

Issue 18  
Summer 2022

# East Texan



'God-winks' lead to magic moments & fresh change of perspective

Exploring the Piney Woods on horseback





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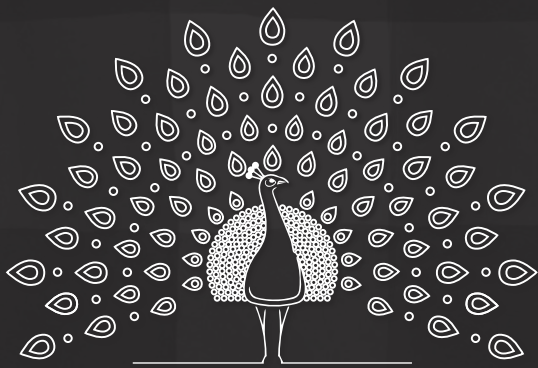
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*If you haven't noticed from the high humidity and soaring temperatures, summer is officially here! While many of our readers dread the relentless heat, summer means vitality for the East Texas region as our towns fill up with tourists visiting area lakes and parks, summer festivals and cookouts take place bringing our families, friends, and communities closer together, and beautiful wildflowers and wildlife dot our landscape.*

*In this edition of East Texas Magazine, we take a deeper look into some of the growth happening in the area with new and exciting takes on dining venues, ways to get out and enjoy the summer on some of the area's horseback trails, how to save some money during these challenging economic times by growing or raising your own food, researching family histories, and much, much more!*

*While these repeated heat waves and periods of little to no rain may sometimes seem less than ideal for outdoor activities, we hope you enjoy reading about the wonderful opportunities summer brings to all East Texans and our visitors and learning about ways you can get out and enjoy all our region and its communities has to offer, or find a new and exciting hobby you can share with family and friends. Before you know it, fall and winter will be here again, and we'll be once again awaiting the return of our beautiful, vibrant East Texas spring and summer!*



~ Debbie Dickerson  
East Texan editor

## On The Cover



*Members of Ballet Folklórico de Austin, a 20-person Oaxacan dance troupe from Austin, perform for the opening night of "Oaxacan Gold - Illuminating Mystical Mexico," a multimedia art and cultural experience at Art Center Waco.*

*Photo by Emily Banks Wooten  
See full story on page 12.*

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Jan White

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To contact the editor, email  
Debbie Dickerson at [editor@easttexanmag.com](mailto:editor@easttexanmag.com).

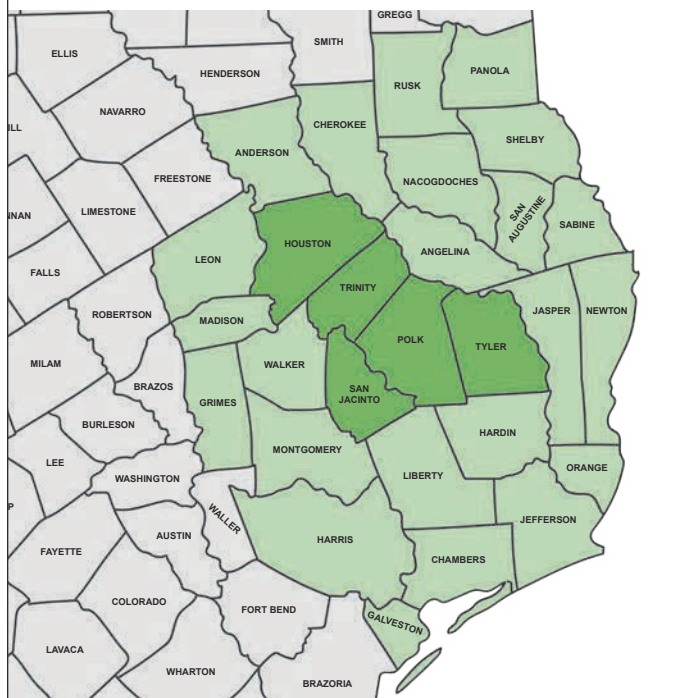


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# EXPLORING THE PINEY WOODS ON HORSEBACK

By Jan White

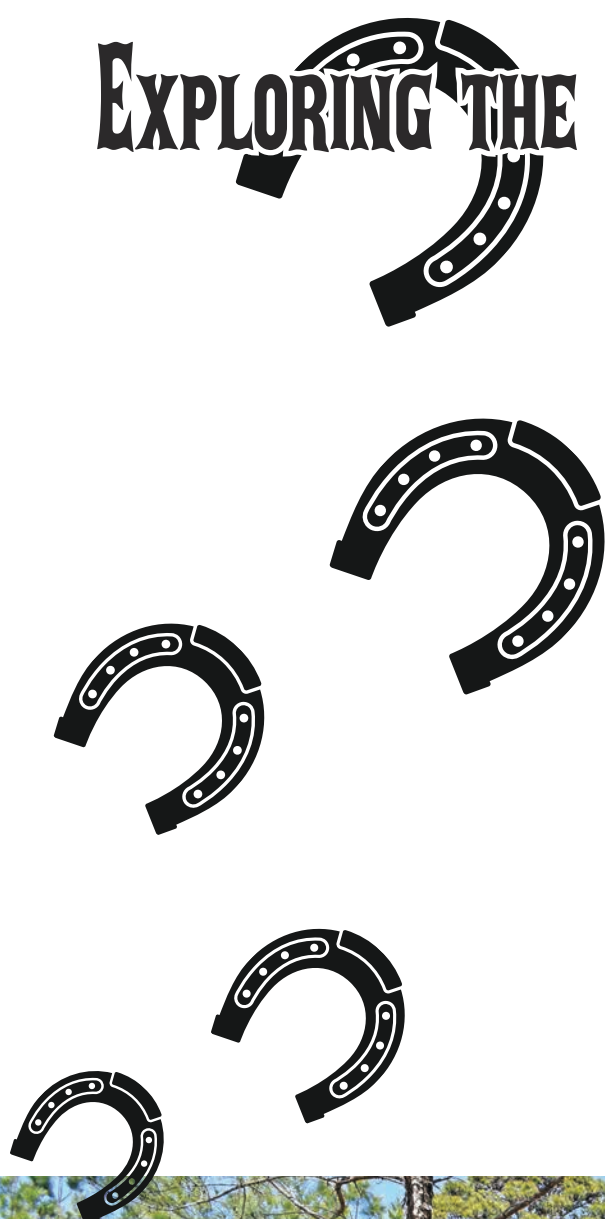
One of East Texas' greatest treasures is the Davy Crockett National Forest, an expanse of over 160,000 acres of woodlands, streams, recreation areas, and wildlife habitat. Visitors from across the United States make their way to the wooded respite seeking to escape the bustle of everyday life and a chance to connect with nature through fishing, hiking, and camping. But there's another unique and lesser-known way to explore the piney woodlands – the Piney Creek Horse Trail.

The trail consists of over fifty miles of easy, barefoot paths that meander throughout the national forest's gently rolling, highly shaded terrain. A couple of trailheads access the woods, but they are pretty primitive. Piney Creek Horse Camp has vault toilets, designated campsites, and access to water. White Rock Horse Camp also has vault toilets and water access but lacks other facilities.

And then there's the TbarS Horse Camp.

TbarS Horse Camp combines the love of trail riding with the amenities of a first-class campsite, which is exactly what owners Tom and Stephanie Hanslik intended when they first dreamed of creating an environment where equestrians from all over the country could meet up and explore the Davy Crockett National Forest.

Stephanie admits that growing up, she was a horse-crazy kid. After meeting Stephanie, Tom, a retired policeman from the Houston area, also took up riding. The two would visit horse camps together, and they developed a genuine love of the experience. "At each camp we visited, we'd discover certain things we liked and other things we didn't like." That's how the idea formed in their heads to create their own horse camp. The couple started looking at property near the National Forest, keeping their eyes out for land close to the Piney Creek Trail. In 2017, they discovered a house for sale on FM 2781, about six miles outside





“Trail rides are a great way to bond with family and friends.”



*Tom and Stephanie Hanslik with Stephanie's horse, Indigo.*





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*Some of the equestrians returning from their trail ride through the Davy Crockett National Forest.*

Kennard. From the front yard of the house, one could go west and pick up two of the trails or go east and pick up two other trails. In the words of Stephanie, “Jackpot.” It fit perfectly into their plan. The land adjacent to the house was undeveloped and wood-covered, and according to Tom, it took about a year to get the lot cleaned out and ready to build the horse camp. Using their own experiences, Tom and Stephanie tried to create what they hoped would be a “near-perfect” campsite.

I’d say, “mission accomplished.”

My husband, granddaughter Mara, and I visited the camp on a Saturday in late April. Stephanie was playing tour guide to a group of riders, so Tom met us at the gate and led us onto the site. My first impression was how neat and well organized the campsite was. There are sixteen equestrian sites; each site has at least two pens, and a couple of sites have multiple pens. All of the sites are wired with 30-amp electricity and running water, and two of the larger sites have a 50 amp electrical option. There’s also a three-acre primitive camping area where guests can use their own generators if they choose. Most of the sites are shaded, but Tom and Stephanie have added covered

pens to protect the horses from the oppressive summer heat after losing some trees during the freeze.

A relatively recent addition is ‘Cookie’s Corner,’ a sizeable air-conditioned meeting room with a covered patio and large, garage-type doors that can be opened in cooler weather. The space is equipped with a kitchenette and a table with chairs where, as one guest commented, “we enjoyed playing dominos.” And the Hanslik’s added an amenity that was lacking at the other two horse camps – a couple of spacious bathrooms and showers. These facilities are definitely not your typical campground variety. Stephanie designed them to be whimsical and homey - a welcome alternative to the cramped bathrooms and showers found in travel trailers and small RVs.

Although TbarS offers a first-class camping experience, the real attraction is the trails that invite riders to explore the natural beauty of the National Forest. Tom told us that the trails have been in use for over thirty years and were initially created for endurance rides. Typically, an endurance ride is a hundred-mile course that takes around twelve hours to complete and goes into the night. Since the horse’s health is



always a priority, there are vet checks and heart checks along the way. Endurance rides are usually held twice a year.

But for those who want to enjoy a more leisurely ride, the trails are divided into different lengths – there’s a ten-mile ride, a twenty-mile ride, and a fifty-mile ride. “The amount of riding you want to do,” Tom explained, “dictates which trail you take.” Riders are provided with maps that correspond with arrows marking the direction of the trails. One rider that we spoke with said she did take a wrong turn and laughingly told us, “I wound up taking a twenty-mile ride instead of the ten that I had planned!”

The camp is a favorite of TETRA, an acronym for the Texas Equestrian Trailriders Association. I chatted with Cheryl Hancock, a member of the association whose riders were guests at TbarS. “We have equestrians from all over the area – San Antonio, Dallas, south of Killeen, and Athens this weekend. One of our riders even traveled from California to celebrate her mom’s birthday with a trail ride.” TETRA is a non-profit organization formed in 1997 to help maintain, develop, and improve riding trails throughout Texas. Volunteers assist with the cleanup of both state and private trails, frequently working

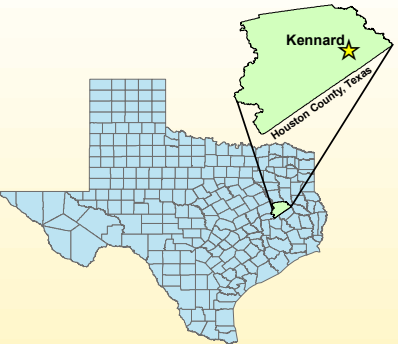
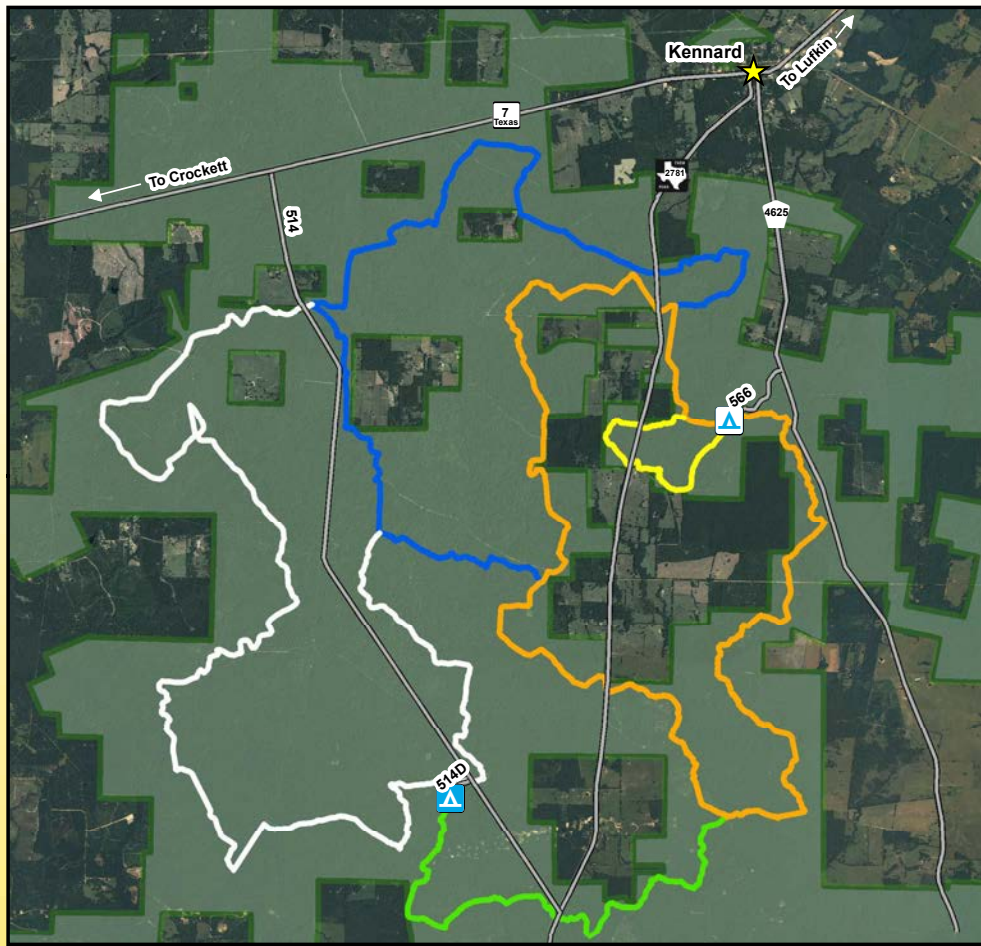
with Texas Parks and Wildlife and facilities run by the Corp of Engineers. But it’s not all work and no play. TETRA is divided into twelve regions and hosts family-friendly trail rides across the State. Cheryl’s husband, Steve, is the director of TETRA Region 5. “We try to schedule rides at least quarterly,” Cheryl said. “It’s a great way to meet other horse enthusiasts. And we encourage young people to ride. Trail rides are a great way to bond with family and friends.”

