

Issue 13  
Spring 2021

# East Texan



## **Villalobos Animal Rescue: Athens**

A healing forest for wolfdogs and women parolees

## **A place to rest their heads**

Sleep in Heavenly Peace commits to ending childhood bedlessness





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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

---

*Ahhh...Spring!*

*After a year of feeling trapped indoors from health reasons to the historic arctic blast, we have finally arrived at our glorious East Texas Spring season.*

*The blooms are unfolding, the birds are singing and we can all thaw out and get back to our comfy heat and humidity we are content to complain about.*

*In this issue, we hope to inspire your outdoor living with ideas for container gardening that can be enjoyed whether you have acreage or a simple patio setting to work with.*

*We travel to Athens where Villalobos has extended its organization into Texas to create a safe sanctuary for wolf dogs in need.*

*There are a couple of musicians we were able to visit and share their stories with you. One is just starting out and the other has plenty of experience to share.*

*You will also be tucked into a story that shows how much people do really care. There are a group of volunteers whose sole mission is that every child has a bed to sleep in at night.*

*We also bring you food, laughter, and a few ideas for shopping in East Texas to round this issue out.*

*Thank you for being a part of East Texan Magazine. Pour yourself a glass of tea, make your way out to a comfy spot on the porch, and spend some time with us.*

~ Debbie Dickerson  
East Texan editor



## On The Cover



Wolfdogs Nymiria & Kymiria, the Husky Sisters.  
Photograph by Amy Holzworth.  
See full story on page 12.

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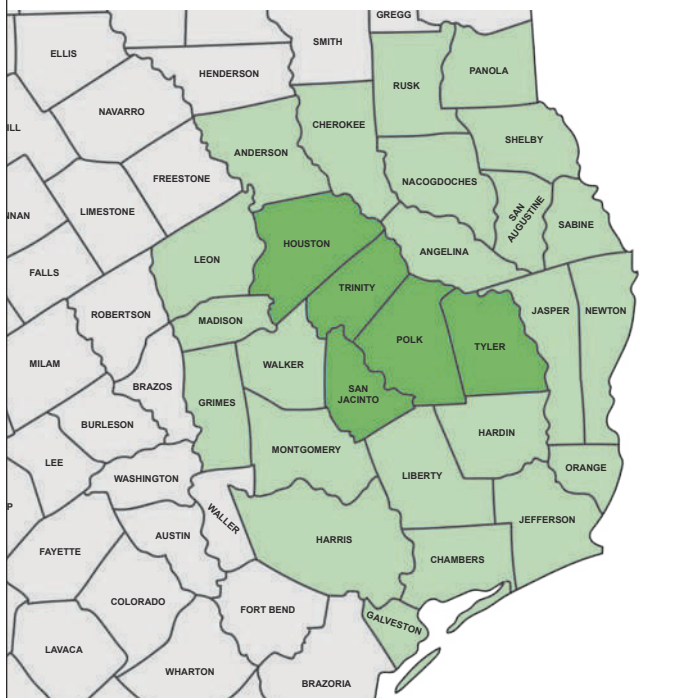
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GARDEN







# PLANTS IN POTS

*pretty, practical and full of purpose*

**Story and photos by Diane Morey Sitton.**

Container gardens are the “go anywhere, do anything” personalities of the garden world. Pot them up and, instantly, they are ready to enliven patios, decorate decks, and extend welcomes at entryways. When you display containers in clusters they camouflage utility areas, when you line them up in rows they form borders, and when you group them in sunny sites they create mini herb, vegetable, or butterfly gardens.

Best of all, container gardens get the job done with invigorating colors, intoxicating scents, and mesmerizing shapes.

### **Container companions**

Whether you begin with a specific plant you want to grow, a particular container that caught your eye at a garden shop, or a garage sale object you plan to repurpose as a pot, make sure the plant and container are compatible in overall size, shape, color, and style.

Super-sized pots welcome canna, ornamental grass, elephant’s ear, and other large, upright plants. Half barrels and galvanized tubs accommodate patio tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, miniature fruit trees, and/or flowers. Increase the growing space and the visual impact by adding a trellis for morning glory, cucumber, or other vining selections.

The natural, earthy quality of terra cotta containers complements herbs including basil, thyme, and oregano. Line up the mini herb garden along a sunny garage wall or outside the kitchen door. Or, create an instant butterfly garden on a patio by growing penta in large terra cotta pots. Red-flowering penta is irresistible to hummingbirds, as well.

*Color themes unify gardens. Here, in Gloria Ogden’s former garden in Lufkin, she carried over the color of pots on a porch to a fountain and garden bench.*





With their stumpy roots and preference for drier-than-usual soils, succulents are at home in shallow, bowl-shaped containers. Succulents also thrive in repurposed “little red wagons”. If vivid color is your thing, roll the garden-on-wheels to a sunny spot, fill it with potting mix, and plant moss rose, a brightly-hued, shallow-rooted summer annual. In fall, pull the wagon to the kitchen garden, and sow it with leaf lettuce seeds.

Window boxes showcase the flower-laden stems of petunia, verbena, and other cascading plants. Multiply the colors and textures by planting upright growers behind the tumblers. For seasonal color, suspend hanging baskets from chains or shepherds’ rods. Fill the baskets with coleus, periwinkle, and impatiens.

#### **Container gardening tips**

Pots, tubs, urns, bowls, buckets, or any found object you use as a container must have adequate drainage. If necessary, drill holes by using a specialized drill bit for ceramic or a regular bit for plastic. Tap an awl or nail with a hammer to punch holes in metal.

Avoid heavy lifting by placing large containers in their permanent location before adding soil and plants. Reduce the amount of potting medium required for these jumbo-sized pots, troughs, and tubs by filling the bottom with pottery shards, packing peanuts, or inverted pots. Place window screen over the drainage holes to keep soil from escaping.

*(left) Animal-shaped containers can add humor, create drama, or reinforce themes in gardens.*

*(below) As the azalea flowers fade in this garden, begonia-filled urns replace their vibrant color.*





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*(above) Put galvanized tubs to work in sunny spots by planting peppers. Add to the color with periwinkle and geranium.*  
*(right) Grow succulents in shallow, bowl-like containers. Succulents like well-drained, gravelly potting mix. Don't overwater.*

Containers look their best when they are comfortably full, that is, each plant should have enough room to develop its natural shape. Remember, what starts out at the garden center as a three-inch-tall plant in a tiny pot might grow to become three feet tall. When planting a container, include plants that have the same requirements for sunlight, soil, and water.

Without doubt, watering is the most demanding task associated with container gardening. Although hand-watering is time-consuming, it allows gardeners to customize watering by irrigating only those plants that need a drink. Insure that roots are hydrated by watering until water runs from the bottom of each pot.

Water-retaining gel, self-watering containers, and drip irrigation (shop for timers, tubes, and other necessary hardware at garden centers or online) help minimize the chore of hand-watering. Whichever technique you use, containers often require daily watering during hot weather. Supplement nutrients with a slow release plant food or feed with a mild solution of liquid fertilizer each time you water.

Whether you want splashes of seasonal color at an entrance, an herb garden on a patio, or a butterfly garden on a deck, there are plants and pots to meet the need. So pick out your plants and gather your pots: there are vibrant colors, sensational shapes, and wonderful scents just waiting to get the job done. ■





