

Issue 21
Spring 2023

East Texas

INSIDE

**Crafting Your
Own Wine**

**Life and Legacy
of Tex Ritter**



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



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FROM THE EDITOR

Dear readers,

As the days grow longer and the temperatures begin to warm up, we can't help but feel excited for the arrival of spring in East Texas. With its beautiful blooms, festivals, and outdoor activities, springtime in East Texas is truly something special.

In this issue of our magazine, we are thrilled to bring you a collection of stories, photos, and tips that showcase the best of East Texas. From exploring the local flora and fauna to attending spring festivals and events, we hope to inspire you to get out and enjoy all that this season has to offer.

One of the highlights of spring in East Texas is the blooming of the dogwoods, and we have some of the best places to view these beautiful trees.

Finally, we couldn't forget about the rich history and culture of East Texas, and we have included features on local artists, musicians, and community events that celebrate the region's unique heritage.

As always, we hope that this issue of our magazine inspires you to explore, learn, and connect with the beauty and wonder of East Texas. We thank you for your continued support and look forward to sharing more stories with you in the future.

Warmly,

~ Debbie Dickerson
East Texan editor



On The Cover



Photo by Debra Purcell.
See full story on page 16.

Meet the staff

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Kelli Barnes

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Debbie Dickerson

Design & Graphics Team

Amy Holzworth

Beth Faircloth

Advertising Team

Madison Bland

Elizabeth Guzman

Donna Hammer

Ashley Keenan

Kay Loy Schrimsher

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Alvin Holley, owner

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



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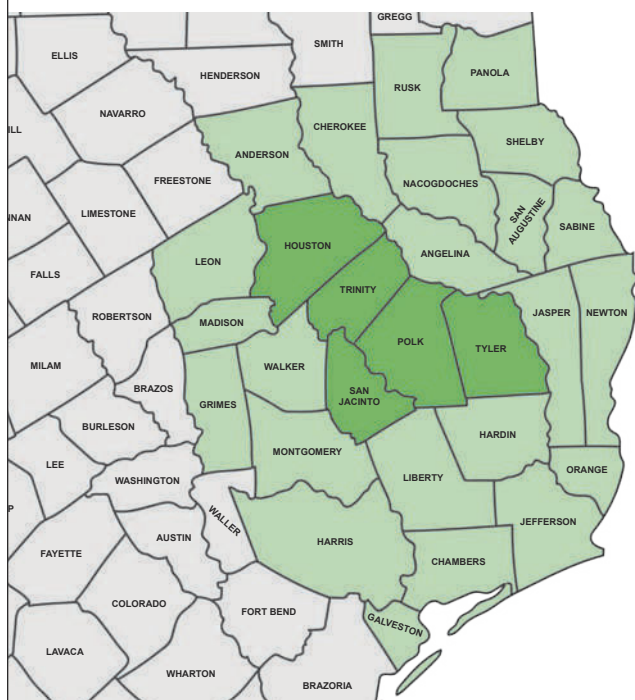


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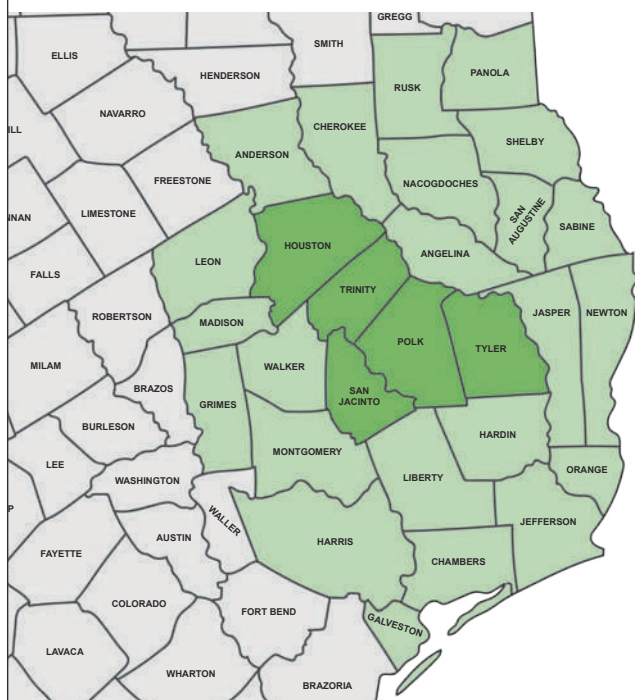


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THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF TEX RITTER

America's First Singing Cowboy Superstar



THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF TEX RITTER

America's First Singing Cowboy Superstar



By Mollie LaSalle

If you're looking for something to do on a beautiful Saturday, might I suggest taking a little drive to Carthage. Carthage is the county seat of Panola County, and is known as the Gas Capital of the United States, and the friendliest spot in the world. Carthage is also home to the world-famous Texas Country Music Hall of Fame and Tex Ritter Museum.

The Texas Country Music Hall of Fame and Tex Ritter Museum was the inspiration of Tommie Ritter Smith, who is the president, co-founder, and Tex's cousin. The museum's first location was the top floor of an antebellum home in 1992, and was known as the Tex Ritter Museum. Created and staffed by Smith, her husband, and a handful of volunteers, it was a hit, and was expanded in 1997 to include the Hall of Fame exhibits. When Smith visited the Ritter family in California, she was able to see what the family had in their collection; books, guitars, clothes, every record he ever made, his suits by the famous western designer Nudie Cohn, known as "Nudie suits", and so much more. Ritter's family donated all of Tex's memorabilia to the museum, creating the need for a larger space to house everything. To make room for the expansion, a new, larger Texas Country Music Hall of Fame and Tex Ritter Museum opened in 2002 in a state of the art 2.5 million dollar facility. To date, over 30,000 plus fans have visited from all around the world.



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Woodward Maurice (Tex) Ritter was born in Murvaul, Texas, January 12, 1905. He grew up on the family farm and attended grade school in Carthage. The family later moved to Nederland, and Ritter went on to graduate with honors from South Park High School in Beaumont. He entered the University of Texas at Austin in 1922, and later enrolled at Northwestern Law School in Chicago with the intentions of becoming a lawyer.

Ritter wound up in New York City in 1928, and in 1932 starred in the city's first radio broadcast western, "The Lone Star Rangers" where he sang and told tales of the Old West. In 1936, he moved to Los Angeles, and made his film debut in "Song of the Gringo". With his easy drawl, engaging smile, and lanky presence, Ritter starred in over 70 B Westerns, spanning 1936-1948. He won an Academy Award in 1953 for Best Original Song for his rendition of "The Ballad of High Noon" (Do Not Forsake Me) from the film of the same name. Also in the 1950's, he began making television appearances,

starting in 1953, and continuing into the 1960's.

Ritter met his wife, Dorothy Fay Southworth during the early years of his film career. Dorothy Fay was an actress who appeared in several B grade westerns in the late 1930's; she also made four movies with Ritter. Tex and Dorothy were married in 1941. They had two sons, Thomas, and John. Thomas was born with Cerebral Palsy, and his father was one of the founding members of the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation, which was began in 1949, in Los Angeles. Ritter's other son, John, became famous in television in the 1970's, mostly notably in the sitcom "Three's Company". Notable movies he appeared in include "Problem Child" in 1990, its sequel in 1991, and the critically acclaimed "Sling Blade" in 1996. John Ritter passed away in 2003, just six days shy of his 55th birthday from an aortic dissection. John's brother Tom had surgery four years ago to correct an aortic aneurysm, which, had it gone undetected, would have most likely killed him. Ritter's family believes now that this is what led to Tex's early passing as his



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Ritter was one of the founding members of the Country Music Association in Nashville and was the driving force behind the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum there. He was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1964. There is a plaque in his honor which says "One of America's most illustrious and versatile stars of radio, television, records, motion pictures, and Broadway stage. Untiring pioneer and champion of the country music industry, his devotion to God, his family, and his country is a continuing inspiration to his countless friends throughout the world." The following year, he started working for WSM and the Grand Ole Opry, where he was a member and later earned a lifetime membership. In 1970, he entered the race for United States Senate in Tennessee, trying to unseat incumbent Al Gore, Sr., but lost the nomination of the republican party to US Representative Bill Brock, who went on to defeat Gore in the general election.

Ritter died January 2, 1974 in Nashville, just days before his 69th birthday; it was his wish to be returned to Texas upon his death. Paul Smith, a Nederland local explained, "he wanted to come back here and be buried, he was proud of here, like we were proud of him, kind of a celebrity who came from a small town." He is buried at Oak Bluff Memorial Park in Port Neches, just a stone's throw from his beloved Nederland, where Tex Ritter Park and the Heritage Windmill Museum are located. In 1980, Ritter was inducted into the Western Performers Hall of Fame at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, and was among the first group of inductees into the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame in Carthage in 1998. He is also a member of the Museum of the Gulf Coast

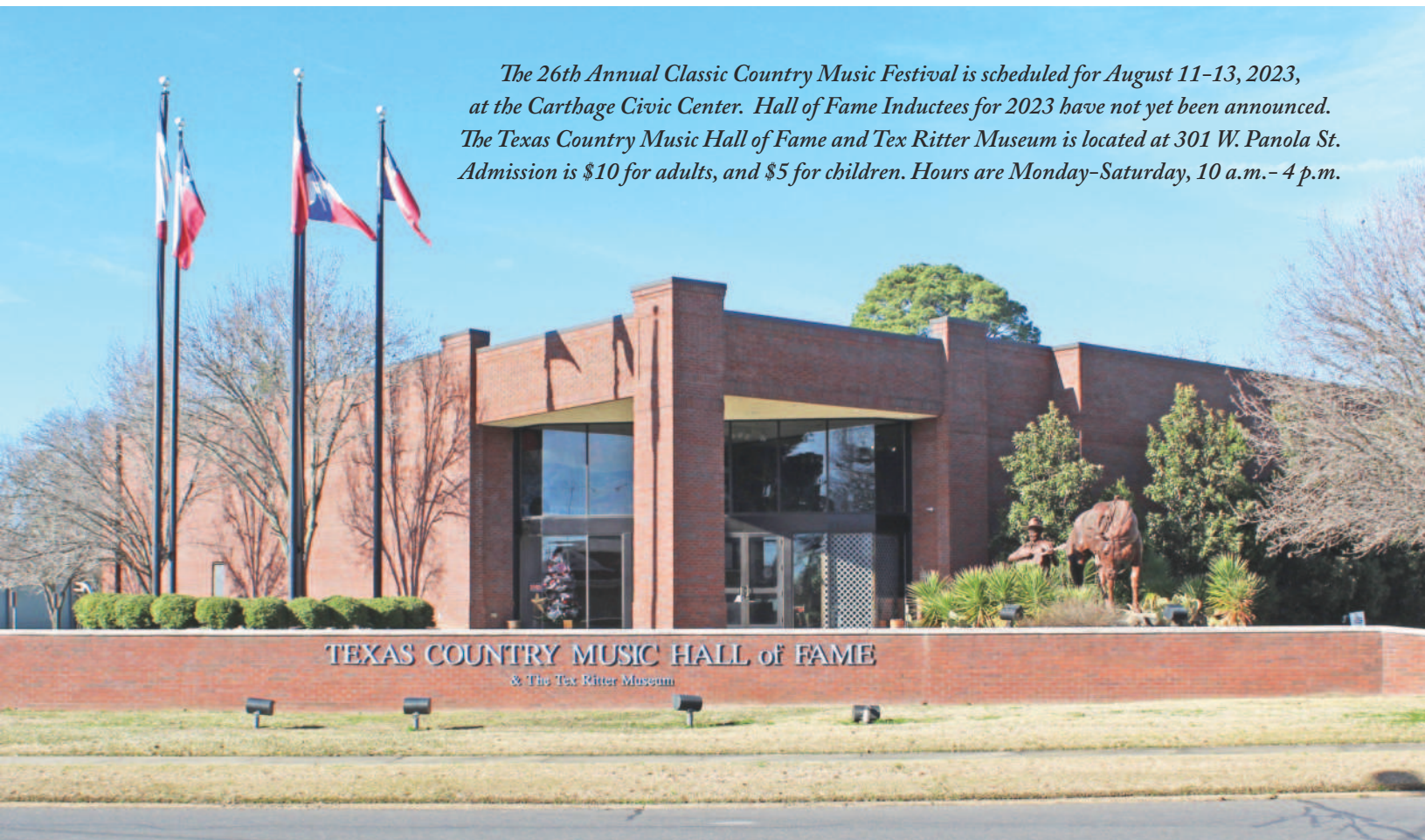
Hall of Fame in Port Arthur, and has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame for his contributions to the recording industry.

