEDICAL IMAGING

- COSTS 50 - 70% LESS THAN OTHER HOSPITAL IMAGING CENTERS
- COMFORTABLE & QUIET ENVIRONMENT
- FRIENDLY & CERTIFIED STAFF
- EVERY TYPE OF SCAN FOR EVERY TYPE OF MEDICAL SPECIALTY
- ACCESSIBLE TO ALL PATIENTS & ACCEPTING ALL PHYSICIAN REFERRALS
- FAST & CONVENIENT SCANNING

208 GASLIGHT BLVD., SUITE C • DEDICATEDMRI.COM • (936) 632-6510 • OPEN MON - FRI 8 AM - 8 PM • SAT 8 AM - 4 PM



**THE ADAM OLSEN
TEAM**

Mon. - Sat. 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Sun. Appointment only

1015 11th Street
Huntsville, Texas 77340
936-689-9123

<http://adamolsenteam.com>
adam@adamolsenteam.com



No Greater Place to Live than East Texas

Let us help you find that place!

- Lake Dam Construction • Driveways • House and Barn Pads
- Commercial/Residential Construction • Excavation Services • Heavy Equipment
- Dump Trucks • Backhoe • Winch Trucks • Vacuum Trucks • Pipeline Construction
- Oil Field Construction and Services • Site Preparation • New & Used Pipe

50 YEARS
EXPERIENCE



GEORGE
BARTEE
CONSTRUCTION INC

CALL
TODAY!

George Bartee Construction Co., Inc. 936-687-4811 (Office)
 P.O. Box 372 • 13363 US Hwy 287 North 936-546-8227 Jason Brides (cell)
 Grapeland, TX 75844 936-546-8887 Dick Brides (cell)
www.barteeconstruction.com



DBL REAL ESTATE
Residential, Ranches,
& Commercial

LISA HATCHER TAYLOR

Realtor®
Zulma Cuevas
Teri Lalli
Shannon Lane

936-348-9977 Office
936-661-2129 Cell
1702 E Main St. Madisonville Tx.
www.dblrealestate.com

- Design & Construction
- Customization
- Lift Sales, Service, Repair & Installation
- Maintenance
- Pile Driving
- Permitting Services
- Free Estimates

Ivy Construction, LLC

Bulkheads & Boathouses

936-239-2357



www.ivy-construction.com

*"Your design, or ours...
We will help you plan and
build the perfect product to
fit your needs & budget!"*



Tyer Real Estate

305 N. 6th St.
Crockett, TX 75835

(936) 544-3265

Brokers:
David & Pattie Tyer

Agents:
Mike Thomson
Natalie Commander

www.TyerRealEstate.com



**Sonny Tunstall
Real Estate**

Residential • Commercial • Farm • Ranch

13475 US Hwy 287 N
Grapeland, Texas 75844

Cell: (936) 204-2992
Fax: (936) 687-2172

www.SonnyTunstall.com



Sonny Tunstall
ABR, GRI



**LaWanda Pennington
Real Estate**

**Your Key to a
Successful
Home Search**



936-852-3540
812 N. Market St., Grapeland, TX
Email us: lawanda@grapeland.com

Serving Houston & Anderson Counties!




 **For All Your Real Estate Needs!**

LAWRENCE REALTY

LawrenceRealEstateOnline.com
720 E. Loop 304 • Crockett, Texas 75835

(936) 544-4747




LandsOfTexas.com
#1 in Rural Real Estate Online

LAKEHOUSE.com
Buy It! Sell It! Rent It!



Remnants of



Story and photos by Caleb Fortenberry

Sawmill towns drove the economy of Southeast Texas in the 1800s. From topographical to abstracts, many of these forgotten towns can be referenced in early 20th century maps. One of the most notable towns that was forgotten and left to fall to ruin was the Aldridge Mill in Jasper County, just north of the Neches River and East of Zavalla. This is one of

the only mill structures left standing in the area and for an unusual reason. Owner of Aldridge Mill, Hal Aldridge, had a fire occur on his mill in 1911 when it was fashioned out of wood. To avoid insurance rates increasing, he made the structures more fire retardant. He constructed the buildings out of concrete in 1912. With the buildings being made in this fashion, the structures are still standing to this day, and is a spectacular sight to see in the Angelina National Forest. Aldridge did not only operate just this larger mill. He actually

ROCKLAND

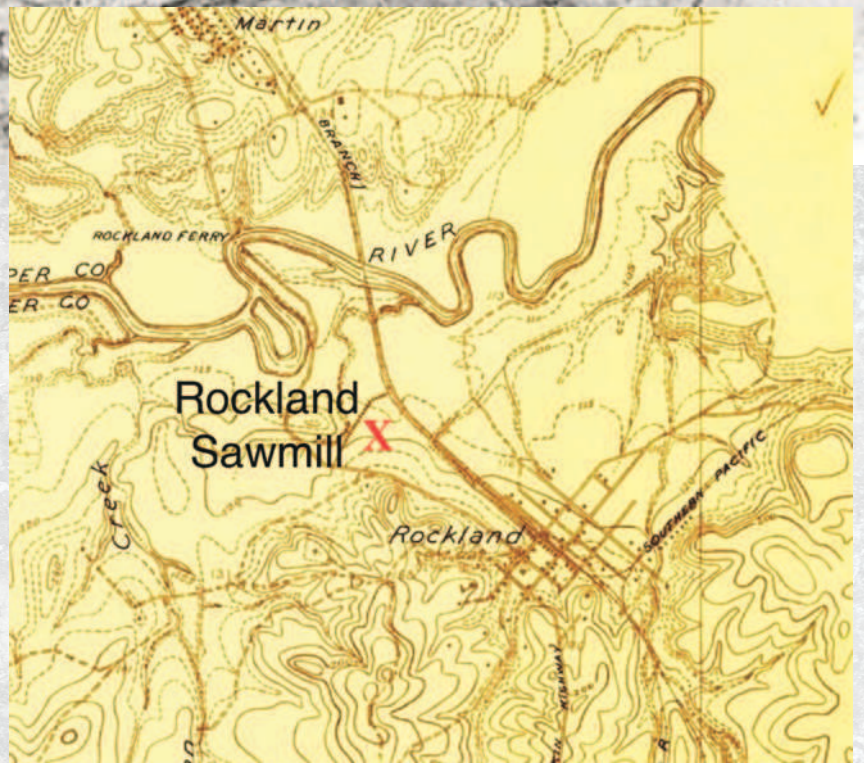
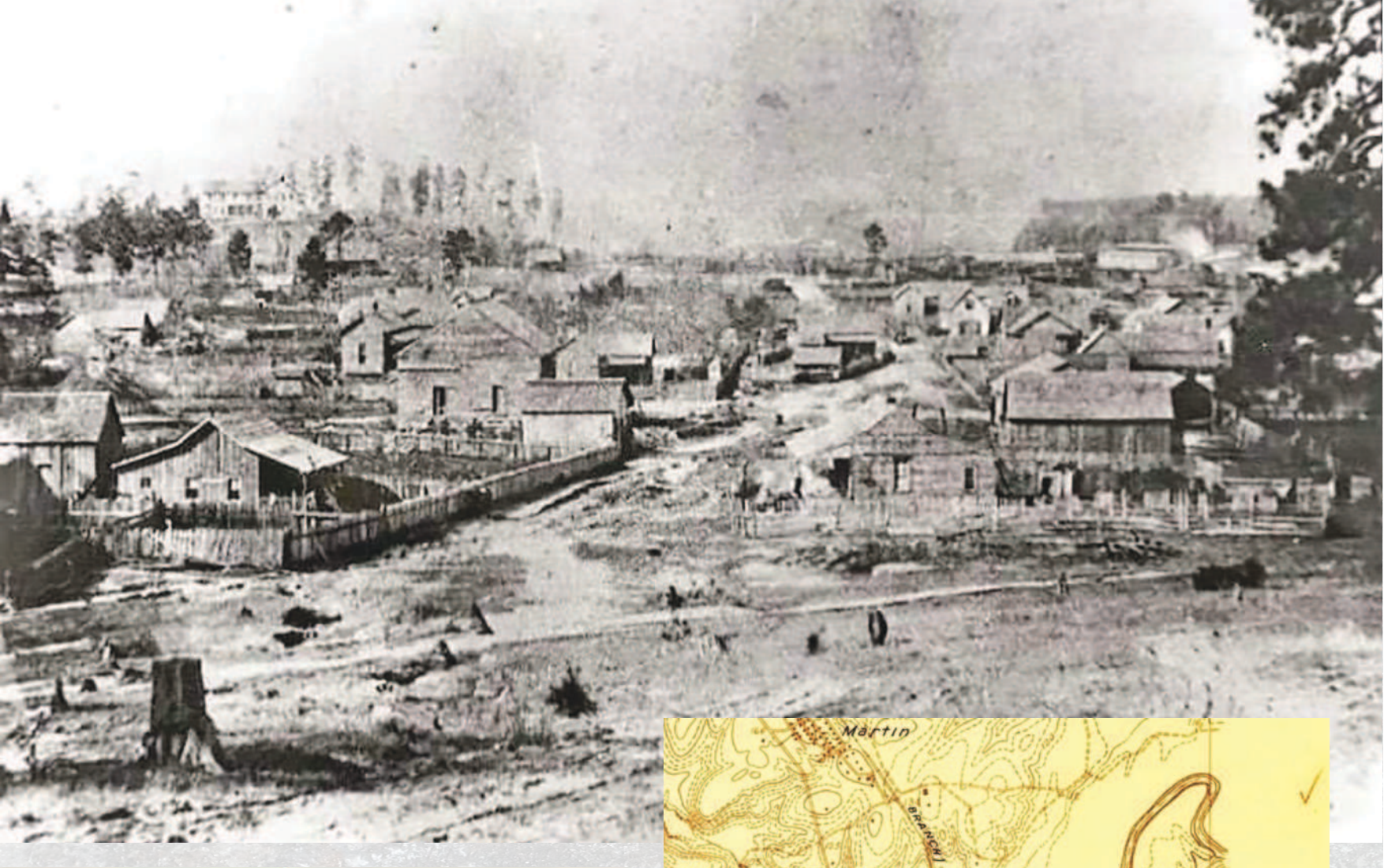


started on a smaller scale in Rockland on the south side of the Neches nestled at the northern end of Tyler County.

