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# FROM THE EDITOR

Spring has finally arrived, and I couldn't be happier. I'm ready for this time of rebirth and renewal as we escape the final trappings of winter. After cocooning inside for so long, it's nice to get outside and enjoy the sunshine. The days are getting longer, everything is greening and starting to bloom, and we can joyfully revel in our spring fever.

Speaking of getting outside, Amy Holzworth teaches us all about foraging in this Spring issue, as well as the wide array of plants that are either edible, medicinal or useful for other household solutions.

Conversely, Master Gardener Jolene Renfro educates us on the variety of plants that are not just harmful, but downright poisonous – despite their beauty.

In a fresh new addition to the East Texan, Madison Bland debuts her own Beauty & Style Guide in this issue where she updates us on the 2025 Spring fashion trends.

Barbara White shares a recipe for a slow cooker ham dinner just in time for Easter and Beth Faircloth shares some of her favorite vacation cocktails that are sure to enhance your Spring Break.

So, dust off that lawnchair or hammock that's been in storage all winter, grab your favorite beverage and relax as you delve into this issue. We've even provided several suggestions for your next day trip or perhaps a weekend road trip. Happy Spring!

Emily Banks Wooten, Editor



# foot-note /'foot,not/ Noun

an ancillary piece of information printed at the bottom of a page.

## Best books I've read lately

- "Unreasonable Hospitality: The Remarkable Power of Giving People More Than They Expect" by Will Guidara
- "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus
- "...And His Lovely Wife: A Campaign Memoir from the Woman Beside the Man" by Connie Schultz
- "Be Ready When The Luck Happens: A Memoir" by Ina Garten

### TV shows I've enjoyed lately

- Bad Sisters (Apple TV)
- Reacher (Prime)
- No Taste Like Home (Hulu)

# On The Cover



Spectators witnessed a variety of tribal dances during Alabama-Coushatta Day at the State Capitol Feb. 18. Photo by Emily Banks Wooten. See story page 40.

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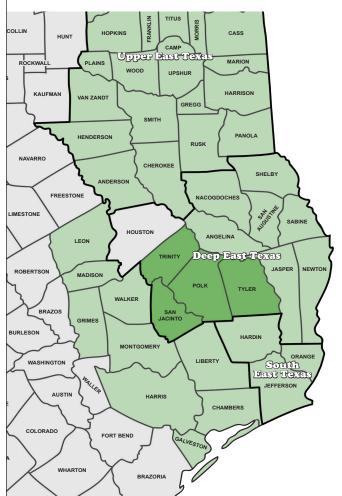
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# **Features**

- 1 6 "Even God himself couldn't sink this ship."

  Titanic exhibition returns to Dallas
- 34 Puttin' on the Ritz

  New life for an old favorite
- 40 Ittoyha (Together ... United) with the Alabama Coushatta Tribe of Texas
- 68 Best of East Texas Winners

# **Table of Contents**

- 6 Day Trip Food & fun in Beaumont
- 10 Road Trip
  Museum of Ice Cream thrills and chills
- 24 History
  Brunch outing results in historical discovery
- 28 Lawn & Garden
  A beginner's guide to foraging in East Texas
- 38 Lawn & Garden Vicious vegetation
- 46 Small Town Bites Brunch in Austin
- 50 Beauty & Fashion
  The beauty and style guide
- 54 Shake & Sip
  My favorite vacation cocktails
- **56** Recipe Simple slow cooker ham dinner
- 58 Television
  Our Distant Human History Reconsidered
- 60 Observational A Christmas Eve goat story
- 63 Poetry The Boots
- 64 Outdoors
  Time to talk turkey
- 66 Humor Find a perfect stranger, while supplies last
- 88 A few of our favorite things
- 92 Calendar of Events



### By Brian Besch

This trip almost didn't happen. Prior commitments had me out late the night before and rain was in the forecast all day, ruining most any outdoor adventure. Fortunately, the skies cleared and plans were made for Beaumont, just over an hour down the road.

I have ties to the city. According to the State Historical Survey Committee, Jefferson County's seat was settled in 1825 as Tevis Bluff. It incorporated as Beaumont 13 years later. Serving as an early trading post, it was also a riverboat port, as well as lumber, rice and ranching center. Nearby, Spindletop helped the area grow and ushered in the oil industry.