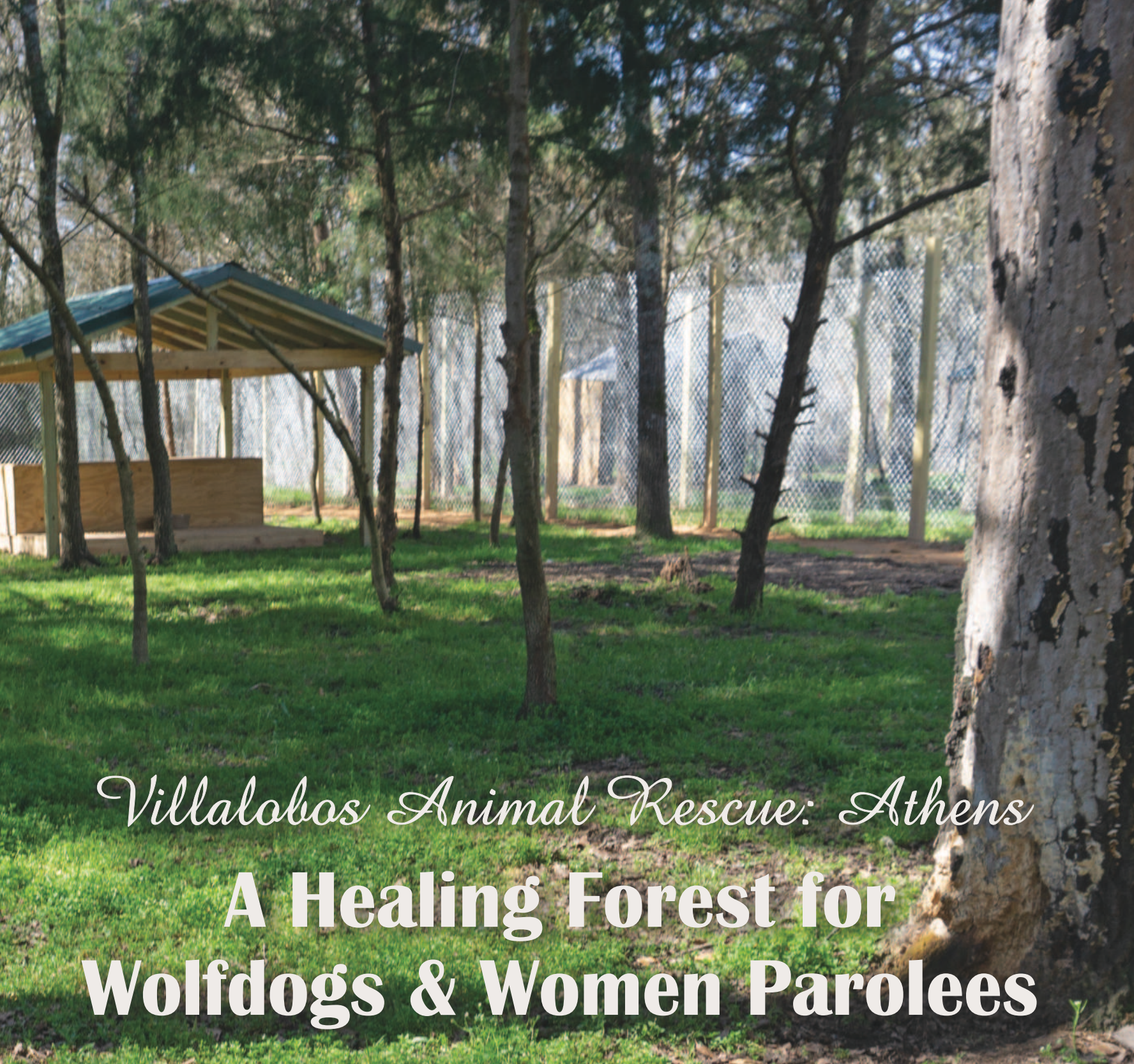


**Story Jeff Fatheree. Photos by Amy Holzworth.**

I was raised with the thought that pets were family, so the idea that there are dogs that are abused and abandoned is foreign to me. Having watched “Pit Bulls and Parolees” I learned that many of the dog world are abandoned, abused, deserted, and otherwise treated as if they have no worth in our society. Parolees often must feel the same things as these animals when they attempt to return to society. They experience

what it is like to be judged by appearance and past rather than looking for the beauty within. Tia Torres and her family and crew are not the normal society people and they choose to give both animals and humans second chances. Villalobos Dog Rescue in New Orleans was an outcropping of this idea. Tia began in California rescuing wolves and wolfdogs in the area she grew up. She made a trip to Sri Lanka and learned





*Villalobos Animal Rescue: Athens*  
**A Healing Forest for  
Wolfdogs & Women Parolees**

what it meant to truly be a community of man. The blending of religions from all over and the love that the people there had for each other spoke to her and she spent a year studying the different religions. She was raised Catholic but came to appreciate the beliefs of all types of spirituality. Sri Lanka left her with a love for all things of creation but particularly the animals.

Tia told me that when she returned from Sri Lanka, she had a vision to minister to the outcast of society. The wolfdogs she started with do not belong to either the wolf world or the dog world. Captured somewhere in-between they often are put down rather than rehabilitated as neither rescue center wants to house them. When they moved to Louisiana, they found a large population of Pit Bulls, labeled as a vicious breed. Most







of them end up being put down when they no longer have a home and family to care for them or they have begun to lose in dog fights. The parolees in Louisiana, much like the dog population, were outcasts and found themselves living on the edge of society. Tia saw the beauty of both beneath the surface and the Villalobos (Village of Wolves) was born.

Having done animal rescue in Louisiana during Katrina, Tia and crew went back to California. Louisiana continued to call to them and in 2011 they spent a year transitioning to "The Big Easy" and working with the parole system to give the dogs of New Orleans and the men re-entering society a chance to work together to change both man and beast. Taking care of and learning to be responsible for something other than oneself is a giant step in returning to society. The animals rescued from the streets of New Orleans, like the men, had trust issues and had spent time relying on and worrying only about themselves to survive. This mix has helped heal man and beast and resulted in adoptions all over the country of the animals from Villalobos. Tia, her family, volunteers, parolees, and crew have truly formed a "pack" with the dogs of Louisiana.

In 2017 they expanded the operation to include a rural property in Assumption Parish. They work with the animal shelters in some of the smaller areas to help with resources and taking in animals that are unable to be cared for locally. They have some hounds and other pups that flourish better in the rural environment there and it also acts somewhat as a retreat and healing area for the staff. They live "down the road" from another Louisiana legend, Troy Landry of "Swamp People" fame. Troy has spent his life

making a living off the swamp. Being the person Tia is, when she received a call for help from Henderson County Texas, she was on the way. Some wolfdogs had been abandoned when their owner took his own life, and the Sheriff needed assistance to capture them or he would have to put them down. She planned to be there two days capturing and getting housing for 40 wolfdogs.

A lady in Athens had purchased the property several years prior, but the previous owner never moved so she could take ownership. Finding that only fourteen of the animals would cooperate, she said before her brain could stop her, her mouth asked well what if we just buy the place? The lady said certainly she would sell as she loved the idea of the animals remaining in the location they had called home. Sheriff Botie Hillhouse said "Tia, you just bought the ugliest piece on the block." Tia told me she saw it as an almost enchanted healing



*(above) One of the Husky Sisters cautiously eyes visitors in her beautiful enclosure, while Freya (bottom and right) eagerly begs a treat from caretaker Amy Hague.*



forest and envisioned what the future might hold. She has gathered volunteers and family to begin cleaning the property and has a caretaker that stayed through the Winter Storm of 2021 to make sure the wolfdogs had food and water. They have also begun working with the animals to reacquaint them with human contact and the changes in the animals' demeanor have been nothing short of miraculous. The long-term goal and plans are to build cabins on the property for female parolees and their children, if they have them, to live and work with the animals. Wolfdogs react better to females than males as pack animals often do. She would also like to have additional cabins available for religious teachers to stay in and teach the parolees and minister to their needs.

They intend to teach life skills as well as concern for something other than themselves to the parolees. They can certainly use volunteer help, as well as donations to allow for feeding and housing, and Tia is always grateful to have

assistance. Her target date for completion and grand opening of Villalobos Dog Rescue Texas, is June of 2021. Check their Facebook page for updates and ways to volunteer at Villalobos Rescue Center - TEXAS. We plan on being there to let you know what is going on. We will likely be revealing a new name for the Texas location that will still include VRC in the title but reflect the healing nature of the forest. If you would like to join in and help, contact the Louisiana location. Email them at [volunteer@vrcpitbull.com](mailto:volunteer@vrcpitbull.com). If you wish to donate send a check to Villalobos Rescue Center P.O. Box 771127 New Orleans, LA. 70177 or go to their website at <https://www.vrcpitbull.com/how-you-can-help/donations/> and send via PayPal. You do not need to make a reservation to come help but let them know you are on the way via email to the Athens or New Orleans center. You will love the reward of reaching out and giving a second chance to both pups and people. ■

*Volunteers join Villalobos staff in demolishing a dilapidated structure on the property while the wolfdogs look on from their enclosures.*







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# A place to rest their heads

Sleep in Heavenly Peace commits to ending childhood bedlessness



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## Story by Chris Edwards

In the classic song “The Weight” by The Band, a weary traveler’s lament known to every man, woman, child and beast, the late, great Levon Helm sings of someone looking for a place “where a man might find a bed,” to no avail.

There are many who are in search of that same, seemingly basic amenity/comfort, including children, a fact that bothered Woodville resident Brian Smith.

“I had no idea that children without beds was an issue, a problem at all. I simply never thought about it. I have always had a bed; everyone that I knew had a bed,” he said.

Smith and his wife Deborah saw a story on a Beaumont television station’s news broadcast that reported on that particular issue and an organization fighting to end it, and it left a deep impression upon both their hearts and minds.

The story was about a non-profit organization named after a line in the old Christmastime hymn “Silent Night.” Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a nationwide concern, and was began by a concerned church youth group leader named Luke Mickelson.

Mickelson first encountered the issue of children without beds in his church and got a group together to build beds for a family in need. From that humble show of service sprung the organiza-

tion, which became a non-profit with chapters around the country. Mickelson was even honored by CNN in 2018 as a “Hero of the Year.”

The Smiths added an East Texas chapter of the organization to its growing roster on September 5, 2020, which was a quest of approximately 10 months.

The couple investigated the practical aspects of getting a SHP chapter started, namely the cost of materials and the necessary non-profit paperwork, interest was fomenting, and several members of the community became interested in helping.

With a group together, the “core team,” they had their first building event on that day in September, when they built six twin beds to donate to families in the county who were in need.

“There are children in Tyler County sleeping on the floor, on a couch, in a chair, or are sharing an undersized mattress on the floor with too many siblings or otherwise in a less-than-optimal sleeping environment,” Brian said.

The word got out quickly throughout the community, and Deborah said it was “an extremely rewarding experience” to see her desire to help the community pay off.

