

Issue 17
Spring 2022

East Texan

Inspiration Village

A residential ranch inspired by
special people with special needs

Here Am I, Lord, Send Me

Teaching children about Jesus for 45 years

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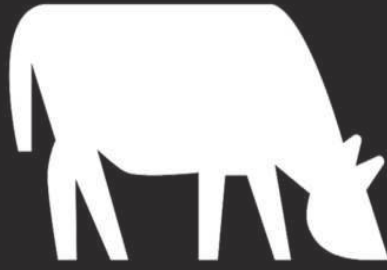
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Los Pinos Farms Damascus

GRASSFED BEEF & MEATS

NO ANTIBIOTICS

NO HORMONES

NO CONFINEMENT



We are David and Tina Price, husband-and-wife team at work (medicine and farming) and at play. David had a vision of raising grass-fed beef, but I was not as enthusiastic about this vision. However, through the pandemic, unprecedented weather events and the birth of our grandson, the vision became more clear to both of us. Standing in line at the grocery store only to find empty shelves will quickly change your perspective. Our goal is to raise grass-fed beef, grass-finished beef and other meats in a natural and sustainable way... providing our community with high-quality products while leaving a legacy for our future generations.

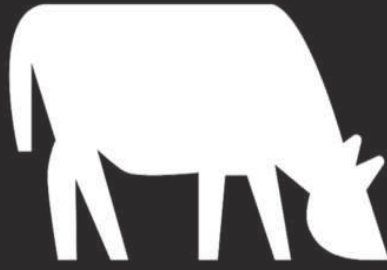
Please join us on our journey from medicine to meat. Welcome to Los Pinos Farms, Damascus.
- Tina

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CORRIGAN, TEXAS

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Hooray for Spring!

I love this time of year when evening walks are just the right temperature, and all the trees are starting to show their beauty again.

I get that itch to try my hand at starting a garden in the spring. I have lots of ideas and recipes for all the beautiful things I can nurture into beautiful vegetables and fruits.

Sadly, I have developed a reputation as a person who struggles to make a plant survive. I've been known to let a silk plant suffer, wilt and ultimately pass on.

Moving on, welcome to our latest issue of the East Texan.

We have gathered some great things to read about, from hometown heroes to a young exchange student from Ukraine. Jan White shows that fly fishing is great fun for anyone, while we have also discovered a couple of camps that came into being through big-hearted neighbors that discovered a need.

As always, we have some excellent food recommendations, a tasty recipe, and plenty of entertaining information. Thank you for spending time with us.

~ Debbie Dickerson
East Texan editor

On The Cover



*Ruby River in southwest Montana.
Photo courtesy of Jan White.
See full story on page 42.*

Meet the staff

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Editor

Debbie Dickerson

Design & Graphics Team

Amanda Barker

Beth Faircloth

Amy Holzworth

Advertising Team

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Writers & Photographers

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Brian Besch

Chris Edwards

Tony Farkas

Amy Holzworth

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Jan White

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Alvin Holley, owner

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



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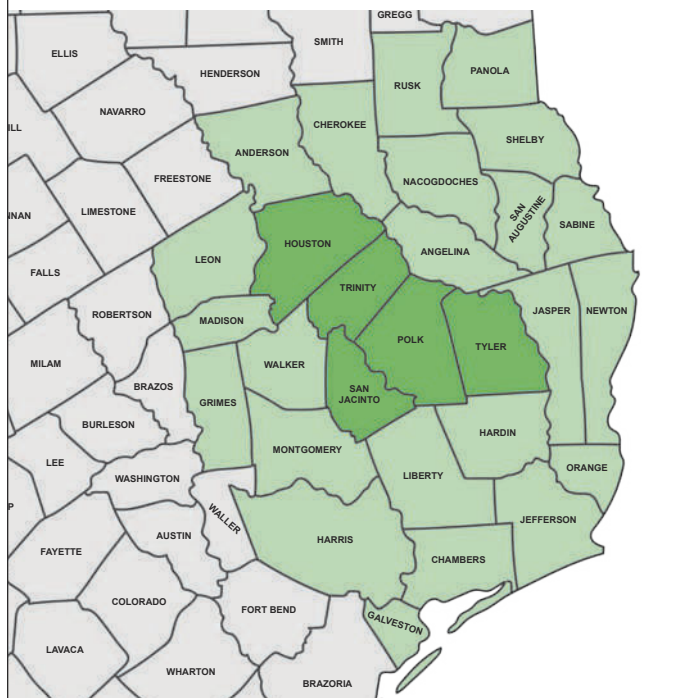


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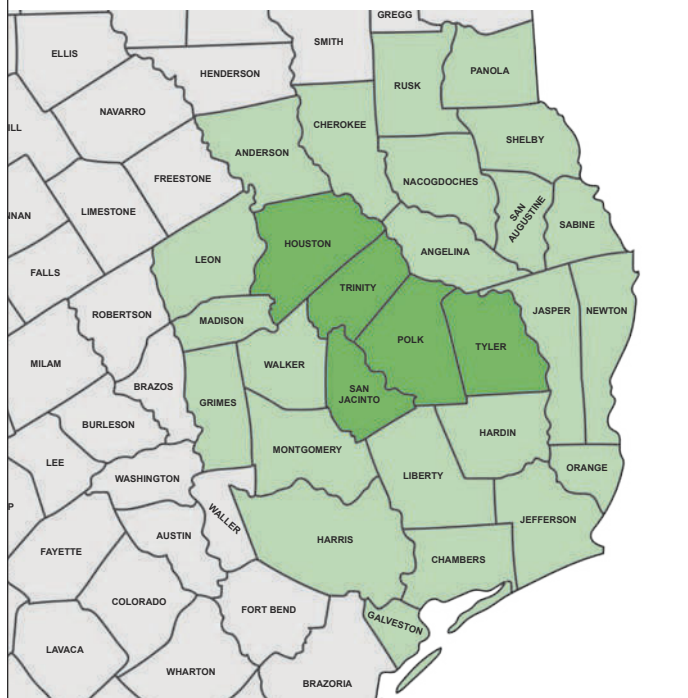


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Beaumont Children's Museum

An affordable hands-on experience

By Kelli Barnes
Photos by Beth Faircloth

This summer will mark six years since the Beaumont Children's Museum opened its doors inside the Beaumont Civic Center in downtown. The initial theme and purpose, "the museum without walls," sends traveling programs to various educational facilities throughout southeast Texas, sharing the STAR Lab planetarium, Legos, and STUFFEE, a 7-foot-tall doll teaching young children about healthy eating and exercise habits.

The museum is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and is appropriate for crawlers up to sixth graders. Summer hours will extend to Mondays also. The cost is \$5 for adults and children, babies under one year are free, military families and seniors receive \$1 off each admission. The physical address is 701 Main Street, Beaumont, TX 77701.

On a regular visit, children can safely explore a large Lego collection, super-sized games like Light Bright and Connect 4. Other fun activities include acting and playing

(left) The sand pit with dinosaurs and "fossils" will keep your kids entertained for hours.

(right) Children can design their own maze, allowing a ball to travel freely through a series of tunnels.



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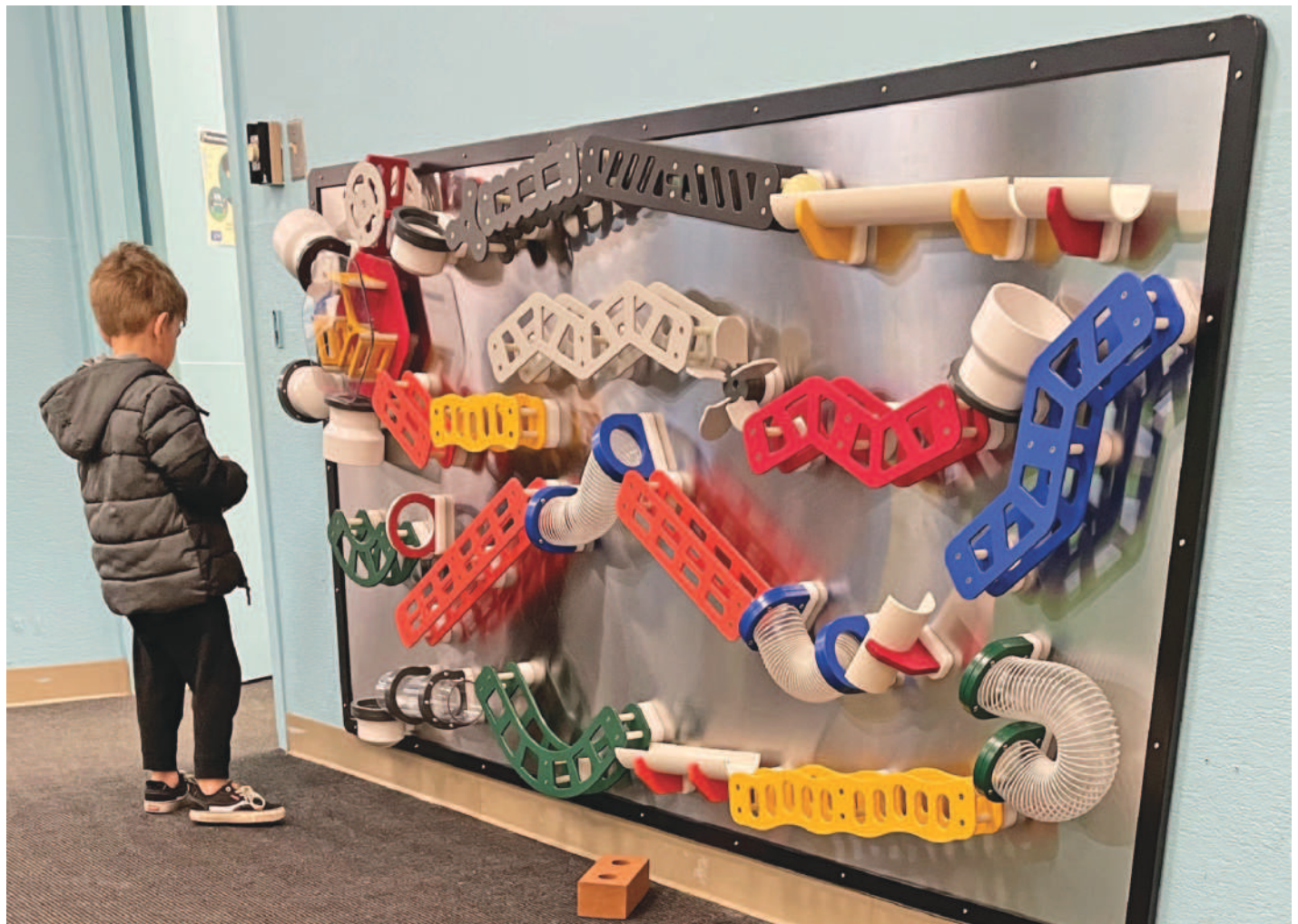
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dress up, building things, using a pulley system, singing, playing instruments, digging in sand for dinosaur bones, jumping and climbing.

Several businesses have sponsored areas specifically designed to teach children about banking, medical facilities, grocery stores, etc. with hands on activities in each room.

The museum offers special camp weeks during holidays for school aged children, homeschool workshops, and events specifically designed for toddlers. The museum is available for birthday party rental and the museum can be rented for a private event on Sundays. ■

*(right) Children of all ages enjoy the life size "light bright" at the Beaumont Children's Museum.
(below) The collection of Legos available for play time at the museum is impressive.*



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Inspiration Village

A residential ranch inspired by special people with special needs





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By Tony Farkas

Nestled in rural Trinity County, there's 90 acres of comfort.

On Highway 94 a few miles northeast of Trinity, is a place for intellectually disabled adolescents and adults that offers a better alternative to institutionalization or nursing homes.

It is a place that will help someone with autism, Down's syndrome or is developmentally challenged, someone who has suffered head injuries from strokes or accidents.

It is a place that will help them learn, grow, and even work, all while being nurtured and protected and most of all, having fun.

Inspiration Village was founded by Connie and David Price as an answer to the need for these types of services.

Connie Price said they have a son with profound autism, and as all parents with kids with special needs, she and her husband wondered what will happen with their son, especially since she and husband work full-time — she at Trinity Hospital, he at the clinic.

"There was nothing in this area that was available," she said. "We started doing some research into care options, then we found some property and we started building Inspiration Village."

The Prices purchased the property in 2005, and with the help of scores of volunteers, started clearing the land. A board of directors was formed, and the process to gain non-profit status was begun. However, since the application was done the year Hurricane Rita hit, it took the help of U.S. Congressman Kevin Brady to bring it home.

(top left) Aaron holds up the trophy of the eggs that were laid.

(bottom far left) The pastoral scene where clients work and learn life skills.

(bottom left) Clients have been filling the village's relic garden from treasures found on regular bikes.

(top right) Deanna waters shoots that will later be planted in the village garden.

(bottom right) Josh C. feeds the cows.



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Starting small

“We opened in 2010 with one client and one cow,” Price said. “We’ve gone from that to where we are now; we have four full-time staff, and when everyone is here, we have 28 clients. Before COVID, we had 32, but a few did not return.”

The Village serves five counties — Trinity, Walker, Polk, San Jacinto and Houston.

The clients learn a variety of lessons, such as safety awareness, hygiene, animal care and gardening, along with social skills, arts and crafts, and music enjoyment. If it’s necessary, the Village offers transportation services.

“When we started, we wanted to provide day services for families because there was no place available,” Price said. “We wanted to have group homes, but we have not yet been able to do that, partly because state regulations would deem this an institution, and those must be located within a city’s limits.”

Not really a school

Of the 90 acres, the Price family lives on three. The rest is for the clients, where they can roam, explore, walk the trails, watch the animals, and learn.

Michele Newhouse, marketing director, said a favorite pastime for the clients is hiking, which doubles as a treasure hunt, as the land used to house a sawmill, and was part of the infamous Trinity County Wobbly Bobbly railroad line.

Those “treasures” get planted in a relic garden — with the rest of treasures they find with their metal detector, she said.

They walk the pastures, brush the horses they find, and it’s good exercise.

“This is less about day care and more about growth,” Price said. “We want our clients to reach their highest ability level and to succeed in anything they want to do.”

This is not a school, but a place to live and work with dignity as the clients become as independent as they can.

“We give some structure, but they get a lot of choices of what they want to do, and we make sure they’re taken care of and not injured in any way,” Price said. “Every day, each client gets one-on-one time with the staff, and they work in groups, and even help each other learn.”

A variety of activities

The clients are divided into three groups, and each month, they rotate through a different area. One group will work with the large animals — the cows, the miniature horses; then one with the small animals — the ducks and chickens; and then one group learns life skills.

On a monthly basis, the life skills group sits down and plans the meals, then go shopping for the ingredients, which teaches budgeting. They then spend the week preparing for Friday, when they cook their planned meal for the village.

The groups learn sweeping and mopping. They wash all the linens.

The livestock groups clean any eggs from the chickens and ducks, as well as cleaning, grooming and feeding the large animals.

“We have 13-14 cows, we have chickens, ducks, a goat, and miniature horses,” Price said “We raise meat for the village so we don’t have to purchase it; we have fresh eggs, which are for sale for \$2 per dozen.”