Tex Ritter ascended from humble roots to climb the ladder of fame and stardom at a time when America needed an escape. The country was in the depths of the Great Depression; going to the movies to see their favorite cowboy stars in action was a welcome respite during hard times. Ritter ranked right up there with Gene Autry and Roy Rogers in popularity, and it didn't hurt that he had a marvelous set of pipes which he used to serenade young and old alike. Ritter's death marked the passing of one of Country music's finest and most respected talents.

The Texas Country Music Hall of Fame and Tex Ritter Museum was founded to honor the contributions of native Texans to the country music profession. The museum highlights individuals, either living or dead, who are nationally recognized in their field. Beginning in 1998, the Hall of Fame has inducted 52 performers, with the most recent honorees Buddy Holly, David Frizzell, and the Texas Tenors inducted in 2022. The ceremony takes place the second weekend in August, with a kick-off and hay ride on Thursday. The John Ritter Tribute Showcase, on Friday night, spotlights young talent from the region, and is held at the Carthage Civic Center. Saturday's festivities feature the Hall of Fame Show and Celebration; 2022 was the 25th anniversary of the three day festival.

Notable honorees to the Hall of Fame include: Gene Autry, Willie Nelson, Jim Reeves, Ernest Tubb, Waylon Jennings, Dale Evans, Bob Wills, Ray Price, Tanya Tucker, Mac Davis, Johnny Lee, J.P. Richardson, Roger Miller, The Gatlin Brothers,

The 26th Annual Classic Country Music Festival is scheduled for August 11-13, 2023, at the Carthage Civic Center. Hall of Fame Inductees for 2023 have not yet been announced. The Texas Country Music Hall of Fame and Tex Ritter Museum is located at 301 W. Panola St. Admission is \$10 for adults, and \$5 for children. Hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



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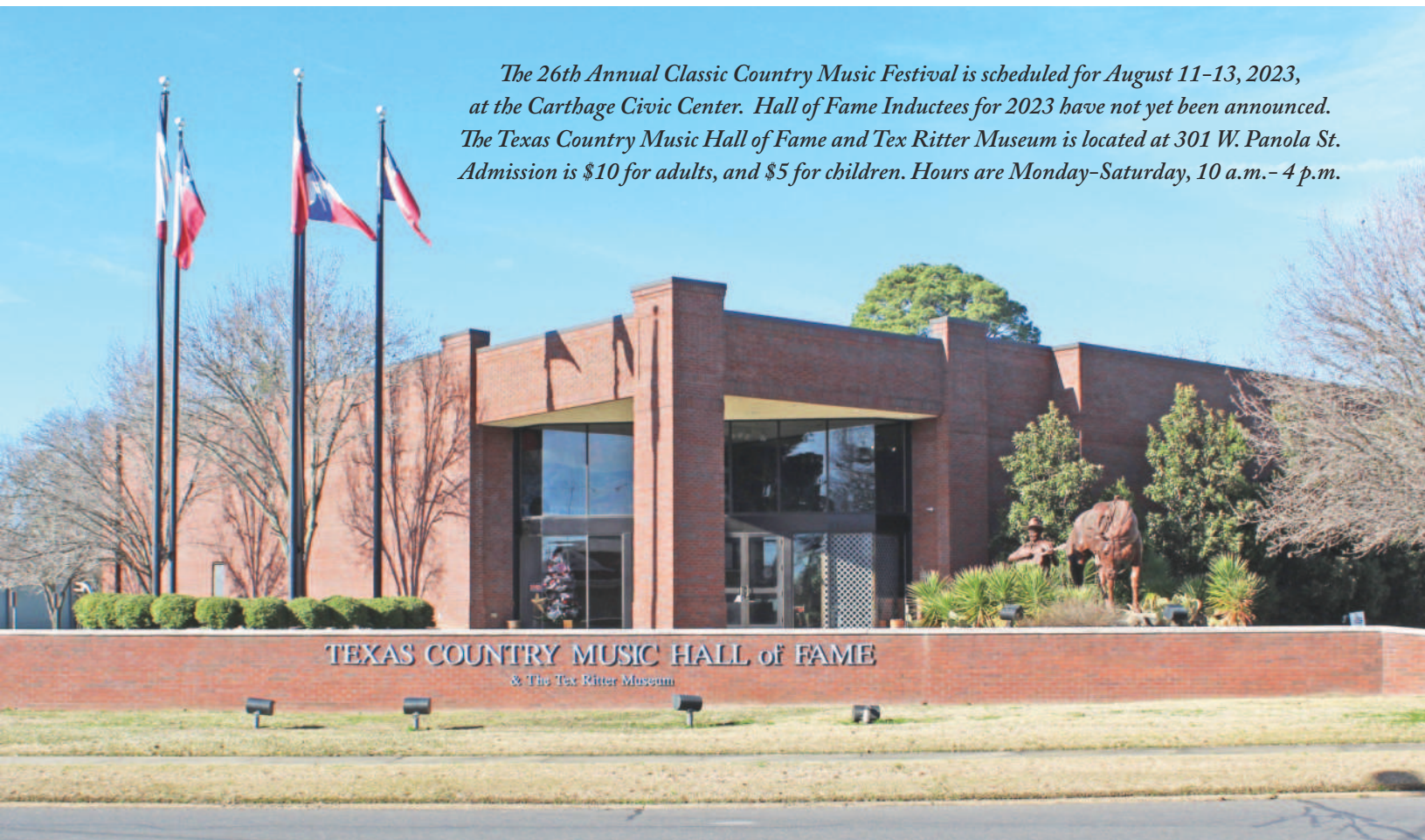
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Billy Joe Shaver, Buck Owens, George Jones, Mickey Gilley, Tracy Byrd, Clint Black, Kenny Rogers, Jeannie C. Riley, Kris Kristofferson, Johnny Rodriguez, Jimmy Dean, Michael Martin Murphy, and Rodney Crowell. One notable name, however, is missing. Tommie Ritter Smith has reached out to George Strait's team numerous times through the years for inclusion in the museum, "it's hard to get in touch with George, so if anyone out there can get in touch with him tell him to come on up to Carthage, we would love to have him in our museum." With new inductees each year, the Hall of Fame and Museum is preserving and celebrating country music and Texans for future generations.

There is a wall in the museum with every honoree's plaque since the inception in 1998; they read like a who's who of country music. The exhibits are jaw-dropping, and informative. Original hats, suits, boots, guitars, and memorabilia from every person enshrined there await you. When you first enter the museum, Willie Nelson and his sister Bobbie greet you in their exhibit. It's a lot to see and reflect upon. The museum debuted a significant expansion in 2004 with its Jim Reeves (also a Carthage native) display which features radio equipment from his studio at KGRI in Henderson. There is a replica 1930's theater marquee which greets visitors, and a juke box allows you to select any country song you wish to hear. This marvelous building is warm and inviting, well worth the price of admission, and needs to be on everyone's bucket list.

Don't wait on this wonderful place, make plans to visit, and be prepared to stay a few hours; this writer didn't want to leave. I was mesmerized by the sheer enormity of memorabilia that is housed within its walls. I cannot even begin to tell you what you will see around every corner; be prepared to step back in time and re-live some of the greatest moments in the history of country music. The Texas Country Music Hall of Fame and Tex Ritter Museum is Carthage's shining star; Tommie Ritter Smith and crew have done their homework, and are to be commended for a job well done. ■



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Crafting your own Wine

By Jan White

As humans, we have the inherent desire to create and explore the limits of what we can do on our own. The do-it-yourself movement, more than anything, has encouraged people to make their own furniture, grow their own produce, raise their own livestock, and make bread, pasta, and desserts from scratch. It was in this vein that I asked myself the question – what if I wanted to make my own wine? I turned to our neighborhood winemaker, Chris Purcell, for his advice.

Purcell became interested in winemaking while growing up in a farming region north of London called Bedfordshire.

“My parents were very, very keen beekeepers. And we used to sell honey. One day my dad got to thinking, ‘I’ve got all the honey, why don’t I make some mead?’ So, he went to the local chemist and got all the wine paraphernalia to get started.”

Mead is a honey wine that can be made relatively quickly. But Purcell admitted that his dad’s mead was pretty bad.

“We didn’t drink it. I think my mum had a go at doing blackberry wine, because blackberries are pervasive on the hedgerows. I think I was probably around 14 or 15 when I truly got interested. I was too young to drink it, but the idea of making wine intrigued me.”

Foraging for ingredients was easy. Purcell ticked off a list of all the possible choices.

“There were plums, lots of wild roses, these plants called stinging nettles, and of course dandelions. My parents were avid gardeners, so there was always something either fruit-

wise or flower-wise that you could use for wine.”

Purcell once won first place in a competition for a wine he made with rose petals.

“It was actually a honey show, but they opened it up to all kinds of things. You could enter jam or wine – anything that had to do with honey. I won first place with my rose petals. So yeah, all kinds of things can be used to make wine.”

When Purcell left the United Kingdom to come to the States at age 22, his winemaking days became a thing of the past. He got a job, got married, and bought a house. It wasn’t until Purcell and his wife, Debra, built their new home that winemaking made its way back into his life.

“We wanted to build a basement to utilize what would have been wasted space.”

The area was divided into several rooms, one was storage for Purcell’s tools, and another was a workspace for his wife. When it came to deciding what to do with the other room, Purcell suggested, “Maybe I’ll make some wine.”

He produced his first batch in 2016.

“I didn’t go off and make nettle wine or use rose petals or rose hips or anything exotic,” he said. “I got an online kit.”

The setup was a Christmas gift from his wife. Purcell recalls receiving one ingredient kit, and then, “I quickly went off and bought, I think, a white and a rosé, so I had three types brewing at the same time.”

Purcell offered some suggestions for those of us who might want to experiment with making homemade wine. Here are a few of his helpful tips.

(below) Camrose House pictured on Purcell’s wine label. (right) Four demijohns hold fermenting wine. Photos by Debra Purcell.



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~~~ *How to get started* ~~~

If you want to start small, buy one-gallon wine kits, which yield about five or six bottles. But if you feel confident about your winemaking capabilities, you can buy an 8-liter kit that will generate approximately six gallons of finished wine or about 28-30 750-ml bottles. Depending on the quantity and quality of kits you choose, they can be as inexpensive as \$50, to the expert kits, which can cost around \$200. The all-in-one kits contain all the ingredients you need, so, basically, you just add water.