Although the story on the news brought the issue into living

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color for Brian and Deborah, seeing folks who could use a hand-up was nothing new to Brian. He said he has done mission work in some of the poorer areas of Mexico, places “where one sees true poverty,” he said, and seeing how people lived left a deep, lasting impression, which came back in spades when he and his wife saw that broadcast.

“Here, in the United States, to realize that our little county probably has hundreds of children without beds hurts my heart,” he said.

“As a sentimental older man, I still get choked up when I think of the joyous reactions of the children we help. The feelings of peace and security that a real bed gives them gets me up for early morning bed builds,” he said.

SHP currently has 240 chapters across the nation, and in Bermuda, and there are hopes to break into Canada in the near future.

Anyone can volunteer at one of SHP’s bed-build events, and they do not have to bring anything, “except a desire to help others,” Brian said. The group will supply the tools, PPE, drinks, snacks and instructions.

The Woodville chapter of the group hopes to be able to build sturdy, functional bunk and twin beds from dimensional lumber one Saturday each month during the 8 a.m. to noon time period. The volunteer-driven assembly line process allows most anyone to contribute.

According to the chapter’s website, located at [shpbeds.org/chapter/tx-woodville](http://shpbeds.org/chapter/tx-woodville), anyone who wishes to volunteer can show up to the build day event or a delivery event, and those dates are available on a calendar on the site. There is also a link on the site to allow anyone who is interested in contributing financially to the cause, or to sponsor a build day.

According to Brian, the cost to build a twin bed is \$170 and \$350 for a bunk bed, and all of the materials must come from donations. Each chapter of SHP must be financially self-supporting and entirely dependent on donations, which is all carefully accounted for, from local chapters through the national headquarters.

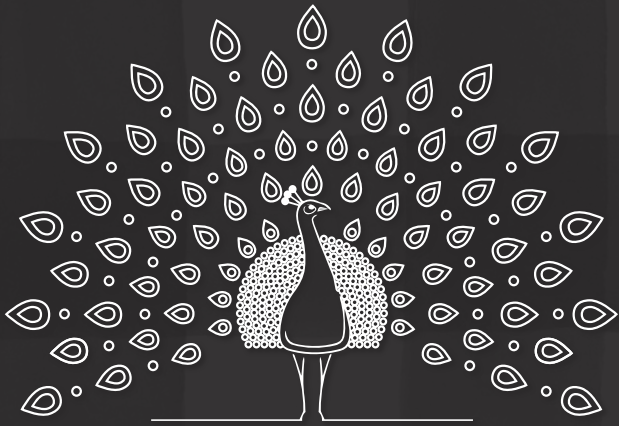
The estimated monthly need for the SHP Woodville chapters is \$2,500 to \$3,000, which is enough to provide 14 to 17 beds per month, and this is the cost for the bare materials.

The organization also needs tools, such as saw blades, drill bits and other items, such as gloves, safety glasses and many other PPE items.

Brian added that for anyone who needs one of the beds, there is a place on the website to request a bed, and applicants can answer a few basic questions and submit. He and Deborah can also be contacted directly, at 844-432-2337 (extension 5757) or at PO Box 143, Woodville, Texas 75979, for anyone who might be interested in donating to the cause. ■







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# Cajun Country Cuisine

Huntsville destination offers authentic Louisiana food paired with sports and fun family atmosphere

**Story & photos by Emily Banks Wooten**

If you're looking for a casual, relaxed place with excellent food and a wide variety of drinks, then look no further than The Big E-Z Crawfish & Oyster Bar in Huntsville. A favorite of my family's for years now, Big E-Z has been called a Cajun and Creole restaurant, a seafood restaurant and a sports bar and each of these monikers is accurate.

Located not far from the ever-sprawling campus of Sam Houston State University, there's enough SHSU signage to please Bearkats young and old. The majority of the staff is college students and they're friendly and pleasant. There was one young lady in particular who always remembered us and our order preferences every time we arrived, even though six or eight weeks may have passed in between visits.

Nine televisions are strategically placed throughout the giant metal building so there's always a game on. And if you find yourself wanting to watch a game that's not already on one of the big TVs, if you ask nicely and know what station it's on, they're always happy to put it on for you. Roll-up windowed garage doors line a portion of the building and when the weather and temperatures permit, are raised to open onto a big patio with additional seating.

You can order a cold beer in a 16-oz. glass or a 32-oz. Mason jar from the nice selection of beers on tap, which includes: Blue Moon, Bud Light, Coors Light, Crawford Bock, Dos XX, Lone Star, Love Street, Michelob Ultra, Miller Lite, Shiner Bock and Ziegenbock.

The seafood is excellent. It's a difficult choice but I think





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if hard pressed I'd have to say my favorite dish there is the fish taco. You have a choice of grilled or fried fish served on flour or corn tortillas, dressed with coleslaw and sauce. They're \$3 each. The first time I ordered them I ordered three, fried, on corn tortillas. I can only imagine the look on my face when they arrived at the table. They were huge! Each one had two good-sized fillets. I could only eat two and offered the third one to another member of our party who happily accepted it. While I love both corn and flour tortillas, if given a choice I normally choose corn because I think I like them just a tiny bit more. However, I've learned over the years that as much as I love a good corn tortilla, they oftentimes can't stand up to the filling and have a tendency to fall apart. So on subsequent trips when I've ordered the fish tacos, I've only ordered two and I've selected fried fish on flour tortillas. They just seem to hold up to the coleslaw and sauce a little better.

My husband and I are big fans of Buffalo wings and the hotter, the better. At Big E-Z the wings may be ordered

naked or breaded and tossed in your choice of sauce -- mild, plain, barbecue, garlic parmesan, stingin' honey garlic, mango habanero or hot. Naturally, we ordered our batch breaded and tossed in hot sauce. Oh. My. Gosh. These were the hottest wings we'd ever put in our mouths. And we were a little shocked because we're not lightweights when it comes to hot wings. Some might even call us "trained professionals." We soldiered forward, however, finishing every last wing with tears running down our faces. We learned from that first endeavor and now when we're at Big E-Z we know to order our wings breaded and tossed in mild sauce. The mild sauce is plenty hot on its own. In fact, if you're a hot wing novice, I'd actually turn you away from it and recommend you stick to the plain. The wings come in six-piece, 12-piece or 18-piece for \$7, \$13 and \$18 respectively. We'd originally order a six-piece and an 18-piece to split between the two of us but over time have realized that a dozen wings apiece may be a little excessive. Nowadays we split the 18-piece and find that nine apiece works out just fine.







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Several times we've ordered a cup of the chicken and sausage gumbo as a side to our main meal. The roux is perfect, both in color and flavor. A cup is \$5 and a bowl is \$9.

On a recent visit I enjoyed the fried shrimp and oyster combo platter. There were six fried shrimp and six fried oysters accompanied by a couple of hush puppies and a pile of French fries. The oysters and shrimp were breaded with cornmeal and the breading was perfect — light and not so thick that it overpowered the delicate bites inside. The platter is \$14.

One summer day after a ridiculous amount of shopping at Target, Academy and Spec's in preparation for a trip to the beach with friends we arrived parched and in need of a brief respite. We sidled up to the bar, ordered a couple of Long Island Ice Teas and a basket of fried pickled jalapeno slices. It was a lovely break and provided just the sustenance we needed to head home and begin packing for said trip.

For you boudin fans, Big E-Z offers boudin links, boudin egg rolls or fried boudin balls served with Cajun gravy. We're boudin fans from way back but have only tried the boudin balls here. In all honesty, we enjoyed them, but weren't crazy about the Cajun gravy. But that may just be us.

There are several different salads and pasta dishes on the menu, as well as a variety of sandwiches and po'boys. They also offer fried alligator and frog legs and while I've tried these delicacies at other places, I've just never felt the need to try them here because there are so many other things I like better.

There's a particular item on the surf and turf section of the menu that I've never tried, but the name always makes me chuckle. The "Redneck Lunchable" comprises one pound of boiled shrimp, corn, potato, sausage link and dipping sauce. How can that not put a smile on your face?

Our daughter is a fan of the fried shrimp platter as well as the shrimp diablos which are jumbo bacon-wrapped shrimp stuffed with cream cheese and jalapeno. The shrimp diablos are ordered a la carte for \$3 apiece.

Big E-Z offers \$10 all you can eat catfish daily, as well as Wing Wednesday in which wings are 50 cents apiece. While we're not necessarily crawfish people — and I realize some of you may find that a sacrilege — one may certainly get their share of boiled crawfish when in season.