Rockland is known for its stone, and various quarries that helped make the Galveston Sea Wall. Unknown to many, it also was full of longleaf yellow pines at one point and a mill was situated West, right next to the Texas and New Orleans Railroad. Many mills, such as the Rockland Mill, were placed near railroads for quick transportation to other towns, rather than letting the logs float down a river, which was not only

time consuming, but problematic. Trams were built to bring logs back to mill ponds, which preserved them while they awaited to be sawn.

Education coordinator for the Texas Forestry Museum, Kaitlin Wieseman clarifies, “they would build little short lines out into the forest so then they could cut the trees and have the train bring them back to their sawmill. So, basing their sawmill next to actual prominent rail lines that were main lines, like the Houston East and West, was probably a better



idea to do than building out in the forest, in the middle of nowhere. They did have capabilities to build a line but usually they would have teams of men that would build that short line out just into the forest, not necessarily out to their own sawmill, but they could have if they needed to.”

The Rockland Mill, also known as the Rockland Plant, was first owned by one of Rockland’s post masters, John Delaney and others; who, interestingly, Aldridge worked with at the post office. In 1890, Aldridge bought the mill and vast

amounts of land tracts in the area. He operated the mill until 1898, when he sold the business to William Cameron & Co., one of the first forestry millionaires. It was burned down November 4, 1898, only a few short months after Cameron bought the saw mill.

“If you can just imagine, we’re working with steam, which you have to have fire to be able to produce steam, to heat up the water, but also your working with wood around everywhere. So, some sawmill towns would build their sawmill

The only thing better than our cars is our word!

Doing business in East Texas since 1963

MOORE

AUTO SALES

1617 W. Church • Livingston, Texas • 936.327.3600
(Across from Walmart Supercenter)

We Buy Vehicles! | WE RUN CARFAX
We Rent Vehicles! | (tells history of your car)

www.mooreautosalestx.com

GARY IVINS
The Big Nasty

Listen Live

www.sports1037.com

Monday - Friday 7AM-9AM
Studio line 936-637-1037

SB★NATION
103.7FM / 1260AM
LUFKIN/NACOGDOCHES

PASSION ★ **EXPERIENCE** ★ **LONGEVITY**
121 SOUTH COTTON SQUARE LUFKIN, TX 75901

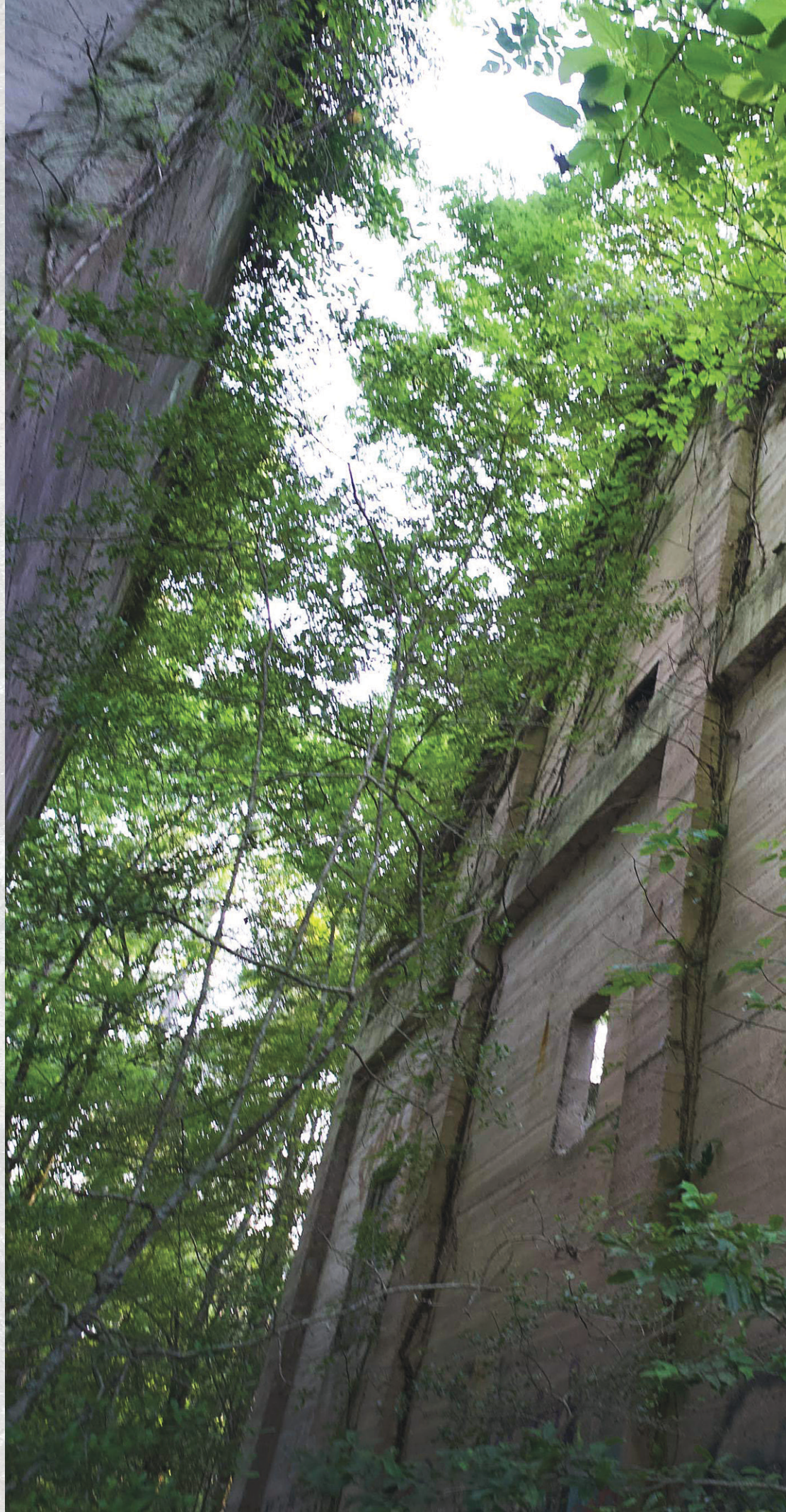
only of wood. They wouldn't build them, usually, out of stone just because that costs more," said Wieseman, "most of the smaller ones, if it burned down, and they didn't have enough money or area to cut down trees, then rebuilding wasn't really in their thoughts of doing that because it would cost too much."

The plant was rebuilt with newer equipment and a water tower that measured 125 feet above the ground and able to hold thousands of gallons to transport water throughout the mill. Cameron operated the mill producing roughly 3,000,000 linear feet of lumber per year, until he sold it to John Henry Kirby in 1905.

One of the interesting details learned about mill towns of that time is that they had a form of currency for each company. In this particular mill, it could have had at least three different forms of coin being used for trade at the company general store and commissary. Aldridge, Cameron, and Kirby used these coins for the workers to make various purchases from the mill's stores.

One of the reasons Rockland became so popular, was not just the sawmill, but the fact that the railroad did not cross the Neches. It stopped in Rockland. That is, until 1899 when the rail road trestle was completed. Similar to the remains of the Rockland Plant, the bridge over the Neches still remains intact and unharmed by human vandalism, more than likely due to the inconvenience of getting to it. It is still a spectacular view if you can get to the bank near it. The engineering and man power that went into building it is perplexing.

The main way to cross the river without taking the train was Dunkin's ferry. Which has been speculated that country singer, George Jones, once helped operate. Mac Dunkin's well, barn and chimney are all that remain of the crossing. The old Lufkin – Beaumont Highway led to the ferry situated just Northwest of the mill. It operated until the 1930s when the US Highway 69 bridge joining Jasper and Tyler counties was completed. This left the town of Rockland off to the wayside and the mill eventually shut down. It wasn't until rock quarries began to produce in higher volumes, that the town was revived for a period.









**Your headquarters
for all your
lawn care needs.**

Despite the fact that we're a small store, we're proud to offer a selection that rivals a big-box store. Browse the highest quality products and top-of-the-line brands available.

815 North Home St - Corrigan | 936-398-2888

MOLLIE'S DINER

*Alto, Texas
Where the service is as sweet as the tea.*

CLOSED MONDAY
TUESDAY 7AM-1:30PM • WEDNESDAY 7AM-1:30PM, 5-8PM
THURSDAY 7AM-1:30PM • FRIDAY 7AM-1:30PM, 5-8PM
SATURDAY/SUNDAY 7AM-1:30PM

**201 San Antonio Rd., Alto Texas
936-858-1001**



PINEYWOODS Obstetrics & Gynecology



NOW OFFERING

CO₂RE[®] Intima
Women's Intimate Wellness

A painless non-surgical approach for management of common female conditions such as stress urinary incontinence, vaginal dryness and vaginal laxity.