The equipment you need to make the wine, however, is

typically sold separately. I expected Purcell's setup to be some complex system with vats and tubes and other complicated gadgets, but it's really a very simple setup that consists of a six-gallon bucket, a plastic demijohn (also called a carboy) with an airlock, a siphoning hose, a long stirring spoon, and a few other odds and ends that come with the kit. You can purchase the Home Brew Ohio equipment at Walmart for around \$80.

But what if you decide to go off-script and make your wine from scratch?

Choosing your grapes

"There are two types of grapes that are most common in this area," Purcell said, "mustang grapes which you see between Memorial Day and the Fourth of July, and wild muscadines, which are ready around Labor Day."

Wild muscadine wines tend to have a very smoky flavor. Muscadine grapes are typically used to make white or rosé wines, while mustang grapes are very acidic with little natural sugar content, which makes for a drier wine.

And, of course, you can purchase grapes online. But Purcell advises against using the grapes you buy at the grocery store. "You'd have to use a lot of additives to make them taste the way you want."

How do you infuse that signature oaky flavor into homemade wine?

"It's simple," said Purcell. "You use wood chips."

Oak for winemaking is actually available in several forms – extract, powdered, or chips. Chips can offer the widest variety of flavors. A handful of chips is all you need to add complexity to the wine. It's recommended you taste the wine two or three days after adding the oak to track the flavor. You can always add more oak flavor, but you can't take it away.



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How often should you taste your fermenting wine?

“There’s nothing to say you can’t taste it every day,” stated Purcell. “You’ll want to taste it after the first week, but it’s extremely fizzy and will give you a tummy ache if you drink too much. After it’s fermented, and you’re just aging it, you can taste as much or as little as you want. There’s a tool called a ‘wine thief’ that helps you extract a small amount of wine without doing any damage. You do need to taste it occasionally, though. You wouldn’t want to wait a year or two and have six gallons of wine you can’t drink.”

Aging your wine

The longer you let your wine age, the better it will be. According to Purcell, the waiting period is the most challenging part of making your own wine.

“You can buy some white wine kits that advertise being ready to drink in two weeks. Some red wines say they’re ready in six weeks. But I recommend you wait at least a year.”

While waiting a year does sound a bit off-putting, Purcell says it’s worth it.

“The first year is the hardest. But if you make other batches in between, you’ll always have stock on hand after that.”

Designing your own label

“You can really dress up a bottle of wine with a nice label and a nice top. My parents met in Cambridge, England, and we all love to grow roses, so blending the two names together made for a perfect fit.”

His label, Camrose Winery, features the couple’s home, and he includes the year the wine was made. In choosing a label, select a name or design with special meaning to you – after all, both the wine and the brand are an expression of your creativity.

Keep notes on your wines

“The notes,” Purcell says, “are essentially your recipe. They let you know what’s working and what’s not. I started to do some additives to give mine the right sweetness, a little hint of cinnamon, or something to bring out more of the caramel flavoring. When you gain confidence, you start experimenting with a pinch of this or a bit of that. You learn over time what works and what doesn’t.”

You can use a simple checklist to note the type of grapes or fruit you used, when you started the batch, when you racked it, and how many bottles it eventually produced. And be sure to label your fermenting batches. You don’t want to forget which demijohn holds the Malbec and which holds the Old Vine Cab.

Bottling your wine

This part doesn’t have to be expensive. Purcell has used recycled wine bottles and other unique-looking glass containers. “You just sterilize them and use fresh wine corks.” But you can also order wine bottles online if you choose.

So, go on and take the leap. The variety of homemade wines you can make is limited only by your imagination.

Cheers! ■

(right) Chris Purcell displays one of his finished wines. Photo by Debra Purcell.

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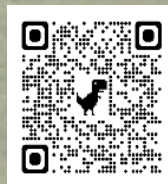
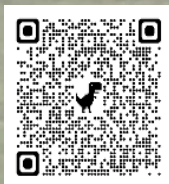
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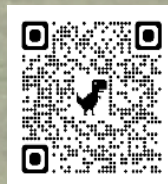
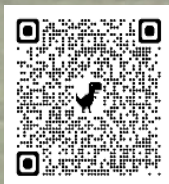
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Getting your fill of **AUTHENTIC ITALIAN**

By Emily Banks Wooten

With our friend Louis originally hailing from New Jersey, he naturally has some distinct opinions about pizza and as a result, is very discerning when it comes to pizza. So when Julie said Louis loved the pizza at this place, well, we knew we had to try it.

Russo's New York Pizzeria Italian Kitchen is located in Valley Ranch Town Center, the "newish" commercial development in New Caney. While New Caney was once considered a small town, the creation of State Highway 99, the Grand Parkway, and the resulting burgeoning urban sprawl make it a bit challenging these days to determine where the small towns end and the cities begin.

Nonetheless, our first trip to Russo's was with Julie and Louis last summer when we were en route to The Woodlands to see Steely Dan, a long overdue concert that had been rescheduled numerous times due to the pandemic. Julie and Louis selected some of the giant slices of pizza for which Russo's is well known. Daughter ordered her go-to when eating Italian – spaghetti with meatballs. While the pizza sounded wonderful, I opted for a Caesar salad instead. Hubby ordered a giant slice of pepperoni and jalapeno. We thoroughly enjoyed our meal, the concert and the many laughs we shared with our friends over the course of the evening.

A short time later, we found ourselves back at Russo's, this

time just the three of us on the Saturday of Father's Day weekend. Throwing caution to the wind, I ordered a giant slice of pepperoni pizza. To accompany it, I also ordered the Insalata Caprese which was perfectly ripened Roma tomatoes, fresh mozzarella and garden-fresh basil, drizzled with balsamic glaze and Sicilian extra-virgin olive oil. They both were absolutely divine.

A couple months ago, on our way to see *Pretty Woman: The Musical* at the Hobby Center, Daughter and I took my Mother to lunch at Russo's. Daughter stuck with her usual – spaghetti and meatballs. I opted for a Caesar salad and tomato basil soup. Mother selected a chicken Tuscan sandwich on flatbread and it was beautiful – chicken sautéed with fresh spinach, mushrooms, Sicilian extra-virgin olive oil, garlic and Wisconsin mozzarella. It was so huge that she could only eat half of it. We put the remainder in a box for her to have that evening for supper.

Russo's offers a variety of authentic Italian cuisine. If you're interested in a salad they offer several from which to choose – arugula salad, Tuscan salad, cucumber and feta salad, chicken avocado salad, house salad, Caesar salad and Greek salad. There's tomato basil soup and tortellini brodo soup. There are multiple sandwiches and calzones on the menu.

As for pasta, spaghetti with meatballs or Italian sausage, pistachio pesto chicken pasta, spaghetti carbonara, fettuccine Alfredo, jumbo cheese ravioli, shrimp fra diavolo, shrimp scampi,



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truffle mushroom campanelle and chicken manicotti are the classics offered. However, Chef Russo specialties include eggplant parmesan, chicken parmesan, Russo lasagna and baked ziti.

Of course you can build your own pizza, but again, there are so many from which to choose. If you want pizza rosso (pizza with a red sauce), there's doppio pepperoni, New York Village, Hawaiian pizza, vegetarian, Italian market, Italian works, mulberry, Brooklyn square Nonna's and Brooklyn square Paesano. If you're more inclined toward pizza bianca (white pizza or pizza with no red sauce), there's Margherita pizza, chicken rustica, Mediterranean pizza, sausage and ricotta and heart health veggie. Under the pizza toscana section, the offerings include truffle mushroom, truffle burrata and prosciutto, truffle burrata pomodoro, truffle burrata and ricotta and prosciutto and fig.

Here's an important tip I'll share if you're planning a trip to Russo's. The restaurant has gone completely cashless and only accepts credit and debit cards for payment. ■

Russo's New York Pizzeria Italian Kitchen is located in Valley Ranch Town Center. The actual address is 21572 Market Pl Dr Suite 100, New Caney, Texas 77357. The phone number is 281-354-4815. Hours of operation are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

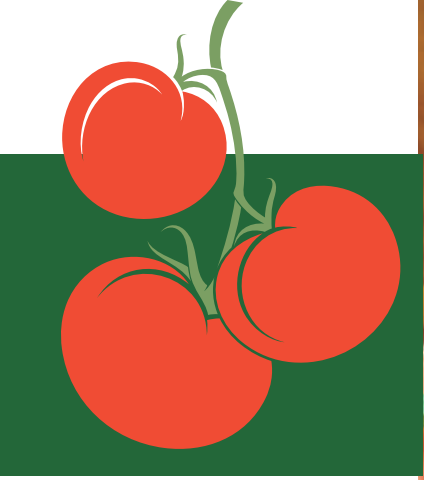


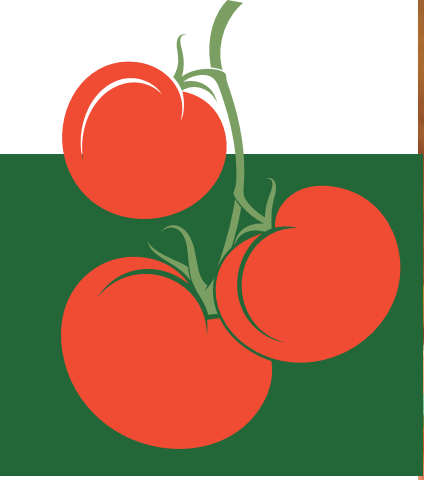
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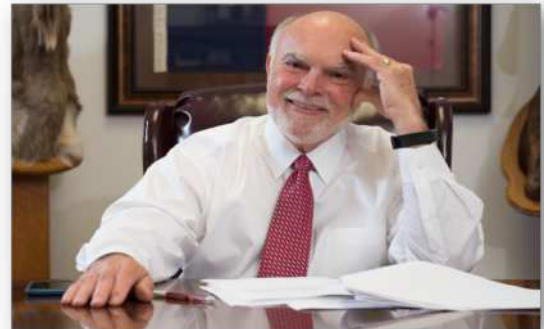
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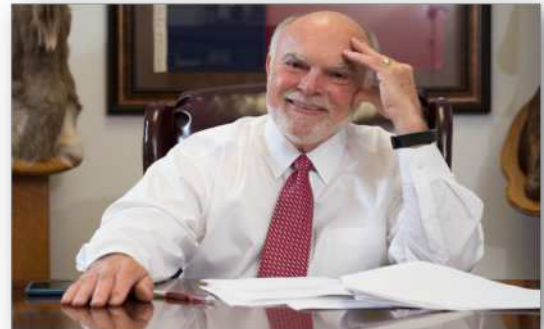
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“If you love what you're doing, you're going to be successful at it.”

Larry Dale



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A study in one man's passion

“If you love what you're doing, you're going to be successful at it.”

Larry Dale



By Chris Edwards

Larry Dale Sonnier doesn't shy away from making mention of youthful misadventures, the type of mischief some might use to classify his young years as "misspent."

He realizes that all of the hell he raised got him to where he is now, and he gives thanks to a higher power for all of his abilities and all that he has in terms of earthly possessions, but also the wisdom acquired through living life. For all that he has accomplished and the ability he has to create beautiful works of art from wood, Sonnier, a man of faith, credits it all to a higher power. "None of this would be possible if it wasn't for Him," he said, with his index finger pointed north.

If history has shown anything, the truly gifted among us do not fit neatly into the square-framed parameters of society. A cursory glance at some of the creations that fill the home of Sonnier, and come from his shop, testify to the "truly gifted" label.

"Some people will stand out and tell you that you're not going to do something, or you can't do this or you can't do that, and that's what's made me successful in doing what I do," Sonnier said.