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The day is not just chores, as the clients learn other useful skills, as volunteers assist with all sorts of activities, such as arts, crafts, jewelry making, Bible study and reading, and music therapy.

There's a pond for fishing, there's nature trails, and treasure hunting.

Woodworking was at one time offered, but has been halted because there is no instructor.

There is an annual garden, which is tended by the clients, and they not only enjoy the fruits and vegetables of their labor but offer vegetable baskets to sell.

"Before COVID, we had volunteers that came in and did arts and crafts with the clients, and once a month, we would go on a big excursion, either bowling, or travel to the mall, or go to the zoo in Lufkin," Price said.

Newhouse stressed that the work the clients do is at a level that is comfortable and geared toward their ability, and they don't do more than they can.

Price said that when a client is taken on, the scope of work is decided by the client and families. The end result will be what is best for the client, and hopefully, that includes living on their own.

"We're building homes for independent living for individuals who can live by themselves and can take care of themselves," Price said. "We have one completed with one tenant, and we will work on a second very soon.

"One of my biggest goals is to make each of these individuals happy," Price said. "We help them by treating them like family, because that's what we are, a big family."

Helping hands

The Village's funding comes from a combination of donations, and the clients pay for the program. They contract with providers for some individuals. Additionally, they hold many local fundraisers.

Still, in order to get more people living independently, to upgrade the facilities, and to finish constructing a gift shop, more help through funding and volunteers always is welcome.

To use the services provided by Inspiration Village, or to assist the Village through volunteerism, contact them at 936-594-1588; find them on the web at www.inspirationvillage.org; or on Facebook. ■

Heidi feeds the chickens.



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UKRAINE TO EAST TEXAS

Exchange student gives insight on war against Ukraine



Daniil Rusanyuk is attending his final year of high school in Livingston. Photo by Brian Besch.

By Brian Besch

As the world watches the events in Russia and Ukraine unfold, a local student has his heart and mind in Kyiv while attending his final year of classes at Livingston High School. Daniil Rusanyuk, 17, is a Ukrainian exchange student from the capital city.

“I wanted to be an exchange student,” Daniil said of

attending school in Polk County. “I applied for over two years. The first year I applied, but because of Covid, I wasn’t able to go. I applied for the next year, and it happened so fast. I got acceptance in a week. I got accepted and it said school started in a week. I needed to pack my bags and come here.”

Food, traditions and speech were some of the biggest adjustments made upon arrival. Daniil (pronounced Daniel)

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spent plenty of time learning English as a young child, starting in kindergarten. However, a British version of the language was taught. You may have heard that Texans sound a little different, and he mentioned something about an accent.

School has been a bit different in the States. Students in Ukraine attend classes for 11 grades instead of 12. In Kyiv, the classrooms are in groups of 30 students. Each group attends



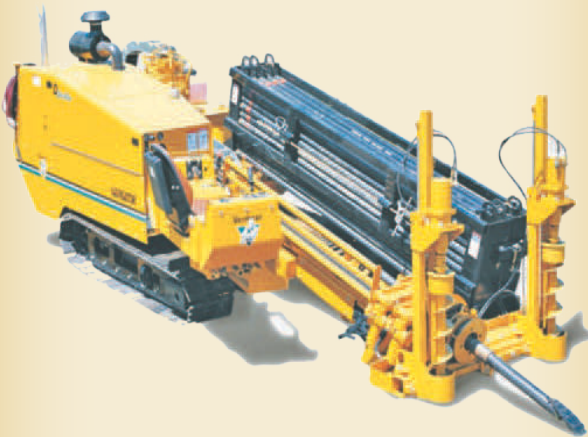
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*"No one
wants this war."*

every class together for all 11 years.

Just like many kids his age, Daniil is into video games, and he was playing online when he first heard of the invasion.

"My friend called me; he's still now in Kyiv," Daniil said. "He told me, 'I woke up and there was bombing.' He said, 'I do not understand what is happening.' It was like 4 a.m. or 5 a.m. He saw something like a gas station blow up. I phoned my parents, and they also just woke up."

Friends and family knew that Russian President Vladimir Putin had deployed troops at the border, but didn't think much of it because there have been similar situations since 2014, when Crimea was invaded. Crimea was a destination spot for Daniil's family, visiting the peninsula Russia now controls each summer.

"It is more in Western Ukraine that some people hated Russians. They called us bad words, but my grandma has a house there (in Crimea), so I used to go there every summer. This summer, I was there in Crimea. I have a lot of friends that are still texting me, so we were friends, and everything was fine. I even still play computer games (with them) and I try to tell them real situations that are happening, because in Russia, it is all propaganda. They will say, 'We are saving Ukraine.'"

His description of the Kyiv he left is one of an ideal city, with activities that are limited by only the imagination.

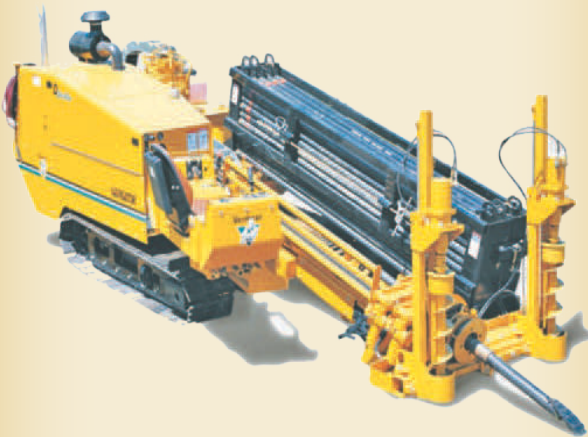
"It is a very big city. We have two zoos, but two days ago, the zoo in the center of Kyiv was burned. I saw a video of fires. There are a lot of places and a lot of museums. The center of Kyiv is so beautiful. There are churches that are very important. This summer, a very beautiful glass bridge opened. No one even thought about war, so everyone was building. Our mayor of Kyiv, he was building this beautiful bridge that goes around so you can view all the Dnieper River.

"We have everything in Kyiv. We have a river where you can swim, we have boats and everything you can

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"We have everything in Kyiv. We have a river where you can swim, we have boats and everything you can

imagine. You don't think, 'Where can I go today?' You just go out and you will see everything. Over the summer, me and my family decided to go to different sites to see Ukraine. Just next to Kyiv, there are mines, where people dig for resources. Then, they fill them with water when they have done everything. It is so beautiful, like a lake that is very deep. The water is so beautiful with trees around in the forest."

His parents are from Lviv originally, but moved to Kyiv, where Daniil was born and raised. There are grandparents that still live in Lviv, where, for now, it is a bit more stable.

Daniil was understandably concerned with his parents in Kyiv. Extremely loud gunfire and bombing could be heard from inside their home. At 54 years of age, it is mandatory that his father remains in the country.

"My dad said that he is already too old to go into the Army, because it would be hard for him. He said, 'I will help how I can.' He is a builder. He is working with a building company, so he is organizing a fund where he collects money for people who have lost shelter and their houses in the bombing. My dad can't get out of Ukraine, because there are restrictions if you are from 18-60, you can't get out of Ukraine."

In contact with someone every hour, Daniil checks on family and friends. There have been a few stressful moments, like when he couldn't contact a cousin for a day. She was in the process of escaping Kyiv to reach family in Lviv. On the way, massive traffic delays forced her to sleep two nights in a bunker.

When asked if he believes enough has been done to

help Ukraine, Daniil felt focus should be placed on the one responsible for the hardships his country faces.

"It tries to do enough, with all the sanctions on Russia, but it actually doesn't affect Putin. Its effect is on Russia's economy, but Putin as dictator, it doesn't really affect him, so he just continues. Nothing will stop him."

He said friends, frustrated with waiting for assistance, have joked that NATO is an acronym for No Action, Talk Only.

His godmother had left Kyiv, but a camera captured Russian units firing at her house. After the Russians attacked and seized a nuclear power plant, Daniil's parents decided in the early morning hours that the city was too dangerous. They left in a vehicle, which will take days with traffic and some of the roads destroyed by the war. The car will serve as both transportation and a bed until they reach Lviv.

Daniil has another grandmother who lives in Italy and the family has decided that if all connections are lost, that is where everyone will meet.

He planned to take part in a protest of the war occurring in Houston.

"Neither Russians nor Ukrainians want this war. Russian troops and armies that are attacking us are surrendering, and Ukrainians give them food and hospitals. Our hospitals are full of Russian troops. No one wants this war. Ukraine needs help right now. I want more people to know about what is happening in Ukraine. I want more people to go to this protest, for example. Some help would be good."

Note: This article was written in early March. ■

(left) Daniil Rusanyuk's parents are in a long line of traffic, trying to escape the Ukraine capital of Kyiv for Lviv, where his grandmother lives.

(right) On the way to Lviv, Daniil Rusanyuk's parents pass police stations with sandbags piled for protection.



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HERE AM I, LORD



By Mollie LaSalle
Photos courtesy of Victory Camp Colmesneil

Lufkin, Texas, was where Clifford and Gloria Russell settled after he retired from a 20-year career in the Navy. Two weeks later Clifford went back to work at the paper mill, and Gloria needed something to do. “The Lord called me into the ministry,” she explained. Gloria founded Gloria Russell Children’s Ministry in 1977 and never looked back. The seed was planted for Gloria during their years in California, while Clifford was serving in the Navy when the Child Evangelism Fellowship program introduced her to sharing the gospel with children.

Her ministry began with a vision to fulfill the words of Matthew 18:14: “It is not the will of my Father who is in Heaven that one of these little ones should be lost and perish.” She was deeply saddened by the fact that three out of four children had never been to church. GRCM began after school Bible clubs in neighborhood homes in a five-county area of East Texas, training adult and teenage volunteers to teach the gospel. The mission of GRCM is to train, equip, and encourage teens and adults to share the love of God, teach his word and evangelize elementary-aged boys and girls. Through this ministry, more than half a million boys and girls have heard the message of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

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allow organizations that teach the Bible to utilize the facilities at schools (after hours) if they provided a facility for any other organization, they would have to include Christian organizations.” GRCM branched out to 12 different locations by 2002; these were called Circle Clubs. At this point in time, Clifford retired (again) from the paper mill, allowing him to devote all his time to GRCM.

“On a trip to Colmesneil to visit our daughter, my daughter said, ‘Mom, let’s go next door and look at this property that’s for sale.’ I told her, ‘I’m not interested in buying any property,’ but we went anyway.”

Gloria wasn’t interested at first, but the Lord had other plans.

“My husband said, ‘Oh look, Victory Camp and Conference

Center, upon seeing the property. Gloria commented, ‘Wouldn’t that be just like God?’ The Russells negotiated on prices, and had a lot of ‘supernatural help all the way down the line,’ Gloria said. The owner had a dream that we were supposed to have this property, the house and surrounding 33 acres.”

GRCM had previously been leasing Daniel Springs, a property in Gary, Texas, to hold their Victory Camps for years.

The Russells purchased the house and 12 acres of land with the sale of their home in Lufkin. GRCM purchased the surrounding acreage with donations and the sale of the Lufkin Ministry office.

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Also purchased was a tent, road, roofs, a corral, fishing piers, and a train. "One miraculous event after another led us to that day", Gloria explained.

The Russells moved one more time and settled once and for all at the property in Colmesneil in 2002. Victory Camp Colmesneil would now become a reality, although it didn't happen overnight. "We thought that within five years, we were going to have a full-blown camp, but it didn't happen that quick," Gloria added.

From the beginning at Victory Camp Colmesneil, chapel services were held in a huge 40x60 foot tent, which served the ministry well for a number of years. In early 2020, soon after Covid and shutdowns, Gloria said the Lord told her it was time to enlarge the tent. Her dream of a multi-purpose building became a reality with donations from partners and "supernatural help" from anonymous donors. "Money came in as we needed it, and it is still a work in progress," she added. The Clifford Russell Memorial Victory Life Center, a 60x90 foot building now stands proudly on the grounds, the faithful old tent now a memory.

Gloria said, "When Colmesneil ISD voted to enact a four-day week, the Lord led us to start a Friday Circle Club to meet a need in the community. In the beginning, we had 60 children who signed up. They are dropped off at 7:30 a.m. and picked up at 3:30 p.m. My daughter is the director and she describes it as a mix between summer camp and vacation Bible school."

She went on to explain that beginning in March, the Friday Circle Club meets on the first Friday of every month, to better suit the needs of the community.

The main house on the property stands vacant for now; renovations are in the works for missionaries to have a place to stay at no cost to them. Gloria moved to a smaller house on the property three years ago, and she has a bird's-eye view of the camp from her back porch; the pond with its nine fishing piers, the main house, swings hanging from huge old trees and just the calm peacefulness of the entire camp. Her daughter surprised her at Christmas when she had a sign made which simply says "Aunt Gloria's Missionary House." It hangs above the front door, amidst the red rocking chair and smaller chairs for the young ones on the porch.

Victory Camp Colmesneil is a Christian ministry offering fishing, archery, horseback riding, swimming, train rides, crafting and fun. Volunteers bring their horses for the children to ride, and the train departs from Victory Camp Depot and takes the young ones on a ride around the camp. Victory Camp Colmesneil hosts four main activities each quarter throughout the year. The Easter Walk With Jesus is held every year on the Saturday before Palm Sunday; this year the date is April 9. The Summer Back To School Rally is held every August on the third Saturday; in October, it hosts the Harvest Festival and





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Victory Camp Colmesneil is a Christian ministry offering fishing, archery, horseback riding, swimming, train rides, crafting and fun. Volunteers bring their horses for the children to ride, and the train departs from Victory Camp Depot and takes the young ones on a ride around the camp. Victory Camp Colmesneil hosts four main activities each quarter throughout the year. The Easter Walk With Jesus is held every year on the Saturday before Palm Sunday; this year the date is April 9. The Summer Back To School Rally is held every August on the third Saturday; in October, it hosts the Harvest Festival and



Pumpkin Patch on the fourth Saturday; and it hosts the Birthday Party For Jesus on the first Saturday in December. All these events are free and are eagerly anticipated by all the children who come from far and wide to attend.

There is no doubt that with the Lord and a lot of help, love and support from numerous volunteers and family members, Gloria, or as she is affectionately known, "Aunt Gloria," will continue to teach the gospel to children for as long as He sees fit. "I believe the future depends on the way we raise our children," she said.

With an eye planted on the future, Gloria Russell has, as evidenced by her story, led a rich and blessed life. "I was born in Lufkin in 1939, and grew up in Apple Springs, in Trinity County. I moved to Galveston in 1950 with my mother, and it was there that I met my husband. We were in the eighth grade when we first met; our first date was a hay ride." Clifford had already enlisted in the Navy by the time they got married in July 1958. They moved around a lot during his Navy career, and started a family that included three daughters and one son. Clifford was a diesel engineer, and later went to work on nuclear submarines. He retired at the 20-year mark, and they settled in Lufkin, where they began the second half of their lives

Clifford and Gloria remained



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- America and America's interests come FIRST
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- Unite with ETAC, your neighbors, local organizations, members of local and state government.
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The goal of this committee is to work with the citizens of East Texas by holding regular quarterly meetings to bring your voices to the ballot box and elect representatives that will work to keep Texas and America from turning to the Socialist, Communist and destructive ideologies America has fought against globally for the last century.