The Rockland Mill site is on private property and unfortunately there is no public access to it. Because of this factor, it has remained in a healthier condition than the other structures such as the Aldridge mill, which has been defaced with spray paint graffiti for years. After being granted permission to locate different parts of the mill, many older bottles were discovered near where the general store or commissary would have been placed. What would have been trash, paints a picture of what life could have looked like back then. The concrete structure that held the steam engine still stands erect, but the steam engine itself is no longer on the site. Various concrete foundations lay in the dense underbrush. There are numerous possibilities of what they could have been used for, but it is safe to assume the boilers would have been located nearby and there is a good chance they would have been placed on foundations, such as the ones found. Trams that ran from the railroad are still built up around the mill pond. The pond is still holding water, but many trees have grown in it and around it, so it is not easily accessible nor noticeable.

According to Texas State Historical Association, Rockland has had a population of about 100 people since 1990. From 1900 to 1940 the population was roughly 300 and thought to have close to 500. The town included 150 to 200 dwellings for sawmill workers, a school and church building, three doctors' offices, two drugstores, a livery stable, a dance hall, and a railroad station. Now, only residential structures, rock quarries, and lumber tracts remain. Although, not much resides in the once bustling town, the remnants of Rockland are still there, underneath the earth being preserved in its once trampled grounds. ■



The Story and Inspiration of Folk-Art Lures

Story and photos by Jeff Fatheree

Many articles and features have been done on Folk Art Lures and many have often wondered how carving fish lures started. Well carving lures goes back about as far as history itself, and sometimes artifacts have been found from even earlier. Texas Farm and Ranch, Fishing Lure Collectibles, The Encyclopedia of Fishing Lures made in America and Rotary Head Fishing Lures have all written about the lures and who made them. Little has been written about local artist Richard Whitehead himself. Richard currently lives in Colmesneil Texas and has some interesting stories on what and how he came to be here.

Richard Whitehead was born Oct 19, 1942 in Corvallis,



Oregon. His parents divorced when he was about 4 and his mom went to California to live. Richard's father was a milkman and worked hard for small wages. He sent him to live with his mother at age 4 not having the money for return fare. His mother had some issues and at 8 years old Richard was adopted by the Whiteheads and they moved him to Texas. He lived in Brady and Alvin for a while and would graduate from Fredericksburg High School. Upon his graduation Richard left home as he had been treated rough and thought life alone had to be better than what he was experiencing. He went to work on a quarter horse ranch and when he turned 19 went back to Fredericksburg to marry his high school sweetheart. They would divorce and remarry 3 times, on the 4th marriage it took, and they have currently been married 24 years. Richard said he got married twice between, but his wife always waited to take him back. When you meet Richard you will know how much he loves his wife and how she loves him. Life is hard at times and Richard said the one thing he learned on the horse farm was you must struggle for what you desire. He would meet his biological father after his first divorce and learn his dad had never wanted to give him up for adoption, he simply did not have the funds to prevent it. Richard would teach his dad to fish as he had never learned as a child. They caught many trout and Salmon together.

He went in the Army in 1963 and spent 18 months in Army Electronic Security a job he loved. Mr. Whitehead became ill and Richard would be given a hardship discharge as an only child to come home and take care of him. After he passed, Richard attempted to get back in the Army and was denied. He would get a job at Tektronix in Beaverton Oregon building the Oscilloscopes he had worked with in the Army. After a few years he hitchhiked back to Texas to remarry his wife and help with the kids.

They would then move to Houston where McCollum Engineers would bring him aboard and he would eventually retire to Colmesneil from there after many trips to Saudi Arabia to help with the projects McCollum had there.

His love for nature goes back to his childhood and Richard started collecting Arrowheads and other Native artifacts becoming interested in flint knapping and making bows and



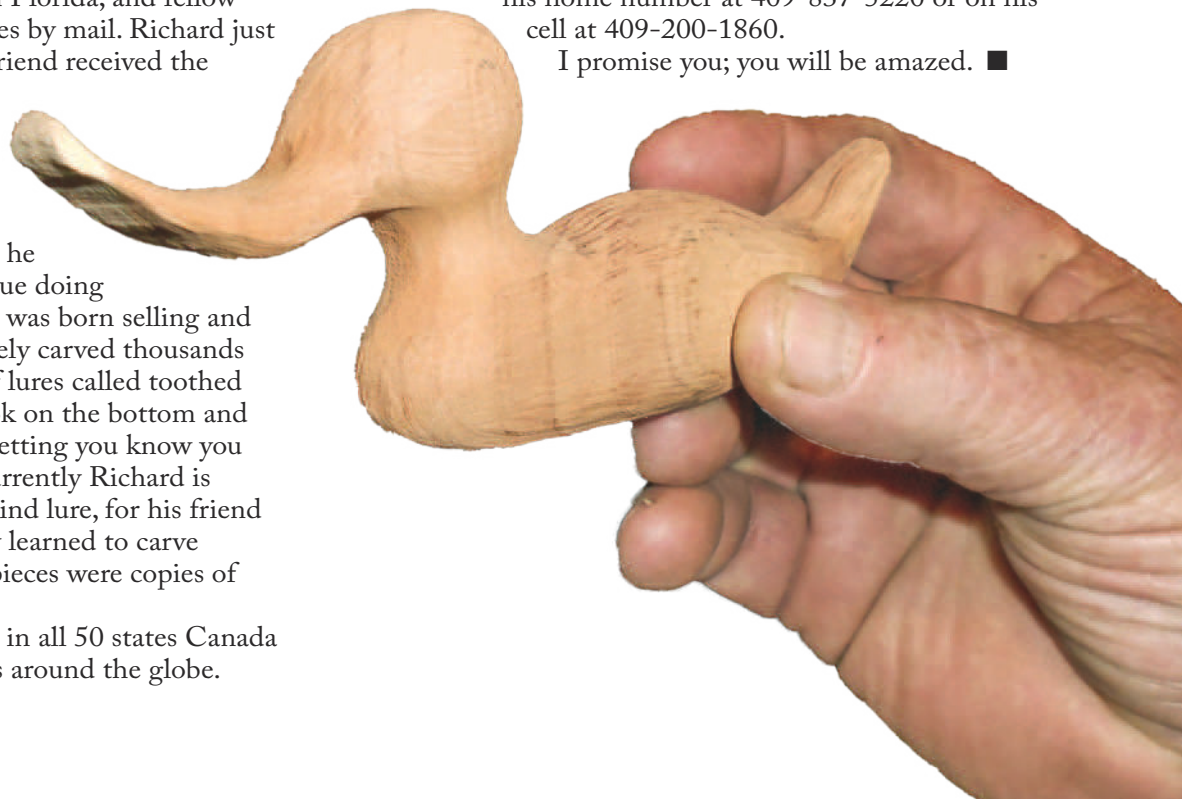
arrows in the traditional craft. This would let him meet and work with a local member of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe and teach one of their members to do the same. Richard loves sharing his knowledge with others and this would also translate to his carving of lures later. About 23 years ago Richard was collecting and he found a pine knot and thought this looks like a woodpecker. He took it home and painted it in woodpecker pattern putting an eye in place and using a nail to make the bird look as if sitting on a branch. Mr. Wallace Morgan was his boss and saw the woodpecker. He requested Richard bring that to the house and show Mrs. Wallace. Mr. Wallace always likes to treat his employees like family so the invitation was normal. Richard carried the bird with him and when Mrs. Wallace saw it, she fell in love with it. She offered Richard \$50 for the bird and would later buy some hummingbirds he carved.

He began carving gifts for others with broom handles, scrap wood and limbs, whatever he could find he would carve. He carved a few lures and a friend from Florida, and fellow fisherman, requested that they trade lures by mail. Richard just used his lures to get fish to eat but his friend received the lure in the mail and told him this was way too nice to fish with and way nicer than that he had sent to Richard. Richard insisted he keep the lure and his friend put it on eBay and within 30 minutes the price was up to \$75 and he sold the lure. Richard decided to continue doing this with his friend and Folk-Art Lures was born selling and collecting lures. Richard said he had likely carved thousands of lures and created a whole new line of lures called toothed lures. If you ever get one of his lures look on the bottom and very lightly you will see carved in a W letting you know you have a real Richard Whitehead lure. Currently Richard is doing a Unicorn Duck, yes, a one of a kind lure, for his friend and fellow carver Sonny Molina. Sonny learned to carve from Richard and many of his earliest pieces were copies of Richard's work.

Known world-wide Richard has lures in all 50 states, Canada and Singapore as well as other locations around the globe.

He stands behind his work and hates to ship it as he says if it gets broke in shipping he feels like he should replace it and sometimes that is a lot of time and effort put into the piece. He carves not only lures but has done many arrowheads and pretty much anything that comes to his mind. He did a couple of alligators and said they take way too much time to keep doing them. He can do custom lures that are one of a kind and will take a commission on occasion. He has some of his work displayed and for sale at The Rustic Grill in Colmesneil where you can get good food and fantastic cakes and pies while enjoying Richard's work. He makes arrowheads from Jasper and petrified Palmwood found around here and he loves to help others. He said that his church was nature and he worshiped Jesus by helping his neighbors. He usually is available to meet folks at his house or the restaurant to let them see the rest of his collection. You can reach Richard via email at rwhitefrog@valornet.com or Facebook at East Texas Folk Art Lures. You may set up an appointment with him at his home number at 409-837-5220 or on his cell at 409-200-1860.

I promise you; you will be amazed. ■





FOR HAND CRAFTED ITMES

Richard Whitehead may be reached at:
The Rustic Grill, 301 S Wheeler Ave St, Colmesneil, TX 75938
Email at rwhitefrog@valornet.com ■ Facebook at East Texas Folk Art Lures
By appointment at
409-837-5220 or his cell 409-200-1860





Stesti
BREWING COMPANY

*Brewing authentic
Czech style beers.*

NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Every first Saturday of the month or by appointment.