Stephanie and Tom agree. “It’s one of the reasons we love what we do. A lot of our campers are mothers and daughters or grandmothers and granddaughters who share a love of horseback riding. We wanted to provide a place that gives them the opportunity to strengthen that relationship.”

Towering pine trees, nights under the stars, campfires, shared experiences with friends and family, and an opportunity to explore nature and connect with your horse. I can’t think of a better reason to visit TbarS Horse Camp. Can you? ■

*Editors note: For more information about TbarS Horse Camp, contact Tom or Stephanie Hanslick at (936) 655-3328. To learn more about TETRA, visit <http://tetra.wildapricot.org>.*

## Piney Creek Horse Trails in the Davy Crockett National Forest



Length of Piney Creek Horse Trails (in miles)		
Trail	Yellow	3.1
	Green	5.6
	Blue	11.6
	White	16.3
	Orange	16.4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>53.0</b>

- Piney Creek Horse Camp
- White Rock Horse Camp
- Yellow Trail
- Green Trail
- Blue Trail
- White Trail
- Orange Trail
- Road
- Forest Service Property



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cheated on by my girlfriend and flipped my car three times in a wreck that I managed to walk away from without a scratch. I was brokenhearted, beaten and battered. Everyone around me was dying, and then you throw in 9-11. I turned to alcohol to help ease the pain.”

One night at probably his very lowest point, Greg decided that he'd had enough, and he got down on his knees. “I surrendered to something greater. (I said,) You've got to engage here. I'm on a bad path. (If you help me out of it,) I'll forever speak of it. That's when the God winks, the serendipity, the synchronicity (started happening) in my life.

“I'd lost trust in people, the system, God.” He quit his corporate job, sold everything he owned and traveled the world for a year taking pictures with a \$400 Olympus point and shoot.

Although Greg began the trip with two other people, about four months in, they went their separate ways. “We started in Turkey then went to South Africa and did four countries there, then India, Nepal, four countries in Southeast Asia, then down to Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and back home.”

Nine months in, a fateful moment on a trail in the highlands of North Vietnam changed everything. He found himself face to face with a Black Hmong blanket weaver with a blue hand and a green hand. That chance encounter, that serendipitous moment, is “The Blanket Weaver,” Greg's signature piece. “It really speaks to so many people in so many different ways.

Greg characterizes his photography as documentary style, done with little planning. “You can prepare and plan but there are always these magic little gifts that happen in the work. And if we're present and aware of it, we can share that with other people. For the most part, it's magic moments. It continually connects me to something greater.”

Following his yearlong journey, Greg was at a crossroads. “I knew I didn't want to go back to Corporate America. I was 36 at the time. I had some friends, three brothers from Livingston, who owned some bars in Austin, so I began bartending, something I'd never done before. One of the guys said, ‘you're always talking about this trip, why don't you hang some of the photos in the bar?’ So, I did. When one of the framed photographs hanging near the door of the bar was stolen, I realized that maybe I was onto something.”

Discovering that there was a little artists' market on a street corner on West 6th Street, Greg began selling work out of a pop-up tent. “I set up and people responded. It was clear this was the new path. I re-engaged with the world and the camera was my passport.”

Greg signed with National Geographic Image Collection five years after selling his work on an Austin street corner, a time he jokingly refers to as his “chicken coop” days. He continues to be a contributing photographer for National Geographic/Disney.

These days Greg is flying high, fresh off the heels of the wildly

*(above left) “Zapotec Indigo” is the name of this piece which shows indigo-dyed hands. The Zapotecs are an indigenous people of Mexico. Indigo is a natural blue dye extracted from the leaves of some plants from the genus Indigofera.*

*(below left) Greg Davis shares a little bit about his background during the opening night festivities for his latest large-scale, multimedia project currently on exhibit at Art Center Waco.*

*(below) “A Taste of Oaxaca” was an array of Oaxacan food prepared by El Alebrije, an Oaxacan restaurant in Houston, and ChefATX, a private chef from Austin. Notice the tostadas de chapulines which are tostadas topped with crickets.*

*Photos by Emily Banks Wooten*

## OAXACAN GOLD

Illuminating Mystical Mexico

By Greg Davis

There is a spirit in everything. In the spaces between. Even in the silence. There is a timelessness. A wisdom well beyond knowing. It walks beside us and within us. It has no bounds and seeks no bounty.

The human experience is a mystery, a communion with nature in its many forms. The divine manifests itself through nature. From the plants and animals that we rely on to nurture and express ourselves to the passage of time as we expand both internally and universally.

Many throughout history have come to Oaxaca by the promise of gold, but what they all discovered here was much more valuable – its people and its culture.





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successful and stunning opening of “Oaxacan Gold – Illuminating Mystical Mexico,” presently on exhibit through August 13 at the new Art Center Waco. The multimedia art exhibit curated by Greg features 35 of his limited-edition photographs, accompanied by five mediums of folk art by master Mexican artists.

The May 7 opening night celebration at Art Center Waco – which sold out in three days – was a ticketed multimedia art and cultural experience featuring Greg’s photography, 20-person dance performances by Ballet Folklórico de Austin and the folk art of grandmaster folk artists Jacobo and Maria Angeles, Carlomagno Pedro Martinez, Alejandro Vera Guzman, Jose and Teresita Garcia Antonio, Magdalena Pedro Martinez and El Huizache Studios. Those attending the opening night festivities also experienced “The Taste of Oaxaca” by El Alebrije and ChefATX complimented by “The Spirit of Oaxaca” tastings of Mezcal Vago and Wahaka Mezcal.

The Oaxacan Gold exhibit is Greg’s sophomore large-scale, multimedia project.

Greg said he considers one of his big breaks to be an invitation from the Museum of the Southwest in Midland in 2013 to be one of six artists to participate in a project about myth and legend that would be a yearlong indoor exhibition with each artist showing for two months at a time.

That invitation resulted in the large-scale, multimedia project “India’s Kumbh Mela,” which premiered at the Museum of the Southwest and followed the stories

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*(above left) These devil masks are wooden sculpture created by Master Carver Alejandro Vera Guzman from cypress wood.*

*(above right) People are drawn to the colorful images created by Greg Davis that are on exhibit at Art Center Waco. This striking image is called “Sola de Vega.”*

*(right) Members of Ballet Folklórico de Austin, a 20-person Oaxacan dance troupe from Austin, perform the “Danza de la Pluma” or “Dance of the Feather,” one of the many Guelaguetza dances that celebrates the state of Oaxaca and its culture.*

*Photos by Emily Banks Wooten*









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of individual pilgrims to the 2013 Kumbh Mela, the largest religious pilgrimage in history in which an estimated 120 million people came from all over the world for 55 days to Sangam, the confluence of the three holiest rivers – the Ganges, the Yamuna and the Saraswati – to pray, commune and ultimately connect to something greater than themselves. “It is mythical and legendary because they believe that drinking and bathing in those waters breaks the cycle of reincarnation.”

The 24-piece photo exhibit was accompanied by Greg’s first short documentary film, “Cloth Paper Dreams,” which tells the stories of three men from three different worlds whose paths are woven together – one man on his pilgrimage of faith, another on his journey of devotion, and a third on his quest for purpose. The exhibit at Museum of the Southwest comprised 24 of Greg’s photos, his 11-minute film, a sitar player, a drum player and a dance company with whom he partnered, and an array of Indian food.

“It was an amazing interpretation of what this thing was. It played to all the senses. We carried it to eight Texas cities, mid-cities, because they needed it more.”

Greg said he sees himself as an artist that brings the world to Texas through the arts, helping people engage in things they’ve never experienced.

“The purpose of my work is to serve as a reminder to us that we are all part of something greater than ourselves. At a faster rate than ever before, our world is shrinking, and traditional cultures are at risk. It is imperative that we be aware of and respect the diversity of our planet as well as our unprecedented need to preserve it.”

Although Greg’s been at it for about 16 years now, it hasn’t been without its trials. In fact, at one point when times were tough, his mother told him, “Well Honey, I guess you’re just going to have to eat your corn real close to the cob.”

While Greg’s nomadic lifestyle and career may appear glamorous and thrilling, sacrifices have definitely been made.

“There’s a cost. But it’s a small cost for the freedom, the things I’ve seen, the adventure and the trust that I’ve regained by allowing myself to be vulnerable enough to not know. Sometimes the unknown is hard to embrace. You have to be willing to roll the dice. It’s called grit ... grit, faith and devotion.

“I’m a Texan bringing culture to other Texans through the arts. I feel that’s where I’m sorta positioning this next chapter with my photography, storytelling and sharing. I needed this to happen. I didn’t realize how I saw the world impacted others. Through the shining light of surrender, this gift was bestowed. This photography is a gift that I’m honored to share and carry the torch.”

After the Oaxacan Gold exhibit wraps up August 13 at Art Center Waco, the exhibit will travel to the Georgetown Art Center where it will be on display August 26 through September 24. When the exhibit concludes in Georgetown, it will be available for hire as a traveling exhibit to art centers and museums around the nation for 2023 and 2024 dates.

Art Center Waco is located at 701 S. 8th St. in Waco. The phone number is 254-752-4371 and the website is [artcenterwaco.org](http://artcenterwaco.org).

Georgetown Art Center is located in the Cordovan Art School of Georgetown at 816 S. Main St, in Georgetown. The phone number is 512-930-2583 and the website is [georgetownartcenter.org](http://georgetownartcenter.org).

All pieces from Greg’s collections are printed on archival Canson brand museum rag paper using 12-color archival pigment inks, then treated with a protective UV coating to further protect and maximize the archivability of the works. Each piece is hand-signed, numbered in a limited edition of 50, titled, embossed and comes with a certificate of authenticity.

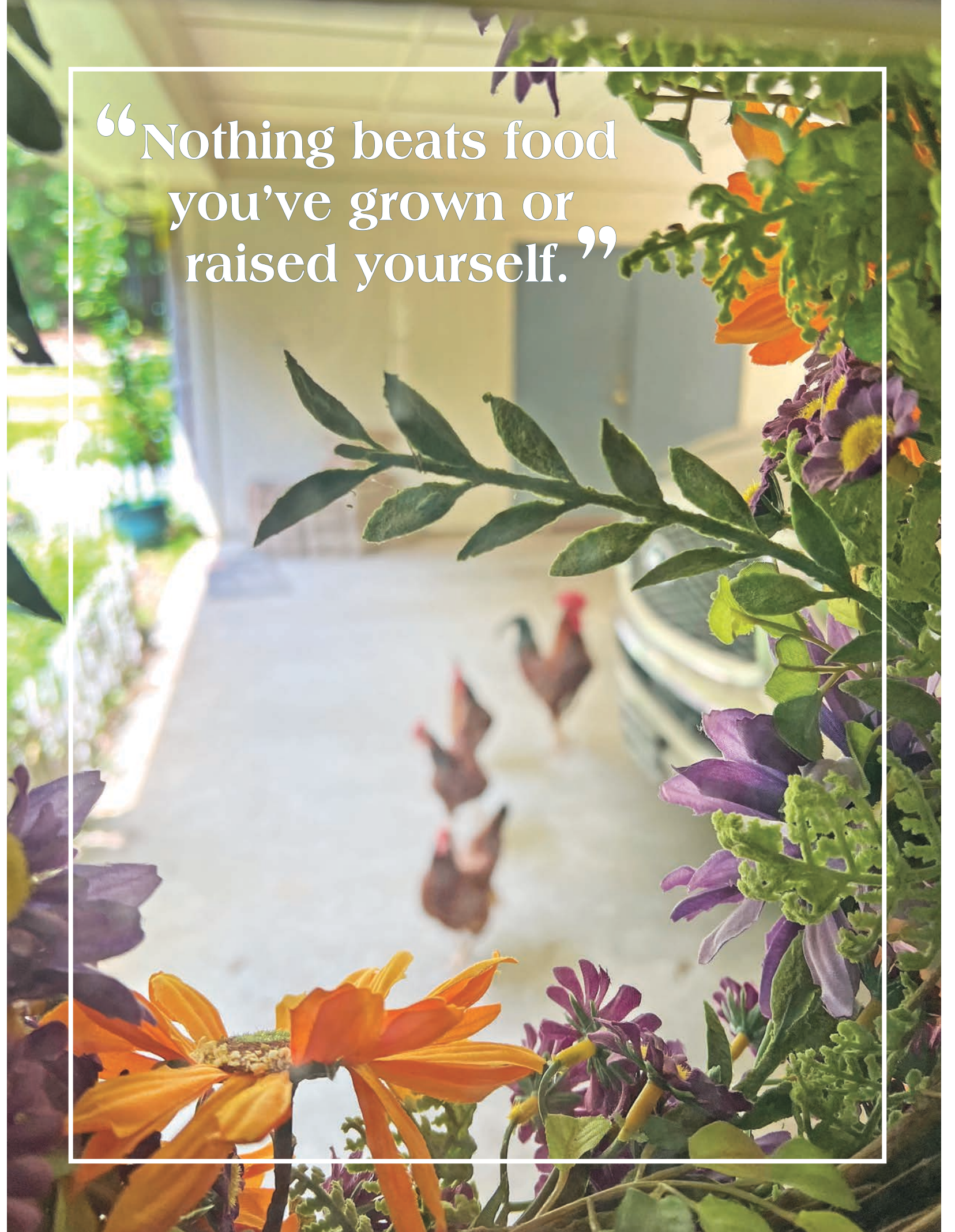
Greg has worked his way from local festivals to international exhibitions and his works now hang in private and institutional collections worldwide. More of Greg’s work may be seen at [gregdavisphotography.com](http://gregdavisphotography.com) or on Instagram at [@gregdavisphotography](https://www.instagram.com/gregdavisphotography). ■