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Her daughter, Kelli, explained her mother's mindset at the time. "My mother has a great faith and believes in grace and certain times things happen that you think you can't survive, but somehow you do. My mother performed my dad's funeral service and it was one of the best messages I have ever heard her speak. She was a basket case before and after, but during, it was as if nothing was wrong. The very next week when my daughter got married, she struggled before and after, but during the service she was just like, there's no way to explain it except to say that there is a peace that passes all understanding when a person trusts in God, and that's basically how she made it."

As this interview drew to a close, I found myself wishing I could spend the day with "Aunt Gloria," but she had things to do and places to be. I have to confess, I had never met Gloria, and I have lived in Colmesneil for almost half my adult life.

I could kick myself for not getting to know her sooner. I am also regretting not ever getting to know her husband. Gloria attends Agape Church just a few miles up the road from her home, where she preaches the word of God when called upon; her husband was an associate pastor at Agape Church for several years. Naturally, Aunt Gloria continues to be a towering presence at the camp. Since her husband's passing, Gloria has donated the house with the pool and remaining land to GRCM; this was always the intent from the very beginning.

She is also an author; a few of her books include: "Living in Your Fortified Place," "Legacy," and "Surrounded," which are available for purchase through authorhouse.com and Amazon. She did confess to slowing down a bit in recent years. The vision Aunt Gloria had 45 years ago has grown and blossomed into quite a legacy for future generations.

Victory Camp Colmesneil is located at 2472 FM 1745 N in Colmesneil, Texas. For more information, you can call 409-837-4472. Gloria Russell Children's Ministry is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. ■



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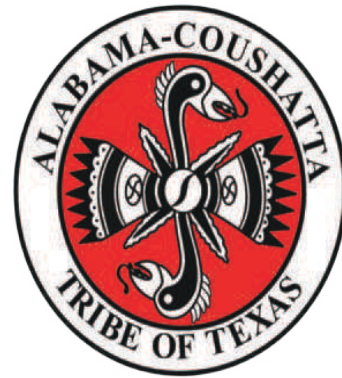
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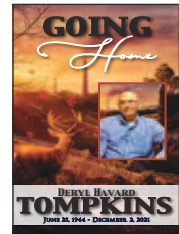
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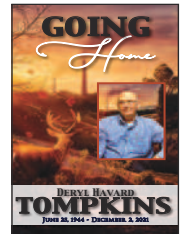
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FROM LITTLE LEAGUE TO PROS

Corrigan native does hometown proud

By Chris Edwards

As a junior high football player, La'Darius Hamilton once went to make a tackle, and a not-so-great helmet resulted in a bloody nose for the young athlete. Hamilton told his coach about it, and the coach's response resulted in a nickname that would follow him through his high school and college football career.

"I went to tell coach about it, and his response was 'If you're going to be a hambone you can't be complaining,'" Hamilton recounted.

To the general public, Hamilton is known nowadays by his given name, and a couple of years ago, he fulfilled a long-gestating dream to play in the NFL. Signing on to play pro ball came after a collegiate career that found him breaking into his alma mater's record books.

At 6'2" and 261 lbs., Hamilton can see over the horizon better than most. His stats as a University of North Texas Mean Green player had him finishing his college career at sixth place in UNT's history for tackles loss (28.5) and tied at sixth for sacks (17).

"La'Darius is one of the fastest D-ends I've ever seen in my

*Corrigan native
La'Darius playing for
UNT. Photo courtesy
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life, one of the quickest D-ends I've ever seen in my life," Khairi Muhammad, a former UNT teammate said.

Following college, Hamilton went undrafted in 2020, and signed on to play for the Dallas Cowboys, where he spent a season on the practice squad. Following a sophomore season with another practice squad (Tampa Bay), Hamilton got signed off the Buccaneers' practice squad on Sept. 17, 2021, as the Green Bay Packers came calling after outside linebacker Za'Darius Smith was placed on the short-term injured reserve list. Later that season, he was brought into the ranks of the team's active roster, just in time for the Packers to play the Minnesota Vikings.

Mike Smith, the Packers' outside linebackers coach, said he was impressed by how fast Hamilton took to picking up his role as a linebacker with the team.

Smith said Hamilton has, of late, wanted to be called "Bone," and noted Hamilton's strength and power. "I love guys that love football, and he does that," Smith said.

Prior to Hamilton seeing any playing time in the NFL, a writer with NFL.com, Lance Zierlein, noted his "edge-setting strength and determination" throughout his four years at UNT, as well as his improvement as a pass rusher.

Hamilton said it was a "no brainer" when he got the call from his agent with news that Green Bay wanted to sign him to its active roster. He was at practice in Tampa Bay that day.

He said that learning the defensive strategies of a new team and coming onboard as the season was already in full bloom was a grind, but something he looked at as a job to do every day. That brand of stoic determination to play the best football he could was evident back when he was racking up accomplishments on the gridiron in East Texas as a Corrigan-Camden Bulldog. The versatile athlete was an offensive tackle, defensive end, linebacker, tight end, long snapper and, at times, a kicker, for the Bulldogs.

While playing under then-Bulldogs head coach Seven Armstrong, Hamilton, as a junior, helped lead the team to a 10-2 overall season record and the area round of the UIL 3A Division II State Football Championships. His senior year, he made it to the Regional round with the Bulldogs, and by his



La'Darius Hamilton as a young pee-wee football player in Corrigan. Photo courtesy of Kim Benjamin

2016 high school graduation, he racked up an impressive resume that made him a welcome addition to any collegiate program. He said he signed with UNT due to the interest that was placed on him during recruitment and the close-knit nature of the team and coaches.

Hamilton cherishes the influence of his hard-working parents and the great times he had growing up in northern Polk County. "My greatest influences would have to be my parents," he said. "I have other family members who have influenced me, but the greatest influence comes from them. They made sure to teach me that you will not get anywhere in life being lazy and not having respect for others."

His mother, Kim, said his gifts were apparent early on, and she and his father Carlous started sending him to camps when he was in eighth grade to hone his skills. "From Little League up until he graduated [high school] he showed us that he was very passionate about every sport he played and that's why we made

the sacrifices we did, investing in his future," Kim said.

Hamilton's high school teacher, Beverly Cockrell, called him an "all-around great guy," and "the type of young man that every teacher and coach dreams of having in their classroom or on the field."

Cockrell also said the respectful, well-mannered Hamilton is "a natural-born leader." "He knows who he is and how to get what he wants out of life," she added.

Statistically, the dream of playing pro ball seems to evade even the hardest-working of high school and collegiate athletes, but Hamilton knew this and would not give up until realizing his dream.

"As far back as I can remember me wanting to be a professional athlete is probably around the first grade when I first watched Lawrence Taylor highlights," Hamilton said.

The hometown support for Hamilton has been a great motivating factor, as well. "My pride for Corrigan runs deep," he said in a 2017 profile published to the UNT sports site, Mean Green Sports. "I bleed blue even though I wear green now. I'm forever a Bulldog and I love my city. They've given me more than I could ever give them, so I've got to be the best for them."

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La'Darius Hamilton in action during the 2015 Regional playoff round against Trinity. PCPC file photo|Linda Jacobs

In the same profile, Hamilton added that Corriganites have told him they see him as a “sign of hope for the town.”

“They say I’m a great role model for the people who come behind me to show them to do things the right way,” he said.

From the very first play of his first collegiate game, Hamilton made a splash. It was in a game against SMU, and not only did he make three tackles throughout the game, but he deflected a pass that led to an interception, which happened in the first quarter on the first play in his first collegiate game. It only went up from there.

During his junior year at UNT, Hamilton landed on first-team of the All-Conference USA Team. For one game, the team “un-retired” the No. 75 jersey that was last worn by UNT legend Joe Greene, and it was donned by Hamilton, a move that signaled how much the Corrigan native meant to the school.

For four years on the Mean Green squad, Hamilton played football for a program located less than 50 miles from AT&T Stadium in Arlington. Added to the fact that he grew up a Cowboys fan with a family who always rooted for Dallas, his current employment situation has the makings of a meant-to-be scenario.

When Hamilton participated in the NFL Combine workout in Indianapolis, February of 2020, he finished amongst the top rankings in several of the drills, for his position, but he did not hear his name called in the NFL Draft. He said he

was “very excited,” however, when the Cowboys called with an undrafted free agent deal for him.

Before the season began, writer Zeke Barrera reporting for Cowboys Wire, wrote that Hamilton “will have to wait for and earn his opportunity, but Dallas does have both an immediate and long-term need for another edge rusher.”

Hamilton said he had some great experience to “learn from older cats” while practicing with the Cowboys and noted that many of his new teammates have given him a lot of great advice. “They’ve been showing me love and making sure that I get everything locked in,” he said.

After participating in the combine two years ago, Hamilton spoke to the media about his hopes and dreams with the NFL. He recognized his strengths and what he could bring to whichever program would have him. “You’ve got to really do something to wow people so you can get this opportunity,” he said.

Throughout the history of Polk County, the nurturing, fertile environment has produced statesmen, great intellects, artists and amazing athletes, and Hamilton has certainly chiseled his name onto that list.

The future is likely a bright place for La'Darius Hamilton, but whatever he accomplishes with the NFL is icing on the cake. He’s undoubtedly wowed folks back home time and time again. ■



La'Darius Hamilton in action during the 2015 Regional playoff round against Trinity. PCPC file photo|Linda Jacobs

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Before the season began, writer Zeke Barrera reporting for Cowboys Wire, wrote that Hamilton “will have to wait for and earn his opportunity, but Dallas does have both an immediate and long-term need for another edge rusher.”

Hamilton said he had some great experience to “learn from older cats” while practicing with the Cowboys and noted that many of his new teammates have given him a lot of great advice. “They’ve been showing me love and making sure that I get everything locked in,” he said.

After participating in the combine two years ago, Hamilton spoke to the media about his hopes and dreams with the NFL. He recognized his strengths and what he could bring to whichever program would have him. “You’ve got to really do something to wow people so you can get this opportunity,” he said.

Throughout the history of Polk County, the nurturing, fertile environment has produced statesmen, great intellects, artists and amazing athletes, and Hamilton has certainly chiseled his name onto that list.

The future is likely a bright place for La'Darius Hamilton, but whatever he accomplishes with the NFL is icing on the cake. He’s undoubtedly wowed folks back home time and time again. ■

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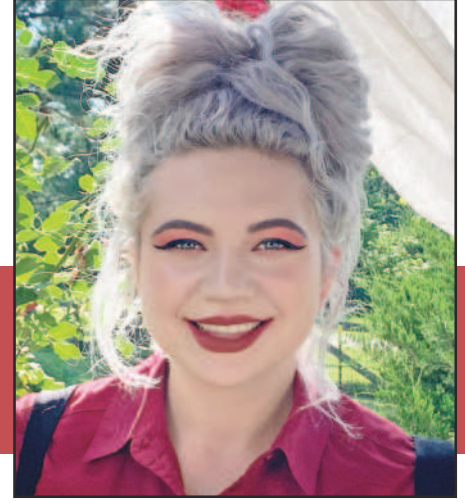
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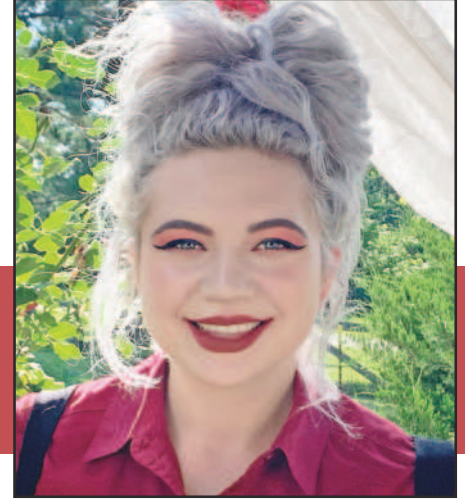
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Spring Fling

Pistachio Cream Pie

By Barbara White

Photo by Amy Holzworth

Super easy, delicious and pretty, this dessert looks like spring!

Ingredients:

Base:

- ½ cup butter, softened
- 1 cup flour
- 2 tablespoons sugar

Cream Layer:

- 8 oz cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 8 oz container of whipped topping (Cool Whip), divided

Pudding Layer:

- 2 (3.5 oz) boxes instant pistachio pudding mix
- 3 cups milk

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine softened butter, flour and 2 tablespoons sugar. Flour fingers and pat mixture into an 8x12-inch baking dish. Bake in preheated oven 12 to 15 minutes. Remove and let cool completely.

Beat together until smooth cream cheese, 1 cup sugar and 2 tablespoons milk. Fold in one-half of the container of whipped topping. Spread on cooled crust.

In a medium-size bowl, combine instant pudding mix with 3 cups milk. Beat slowly for 2 minutes. Spread on top of cream cheese mixture. Refrigerate for about 15 minutes or until set. Spread remaining one-half container of whipped topping on top.

Refrigerate until serving. Cut into squares.

(Note: Once the dessert is set, you may consider adding a few colorful sprinkles or small jelly beans if the occasion calls for a more festive look.)

Yield: 12-14 servings



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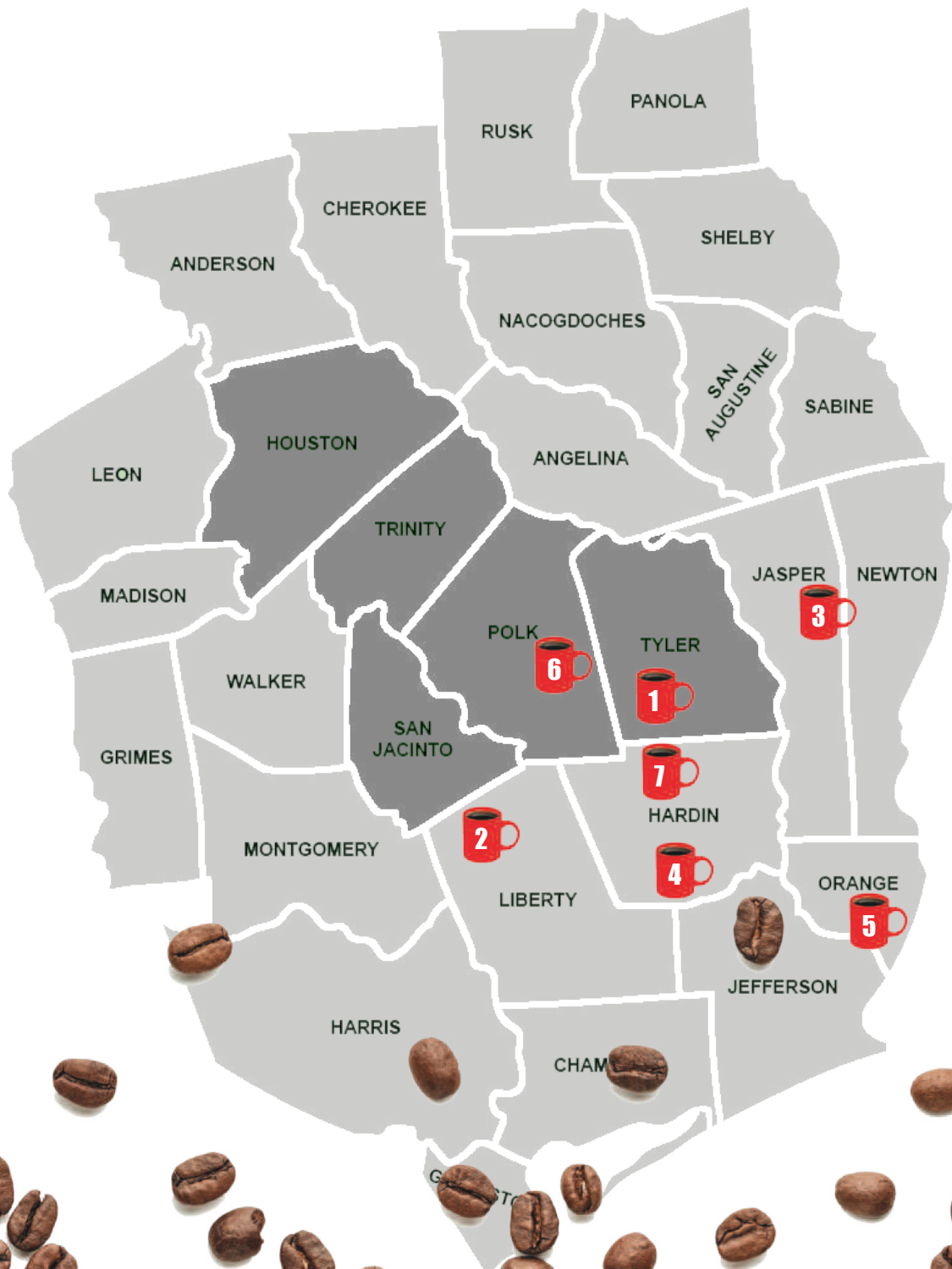
 

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“Fishing is more about being outdoors than anything.”