Available for private tours & special events.
www.stestibrewingcompany.com 832-452-8575
1328 FM 2915 • Lovelady, TX 75851





**RV Sites & Campground
Meetings, Weddings & Parties**

- Private Lake
- Rec Room
- Swimming Pool
- Kayaks Available
- Birding
- Retreat for Writers, Artists & Quilters

248 Woodsy Hollow, Goodrich
936-365-CAMP
woodsyhollow.com

*Texas Forest Country 2018
Polk County Small Business of the Year Award*

*Polk County Enterprise Reader's Choice Awards
Best of Polk County 2019*



*Come back to a time when each dish was
made by hand with Love!*




PIT ROW PIT STOP DINER

WE HAVE DAILY SPECIALS!!

Hamburgers/Cheeseburgers
Chicken Fried Steak/Chicken
BBQ • Fries • Onion Rings
ICECREAM AND MORE!

WE DO CALL-IN ORDERS!

All For the Glory of God!

**Mon-Sat
7am-8:30pm
Closed Sun**

402 First St
Livingston
936-327-5110



RECIPE



Fire & **Ice**
Tomatoes



Recipe by Barbara White Photo by Amy Holzworth

This is a great way to use those summer tomatoes!

Ingredients:

- 6 large tomatoes, sliced
- 1 large bell pepper, cut into strips
- 1 large red onion, sliced
- 3/4 cup cider vinegar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons celery salt
- 1 1/2 teaspoons mustard seed
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1/8 teaspoon ground red pepper (cayenne)
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1/4 cup water

Directions:

Toss tomatoes, green pepper and onion in a shallow baking dish. Combine remaining ingredients in a small saucepan and bring to a boil; boil for one minute. While still hot, pour over vegetables. Cover and chill for several hours or overnight. Serves 12.

East Texas Mysteries

Polk County author explores paranormal concepts in debut novel

Story by Chris Edwards

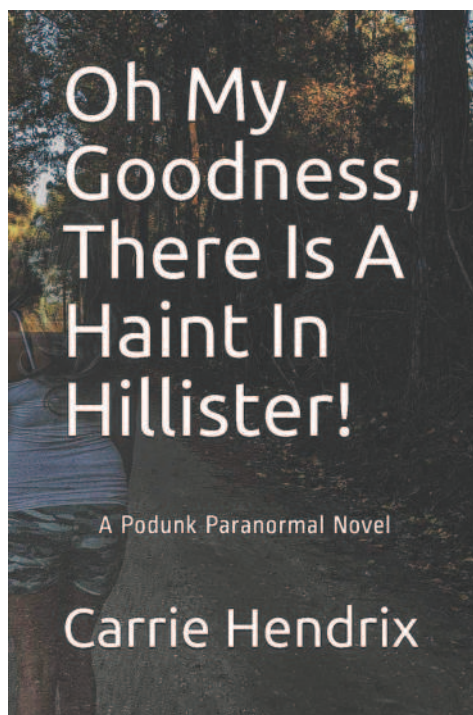
Its rich tapestry of history, heavily wooded natural beauty and variety of people make the deep East Texas region prime pickings for artists of all disciplines to find some inspiration within its borders. Livingston-based author Carrie Hendrix understands the history and mystery that makes the region such a goldmine for creatives.

“East Texas is a very culturally diverse area, which makes for an interesting mix of folks. We have a heavy influence of Southern traditions coupled with the spirit of the Wild West. We have the rich history of African Americans, Native Americans, Latinos, the Vietnamese and Asian communities along our coasts, the influence of the Acadians and Creoles, our Polish and Czech communities, the list goes on. All of those cultures permeate our food, our music, our way of life. That leads to the formation of some pretty unique personalities,” she said.

Hendrix combined those aspects of East Texas and a lifelong love of literature to create her debut novel, *Oh My Goodness, There is a Haint In Hillister!* The book, which contains a narrative voice likely to leave the reader as breathless as saying its title, is told from the viewpoint of Samantha Thorne, a reluctant psychic who runs an antique store deep within the heart of Big Thicket country.

The novel combines supernatural elements with a mix of colorful personalities that could only emanate from the piney deep and a murder investigation. Without providing spoilers, an elevator pitch of the plot could go as such: Samantha’s encounter with her Aunt Dottie lands her in the middle of a murder investigation in the titular East Texan hamlet living in fear of having a murderer in its midst.

Hendrix’s gift for pacing and narrative voice makes for a story that is a page-turner in the truest sense of the term. Writing is something that comes as both a gift and as a job to Hendrix. She was raised by her maternal grandparents in the Houston suburbs,



and her grandmother was an avid reader who read to her before she started school. “When I tired of the various fairy tales and children’s books available at the time, she started reading classics, from Mark Twain to Rudyard Kipling, Jane Austen, etc., and it ignited my passion for literature, which she continued to nurture in me,” she said. Incidentally, one of those authors, the mustachioed Missourian Mark Twain, the man whom many think to be the ultimate American man of letters, is a distant cousin of Hendrix’s great-grandmother.

Hendrix knew she was destined for a life of creativity from an early age and had her heart set on pursuing a career in art or journalism, but she says she was driven by her grandmother to finish college and go into teaching. “I taught for a number of years, met a lot of wonderful people and some really great kids, but it wasn’t what I really wanted to do, and I wasn’t happy,” she said.

She married her husband James and quit teaching after adopting a daughter. She said that for many years, all of her energy and attention went into raising her children, but there were some rare, stolen moments that she took up her “old love” of writing.

Friends and family, she says, were a constant encouragement to get her to write a book, and so she finally did. As far as its subject matter goes, she says that it was a natural. “I’ve always had an interest in the paranormal and unexplained, combined with a fascination of the human psyche, and a rather warped sense of humor. Creating *Oh My Goodness! There is a Haint in Hillister!* Was like giving birth to a child, sending it off to school and hoping the other kids like it and won’t be mean to it. It’s a scary but thrilling process and I’ve enjoyed every minute of it.”

Hendrix said she tries to treat her writing career as a regular job and work on it every day, but it does not always work out that way. “I have a beautiful, brilliant seventeen-year-old daughter and three precious grandsons by my older daughter, who keep me on my



“I’ve never liked to refer to myself as a ‘psychic’, probably because I don’t like categories or the idea of being put into any sort of nice, neat little box... It started when I was a toddler and my imaginary friends turned out to not be so imaginary.”

– Samantha Thorne, in Oh My Goodness, There is a Haint In Hillister!

toes. So, my writing time tends to be sporadic. Some of my best ideas come at nighttime when I’m trying to drift off to sleep,” she said.

Plot twists, dialogue and other character details are fond of popping into her brain during that time, right before Morpheus enters the picture to take her away to dreamland. The subconscious, Zen approach also enters the picture when she is awake and working on a narrative. “I’ve come to the conclusion that I write better when I don’t force it and just allow the story to unfold,” she said.

Working on the characters in her stories is a focus of Hendrix’s. “People are fascinating creatures. Sometimes they do goofy things that make absolutely no sense until you know a little more about them and then it all comes together,” she said.

Some of the characters in her debut book can be found in some form or fashion in any family or crowd, she says, and some of them have some inspiration from people in her own life. “Almost everyone has an Elford in their family, or they’ve worked with Lucinda, or went to school with Lorelee,” she said. “Being a writer is like having a mild case of schizophrenia, with all of these various people living in your head.” Other characters in the book, like Aunt Dottie, is inspired by many of the author’s female relatives.

The character of Samantha Thorne, Hendrix said, is a composite of many people she has known, but also contains a fair degree of Hendrix herself. “She’s the fish-out-of-water, the gal who is often shaking her head and wondering how she got into some predicament. She’s a sassy Texas girl through and through with a taste for the finer things,” she said.

East Texas will continue to provide inspiration for Carrie

Hendrix and her addictive style of writing. There are more alliteratively titled projects in the works named after towns in the regions, including *Zombies in Zavalla* and *Snakes Alive*, *Sasquatch* is in *Segno!*, the latter of which, she plans to put the finishing touches on by late summer. For the *Sasquatch* book, Hendrix says there is plenty of source material from which to draw.

“The Dallardsville / Segno area of Polk County actually has a fair share of reported Bigfoot sightings, myself and my husband being among the witnesses. We saw a large, hair-covered creature dart in front of our vehicle in 2003. We didn’t discuss it with anyone for years and finally decided, ‘the heck with it’ and started talking. In the book, I’m exploring several fictionalized accounts based on actual witnesses along with a variety of theories as to what the creature is. The theme of the novel is about perspective, and how the circumstances and events of our lives filter our experiences,” she said.

Writing has provided not only a lifelong passion for Hendrix, but a career to work toward that she is truly happy with. It is also something she continues to work at and encourages others who might be inclined to a similar path to do the same. “Make it a goal to sharpen your skills and make every essay, every short story, every novel better than the last one. Most of all, enjoy yourself, your own process and your own journey,” she said.

Oh My Goodness, There is a Haint In Hillister! is available from online retailers such as Amazon in e-book and paperback formats and can also be obtained at the Bosslight in Nacogdoches and Absolutely Fiction in Lufkin. It can also be ordered from all Barnes and Noble locations. ■

DAY TRIP

Shelby County



The Historic Courthouse Square

OF SHELBY COUNTY



Featured is the old courthouse built in 1884/85 in Center, Shelby County. The jail building (right) is a sister building built in the same style as the courthouse. The courthouse annex (left) was built in 1913. All three main buildings are on both historic registries of Texas.



Above is the inside of the courtroom in the old courthouse.

Story and photos by Jeff Fatheree

Driving into Center, Texas in Shelby County, one realizes they have entered a land that is neither ultra modern nor ancient.