Sonnier is the "LDS" behind Wood Designs by LDS. On paper, as well as on the computer screen (or smartphone screen), the business might be a relatively recent venture, but that belies the lifelong passion and determination of the man behind the brand.

A 3,800-square foot workspace off a county road near Colmesneil, is all about the lifelong passion of a man who experienced a sort of rebirth through re-discovery. It is his sanctuary, and the 76-year-old Sonnier, a well-traveled fellow with a booming voice and a friendly disposition, exudes passion when discussing his efforts and lifelong love of woodworking.

"I have to pinch myself nearly every day when I walk through the door of my shop to go to work," Sonnier said. "Finding a hobby at my age is like a rebirth," he said. "I spend time out here, and I love doing what I do. This is my sanctuary. I hope I'm still in here in my eighties, you know, running my mouth. This is what life's about."

"A lot of people think you get my age and you retire, you ought to just sit back in your lounge-chair and drink coffee or hot chocolate, and watch soap operas. I'm just the opposite of that," Sonnier said.

He retired 15 years ago from a successful contracting business and rediscovered a passion that first appeared to him when he was a second-grader. That transformative experience that occurred so many years ago in Port Arthur would unknowingly lead to a rebirth for Sonnier in his post-retirement life.

Sonnier found his niche in taking a block of wood and

turning, on a lathe, that raw material into a striking, beautiful bowl. He still has that first piece, too, crafted from walnut and maple. He recalls the teacher who led him to his art all those years ago, the appropriately named Mr. Woodruff, who he recalled as "a very nice guy."

"I loved it from the beginning," he said with a smile.

Flash forward to 2023, and Sonnier estimates he has turned between 800-900 wood pieces for various aspects of home décor, and recently he shifted his focus to designing and creating custom solid-wood tables.

A recent project, a prototype tabletop made from pecky cypress is a project he referred to as his "biggest challenge and biggest nightmare," but could potentially put him and his creations on the proverbial map. The challenge, he explained, is in trying to seal the table without getting the sealant into the wood, for it has a lot of holes.

Sonnier's shop produces an incredible array of beautiful works of functional art, all crafted from wood, and many pieces, with the fusion of epoxy, and occasionally with elements such as turquoise. From bowls that look as though they could adorn a display in a metropolitan fine arts museum to gorgeous dining room tables that would look as elegant on the farm as they would in a penthouse suite, Wood Designs by LDS can take an idea, on commission, and render a most excellent object.

Every piece, from the beautiful tables to the ornate pizza cutters and other kitchen gadgets, created by Sonnier, are crafted with the time, care and consideration of a true master of his craft.

While woodworking is an ever-popular hobby, with one estimate from the Craft & Hobby Association putting the number of American households doing some sort of woodworking at more than 16.8 million, the combination of natural aptitude and finely honed skills can make it a profitable venture.

Sonnier had more than 35 years in the construction business, and once he retired and sold his business, he knew he needed something to do. "I think anybody that retires ought to have them something to do; somewhere to go, or have a hobby," he said.

Another frontier Sonnier is adjusting to in today's hyper-connected world of commerce is that of social media. Sonnier admits he doesn't have a lot to do with that aspect of promoting his labors, but to that end, has enlisted the aid of a Woodville-based web designer and businessman Sal Baldovinos, who has built a website for Wood Designs by LDS, through which customers can commission pieces and see examples of the many incredible works coming from Sonnier's shop. Baldovinos has also taken to learning aspects of the craft from Sonnier and helps out on pieces.

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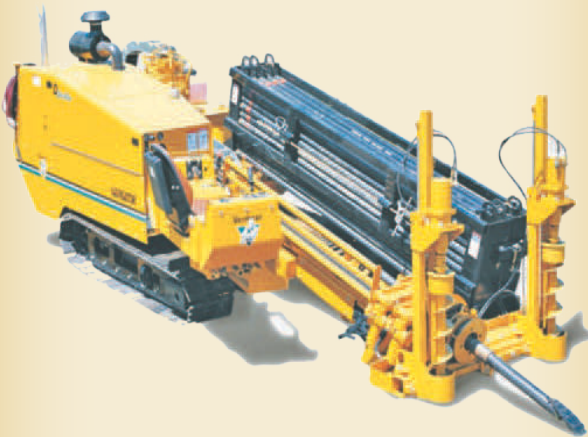
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Another frontier Sonnier is adjusting to in today's hyper-connected world of commerce is that of social media. Sonnier admits he doesn't have a lot to do with that aspect of promoting his labors, but to that end, has enlisted the aid of a Woodville-based web designer and businessman Sal Baldovinos, who has built a website for Wood Designs by LDS, through which customers can commission pieces and see examples of the many incredible works coming from Sonnier's shop. Baldovinos has also taken to learning aspects of the craft from Sonnier and helps out on pieces.

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Baldovinos called Sonnier an “incredibly creative, meticulous woodworker,” and “a wonderful teacher and mentor for anybody who is interested.”

The relationship between Baldovinos and Sonnier is, by the younger man’s admission, something akin to an apprenticeship. “You can truly hear the passion he has for the craft when speaking about the various projects he’s worked on and will be working on in the future,” Baldovinos said.

Sonnier, himself, is not loath in talking about people from his past who’ve impacted him. One mentor and close friend Sonnier spoke about was renowned craftsman Lyman Frugia, who lived in the Beaumont area. Frugia, who died in 2017 at the age of 93, was extremely skilled with a lathe, Sonnier said. Several of Frugia’s intricate, small pieces of wooden art are on display in Sonnier’s home, and on the wall of his shop, is an article that highlights Frugia’s craftsmanship. “That’s my buddy,” Sonnier said, as he spoke about the late friend and mentor.

Knowing the medium in which an artist works is paramount, and for Sonnier, respecting the medium is equally as important. Sonnier said he does not have any one favorite type of wood and has worked with just about any type of wood one can imagine. He said he loves to work with different types of burl wood, for the aesthetic properties, and said mesquite is a nice, hearty species to utilize.

“You have to look at the wood and see something in it,” he said. “The piece of wood I’m working on any given day is my favorite when I’m working with it.”

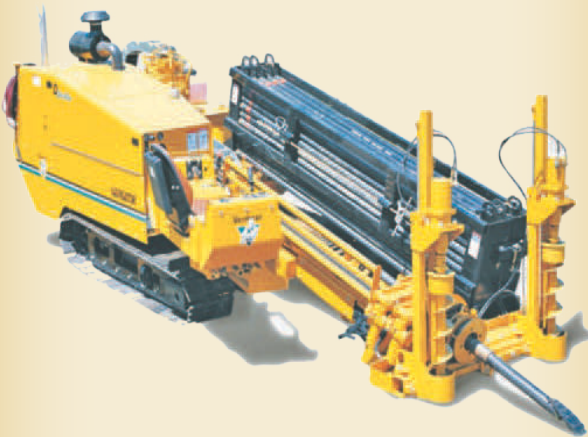
The woods Sonnier uses are sourced from all around the country, and many pieces from his various travels and places he’s lived, including several pieces of furniture in his home

*Examples of some of the tables Larry Sonnier has created in his shop. Photos courtesy of Wood Designs by LDS.
(right) Larry Sonnier showcases the first piece of wooden art he created, as a second-grader. Photo by Chris Edwards.*



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created from aspen taken from a ranch he owned in Colorado.

The respect and passion Sonnier has for his craft extends to the world around him. He and his wife Tena have a great love of animals, and Sonnier told a story about a recent cat he rescued, that someone had dumped near his property. The cat jumped off his roof and broke a leg, but fortunately Sonnier found an emergency veterinarian to see to the wounded kitty, and now the Sonniers are looking after her as she recovers in their living room.

Giving back to the world around him extends beyond the animals around his house, too. Sonnier is able to use his craftsmanship to do some good in the world, and not just

by getting folks sturdy and beautiful furniture and works of wooden art. The proceeds from the sale of the bowls and vessels Sonnier produces are donated to Girls' Haven, a Beaumont-based non-profit that seeks to provide a safe environment for young girls who are victims of various forms of abuse. Giving back is something Larry Dale Sonnier values, and he said he wants to share his craft with as many people as are interested, especially retirees.

At the end of the day, Sonnier said he realizes he is blessed every day to be able to work at doing what he loves, and said "If you love what you're doing, you're going to be successful at it." ■

Larry Sonnier explains some of the technique behind a piece, a vessel made of burl wood, in the works. Photo by Chris Edwards.



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Photo by Amy Holzworth.

Spring Creamed Peas and New Potatoes

By Barbara White

Often among the first vegetables to be harvested from a spring garden, new potatoes are often deliciously paired with fresh green beans, but they are also yummy when combined with another garden early-riser: English peas. If you don't have access to fresh peas, it is just fine (and easier) to substitute a bag of frozen green peas.



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Ingredients:

- 1 lb new potatoes
- 3 slices bacon, cooked until crisp
- 1 tablespoon bacon drippings
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 1/4 cup chopped green onion (can use regular onion)
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 12 oz can evaporated milk (can use whole milk)
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly-ground black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 lb fresh green peas (or 16 oz bag frozen peas)

**Instructions:**

1. Peel the potatoes and cut into large chunks. (Can leave potato skins on if you prefer.) Place in saucepan, cover with water and bring to a boil. Cook potato pieces 8-9 minutes, until softened but not mushy. Pour into colander to drain.
2. Cook the bacon in a skillet until crisp. Remove the bacon, drain on paper towel, crumble and set aside. Leave the bacon drippings in the skillet.
3. Add the butter and onion to the bacon drippings and sauté the onions until soft. Sprinkle in flour, add milk and whisk constantly until mixture starts to thicken. You don't want it too thick.
4. Add peas and drained potatoes. Add salt and pepper and toss to coat potatoes and peas. Turn heat to low to allow peas to cook (will only take about 3 minutes). Remove from heat, place in serving dish and top with the crumbled bacon. Enjoy!



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MILTON HOLLAND

Civil War Hero

By Chris Edwards

Medals awarded for acts done on the battlefield owe to a certain strain of extreme utilitarianism. The decisive, aggressive, survival-driven actions that result in spoken and written accolades proclaiming “valor” and “gallantry” are often looked at by the ones awarded such triumphant titles as just part of the job they signed up for.

The highest decoration afforded by our great country for bravery in battle, the Medal of Honor, is bestowed upon those whose activities truly rise above and beyond the call of duty. The medal itself was created during the Civil War and has only been awarded a little more than 3,500 times since 1861.

One recipient was a Panola County native who was also the first Black Texan to receive the decoration.

Milton Murray Holland, whose vital dates range from August 1, 1844 to May 15, 1910, served in the Union Army in the Fifth U.S. Colored Infantry. Holland’s heroism, which was recognized for action on Sept. 29, 1864 at the Battle of Chaffin’s Farm in Virginia, where he took command of Company C, after all of its officers had been killed or seriously wounded, and led them to victory.

The venerated late East Texan historian Archie P. McDonald wrote that the Medal of Honor itself was nearly as new as the service of Black soldiers, who

were not permitted to serve as active members of the nation’s military units until 1863.

Holland’s heroism, McDonald wrote, exhibited itself during a war which resulted in the freedom of Blacks from slavery, and he deserved the recognition he won.

Holland was born on a farm near Carthage. He and his two brothers became the property of Bird Holland, an official who had served as secretary of state. He sent the boys to be educated at Albany Enterprise Academy in Ohio in the late 1850s. It should be noted that at that time, there were few institutions admitting either Black or female students.