North Platt River near Saratoga Wyoming

By Jan White
Photos courtesy of Judy Dell’Osso

From the time she was a young girl growing up on the banks of Shoal Creek in Austin, Judy Olson wanted to spend time outdoors. Her two older brothers were avid hunters and fishermen, and, like many kid sisters, Judy wanted to tag along. But, you know how older brothers can be. Who has time to mess with little sis? So while they would come home with wild game and stringers of fish, Judy was left with a yearning to participate in outdoor adventures.

Judy credits her husband, Mario Dell’Osso, with helping fulfill her childhood dream. “He was excited about my interest in the outdoors and wanted to help me experience every outdoor adventure that my heart desired.” Although eventually becoming an experienced hunter, Judy’s main interest, from the beginning, was learning how to fly fish. She set out with a \$100 beginner’s fly fishing kit from Orvis, a company out of Houston that’s known as a leader in fly fishing gear. Since it was impossible to find any kind of fly fishing outerwear for women in 1985, Judy can be seen in most pictures from her early fishing ventures wearing a pair of men’s waders that

practically swallow her. In many of those photos, Judy also sports her iconic fishing hat, ready to be decorated with flies commemorating her favorite adventures.

And so it began.

Judy and Mario started their foray into fly fishing in New Mexico, eventually traveling to Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana. Judy says the adventure that really got her “hooked” on fly fishing happened while the couple was backpacking the headwaters of the upper Rio Grande, not far from Creede, Colorado. As luck would have it, they were fishing below the reservoir right about the time bottom water was released, which, as Judy said, is where all the big fish are. “I was using a blue quill ginger, and I cast it out, and a fish came right up and took it. It was a beautiful thing. And turns out, it was a monster.” She and Mario wrestled with the trout for about an hour, walking with it downstream, until they got to a spot where the fish found a boulder to hide under. When it emerged, it flew out of the water, cutting the line in the process. “It was magnificent to see – that leap out of the water. But I was also hugely disappointed that I couldn’t land it.” From that point on, she decided to learn better techniques for landing big fish.

When asked for her best advice to give a fly fishing newbie,



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FLY FISHING

from a woman's point of view



Judy suggests researching a river before you go. See what they have to offer by way of accommodations, accessibility, and such. And hire a guide. A guide will teach you about the area, the best flies to use, what types of fish you can expect to catch, and good casting techniques. “What I learned from day one is how to walk the bank of a river and look at the water and read the water. See where I need to cast. See if there are boulders, where there’s bubbling or note a change in the water’s depth. Knowing where to fish and how to cast are two of the most important lessons when learning how to fly fish ... then practice, practice, practice.”

Judy recommends that beginning anglers book trips to “Blue Ribbon” fishing locations. Blue Ribbon fisheries are a designation given by the United States government to identify recreational fishing sites of extremely high quality. With majestic mountains creating a backdrop to its pristine waters, the Yellowstone River is one of Judy’s favorites. “Yellowstone has cutthroats, rainbows, and hybrids called cutbows. Cutthroats are beautiful trout, and rainbows are fierce fighters. They are all exciting to catch.” The Yellowstone River is a tributary of the Missouri River and flows northward through Yellowstone National Park.

Many anglers consider the “Stone” to be the quintessential Montana fly fishing experience. The Lamar River, also located in Yellowstone, is another fishery that Judy favors. It originates in the high peaks of the Absaroka-Beartooth Mountains and is approximately 40 miles long. The Lamar is a popular fishing destination because of its spectacular scenery and quality fishing, easily accessible by road. If it’s privacy you want, it only takes a short hike to leave the crowd behind and claim your own private fishing spot. And in the valley, you can experience more than just fly fishing. “The Lamar River is a gorgeous setting. It’s like taking a step back in time.” The valley has been referred to as the American Serengeti because of its abundance of wildlife. Off the top of her head, Judy listed some of the animals they’ve seen – grizzly and black bears, wolves, coyotes, elk, antelope, eagles, and hawks – just to name a few. She tells the story of how she and Mario had hiked around the river’s bend to a quiet, unpopulated fishing site. “We had seen a couple of buffalo lying in the grass, but didn’t think much of it. We were all minding our own business. But then this herd of cows and calves and bulls started making their way toward us.” Her first thought was, we better move, or we’re gonna be in trouble. She and Mario locked arms and made their way

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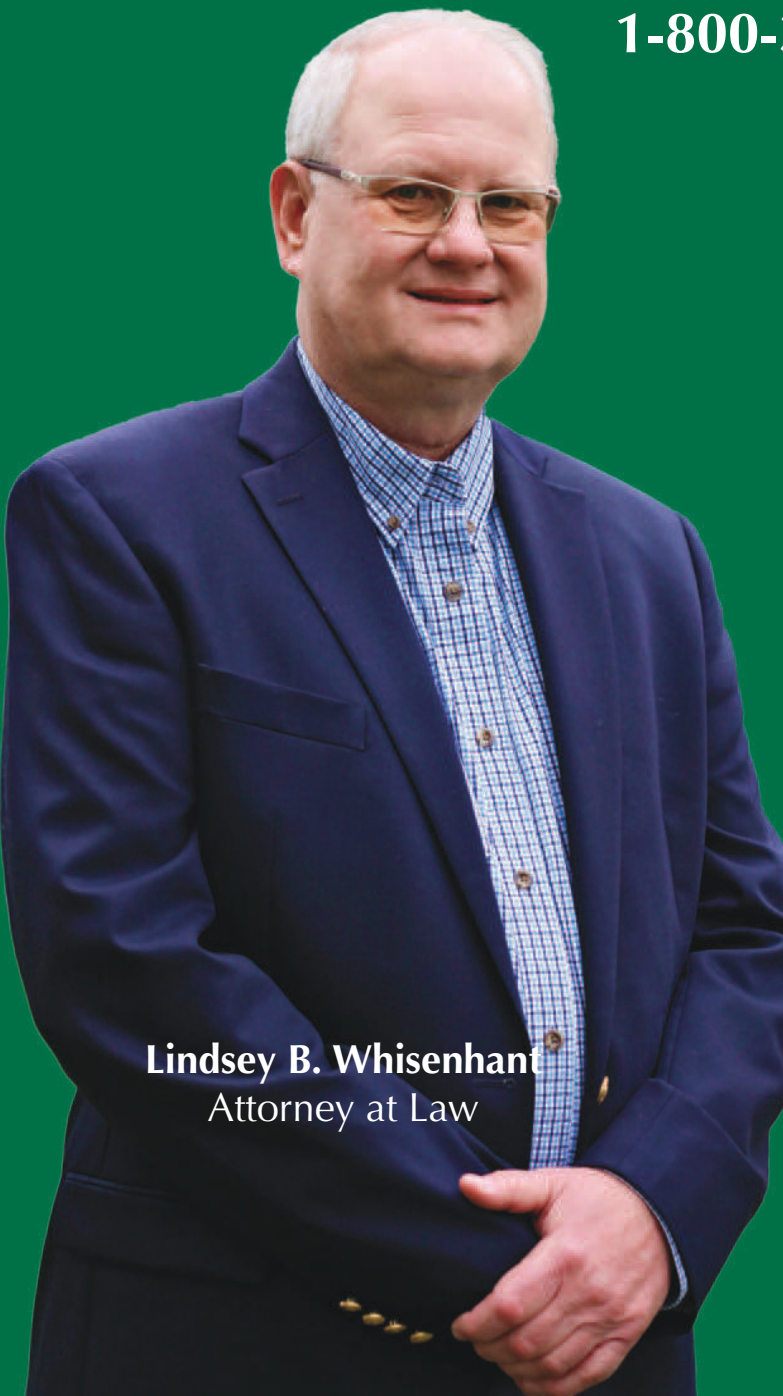
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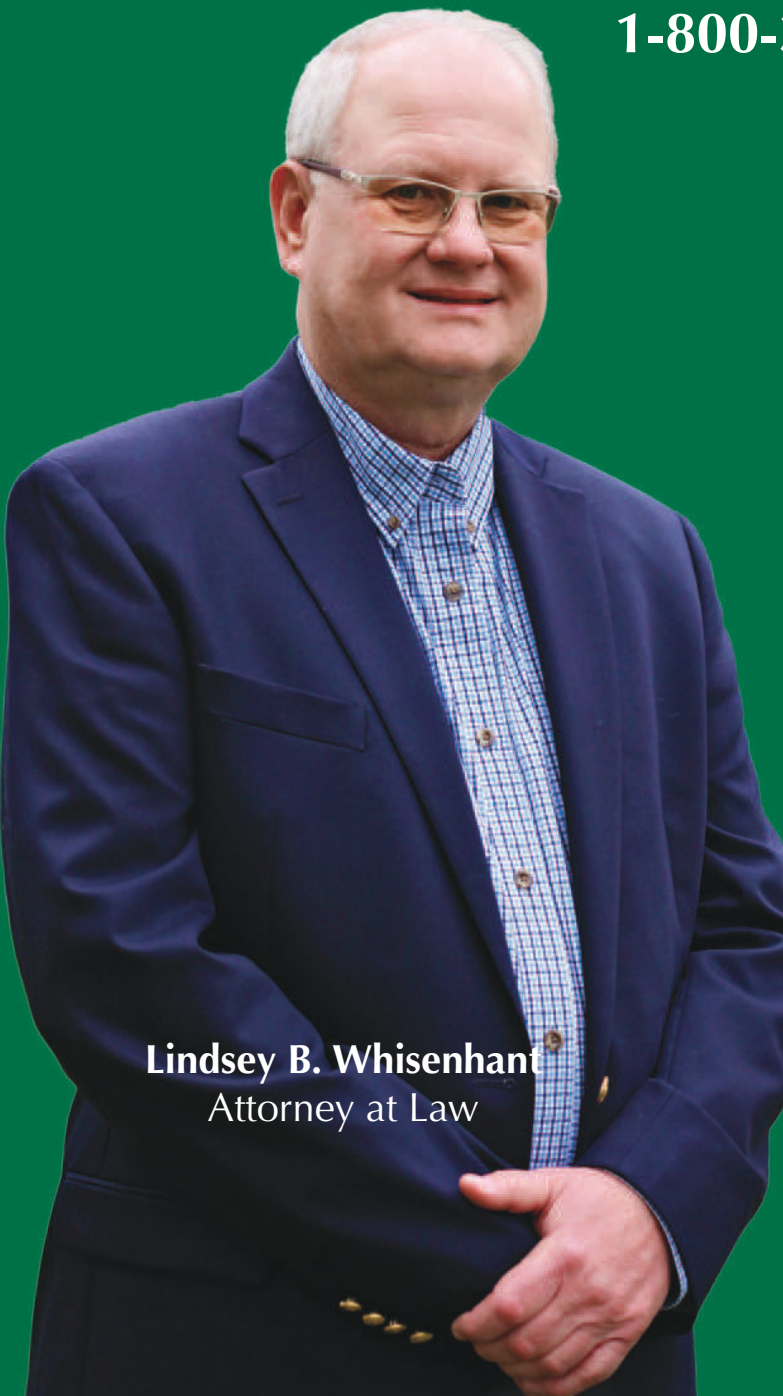
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past the buffalo. Afterward, she admitted that seeing wildlife so close was scary, but exciting. “One of the most rewarding aspects of fly fishing is never knowing what adventure you’ll encounter next.”

Henry David Thoreau once said, “Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after.” The phrase resonates soundly with Judy. First and foremost, her love for the outdoors is what influenced her to take up fly fishing. Like many outdoorsmen and women, there’s a spiritual aspect to spending time with nature. “Just look at the scripture in Romans that says since the creation of the world, God’s attributes have been seen through His handiwork.” While catching trout is exhilarating, the whole experience is to be savored — the feel of water swirling thigh deep, the flash of light as the sun reflects off the river, the splash of fish breaking the water’s surface, the cry of a hawk overhead, the occasional rumble of distant thunder, and a myriad of other sounds and senses. “It’s humbling and spiritual, and it renews the soul.”

From a woman’s perspective, Judy’s advice to females toying with the idea of becoming anglers is not to be afraid to try something new. “It’s really much easier than you think. Just get out there and enjoy nature. Go off the beaten path. And never, ever let anyone tell you that fly fishing is a man’s sport!” ■



(top) Río Grande River near Creede, Colorado

(middle) Christmas Bay northeast of Surfside Beach, Texas

(bottom) Hunting in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest in southwest Montana

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(middle) Christmas Bay northeast of Surfside Beach, Texas

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Fly Fishing FILM TOUR



The Fly Fishing Film Tour to make a splash at Moody Gardens in Galveston

Galveston, Texas — The 2022 Fly Fishing Film Tour will be hosted at Moody Gardens on April 29 and 30 from 6:30-8 p.m. inside of the Visitors Center. New and experienced fly fishing enthusiasts are invited out to view the film screening, check out the latest gear with drawings to win fantastic fly fishing prizes at a variety of vendor booths and connect with the community during this special event. The Fly Fishing Film Tour is a traveling roadshow filled with the best fly fishing films in the world that are selected through a submission process. The film content brings some of the most scenic and exciting photography to the big screen in local communities as it aims to inspire, encourage and support conservation efforts worldwide.

Guests can choose from two evening events scheduled from 6:30-8 p.m. for an evening social, as they explore vendor booths and see the latest gear and technologies with a cash bar and food. The film screening is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. and will be followed by prize package raffle drawings with sponsored items donated by our event sponsors.