The Big E-Z Crawfish & Oyster Bar is located at 2707 Sam Houston Ave. in Huntsville. Closed on Mondays, hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sundays. Happy hour is 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. The telephone number is (936) 295-2003. ■



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# Randy C Moore

## The Journey Back Home

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**Story and photos contributed by Ginny Foley.**

It is said that life is not about the destination, but all about the journey taken. This statement is all very true when applied to Texas recording artist Randy C Moore. A man, whose musical journey has taken him to the far east of Shanghai, to Monaco the jewel of the Mediterranean Sea, to the sands of Saudi Arabia, and to a great deal of the lower 48 United States. And if there is a destination for him, he has gained the wisdom to tell you that it remains a mystery, and probably always will. If you ask Randy about it, he will most likely tell you, "Well, that's just what I do, it's nothing special, it's easy." If you dig a little deeper, he will try to go there too. Randy's response is almost like a simple tapestry of his journey and his purpose for taking it,

"I love to play music for listeners unaware, to take them by surprise if you will. And sneak inside the good place in their soul. If I can connect with one person during a performance, then I've done my job. It's what I do, and what I continue to do. So, I would have to say that my life is not about resolve or a destination, it is about the realization that the trip never really ends...then I say to myself, 'This is why I picked up this guitar at 12 years of age, this is why I moved to Nashville to learn the record business, this is why my life has afforded me the gifts of writing songs and playing concerts with heroes like Carl Perkins and Bruce Springsteen.' I didn't plan the journey, but it just keeps happening to me. I'm grateful to have been here and there and everywhere."





### From H-Town to Music City

Having an unplanned life and direction has become second nature to the kid from Humble High School. So, how did the “points on the map” connect? Here’s how Randy tells it, “I never wanted to be a musician, I did not take chorus or band in school, I didn’t even take drama. I was an art student at the Houston Museum of Fine Arts for youth, I wanted to paint. I had it all mapped out: finish High School, go to Colorado for my liberal arts degree, graduate, become a commercial artist and create pictures for a living.” It was not to be, as they say. Randy had a talent for entertaining his classmates as far back as grade school. “I remember that I was in a little pop singing quartet and we decided to become a band, when I told my mom I was going to play the drums she said, ‘No, you are going to play guitar like Elvis Presley!’ To this day when I see a drummer bringing in all their gear to play a gig, I secretly thank my mom.” Randy learned guitar and was

soon writing his own songs. At age 16 he released his first single “Please, Captain” to favourable Texas radio airplay. Houston radio personality Arch Yancey helped to open the Bayou City doors that landed Randy a regular spot at Gilley’s nightclub and a featured show performer at Six Flags Astroworld Park. His recording and performances inspired him to make a move to Nashville where he was a feature at Opryland USA and a guest star on the Grand Ole Opry. Randy lived and worked in and around The Music City for almost 40 years and added so many places to his life map that it is difficult to list them all so here are a few. Randy was a feature on two national TV specials, ‘Big Al’s Dogs’(CBS) and ‘Hank Williams: A Man and His Music’(NBC), a tour of the Middle East for Aramco Oil, Star Search (NBC), a weekly feature on Video Country (TNN), Two Grand Ole Opry guest spots (WSM), The Midnight Jamboree(WSM), Bruce Springsteen’s 9/11 concert for Red Bank, and his





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musical contributions to the Dan Fogelberg Tribute Album (Electra/Asylum).

Randy's music has been featured in HBO specials, won numerous awards and top chart positions, even toy commercials. And still he will tell you, "Well, that's just what I do, it's nothing special, it's easy."

### **The Rockabilly King**

Speaking to Moore, you get the feeling there is a lot more to his story that just points on the map and musical resume items. I asked him about a specific encounter with one of his musical heroes, rockabilly legend Carl Perkins. Randy starts out by describing the man himself, "I first met Carl at his home in Jackson, Tennessee. His daughter Debbie Swift and I had been working on some songs and she asked if I'd like to join her and her dad on a writing session. My first impression of the man was amazing. As he walked towards me what I noticed right off was his appearance. It was strikingly similar to my dad's style, blue Levi's, flannel shirt, white Reebok's, a denim jacket and baseball cap, even his eye glasses looked like dads. He had that West Tennessee swagger in his walk that only Memphis boys like my dad seem to have." Moore continues, "I was really nervous about meeting Carl but he broke the ice by saying, 'My Deb here tells me you're a fine guitar player, well it's good to meet you son', that was all it took for us to be friends." Randy, Carl, and Debbie wrote a song that afternoon entitled "Blood Brothers", the lyrics describe two poor boys living in the Mississippi bottomland playing cowboys and Indians and forming a life-long friendship. The story for the song mirrors Carl's own childhood friendship with an African-American whom he picked cotton shoulder to shoulder with in Lake County, Tennessee. When the song session was over Carl took Randy out for a catfish dinner and some surprising conversation. Randy describes the situation, "We went over to a place he was part owner of, 'Suede's Restaurant' named after Carl Perkin's massive Elvis Presley hit song, 'Blue Suede Shoes.' As we enjoyed the batter fried catfish and hush puppies, Carl said, 'Randy, you know I've been worrying about what's gonna become of me after I'm gone from this world, you know when I die?'. I asked, 'Carl, what is it that worries you about that?' He said, 'Well, it's like this, I've been reading my Bible a lot and I'm afraid I don't know it well enough to make it into heaven.' I was a little stunned, here was my musical idol confiding in me with a question concerning his personal salvation and spirituality. I paused for a moment and said, 'Well, Carl I think the Bible is a guide for us living here on earth, I'm pretty sure when you get over on the other side, they aren't gonna question you about how well you know the scriptures. The Bible is for here, once you're on the other side you won't need to worry about that.' Carl looked down at his plate, then looked up with a satisfied grin





and said, ‘Son, I believe you’re right, that makes me feel a whole lot better.’ Could I have ever imagined giving Carl Perkins spiritual advice? Not in my wildest dreams, but those are the kinds of things that have happened to me in my life. All I can say is, I miss my hero, I miss Carl. And I hope I was right about the other side.”

#### **Going Back to Texas**

To date, Randy C Moore’s journey has brought him back to Texas, or to hear him put it, ‘back home.’ Moore sums it up saying, “Well, my folks are gone, now it’s just me and Linda, Jade our rescue cat and our rescue dog, Lobo. And we live in Texas. I have my recording studio here in Lufkin and just recently finished my latest 10 song-album called, ‘Lufkin’. I love playing around the state, anywhere folks happen to be listening, the festivals, the dance halls, the bars, the restaurants, feed stores, swimming pools, you name it, I love playing it. I’m very proud of my new record, I’ve got some great co-writers and musicians on it. David C Lee and I wrote the single “Big in Texas” about looking back to see how things can change over time. My buddy Jessie Hunter (BMG) helped me with “Back in The Day”, a song for today’s times as it talks about times long ago and suggests that we ought to just try to get along with one another. There’s songs about fishing, my dad, my old dog, my 40-year detour back to Texas and my love for Linda.” Randy’s return to Texas, his new album “Lufkin”, his new life in Lufkin, and his continuing journeys to destinations yet to be determined are all just a part of what makes Randy C Moore that one-of-a-kind artist even though he will insist that it’s just what he does, nothing special, it’s easy. Somehow, we all beg to differ Mister Moore. ■

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RECIPE

The image shows two glass bowls filled with a vibrant salad. The salad consists of romaine lettuce, strawberries, avocado, orange segments, and walnuts. The bowls are placed on a wooden surface. The text 'RECIPE' is in the top left corner, and the title 'Strawberry/Romaine Salad with Cinnamon Vinaigrette' is centered over the image in a stylized font.

*Strawberry/Romaine Salad  
with Cinnamon Vinaigrette*





**By Barbara White. Photos by Amy Holzworth.**

*(If you are looking for a different kind of salad to celebrate spring, this is it. This may seem like an odd combination of ingredients, but the flavors really work together!)*

- 1/3 cup raspberry vinegar
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon hot pepper sauce (I use Tabasco)
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 6 cups torn romaine
- 2 cups fresh strawberries, quartered
- 1 medium ripe avocado, peeled and sliced or cubed
- 1 can (11 oz.) mandarin oranges
- 1/2 cup chopped red onion
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans, toasted

In a jar with tight-fitting lid, combine first seven ingredients; shake well until sugar is dissolved. In a large bowl, combine romaine, strawberries, avocado, oranges, onion and pecans. Drizzle with the vinaigrette and toss gently. Serve immediately. Yield: 12 servings.



Turning  
'TIME IN TEXAS'  
into  
Country Gold



*Tyler Dozier plays his new single "Doing Time in Texas" for a preview in Spurger. Photo by Caleb Fortenberry.*

**Story by Chris Edwards and Caleb Fortenberry.**

The pandemic that seized the entire planet last year made for a drastic change in how humans live, work, worship and play. In the "blessings in disguise" category, many who had to re-invent their lives found new passions or re-discovered old hobbies.

Spurger native Tyler Dozier is one such young man who managed to turn bad news into something positive. "As bad as the coronavirus is, I got laid-off from the plant, and jobs are slow," he explained. "So, I decided to do something that I enjoyed."