Holland attempted to enlist in the Army when the war broke out but was denied. Some older sources cite his age of 17 as the reason, but the fact is people of color were not allowed to serve in the Army at the time. After President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, Blacks were permitted to enlist, and eventually, approximately 400,000 Black Americans joined the Union Army, and many, who comprised the famous “Buffalo Soldiers” regiment, served on the frontier, post-war.

Milton Holland’s service began, in earnest, on June 22, 1863, when he was accepted into the Army, after he had served as a Union Colonel’s servant during the first years of the war. When Holland joined up, the war was still raging on.



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According to the records available from Holland's company's descriptive book, the young soldier is described as, at age 18, five feet, eight inches tall, with a yellow complexion and brown eyes and black hair. His occupation is listed as "shoemaker," a trade he learned at the academy. It is also noted that Holland was free prior to April 19, 1861, which was the date of the war's outbreak.

One recorded statement about Holland, from John Mercer Langston, who would later become the first Black member of the United States House of Representatives, from Virginia. Langston wrote that Holland, "a young colored Texan...was by nature a soldier. He smelt battle from afar and was ready at the shortest warning to engage in a deadly conflict."

Langston also observed that Holland possessed a "youthful, daring nature" and "remarkable native intelligence," in spite of his tender age.

In one letter Holland wrote to the Messenger, an Athens County, Ohio newspaper, that "there is a brighter day coming for the colored man," while chronicling the movements of the regiment. That letter was dated 19 January 1864 and closed with Patrick Henry's immortal "Give me liberty or give me death" maxim.

As his career went on with the Union Army, Holland certainly believed in the strength of Henry's words. As the first sergeant of Company C, he led an attack on Confederate strongholds near Richmond, at Bottoms Bridge, and the unit began to distinguish itself from the Black Brigade regiment.

The Company led the charge on Sept. 29, 1864 at Chaffin's Farm, which opened the door to victory at Richmond. It was brutal face-to-face, hand-to-hand combat, and claimed all the white officers. Holland and three other Black sergeants took charge and gallantly led the group. The citation for Holland, upon the awarding of the Congressional Medal of Honor, on April 6, 1865, read in a similar fashion as described above, that Holland gallantly led the Company C "after all the officers had been killed or wounded."

During the course of the war, nearly 90,000 Texans served in the military, but Holland was the first to have such an honor bestowed upon him. Following his discharge in 1865, he moved to Washington, D.C., where he received a law degree from Howard University in 1872, and later founded the Alpha Insurance Company, one of the first Black-owned insurance companies in the country. He married Virginia W. Dickey, with whom he adopted a daughter, May Holland Rowe and died of a heart attack on May 15, 1910 in Silver Springs, Maryland. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

We are nearly 160 years removed from Holland's heroism at Chaffin's Farm, and Holland still has not received a posthumous promotion to captain. He was recommended for the rank promotion but denied due to his color. Efforts in recent years have worked to reverse that injustice, but to no avail. ■



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That **BEAST** was a burden

By Barbara White

I don't want to sound sexist, but, fact is, when it comes to moving a sofa of steel you want men. Big men. Strong men. You want to look up and see a group of strapping young males marching down the street in search of good deeds to perform.

That just doesn't happen. Ever.

I once had a couch that was, literally, made of steel. I called it "The Beast." I was never a big fan of misnomers, like a very large person nicknamed "Tiny" or a Chihuahua named "Bruiser." Call 'em like you see 'em, I say. That couch was a bona fide beast.

The Beast was one of those couches that can unfold into a bed, a hide-a-bed. As a couch, it was pretty comfy. As a bed, well, let's just say that metal bars running beneath a thin mattress that spent most of its time folded into thirds and compressed by various backsides did not make for sweet dreams. Trying to secure bedsheets to that wonky mattress was slightly less difficult than putting socks on a cat.

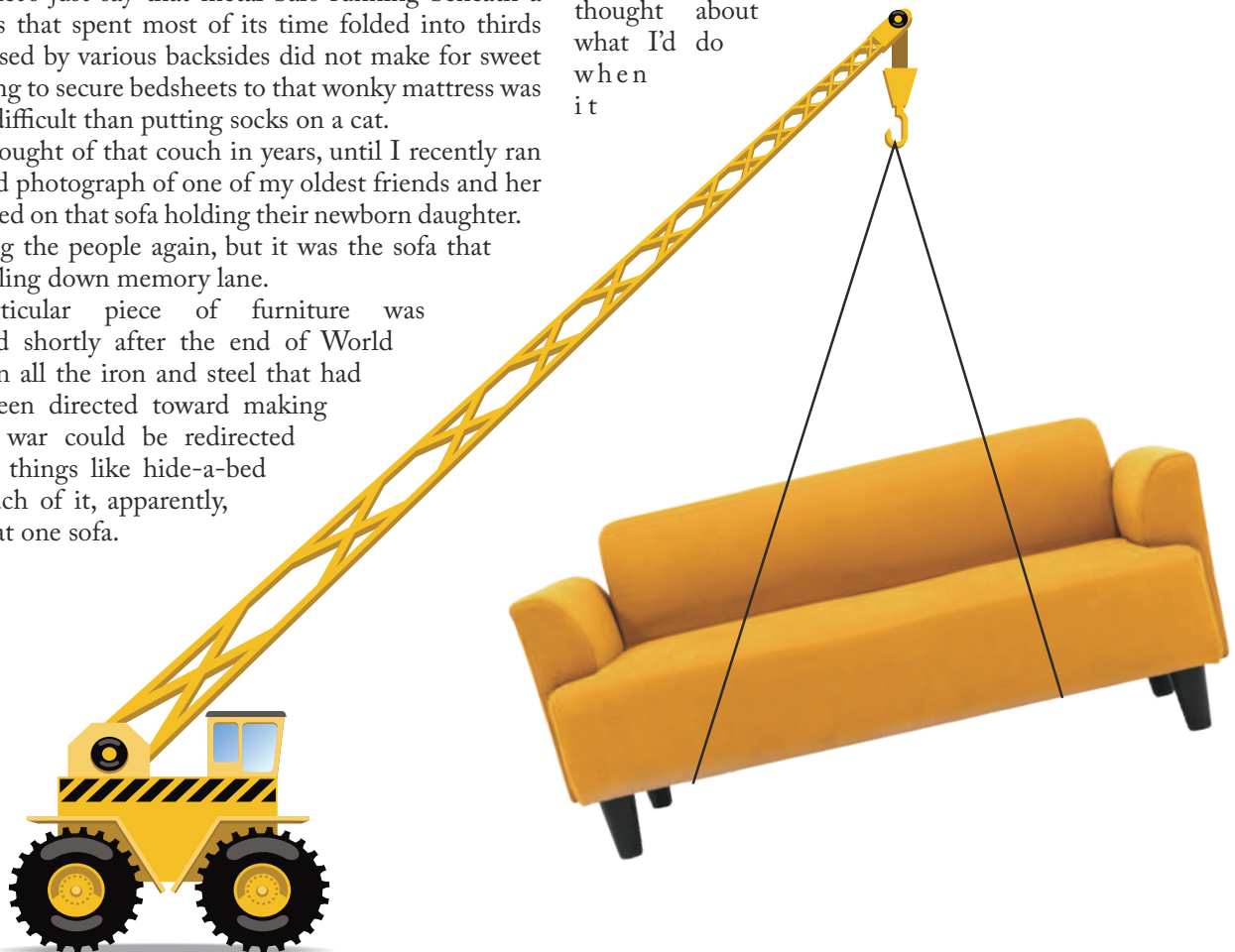
I hadn't thought of that couch in years, until I recently ran across a faded photograph of one of my oldest friends and her husband seated on that sofa holding their newborn daughter. I loved seeing the people again, but it was the sofa that sent me ambling down memory lane.

That particular piece of furniture was manufactured shortly after the end of World War II, when all the iron and steel that had previously been directed toward making weapons of war could be redirected into making things like hide-a-bed couches. Much of it, apparently, went into that one sofa.

It had been part of my life for as long as I could remember. It was the couch from which I viewed episodes of Captain Kangaroo and Howdy Doody in glorious black and white, while munching on Trix or Sugar Pops cereal. My worst habits, apparently, became ingrained early on.

I gained custody of The Beast sometime during the early days of the Carter administration, when I finally got a job that appeared would last for more than a minute and moved into my first real apartment. I didn't let the fact that I owned no furniture spoil my Mary Tyler Moore moment.

Lacking both bed and couch, my parents suggested I take The Beast and offered to deliver it from their home in Houston to Livingston. I have no idea how they got it loaded into the U-Haul. I suspect there was either money or blackmail involved. I hadn't thought about what I'd do when it



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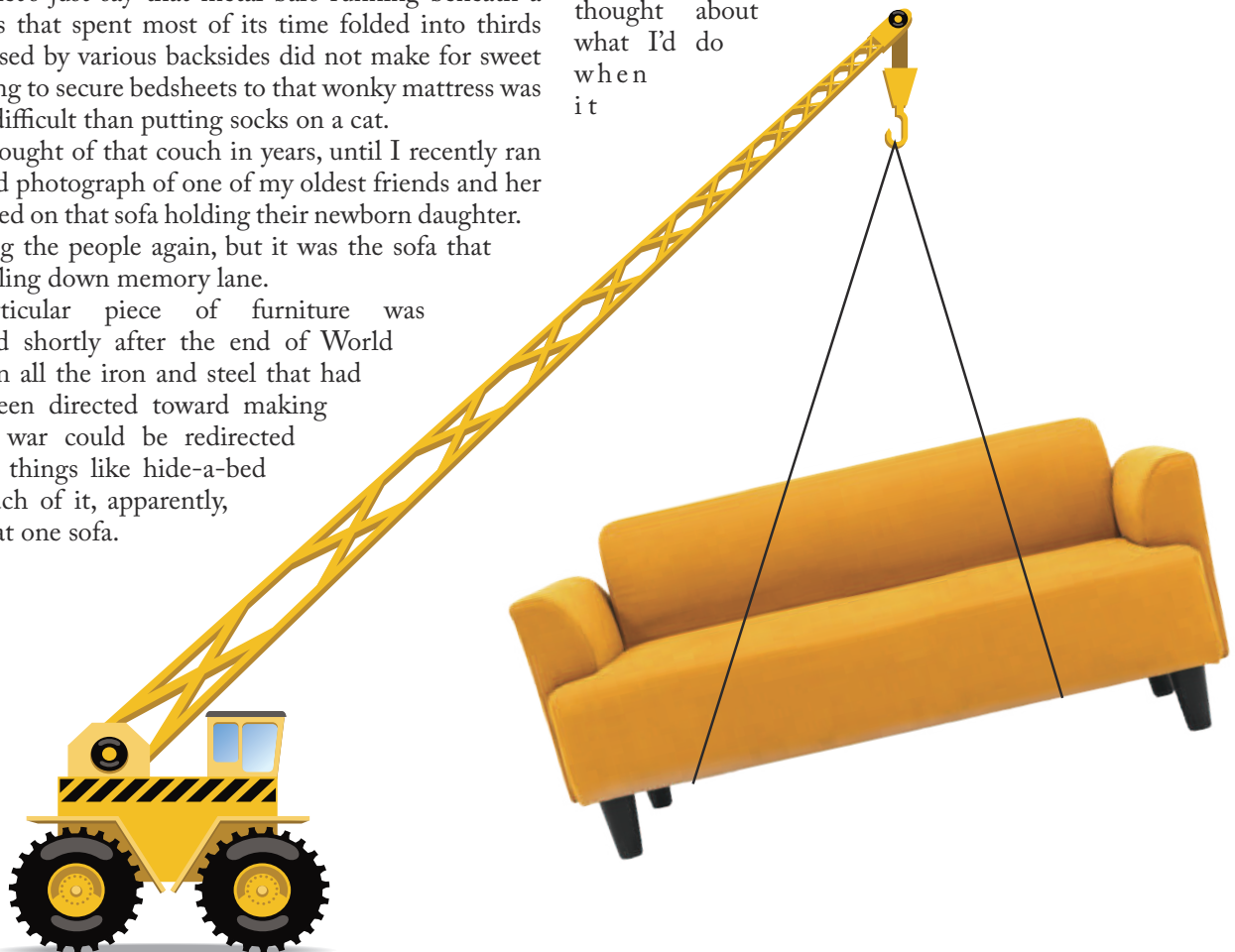
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got here; I was new in town and didn't know a soul.