Shelby County has a long history and some interesting things to see. On this trip, we traveled to see the county courthouse. Not the current one, which is modern, and like many, not near as beautiful as some of the older ones.

No, this one is on the town square and located in a position that gave the town its name. The old courthouse built in 1884-85 sits at the geographical center of the county.

The first impression upon arrival was that of changing not only time periods, but countries.

The courthouse was built to resemble that of an old Irish castle. The architect and general contractor John J. E. Gibson, a native of Ireland, took the design idea from the castles of his homeland. He would build two of these courthouses, with the second located in Carthage, just up the road from Center. Only the structure in Shelby County has survived. It is in the middle of the town square and the area's activity for years.

The original courthouse was originally located in Shelbyville, not many miles south and east of Center.

In 1836, the Congress of the Republic of Texas established

Shelby County, named for Isaac Shelby, hero of the American Revolution and governor of Kentucky. It had a long history prior, and a reputation during the Mexican years of being a badlands.

Once Texas broke away from Mexico, Shelby County was beginning to prosper and Shelbyville had logging and lumber operations. In 1830, the first courthouse was completed to house government offices and keep land records safe. This created disputes on where to locate the county seat, as folks in Tenaha felt they were the commercial capital of Shelby County. By the 1860s with the railroad running through Tenaha, Timpson, Bobo and Blair, it was truly the commercial hub of the county and the source of much of the wealth and power of the county. Robert L. "Bob" Parker became the county clerk and district clerk and had a survey made of the center of the county, the county square. He took county records to Center in 1866 and set up court. By taking the vote in the northern part of the county, he was able to get voter approval to move the county seat to Center. This being done as it was, he moved the records in the middle of the night.

The second facility was completed in 1867 and would stand as the courthouse, a modest frame building, until 1882 when arson claimed it and most of the land grants and records housed there. Parker had been paid to build the two-story frame structure and legend has it that an adversary likely set the fire.



The judge's bench (above) is raised and has a trap door on one side where the judge can escape once the verdict and sentence are rendered. It goes down to an escape route on the first floor (bottom) next to the back door so he can make an escape in the event the decision is unpopular.



With Parker's memory and copies from landowners of records, most of the documents were recreated and stored, while meetings were held in the house located on the corner of the square. A reward of \$1,000 was offered for the name and arrest of the individuals responsible for the fire — a large sum for the day.

No portion of the structure remains today from either courthouses, however, a marker is located in front of the Farmers Bank building in Shelbyville, noting the location of the original structure.

That house would become the records hall, as a new courthouse was commissioned in 1884 and completed within two years. It is the courthouse that would be used for over a century for county and district court, as well as other offices.

As you approach the structure from the north side, you see in large numbers the year 1885, when the building was completed. Not only was the building completed in two years, but the bricks were manufactured there in Shelby County. J. E. Gipson Brick (the same Irish architect) was used to build the courthouse and accompanying jail. The jail was constructed in the same style and now houses the chamber of commerce.

By 1890, there were 16 brick companies in Center and the original buildings on the square are all constructed of local brick. The county court moved into the annex in 1913, a building that still stands, yet is in need of restoration. So far, funding for the project has not been sufficient.

Entering the main courthouse you are greeted with a pier and beam design, allowing ventilation to come in under the building and discharge air throughout. Space over the ceilings is filled with sand to act as a fire suppressant, as was discovered when one of the ceiling boards came loose and sand spilled into the building. The cupola atop the building completed the ventilation system and creates an intriguing area to look over the town.

The first floor is filled with offices and the Texas Room, which houses some artifacts, as well as the meeting room for the county historical society and Sherry Riley. She is the docent of the courthouse, as well as the county veteran's service officer.

Where the entryways meet is a metal post in the center of a wooden "X" in the floor pattern. The northwest to southeast board is the original dividing line of the two grants given that covered ten acres that would become Center. The metal post is the geographic center of Shelby County.

Making your way up to the second floor, you enter the district courtroom that was used until the new courthouse was completed and restoration began on the old courthouse.

In this room, you will find the upper system that releases the cool air drawn in from the lower ventilation intake and moves over the room, keeping it relatively cool. The craftsmanship of the wood interiors and exquisite attention to details show the quality one expects from this time. The wooden floors and benches recall a time long past. Two rooms adjoin the courtroom, one on either side — one for the defendant and the other for the jury.

Many trials have taken place here, from petty theft to

murder. The judge's bench is raised and has a trap door on one side. It goes down to an escape route on the first floor next to the back door, where the judge can escape in the event a verdict and sentence is unpopular.

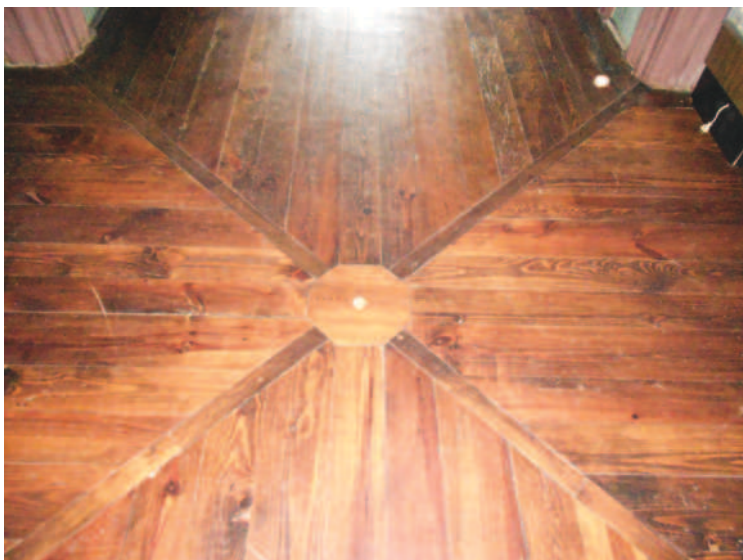
The courthouse itself is an adventure, yet other buildings on the square and the town of Center are worthy of a day trip. The jail is a sister building built in the same style as the courthouse. The courthouse annex, established a little later, is still a historic treasure and the gazebo is also an intriguing feature to explore. The complexity of design of the entire square is geometric in nature and an amazing sight to behold.

The square is filled with history and the fact that the three main buildings are on both state historic registries makes this a great stop on anyone's trip.

Normally tours are available between 7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. With construction, hours are limited, so call ahead at 936-598-6530. The 1913 records building is awaiting restoration to move the museum to the square. Those who wish to participate financially can make checks payable to Shelby County Historic Commission P.O. Box 1542 Center, TX 75935. ■



The ceiling above where the judge sat is filled with sand to act as a fire suppressant if the boards were to catch fire.



X marks the spot of the geographic center of Shelby County.



The ceiling above where the judge sat is filled with sand to act as a fire suppressant if the boards were to catch fire.





I see more than a bundle.

Christopher Scott, Agent
 255 FM 350 S
 Livingston, TX 77351
 Bus: 936-327-4141
chris.scott.nyut@statefarm.com

While other insurers just see your home and car as a bundle or a combo deal, I take the time to see what they mean to you and give them the protection they deserve.
LET'S TALK TODAY.



State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
 State Farm Fire and Casualty Company
 Bloomington, IL

1706808

History will remain a mystery for a while

Story by Barbara White

“What are you wearing?” I asked in the huskiest voice I could muster, which was not difficult since I had not spoken to another human being since the previous day.

When my friend of several decades quit laughing, she replied she was wearing pajama bottoms and a t-shirt.

I had asked the question because I thought it would be funny. And also because, as I was scrolling to find her number, I noticed I was wearing a mismatched ensemble consisting of a pair of too short shorts and a t-shirt commemorating the Houston Rockets’ world championship win in 1994. At least I think it was 1994; the date is a little hard to read after hundreds of trips through the washing machine.

My friend and I are both retired. We had already gotten a little too used to dressing for comfort and, having spent even more time than usual in our respective homes, several hundred miles apart, in recent months, we were both sliding dangerously fast down the slope to becoming certified slobs and procrastinators. We agreed we each need to address this issue... at some point.

My old friend has a half-dozen grandkids in various stages of growth, ranging from the angelic younger years

when a child is an open book that is hard to put down to the less loveable but temporary phase when teens get down to their exercise pushing boundaries. Their personalities are just as varied. I suspect few of them would have made it through the Willy Wonka Chocolate Factory tour.

We got to pondering what her grandkids would tell their grandkids about The Great Pandemic of 2020, or whatever this particular period of time will come to be known in the history books a few decades from now. We decided they would each remember it a little differently since they are viewing things, literally, from different levels. The youngest may not remember a time when only would-be robbers entered stores wearing masks. Even on tiptoe, it is hard to get a peek at what is really going on when your view is blocked by a protective layer of grownups and you are less than three feet tall.

If the kids remain close, their stories will eventually become consolidated, woven into a single tale that will become the family pandemic story that will be passed from generation to generation with some embellishments along the way -- someone will have noticed a loose thread in the storyline and will have run with it, getting it a little twisted.

To say our conversations meander is like saying Michael Jordan sauntered down the basketball court. Our chat zipped along, making brief stops at toilet paper, pandemic TV viewing and grocery prices before settling into an extended discussion about some of the stories that were passed down to us through our ancestors.

Take the Great Depression; my folks didn’t talk about it much. I honestly do not know how the various branches of my family fared, but I know there was a boarding house involved.

Many, many years ago, when I was in high school, I invited a friend to stay for dinner, unaware that my mother had had a craving for “her” potato soup on this unusually cold evening. My friend eyed the thin, clear soup and later discretely asked me if my parents needed money.