Individuals can purchase tickets for \$12 per person. Hotel packages are also available for Friday or Saturday evening and includes a spectacular room for two at the Moody Gardens Hotel, two tickets to the film screening, breakfast for two, admission for two to the Aquarium Pyramid and admission for two to the MG 3D Theater starting at \$245.

“Fly fishing is a very popular sport and we are thrilled to introduce this event to our community,” stated Moody Gardens CEO & President John Zendt, who added, “Our state of the art theater provides a fantastic viewing experience for the spectacular beauty and challenge featured in the film,, while also supporting our mission of conservation.”

For more information, call 409-744-4673 or visit www.moodygardens.com/flyfishingfilmtour. ■

Moody Gardens® is a public, non-profit, educational destination utilizing nature in the advancement of rehabilitation, conservation, recreation, and research.





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Downtown



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- 1 A FURNITURE FETISH
CONSIGNMENT SHOP
- 2 A-1 PARTY RENTALS
PARTY RENTALS &
EVENT PLANNING
- 3 ANGELINA ARTS ALLIANCE
BOX OFFICE & NONPROFIT
ARTS ORGANIZATION
- 4 BECKER ART STUDIO
ORIGINAL PAINTINGS,
POTTERY & JEWELRY
- 5 BESOS BOUTIQUE
LADIES BOUTIQUE
- 6 BILL'S SHOE REPAIR
SHOE & BOOT REPAIR
- 7 BLUEBONNET BRIDAL
BRIDAL BOUTIQUE
- 8 HAUTE AS ICE
WOMEN'S WEAR & ACCESSORIES
- 9 HERITAGE ANTIQUES
ANTIQUES MALL
- 10 HICKS ANTIQUES
ANTIQUES & GOOD JUNK
- 11 THE HIP HICKS BOUTIQUE
LADIES BOUTIQUE
- 12 JUNK IN THE TRUNK
PLUS-SIZE LADIES BOUTIQUE
- 13 JUNK 'N TREASURES
EVENT DECOR RENTALS
- 14 JUNKIE T-SHIRT CO
GRAPHIC TEES & BOUTIQUE
- 15 KASYE'S KREATIONS
EMBROIDERY & CUSTOM APPAREL
- 16 LIA'S KITCHEN
ASIAN FUSION RESTAURANT
- 17 LIFELINES
HEALTH & WELLNESS
- 18 MANHATTAN FINE DINING
ITALIAN, STEAK, SEAFOOD,
& INDIAN CUISINE
- 19 MARICELA'S DAY SPA
DAY SPA & SALON
- 20 MARKET TO MARKET
LADIES BOUTIQUE
- 21 MUSEUM OF EAST TEXAS
ART & HISTORY MUSEUM
- 22 ORANGE BLOSSOM
& FIG APOTHECARY
BEAUTY & WELLNESS BOUTIQUE
- 23 PINK LEOPARD BOUTIQUE
LADIES BOUTIQUE & GIFT SHOP
- 24 REAL TIME BREADS
ARTISAN SOURDOUGH BREAD
- 25 RESTORATION BISTRO
AMERICANA BISTRO & WINE
- 26 RUBIE & JANE FORMAL WEAR
CASUAL & FORMAL BOUTIQUE
- 27 SALT & HONEY
WEEKEND MARKETPLACE
GIFT SHOPPE
- 28 SEW JUNKIES
CUSTOM EMBROIDERY, SCREEN
PRINTING & LADIES BOUTIQUE
- 29 SG PHOTOGRAPHY
PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO
- 30 SHEPHERD STREET YOGA
YOGA STUDIO
- 31 SPRUCE
WOMEN & BABY BOUTIQUE
- 32 STANDPIPE COFFEE HOUSE
COFFEE HOUSE
- 33 SWEET ETHEL MAE
LADIES BOUTIQUE & CUSTOM
PAINTED FURNITURE
- 34 TEXAS SIZE SELFIE
MOBILE PHOTO BOOTH
- 35 THE HANGER
LADIES BOUTIQUE
- 36 THE PINES THEATER
MOVIES & LIVE PERFORMANCES
- 37 THE SHABBY CHANDELIER
LADIES BOUTIQUE & HOME DECOR
- 38 THE WHITE PEACOCK OLIVE
OIL & VINEGAR COMPANY
SPECIALTY FOOD STORE
- 39 WILD CHILD BOUTIQUE
BABY-TWEEN CLOTHING & GIFTS

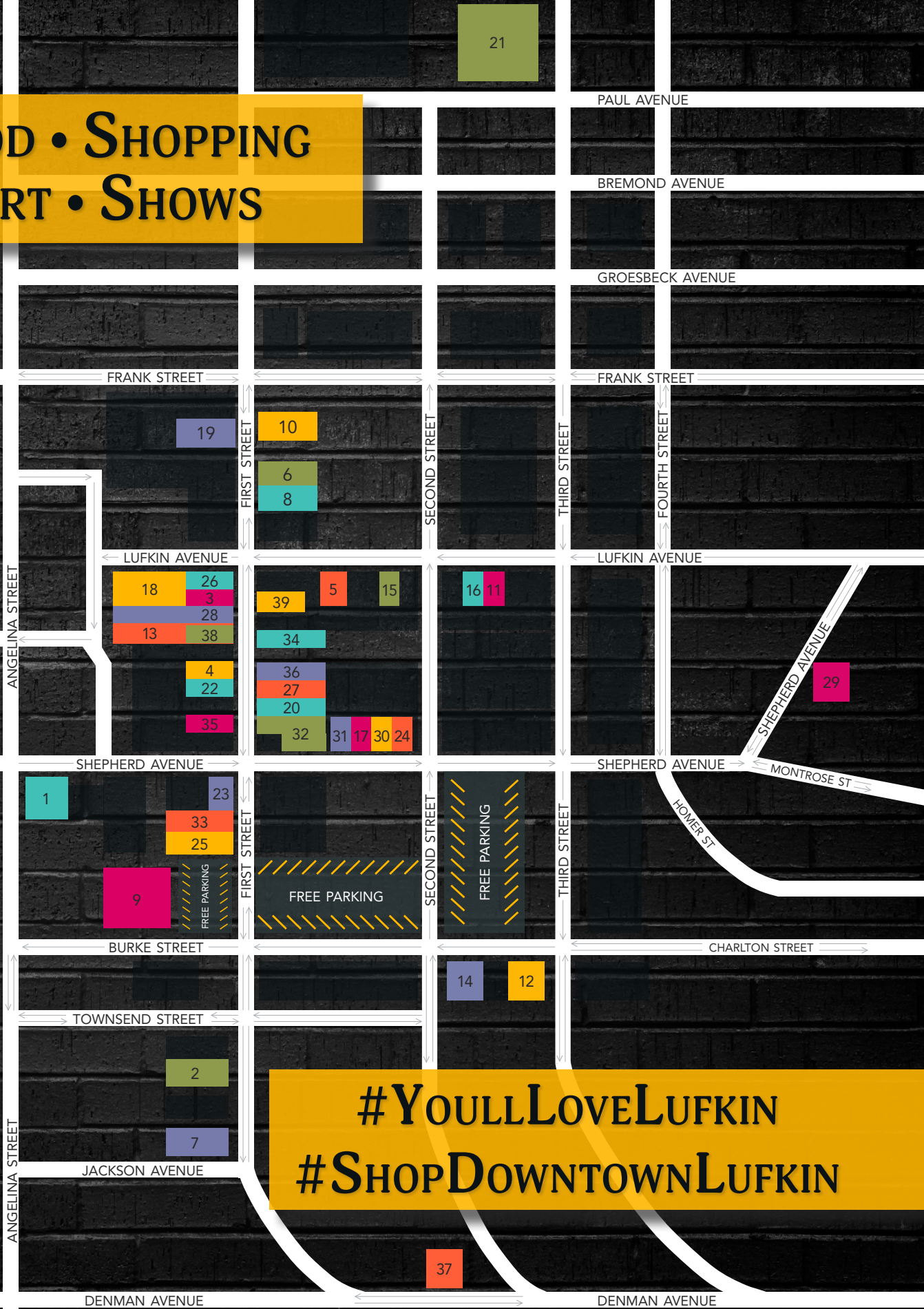
Downtown



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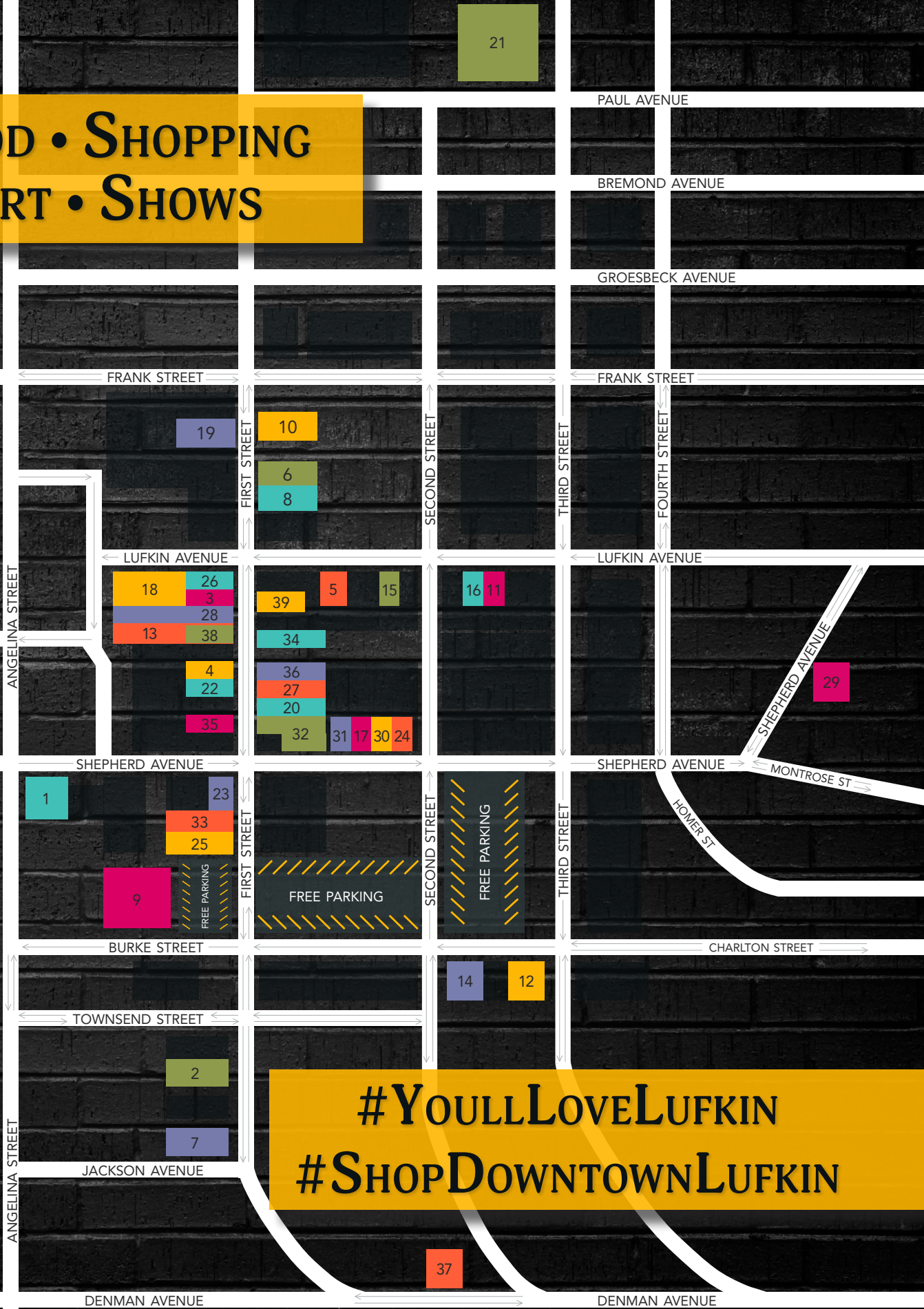
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SMALL TOWN
BITES





SMALL TOWN
BITES





CHILLIN' OUT AT NEARBY ICEHOUSES

By Emily Banks Wooten

We'd been wanting to try the new icehouse in Onalaska – Big Fish Icehouse – for some time. Every time we'd drive by it, we'd comment that we needed to check it out. We finally did. And like only us would do, we chose to visit it on a dreary, rainy winter Saturday in which the temperature wasn't expected to top 41 degrees. Not exactly icehouse weather you're probably thinking, but we've always been a little different.

I called in advance to see if our minor daughter would be allowed in or not. The friendly voice on the other end of the line said, "Sure. But if it gets crowded, there may be some language." I laughed, thanked her, and assured her that our daughter had heard some language before.

Located in what was a drive-through package store in a former life, the place was festively decked out with Mardi Gras decorations as the owners were gearing up for a Mardi Gras celebration later that evening. There were numerous heaters in the place, and we actually found it quite warm and cozy.

Patty, her husband and her sister own and run it. They moved here from the Houston area several years ago and decided this would be a fun way to spend their retirement. Open since around Labor Day, they are huge proponents of supporting local vendors. Their "Big Ruby" hamburgers and cheeseburgers are made with locally grown grass-fed, grass-finished Black Angus beef from Ruby Cattle Company located right here in Polk County. Additionally, they get their fresh-grown tomatoes from Vincent Farms in Onalaska.



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In addition to the hamburgers and cheeseburgers, they also offer Frito chili pie and what they've dubbed the "East Texas round steak basket," which is thick-sliced bologna, American cheese and pepper jack cheese on Texas toast, accompanied by battered French fries. Big Fish has several items from which to choose on its appetizer menu. There are battered French fries, chili cheese fries, sweet potato fries, boudin eggrolls, pork eggrolls, fried pickles, fried corn nuggets, fried cheese sticks and "Ann's Fabulous Olive Spread," which is a concoction of cream cheese, green olives and pecans served with saltine crackers.

As we waited for our food after placing our order, Patty was kind enough to show our daughter the old-fashioned jukebox, something she'd never seen in her 15 years. Pointing out that there were some credits in the machine, she showed our daughter how to operate the machine and then allowed her to play some songs. She enjoyed that.

Hubby and daughter ordered "Big Ruby" cheeseburgers and I ordered a "Big Ruby" hamburger. At daughter's suggestion, we also ordered the chili cheese fries, which we all shared. We all enjoyed our burgers. I can't say it's the biggest burger I've ever had, but the nice, thick patty was definitely quality beef and it was dressed nicely. And while the chili cheese fries were a bit of an extravagance, we thoroughly enjoyed them, each of us commenting on how good the chili was.

It's easy to see that Big Fish has become a comfortable neighborhood hangout for those in the Lake Livingston area. Several local artists and artisans display their work in the icehouse and have sold a number of pieces, according to Patty. In fact, one enterprising local artist requested her art be placed in the restroom and that it be called "Gallery at the Loo."

We were the only customers there that cold, windy afternoon, but I could easily see how it could fill up as "the place to be" on a nice sunny day with the good food, cold beer, friendly atmosphere and nice view of Lake Livingston.

Several miles further west on Hwy. 190 is the Hilltop Icehouse, established in 1982. I'm sure a lot of you have seen it before. I'd been there a couple times in my younger days, but I bet it's been 25 years or more since I was last there. One



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Sunday afternoon, we decided to ride out and check it out. Like before, I called in advance to see if our 15-year-old would be allowed entry. The young man that answered said, "Yes, as long as she doesn't drink."