*Alebríjes are brightly colored Mexican folk art sculptures of fantastical creatures. This one, “El Espiritu del Oso,” is a bear wearing an owl mask. The piece was commissioned and purchased by the Alpha Tau Omegas (1984-1996) of Baylor University and Greg Davis Photography from Master Artist Jacobo Angeles Ojeda and donated to the permanent collection of Art Center Waco. Photo by Emily Banks Wooten*





“Nothing beats food  
you’ve grown or  
raised yourself.”







# Growing your own food IS LIKE PRINTING YOUR OWN MONEY

## By Joshua Grant

“Nothing beats food you’ve grown or raised yourself,” my mom always says to me as she manically tends to her garden during her annual bout of spring fever. Naturally, the phrase ‘momma’s always right’ typically rings true, and these words of wisdom are no exception. I am lucky enough to have a mother who takes an avid interest in gardening and animals and passed that knowledge on to me. Although being at an advantage growing up with this sort of exposure, being new at gardening or raising subsistence animals should never discourage anyone from taking on the challenge. Both, while requiring some effort and trial and error, are rewarding and fruitful endeavors.

We are currently in midst of the highest inflation market since the 1980’s, and only a handful of other times has inflation been as high as it is today; the post-Depression market, post-World War II, and the end of the gold standard, to name a few. Inflation markets, and the inevitable recessions that always follow, make financially supporting families a struggle. Couple this with the historic prices at the pump and it’s easy to see the impact the current economy is having on the average American. But like the Greatest Generation weathered the storms of economic turmoil and world conflict, so too can we take steps to lessen the burden on ourselves at home. We’ve all seen the empty shelves, product limits, and astronomical prices at the grocery stores since COVID 19 gripped the world, and the quintessential slogan “Sowing the Seeds of Victory” referring to the Victory Gardens planted by Americans and her allies during World War II to combat food and supply shortages rings just as true today as it did some 80 years ago.

Not only do gardening and subsistence animals lessen the cost of feeding a family, there are numerous health, environmental, and social benefits as well. A typical packet of seeds of your favorite vegetable, herb, or flower cost anywhere from 99 cents to a few dollars. Some people like to spend lavishly on gardening, but starting your own garden in our rich East Texas soil requires very little upfront cost. Due to our temperate, sub-tropical climate, growing your own food in East Texas is a year-round possibility. In early spring, lettuces, strawberries, greens, herbs, and other cooler-climate delights

are ideal. Late spring and early summer bring the big guys; tomatoes, cucumbers, watermelons, beans, peas, grapes, corn, etc. Finally, fall lets us yet again rotate back to the cooler climate varieties previously mentioned. Many of these varieties will yield bountiful harvests through the winter, barring any major freezes such as the one in 2021.

Being outdoors tending to your garden, wherever it may be, is a wonderful and scientifically proven way to get healthy doses of vitamin D, relieve stress, lower blood pressure, and release endorphins. It is also a tried-and-true therapy for the treatment of depression and other mental or chemical imbalances. And since you’ve put in the effort to grow your own herbs, vegetables, and fruits, it also promotes healthier eating habits by enticing you and your family to turn to homegrown food in place of processed meals laden with preservatives and less than desirable nutrition.

In addition to the health benefits, the upfront cost to plant a garden, meager as it may be, is just that...an upfront cost. Most, if not all, vegetables, herbs, and fruits planted in your garden can be propagated by cuttings or seed for more planting in the current season or for use in the next season. Learning how to take cuttings and harvest seeds may take a little research or trial and error, but this knowledge can be applied year after year and shared with those you love. Recently, my neighbor and I have been exchanging cuttings of tomato plants and basil, allowing them to root out in water, then replanting them in our gardens to increase our yields. We have grown even closer over our love of gardening and enjoy imparting our own experiences to each other to expand our knowledge and apply these new experiences to our own gardens.

Gardening also bolsters the local habitat. Many of you may have heard of or noticed the drastic decline of pollinators that once graced our region in abundance. Of course, this is not a local problem. It is estimated that 94% of America’s true prairie and grasslands, and the native wild flowers which support healthy pollinators, have been lost to non-native crops, lawn grasses, non-native invasive plant species, and human development. Planting some of these native wildflowers in your yard or near your garden, such as Bluebonnets, Coreopsis,



Indian Paintbrush, and Purple Coneflowers, are a wonderful way of enhancing the presence of natural local pollinators and a guaranteed way to increase the yield of your gardens. This will also help counteract the imbalance and strain we as humans are putting on the natural ecosystem.

For all the talk of gardening, some people simply just do not enjoy it or feel like they have the dreaded black thumb of death. And some people do in fact have the much-feared black thumb, one of my neighbors being one of them...you know who you are. With many of these people, however, tending to subsistence animals comes very naturally. Raising chickens, quail, or other birds which provide a daily or every other day harvest of eggs high in beneficial vitamins, fats, and protein are also an excellent choice. Though typically requiring more upfront cost than a garden, a content, well-nourished fowl provides near constant production and typically balances out this upfront cost with the high yield of eggs and meat. And, much like plants, with the right approach and control, chickens, quail, and other fowl can be propagated to ensure a continuing supply of fresh food for you and your family. This option is also wonderful for the ecosystem, controlling populations of plant eating pests and providing fertilizer that

can be included in your compost for your gardens, as well as being cathartic to those dealing with depression, vitamin D deficiencies, and other ailments.

Whether it's gardening or raising fowl or other subsistence animals, now is a great time to try your hand at this rewarding undertaking if you don't already. Sure, it does take work, and it does require practice and learning, but the benefits for you and your family's health, your pocketbook, and the local ecology far outweigh the disadvantages and perceived inconveniences. So, grab some seeds or pullets from your local feed store, teach yourself, your children, your neighbors and friends about the benefits and art of self-sustainment, and enjoy the fruits of your labor instead of throwing your hard-earned money into an ever-inflating market. You won't regret it. I never do. ■

*(Right) Austin Grant displays a harvest from his and his father's backyard garden.*

*(Below and left ) Many families are starting their own flocks in residential areas.*

*(Bottom left) Some flocks can even be kept indoors, such as quail, because of their smaller size and their desire to hide away rather than roam like chickens.*









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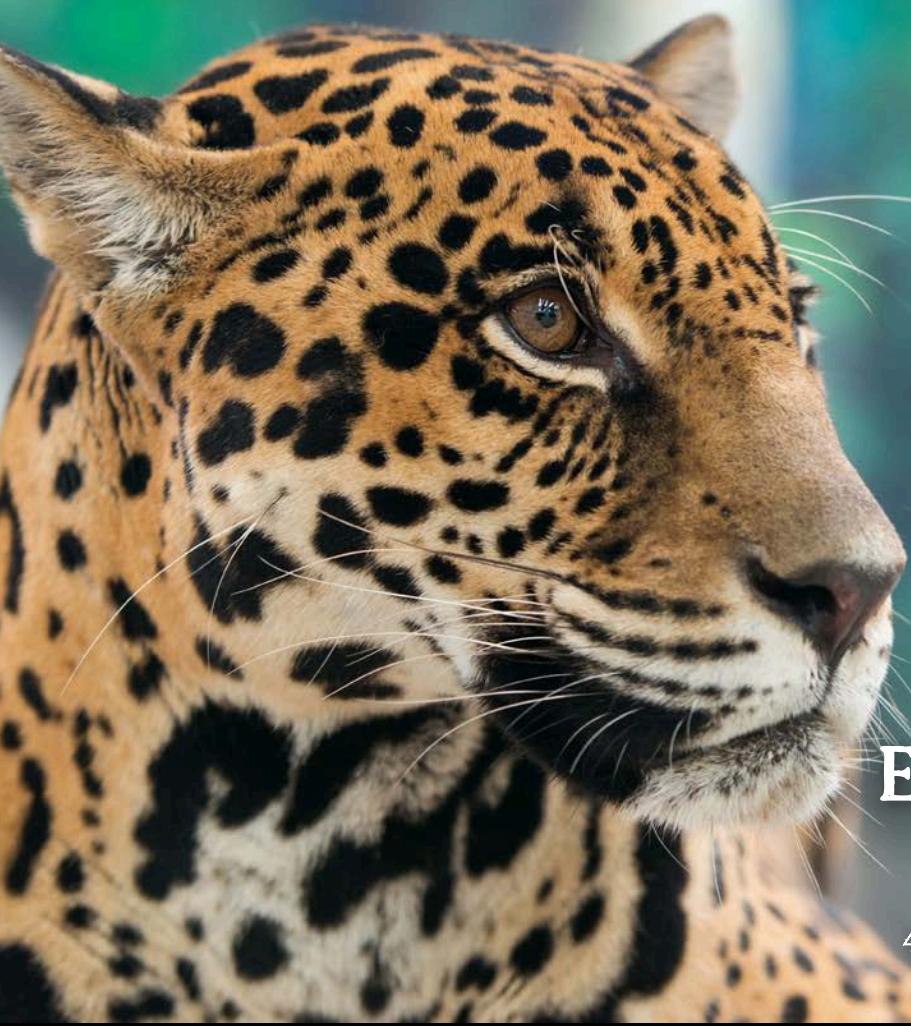
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# HANDS-ON HISTORY

## Historic Tours of Texas puts the past at your fingertips

### By Tony Farkas

According to legend and old saws, residents of any given area will be woefully ignorant of the rich history of a place.

To correct that, and to indulge her passion, retired history teacher Caroline Crimm, along with former EMT Robin Logan, came up with Historic Tours of Texas.

Based out of Huntsville, the group will take groups of eight to 12 people anywhere, all in the comfort of the Joye Bus, which has limo seating for 12 passengers and boasts a dance pole.

(For safety, the van is fully sanitized and disinfected before each tour. Masks also are available.)

### Love of history

Crimm, who is founder and owner, started historical tours with her students when she taught in Florida.

She relocated to Huntsville and Sam Houston State University and started working with the museum.

According to the website biography, Dr. Crimm has spent the last 40 years providing tours and reenactments for her high school and college students, as well as the general public. She entertains audiences at historic lectures for community and historic groups, public school teachers, and national and international audiences.

Dr. Crimm, whose Ph.D. is in Latin American History from

the University of Texas at Austin, was named a Piper Professor as one of the “Best Teachers in Texas.” Her specialty, including an award-winning book “De León: A Tejano History,” is 18th and 19th century Texas.

She has taught on the high-school level for 15 years and on the college level for 20 years. She is recently retired from Sam Houston State University as a Professor Emeritus.

She is a certified International Tour Guide, holding a certificate from the International Tour Guide Association in Denver. She also is affiliated with the Texas Historical Commission as a member of the Walker County Historical Commission, and serves on the Board of Humanities Texas, as well as the Texas State Historical Association.

In addition, she serves her hometown of Huntsville as a board member for the Main Street Program and the Old Town Theater.

### Comfortable and informative

Crimm said her group is a small, independent company with a large, comfortable party bus and a larger appetite for history.

Tours range from day trips for picnics to five-day and longer excursions; destinations have included Fredericksburg, Marfa, Alpine, Schulenberg, Natchez, and even into Mexico. Groups have toured private homes and art collections, museums,

*(left) Caroline Crimm and Robin Logan display their banner at the site of the Battle of San Jacinto.*

*(below) The notorious Joye Bus. Courtesy photos.*







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*Patrons ride the Joye Bus on the way to the Texas Holocaust Museum in Houston. Courtesy photo.*

wineries, gardens, painted churches, battle sites and tea rooms, not only sampling the sites but learning about the history of each thing, such as Bernardo de Galvez, who, according to Crimm, saved the American Revolution.