Dozier took his God-given talent in music, which he'd honed through his young life, and blaze the trail that many talented

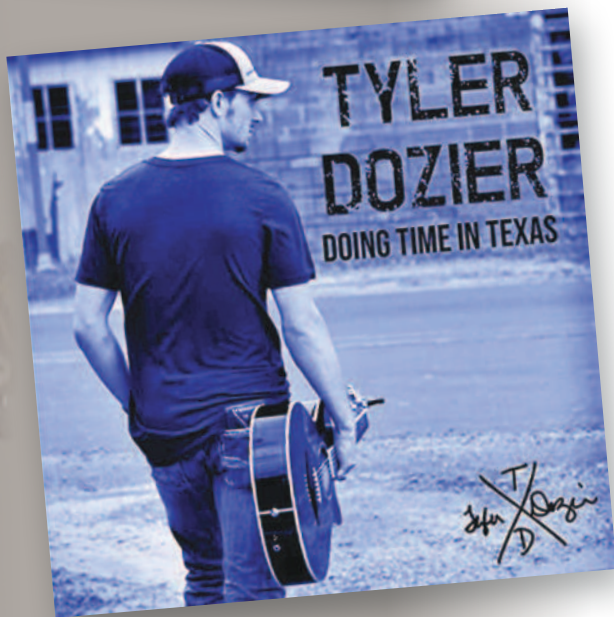
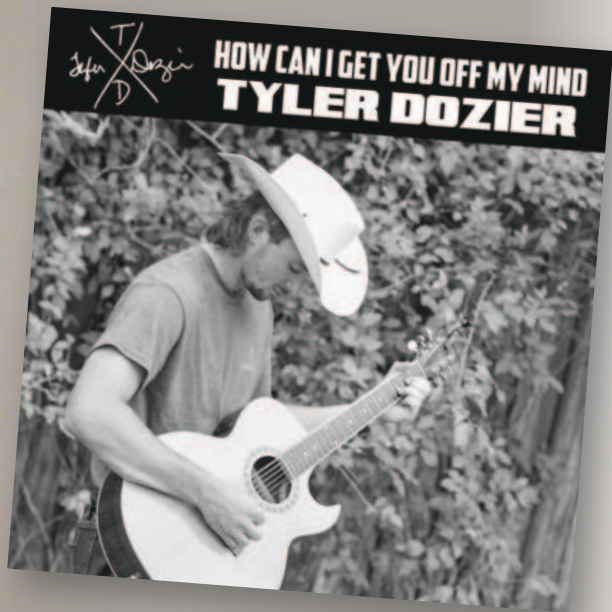
Texans before him had taken. So far, he has gone gung-ho into his fresh start, with two singles already under his belt and a full-length album in the works.

The young singer/songwriter has music in his genes. His father, Donald Dozier, is still known in the region for his prowess as a guitarist and played with many bands and artists through the years, including a pre-superstar Mark Chesnutt. Tyler said his father is his primary influence in chasing a musical career, although he did not get to see him onstage in his glory days.

"I never got to see him play, because I was too young at the time that he quit playing out," he said.

Some other influences came by way of artists like Josh Ward and





Cody Johnson, both of whom Tyler began following before they were huge regional acts.

The young artist said he pretty much taught himself to sing and started playing music when he was eight years old, beginning with piano. Eventually, he also took to playing guitar and drums. His father helped him get started on the guitar when he was 12, and he added the elder Dozier will also play with him live. "I do have plans of getting a band together," he said. "I have some guys right now that I've played with for a long time just around my house and stuff. The only thing I'm missing is a bass player right now but if everything goes as I hope then I will have a band to play out

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in the next couple of months.”

Until he gets a band solidified for live work, though, he said he is content to play as a solo act, which he said is a good way for the audience to really hear him and his songs “as I am.”

At present, even though the continuing efforts to curb the pandemic have slowed down consistent live performance opportunities for musicians, Tyler has been able to take to the road and play some solo acoustic shows in such venues as Conroe’s Red Brick Tavern. “It’s a blast to get out and play in front of live audiences,” he said.

Before he even started getting into venues, he began laying down some of his material in the studio. His first single, “Doing Time in Texas,” a classic-sounding country tune detailing the heartbreak of a man’s willingness to wait for the woman he loves, went out to radio stations during last summer, when he was the tender age of 19.

The song was co-written between three songwriters, one of whom was Tyler’s cousin David Reed. “First time I heard it, I was like, ‘Man, I really got to cut this song,’” he said.

The song made enough of a splash in the Texas regional market that Dozier was able to score a management deal with Salter-Gann Universal Promotions and Management, LLC.

A second single, “How Can I Get You Off My Mind,” also penned by his cousin Reed, is currently making its rounds in the radio markets, and to add to that excitement, Tyler said he has plans to journey to Nashville soon to record some songs he has co-written with Reed.

Dozier’s performance of his new single, which is orchestrated by traditional country instrumentation, such as the whine of a pedal steel guitar and acoustic guitars, bares the influence of his dad’s old running buddy/bandmate, Chesnutt, but still sounds uniquely Tyler Dozier.

Whatever happens for the young East Texan singer and writer of pure country songs, one thing is certain to anyone who meets him: he will remain the same grounded, yet talented, young man he has always been.

“Man, it’s crazy how people have responded to my music. Especially when I play live. Man! People come up and talk to me and that’s just what this is all about. I’m just an ol’ country boy out here doing what I love and for people to enjoy listening to it as much as I do, it means a lot and it’s really inspiring.”

Tyler Dozier’s singles “Doing Time in Texas” and “How Can I Get You Off My Mind” can be downloaded from all digital music retail platforms and can be streamed on Spotify or requested from [radiofreetexas.com](http://radiofreetexas.com). ■

*Tyler Dozier: coming to a stage and radio near you. Photo courtesy of Tyler Dozier Music.*







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Texas wildlife, fisheries experts reporting mixed bag of hits following frigid winter blast

# AFTER THE STORM

**Story by Matt Williams.**

The polar vortex that pummeled the south in February with snow, ice and record low temperatures caught lots of people off guard and wreaked havoc on life as we know it. Many who lived through Winter Storm Uri will forever remember it as a chaotic week when Texas froze over and all sorts of trouble came in the wake:

To wit:

The state's power grid choked, leaving millions to fend off the ruthless cold in the dark without heat for days.

Limbs snapped and trees toppled, taking power lines with them.

Pipes burst, flooding countless homes and businesses.

Roofs collapsed and ceilings caved in.

Lakes and ponds froze over.

At Lake O' The Pines and Toledo Bend reservoirs, sections of two popular marinas sank under the weight of ice and snow.

Excessive demands for gasoline caused long lines at pumps.

Grocery store shelves were stripped bare and many fast food hubs ran short of meat for tacos and buns for burgers.

For many, finding clean water to drink and warm water to bathe became a challenge.

To make matters worse, all of this hardship and more fell on top of a lingering pandemic that refuses to go away.

Texas' fisheries, wildlife and habitat took some hits in the winter storm, too. It's still too early in the game to know the full extent of the damage done in the outdoor world, but some of the early reports indicate it isn't pretty.

A panel of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department experts offered some thoughts on the situation thus far:

## **White-tailed Deer and Exotics**

White-tailed deer program leader Alan Cain doesn't foresee any significant losses with white-tailed deer with the exception of a few older animals.

"Obviously, some mortality of the very old deer or those deer in poor body condition is to be expected — this is just nature, survival of the fittest," Cain said.

Cain pointed to possible damage to native habitat in some regions as a more pressing concern. He said some brush species in South Texas that had green leaves before the freeze are now parched or brown.

"We're also seeing some impact on the winter weeds which are critical for deer this time of year and into the early spring," he said. "There are still some green patches of burclover, but we're also seeing lots of it burned from the freeze. I'm hopeful the moisture from the snow and ice soaked up in the soil we'll see a good start to the spring green up as temperatures warm."

Exotic animals didn't fare near as well in the winter blast. Axis deer and black buck antelope were among the hardest hit.





*Red drum killed by freezing temperatures in last week's winter blast float in Pringle Lake, a backwater estuary along the middle Texas coast near Port O'Connor. (TPWD Photo)*

“Many of the exotics don’t do well with extended periods of extreme cold,” Cain said. “I’ve heard reports of axis deer seeking shelter in barns on some ranches in the Hill Country, which is completely unexpected. This just shows how desperate some of the axis deer were to find shelter from the weather. I suspect it will be several weeks before we know the full impact on the exotics.”

#### **Coastal Fish Kills/Shad Die-offs**

Sadly, widespread fish kills occurred along the Texas Coast when frigid air chilled water temperatures into the mid-40s in shallow bay systems. Reports of dead fish and cold-stunned sea turtles began coming in as early as Valentine’s Day. Quantification of the impacts are still ongoing, according to a Feb. 23 TPWD news release.

Biologists and game wardens have documented mortalities along the entire coastline, but TPWD says it appears that bays south of Galveston were the hardest hit. Early assessments indicate the majority of fish impacted were non-recreational species, but game fish including spotted sea trout, red drum, sheepshead, grey snapper, snook, black drum and tarpon were also impacted. Experts will know more as gill net sampling and angler creel surveys get underway this spring.

Freshwater sport fish aren’t near as susceptible to mortality in freeze events because they can usually find refuge in deeper water. However, shad populations that provide vital forage for game fish aren’t always so lucky, according to TPWD fisheries biologist Brian Van Zee of Waco.

Van Zee said threadfin shad die-offs have been reported at lakes

Texoma, Lavon and Graham.

“It’s not that uncommon, especially at Lake Texoma,” he said. “Luckily, shad populations rebuild quickly. Once it warms up they’ll starting spawning like crazy.”

Van Zee added the game wardens at Lake Falcon in South Texas scooped up numerous tilapia that perished in the cold.