The menu was bigger than we expected. For starters, they offered boudin eggrolls, corn nuggets, jalapeno poppers, cheese sticks, fried mushrooms, fried okra, fried pickles and Texas toothpicks or a sampler basket of three of the above. There were several sandwiches offered, in addition to hamburgers, cheeseburgers and patty melts. These included the Hilltop Philly, a chicken sandwich, a fried baloney sandwich, a grilled cheese and a BLT. Under a section called "Notaburger," there was a boudin quesadilla, cheese fries/tots, chicken strips and corn dogs.

Too curious to pass it up, Hubby ordered the boudin quesadilla with onion rings. He said it was one of the best things he'd ever had and that he'd definitely order it again. Daughter ordered a jalapeno cheeseburger served on a sourdough bun. It was beautiful and she was quite happy with it. I ordered the Hilltop Philly and onion rings. It consisted of shredded ribeye with bell peppers, onions and Swiss cheese. It was excellent and I would order it again.

The building had been closed in since my last visit and was no longer an open-air icehouse. There were a couple of pool tables, darts and a huge, bright and airy back room complete with a stage for live music. There's ample room if your special song comes on and you get the urge to take your honey for a spin. There was live music the afternoon we were there – Katey Bell and John Toland. We listened a little bit and enjoyed it, but didn't stay long, as we had laundry and homework waiting back at the house.

We truly enjoyed visiting some of the nearby icehouses and will probably check them out again this spring and summer. Both had good food, cold beer and friendly employees. The only negative thing I would say is that there is a distinct smell of cigarette smoke at Hilltop. ■

- **Big Fish Icehouse** is located at 13116 U.S. Hwy 190 in Onalaska. Hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and noon to 9 p.m. Sundays. The telephone number is 936-646-5959.

- **Hilltop Icehouse** is located at 6520 U.S. Hwy 190 in Point Blank. Hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Thursdays and 11 a.m. midnight Fridays and Saturdays. The telephone number is 936-377-2506.



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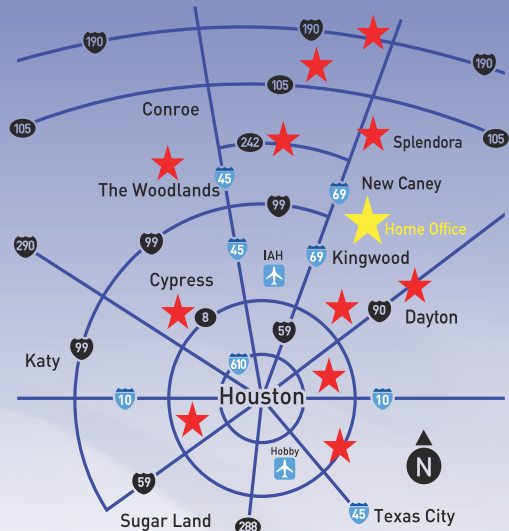


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Anne Vickery & Associates Realty was established by Anne Vickery, Owner and a Licensed Real Estate Broker with over 20+ years of Real Estate experience.

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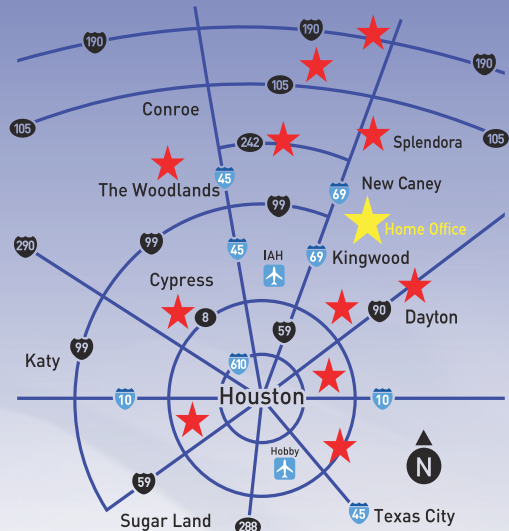


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Beloved band's return inspires many

By Chris Edwards

Just when you thought you'd heard and read all you can take on 2021's doings, I'm going to dwell there a little bit longer (even though it is March as I write this) but posit a positive note in what follows.

Of all the moving and shaking that transpired in 2021, one event that occurred around Thanksgiving gave a great many music fans (myself included) hope that things were on an upswing.

The mighty Turnpike Troubadours announced that they had reconvened after a nearly two-year hiatus and were refocused on bringing their sound to as many ears as possible. Last week,

they announced a slew of gigs across Texas and Oklahoma for the spring months.

As much as some Texans love to make fun of our northern neighbor, the Sooner State has contributed quite a bit to the kind of music that is popular here.

After all, "Red Dirt" music is a sound and attitude that was made possible by Okies. Such pioneers as Bob Childers, Jimmy LaFave, Tom Skinner, and others, paved the way for the enormous popularity to come of the mighty Cross Canadian Ragweed and later, the Turnpike Troubadours.

Now, Okie musicians are all that and a bag of cracklins, but OU football still sucks. But I digress.

To put into perspective how important of a band Turnpike



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To put into perspective how important of a band Turnpike

is, not just in Texas and Oklahoma, but nationwide, they are, in my mind, to independent country music what the Offspring and Rancid were to '90s indie label pop-punk.

Turnpike, along with likeminded brethren Jason Isbell, Chris Stapleton and Tyler Childers, signaled with their commercial success a sign that every once in a while, the good guys win, and that there is a place for intelligent, heartfelt music played with a lot of skill in the marketplace.

I first heard the band on KVET, out of Austin, about 12 years ago, when I was headed eastbound on highway 21, coming back from an adventure in the Hill Country. At the time, I had become jaded about most all contemporary music, even the typically more adventurous "Texas Music" and "Red Dirt" stuff, but there they were, coming loud and clear across the airwaves. The song "7 & 7" fired on cylinders that most bands don't even know they have. The song was so good that I had to pull my truck off on the side of the road and fully take in what I had just heard.

The lyrics were poetic in a way that had not been showcased on a major radio station in, well, I couldn't tell you how long. The song, which looked in the rearview mirror at youthful lust and partying held up against a chance encounter in a supermarket with a former flame (who is, as the song tells, now all responsible, with kids and whatnot; the song's narrator not so much), encapsulated with it's "I had no clue I'd be the boy, who, your mamma warned you about," a truth that many young men undoubtedly find themselves staring into, in the process of maturing.

It was the kind of song that occupied a rarified space among giants of song. It was the kind of thing that someone like Walt Wilkins or Drew Kennedy specialized in, and the musicianship was next-level stuff. I could not recall hearing anyone, at that time, making a Telecaster sound like Ryan Engelman could.

After seeing the Turnpike boys live, just as they were becoming a popular live act in Texas, I knew they were the real deal. Integrity was everything with this band, and they were one act that you'd never feel dumb, or basic, for wearing the T-shirt once they, inevitably, attained household name status. Over time, however, as the band kept getting bigger, and their sound became more defined, a nagging set of demons entered into the picture, along with the growing popularity.

I won't go too much into the tabloid press/TMZ interest in frontman Evan Felker's life, but I will posit this: Felker's reunion with his wife, and their starting a family together, along with the eventual return of the band is the kind of feel-good story that's atypical of pop culture trajectories. Incidentally, Felker's retooling of self while off the road happened here in East Texas.

The peace among the pines has done Felker a great deal of good, as sources indicate, and Lord only knows what kind of new lyrical brilliance he's come up with during the downtime.

This might come across as hyperbole, but I'll posit it anyway: Evan Duane Felker is the greatest songwriter of this generation. Felker, like Okie country music pioneer Woody Guthrie, has a way of pairing the perfect, unique words to the perfect melodies, and communicating the trials, as well

as the celebrations, of the common man, in song. The way Felker captures the lives and times of folks deemed by some as "flyover country" makes for timeless, universal art. Real art that's also danceable. Look no further than the hunting trip tale "The Bird Hunters," which, in a heartbreakingly beautiful tableau, essays a tale on aging and the inevitable changes life brings along. It's the sort of song that has just enough holes to keep a listener guessing about specifics, even as to who the narrator might be.

Great as Felker is, and as marketable as he'd be as a solo artist, Turnpike is very much a sum of its parts proposition. Together, the music the six Troubadours come up with is the best thing in American music since the heyday of the Band and Little Feat, or the musically tighter moments of prime Grateful Dead. Aside from the incredible vocal harmonies, instrumental virtuosos like fiddler Kyle Nix and pedal steel guitarist/utility player Hank Early are some of the best musicians in the business.

Since they've announced an end to the hiatus, they're the hottest ticket in country music, with tickets selling out as soon as they go on sale, and venues' websites crashing from the demand. It's proof that absence really does make the heart grow fonder, but it's also well-deserved, as these guys have worked hard to capture the public's attention.

There are some cherry-pickers out there still sour about cancelled gigs from back in the day and wondering if Felker has the willpower to stay clean and sober on the road, but these guys deserve another chance.

Those who are driven to create often bear a heavy burden and feel as though the world is upon their shoulders. There's a long line of creative geniuses, going way back to folks like Vincent Van Gogh and Dylan Thomas to Hank Williams and Townes Van Zandt, who've paid a heavy price for their demons. On the other hand, they left behind great art reminding us of what it means to be human, to be alive. Evan Felker is of that same caliber of genius.

Country music, especially, has had more curses than blessings in its history. For every legendary artist, there's a trail of wreckage that'd stretch from coast-to-coast, and while it all makes for good songwriting material, many artists couldn't escape the lurking demons. Thankfully for those of us who enjoy his art, Felker has rediscovered a zest for life as well as his artistic endeavors. The bottom line, though, on disappointed concert-goers from back before the hiatus began, is this: yeah, it sucks that you spent money and didn't get to see your favorite band, but you can't put a price on someone's dignity, or their life, most importantly.

A common joke on social media among Turnpike fan communities prior to the hiatus's end was that the band's return would end the pandemic and put the world back into a better state of being. I don't know about all of that, but the positivity generated by great live music can go a long way toward various betterments.

The moral of the Turnpike story is that in the end love wins out and some of the best things in life pay no rent in one's heart. ■

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The moral of the Turnpike story is that in the end love wins out and some of the best things in life pay no rent in one's heart. ■

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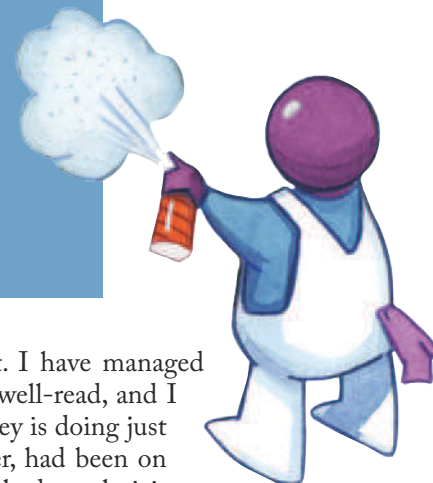
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Stranger's visit reveals some NOT-SO-HIDDEN SECRETS



By Barbara White

He was very tall, solidly built and seemed to be staring at a small, wooden clock on the wall.

I was beginning to feel uneasy.

He was the first stranger to have set foot in my house since before the pandemic and, a little late, I was thinking of all the things I should have done before I opened the door.

It wasn't like I hadn't had time to prepare; I had known he, or someone like him, would show up eventually and I'd had ample time to take preemptive action.

Now, it was too late.

He continued to appear transfixed by the wall clock. The clock would mean absolutely nothing to anyone else, but it has sentimental value to me. It no longer works, displaying the correct time exactly twice each day, which may have been what drew his attention, but I feared it might be something worse.

I started to do the only thing I could think of to do at this point ... I began to apologize for my poor housekeeping.

He shrugged, smiled and finally spoke: "I think I know how I can run this wire and keep the modem and router out of sight." I realized he had just been taking a moment to think, plan the job ahead, and had not really been looking at the clock at all. While he had been thinking about his work, I had been wondering how long it had

been since I had hauled out a step stool and done any, what I call, "tall-people cleaning." Lord knows how much dust might have gathered along the top of that clock.

Up until that morning, the only people who had been in my residence since the pandemic began were those already accustomed to this humble abode, and they are all well less than 6 feet tall, as am I. Even if they could see the tops of the refrigerator, bookcases, ceiling fans or the top of the broken wall clock, none of them would dare mention the need for some serious cleaning for fear they would be drafted to help. As for me, if I can't see dust, it does not exist ... until a tall person shows up.

This particular giant among men was here at my request and, until the clock incident, I had been very glad to see him. There are a few things that I simply do not want to be in this world without, among them food, drink, reading material, George

Clooney and the Internet. I have managed to stay fed, hydrated and well-read, and I understand George Clooney is doing just fine. The Internet, however, had been on the fritz. For that reason, I had a technician standing in my home, which had looked just fine to me a few minutes earlier.

Suddenly, I became aware of my surroundings as seen through a tall stranger's eyes, and I did not like what I saw.

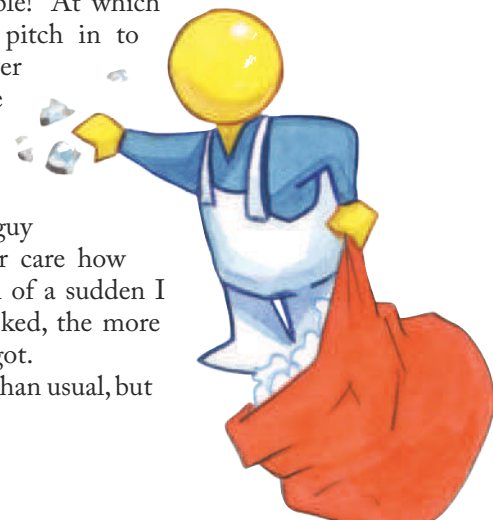
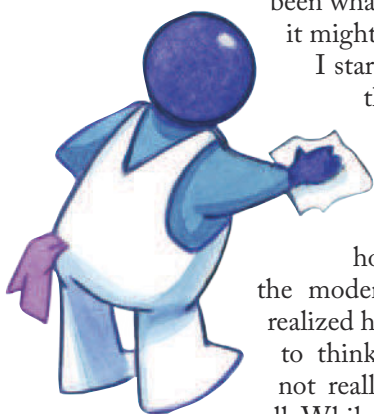
I had kept up with the basic sweeping, mopping, vacuuming and low-level dusting, but had become blind to the clutter. Now, all the things I had temporarily put on a counter or a shelf two years earlier were clamoring for attention, practically jumping up and down yelling, "Look at me! Look at me!" like a 5-year-old on a playground. The more I looked, the more the atrocities multiplied like chickweed in an otherwise neat lawn.

I became aware of the stack of jigsaw puzzles on the floor beside the bookcase. There had once been a place for puzzles on the bottom shelf, but that space seems to have been taken over by a stack of magazines and several jars of scented candles that had burned down to that dreaded quarter-inch mark that at which point, as the words printed on the bottom of the jars clearly state, are no longer safe to burn and should be discarded so that you don't burn your house down and sue the candle company. Why weren't they discarded? Ask the slob who lives here.