I believe we were able to experience some of the better and not-so-great aspects of the city on a Saturday in February. A

few of the negatives were that so many places were closed – some permanently and others for the day. The positive from the same point is that there was still plenty of activities to fill our trip.

Upon entering Beaumont, we were hungry, so a restaurant visit was our first stop. I had Cajun food in mind for a trip so close to the Sabine River, but the place we selected was closed, and I believe it's permanent.

So, we let the good times roll with a new experience for us both. Chabba Thai Bistro is located on Phelan Boulevard within a large shopping center. The wife started with a drink called Thai Tiger that was vodka, ginger lemongrass syrup, sour mix, fresh chilies and fresh lemongrass. I had to take a few sips, because that was unlike most anything I've had – very light, flavorful and even a little spicy.



The world's largest operational fire hydrant sits near the Texas Fire Museum. Photo by Brian Besch.

In order to try as many things as possible, we decided to share two appetizers and an entree. After narrowing our list, we decided on spring rolls, calamari and a main dish of Khao Soi Gai.

Those first two are probably self-explanatory, but Khao Soi Gai is described as a traditional dish from Northern Thailand. It includes egg noodles and a chicken thigh in spicy, creamy yellow curry. It is topped with crispy fried noodles, cilantro, red onions, pickled mustard and fresh lime.

All of the food was good. The spring rolls were much like you would receive at most other Asian-themed restaurants. The calamari were some of the largest I've ever seen. Having a chance to try something like Khao Soi Gai was fun. With

so many ingredients, each bite tasted a bit different, making it one of the more unusual I've had. That was exactly what we were going for – trying something out of the ordinary. We were both glad that we did.

Sometimes plans for these Food and Fun adventures are made well in advance. At other times they are last minute. A trip to the Botanical Gardens in Tyrell Park had to be changed. The gardens were not open. So, we looked around and, in the same parking lot, found a 9/11 memorial to walk through. Near the gardens are also a horticultural center (also closed), a golf course, horse riding stables, a dog park, visitor center and the Cattail Marsh Scenic Wetlands & Boardwalk. There's a ton to do in Tyrell Park, even if it's not all open.



We chose the wetlands and boardwalk for what we thought would be a quick stroll but ended up staying longer. There are miles to walk around the wetlands and even the boardwalk has some distance. Plenty of signage explaining the local birds help visitors identify all that are flying about. One of them showed off a bit for us in the water. We even saw a small alligator on the way back in. It had no time for us and wasn't moving much. We figured it was waiting on lunch. Not all of us get Thai food.

When something is the world's largest, you have to go see it, right? Even if it is the world's largest operational fire hydrant. Standing 24 feet, the dalmatian-themed hydrant was given to the city by Walt Disney during a rerelease of 101 Dalmatians in 1999. The hydrant weighs over two tons. Nearby is the Fire Museum of Texas but keeping in theme with the rest of the day, it was closed.

Many of us have those places that we pass by and think, "One of these days, I'm going to go in there." People traveling on Interstate-10 must have that same thought.

We spoke to a friendly and informative host at the Babe Didrikson Zaharias Museum and Visitor Center who said she hears that every day. Texas is filled with athletes who have made an impact on the largest of stages. Yet, few can compare with Zaharias.

Called the greatest female athlete of all time, she was accomplished in basketball, track, golf, baseball, tennis, swimming, diving, boxing, volleyball, handball, bowling, billiards, skating and cycling. Other than that, she didn't do much.

Zaharias won the national women's AAU/Olympic tryouts as an unattached athlete, with 30 points. That's eight points over the second place Illinois Women's Athletic Club. That's right, she outscored the best team by herself. It has been declared the greatest single achievement in a series of events in the history of athletics.

She won two gold and one silver medal in the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles. Two world records were set there by Zaharias by throwing the javelin 143 feet and four inches and running the 80-meter hurdles in 11.9 seconds.

Eventually focusing on golf, she won 82 tournaments. Zaharias was voted as the World's Greatest Woman Athlete for the First Half of the 20th Century by the Associated Press and is the only athlete to be named Woman Athlete of the Year by the AP six times. The next time you pass by that unique building, stop in. It is worth your time. They pack a lot into a small area.