#### **Wild Turkey**

Wild turkeys are big, hardy birds. Likewise, TPWD wild turkey program leader Jason Hardin isn’t expecting to see any major impacts from the big freeze.

“Most of our turkeys should be fine,” he said. “They should have had enough fat and energy reserves to survive. That said, any birds that were in bad shape (malnourished, injured, or sick) going into this event would have a harder time and would be more susceptible to predators. This undoubtedly depleted fat reserves, so there could be an impact going into the nesting season with reduced reproductive effort, but if we can stay warm and green from now until spring they should have a chance to replenish their reserves.”

#### **Quail**

Texas bobwhites just can’t catch a break. The verdict is still out as to how hard the iconic game birds may have been hit by the cold blast, according to Robert Perez, upland game bird program leader.

“Our Texas quail species do have adaptations to get through tough weather,” he said. “With the right escape cover available, the covey formation does an excellent job of heat retention. However, the snowfall seems to penetrate even good escape cover, so coveys may have been pushed and possibly weakened.”



Perez added that icing events lasting beyond 3-4 days can spell trouble for the dapper game birds.

“Bobwhite and scaled quail are only weak scratchers, so they are not really adapted to having to dig through ice,” he said. “Once the body fat reserve is gone birds have been found whole/frozen after prolonged ice periods in the Texas Panhandle and Oklahoma. I have not gotten any reports of that so far with this winter storm, but it is possible.”

#### Doves, Ducks and Bats

TPWD’s webless migratory program leader Owen Fitzsimmons said there have been reports of mortalities among white-winged doves, pelagic offshore species and various songbirds, but he isn’t expecting the impacts to be significant. He believes any dove losses will be quickly offset with a decent breeding season.

“Birds need to consume a lot of food to generate heat and stay warm in sustained cold weather,” he said. “It only takes a day or two without food to kill a bird in extremely cold temperatures. The bad part was that all the snow and ice made finding seeds/insects impossible, so that’s why some birds didn’t make it.”

Additionally, TPWD reported hundreds of dead coots and

multiple blue-winged teal mortalities at state wildlife management areas, along with dead or cold-stunned bats beneath road bridges.

#### Giant Salvinia Knocked Back

The big freeze may have helped in the state’s ongoing battle against giant salvinia. The invasive plant is present in more than two dozen Texas reservoirs and several rivers, according to John Findiesen, TPWD’s aquatic habitat enhancement team leader.

“I’m not completely sure what the long term impacts will be, but short term looks good,” he said. “We had a cold weather event in January 2018 that was not as severe as this one and had a shorter duration, but it still wiped out 98 percent of the salvinia in the state. Giant salvinia covered nearly 6,000 acres of Caddo Lake prior to the 2018 event. We found less than 50 acres of salvinia in our initial post-event survey in 2018.”

Unfortunately, the plant has knack for bouncing back.

“This event will definitely help reduce salvinia coverage again, but I don’t know how long it will be before we see it floating again on area lakes,” Findiesen said. “Even if it all dies in Texas, it could easily be brought from somewhere else by trailer, boat or other equipment.” ■

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# BOOMERS TO ZOOMERS

## WE ALL HAVE A LOT TO LEARN

Story by Barbara White.





“W hat’s a Conway Twitty?”  
my young friend asked.

I felt a sense of relief. Not only was I, for the first time in several hours, on the receiving end of a question, I knew the answer!

We had just spent much of the afternoon streaming one of those sci-fi superhero shows. The program was frequently paused so that she could patiently explain to her much older companion what was happening on the screen – filling me in on the difference between Earth-One and Earth-Two, for example.

Once I began to understand who was who, who was where and where where was, I began to enjoy it, but after a few episodes she sensed I needed a break. It may have been my kaleidoscope eyes that tipped her off. Hence the mindless old sitcom that was now playing.

The couple on TV was breaking up, angrily dividing their belongings. “And I want my Conway Twitty back!” the woman demanded, referring to a CD or cassette tape. That exchange had prompted my visitor’s question: “What’s a Conway Twitty?”

I have known this child, the daughter of good friends, since she was born and we have always had a bond. Probably much to her parents’ horror, we share a lot in common, including the belief that there are few things better than spending an afternoon on the couch with plenty of snacks and applying our disparate perspectives to whatever we are viewing. I made a conscious effort to set a good example in her younger years, but have since adopted the mantra, “If you can’t serve as a good example, serve as a dire warning.”

Her age falls squarely in the younger one-third of Generation Z, the group born here on Earth-One roughly between 1995 and 2012. The fact that their generation bears the last letter in the alphabet is not lost on them, although in the past year or so, those in Gen Z have become known as Zoomers. It is a less-apocalyptic nickname that I suspect will stick. Having been saddled with the label Boomer for most of my life, it seems only fair.

Anyway, I explained that Conway Twitty was a country singer who had been especially popular back in the 1970s. I went on to say that I was never a huge Conway Twitty fan, but I had a co-worker at the time who thought the country crooner was the best thing since 8-track tapes. She had a birthday coming up, so a bunch of us chipped in and bought her a couple of tickets to go see her idol perform at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. You would have thought we had gifted her with a trip to Vegas to see Elvis. My young friend thought that was a very nice thing to do, but I could tell I had traveled far enough down memory lane. Apparently, kaleidoscope eyes are contagious. Who knew?

I hadn’t thought about Conway Twitty in years and later that night, long after my young friend had returned to the people who are morally and legally charged with both her

upbringing and with setting a good example, I watched the highlight reel of the day’s events that sometimes unspools in my mind right before I fall asleep. I drifted back to the 1970s, which were pretty ridiculous. Then my thoughts wandered to the viral video of the attorney whose errant Zoom filter had made him appear to be a cat as he addressed a judge, to the sci-fi superhero show we had been watching, to singing carpool karaoke with James Corden, to...

When I woke the next morning, the feline attorney, the sci-fi show and James Corden had vanished, but I hadn’t shaken the 70s. I wondered if the 2020s will seem as odd to the Zoomers 40-50 years from now as the 1970s do to me when I look back at those days of block-long cars and horrible fashions.

I think Zoomers may marvel at the amount of “disposable” plastic in our homes back in the 2020s. Its days are likely numbered. I don’t recycle like I should, but I do reuse and find it hard to part with plastic containers. You never know when a flimsy vessel that once held deli-sliced ham, one that is forever stamped on the bottom with a “best by” date in 2016, might again need to be called into service. At my house, such treasures get tossed into one particular cabinet. When digging around trying to find a container with a lid that matches, I often cause an avalanche. Babies find it hilarious. Will my avalanche of plastic be remembered a half-century from now with fondness or with horror?

The same might be asked about the large plastic bags filled with smaller plastic bags that are stuffed into the bottom shelf of my pantry. And Zoomers may never know the joy of trying to open one of those thin plastic bags that you use to collect vegetables at the grocery store, rubbing the edges between your palms like you’re trying to create fire.

As rapidly as our lives are changing now, I cannot even begin to imagine what the world will be like 40-50 years from now. I recently read about an updated waste bin, now available, where you just say, “Open can,” and its maw opens so you can toss the trash in. Some kind of robot to collect and dispose of the trash for you is probably already out there.

A half-century ago, I scoffed at many of the labor-saving devices being introduced. I guffawed at car power windows, believing that if you did not have the ability to roll down a window you probably didn’t need to be driving. I laughed at TV remote controls; a few short years later, if someone had tried to take my remote, they would have had to pry it from my pudgy, Cheetos-stained fingers. Many people have already moved on to simply telling Alexa or whatever virtual friend they have acquired what they want to watch. I’m not quite there yet.

With technology and ecology taking care of all the hard work like changing channels, emptying trash and cleaning up plastic avalanches, Zoomers should have a lot of time to think and learn, things at which my particular Zoomer excels. I have a good feeling about the Zoomers, I think they will find better things to do than coming up with labels for generations of people. ■





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# SHOP EAST TEXAS

## Super finds in East Texas – Shop Local

It is springtime in East Texas and small business owners are hoping and praying for good weather and a lot of East Texan shoppers committed to the local economy. Please plan regional day trips this spring and support small businesses by shop, shop, shopping local.