“He fought the British in Baton Rouge, he fought the British in Natchez — he didn’t even go there. He told the British to send their down, which they did,” Crimm said. “He beat them in Mobile and he beat them in Pensacola, and by doing so, split the British forces and saved Washington, who at that time was in Yorktown trying to do something with the British.”

The city of Galveston, as well as the Galvez Hotel there, is named for him, she said.

“We do whatever people want,” Crimm said. “We’ve been as far as Natchez; we do a wine tour with the Ladies of Livingston, since they love the bus so much. We’ve booked concerts, home tours, whatever.”

Historic Tours of Texas includes tours for retirees, for the general public and specialty tours for families and home-schoolers, which are short three or four-day tours focused on a specific historic area in Texas. Guests stay at historic bed and breakfasts, enjoy the local cuisine, tour the local museums with step-a-board guides and learn the history of the great state of Texas.

“We cater to older adults interested in touring Texas although we are available for personalized wine tours, anniversary trips, family outings, and birthday or bachelorette parties,” she said. “We keep our tours to no more than 12 passengers so we can serve you in the best way possible.”

Depending on size and length of the tour, there’s even a Shutterfly book produced to help people take their memories with them. Price is based on distance and what’s involved, whether food, spirits, entry fees, etc., will be needed.





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### Ready to go

After a years' hiatus due to COVID, Historic Tours' calendar is empty and they are ready to go any time to anywhere to indulge your, and their, love of all things historical.

Crimm currently is working on a historic tour of Huntsville, and is putting together a prison tour, which includes several buildings, lunch, and a trip to the Prison Museum.

I was finding out things I had no idea about, and that several pioneer families — the Farrises, the Gibbs, the Smithers, The Easoms, the Robinsons — are still here, so to be able to tell their stories is wonderful," she said.

"That's why I do this, that's why I love teaching," Crimm said. "To get on the bus and teach people the history of a place, to me that's what it's all about, helping people to see the wonderful history of Texas.

"History is better hands-on than read. Get out and see it, feel it, get the experience." ■

*To get the experience, visit [www.historictoursoftexas.com](http://www.historictoursoftexas.com), send email to [history.ccc@gmail.com](mailto:history.ccc@gmail.com) or call at (936) 581-3334.*

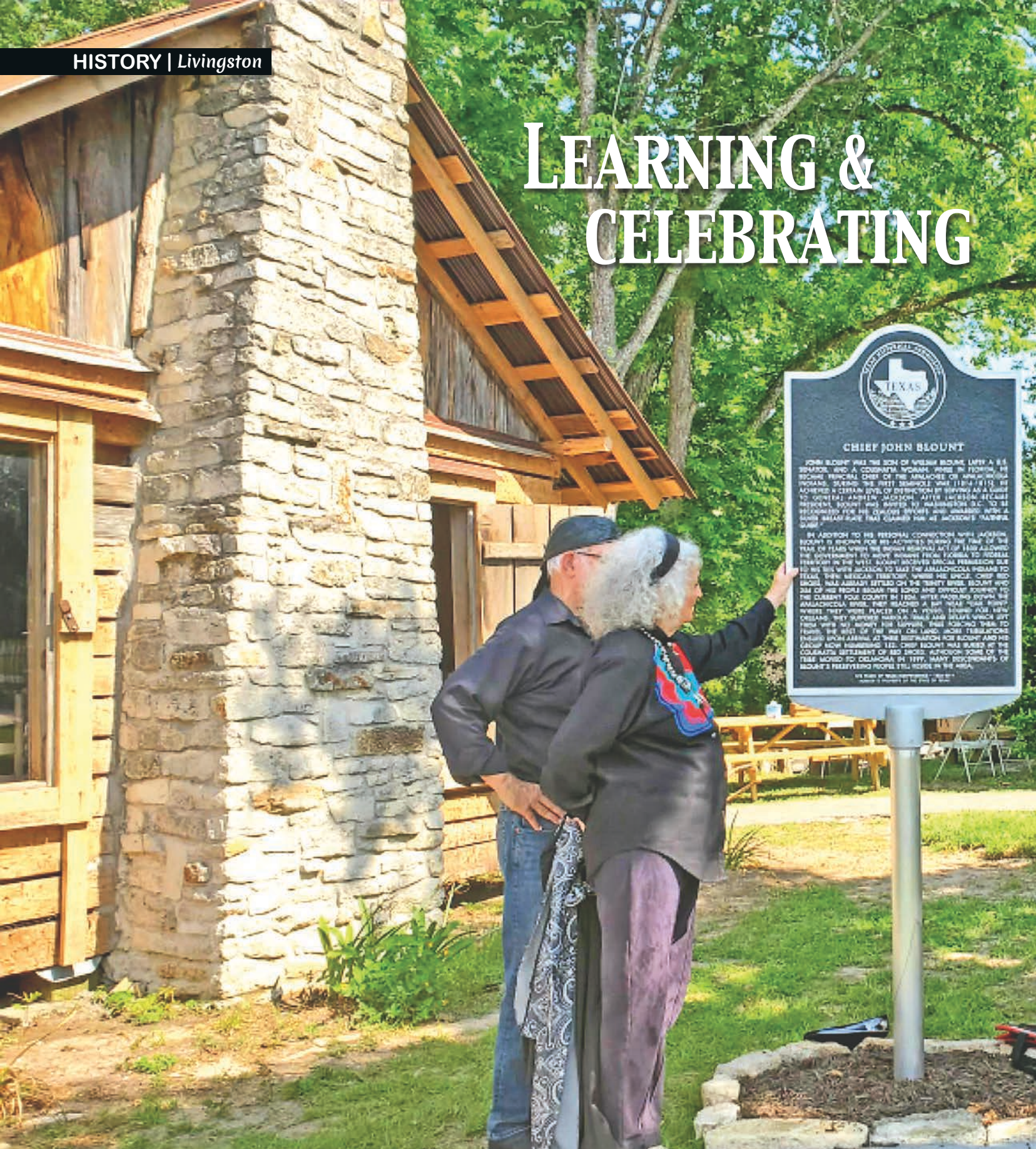
*(left) One of the churches on the Painted Church tour in Schulenberg.*

*(right) The ladies wave to the camera during a tour. Courtesy photos.*





# LEARNING & CELEBRATING



(above) Descendants of Chief John Blount and their spouses admire the historic marker honoring him that was unveiled and dedicated at Heritage Park in Livingston. Blount was chief of the Apalachicola Band of Creek Indians that settled in Polk County in 1834. One of Blount's sixth generation descendants was inaugurated as new chief of the tribe during a ceremony earlier this year.  
(l-r) Eugene LeBeaux, Gleni Tai Blount, Chief Cynthia Healing Woman Tune Murphey and Michael Martin Murphey.  
(right) This is a gold bust of Chief John Blount. Photos by Emily Banks Wooten



# LOCAL HISTORY

**By Emily Banks Wooten**

If the stars align correctly, an annual musical pageant and festival celebrating some of the history of Polk County may be in the future.

A historical marker celebrating the life of Chief John Blount was unveiled and dedicated during a May ceremony at Heritage Park in Livingston. The marker is located to the right of the Jonas Davis Log Cabin. Heritage Park is located in the 500 block of West Church St. and is home to the log cabin, the W.T. Carter and Bro. Locomotive No. 5 and Heritage House, a restored Victorian home. The park and its attractions are owned, operated and maintained by the Polk County Heritage Society, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of local history.

The inscription on the marker reads: "John Blount was the son of William Blount, later a U.S. Senator, and a Coushatta woman. While in Florida, he became principal chief of the Apalachee or Apalachicola Indians. During the first Seminole War (1814-1815) he achieved a certain level of distinction by serving as a guide to General Andrew Jackson. After Jackson became president, Blount was invited to Washington, D.C. to be recognized for his zealous efforts and awarded with a silver breastplate that claimed him as Jackson's 'faithful guide.'







*People enjoy touring and learning about the newly-restored Jonas Davis Log Cabin at Heritage Park in Livingston.  
Photo by Emily Banks Wooten*

“In addition to his personal connection with Jackson, Blount is known for his activities during the time of the Trail of Tears when the Indian Removal Act of 1830 allowed the government to move Indians from Florida to federal territory in the west. Blount received special permission due to his ties with Jackson to take the Apalachicola Indians to Texas, then Mexican territory, where his uncle, Chief Red Shoes, was already settled on the Trinity River. They reached a bay near ‘Oak Point’ where they were placed on a vessel bound for New Orleans. They suffered various trials and delays which left them with no money for supplies, thus forcing them to travel the rest of the way on land. More tribulations ensued upon arrival at their destination for Blount and his group now numbering 152. Chief Blount was buried at the Coushatta settlement of Red Shoes. Although some of the tribe moved to Oklahoma in 1899, many descendants of Blount’s persevering people still reside in the area.”

In conjunction with the unveiling and dedication of the historic marker, a group of local historians had the opportunity to view a presentation of “One Feather: Walks in Two Worlds,” vignettes of a musical production featuring Singer Songwriter Michael Martin Murphey. The musical production was written by Gleni Tai Blount based on the research and writings of her sister, Dr. Mary Six Women Blount. The sisters are sixth generation descendants of Chief John Blount.

The musical production is about the story of Chief John William Blount, or Lafarthga, “The Leader.” Murphey portrays both Chief John Blount and Sam Houston in the production.

In scene one, Houston’s soldiers, though tired, are still celebrating their winning battle against the Indians as they jubilantly brag in a song about their great ability as soldiers, having finally beaten the Indians in the Second Creek War.

Scene two is Houston’s encampment for the Second Creek War. Regimental commander under General Andrew Jackson,

Houston has been in close contact with Jackson’s best scout, Chief John, during many battles. Houston arrives to salute the brave soldiers, asking as to the whereabouts of the chief. He describes the great scouting talents of his best scout and close friend, Chief John, in words and song to the regiment. He knows that to go on the ‘trail’ would be almost certain death and wants to offer an alternative to help him out with the Texas Revolution.

Scene three portrays Houston, as president of Texas, reflecting on Chief John’s story. He describes the chief’s difficulties being a half-blood from both the educated world of the white man and the spirit world of the Indian. Remembering the chief’s song, he assumes the character of the chief and sings. A dream visit from the chief’s mother is recalled, helping the chief to decide whether to go on the Trail of Tears with his clan or to accept Houston’s offer to come help him in another battle, thereby taking his clan to Texas to battle once again.

“Chief John Blount left Blountstown, Fla. after the Creek treaty with the Apalachicola Band in 1832, the first Trail of Tears. He was told to go west. He traveled to New Orleans to collect their treaty payment of \$13,000, then planned to go to Texas and up the Trinity River to Polk County. He went to the Indian Agent’s Office and received the payment and as soon as he came out, was arrested and put in jail, accused of stealing the money. He was released from jail and fined \$13,000, leaving him penniless. He made it to Texas, up the Trinity River to Polk County and within three days died of cholera having contracted it while in jail. Some of the Apalachicola Band went to Oklahoma and some stayed in Polk County in East Texas. That is our path to current times,” Gleni Tai said.

“This meeting today is a preview of what we’d like to bring to Livingston on a yearly basis – a fully-cast, fully-orchestrated musical pageant and festival of your history,” Gleni Tai said. And if anyone can make it happen, Gleni Tai can.



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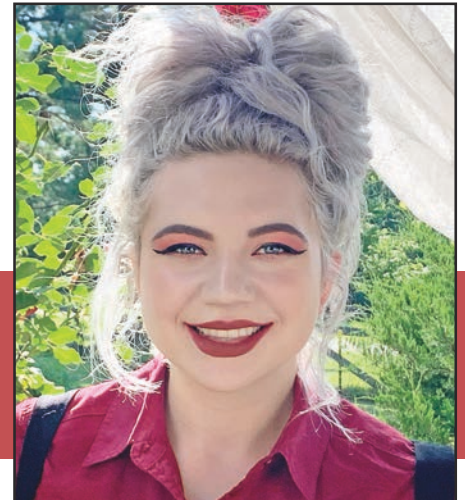
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She is a singer and composer in the commercial and pop fields, an international opera singer and presently serves as a celebrity vocal coach to numerous recording artists in Hollywood. In addition to composing the production, she also played the piano and provided vocals. Her husband, Eugene LeBeaux, a master of brass, played trumpet and trombone for the performance as well as providing vocals. In addition to recordings and live concerts, he also does studio and live work in both Dallas and Hollywood.

The culmination of the day of history and celebration was the inauguration ceremony for Chief Cynthia Healing Woman Tune Murphey, the new chief of the Apalachicola Band of Creek Indians.

As the husband of the new chief, Murphey had a vested interest in telling the story and said it was an honor to be involved with the project.

"I've been an activist for Native Americans my whole life and I don't have a drop of Indian blood," he said. "Chief John Blount was what they cruelly called a half-breed. John was an educated man and a successful businessman and a family man. He decided to save his family by joining the government side in the Seminole Second War.

"Chief John wore one feather but walked in two worlds. Lafarthga, his Indian name. His mother was an Indian and gave him knowledge of nature and spirituality. He came on a whaling boat from Florida to Texas then came up the Trinity and died a few days after getting his clan safely to Polk County,

Texas. What would you do had you been in their moccasins?" Murphey asked, adding that he hopes a movement will grow in Livingston and throughout the State of Texas to remember Blount and his accomplishments.

In recent years the Jonas Davis Log Cabin had fallen into disarray, primarily due to the deterioration of its roof which had been taken over by resurrection fern. The Heritage Society attempted to raise funds for the rehabilitation of the cabin, even attempting to crowdfund through an account on GoFundMe, an online fundraising platform.