We had one final stop before returning home. Everyone knows that calories do not count when vacationing or daytripping. Therefore, we were forced to go to Rao's Bakery. The original bakery was — you guessed it — closed. Fortunately, there is a second location.

The Babe Didrikson Zaharias Museum is worth the stop off Interstate 10. Photo by Brian Besch.



The parking lot was packed with many bringing out large boxes of treats. The smell that adds a few pounds hits as you walk through the door. There was a Mardi Gras/Valentine Day theme inside.

Rao's has been open a few years. The original bakery opened in 1941, and there are three locations in Beaumont, one in Houston and another in Nederland.

You can eat breakfast or lunch in the bakery. We were more interested in the items packed with sugar. With several cases, it's not easy to pick just a few.

Finally deciding, we left with cannolis, a cream horn, a sand tart cookie, tiramisu and a chocolate mousse baby cheesecake. For all, it was less than \$30.

A little fatter, a little happier, we left Beaumont after a full day. Next time, we'll be calling ahead to see what is open.

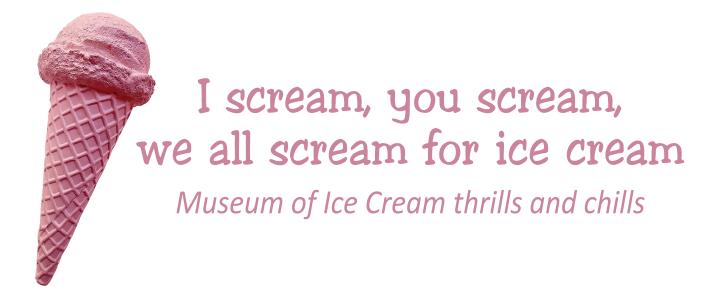
It was hard to pick from all the delicious treats available at Rao's.

This little one was waiting for lunch in the wetlands.

Photos by Brian Besch.







# By Emily Banks Wooten

One doesn't have to be young to enjoy the Museum of Ice Cream, but if you're young at heart it's a plus and will only enhance your visit.

I love a good experiential outing so when I heard about the Museum of Ice Cream in Austin, I knew that was something I wanted to add to my list of things to do. With our daughter now living and going to school there, we visit occasionally, and I like to try to find fun, memorable things for the three of us to do together.

Museum of Ice Cream offers interactive, ice creamthemed art installations, unlimited ice cream and terrific, colorful photo ops.

With locations in Austin, Boston, Chicago, Las Vegas, Miami, New York City and Singapore, Museum of Ice Cream is not a typical museum by definition and they will be the first to tell you that. Referred to as an "experium" on the website, it's a place "free from distractions, expectations and inhibitions" that is "created to celebrate creativity, passion and innovation." And you can also learn about ice cream history while enjoying the ice cream-themed installations and multiple interactive playscapes.

As we entered the giant pink building, we were led into a foyer with brightly colored walls in varying shades of red and pink, large, shiny red cherries suspended from the ceiling and giant pink sprinkles attached to the walls. A cute, vivacious young woman greeted us and gave us each a nametag on which we were supposed to write our "ice cream name." I went with "Cocoa Java" because my two favorite ice cream flavors are chocolate and coffee and that just made sense to me.

Our first installation was the "Diner" which featured a huge, pink neon, old-style jukebox and a red counter where soda jerks served ice cream treats to us. The day we visited the choices were vanilla with rainbow sprinkles or cherry with chocolate sprinkles. I opted for the cherry with chocolate sprinkles, and it was a refreshing delight.

Passing through a hallway clad with wallpaper featuring a dizzying array of pink banana splits on a yellow background, the next installation was the "Banana Room." You couldn't help but smile as you entered the room that was festooned with literally hundreds of pink and yellow plastic bananas suspended from the ceiling at varying levels. What a sight it was!

Next was "Cream's Candy Shop," festively decked out in pink and red with rows upon rows of candy jars, dispensers and boxes containing giant, plastic candies, macarons, bon bons, petits fours and sprinkles – a veritable feast for the eyes.