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Center of Attention  
689 S. Main in Lumberton



FRAMED PRINT LONESOME DOVE STAR \$18  
KraZee Korner This & That Vendor Mall  
111 N. Main in Huntington

TAKE ME WITH YOU TOTE \$55  
Center of Attention  
689 S. Main in Lumberton



PILLSBURY DOUGHBOY  
COOKIE JAR \$25  
KraZee Korner This & That  
Vendor Mall  
111 N. Main in Huntington



LOAFERS \$34  
Bombshell Boutique  
2696 Ted Trout Dr.  
in Hudson

METAL CUTOUT LEMONADE \$14  
His and Hers Mercantile-Antiques  
8505 Hwy. 59 in Burke







LADIES LEATHER JACKET XXL \$285.99  
Bombshell Boutique  
2696 Ted Trout Dr. in Hudson

CANDY CLUB CANDY \$7  
Center of Attention  
689 S. Main in Lumberton



SUNSHINE KID  
SCENTSY WARMER \$35  
KraZee Korner This & That  
Vendor Mall  
111 N. Main in Huntington



KANCAN JEANS \$54  
Center of Attention  
689 S. Main in Lumberton



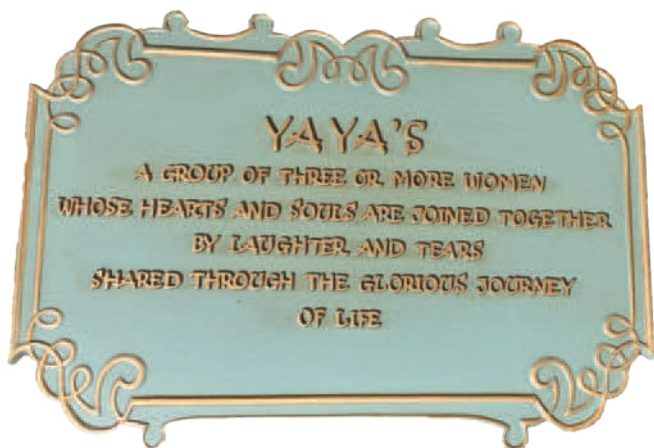
METAL DOUBLE STAR \$75  
METAL STAR \$57  
His and Hers Mercantile-Antiques  
8505 Hwy. 59 in Burke





# SHOP EAST TEXAS

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His and Hers Mercantile-Antiques  
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DOGWOOD FLOWER CANISTER \$35  
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EGO DROP EARRINGS \$14  
Center of Attention  
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WOODEN RECIPE BOX \$20  
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Vendor Mall  
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FANCY HATS \$15 EACH  
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LOUIS VUITTON PURSE  
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SEASONS HOME  
DÉCOR \$15/SET  
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That Vendor Mall  
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Huntington



# CALENDAR

## April

### **Palestine**

Texas Dogwood Trails Celebration  
*APRIL 1-4*

### **Navasota**

Navasota Wine Walk/Downtown  
*APRIL 2*

### **Houston**

International Gem & Jewelry Show/NRG Park  
*APRIL 2-4*

### **Woodville**

78th Annual Dogwood Festival & Parade  
*APRIL 3*

### **Lufkin**

Ray Wylie Hubbard at the Pines Theater  
*APRIL 3*

### **Onalaska**

3rd Annual Lew Vail Memorial Easter Parade and Egg Hunt  
*APRIL 3*

### **Tyler**

Community Easter Egg Hunt and Car Show  
*APRIL 3*

### **Port Arthur**

Cajun Heritage Festival 2021  
*APRIL 3-4*

### **Palestine**

Wiggy Thump Festival 2021  
Anderson County Youth Livestock Pavilion  
*APRIL 4*

### **Tomball**

John Conlee at Main Street Crossing  
*APRIL 6*

### **Spring**

Crystal Gayle at Dosey Doe The Big Barn  
*APRIL 8*

### **Lufkin**

Parsons Dance Company/Temple Theater, AC Campus  
*APRIL 8*

### **Houston**

Christopher Cross at the Heights Theater  
*APRIL 8-9*

### **Conroe**

Montgomery County Fair  
*APRIL 9-18*

### **Mineola**

League of the Arts Annual Art Show  
*APRIL 9-10*

### **Winnie**

Larry's Old Time Trade Days  
*APRIL 9-11*

### **Conroe**

PRCA Rodeo  
*APRIL 9-10*

### **Houston**

Texas Bridal & Wedding Expo/G R Brown Convention Center  
*APRIL 10*

### **Beaumont**

Sea Rim Striders Free Spring 5K/Sea Rim State Park  
*APRIL 10*

### **Tyler**

Texas Ponies of America Horse Show/Tyler Rose Horse Park  
*APRIL 10*

### **Houston**

Reggae in the Park 2021/Emancipation Park  
*APRIL 10*

### **Hitchcock**

Bon Temps Rouler Cajun Throwdown/Hitchcock Chamber of Commerce  
*APRIL 10*

### **Katy**

Wild West Brew Fest 2021  
*APRIL 10-11*

### **Lufkin**

Montopolis: The Legends of Big Bend/Temple Theater, AC Campus  
*APRIL 10*

### **Huntsville**

Pineapple 5K Fun Run 2021  
*APRIL 10*

### **Waxahachie**

Scarborough Renaissance Festival  
*APRIL 10-11, 17-18, 24-25*

### **Longview**

An Evening with Sandy Patti/Belcher Center  
*APRIL 14*

### **Houston**

Houston Fishing Show 2021/G R Brown Convention Center  
*APRIL 14-18*



- Lufkin**  
Blue Man Group/Temple Theater, AC Campus  
*APRIL 15-16*
- Galveston**  
19th Annual Feather Fest Birding and Nature Photography Festival  
*APRIL 15-18*
- Spring**  
The Bellamy Brothers at Dosey Doe, The Big Barn  
*APRIL 15*
- Hitchcock**  
Galveston County Fair & Rodeo  
*APRIL 16-24*
- Gladewater**  
East Texas Gusher Days  
*APRIL 16-17*
- Beaumont**  
Beaumont Tattoo Expo/MCM Elegante Hotel  
*APRIL 16-18*
- Longview**  
PRCA Rodeo and Harvest Crawfish Festival  
*APRIL 16-17*
- Beaumont**  
Disney Dance Upon a Dream/Julie Rogers Theater  
*APRIL 17*
- Crockett**  
Davy Crockett Festival/Classic Car Show  
*APRIL 17*
- Lufkin**  
The Bike Zoo presented by Angelina Arts Alliance at Convention and Visitors Bureau.  
*APRIL 17*
- Orange**  
An Evening with the Quebe Sisters/Lutcher Theater  
*APRIL 17*
- Lufkin**  
Earth Day Celebration at Ellen Trout Zoo Springfest 2021/Downtown  
*APRIL 17*
- Pasadena**  
A Rally to Remember/San Jacinto Harley Davidson  
*APRIL 17*
- Galveston**  
Galveston Island Wine Festival/Saengerfest Park  
*APRIL 17-18*
- LaMarque**  
Texas Crawfish and Crab Festival 2021  
*APRIL 17*
- Houston**  
Rodney Crowell at the Heights Theater  
*APRIL 17*
- Mt. Pleasant**  
Smokey Eyed Backyard BBQ 2021  
*APRIL 17*
- Tyler**  
Blue Man Group/UT Tyler Cowan Center  
*APRIL 17*
- Lufkin**  
Escape to Margaritaville/Temple Theater, AC Campus  
*APRIL 20*
- Houston**  
Blue Man Group/Hobby Center  
*APRIL 20-21*
- Lufkin**  
Angelina Benefit Rodeo/Expo Center  
*APRIL 21-25*
- Livingston**  
85th Annual Polk County Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet  
*APRIL 22*
- Henderson**  
24th Annual Antique Tractor and Engine Show/Rusk County Expo Center  
*APRIL 23*
- Greenville**  
Hunt County Fair and Rodeo  
*APRIL 23-MAY 2*
- Tatum**  
2021 Pecan Pie Festival  
*APRIL 24*
- Longview**  
Longview Wine Festival 2021/Downtown  
*APRIL 24*
- La Porte**  
65th Annual Sylvan Beach Festival  
*APRIL 24*
- Huntsville**  
Johnny Rodriguez at the Old Town Theater  
*APRIL 24*
- La Porte**  
Johnny Lee at Sylvan Beach Park  
*APRIL 24*
- Tomball**  
Roger Creager at Tomball Railroad Depot  
*APRIL 24*
- Athens**  
PRCA Rodeo  
*APRIL 24-25*
- Corsicana**  
Navarro County Derrick Days Pro Rodeo  
*APRIL 24 & 25*
- Nacogdoches**  
The Old Stone Fort Bicycle Race  
*APRIL 24*
- Port Neches**  
Port Neches River Fest 5K and Kids K  
*APRIL 24*
- Spring**  
Texas Crawfish and Music Fest/Preservation Park  
*APRIL 24-25*
- Galveston**  
Rotary Club Crawfish Boil/Moody Gardens  
*APRIL 25*
- Lufkin**  
Bella Gaia at the Temple Theater, AC Campus  
*APRIL 25*
- Beaumont**  
Liverpool Legends Concert/Julie Rogers Theater  
*APRIL 26*
- Galveston**  
The Beach Boys at the Grand 1894 Opera House  
*APRIL 26*
- League City**  
League City Music Festival and BBQ Cook-Off  
*APRIL 29*
- Longview**  
Ark-La-Tex Tattoo & Art Expo/Longview Exhibit Center  
*APRIL 29*