Brothers Robert M. Smith and Fred M. Smith, co-trustees of The Smith Family Foundation, gave \$35,000 for the renovation and restoration of the cabin on behalf of The Smith Family Foundation.

Jonas Davis, for whom the log cabin is named, was one of the last members of the Pakana Muskogee, Apalachicola Band of Creek Indians to reside in Polk County. Jonas and his wife, Hortense, built the log cabin around 1833 on a bluff overlooking Kickapoo Creek. The cabin was donated to the Polk County Heritage Society in 1980 and moved to its present location in Heritage Park. Jonas Davis was a descendant of Chief John Blount.

Donations to the Polk County Heritage Society may be made by sending checks to P.O. Box 1914, Livingston, Texas 77351. To learn more, email [polkcountyheritagesociety@yahoo.com](mailto:polkcountyheritagesociety@yahoo.com). ■

*American Singer-Songwriter Michael Martin Murphey performs in "One Feather: Walks in Two Worlds" and is accompanied by Gleni Tai Blount on keyboard and Eugene LeBeaux on trombone. Photo by Emily Banks Wooten*







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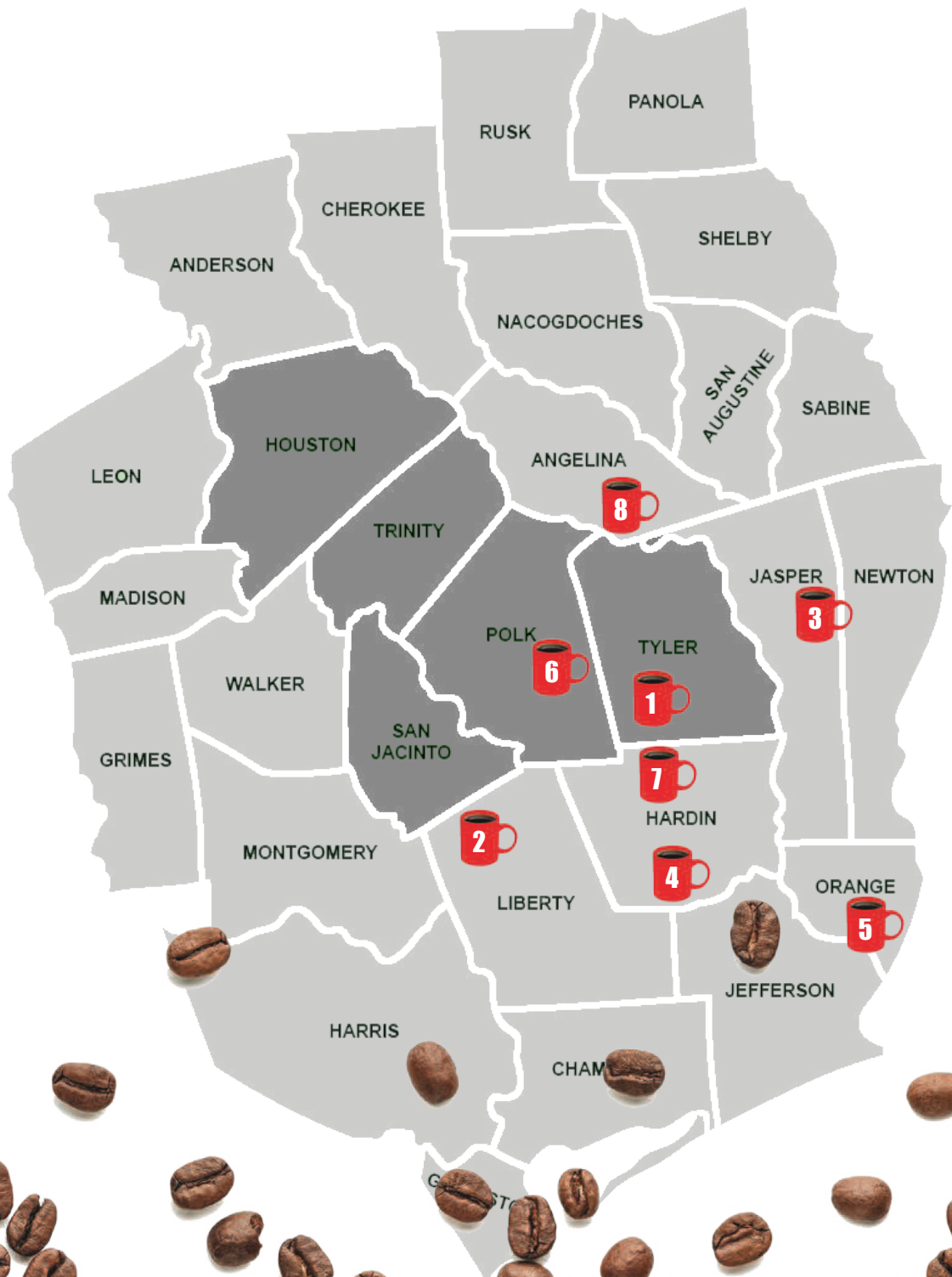
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# Who am I?

Understanding ourselves  
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## By Kevin Wooten

It is our natural instinct to desire a better understanding of who we are. Why am I good at art? Why am I terrible at sports? Why is my hair the color it is? Why do I have perfect pitch? Why am I naturally shy? Why do I have these frustrating allergies? All of these are types of questions we have asked ourselves for millennia. The answer is simple, yet complicated. In the simplest terms, we are the product of those ancestors who came before us. Generation after generation passed down traits culminating in the person who is reading this article. Complicating things is the innate curiosity that many of us feel to know the specifics of that ancestry and history. This is where genealogical research comes in.

Prior to the world of the internet, genealogical research was a labor intensive and painstaking process of physically pursuing and researching family Bibles, census records, birth records, cemeteries, and courthouse marriage and divorce documents, among many other possibilities. It included calling and/or visiting distant relatives to glean the slightest hint that might allow you to find out who your grandmother's

father was ... or why nobody in your family discusses Great Uncle George ... or why you may not look anything like your siblings. Verified documentation and/or legitimate first-hand historical accounts were the lifeblood and legitimizing aspect of genealogical research. The documents were physical evidence that verified the ancestral connections. The personal stories, usually corroborated and/or validated by other persons or documents, provided assurances that the family tree connections that we were making were likely factual.

The expansion of access to the internet made much of this research more efficient. We could create websites for groups with the same last name (surname) and share information on a much larger basis. We could scan historical documents, email them and compare notes with others seeking common ancestors. In short, research became less labor and time intensive. Less traveling and more web surfing.

Then, in the late 20th century, genetic genealogy became A THING. The basis of genetic genealogy is our own unique DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid). Without getting too scientifically complicated, we all have 23 pairs of chromosomes





and each chromosome carries genetic information in the form of DNA that determines every single thing about our being. All living organisms have DNA. Humans inherit approximately half of our DNA from each parent. The DNA that siblings inherit from the same parent is not exactly the same. It's why all siblings are not identical twins. Obviously, DNA can be compared among persons. The percentage of shared DNA determines how closely you are related. Scientists are also able to trace heritage origins using DNA. By testing a population of people in a specific geographic area whose ancestors have been there for many generations, they can isolate their shared genes ... then compare them to your genetic DNA. The percentage of DNA that is similar may determine that the area (say, Africa, Ireland, Mexico, etc.) was the home of one or more of your ancestors.

Then, in 2000, genetic research took an astounding leap forward. The company Family Tree DNA (FTDNA) was founded in Houston, Texas. It provided the first commercially available DNA test for genealogical comparison. People could pay a fee and send in a DNA sample, usually from a

mouth swab. This sample was placed in a database with other samples and compared. Later, new companies joined the fray. Now customers could choose between FTDNA, Ancestry, 23andMe, MyHeritage, and others. Or, like many including myself, they would provide samples to multiple companies in order to have as large a number of comparisons as possible. We now had the capability to find genetic relatives that we had possibly never known about through traditional research methods. It allowed us to discover unknown parents or half-siblings. It made it possible for adopted children to find their birth parents. In other words, it opened up an almost infinite ability to find out who we are by learning who our relatives are and comparing the common ancestors that we share.

While finding genetic relatives through DNA comparison was a fascinating and useful tool, one of the most useful aspects of the testing companies was the above-mentioned "region of origin" information. Now you could not only find long-unknown cousins, but you could possibly determine what part of the world they come from. Of course, we know that in the United States the only Americans who can trace their ancestry



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directly and solely to here are Native Americans. The origins of the rest of us are somewhere else.

In my personal genealogical journey, I have discovered that I am likely about 40-50% Scottish, with the rest being a mixture of British, Welsh, Irish, Scandinavian and other parts of western and southern Europe. Because I have tested with multiple DNA companies, I have discovered that each respective percentage estimate is different. This is the result of each company using different geographic boundaries, as well as different groupings of regions. Ancestry.com, for instance, groups “England and Northwest Europe” as one category, with “Ireland” and “Scotland” as having their own category, respectively. FTDNA, on the other hand, groups “England, Wales and Scotland” together and has separate categories for “Ireland” and “Scandinavia.” Also, political borders and boundaries have changed dramatically over time in all parts of the world, so which historic border that is chosen to define an ancestral geographic region may give a different region of origin.

While all of this new ability to help define ourselves through DNA testing is wonderful via commercial websites, there are potentially negative aspects that we must take into consideration. First, it is always possible that you will discover troubling, if not shocking, information. It is not uncommon for people to find half-siblings that they never knew they had. Also, the possibility is there that you may find out that one of your parents is not your biological parent. These types of findings can be traumatic and cause great harm to familial relationships, so those who test must assume that risk.

Another potential negative aspect of commercial DNA testing is the security of your DNA material. When you send in your sample, the company now has the potential to learn not only your ancestral origins and relatives, but also health-related information such as an individual’s susceptibility to certain diseases. Legitimate testing sites will have very stringent and specific protections for what they do with your information and how, if at all, they use or share it. Be sure to read the fine print.

In order to differentiate themselves from each other, each genetic testing site attempts to specialize in specific areas of interest to genealogy researchers. FTDNA, for example, is preferred by those who are more interested in finding not only their relatives, but specifically their paternal “Y” DNA ancestral line. This can be very useful in building family trees, as paternal lines also may provide consistent and traceable surnames. Ancestry is preferred by those who are simply trying to find the most relatives as possible and building a family tree. Each user on Ancestry (as well as FTDNA, 23andMe, and MyHeritage) has the ability to create a family tree. In my opinion, Ancestry is the most user-friendly in that regard because they make it easy to transfer information from one user tree to your tree. Users are able to make their family trees



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private or, if they choose, public. Public trees are available to all Ancestry users who may copy genealogical information such as birth and death dates, marriage dates, and extended family connections.

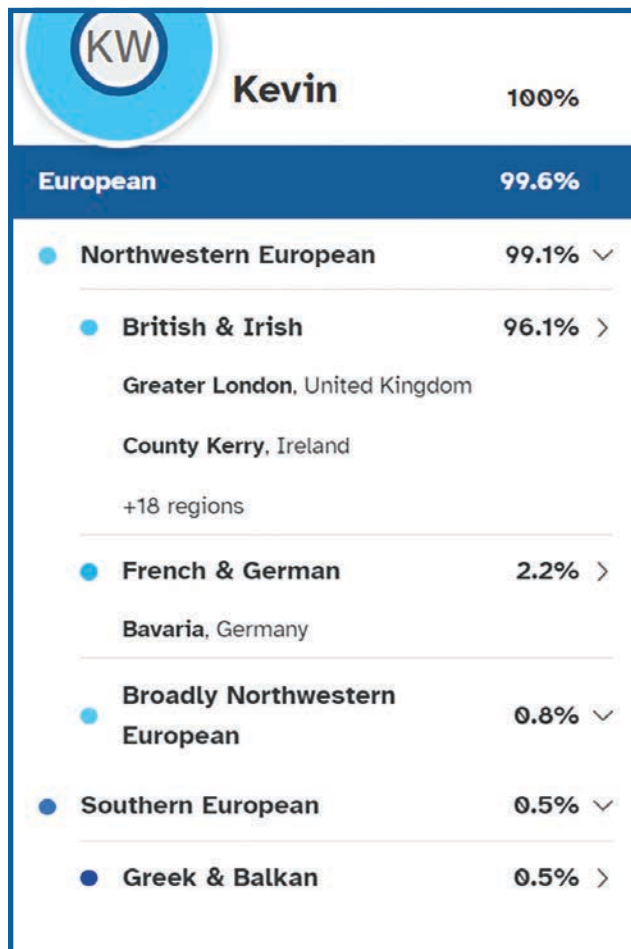
For serious amateur genealogists who are trying to piece together their family tree, the “sharing” aspect of genealogical websites can be a goldmine of information, or extremely frustrating. Since anybody who signs up can post their family tree and make it public, there is no guarantee (or even high probability) that the information is accurate. Somebody’s family connections, birthplace or birth date, and even parents or children listed in the family tree may be wrong. Other researchers, possibly desperate to break down a wall blocking a line of their family tree, may take this inaccurate family connection and add/copy it to their tree. Another may come along and see that now two are showing the same information and add it to theirs ... and so on, and so on. This can create a type of group agreement on certain genealogical information that has no basis in fact.