The soup had a few potato chunks floating in a pool of onion, garlic, water and the secret ingredient: several tablespoons of bacon grease. It was actually good. I knew from family lore that the recipe stemmed from my grandparents’ days at “the boarding house” during the Great Depression. I was never really sure whether they owned the boarding house, stayed in the boarding house or, because I come from a long line of people who tend to take loose threads and run with them, never got within a hundred miles of a boarding house.

My friend’s family, I learned, literally “lost the farm” during the Great Depression.





“That’s depressing,” I said.
 “It’s called The Depression,” she replied.

Some history lessons are not passed down through stories, but in habits. If you wanted to get on my mother’s bad side – and, trust me, that was not a place a sane person would want to be – you had only to leave visible dirt on a hand towel. Her mantra was: If you do a good job of washing your hands, the dirt goes down the drain, not on the towel. Now I wonder, because she was born in 1914, if her mother didn’t drill that lesson into her during the 1918 pandemic. I’ll never know for sure; there is no one left to ask.

Our conversation rolled along, making brief stops at sports, run-ins with credit card companies and politics before reaching a natural end, very near where it had started.

“So, what do you think your grandkids will remember about this time?” I asked.

“Who knows?” my friend replied. “I guess it will depend on what else happens in their lives.” She then embarked on a lengthy quote: “You are too concerned with what was and what will be. There is a saying: Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift. That is why it is called the present.”

“You do know that is a take on a famous Bil Keane quote,” I pointed out.

“I know,” she said. “That is the Kung Fu Panda version. “Too much time with the grandkids?”

Ain’t no such thing. ■

BLUE DUCK
*Elegant meals made with care by hand
 in Historic Downtown Livingston*

We are located in the Mistrot building a block off of US190. Finding us is the beginning of the experience. Come back to a simpler time when you visited over great food at a calmer pace.

Mon-Fri 11-9 | Sat and Sunday for Private events. Let us host your business or party.
 936-327-2385 Owner Paul Escamilla and his staff look forward to serving you.

**TRUSTED
 PRINCIPLED
 PROVEN**

Re-elect

**TRENT
 ASHBY**
 STATE REPRESENTATIVE
 REPUBLICAN

trentashby.com



SHOP EAST TEXAS

Shopping local can save the planet *Well, your community anyway*

Story by Kelli Barnes

I became an adult in the early 90's, meaning I was close to running out of stupid mistakes to make - ready to pay the piper, get my act together, and be a good citizen. One of the first things I remember, when starting my career in the newspaper business as a salesperson, was hearing stories from business owners who were my age now, about how their revenues had been ripped away by big box stores.

The day Mrs. Dixie Jarrott told me she used to sell Leggs pantihose in her pharmacy and gift shop, I started to realize what she was talking about. "We do not sell enough inventory anymore to keep that item and many others in stock," she said. (We were still wearing pantihose to business meetings and church on Sunday's at that time. I hear they are making a comeback.) Instead, she had to rethink her business model and fill the gift shop with beautiful and unique gift items, the most current and fashionable. This business model served her well.

No telling what she thought about my 20-year old self who just moved to town and tried selling her advertising, like I had a clue what she as a business owner in a small community needed.

Thankfully, she and many others did know what they needed in advertising to be successful, so they taught me the ropes. Credit goes to Mrs. Jarrott and her husband George, along with Fred Sullivan, Mr. Archer and son Forrest, Mr. Best and son James; Huntley Kenesson, David Mann and son Lee...just to name a few. I owe a lot to them.

Each one invested in advertising - not because I was good at what I did, but because they were good at what they did.

Why am I bringing up big box stores and the 90's? Because online shopping is causing the same affect to another crop of small business owners in East Texas. The convenience of online shopping, with free shipping and a little cheaper price, is running off our small business owners, which is running off our jobs, tourism dollars, and our community's ability to thrive.

Do you want a cause? Do you want to do something that matters? Do you want to sustain the planet by starting with your community?

Shop local. It is not just a cliché.

Spending money in our local economy keeps more dollars at home, allowing us to live and work here, instead of big cities, if we choose. Studies have shown \$68 of every \$100 spent locally stays in our communities. (from U.S. Chambers of Commerce data)

Visualize your hometown with empty buildings, while one or both breadwinners in your family travels far from home to make a living. Our hometowns have lost so much. We have fewer car dealers, lost our charming pharmacy drug store lunch counters in many cases, and specialty clothing shops and shoe stores are few and far between. The same with bowling alleys and movie theaters. At one time these were all small businesses providing local jobs.

So, on that note let's go shopping East Texans, and do our part! ■

SHOP
LOCAL



STONEWARE JARS - \$8.99 EA.
Layered Home
207 N. John Redditt Dr. in Lufkin



CHECKERED CLOTH BASKET - \$39.50
Layered Home
207 N. John Redditt Dr. in Lufkin

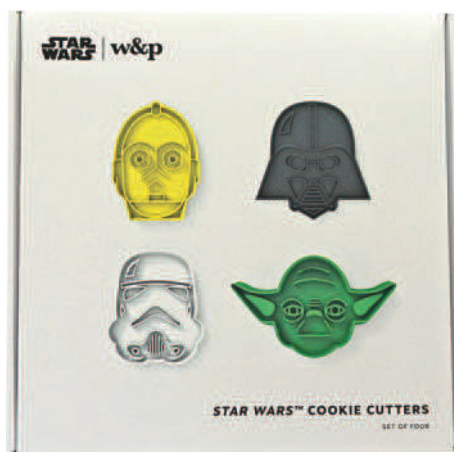


CHEESE GRATER - \$24
The White Peacock Olive Oil
& Vinegar Company
112 S. 1st Street in Lufkin



SKINNY SYRUP WATER MIXER - \$6
Suzie Q's Blessings from Above
112 South Main in Groveton

STAR WARS COOKIE CUTTERS - \$24
The White Peacock Olive Oil & Vinegar Company
112 S. 1st Street in Lufkin



STRIPED CHAIR - \$609
Layered Home
207 N. John Redditt Dr. in Lufkin





SHOP EAST TEXAS



CHILL LUNCH BAG - \$20
The White Peacock Olive Oil
& Vinegar Company
112 S. 1st Street in Lufkin



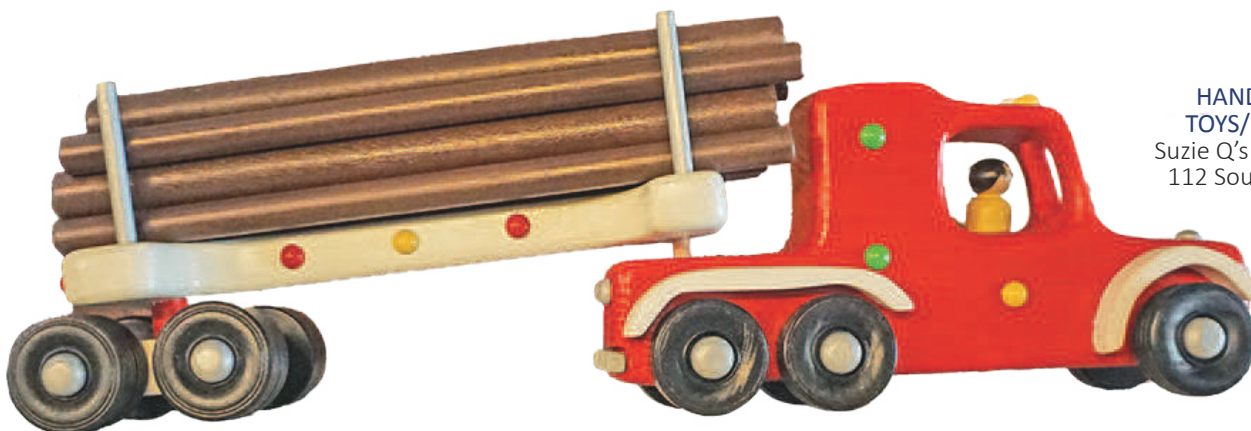
PORTABLE LUNCH BOWL - \$25
The White Peacock Olive Oil
& Vinegar Company
112 S. 1st Street in Lufkin



FAMILY MUGS - \$7.49
Suzie Q's Blessings from Above
112 South Main in Groveton



KETO SYRUP COFFEE/JUICE MIXER - \$6.99
Suzie Q's Blessings from Above
112 South Main in Groveton



HANDMADE WOODEN TOYS/18-WHEELER - \$39
Suzie Q's Blessings from Above
112 South Main in Groveton



DECORATIVE HAND TOWELS - \$7.99 EA.
Layered Home
207 N. John Redditt Dr. in Lufkin



WHITE LAMP - \$129
Layered Home
207 N. John Redditt Dr.
in Lufkin

Rock Her World.



Kelly Waters

Why pay high repair costs?

Visit Lufkin Jewelry on the Square
and let Bobby & his crew take care of you.

FREE REPAIR ESTIMATES

Ring Sizing **\$29⁹⁵**
starting at

Broken Chains **\$19⁹⁵**
starting at

Appraisals **\$39⁹⁵**
starting at

Watch Batteries **\$10⁰⁰**
starting at

LUFKIN JEWELRY
on the Square



121 E. Frank • 936-639-6369 • lufkinjewelry.com

Three Master Craftsmen on site
If you can dream it we can make it
Custom and Designer Jewelry



SHOP EAST TEXAS



LIGHTING - \$318
Layered Home
207 N. John Redditt Dr. in Lufkin



SPECIALTY OLIVE OILS
SM.\$12, MED.\$16, LG.\$28
The White Peacock Olive Oil
& Vinegar Company
112 S. 1st Street in Lufkin



HAND-PAINTED CHAIR - \$175
Suzie Q's Blessings from Above
112 South Main in Groveton



HANDMADE WALKING STICK
\$75
Suzie Q's Blessings from Above
112 South Main in Groveton



GUARANTEED SAME DAY AIR!