# CALFENPAR

## May

### Orange

2021 Mauriceville Crawfish Bash Parade  
*MAY 1*

### Mineola

May Fiesta 2021/Downtown  
*MAY 1*

### Tyler

Red Dirt BBQ and Music Festival 2021  
*MAY 1*

### Beaumont

27th Annual Tri-City Corvette Show/Holiday Inn  
*MAY 1*

### League City

66th Annual League City Music Festival  
*MAY 1*

### Lufkin

The Isaacs at the Pines Theater  
*MAY 1*

### Coldspring

Coffee, Cars and Donuts/Courthouse Square  
*MAY 1*

### Galveston

25th Annual Grand Kids Festival  
*MAY 1*

### Nacogdoches

Wade Bowen at Banita Creek Hall  
*MAY 3*

### Galveston

The Temptations at the Grand 1894 Opera House  
*MAY 3*

### Conroe

May the Fourth Be With You Celebration/Southern Star Brewing  
*MAY 4*

### Tyler

John Conlee at Liberty Hall  
*MAY 5*

### Houston

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo  
*MAY 5-23*

### Conroe

Conroe Americana Music Festival/Downtown  
*MAY 5*

### Tyler

Riverdance 25th Anniversary Show/UT Tyler Cowan Center  
*MAY 6*

### Crystal Beach

Texas Crab Festival and 5K Fun Run  
*MAY 7-9*

### Nacogdoches

Sandyland Bluegrass Reunion  
*MAY 7-9*

### Marshall

Winter Dance Party/Memorial City Hall Performance Center  
*MAY 7*

### Gilmer

2021 Cherokee Rose Festival  
*MAY 8*

### Lufkin

Winter Dance Party at the Pines Theater  
*MAY 8*

### Tomball

2021 Tomball Vintage Car Festival  
*MAY 8*

### Tyler

Celebrating the Music of Ray Charles/UT Tyler Cowan Center  
*MAY 11*

### Lindale

Lindale Championship Rodeo 2021  
*MAY 13-15*

### Jacksonville

59th Annual Tops in Texas Rodeo  
*MAY 13-15*

### Brookshire

Houston Hot Air Balloon Festival and Polo Match/Brookshire Polo Club  
*MAY 14*

### Livingston

Trade Days at Pedigo Park  
*MAY 14-15*

### Houston

Randy Rogers Band with Wade Bowen/House of Blues  
*MAY 15*

### Crystal Beach

Jeep Weekend 2021  
*MAY 15-16*

### Houston

James Taylor at the Toyota Center  
*MAY 15*

### Corsicana

Crystal Gayle at the Palace Theater  
*MAY 15*



## Longview

Longview: 150 Years, A Ride Through History/Cobb Convention Center  
**MAY 15**

## Spring

Sara Evans in Concert at Dosey Doe, The Big Barn  
**MAY 17**

## Tyler

Jimmy Buffet's Escape to Margaritaville/UT Tyler Cowan Center  
**MAY 19**

## Crockett

Exile at the Crockett Civic Center  
**MAY 20**

## Houston

Gene Watson, The Bellamy Brothers/Arena Theater  
**MAY 20-21**

## Grapeland

8th Annual East Texas Mini Shindig/Salmon Lake Park  
**MAY 20-23**

## Spring

Ronnie Milsap at Dosey Doe, The Big Barn  
**MAY 21-22**

## Pasadena

Pasadena Trade Days Spring Market 2021  
**MAY 22**

## Grapeland

Gospel Music Festival/Salmon Lake Park  
**MAY 27-30**

## Jacksonville

Memorial Mud Bug Ride 2021  
**MAY 28-31**

## Spring

Wynonna and the Big Noise/Dosey Doe, The Big Barn  
**MAY 29**

## Rusk

Fair on the Square 2021/Downtown  
**MAY 29**

## Kilgore

Kilgore Cruise Night/Downtown  
**MAY 29**

## New Caney

Memorial Day Monday Car Show/Speedsportz Racing Park  
**MAY 31**

# June

## Houston

Nitty Gritty Dirt Band at the Arena Theater  
**JUNE 1**

## Jacksonville

Tomato Fest 5K Fun Run and 1 Mile Fun Run  
**JUNE 5**

## Houston

Texas Trucking Show/NRG Stadium  
**JUNE 5-6, 12-13**

## Longview

Downtown Longview Wine Swirl 2021  
**JUNE 5**

## Jacksonville

Tomato Fest Week  
**JUNE 7-12**

## Gladewater

84th Annual Gladewater Round-up Rodeo  
**JUNE 9-12**

## Longview

2021 Summer Boat Show/Cobb Convention Center  
**JUNE 10-12**

## Houston

International Gem and Jewelry Show 2021/NRG Park  
**JUNE 11-13**

## Sulphur Springs

Hopkins County Dairy Festival Texas State Championship Ice Cream Freeze  
**JUNE 11-19**

## Corsicana

Ben and Noel Haggard: A Tribute to Their Father/Palace Theater  
**JUNE 12**

## Ennis

Blues on Main Summer Music Fest 2021  
**JUNE 12**

## Jacksonville

37th Annual Tomato Festival  
**JUNE 12**

## Nacogdoches

2021 Texas Blueberry Festival  
**JUNE 12**

## Houston

Summer Trucking Show/NRG Center  
**JUNE 12-13**

## The Woodlands

Steely Dan at C W Mitchell Pavilion  
**JUNE 17-18**

## Longview

Great Texas Balloon Race 2021  
**JUNE 18-20**

## Nacogdoches

Aaron Watson at Banita Creek Hall  
**JUNE 19**

## The Woodlands

The Backstreet Boys/C W Mitchell Pavilion  
**JUNE 19**

## Tyler

2021 Cattle Baron's Gala/Texas Rose Horse Park  
**JUNE 19**

## Houston

Shenandoah and Collin Raye at the Arena Theater  
**JUNE 24**

## Crystal Beach

Southern Broadband Summer Music Festival  
**JUNE 25**

## Whitehouse

Summer Showoff Car and Bike Show 2021  
**JUNE 26**

## Port Arthur

2021 Port Arthur Gun Show/Bob Bower Civic Center  
**JUNE 26-27**

## The Woodlands

Chicago in Concert/C W Mitchell Pavilion  
**JUNE 27**

# July

## Port Bolivar

1st Saturday Bolivar Flats Nature Walk  
**JULY 3**

## Centerville

4th of July Funtier Days  
**JULY 3-4**

## The Woodlands

45th Annual 4th of July Parade  
**JULY 4**



# CALENDAR

**Kingwood**

4th of July Festival  
*JULY 4*

**Houston**

Exxon Mobil Summer Symphony Nights 4th of July Celebration at Miller Outdoor Arena  
*JULY 4-5*

**Nacogdoches**

Freedom Fest 2021  
*JULY 4*

**Jasper**

Fireworks at Sandy Creek Park  
*JULY 4*

**Jacksonville**

Fireworks at Lake Jackson  
*JULY 4*

**Mineola**

4th of July Celebration and Fireworks/Mineola Civic Center  
*JULY 4*

**Onalaska**

Fireworks over Lake Livingston  
*JULY 4*

**Longview**

Fireworks and Freedom Celebration 2021  
*JULY 4*

**Canton**

Tailwind Regional Balloon Fest  
*JULY 9-10*

**Spring**

Ray Wylie Hubbard at Dosey Doe, The Big Barn  
*JULY 9*

**Beaumont**

Delbert McClinton at the Jefferson Theater  
*JULY 9*

**Mineola**

Annual Volunteer Fireman's Rodeo  
*JULY 9-11*

**Lufkin**

Lufkin Gun Show 2021/Civic Center  
*JULY 10-11*

**Spring**

Ronnie Milsap at Dosey Doe, The Big Barn  
*JULY 11*

**The Woodlands**

Santana, Earth Wind and Fire/C W Mitchell Pavilion  
*JULY 17-18*

**Spring**

Little River Band at Dosey Doe, The Big Barn  
*JULY 22*

**Conroe**

Comic Conroe 2021/Lone Star Convention and Expo Center  
*JULY 23*

**Beaumont**

American Thunder Softball Big Bang Tournament/Ford Park  
*JULY 24*

**Spring**

John Conlee at Dosey Doe, The Big Barn  
*JULY 25*

**Houston**

Horror Film Festival 2021/Marriott South at Hobby Airport  
*JULY 25-27*

**Hockley**

Blake Shelton and Gwen Steffani at the Showboat Drive-In  
*JULY 26*

**Beaumont**

Babe Zaharias Open/Beaumont Country Club  
*JULY 27*

**Spring**

Foghat at Dosey Doe, The Big Barn  
*JULY 30*

**Tyler**

East Texas Wedding Extravaganza/Harvey Convention Center  
*JULY 31*

**Houston**

Bridal Extravaganza Show/G R Brown Convention Center  
*JULY 31-AUGUST 1*

**Longview**

Longview Kennel Club AKC Dog Show/Cobb Convention Center  
*JULY 31-AUGUST 1*

*Events are subject to change or cancellation.  
To submit a calendar item email Mollie at  
[events@easttexasmag.com](mailto:events@easttexasmag.com)*



# Learn why more people are choosing **Crockett Medical Center**



"When I had my heart attack on September 1st, 2019, every second counted. I needed local care, quick.

**Crockett Emergency Department saved my life"**

*-Gerald*



"I am happy to be alive today because of the care and screening I received from "Dr. Tim" and Dr. Kroll.

**They found my cancer. I am a survivor."**

*-Roberto*



"With my complex medical issues and needing frequent blood draws, I don't want to be stuck twice.

**I only go to Dolores!"**

*-Teri*

"I could barely walk but look at me now,

**With a new hip from Dr. O'Meara I'm walking a mile every day!"**

*-Susan*



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