Even with the potential negative aspects of commercial genetic genealogy, I personally find it useful and fascinating. I have learned so much new information about my ancestors and, in turn, about myself. I have found ancestors who fought

in the American Revolution and opposing sides of the Civil War. I had a great-grandfather who, along with his infant son, died of the Spanish Flu. I have discovered that I have deep roots in North Carolina going back to the early 1700s and Mississippi in the early 1800s. My ancestors were mainly poor farmers, moving west in search of more land and opportunity. Like many Texans, there is a rich history of migrants making the trip from North and South Carolina, through Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas, to Texas. When first Spain, and then Mexico after gaining independence in 1821, began encouraging Americans to come settle in what is now Texas, many took this same route through the deep south.

Texas, as we all know, is now wonderfully diverse and full of people from many different places throughout the United States and the world. And because each of our individual histories are different, it means that there are millions of ancestral stories to be discovered ... if we are willing to take the genetic genealogical leap. If so, good luck and happy researching!

If you are interested in pursuing this type of research on your own family, be forewarned ... it is addictive, and you may find yourself spending all of your free time seeking that next elusive hint that uncovers another long lost relative. ■





Here are a few genetic genealogical websites:

[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

[www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com)

[www.23andMe.com](http://www.23andMe.com)

[www.myheritage.com](http://www.myheritage.com)

*Genealogical origin estimates from different testing companies may not be the same even though they tested the same DNA. These three estimates of the same DNA are not the same and may be the result of different geographic area groupings or varied national borders.*

## Ethnicity Estimate

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### By Emily Banks Wooten

Several years ago we were invited to a friend's birthday party that was taking place in a food truck park in Tomball. We'd never been there before but had a wonderful time and talked about going back. Then the pandemic happened and no one went anywhere for a while. While I don't remember what we ate or drank that first visit, I distinctly remember thinking that it was a fun place with a hip vibe that I wanted to visit again.

"403 EATS - Tomball's Food Truck Park" is located at 403 E. Main St. in Old Town Tomball. Closed Tuesdays, it is open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sundays, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays through Wednesdays and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. The phone number is 281-330-4538.

The hub of the venue is a building offering air-conditioned,

indoor seating with free Wi-Fi and HD TVs. Two sides of the building feature a 1,000-square-foot porch with covered seating and powerful fans. Soft drinks, tea, beer, wine and margaritas are available inside, while half a dozen trucks on the perimeter serve a wide variety of food.

Live music and special events are offered throughout the year. The park is family-friendly and dog-friendly too, as long as the dog is on a leash. A grassy, circular patch in the center of the food trucks is the perfect spot for children to play freely, while still under the watchful eyes of their parents.

We returned on a recent Sunday afternoon and it was just as fun as I remembered. Presently, 403 EATS offers karaoke from 5-8 p.m. Sundays, \$5 margaritas and micheladas and \$5 food deals on Tuesdays, date night specials on Wednesdays, bingo





# Food truck parks are fun for the whole family

Offering gourmet cuisine featuring a variety of specialties and ethnic menus

*“403 EATS - Tomball’s Food Truck Park” is located at 403 E. Main St. in Old Town Tomball. Photo by Emily Banks Wooten*

at 7 p.m. on Thursdays, and live music at 7 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

The food truck offerings from which to choose that day were: “Dexter’s Dogs & More,” “Mega Meltz - Cajun Mexican Cuisine,” “Venezuelan Taste,” “Señor Burrito Company - Authentic Mexican Taste,” “El Bitute Peruvian Cuisine” and “Dracula’s Gourmet Kitchen - Featuring Dracula’s Chimney Cakes from Transylvania, Romania.”

I’ve discovered over time that if I’m given too many choices when it comes to food and drink I often become overwhelmed and unable to make a decision at all. If I’m going somewhere that I think this might be an issue, I try to study the menu

online in advance and have an idea of what I might order, while always reserving the right to change my mind of course.

The “Mega Meltz” was tempting because I love both Cajun and Mexican cuisine, but as those are cuisines that we eat fairly often, I wanted to branch out and try something different. I was drawn to the “El Bitute Peruvian Cuisine” but was unable to view the menu online. My next choice was “Venezuelan Taste,” which offered a variety of things that appealed to me so I narrowed it down to two choices with the idea that I’d just make a decision on the spot when I got there.

During my “pre-visit intel,” I also stumbled across a dessert that I’d never seen or heard of before, but that was



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definitely calling out to me. Offered by “Dracula’s Gourmet Kitchen,” it was called a chimney cake, or Kürtöskalács. Through further research, I learned that it is a traditional Hungarian pastry that is wrapped around a wooden spool and slowly turned over an open fire. Although its origins are from Transylvania, they’re now celebrated as the oldest pastry in Hungary, often served as street food. It gets the nickname “chimney cake” from its cylindrical shape, which comes from rolling the dough around a wooden spit that rotates over hot cinder. As the cake bakes, its sprinkling of sugar melts into a sticky caramel coating.

I purchased a couple of cold beers and selected a table on the covered porch near a fan, while Hubby made his way to the “Mega Meltz” truck. He selected a “Cuban Cajun Mex Po-Boy,” which was stuffed with tasso ham, birria beef, pickles, shredded lettuce, mustard, mayo and melted mozzarella cheese and Swiss served on some beautiful fresh Louisiana bread and accompanied by fries. He enjoyed it immensely, sharing a bite with me and it was wonderful.

He raved over how good the bread was, stating, “It had a nice thin layer of crunch but once you bit into it, it was soft and pillowy.”

I approached the “Venezuelan Taste” truck torn between the arepas and the patacons, but selected the “King Patacon Beef,” which was shredded beef, fresh white cheese, avocado and green sauce, sandwiched between flattened fried plantains. I can honestly say that this was one of the best things I’ve ever eaten. Just thinking about it while I type this is making me salivate.

We were both too full after our meals to consider eating dessert but we decided to pick up one of those fascinating chimney cakes to go, with the idea that we’d take it home to our daughter. The choices



*(above right) This is the “King Patacon Beef” from the “Venezuelan Taste” truck which was shredded beef, fresh white cheese, avocado and green sauce, sandwiched between flattened fried plantains.*

*(right) A boudin egg roll, three crawfish pies and some hush puppies from Arnaud’s Cajun Kitchen located at 2615 Montgomery Rd. in Huntsville. Photos by Emily Banks Wooten*









(left) Shrimp Fried Rice from the “Mexihana Conroe” truck at the “Food Truck’n Park & Sports Bar” located at 24900 Hill and Dale Ave. in Splendora.

(above) Arnaud’s Cajun Kitchen is located at 2615 Montgomery Rd. in Huntsville. Photos by Emily Banks Wooten

were cinnamon sugar, walnut, Belgian chocolate, coconut, rainbow sprinkles, chocolate sprinkles and Oreo. We selected the Belgian chocolate one which was a fresh baked chimney cake that was rolled in finely shaved Belgian chocolate. It was stunning to look at. For the sake of perspective, it was about the size of a standard paint roller cover. It was packed up to go with two accompanying dipping sauces - hot fudge and caramel. Daughter loved it and did share some of it with us. It was very good, but as we were now eating it at room temperature, we both agreed that we couldn’t imagine how much better it would be served hot.

We look forward to going back to 403 EATS soon. By taking the Grand Parkway (Hwy. 99), we’re there in just a little over an hour.

“Food Truck’n Park & Sports Bar” is located at 24900 Hill and Dale Ave. in Splendora, not far at all off U.S. Hwy. 59. Closed on Mondays, it’s open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesdays, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7 a.m. to midnight Fridays and Saturdays, and 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sundays. The phone number is 936-236-2606. Karaoke is available every Friday night and there’s either live music or a DJ every Saturday night and drink specials are offered on Sunday Funday. The park is family-friendly and pet-friendly as long as the pet’s on a leash. They also rent the venue for parties.

There are numerous picnic tables under a covered pavilion with several TVs and there’s also ample uncovered seating interspersed among some shade trees. Beer, wine and soft drinks are offered at the bar in the pavilion.

On the Saturday afternoon that we went, there were six food

trucks from which to choose. These included: “The Taco Plug,” “Bye Bye Craving,” “Fat Boyz Pizza - Wood-Fired Brick Oven Pizza,” “Monsta Pasta,” “Renee & Ron’s Paradise Grill,” and “Mexihana Conroe.”

Hubby and I agreed we’d go separate ways, select some items, regroup and share our findings. He headed straight to the “Monsta Pasta” truck and ordered “The Monsta Pasta,” which was a huge, creamy, cheese-covered shrimp and chicken pasta dish. This dish was excellent and easily could have fed a family. We both ate it heartily and still had plenty to take home for Daughter and/or subsequent meals.

I had my eyes on the “Mexihana Conroe” truck. As often happens, my eyes were bigger than my stomach. I ordered shrimp fried rice, gyoza dumpling and egg rolls. There was plenty to share with Hubby and still have some to take home. Every single bite was delicious.

We’ve driven by Arnaud’s Food Park in Huntsville numerous times and it always appeared that there were four or five trucks. We cut out of work a little bit early on a recent Wednesday afternoon and drove over to check it out. On this particular day, there were four or five trucks but only two were open. That’s okay though. There was more than enough to satisfy our hunger at Arnaud’s Cajun Kitchen located at 2615 Montgomery Rd. in Huntsville.

Arnaud’s serves Cajun and Creole cuisine and is open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. There is plenty of outdoor seating nestled among some shade trees and there was a nice breeze blowing the day we were there.



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Although there are several “plates” or “boils,” much of the menu is a la carte. Daughter was with us that day and each of us saw something on the menu that intrigued us. Crab cakes and crawfish pie were calling my name, while Daughter had her eyes on the boudin egg roll and Hubby was leaning toward a bowl of chicken and sausage gumbo.

As those two selected a table for us and picked up some iced teas and water, I made the executive decision to just dive in and order a selection of things that we could all share and enjoy. The man that delivered the food to our table recognized what I'd done, remarking that we had ourselves a sampler. It was an obscene amount of food but we enjoyed every bite we ate and took home plenty to enjoy later. We enjoyed a humongous boudin egg roll, crawfish pies, a crab cake, chicken and sausage gumbo, fried catfish, fries and oodles of hush puppies.

Camp House Creamery, which serves homemade ice creams, was the other food truck open the afternoon we were there. While it looked and smelled delightful, we were far too full from our Cajun/Creole sampler to partake that day. However, I have a feeling we'll be going back soon to try it out. ■

**403 EATS - Tomball's Food Truck Park** is located at 403 E. Main St. in Old Town Tomball. Hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sundays, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays through Wednesdays and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. The phone number is 281-330-4538.

**Food Truck'n Park & Sports Bar** is located at 24900 Hill and Dale Ave. in Splendora. Hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesdays, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7 a.m. to midnight Fridays and Saturdays, and 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sundays. The phone number is 936-236-2606.

**Arnaud's Cajun Kitchen** located at 2615 Montgomery Rd. in Huntsville is the centerpiece of Arnaud's Food Park. Hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. The phone number is 936-239-1139.

**Camp House Creamery** is also located at 2615 Montgomery Rd. in Huntsville. Hours are noon to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays. The phone number is 936-662-1774.

*A “Cuban Cajun Mex Po-Boy” from the “Mega Meltz” truck at “403 EATS -Tomball’s Food Truck Park.” It was stuffed with tasso ham, birria beef, pickles, shredded lettuce, mustard, mayo and melted mozzarella cheese and Swiss served on fresh Louisiana bread and accompanied by a bowl of au jus and French fries.  
Photo by Emily Banks Wooten*





# TEXAS SALAD

*This makes a great side salad, but is also hearty enough to serve as a light summer meal, without heating up the kitchen.*



## SALAD

- 2 cups shredded lettuce
- 1 (15-oz.) can kidney beans, rinsed and drained
- 2 tomatoes, chopped
- 1 (2.25 oz.) can sliced ripe black olives, drained
- 1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup coarsely crushed corn chips

## DRESSING

- 1 large, ripe avocado, chopped
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 2 tablespoons Italian salad dressing
- 1/4 cup minced onion
- 1 (4 oz.) can mild diced green chiles, drained
- 3/4 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- Dash of black pepper

Combine the dressing ingredients and chill until ready to use.

Combine the lettuce, beans, tomatoes and black olives.

Just before serving, mix the dressing into the salad.

Top with corn chips and cheese.

Serves 6-8 as a side salad.



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# For LOVE of the GAME

Small waters make lasting impressions on young anglers

*A small pond or public lake well stocked with fish is a great place to make a big impression on a young angler. Rule No. 1: Make sure youngsters have fun; don't drown them with boredom. If a youth seems more interested in playing with the bait, tossing rocks or grubbing for mussel shells than staring at a cork, let them. (Photo by Matt Williams)*

## By Matt Williams

It's funny how some things just never change.

I cut my fishing teeth way back in the 1960s, pond hopping mostly in rural Collin County. It was boyish rite of summer, much of it spent shagging grasshoppers and crickets with a cane pole in one hand and a tin can in the other, air holes punched in the lid to help keep the wiggling baits lively.

The ponds I had access to as a kid were good ones — loaded with bluegills, channel cat and bass that were almost always willing to cooperate. There is no telling how many fish were caught from those special waters by friends and family. Time spent watching a bobber dance in the wind ranks among my fondest childhood memories.

The experiences obviously made an everlasting imprint on a young mind. I'll turn 61 this year. I still get just excited seeing a cork go under as I ever did.

## Places to Go

Texas is a watery gold mine of fishin' holes. A small pond stocked with fish is a great place to make a big impression a young angler.

One of the neat things about stock tanks is the convenience factor. Potential sweet spots like laydown logs, weedbeds, stumps or stick-ups are often within easy casting distance of the bank.