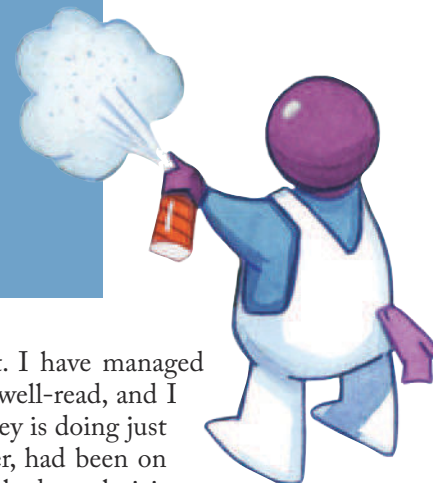
I knew exactly how the stack of magazines had ended up in the bookcase. They had been sent there to keep the pile on the coffee table from toppling over. That is something I blame on my upbringing. Coming from a clan that loved to read and keep up with current events, books, newspapers and magazines tended to pile up. The arrival of an unexpected visitor was always preceded by someone shouting, "Clean off the coffee table!" At which point, all hands would pitch in to gather and stash the clutter in the event that table would be needed for cocktails, or possibly even coffee.

The Internet repair guy probably didn't notice or care how my house looked, but all of a sudden I did. And the more I looked, the more frustrated with myself I got.

I'd had more free time than usual, but



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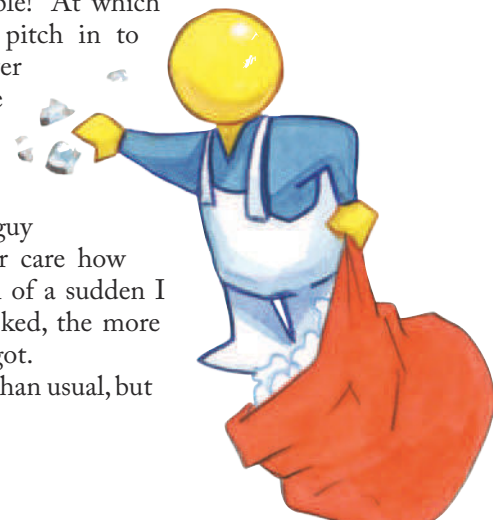
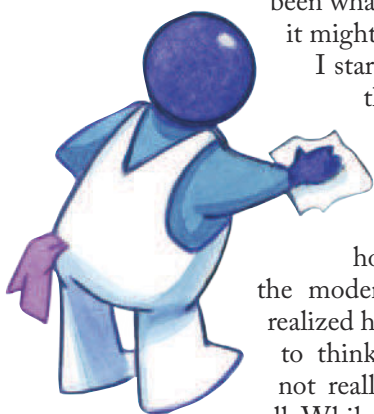
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I had squandered it. In addition to spending countless hours streaming movies and otherwise wasting time on the Internet, I'd apparently spent time putting my grubby paws on light switches and collecting junk mail. Just look at this place! The next knock on my door will probably be the sound of some building official tacking up a condemnation notice! I don't deserve to have George Clooney or the Internet in my world, although I think cutting off food, water and reading matter as punishment for my crime would be a little harsh.

The fire had been lit. Some serious spring cleaning was long overdue. I paced around, thoroughly disgusted with my slovenly self. I was consumed by the desire to haul the smaller rugs outside, drape them over the porch railing and beat them until the last speck of dust had succumbed to my newly-found commitment to cleanliness. I wanted to throw away old candles and find a place for the stuff I had temporarily parked somewhere two years earlier. And, of course, there was that "tall-people cleaning" thing to take care of.

I could hardly wait for the stranger to finish his work so that I could begin mine.

It took him quite a while and, by the time he left, I had calmed considerably. And, of course, the Internet was working.

I glanced at the broken wall clock and decided I had plenty of time to watch a movie, or two ... ■





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~ Kelli



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Collectibles, Primitives and Gifts



ARTHUR COURT PLATTER W/STAND \$39
Lorretta's Too Antiques, Collectibles, Furniture





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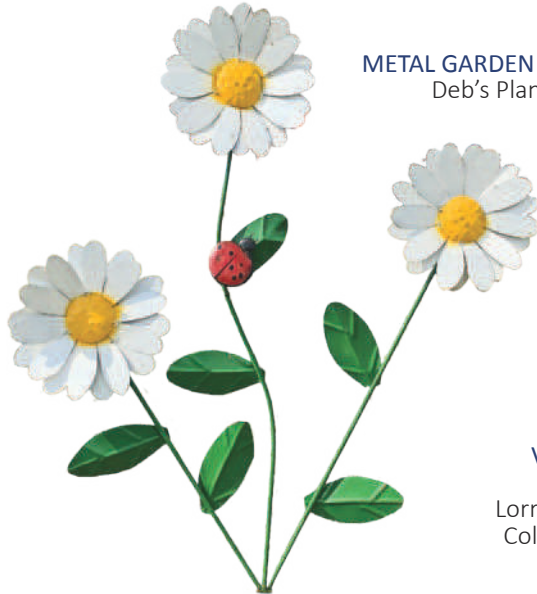
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**The Merchantile Antiques,
Collectibles, Primitives and Gifts**
507 E. Goliad Avenue
Crockett

**Abney & Sons
Hardware**
1827 W. Frank Ave.
Lufkin

Deb's Plants
12924 S. Hwy. 69
Huntington



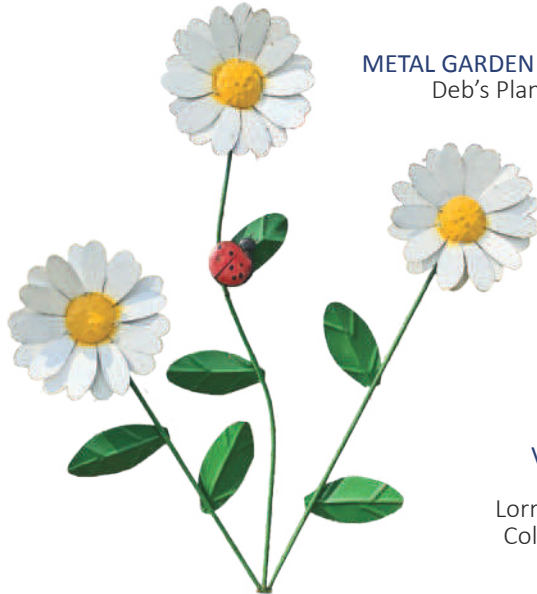
STORES FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

Come across a little shop in your travel through East Texas? Let us know about it! kelli@polkcountypublishing.com

RAIN GAUGE \$15.99
Abney & Sons Hardware



TURF BUILDER \$79.99
Abney & Sons Hardware



METAL GARDEN ART \$59
Deb's Plants



BISCUIT JAR \$21
The Merchantile
Antiques, Collectibles,
Primitives and Gifts

**VINTAGE PHONE
REPLICA \$35**
Lorretta's Too Antiques,
Collectibles, Furniture

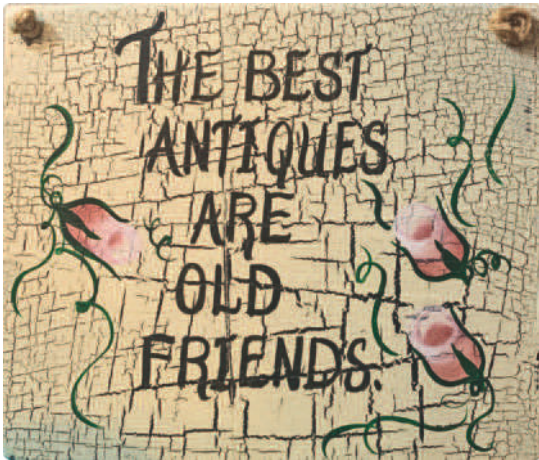


TRUCK PLANT HOLDERS \$49
Deb's Plants





SHOP EAST TEXAS



ANTIQUÉ FRIENDS \$3
Lorretta's Too Antiques, Collectibles, Furniture



HANGING PLANTS – CERTAIN VARIETIES \$15
Deb's Plants



ANGEL \$10
Lorretta's Too Antiques, Collectibles, Furniture

KNOCK OUT ROSE BUSH \$20
Deb's Plants



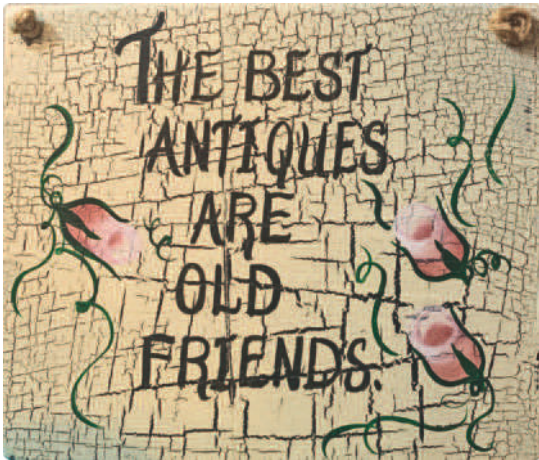
CABIN BIRDHOUSE \$26.99
Abney & Sons Hardware



FARM PILLOW \$7
Lorretta's Too Antiques, Collectibles, Furniture



SHOP EAST TEXAS



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Lorretta's Too Antiques, Collectibles, Furniture



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Deb's Plants



CABIN BIRDHOUSE \$26.99
Abney & Sons Hardware



FARM PILLOW \$7
Lorretta's Too Antiques, Collectibles, Furniture



PLATE SET (4) \$48
Lorretta's Too Antiques, Collectibles, Furniture



PAIR OF WHITE CRINKLE RABBITS \$55
The Merchantile Antiques, Collectibles, Primitives and Gifts



CROCK BOWL \$100
The Merchantile Antiques,
Collectibles, Primitives and Gifts



SIT N SCOOT ACTIVITY TRACTOR \$27.99
Abney & Sons Hardware

SINGER SEWING MACHINE \$200
The Merchantile Antiques,
Collectibles, Primitives and Gifts



**HANGING PLANTS –
CERTAIN VARIETIES \$15**
Deb's Plants





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**HANGING PLANTS –
CERTAIN VARIETIES \$15**
Deb's Plants



CALENDAR

April

Galveston

A Bronx Tale-Chazz Palminteri/Grand 1894
Opera House
APRIL 1

Tyler

An Evening with Kevin Costner/UT Tyler Cowan
Center
APRIL 2

Livingston

Livingston Farmers and Artisan Market/
Anniversary Park
APRIL 2

Woodville

79th Annual Dogwood Festival Parade and
Queen's Weekend
APRIL 2

Pearland

Texas Fest Houston-Pearland/Independence
Park
APRIL 2

Marshall

Celtic Angels Ireland/Memorial City
Performance Hall
APRIL 2

Galveston

Rob Landes-The Great American Songbook/
Grand 1894 Opera House
APRIL 3

Downtown Lufkin

Late Night Shopping
APRIL 7

Lufkin

Parsons Dance Company/Temple Theater
APRIL 8

Beaumont

Harlem Globetrotters at Ford Park
APRIL 8- 9

Houston

Harlem Globetrotters at NRG Arena
APRIL 9

Livingston

Easter Eggstravaganza at Pedigo Park
APRIL 9

Colmesneil

Easter Walk With Jesus/Victory Camp
Colmesneil
APRIL 9

Houston

DINO Stroll Houston/George R Brown
Convention Center
APRIL 9-10

Houston

The Mavericks at the Arena Theater
APRIL 9

The Woodlands

The Woodlands Waterway Arts Festival 2022
APRIL 9

Houston

Texas Bridal & Wedding Expo/G R Brown
Convention Center
APRIL 9-10

Beaumont

Jeff Dunham at Ford Park
APRIL 9

Katy

Brazilian Food and Music Festival/Wildcatter
Saloon
APRIL 10

Houston

International Gem & Jewelry Show/NRG
Center
APRIL 15

Livingston

Livingston Farmers and Artisan Market/
Anniversary Park
APRIL 16

New Caney

Buckle Down South Fest and Car Show
APRIL 16

Downtown Lufkin

Boutique Easter Egg Hunt
APRIL 16

Orange

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory/Lutcher
Theater
APRIL 18

Tomball

Rodney Crowell at Main Street Crossing
APRIL 21

Conroe

Texas Mineral and Fossil Show/Lone Star Expo
Center
APRIL 22

Hitchcock

Galveston County Fair and Rodeo
APRIL 22-30

CALENDAR

April

Galveston

A Bronx Tale-Chazz Palminteri/Grand 1894
Opera House
APRIL 1

Tyler

An Evening with Kevin Costner/UT Tyler Cowan
Center
APRIL 2

Livingston

Livingston Farmers and Artisan Market/
Anniversary Park
APRIL 2

Woodville

79th Annual Dogwood Festival Parade and
Queen's Weekend
APRIL 2

Pearland

Texas Fest Houston-Pearland/Independence
Park
APRIL 2

Marshall

Celtic Angels Ireland/Memorial City
Performance Hall
APRIL 2

Galveston

Rob Landes-The Great American Songbook/
Grand 1894 Opera House
APRIL 3

Downtown Lufkin

Late Night Shopping
APRIL 7

Lufkin

Parsons Dance Company/Temple Theater
APRIL 8

Beaumont

Harlem Globetrotters at Ford Park
APRIL 8- 9

Houston

Harlem Globetrotters at NRG Arena
APRIL 9

Livingston

Easter Eggstravaganza at Pedigo Park
APRIL 9

Colmesneil

Easter Walk With Jesus/Victory Camp
Colmesneil
APRIL 9

Houston

DINO Stroll Houston/George R Brown
Convention Center
APRIL 9-10

Houston

The Mavericks at the Arena Theater
APRIL 9

The Woodlands

The Woodlands Waterway Arts Festival 2022
APRIL 9

Houston

Texas Bridal & Wedding Expo/G R Brown
Convention Center
APRIL 9-10

Beaumont

Jeff Dunham at Ford Park
APRIL 9

Katy

Brazilian Food and Music Festival/Wildcatter
Saloon
APRIL 10

Houston

International Gem & Jewelry Show/NRG
Center
APRIL 15

Livingston

Livingston Farmers and Artisan Market/
Anniversary Park
APRIL 16

New Caney

Buckle Down South Fest and Car Show
APRIL 16

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Boutique Easter Egg Hunt
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Charlie and the Chocolate Factory/Lutcher
Theater
APRIL 18