7-7-7

7AM TO 7PM 7 DAYS A WEEK!
NO OVERTIME CHARGES.

Payments as low as **\$88** / MONTH

**ON A COMPLETE
NEW SYSTEM**



*Not valid with any other offers
**Payments are with approved credit and available on select systems

www.McWilliamsandSon.com

936-274-3272 | Find Us On **facebook**.

Proudly Serving All of East Texas

License #TACLA90183C

Want to brand your business or team
with the best looks around?



Caps • Apparel • Screen Printing
Retail & Wholesale

Make sure your business, team or group
is well represented in style!

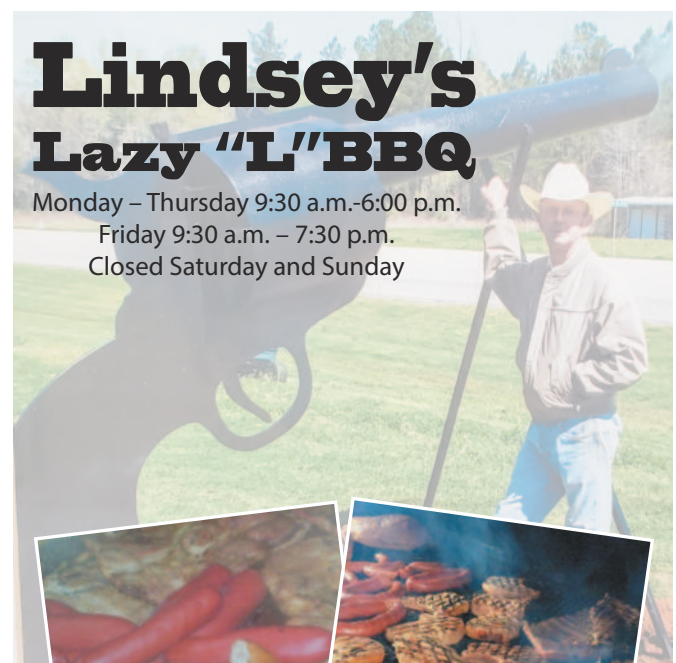
936.858.9996

134 W San Antonio • Alto, Texas 75925



Lindsey's Lazy "L" BBQ

Monday – Thursday 9:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Friday 9:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Closed Saturday and Sunday



2 ½ miles South of Alto
12517 US Hwy 69 South | Alto Texas 75925
936-858-4468

CALFENNDAR

JULY

Gladewater

Fireworks on the Lake
JULY 3

Baytown

2 Day Independence Day Celebration
JULY 3-4

Galveston

Lloyd Maines live at the Old Quarter Acoustic Cafe
JULY 3

Waxahachie

23rd Annual Crepe Myrtle Festival
JULY 3-4

Galveston

4th of July Parade and Fireworks/Seawall
Boulevard
JULY 4

Henderson

July 4th Parade and Fun in the Park
JULY 4

Lake Jackson

Rubber Duck Regatta
Firecracker 4 Run
JULY 4

Longview

Fireworks and Freedom Celebration
Mark Chestnutt/Longview Convention Center
JULY 4

Kilgore

4th of July Extravaganza
JULY 4

Livingston

4th of July Celebration at Alabama Coushatta Tribe
JULY 4

Nacogdoches

Freedom Fest and Fireworks
JULY 4

Jasper

Fireworks at Sandy Creek Park
JULY 4

Grapeland

East Texas Country Music Festival/Salmon Lake
Park
JULY 4-6

Groveton

Fireworks at the "Y"
JULY 4

Centerville

Leon County Funtier Days
JULY 4

Lufkin

Fireworks at the Ellen Trout Zoo
JULY 4

Galveston

Robert Earl Keen/Grand 1894 Opera House
JULY 5

The Woodlands

Santana, Earth Wind and Fire/Cynthia Woods
Mitchell Pavilion
JULY 5

Houston

Christopher Cross 40th Anniversary Tour/The
Heights Theater
JULY 9

Beaumont

5th Annual Brews & Bites Craft Beer Festival/
Courville's Catering
JULY 10

Houston

The O'Jays/Arena Theater
JULY 11

Newton

Go Texan Benefit/Civic Center
JULY 11

Livingston

2nd Annual Hunter Williams Memorial Ragball
Tournament/Pedigo Park
JULY 11

Center

What A Melon Festival
JULY 11

Texas City

Wayward Winds Regatta
JULY 11-12

Mineola

58th Annual Fireman's Rodeo
JULY 11-12

Beaumont

2020 National Jr. Brangus Show/Ford Park
JULY 12-18

Houston

Def Leppard, Motley Crue, and Poison/Minute
Maid Park
JULY 14-15

Houston
Houston Dog Show/NRG Park
JULY 16

Houston
Reckless Kelly at the Heights Theater
JULY 17

Livingston
Trade Days at Pedigo Park
JULY 17-19

Nacogdoches
Spring Brew Fest/County Expo Center
JULY 18

Lufkin
Houston Sky Lantern Festival/Pine Valley Raceway
JULY 18

Houston
Bridal Extravaganza Show/G.R. Brown Convention Center
JULY 18

Clute
Great Texas Mosquito Festival
JULY 23-25

Houston
Mickey Gilley and Johnny Lee at Stampede Houston
JULY 24

Houston
The Weeknd/Toyota Center
JULY 24

Naples
82nd Annual Watermelon Festival
JULY 24-26

Greenville
Johnny Bush and Johnny Rodriguez/ Municipal Auditorium
JULY 25

Huntsville
T.G. Sheppard at the Old Towne Theater
JULY 25

Palestine
1836 Chuckwagon Races at Diamond B Ranch
JULY 30-AUGUST 3

Houston
Wynonna Judd at the Heights Theater
JULY 30

Nacogdoches
Nacogdoches Arenacross/County Expo Center
JULY 31-AUGUST 2

Houston
International Gem and Jewelry Show/NRG Park
JULY 31

Galveston
Shake Russell live at the Old Quarter Acoustic Cafe
JULY 31

AUGUST

Palestine
Neches River Wilderness Race
AUGUST 1

Greenville
Gene Watson/Municipal Auditorium
AUGUST 1

Kirbyville
Deep East Texas BBQ Championship
AUGUST 1-2

Galveston
Johnny Mathis/Grand 1894 Opera House
AUGUST 1

Houston
Janet Jackson/Toyota Center
AUGUST 5

Tyler
33rd Annual Lindale Championship Rodeo
AUGUST 5-8

Carthage
23rd Annual Classic Country Music Festival
AUGUST 6-9

Lufkin
Ray Wylie Hubbard at the Pines Theater
AUGUST 7

The Woodlands
Tim McGraw/Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion
AUGUST 7

Jasper
Texas Trash Off/Sandy Creek Park
AUGUST 8

Houston
Ray Wylie Hubbard at the Heights Theater
AUGUST 8

Henderson
165th Annual Sacred Heart Singing Convention
AUGUST 8-9

Houston
Harry Styles/Toyota Center
AUGUST 10

Sugarland
John Legend/Smart Financial Theater
AUGUST 13

Madisonville
2020 Gun and Hunting Show
AUGUST 15

Galveston
Sand Crab Nighttime Beach 5K/10K
AUGUST 15

Colmesneil
Back to School Bash/Victory Camp Colmesneil
AUGUST 15

Longview
Longview Sesquicentennial: A Ride Through History
AUGUST 15

Tyler
36th Annual Taste of Tyler
AUGUST 18

Corsicana
Tapestry: The Carole King Songbook/Palace Theater
AUGUST 20

Galveston
34th Annual AIA Sandcastle Competition
AUGUST 22

Diboll
Renaissance Feast/Civic Center
AUGUST 22

Beaumont
Smokey Bear's Birthday Party/ Fire Museum of Texas
AUGUST 22

Galveston
Ray Wylie Hubbard live at the Old Quarter Acoustic Cafe
AUGUST 22

CALFENNDAR

Houston
Buddy Guy at the House of Blues
AUGUST 28

Nacogdoches
Pine Knot Music Co-op/Millard's
Crossing
AUGUST 28

Longview
Grand Sesquicentennial Trek
150th Anniversary Parade
AUGUST 29

Sugarland
Opry on the Square
AUGUST 29

New Caney
East Texas Fire & Ice Festival
AUGUST 29

Grapeland
Bluegrass Music Festival/Salmon
Lake Park
AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 1