Another is availability. Stock tanks are everywhere, and many of them see limited traffic over the course of the year.

If you own one, or know somebody who does, now would be a good time pay it a visit. Some golf courses may even allow fishing.

Always get permission before entering private property. Trespassing can get you in hot water with the law, and the fines can be brisk.

If a landowner gives you permission to fish, be respectful. Leave every gate like you found it, don't leave any trash behind and never keep any fish unless the landowner says you can.

It's not a bad idea to show some appreciation by asking the landowner if there are any odd jobs around the place you could do in exchange for fishing. One good deed could lead to long-term access to a magical place.





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### Public Options

There are several other good options for introducing a beginner to fishing that don't require a key to a gate.

Two of the best options for city dwellers are Community Fishing Lakes (CFL's) and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Neighborhood Fishin' Program (NFP). There are dozens of CFL's located within the city limits or within public parks all around the state. You can find a full list with regional breakdown and lake sizes/locations at [tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/recreational/lakes/cfl](http://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/recreational/lakes/cfl).

The NFP program is built around 18 public lakes and ponds ranging 1/2 acre to 7 acres in size.

These lakes are located in close proximity to larger cities including Dallas, Houston, Tyler, Amarillo, Austin, College Station, San Angelo San Antonio and Waco. Most are in parks that are well-lit with easy access.

Neighborhood Fishin' lakes are a great deal for young anglers. Kids under 17 can fish for free. Better yet, the fish are almost always willing to bite.

On April 18, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department began stocking the NFP lakes with thousands of hatchery raised channel catfish. Fish will be stocked every other week through October.

Anglers can keep five fish per day of any size and everyone under 17 needs a fishing license and freshwater fishing endorsement. Be careful when handling channel cat. Their pectoral and dorsal fins are sharp and pack quite a sting if they break the skin.

Channel cat are easy to catch using night crawlers, minnows and prepared baits. Fishing is allowed with pole and line only, no more than two poles per person. Anglers can keep five catfish per day, no minimum size limit.

There also are well-stocked waters at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens. There are three lakes available. Rods, reels and bait are provided at no charge, but there is a nominal admission fee to the facility. Adult supervision is required. TPWD staff is on site to assist anglers if needed.

Lake Zebco (1.2 acres) is the largest of the TFFC ponds. It has produced some prize catches, including a 10.72 pound largemouth bass, a 54.30 pound blue catfish and a 21.70 pound channel catfish.

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### Other Hotspots Close to Shore

Public fishing piers, marina boat stalls and shoreline docks can be equally good options for those who prefer to stick close to the bank.

Fishing piers can be found on just about every public water body. Some are used for docking boats, while others are designated strictly for public lounging and fishing.

There are public fishing piers owned by city and county governments that in many cases can be used for free, while others are operated by marinas or other lakeside businesses that may charge a nominal fee for access. Many of the them offer handicap access.

Piers almost always hold sorts of fish like bluegills, bass, crappie, catfish, hybrid stripers and white bass. The fish are prone to gather around underwater support pilings as well as brush piles that are often placed at strategic locations around the perimeter. Fishing can be particularly good at night around piers that are well lit.

### Easy Does It

Make sure youngsters have fun; don't drown them with boredom.

If a youth seems more interested in playing with the bait, tossing rocks or grubbing for mussel shells than staring at a cork, let them. The last thing you want to do is turn a fun experience into a bad one. Be patient. You might consider hiring a reputable fishing guide.

### Fish That Bite

Kids like action. It is always best to go after fish that are easy to fool and don't require much skill to catch.

Here are the best freshwater choices:

**Bluegills:** Bluegills and other small sunfish live in tall numbers in lakes and ponds all around the state. The fish aren't big, but they think they are. The hard-fighting panfish are almost always willing to bite a small worm or cricket.

Sunfish also will hit artificial baits like small jigs, spinners and popping bugs on fly gear, but half the fun is watching a cork disappear. Use tiny small hooks and light line.

**White Bass:** White bass are hard-hitting bruisers that live most of their lives in large schools in open water on big lakes. Whites usually demand a little skill as far as casting goes, but bites are easy to come by when a feeding spree is underway.

Not every Texas lake has white bass, but a bunch of them do. The best summer action usually occurs away from the bank when the fish are schooling on the surface or grouped on underwater humps and roadbeds.

**Catfish:** Catfish including channels and blues are prolific species found in many lakes and rivers. The whiskered fish can be enticed using live minnows, earthworms, cut bait or manufactured stink baits. They will feed by eyesight, but also rely on their sensitive olfactory glands to locate food.

Perhaps the best way to catch numbers is to fish around spots baited with soured maize, wheat, range cubes, cottonseed cake or soybean chips. The bait concentrates fish to small area.

Running noodles is another good option. Noodles are passive fishing devices easily made using a 2 foot sections of foam swimming pool noodle. Tie a piece of heavy duty fishing line in the middle and add a small circle hook and weight to keep the bait down. You'll know you have a taker when noodle takes off or stands on end.

More isn't always best when it comes to noodling, especially when the fish are biting well. Start out with 10-20 noodles and stay with them. ■

*Running noodles for catfish is a great option for kids. Noodles are passive fishing devices easily made using a 2 foot sections of foam swimming pool noodles. Photo by Matt Williams)*







# Texas is messin' with me



## By Barbara White

I understand the need for some basic rules and regulations to maintain order. Without them, we freedom-loving Americans would be running around willy-nilly, doing God knows what, stepping on each other's toes and getting on each other's nerves.

But, let's face it, we've all had our moments when we think, because we are special, certain rules and laws should not apply to us. I had one of those moments the other day as I sent off a request to a county clerk in another state for a certified copy of my birth certificate. Not being a world traveler, it is a document I have never before needed in my entire adult life and, frankly, didn't realize I did not have. The only reason I need it now is that I am due for in-person renewal of my driver's license and the State of Texas has decided that in order to legally navigate the highways and byways of this great state, I need to prove when and where I was born.

Good Lord, don't they know me by now? I've been licensed to drive in this state since 1968. They have my fingerprints, not-so-flattering photos going back a half-century and a not-very-accurate physical description (I have always been just a teeny tiny bit shorter and heavier than described on my license and, as my birth certificate might suggest, my hair hasn't really been brown for quite some time).

They can also check for any run-ins with the law I may have had over the years, although their records may not go back that far so let me fill in any gaps:

I was a few weeks shy of my 19th birthday and expected to be back in uniform at my waitressing job the next day. My older sister, then an office assistant in a psychologist's office, also needed to get back to work. That is why on a Sunday afternoon the two of us loaded into my dad's old car and left the beachfront apartment in Corpus Christi he had rented for the summer and headed back home to Houston.

It was the grownup version of the "working vacations" I had experienced throughout my childhood. Dad worked, auditing chemical and manufacturing plants in various areas of the western part of the country, while the rest of the family vacationed in whatever city the plant was located. Not too shabby for us, as it often meant summers and spring breaks in fun places like San Francisco and Los Angeles, along with some sleepy, wide-spot-in-the-road locales. As long as the motel had a swimming pool, I was happy. Corpus Christi was added to the list after my dad transferred to the Houston office, his last stop before retirement.

Anyway, my dad was already down there, doing his auditing thing. My mother, sister and I drove down to the coast on Thursday in her car, the nice one with the air-conditioning and automatic transmission. She and my dad would return in that car in a couple of weeks. My sister and I would return to Houston to meet our work obligations in my dad's old car, the one without air-conditioning, the one with the manual transmission.

At my dad's insistence, both my sister and I had our first driving lessons in that old car. "You need to know how to drive a stick shift," he told each of us during our respective entries into the wonderful world of motoring. My sister, noting that there was a perfectly good car with an automatic transmission parked right next to my dad's rattletrap in the driveway, endured a shifting lesson or two but never quite grasped the concept. When my turn came along a few years later, I was determined to learn to drive the darn thing, likely spurred by the fact that my sister could not.

I wasn't very good at driving a stick shift, but I got to where I could pretty much make the thing go where I wanted with only the occasional lurch or stall.

For that reason, I was behind the wheel as we headed out of Corpus.

The only part of the trip that concerned me in the least was



getting over the Harbor Bridge between Corpus Christi and Portland. Making it up the steep incline might require some downshifting and I could imagine not being able to find the right gear, rolling back down and ending up splashed all over the front page of the Corpus Christi Caller-Times. It went fine. Nothing but smooth sailing ahead.

We were almost home when I either became mesmerized by the monotony of the drive or briefly dozed off just west of Sealy on I-10. I found myself going onto the highway shoulder. Having been so focused on the gear-shifting aspect of driving, my instinct was to hit the clutch, which sent us free-wheeling. We spun around several times before striking a guardrail and coming to rest in the median. By some miracle, my sister and I survived without a scratch, but the car's right front fender was lodged firmly against the tire.

Unless you count rice fields, there was nothing within sight. We had scared the bejeebers out of a young man who had been traveling behind us and who'd had to dodge our spinning car. He was nice enough to stop and, obviously a better driver than yours truly, we accepted his offer of a ride to a gas station in Sealy. A mechanic took us back to our car, where a Texas Highway Patrol trooper was busy running the license plate number to see what idiot had managed to drive off a perfectly good highway.

I received tickets for leaving the scene of an accident and damaging the poor guardrail. The mechanic pried the fender away from the tire and we drove home.

Two years later, again home from college for the summer and having resumed my restaurant gig, a fellow waitress and I decided to spend part of our afternoon break looking for a pearl snap western shirt for her husband's birthday. We knew there was a western wear store not too far away on the Katy Freeway but didn't know exactly where. I was driving down the feeder road, looking for the western wear shop on the opposite side of the highway, and was so diligent in my search that I didn't notice a utility truck in front of me had stopped for a red light. It didn't even dent the big steel bumper of the truck but it totaled my car. Once again, nobody was injured.

God must have big plans for me. I'm still waiting.

The HPD officer who responded to the scene did not give me a ticket. I don't know why, but I'm not one to complain about such things.

About a year later, living in Nacogdoches and working in Lufkin, I was running late for work and got a speeding ticket. No contest. I was speeding.

All of these events happened in the 1970s and I apparently got all of my bad driving out of the way during that decade.

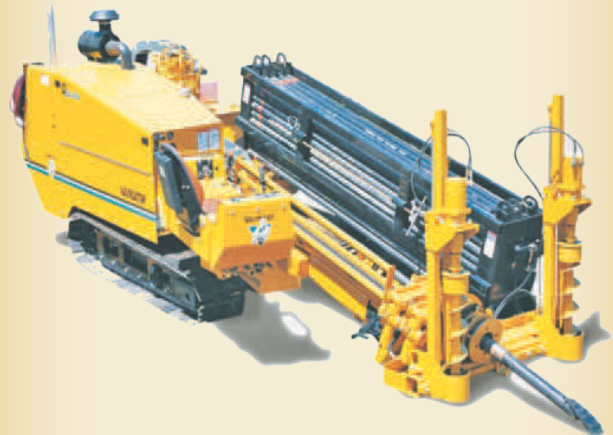
Long story short, and pounding on wood, I have not received a ticket or had an accident since.

So, State of Texas, you now know everything there is to know that is the least bit pertinent to my utilizing the public roadways. Except, of course, exactly where and when I was born. You will have that information soon.

I've decided, in this case at least, it is best not to mess with Texas, even though I think Texas is messing with me. ■

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*This trip around East Texas had me walking with money in hand, ready to shop while taking pictures of great finds for you. I was so pleased to see many more just like me, excited to explore aisles and aisles of items for purchase. Nothing beats in-person shopping trips. Enjoy!* — Kelli



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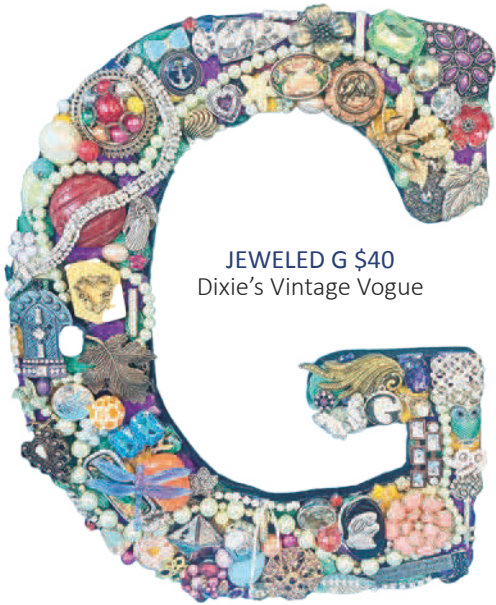
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# SHOP EAST TEXAS



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# CALENDAR

## JULY

### **Tyler**

Rose City Air Fest 2022/Tyler Airport  
*JULY 1*

### **The Woodlands**

Matchbox Twenty at the Pavilion Event Center  
*JULY 1*

### **Tyler**

Thunder Over Cedar Creek Lake Air Show  
*JULY 1-4*

### **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*

### **The Woodlands**

Star Spangled Salute/ CW Mitchell Pavilion  
*JULY 3*

### **Lufkin**

Robert Earl Keen at the Temple Theater  
*JULY 3*

### **Tyler**

Freedom Fighter 5K and Lil' Firecracker Kids Dash  
*JULY 4*

### **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*

### **Ellen Trout Zoo**

Fourth of July Celebration & Fireworks Show  
*JULY 4*

### **Downtown Lufkin**

Late Night Shopping  
*JULY 7*

### **Canton**

Canton Balloon Fest 2022  
*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*