You know those old TV westerns where the streets suddenly empty and the townsfolk hide when two rival outlaw gangs ride into town? That is what happened at my apartment complex that Saturday afternoon when two grey-haired people pulled up in a U-Haul. People who had previously been out washing their cars, listening to music and walking their dogs suddenly vanished. Crickets. No help in sight, although I think I saw the curtains move in one apartment. I'll never know how these strangers sensed that The Beast lurked within that U-Haul.

Step-by-step, inch-by-inch, my parents and I somehow got that couch up to my second-floor apartment. I have mercifully blocked the details from my memory.

About a year later, I was ready to leave the apartment and move into a rent house. I had managed to obtain an actual bed, but still needed a couch.

I have helped several people move over the years. My favorite part of the whole process is the part where I say, "If y'all can hold on, I'll run up ahead and hold the door." That will work with mere acquaintances. It becomes much harder when you have, as I had done, enlisted the help of two people who stood by your side through many a youthful indiscretion, such as when you discovered that Strawberry Hill wine may taste like Kool-Aid, but it most definitely is not. You cannot just scamper away and leave good friends in the trenches.

The burden of friendship can be heavy. I have a vivid memory of my friend's husband leaning backward over a rickety metal railing, his head a dozen feet above a concrete parking lot, as we tried to line up the couch for its trip down the apartment stairs. Somehow, we maneuvered it into a pickup truck and into the rent house.

It would be The Beast's last trip in the hands of amateurs.

A few years later, I moved from the rent house to a new place a couple of miles away. That move was made with the help of some kind coworkers and wasn't too bad. I had decided it was time for The Beast and I to part ways. I made a deal with a furniture store: I would buy a new couch if they would send a couple of guys to the rent house to pick up the old couch that I had left behind and take it ... wherever. I didn't care. I still feel a little bit bad that I didn't warn them that the couch weighed as much as a Buick.

I watched as the two men cursed and stumbled slightly before reaching the lift that would take The Beast into the truck and out of my life. I have to admit, I was a little bit sad to see it go.

As they prepared to drive away, I heard one of them say, "Man, that thing is HEAVY!"

Those big, strong men were unaware of the weight of history they were carrying. ■

PANDORA



*Spring is
in the air*



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AVAILABLE AT
THE MUSTARD SEED
1330 N University Drive
Nacogdoches, TX 75961
936-569-7794

got here; I was new in town and didn't know a soul.

You know those old TV westerns where the streets suddenly empty and the townsfolk hide when two rival outlaw gangs ride into town? That is what happened at my apartment complex that Saturday afternoon when two grey-haired people pulled up in a U-Haul. People who had previously been out washing their cars, listening to music and walking their dogs suddenly vanished. Crickets. No help in sight, although I think I saw the curtains move in one apartment. I'll never know how these strangers sensed that The Beast lurked within that U-Haul.

Step-by-step, inch-by-inch, my parents and I somehow got that couch up to my second-floor apartment. I have mercifully blocked the details from my memory.

About a year later, I was ready to leave the apartment and move into a rent house. I had managed to obtain an actual bed, but still needed a couch.

I have helped several people move over the years. My favorite part of the whole process is the part where I say, "If y'all can hold on, I'll run up ahead and hold the door." That will work with mere acquaintances. It becomes much harder when you have, as I had done, enlisted the help of two people who stood by your side through many a youthful indiscretion, such as when you discovered that Strawberry Hill wine may taste like Kool-Aid, but it most definitely is not. You cannot just scamper away and leave good friends in the trenches.

The burden of friendship can be heavy. I have a vivid memory of my friend's husband leaning backward over a rickety metal railing, his head a dozen feet above a concrete parking lot, as we tried to line up the couch for its trip down the apartment stairs. Somehow, we maneuvered it into a pickup truck and into the rent house.

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Riley

FUNERAL HOME

& ON-SITE CREMATORY

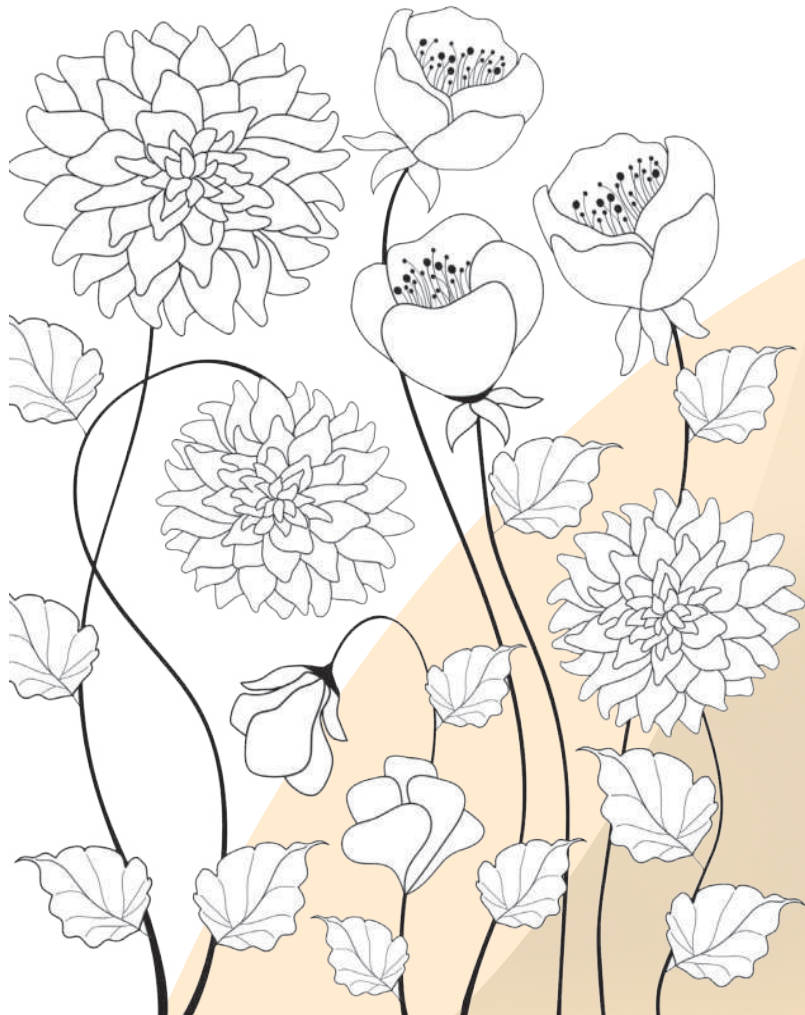
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409.283.8131
rileysfuneralhome.com



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FUNERAL HOME

415 North 4th Street | Silsbee, TX 75979
409.385.2828
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Our staff of dedicated professionals is available to assist you in making your arrangements.

From casket choices to funeral flowers, we will guide you through all aspects of the funeral service.



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& ON-SITE CREMATORY

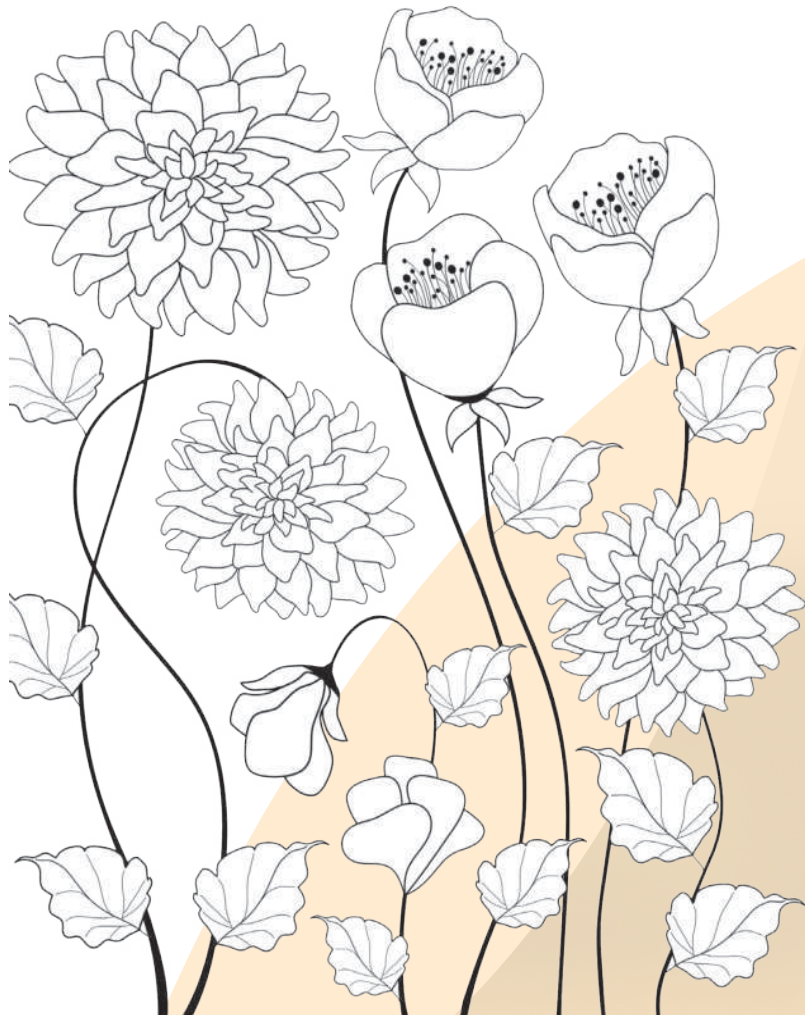
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Christopher Scott, Agent
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chris.scott.nyut@statefarm.com

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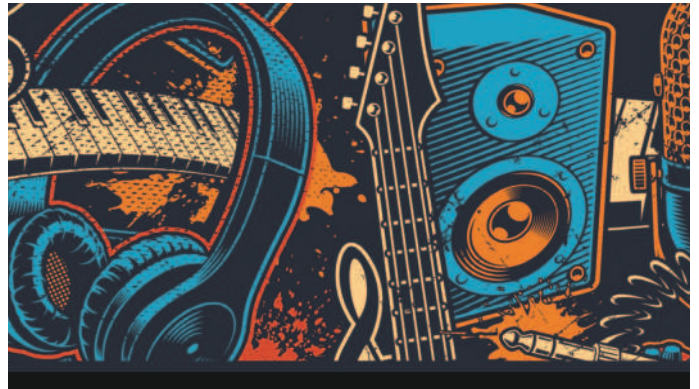
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SHOP EAST TEXAS

By Kelli Barnes

Seasons change! Besides the weather, so do the seasons of our life. As a young girl, I remember this time of year anticipating school almost being out for the summer. As I got into my teens it meant later evenings outside and socializing at the ballpark. When I had children at home, it meant being at a ballpark or practice almost every night of the week juggling multiple fields. One day, it became me-time. But now, with grandchildren hitting the field to play ball, I am back to the ballparks.