Tomball

Rodney Crowell at Main Street Crossing
APRIL 21

Conroe

Texas Mineral and Fossil Show/Lone Star Expo
Center
APRIL 22

Hitchcock

Galveston County Fair and Rodeo
APRIL 22-30

Baytown

NHRA Spring Nationals/Houston Raceway
APRIL 22-24

Crockett

Mark Chesnutt at the Crockett Civic Center
APRIL 23

Houston

John Mayer at the Toyota Center
APRIL 23

Katy

2nd Annual Katy Area Houston Car Show
APRIL 23

Lufkin

Spring Fest/50th Anniversary Hush Puppy
Olympics
APRIL 23

Houston

2022 Houston Zydeco Festival/Emancipation Park
APRIL 23

Nacogdoches

Do Dat BBQ and Spring Brew Fest/County Expo
Center
APRIL 23

Nacogdoches

Music and Arts Festival 2022
APRIL 23

Houston

2022 Houston Fishing Show/G R Brown
Convention Center
APRIL 23-27

Downtown Lufkin

Springfest Merchants Fashion Show
APRIL 23

Downtown Lufkin

Springfest
APRIL 23

Lufkin

Earth Day at Ellen Trout Zoo
APRIL 23

Kingwood

Kingwood Spring Car Show/Town Center Park
APRIL 24

Spring

Mark Chesnutt at Dosey Doe, The Big Barn
APRIL 24

Port Neches

Port Neches River Fest 2022
APRIL 28-MAY 2

Port Neches

Port Neches River Fest Fun Run/Riverfront Park
APRIL 30

Lufkin

An Evening with Rene Goldsberry/Temple Theater
APRIL 30

Montgomery

Montgomery Antiques Festival/Community Center
APRIL 30-MAY 1

Silsbee

Molly Hatchett at Honky Tonk Texas
APRIL 30-MAY 1

Sugarland

Tori Amos at Smart Financial Center
APRIL 30-MAY 1

MAY**Houston**

Jeff Goldblum at Hobby Center for the Performing
Arts
MAY 4

Conroe

Conroe Americana Music Festival
MAY 5

Beaumont

Music in the Gardens/McFadden Ward House
MAY 5

Downtown Lufkin

Late Night Shopping
MAY 5

The Woodlands

Miranda Lambert with Little Big Town/ The
Pavilion Event Center
MAY 6

Crystal Beach

Texas Crab Festival
MAY 6-8

Orange

Crawfish Bash 2022/Mauriceville Community
Center
MAY 6-7

Tyler

Red Dirt BBQ & Music Festival
MAY 7

Houston

Turnpike Troubadors at White Oak Music Hall
MAY 7

Baytown

NHRA Spring Nationals/Houston Raceway
APRIL 22-24

Crockett

Mark Chesnutt at the Crockett Civic Center
APRIL 23

Houston

John Mayer at the Toyota Center
APRIL 23

Katy

2nd Annual Katy Area Houston Car Show
APRIL 23

Lufkin

Spring Fest/50th Anniversary Hush Puppy
Olympics
APRIL 23

Houston

2022 Houston Zydeco Festival/Emancipation Park
APRIL 23

Nacogdoches

Do Dat BBQ and Spring Brew Fest/County Expo
Center
APRIL 23

Nacogdoches

Music and Arts Festival 2022
APRIL 23

Houston

2022 Houston Fishing Show/G R Brown
Convention Center
APRIL 23-27

Downtown Lufkin

Springfest Merchants Fashion Show
APRIL 23

Downtown Lufkin

Springfest
APRIL 23

Lufkin

Earth Day at Ellen Trout Zoo
APRIL 23

Kingwood

Kingwood Spring Car Show/Town Center Park
APRIL 24

Spring

Mark Chesnutt at Dosey Doe, The Big Barn
APRIL 24

Port Neches

Port Neches River Fest 2022
APRIL 28-MAY 2

Port Neches

Port Neches River Fest Fun Run/Riverfront Park
APRIL 30

Lufkin

An Evening with Rene Goldsberry/Temple Theater
APRIL 30

Montgomery

Montgomery Antiques Festival/Community Center
APRIL 30-MAY 1

Silsbee

Molly Hatchett at Honky Tonk Texas
APRIL 30-MAY 1

Sugarland

Tori Amos at Smart Financial Center
APRIL 30-MAY 1

MAY**Houston**

Jeff Goldblum at Hobby Center for the Performing
Arts
MAY 4

Conroe

Conroe Americana Music Festival
MAY 5

Beaumont

Music in the Gardens/McFadden Ward House
MAY 5

Downtown Lufkin

Late Night Shopping
MAY 5

The Woodlands

Miranda Lambert with Little Big Town/ The
Pavilion Event Center
MAY 6

Crystal Beach

Texas Crab Festival
MAY 6-8

Orange

Crawfish Bash 2022/Mauriceville Community
Center
MAY 6-7

Tyler

Red Dirt BBQ & Music Festival
MAY 7

Houston

Turnpike Troubadors at White Oak Music Hall
MAY 7

CALENDAR

Texas City

9th Annual Lonestar Deluxe Hot Rod and Music Festival
MAY 7

The Woodlands

The Who at the Pavilion Event Center
MAY 8-9

Houston

Coldplay at NRG Stadium
MAY 8

Spring

Travis Tritt at Dosey Doe the Big Barn
MAY 11

Lindale

Lindale Championship Rodeo/Crossbrand Cowboy Church
MAY 12-14

Jacksonville

60th Annual Tops in Texas Rodeo
MAY 12-15

Houston

Itzhak Perlman with Houston Symphony at Jones Hall
MAY 12-15

Lufkin

Pines Film Series: Grease Sing Along/Pines Theater
MAY 13

The Woodlands

Dave Matthews Band at the Pavilion Event Center
MAY 13

Houston

Los Lobos at the Heights Theater
MAY 14

Nacogdoches

Swing at the Brewery/Fredonia Brewery
MAY 14

Huntsville

The Fab Five Beatles Show at Main Street Crossing
MAY 14

Houston

The Eagles at the Toyota Center
MAY 14-15

Livingston

Trade Days at Pedigo Park
MAY 14-15

Crystal Beach

Bolivar Peninsula Jeep Weekend 2022
MAY 14

Corsicana

Jim Brickman at the Palace Theater
MAY 19

Houston

New Kids on the Block at the Toyota Center
MAY 19

Pasadena

2022 Pasadena Strawberry Festival
MAY 20

Houston

Jurassic Fest Houston/ Minute Maid Park
MAY 20-22

Galveston

14th Annual Galveston Island Beach Revue
MAY 21

Lufkin

Pines Theater presents: Bonnie and Clyde The Musical
MAY 21

Lufkin

Evening Brunch with the Bats at Ellen Trout Zoo
MAY 21

Longview

Longview Gun Show/Cobb Convention Center
MAY 21-22

Houston

Comic Palooza at G R Brown Convention Center
MAY 26-29

Longview

UKC Kennel Club Dog Show/Cobb Convention Center
MAY 27-30

The Woodlands

Buzzfest at the Pavilion Event Center
MAY 28

Henderson

Henderson Lone Star Gun Show/Rusk County Youth Expo Center
MAY 28

Crockett

World Championship Fiddler's Festival
MAY 28

CALENDAR

Texas City

9th Annual Lonestar Deluxe Hot Rod and Music Festival
MAY 7

The Woodlands

The Who at the Pavilion Event Center
MAY 8-9

Houston

Coldplay at NRG Stadium
MAY 8

Spring

Travis Tritt at Dosey Doe the Big Barn
MAY 11

Lindale

Lindale Championship Rodeo/Crossbrand Cowboy Church
MAY 12-14

Jacksonville

60th Annual Tops in Texas Rodeo
MAY 12-15

Houston

Itzhak Perlman with Houston Symphony at Jones Hall
MAY 12-15

Lufkin

Pines Film Series: Grease Sing Along/Pines Theater
MAY 13

The Woodlands

Dave Matthews Band at the Pavilion Event Center
MAY 13

Houston

Los Lobos at the Heights Theater
MAY 14

Nacogdoches

Swing at the Brewery/Fredonia Brewery
MAY 14

Huntsville

The Fab Five Beatles Show at Main Street Crossing
MAY 14

Houston

The Eagles at the Toyota Center
MAY 14-15

Livingston

Trade Days at Pedigo Park
MAY 14-15

Crystal Beach

Bolivar Peninsula Jeep Weekend 2022
MAY 14

Corsicana

Jim Brickman at the Palace Theater
MAY 19

Houston

New Kids on the Block at the Toyota Center
MAY 19

Pasadena

2022 Pasadena Strawberry Festival
MAY 20

Houston

Jurassic Fest Houston/ Minute Maid Park
MAY 20-22

Galveston

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MAY 21-22

Houston

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Longview

UKC Kennel Club Dog Show/Cobb Convention Center
MAY 27-30

The Woodlands

Buzzfest at the Pavilion Event Center
MAY 28

Henderson

Henderson Lone Star Gun Show/Rusk County Youth Expo Center
MAY 28

Crockett

World Championship Fiddler's Festival
MAY 28

Orange

Beautiful: The Carole King Musical at the Lutchter Theater
MAY 31

JUNE

The Woodlands

Kenny Chesney at the Pavilion Event Center
JUNE 2

Downtown Lufkin

Late Night Shopping
JUNE 2

Livingston

Lake Livingston Gun Show/1017 US 59 Loop N
JUNE 3-4

The Woodlands

Steely Dan at the Pavilion Event Center
JUNE 3

Nacogdoches

Literary Ball Library Fund Raiser/McDonald Public Library
JUNE 3

The Woodlands

Jimmy Buffett at the Pavilion Event Center
JUNE 4-5

Spring

Jim Messina at Dosey Doe The big Barn
JUNE 5

Spring

Shaun Cassidy at Dosey Doe The Big Barn
JUNE 8

Lufkin

Beautiful: The Carole King Musical at Temple Theater
JUNE 9

Beaumont

Music in the Gardens/McFadden Ward House
JUNE 9

Nacogdoches

Running of the Blueberries 5K
JUNE 10

Crockett

Classic Cars at Smitty's BBQ
JUNE 10

Jacksonville

38th Annual Tomato Festival
JUNE 11

Nacogdoches

32nd Annual Blueberry Festival
JUNE 11

Beaumont

Black Gold Bash/ Spindletop Gladys City Boomtown Museum
JUNE 11

Tyler

2022 Cattle Baron's Ball/ Texas Rose Horse Park
JUNE 11

Tyler

Madagascar The Musical at UT Cowan Center
JUNE 11

Lufkin

Blue Man Group at Temple Theater
JUNE 14-15

Corsicana

Mickey Gilley at the Palace Theater
JUNE 16-17

Houston

International Gem & Jewelry Show/NRG Center
JUNE 17-19

Bryan

Bluebonnet Quilt Show/Brazos County Expo Center
JUNE 17-18

Tyler

Blue Man Group at UT Cowan Center
JUNE 17

Longview

Great Texas Balloon Race
JUNE 17-19

Marshall

Food A Palooza/Marshall Convention Center
JUNE 18

Port Arthur

Real Port Arthur Gun Show/Bob Bower Civic Center
JUNE 18-19

Dayton

Annual Dayton Gun Show/Community Center
JUNE 18-19

Lufkin

Crystal Gayle at the Pines Theater
JUNE 23

The Woodlands

Foreigner at the Pavilion Event Center
JUNE 24

Orange

Beautiful: The Carole King Musical at the Lutchter Theater
MAY 31

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Real Port Arthur Gun Show/Bob Bower Civic Center
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Dayton

Annual Dayton Gun Show/Community Center
JUNE 18-19

Lufkin

Crystal Gayle at the Pines Theater
JUNE 23

The Woodlands

Foreigner at the Pavilion Event Center
JUNE 24

CALENDAR

Livingston
3rd Annual Smoke in the Pines BBQ/Pedigo Park
JUNE 24-25

Livingston
Smokin Hot Auto and Bike Show/Pedigo Park
JUNE 25

Downtown Lufkin
Suns Out Sales Out Sidewalk Sale
JUNE 25

Houston
Texas Trucking Show/NRG Center
JUNE 25-26

Houston
Don Mclean at Cullen Performance Hall
JUNE 25-26

JULY

The Woodlands
Matchbox Twenty at the Pavilion Event Center
JULY 1

Baytown
Baytown 4th of July Celebration/Bicentennial Park
JULY 2-3

The Woodlands
Rod Stewart at the Pavilion Event Center
JULY 2

Montgomery
Freedom Festival 2022/Montgomery Community Building
JULY 2

The Woodlands
Fredericksburg Hot Sauce Festival/The Woodlands Resort
JULY 2

Beaumont
36th Annual 4th of July Celebration/Downtown Event Center
JULY 4

Nacogdoches
Freedom Fest 2022/Festival Park
JULY 4

Groveton
Fireworks at the Y Fourth of July Celebration
JULY 4

Livingston
Alabama Coushatta Tribe 4th of July Celebration
JULY 4

Downtown Lufkin
Late Night Shopping
JULY 7

Crockett
Classic Cars at Smitty's BBQ
JULY 8-9

Conroe
Grease The Musical at the Crighton Theater
JULY 8

Galveston
Bill Engvall at the Grand 1894 Opera House
JULY 9

Spring
Houston Automotive Society 15th Annual Model Car Show & Contest
JULY 9

Pasadena
International Gem and Jewelry Show at Pasadena Convention Center
JULY 15-17

The Woodlands
Santana with Earth, Wind & Fire at the Pavilion Event Center
JULY 16

Sugarland
Ru Paul's Drag Race at the Smart Financial Center
JULY 16-17

Houston
Comic Palooza at the G R Brown Convention Center
JULY 17-18

The Woodlands
Train at the Pavilion Event Center
JULY 21

Conroe
Comic Conroe 2022 at Lone Star Convention Center
JULY 22-24

Houston
Houston Black Heritage Festival at Emancipation Park
JULY 22-24

CALENDAR

Livingston
3rd Annual Smoke in the Pines BBQ/Pedigo Park
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Livingston
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The Woodlands
Train at the Pavilion Event Center
JULY 21

Conroe
Comic Conroe 2022 at Lone Star Convention Center
JULY 22-24

Houston
Houston Black Heritage Festival at Emancipation Park
JULY 22-24

Nacogdoches

Old Stone Fort Militaria Show at the County Expo Center

JULY 23-24

Houston

Bridal Extravaganza 2022 at G R Brown Convention Center

JULY 23-24

The Woodlands

REO Speedwagon and Styx at the Pavilion Event Center

JULY 24

Longview

Longview Kennel Club Dog Show/Cobb Convention Center

JULY 29

Galveston

Johnny Mathis at the Grand 1894 Opera House

JULY 30

Houston

Ted Nugent at the Warehouse Live

JULY 30

Events are subject to change or cancellation.

*To submit a calendar item, email Mollie at
events@easttexanmag.com*



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Nacogdoches

Old Stone Fort Militaria Show at the County Expo Center

JULY 23-24

Houston

Bridal Extravaganza 2022 at G R Brown Convention Center

JULY 23-24

The Woodlands

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JULY 24

Longview

Longview Kennel Club Dog Show/Cobb Convention Center

JULY 29

Galveston

Johnny Mathis at the Grand 1894 Opera House

JULY 30

Houston

Ted Nugent at the Warehouse Live

JULY 30

Events are subject to change or cancellation.

*To submit a calendar item, email Mollie at
events@easttexanmag.com*



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LIVINGSTON TRADE DAYS

IN PEDIGO PARK

Saturday • 9a-5p

Sunday • 9a-2p



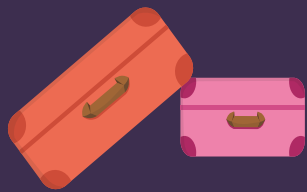
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2022

SPRING MARKETS

MARCH 19-20

MAY 14-15



2022

FALL MARKETS

OCTOBER 15-16

NOVEMBER 19-20



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Exit 434D Northbound - Exit 432B Southbound

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