### **Downtown Lufkin**

Christmas in July Sale  
*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*

**Crosby**

The Bellamy Brothers at Backyard Bar  
*JULY 22*

**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*

**Canton**

First Monday Trade Days  
*JULY 28-31*

**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*

# AUGUST

**Houston**

Leon Bridges at White Oak Music Hall  
*AUGUST 3-4*

**Houston**

2022 Texas Greek Picnic Weekend/Emancipation Park  
*AUGUST 4*

**Downtown Lufkin**

Late Night Shopping  
*AUGUST 4*

**Houston**

Kevin Hart at the Toyota Center  
*AUGUST 5*

**Winnie**

Larry's Old Time Trade Days  
*AUGUST 5-7*

**Houston**

Los Lobos at the Heights Theater  
*AUGUST 10*

**Lufkin**

Pines Film Series: Some Like It Hot/Pines Theater  
*AUGUST 12*

**Carthage**

David Frizzell at Carthage Civic Center  
*AUGUST 13*

**Houston**

2022 Houston Reggae Fest/Hermann Square  
*AUGUST 13*

**Tyler**

East Texas Wedding Extravaganza/Tyler Rose Garden  
*AUGUST 13*

**Gladewater**

Oilfield Special Car And Truck Show  
*AUGUST 13*

**Downtown Lufkin**

Picture Perfect Boutique Crawl  
*AUGUST 13*

**Sugar Land**

Rick Springfield at Smart Financial Center  
*AUGUST 14*

**Henderson**

168th East Texas Sacred Harp Singing Convention  
*AUGUST 14-15*

**Port Arthur**

Sabine Causeway 5K  
*AUGUST 19*

**Colmesneil**

Back To School Rally/Victory Camp Colmesneil  
*AUGUST 20*

**Galveston**

AIA Sandcastle Contest 2022  
*AUGUST 20*

**Corsicana**

John Conlee at the Palace Theater  
*AUGUST 20*

**Montgomery**

Montgomery County Home & Outdoor Living Show/Expo Center  
*AUGUST 20-21*

**Humble**

Humble Gun Show 2022

**Conroe**

Comic Conroe 2022/Expo Center  
*AUGUST 26*

**Lufkin**

Color of Hope Color Run 2022/ Ellen Trout Zoo  
*AUGUST 26*

**Lufkin**

Family Day at Texas Forestry Museum  
*AUGUST 27*

**The Woodlands**

Australian Pink Floyd Show/CW Mitchell Pavilion  
*AUGUST 27*

**Sugar Land**

Goo Goo Dolls at Smart Financial Center  
*AUGUST 30*

# SEPTEMBER

**The Woodlands**

Imagine Dragons at CW Mitchell Pavilion  
*SEPTEMBER 1*



# CALENDAR

## **Downtown Lufkin**

Late Night Shopping  
*SEPTEMBER 1*

## **Pasadena**

Pasadena Livestock Show And Rodeo  
*SEPTEMBER 2-10*

## **Beaumont**

The Oak Ridge Boys at the Jefferson Theater  
*SEPTEMBER 8-9*

## **Tyler**

2022 Troubadour Festival  
*SEPTEMBER 10-11*

## **Lufkin**

Jeepin' For Jesus Off Road Expo/Ellen Trout Zoo  
*SEPTEMBER 10*

## **Tyler**

9/11 Tribute Car And Truck Show 2022  
*SEPTEMBER 10*

## **Baytown**

Jason Boland and the Stragglers/D's Irish Tavern  
*SEPTEMBER 10-11*

## **Kingwood**

Texas In A Pickle Festival/Town Center Park  
*SEPTEMBER 10*

## **Houston**

Michael Buble at the Toyota Center  
*SEPTEMBER 13*

## **Houston**

Twenty-One Pilots at the Toyota Center  
*SEPTEMBER 14*

## **Lufkin**

Texas State Forest Festival/Expo Center  
*SEPTEMBER 15-18*

## **Anahuac**

Texas Gator Fest  
*SEPTEMBER 16*

## **The Woodlands**

Sammy Hagar at CW Mitchell Pavilion  
*SEPTEMBER 16*

## **Houston**

Houston Home And Garden Market/ NRG Center  
*SEPTEMBER 16-18*

## **Orange**

Orange County Gun Show/Convention/ Expo Center  
*SEPTEMBER 17*

## **Beaumont**

6th Annual Craft Beer Festival/ Downtown Event Center  
*SEPTEMBER 17*

## **Downtown Lufkin**

Fall in Love Date Night  
*SEPTEMBER 22*

## **Houston**

Billy Joel at Minute Maid Park  
*SEPTEMBER 23-24*

## **Galveston**

Wild Texas Galveston Island Shrimp Festival  
*SEPTEMBER 23-24*

## **Tyler**

East Texas State Fair  
*SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 2*

## **Tomball**

Suzy Bogguss at Main Street Crossing  
*SEPTEMBER 23*

## **Humble**

Houston Gun Collectors Show/Humble Civic Center  
*SEPTEMBER 24-25*

## **Nacogdoches**

Texas Gun and Knife Show/Expo Center  
*SEPTEMBER 26-27*

## **Winnie**

Texas Rice Festival  
*SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 1*

## **Houston**

Everybody's Favorite BBQ and Hot Sauce Festival/Discovery Green  
*SEPTEMBER 30*

## **OCTOBER**

## **Houston**

Weird Al Yankovic at Cullen Performance Hall  
*OCTOBER 1*

## **Downtown Lufkin**

Lufkin's Bistro  
*OCTOBER 1*



**Houston**  
Bridal and Wedding Expo/  
George R Brown Center  
*OCTOBER 2*

**Houston**  
Shawn Mendes at the Toyota  
Center  
*OCTOBER 4*

**Downtown Lufkin**  
Ghouls Night Out Late Night  
Shopping  
*OCTOBER 6*

**Center**  
46th Annual East Texas Poultry  
Festival  
*OCTOBER 6-8*

**Houston**  
First Ladies of Soul at Jones Hall  
*OCTOBER 7-9*

**Marshall**  
2022 Fire Ant Festival  
*OCTOBER 8*

**Edom**  
50th Annual Edom Arts Festival/  
Downtown  
*OCTOBER 8-9*

**Galveston**  
Galveston Island Brewing  
Company 5k Beer Run  
*OCTOBER 8*

**Lindale**  
Harvest Hustle 5k 2022  
*OCTOBER 8*

**Houston**  
Steve Vai at the House of Blues  
*OCTOBER 12*

**Tyler**  
89th Annual Texas Rose Festival  
*OCTOBER 13-16*

**LaMarque**  
Bayou Fest 2022  
*OCTOBER 14-15*

**Mineola**  
2022 Quilt Show/Mineola  
League of the Arts  
*OCTOBER 14-15*

**Henderson**  
28th Annual PRCA Rodeo/Youth  
Expo Center  
*OCTOBER 14-15*

**Marshall**  
Fire Ant Festival 5k Run 2022  
*OCTOBER 14*

**Livingston**  
Trade Days at Pedigo Park  
*OCTOBER 15-16*

**Spring**  
Ronnie Milsap at Dosey Doe the  
Big Barn  
*OCTOBER 15*

**Tyler**  
Tyler Rose Half Marathon and  
5K Race  
*OCTOBER 15*

**Lufkin**  
Bonnie And Clyde: A Musical  
Comedy/Pines Theater  
*OCTOBER 15*

**Coldspring**  
37th Annual Wolf Creek Car,  
Truck and Bike Show  
*OCTOBER 15*

**Houston**  
Gypsy Kings at the Arena  
Theater  
*OCTOBER 16*

**Nacogdoches**  
2022 Pineywoods Fair/Expo  
Center  
*OCTOBER 17*

**Longview**  
Longview Wine Festival 2022  
*OCTOBER 18*

**Gilmer**  
East Texas Yamboree 2022  
*OCTOBER 19-22*

**Ellen Trout Zoo**  
Zoo Boo  
*OCTOBER 21 & 22*

**Houston**  
Fall Home and Garden Show/  
NRG Center  
*OCTOBER 21-23*

**Ben Wheeler**  
2022 Feral Hog Festival  
*OCTOBER 22*

**Sugar Land**  
Frankie Valli and the Four  
Seasons/Smart Financial Center  
*OCTOBER 22*

**Longview**  
ETX Brewers Guild  
HomeBierFest/Cobb Convention  
Center  
*OCTOBER 22*

**Downtown Lufkin**  
Heritage Festival  
*OCTOBER 22*

**Tyler**  
Lone Star Gun and Knife Show  
2022/Harvey Hall  
*OCTOBER 24-25*

**Longview**  
Harvest Festival and Livestock  
Show  
*OCTOBER 26-29*

**The Woodlands**  
Chris Stapleton a CW Mitchell  
Pavilion  
*OCTOBER 28*

**Houston**  
Wings Over Houston Air Show/  
Ellington Field  
*OCTOBER 29-30*

**Colmesneil**  
Harvest Festival and Pumpkin  
Patch/Victory Camp Colmesneil  
*OCTOBER 29*

**Mineola**  
19th Annual Iron Horse Car,  
Truck And Motorcycle Show  
*OCTOBER 29*

**Henderson**  
Annual Heritage Syrup Festival  
*OCTOBER 29*

**Houston**  
International Quilt Market/  
George R Brown Center  
*OCTOBER 29-31*





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**woodville pellets**

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# LIVINGSTON TRADE DAYS

IN PEDIGO PARK

**SATURDAY • 9A-5P**

**SUNDAY • 9A-2P**



UNIQUE ARTISANS  
RUSTIC CRAFTS  
VINTAGE COLLECTIBLES  
FOOD & FUN

**2022 FALL MARKETS**  
OCTOBER 15-16 & NOVEMBER 19-20

**2023 SPRING MARKETS**  
MARCH 18-19 & MAY 13-14

**2023 FALL MARKETS**  
OCTOBER 14-15 & NOVEMBER 18-19

ON US Hwy 59 North  
3/4 mile North of Hwy 190  
Exit 434D Northbound  
Exit 432B Southbound



**FREE**  
ADMISSION  
& PARKING



**936-327-3656**

VISITLIVINGSTONTX.COM

## LIVINGSTON SPECIALTY MERCHANTS' GUILD

### SHOP



- BARDS LLC
- CHAMPAGNE CAKERY
- CIRCLE W TEES & BOUTIQUE
- COATS LIVINGSTON JEWELERS
- CONSIGNORS CENTRAL
- DOWNTOWN TREASURES
- GOBEL WEST
- GOKEY'S OLD TOWN EMPORIUM
- GOODEYE VINTAGE & COSTUME
- GOOD GOLLY MISS MOLLY'S
- HAPPY CAMPER
- HOME GROWN
- JULEE K'S SWEET CREATIONS
- KENZI'S KLOSET
- LIVINGSTON FEED & FARM SUPPLY
- LIQUIDATION STATION
- LIVINGSTON TRADE DAYS
- MADONNA'S RESALE & FLEA MARKET
- MARSHA'S
- MICHE'S MERCANTILE
- PETALZ BY ANNIE
- POTS, PANS & MORE RESALE
- RAINDANCE DESIGNS
- RUBY CATTLE COMPANY
- RUDY'S HONEY
- SEW FANCY
- SHERYL'S FLOWERS & GIFTS
- VINTAGE ROSE



### DINE

- AARON'S TACO SHOP
- ALMA'S COURTHOUSE WHISTLESTOP CAFE
- BLUE DUCK KITCHEN & BAR
- THE BULL SHACK COFFEE & SMOOTHIES
- EL BURRITO MEXICAN RESTAURANT
- FLORIDA'S KITCHEN
- HITCH-N-POST BAR-B-Q
- JAVA QUEST
- MYLI'S SWEAT ICE
- PIT ROW PIT STOP
- SHRIMP BOAT MANNYS



### STAY

- WOODSY HOLLOW CAMPGROUND
- THE YELLOW ROSE CABIN B&B
- AMERICAS BEST VALUE INN & SUITES
- HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS HOTEL SUITES
- LA QUINTA BY WYNDHAM
- MOTEL 6



### PLAY

- CITY PARKS & RECREATION
- ANNIVERSARY PARK
- MATTHEWS STREET PARK
- PEDIGO PARK
- ACROSS THE TRACKS
- DOUBLE CREEK FARM
- HERITAGE PARK
- LIVINGSTON MAIN STREET
- LIVINGSTON PIECEMAKERS QUILT GUILD
- LIVINGSTON POLK COUNTY CHAMBER
- POLK COUNTY COMMERCE CENTER
- POLK COUNTY MEMORIAL MUSEUM
- TEMPE CREEK VINEYARD & FARMS
- THE VAULT VENUE





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**CADILLAC**

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 ACROSS FROM HOME DEPOT - HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL



**2022 CADILLAC XT4, XT5, AND XT6 MODELS**

**0.9% APR<sup>1</sup>**  
 FOR **48 MONTHS** FOR WELL-QUALIFIED BUYERS

PLUS  
**\$500** PURCHASE ALLOWANCE<sup>2</sup>

1. Monthly payment is \$21.22 for every \$1,000 financed. Average example down payment is 16.1%. Some customers may not qualify. Not available with lease and some other offers. Take new retail delivery by 7/5/22. 2. Not available with lease and some other offers. Take new retail delivery by 7/5/22. © 2022 General Motors. All Rights Reserved. Cadillac®