What does this have to do with shopping? Only to remind you that no matter what you spend your springtime doing, remember to slip in some shopping in East Texas. Every town has locally owned brick and mortar stores with hometown residents working to make a living selling merchandise for us.

In this issue we are featuring the Silsbee and Lumberton area. Enjoy springtime in East Texas, ya'll.



WILLOW LEAF WREATH \$102
Vintage Swank



FREEZE DRIED STRAWBERRIES \$7
Market on the Square



LITTLE BOYS QUILT \$40
Market on the Square



LOUIS VUITTON BAG \$145
Friends Boutique

BASEBALL EARRINGS \$12
Market on the Square



MASON JAR FLORAL \$17.99
Crossroads
Petals & Stems



WIDE BAND SHORTS \$28
Posh Boutique



SUGARBEAR HAIR VITAMIN GUMMIES \$32.99
Serenity and Co.





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VITAMIN GUMMIES
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Serenity and Co.



Friends Boutique
344 N. 4th Street, Silsbee
409-386-0030

Serenity and Co.
730 North Main Suite A, Lumberton
409-224-5924



STORES FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE



CACTUS NECKLACE \$16
Friends Boutique

SPONGELLE' BODY
WASH \$16
Posh Boutique



GROW VASE \$19.99
Crossroads Petals & Stems



MOIRA SIDE TABLE \$525
Vintage Swank



COUNTRY MUSIC
& COCKTAILS
CAP \$25
Market on the
Square



NUDE/GOLD SANDALS \$22
Posh Boutique



BRACELETS \$16.99
Serenity and Co.

ANTIQUE
BREAD BOX \$30
Market on the
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SHOP EAST TEXAS



AGED ICE SIGN \$49.95
Vintage Swank

PROBLEM SOLVED
GOLF CAP \$25
Market on the Square



COFFEE BOTTLE CAP MAGNETS \$13
Market on the Square



SANDY & RIZZO MICKEY
EARRINGS \$15
Posh Boutique



TAN BABY ROMPER \$19.95
Crossroads Petals & Stems

HIGH NECK POLKA DOT DRESS \$56.99
Serenity and Co.



MAMA BALL CAP \$40
Posh Boutique



SPA LUXETIQUE WHITE JASMINE KIT \$47.96
Friends Boutique





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Vintage Swank

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Crossroads Petals & Stems

325 N. 4th Street, Silsbee
409-385-0009

Market on the Square – Multiple Vendors

155 E. Avenue H, Silsbee
409-385-7722



STORES FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE



RAKE/WINE HOLDER \$10
Vintage Swank



PLAID TIN MAN \$60
Market on the Square



OWL HANDBAG \$7
Market on the Square

DESIGNER HEADBANDS \$18
Posh Boutique



INITIAL NECKLACE \$12.99
Serenity and Co.



COOK BOOK HOLDER \$35
Vintage Swank



HAIR CLIPS \$5
Market on the Square



Crossroads Petals & Stems

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SHOP EAST TEXAS



AMEN T-SHIRT \$30
Posh Boutique

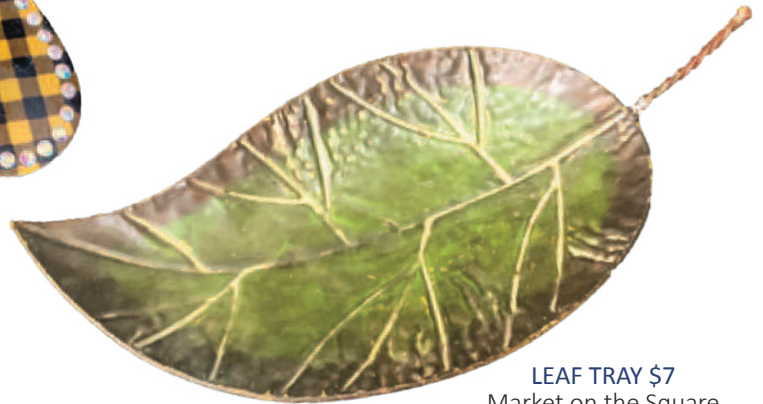
WILDFLOWER METAL
WALL ART \$42
Vintage Swank



TREASURE EARRINGS \$5.95
Friends Boutique



DOG ZIPPER MAKE UP BAG \$12
Market on the Square



LEAF TRAY \$7
Market on the Square

BUTTERFLY WALL ART \$26.95
Crossroads Petals & Stems



BIRTHDAY HEADBANDS \$19.99
Serenity and Co.



SHOP EAST TEXAS



AMEN T-SHIRT \$30
Posh Boutique

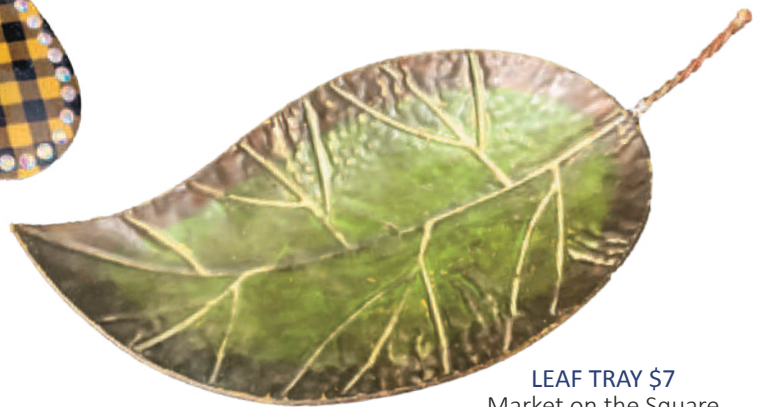
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Crossroads Petals & Stems



BIRTHDAY HEADBANDS \$19.99
Serenity and Co.

Posh Boutique
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 409-227-4323

Vintage Swank
 929 N. Main Street, Lumberton
 409-782-5504



STORES FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE



DENIM OVERALLS \$69
 Posh Boutique



FLORAL BABY ROMPER \$19.95
 Crossroads Petals & Stems



CREAM/ROSE BLOUSE \$41.99
 Serenity and Co.



WOODEN BIRD HOUSE \$35
 Market on the Square



SMILE BALL CAP \$14.50
 Market on the Square



KITCHEN CONVERSION CHART \$30
 Market on the Square

BUFFET \$495
 Vintage Swank



WAVY GLASS CLOCHES/WOOD TRAY BASE \$159.99
 Vintage Swank



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CALENDAR

APRIL

Cleveland

Gene Watson at the Texan Theater
[APRIL 1](#)

Colmesneil

Easter Walk with Jesus/Victory Camp
Colmesneil
[APRIL 1](#)

Nacogdoches

Spring Brew Fest 2023/Expo Center
Wine Swirl 2023/Downtown
SFA Gardens Gala Day Plant Sale
[APRIL 1](#)

Carthage

3rd Annual Downtown Tunes and Tails
Festival
[APRIL 1](#)

La Marque

Big A## Crawfish Bash/Highland Bayou
Park
[APRIL 1-2](#)

Conroe

Montgomery County BBQ Cook-off/
County Fairgrounds
[APRIL 1](#)

Marshall

Ruthie Foster at Memorial City
Performance Hall
[APRIL 1](#)

Nacogdoches

Appleby Community Farm Music Festival
[APRIL 1](#)

Woodville

80th Annual Dogwood Festival/Queen's
Weekend
[APRIL 1](#)

Houston

Houston Folk, Blues, & Gospel Festival/
Independence Park
[APRIL 1](#)

Galveston

Galveston Steampunk Festival/Galveston
Rail Road Museum
[APRIL 1](#)

Orange

21st Annual Art in the Park and Orange
Riverfront Car Show
[APRIL 1](#)

Port Arthur

Cajun Heritage Festival/Carl Parker
Multi-Purpose Center
[APRIL 1](#)

Trinity

Trinity Volunteer Fire Department
Annual Fish Fry
[APRIL 2](#)

Baytown

Baytown Youth Rodeo 2023
[APRIL 2](#)

Mineola

Mineola League of Arts Annual Art
Show/Longview Convention Complex
[APRIL 7-8](#)

Nacogdoches

Red Dirt Mud Run/County Expo Center
[APRIL 8](#)

Kirbyville

Kirbyville Magnolia Festival
[APRIL 12-15](#)

Galveston

2023 Elissa Day Sails
[APRIL 12](#)

Galveston

Gulf Coast Days in Galveston/Historic
Strand District
[APRIL 13-16](#)

Houston

International Gem and Jewelry Show/
NRG Park
[APRIL 14](#)

Gladewater

38th Annual Gusher Days
[APRIL 14-16](#)

The Woodlands

The Woodlands Waterway Arts Festival
[APRIL 14-16](#)

Hitchcock

Galveston County Fair and Rodeo
[APRIL 14-22](#)

Carthage

Pineywoods Quilt Festival/Carthage Civic
Center
[APRIL 14-15](#)

Cleveland

Johnny Lee at the Texan Theater
[APRIL 15](#)

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APRIL

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APRIL 1

Colmesneil

Easter Walk with Jesus/Victory Camp
Colmesneil
APRIL 1

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Wine Swirl 2023/Downtown
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APRIL 1

Carthage

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APRIL 1

La Marque

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Park
APRIL 1-2

Conroe

Montgomery County BBQ Cook-off/
County Fairgrounds
APRIL 1

Marshall

Ruthie Foster at Memorial City
Performance Hall
APRIL 1

Nacogdoches

Appleby Community Farm Music Festival
APRIL 1

Woodville

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APRIL 1

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APRIL 1

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Galveston Steampunk Festival/Galveston
Rail Road Museum
APRIL 1

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APRIL 1

Port Arthur

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Trinity

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Annual Fish Fry
APRIL 2

Baytown

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APRIL 2

Mineola

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APRIL 14-15

Cleveland

Johnny Lee at the Texan Theater
APRIL 15

Crockett

Davy Crockett Bear Chase/Davy Crockett National Forest
APRIL 15

Lufkin

Angelina Arts Alliance Presents: Neil Berg's 50 Years of Rock n Roll/ Temple Theater
APRIL 15