The Woodlands
Lady Antebellum/Cynthia Woods
Mitchell Pavilion
AUGUST 29

Houston
Tanya Tucker/The Heights
Theater
AUGUST 30

Houston
SETX Charity Golf Tournament/
Wildcat Golf Club
AUGUST 30

The Woodlands
Rod Stewart, Cheap Trick/Cynthia
Woods Mitchell Pavilion
AUGUST 30

SEPTEMBER

Sugarland
Goo Goo Dolls/Smart Financial
Center
SEPTEMBER 1

Canton
First Monday Trade Days
SEPTEMBER 3-6

The Woodlands
Sammy Hagar/Cynthia Woods
Mitchell Pavilion
SEPTEMBER 3

Grapeland
Bluegrass Festival/Salmon Lake
Park
SEPTEMBER 4

Mt. Vernon
Sheriff's Posse Rodeo
SEPTEMBER 5-6

The Woodlands
Journey in Concert/Cynthia
Woods Mitchell Pavilion
SEPTEMBER 5

Longview
Lake Cherokee Family Fun Fest
SEPTEMBER 5

Sugarland
Taste of the Caribbean Festival
2020
SEPTEMBER 6

Jasper
Bass Master Fishing Tournament/
Lake Sam Rayburn
SEPTEMBER 10-12

Corsicana
John Conlee/Liberty Hall
SEPTEMBER 10

Pasadena
Pasadena Livestock Show and
Rodeo BBQ Cook-off
SEPTEMBER 10

Huntsville
Moe Bandy/Old Towne Theater
SEPTEMBER 11

Longview
Gregg County Fair
SEPTEMBER 11-19

Anahuac
2020 Texas Gator Festival
SEPTEMBER 11-13

Houston
Enrique Iglesias and Ricky
Martin/Toyota Center
SEPTEMBER 12

Kingwood
2nd Annual In a Pickle Festival/
Towne Center Park
SEPTEMBER 12

The Woodlands
Foreigner Juke Box Hero Tour
2020/CWM Pavilion
SEPTEMBER 12

Fairfield
23rd Annual Show of Wheels
SEPTEMBER 12

Houston
All-Star Craft Beer & Wine
Festival/Minute Maid Park
SEPTEMBER 12

Crockett
East Texas Farm Ranch Wildlife
Expo
SEPTEMBER 13

Galveston
31st Annual Galveston Chamber
Golf Tournament/Moody
Gardens
SEPTEMBER 14

Sugarland
Alicia Keys/Smart Financial
Center
SEPTEMBER 15

Corsicana
John Conlee/Palace Theater
SEPTEMBER 17

Greenville
John Conlee/Municipal
Auditorium
SEPTEMBER 18

Houston
Adam Ant at the Revention
Music Center
SEPTEMBER 18

Longview
30th Annual Longview PRCA
Rodeo
SEPTEMBER 18-19

Jacksonville
36th Annual Tomato Festival
SEPTEMBER 19

Longview
Kids Catfish Tournament/Lake
Cherokee
SEPTEMBER 19

Kemah
All Mustang Car Show/Kemah
Boardwalk
SEPTEMBER 19

Galveston
Suzy Bogguss live at the Old Quarter
Acoustic Cafe
SEPTEMBER 24

Lufkin
36th Annual Texas State Forest Festival
SEPTEMBER 24-27

Coldspring
San Jacinto County Fair and Rodeo
SEPTEMBER 24-26

Spring
Tracy Bird live at Big Texas Spring
SEPTEMBER 25

Tyler
East Texas State Fair
SEPTEMBER 25-OCTOBER 4

Galveston
Wild Texas Shrimp Festival
SEPTEMBER 25-26

Beaumont
Chevron Phillips Charity Golf Tournament/
Bayou Din Country Club
SEPTEMBER 25

Houston
Oak Ridge Boys at the Arena Theater
SEPTEMBER 25

Crockett
World Championship Fiddler's Contest
SEPTEMBER 26

Jasper
Jasper Air Show 2020
SEPTEMBER 26-27

Woodville
Ghosts and Legends of Texas Past/Heritage
Village
SEPTEMBER 26

Woodville
Tyler County Fair
SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 3

OCTOBER

Center
44th Annual East Texas Poultry Festival
OCTOBER 1-3

Crockett
John Michael Montgomery/Crockett Civic
Center
OCTOBER 2

Nacogdoches
Red Dirt Mud Run 2020
OCTOBER 3

Cleveland
Fall Festival/Civic Center
OCTOBER 3

Huntsville
46th Annual Fair in the Square
OCTOBER 3

Houston
95th Battle of the Piney Woods SFA vs
SHSU/NRG Stadium
OCTOBER 3

Nacogdoches
Piney Woods Fair/County Expo Center
OCTOBER 6-11

Jasper
Sealy Big Bass Splash/Sam Rayburn Lake
OCTOBER 8-10

Conroe
Cajun Catfish Festival
OCTOBER 9-11

The Woodlands
The Doobie Brothers/Cynthia Woods
Mitchell Pavilion
OCTOBER 10

Houston
36th Annual Wings Over Houston Airshow/
Ellington Field
OCTOBER 10-11

Edom
48th Annual Edom Arts Festival
OCTOBER 10-11

Rusk
Pumpkin Patch Express/Texas State Railroad
OCTOBER 10,17,24,&31ST

Lindale
Country Fest 2020/Picker's Pavilion
Harvest Hustle 5K
OCTOBER 10

Carthage
Potlatch Reunion 2020
OCTOBER 10

Tyler
2020 Red Dirt BBQ and Music Festival
OCTOBER 11

Grapeland
75th Annual Peanut Festival
OCTOBER 15-17

Tyler
87th Annual Texas Rose Festival
OCTOBER 15-18

Gilmer
83rd Annual East Texas Yamboree
OCTOBER 15-17

Humble
Harris County Expo and Fair/Civic Center
OCTOBER 16-17

Huntsville
Moe Bandy/ Old Towne Theater
OCTOBER 16

Madisonville
Texas Mushroom Festival
OCTOBER 17

Sulphur Springs
4th Annual Main Street Uncorked
OCTOBER 17

Jasper
Fall Butterfly Festival
OCTOBER 17

The Woodlands
Foghat at Dosey Doe-The Big Barn
OCTOBER 17

Longview
Longview Wine Festival 2020
OCTOBER 17

Tyler
Jamey Johnson at the Oil Palace
OCTOBER 17

Tomball
The Texas Tenors 10th Anniversary Tour/
Main Street Crossing
OCTOBER 18

Sugarland
Marc Antony Opus Tour 2020/Smart
Financial Center
OCTOBER 19

Nacogdoches
Pine Log Reunion 2020/SFASU
OCTOBER 23-24

Waxahachie
Texas Country Reporter Festival
OCTOBER 24

Carthage
Main Street Halloween Contest
OCTOBER 24

CALENDAR

- Tomball**
2020 Tomball Bluegrass Festival
OCTOBER 24
- Nacogdoches**
Old Stone Fort Bicycle Race
OCTOBER 24
- Palestine**
2020 Hot Pepper Festival
Cars of Palestine 35th Annual Car Show
OCTOBER 24
- Huntsville**
SHSU Homecoming vs McNeese
OCTOBER 24
- Colmesneil**
Harvest Party, Pumpkin Patch/Victory
Camp Colmesneil
OCTOBER 24
- Nacogdoches**
SFA Homecoming vs Central Arkansas
Bears
OCTOBER 25
- Lake Jackson**
Halloween Spooktacular/Sea Center
Texas
OCTOBER 25
- The Woodlands**
Brooks and Dunn/Cynthia Woods
Mitchell Pavilion
OCTOBER 29
- Houston**
International Quilt Festival/G R Brown
Convention Center
OCTOBER 29-NOVEMBER 1
- Carthage**
Halloween on the Square
OCTOBER 31
- Lufkin**
Boo at the Zoo/Ellen Trout Zoo
OCTOBER 31
- Cleveland**
Halloween Havoc/105 Speedway
OCTOBER 31
- Palestine**
Trick or Treat on Main Street
OCTOBER 31
- Crockett**
CASA of the Pines Super Hero Fun Run
OCTOBER 31

■ *Events are subject to change or cancellation. To submit a calendar item email Mollie at events@eastexanmag.com*

TERRY BLACK Construction, Inc.

- Directional Boring
- Municipal Utilities



203 W San Antonio St.
Alto Texas 75925
936-858-5901

THERE IS A LOT MORE GOING ON BEHIND THE PINE CURTAIN THAN JUST TALKING HEADS!



Yes, we still have the podcasts you love, but there is more:

- **Covering a five-county region including:**
Polk, Tyler, San Jacinto, Trinity, and Houston counties.
- **Daily arrest reports**
- **Breaking news**
- **COVID updates**
- **Get more information from your Facebook breaking news feed at crime-behind-pinecurtain.blog**
- **Advertise on the Crime Behind The Pine Curtain blog.**
Contact Madison at (936) 327-4357 ext. 1005

Plus, sign up for the Crime Behind the Pine Curtain daily newsletter email.

Polk County Publishing Company
100 Calhoun St. • Livingston, TX 77351
(936) 327-4357 • editor@polkenterprise.com
crime-behind-pinecurtain.blog



Island Liqueur

"Enjoy a Piece of Paradise"

Stock up for Summer Fun!



ISLAND-LIQUOR.COM

CRYSTAL BEACH
2275 STATE HWY 87 #1
CRYSTAL BEACH, TX 77650
409.684.8001

VILLAGE MILLS
15222 US-69 N
VILLAGE MILLS, TX 77663
409.834.6900

Meet our specialists:

Dr. Clifton O'Meara
Orthopedics



- Joint replacement, including Minimally Invasive Surgery technique
- Sports injuries
- Fracture care
- Rotator cuff repair
- Carpal tunnel surgery

Dr. Jeffery Kroll
Urology



- Benign prostatic (BPH) Hyperplasia
- Kidney stones
- Prostate disease
- Urinary incontinence
- Urinary tract infections (UTIs)

Dr. Richard Tay
Gastroenterology



- Chronic Heartburn
- Constipation
- Digestive disorders
- Gastrointestinal disease
- Screening for colon cancer
- Chronic indigestion

Dr. Adebayo Adewale
Internal Medicine
Nephrology



- Hypertension
- Chronic Kidney Disease
- Kidney Stones
- Fluid and electrolyte disorders
- Dialysis



Crockett Medical Center

Inspiring Health and Hope.

Medical care centered on excellence, healing and you.

For today and many tomorrows...

We believe in the power of a community pulling together and the power of people who care.

We're a hospital built for community, BY the community.



Call to make an appointment today. 936|545|4581 1100 East Loop 304 Crockett, Texas 75835

WIESNER



HUNTSVILLE

"Home of the Bottom Line"



936-291-7500

wiesnerhuntsville.com

800-859-1245