The next installation, "Carnival," took my breath away and took me back years. The floor and walls were adorned with an assortment of large-scale pictures of those pink, iced animal cookies with colored sprinkles. There were several games of chance, just like at a real carnival, but the star of the show was a pink and white installation made to look like a carousel. It featured the camel and elephant cookies, large enough to sit on as if riding a real carousel.

This particular installation was especially sentimental for me because as a child, our daughter referred to those iced animal cookies as "church cookies" because they were often given to her as a treat when she stayed in the church nursery as a toddler. In fact, at that time, she couldn't quite pronounce the "r" sound, so she called them "chuch cookies."

[left] Captivated by the fun bright colors, we knew as soon as we entered the Museum of Ice Cream that it was going to be a fun experience. Photos by Emily Banks Wooten.





As we entered the "Rainbow Hallway," I was rather jarringly brought back to the present as I watched that former "chuch cookie-eating toddler," now a beautiful grown young woman, walk ahead with her daddy in her UT cap, Vans and Lewis Hamilton T-shirt with AirPods in her ears. How quickly she went from toddler to college student!

Next was the "Magnets Room" which featured pink magnetic walls with hundreds of white, plastic letter magnets. At the top were four different prompts for you to answer with the letter magnets – What is your dream? Ice cream makes me ... What are you celebrating? Where are you from? As they headed on to the next area, I quickly spelled L-i-V-I-N-G-S-T-O and then grabbed a Z and rotated it one quarter-turn when I couldn't find an N. (I mean, come on. I had to represent for East Texas, right?)

We then went through a couple of interesting passageways with interactive components. The first one I would call the "Horoscope Room." It had a large wall display containing cardboard discs for each astrological sign that were there for the taking. The back of the card included that particular sign's flavor profile, a few details and its lucky toppings. I am a Virgo, and it said my flavor profile is tart, mellow and sweet; that I'm detail-oriented, practical and gentle; and that my lucky toppings are mini marshmallows and lemon zest. It was a fun little exercise, and I think my Libra and Aquarius got a kick out of it as well – although these types of things don't excite them near as much as they do me.

I would probably call the second passageway "ice creams of the world." It, too, featured a large wall display with various types of ice creams from all over the world displayed as large single scoops of ice cream. Bright, colorful and engaging, you could lift the hinged scoop from the display to read and learn more about it underneath. I didn't get to spend quite as much time with this display as I would have liked because my compadres were ready to move on.

[top left] This wall display features various types of ice cream from all over the world. You can lift the hinged scoop from the display to read and learn more underneath.

[left] This is one of several magnetic panels that pose various questions, allowing guests to use the plastic letter magnets to answer the questions. Notice the L-i-V-I-N-G-S-T-O-N.

[right] Festooned with literally hundreds of pink and yellow plastic bananas suspended from the ceiling at varying levels, the "Banana Room" was a trip.

Photos by Emily Banks Wooten.





The final installation was a play area with basketball hoops, large Connect 4 games, individual cabanas and a large "Sprinkle Pool," complete with a slide, ladders and diving boards. The sprinkle pool is filled with nearly one hundred million antimicrobial, biodegradable sprinkles in which the young – or the young at heart – may swim.

The last stop before exiting the building was a cafe/bar and gift shop where you may sit down and relax with a milkshake or one of their signature cocktails or perhaps purchase sweet treats, candles, T-shirts, tote bags, key chains, trinkets and other novelty items.

We enjoyed our visit to the Museum of Ice Cream and perhaps rediscovered our inner children. It's impossible not to enjoy the whimsy and joy of a place like this. I guarantee you'll leave with a smile.

There were numerous additional opportunities to eat more ice cream during our visit, but having enjoyed a big breakfast earlier, we were content with just the one serving we received upon arrival.

# Get the scoop here:

Museum of Ice Cream is located at 11506 Century Oaks Terrace in Austin.

Admission tickets are only available online.

Weekday tickets start at \$24 and weekend tickets start at \$30.

Children ages two and below get in free.

Student discounts are available and guests 16 and under must be accompanied by an adult or legal guardian.

Closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, the hours vary as follows: Mondays 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Thursdays noon to 6 p.m., Fridays noon to 7 p.m., Saturdays noon to 7:30 p.m. and Sundays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For additional information, go to www.museumoficecream.com.

[left] A large "Sprinkle Pool," complete with a slide, ladders and diving boards is filled with nearly one hundred million antimicrobial, biodegradable sprinkles in which the young – or the young at heart – may swim.

[above right] The "Carnival" installation was a favorite, especially the carousel featuring the camel and elephant versions of those pink, iced animal cookies with colored sprinkles we all know and love.

[right] A play area with basketball hoops allowed Hubby to show off his skills as Daughter watched.

Photos by Emily Banks Wooten.









# Titanic exhibition returns to Dallas

# By Mollie LaSalle and Chris Edwards

"What a ship! So huge and so magnificently appointed. Our rooms are furnished in the best of taste and most luxuriously, and they are really rooms, not cabins." – Ida Straus, first class passenger aboard the RMS Titanic

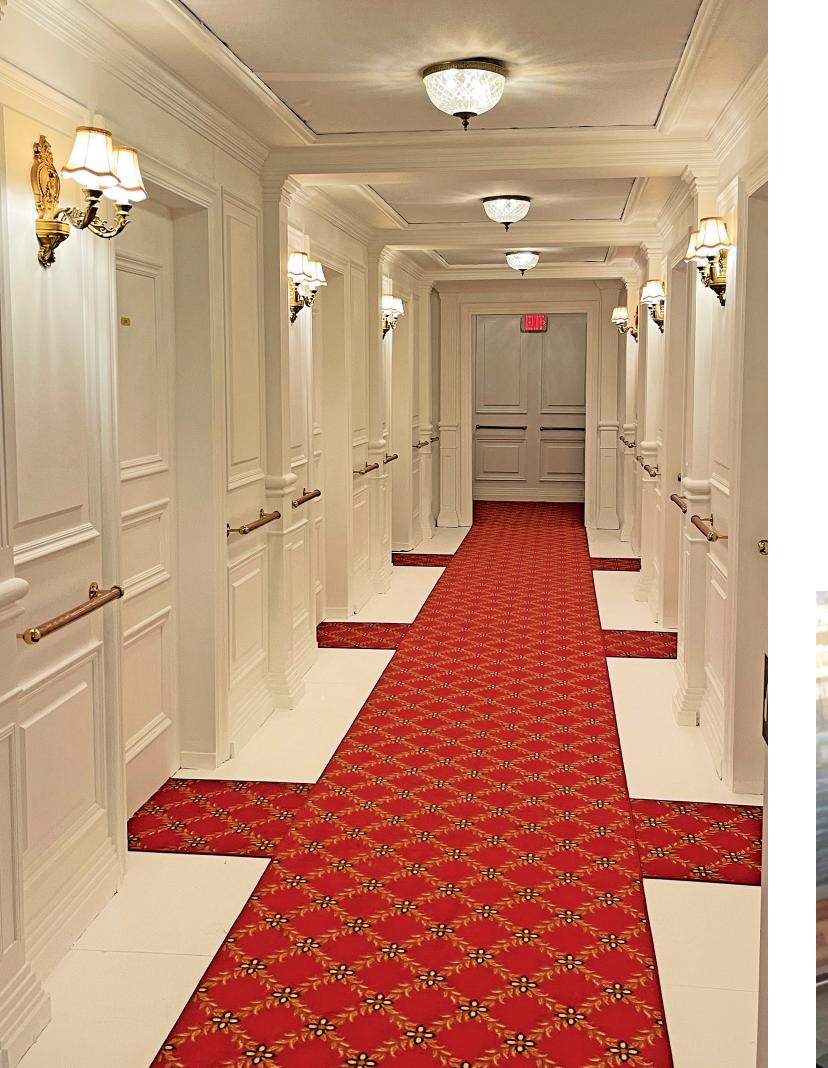
As a junior wireless radio operator, Harold Bride was aboard the RMS Titanic on the great ship's maiden voyage when it struck an iceberg on the night of April 14, 1912. Bride and his colleague, Titanic's senior wireless operator Jack Phillips, were sending out distress signals to ships nearby and coordinated rescue efforts for survivors to be picked up by the RMS Carpathia.