Galveston

An Evening with Renee Elise Goldsberry/Grand 1894 Opera House
APRIL 15

Madisonville

Madisonville Mudbug and Music Festival/County Fairgrounds
APRIL 15

The Woodlands

2023 Children's Memorial Hermann Iron Kids Texas Fun Run
APRIL 15-16

Cleveland

Taste of Cleveland/Civic Center
APRIL 19

Cleveland

The Bellamy Brothers at the Texan Theater
APRIL 21

Greenville

Hunt County Fair and Livestock Show
APRIL 21-30

LaPorte

San Jacinto Battle Reenactment
APRIL 21-22

Palestine

1836 Chuckwagon Races/ Diamond B Ranch
APRIL 21-23

Conroe

Texas Mineral and Fossil Show/ Lone Star Convention Center
APRIL 21-23

Lufkin

Etta May and the Southern Fried Chicks/Pines Theater
APRIL 21

Houston

H-Town Blues Festival 2023/NRG Arena
APRIL 21

Beaumont

Neches River Festival
APRIL 21-22

Galveston

Texas Beach Fest Weekend 2K23
APRIL 21-23

Beaumont

Beaumont Tattoo Expo/MCM Elegante Hotel
APRIL 21-23

Beaumont

Harbor Foundation 11th Annual Butterfly Release/Ford Park
APRIL 22

Orange

Mauriceville Crawfish Festival
APRIL 22

Grapeland

Grapeland Folk Festival/Mission Tejas State Park
APRIL 22

Lumberton

Village Creek Fun Day
APRIL 22

Nacogdoches

Old Stone Fort Bicycle Race
APRIL 22

Orange

Mauriceville Crawfish Festival Crawl 5K
APRIL 22

Tatum

Pecan Pie Festival
APRIL 22

Huntsville

Heatwave Music and Film Festival
APRIL 24-25

Village Mills

3rd Annual CASA Classic Golf Tournament/Wildwood Golf Course
APRIL 28

Alvin

4th Annual Rotary Frontier Days
APRIL 28-30

Corsicana

Derrick Days 2023
APRIL 28-30

Corsicana

Derrick days Oil Town Minithon 5K
APRIL 29

Galveston

The Grand Kids Festival/Grand 1894 Opera House
APRIL 29

Pasadena

Bon Temps Rouler Cajun Throwdown/Pasadena Convention Center
APRIL 29

Galveston

Rail Fest 2023/Galveston Rail Road Museum
APRIL 29

Port Neches

Port Neches River Fest Fun Run
APRIL 29

Nacogdoches

Do Dat BBQ/County Expo Center
APRIL 29

MAY

Orange

Tootsie at the Lutchter Theater
MAY 1

Port Neches

Port Neches River Fest 2023
MAY 2-7

Jefferson

69th Diamond Bessie Murder Trial Play/Jefferson Playhouse
MAY 4

Conroe

Conroe Americana Music Festival/Downtown
MAY 5

Houston

David Spade at Cullen Performance Hall
MAY 5-6

Jefferson

Battle of Big Cypress Bayou Reenactment
MAY 5-6

Crockett

Davy Crockett Bear Chase/Davy Crockett National Forest
APRIL 15

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Neches River Festival
APRIL 21-22

Galveston

Texas Beach Fest Weekend 2K23
APRIL 21-23

Beaumont

Beaumont Tattoo Expo/MCM Elegante Hotel
APRIL 21-23

Beaumont

Harbor Foundation 11th Annual Butterfly Release/Ford Park
APRIL 22

Orange

Mauriceville Crawfish Festival
APRIL 22

Grapeland

Grapeland Folk Festival/Mission Tejas State Park
APRIL 22

Lumberton

Village Creek Fun Day
APRIL 22

Nacogdoches

Old Stone Fort Bicycle Race
APRIL 22

Orange

Mauriceville Crawfish Festival Crawl 5K
APRIL 22

Tatum

Pecan Pie Festival
APRIL 22

Huntsville

Heatwave Music and Film Festival
APRIL 24-25

Village Mills

3rd Annual CASA Classic Golf Tournament/Wildwood Golf Course
APRIL 28

Alvin

4th Annual Rotary Frontier Days
APRIL 28-30

Corsicana

Derrick Days 2023
APRIL 28-30

Corsicana

Derrick days Oil Town Minithon 5K
APRIL 29

Galveston

The Grand Kids Festival/Grand 1894 Opera House
APRIL 29

Pasadena

Bon Temps Rouler Cajun Throwdown/Pasadena Convention Center
APRIL 29

Galveston

Rail Fest 2023/Galveston Rail Road Museum
APRIL 29

Port Neches

Port Neches River Fest Fun Run
APRIL 29

Nacogdoches

Do Dat BBQ/County Expo Center
APRIL 29

MAY

Orange

Tootsie at the Lutcher Theater
MAY 1

Port Neches

Port Neches River Fest 2023
MAY 2-7

Jefferson

69th Diamond Bessie Murder Trial Play/Jefferson Playhouse
MAY 4

Conroe

Conroe Americana Music Festival/Downtown
MAY 5

Houston

David Spade at Cullen Performance Hall
MAY 5-6

Jefferson

Battle of Big Cypress Bayou Reenactment
MAY 5-6

CALENDAR

Beaumont

For King and Country/Ford Park
MAY 6

Mauriceville

2023 Mauriceville Crawfish Bash/
Community Center
MAY 6

Tyler

Red Dirt BBQ and Music Festival
MAY 6

Lufkin

Kristin Chenoweth at the Temple Theater
MAY 6

Beaumont

38th Annual Crawfish, Food and Music
Festival/Downtown Event Center
MAY 6

Cleveland

8th Annual Car, Bike, & Powersport Show
MAY 6

Crystal Beach

Texas Crab Festival 5K-1K Fun Run
MAY 7

The Woodlands

Santana Supernatural Tour/C W Mitchell
Pavilion
MAY 7

Carthage

Cattleman's Pro Rodeo/Carthage Arena
MAY 12-13

Lufkin

Grease Sing Along at the Pines Theater
MAY 12

Port Bolivar/Crystal Beach

2023 Texas Crab Festival
MAY 12-14

Houston

Ed Sheeran/NRG Stadium
MAY 13

Lufkin

Brave Combo at the Museum of East
Texas
MAY 14

Jefferson

Jefferson Train Days
MAY 15-16

Pasadena

Pasadena Strawberry Festival
MAY 18-21

Corsicana

Yesterday and Today: The Beatles
Experience/Palace Theater
MAY 18

Huntsville

Sundown at Sam/Sam Houston
Memorial Museum
MAY 18

The Woodlands

Dave Matthews Band/C W Mitchell
Pavilion
MAY 19

Houston

Zach Bryan at the Toyota Center
MAY 19

Houston

Red Hot Chili Peppers 2023 Tour/Minute
Maid Park
MAY 25

Grapeland

Memorial Day Gospel Bluegrass festival/
Salmon Lake Park
MAY 25-28

Houston

Morgan Wallen at Minute Maid Park
MAY 26

Athens

92nd Annual Athens Old Fiddlers
Reunion
MAY 26-27

Tomball

Neil Diamond Tribute/Main Street
Crossing
MAY 28

JUNE

Jefferson

Big Cypress Corvette Weekend
JUNE 1-3

The Woodlands

Janet Jackson Together Again Tour/C W
Mitchell Pavilion
JUNE 3

Lufkin

Blueberry Concert in the Park/Festival
Park
Star Wars: A New Hope/Pines Theater
JUNE 9

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For King and Country/Ford Park
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Nacogdoches

Annual Blueberry Festival/
Downtown
Running of the Blueberries
Blueberry Wine Down/Farmers
Market
JUNE 10

Jacksonville

39th Annual Tomato Festival
JUNE 10

Lufkin

Madagascar The Musical/Temple
Theater
JUNE 11

Longview

Great Texas Balloon Race
JUNE 12-18

Fairfield

Freestone County Fair and Rodeo
JUNE 12-17

Houston

International Gem and Jewelry
Show
JUNE 16-18

The Woodlands

Matchbox Twenty at C W
Mitchell Pavilion
JUNE 30

JULY

Kilgore

Texas Shakespeare Festival
JULY 1-31

Houston

Marlon Wayans at the Houston
Improv
JULY 1

Gladewater

Crazy for Cline: Tribute to Patsy
Cline/Jackson's Theater
JULY 2

Houston

Freedom Over Texas Festival/
Eleanor Tinsley Park
JULY 3

The Woodlands

Star Spangled Salute/ C W
Mitchell Pavilion
JULY 3

Groveton

Fireworks at the Y
JULY 4

The Woodlands

26th Annual Red, Hot and Blue
festival and Fireworks
JULY 4

Cleveland

Moe Bandy at the Texan Theater
JULY 8

Houston

Blink 182 at the Toyota Center
JULY 8

Clute

Great Texas Mosquito Festival
JULY 8-9

Lufkin

Sister Act at the Pines Theater
JULY 14

Nacogdoches

Old Stone Fort Militaria Show
JULY 15-16

Longview

Longview Comic Con 2023/Cobb
Convention Center
JULY 15

The Woodlands

Shania Twain Queen of Me
Tour/C W Mitchell Pavilion
JULY 22

Longview

Longview Gun Show/Cobb
Convention Center
JULY 22-23

The Woodlands

Nickleback/C W Mitchell Pavilion
JULY 23

Tyler

John Conlee at Liberty Hall
JULY 26

The Woodlands

ZZ Top and Lynyrd Skynyrd at C
W Mitchell Pavilion
JULY 30

Events are subject to change or cancellation.

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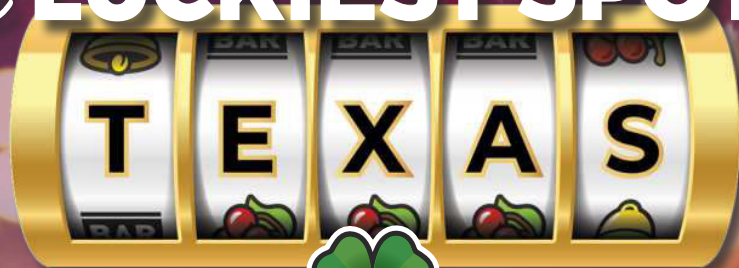
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LIVINGSTON TRADE DAYS

IN PEDIGO PARK

SATURDAY · 9A-5P

SUNDAY · 9A-2P

UNIQUE ARTISANS
RUSTIC CRAFTS
VINTAGE COLLECTIBLES
FOOD & FUN

2023 SPRING MARKETS

MARCH 18-19 | MAY 13-14

2023 FALL MARKETS

OCTOBER 14-15 | NOVEMBER 18-19

2024 SPRING MARKETS

MARCH 16-17 | MAY 18-19

2024 FALL MARKETS

OCTOBER 19-20 | NOVEMBER 16-17

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



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15. LIQUIDATION STATION
16. LIVINGSTON FEED & FARM SUPPLY
17. LIVINGSTON TRADE DAYS
18. MADONNA'S RESALE & FLEA MARKET
19. MARSHA'S
20. MICHE'S MERCANTILE
21. PETALZ BY ANNIE
22. POTS, PANS & MORE RESALE
23. RAINDANCE DESIGNS
24. RUBY CATTLE COMPANY MARKET
25. RUDY'S HONEY
 1. SEW FANCY
26. SHERYL'S FLOWERS & GIFTS
27. VINTAGE ROSE 190

DINE



28. AARON'S TACO SHOP
29. ALMA'S COURTHOUSE WHISTLESTOP CAFE
30. BLUE DUCK KITCHEN & BAR
31. THE BULL SHACK COFFEE & SMOOTHIES
32. EL BURRITO MEXICAN RESTAURANT
33. FLORIDA'S KITCHEN
34. HITCH-N-POST BAR-B-Q
35. JAVA QUEST
36. MYLI'S SWEET ICE
37. PIT ROW PIT STOP DINER
38. SHRIMP BOAT MANNYS



STAY

39. WOODSY HOLLOW CAMPGROUND
40. THE YELLOW ROSE CABIN B&B
41. AMERICAS BEST VALUE INN & SUITES
42. HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS HOTEL SUITES
43. LA QUINTA BY WYNDHAM
44. MOTEL 6

PLAY

- CITY PARKS & RECREATION
45. ANNIVERSARY PARK
 46. MATTHEWS STREET PARK
 17. PEDIGO PARK
 47. ACROSS THE TRACKS
 48. DOUBLE CREEK FARM
 49. HERITAGE PARK
 17. LIVINGSTON MAIN STREET
LIVINGSTON PIECEMAKERS QUILT GUILD
 50. POLK COUNTY COMMERCE CENTER
 51. POLK COUNTY MEMORIAL MUSEUM
 52. TEMPE CREEK VINEYARD & FARMS
 53. THE VAULT VENUE
 54. LIVINGSTON POLK COUNTY CHAMBER



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