Bride was washed off the Titanic and managed to reach a lifeboat, (Collapsible B), while Phillips perished in the sinking. Bride was rescued later that morning, and, despite having a severely sprained ankle, and frostbitten feet, helped the Carpathia's wireless operator Harold Cottam transmit survivor lists and personal messages from the ship.

The sinking of the Titanic was a catastrophic event which has since passed into myth and legend. The tragic night coincided with the advent of telegraph services. This was probably the first wreck where so many people died, many of them rich and famous, and the news spread around the world due to telegraphs. The night of the sinking, and how the news broke to the world at large, is considered one of the great moments in the early history of radio. It was a massive news story in the early 20th century.

Disasters, both of the man-made and natural persuasions, present a paradox within the human mind. For one, there is a deep fascination with catastrophic events which capture our attention, primarily because they evoke strong emotions such as fear, awe, and even excitement.

Psychologists suggest that this attraction comes from an evolutionary need to understand threats for survival. By studying and imagining disasters, people mentally prepare for worst-case scenarios, making them feel a sense of control in an unpredictable world. This explains why disaster movies, news reports, and historical accounts captivate audiences across cultures and time periods.



Finding meaning and resilience in the face of a haunting disaster is what fuels the fascination with the pre-eminent happening of April 15, 1912, when 1,500 people died on a dark, moonless night. From that void, countless articles and essays, books, and even a handful of major motion pictures have helped tell the tale of the RMS Titanic, the pride of the White Star Line. The ship's story is now available to the public here in Texas by way of a traveling exhibit, now showing in Dallas.

A summary of the exhibit from a press release only hints at what awaits visitors. "Titanic: The Exhibition is an interactive exhibition that tells the chronological and dramatic tale of the design, creation, launch, maiden voyage and tragedy of the largest and most luxurious ship in the world at the time," it states.

It took three years and 30,000 workers to see the construction of the Titanic done from bow to stern, all without the aid of automated processes or computers. All of the drafting and engineering behind it was borne of human hands as well, to see the 882.5-foot long marvel to its April 10, 1912 maiden voyage, to set sail from Southampton and into the chronicles of history as a tragic tale.

The fully immersive re-creations of the ship's interior, as well as the artifacts displayed, help navigate guests through Titanic's timeline from sinking to its eventual underwater discovery.

Tom Žaller, the president and CEO of Imagine, the company that brought the exhibit to Dallas, said, "Titanic has been a part of my life since the late 90's when I had the incredible

opportunity to dive to the wreck site, and since that firsthand experience, I've presented hundreds of exhibitions about the ship, her people and her stories. One of the first Titanic exhibitions I was part of was at Fair Park in Dallas in 2000. It's been more than 20 years since I've presented a Titanic exhibition in the Metroplex and I'm extremely excited to be returning. This story continues to fascinate people; it's every man's story, the story of hopes and dreams. Our exhibition is designed to immerse the visitor in the history of the Titanic in a new way, with incredible media experiences and recreated environments that bring the story to life."

Upon arrival at the exhibition, you are issued a boarding pass of an actual passenger, and you travel with them through the ship to learn their fate. Every exhibit is awe-inspiring, from the numerous displays of China and silverware to the grandest exhibit, the Grand Staircase, arguably the most famous part of the magnificent ship. You will see a recreation of the first-class smoking lounge, and third-class sleeping cabins. There is literally something spectacular, yet also, ultimately, haunting and fascinating, around every corner.

The Grand Staircase recreation, itself, is a stunning and iconic display of early 20th century finery, with its carved oak banisters and iron scrollwork. On the ship, the staircase boasted a mid-landing, 12-foot-tall carving by Charles Wilson, a Belfast woodworker, and at its center was a clock, which was flanked by figures representing Honor and Glory and crowning Time. All these features are painstakingly recreated for the exhibit, along with the bronze cherub, which holds a glowing lamp.

[left] Hallway to first class cabins. Photo by Mollie LaSalle. [below] Scale model of RMS Titanic. Photo by Chris Edwards.



Music plays an important part in curating the experience. In the first phrase of the tour, where visitors are brought into mind of the shipyard that birthed the ill-fated ship, industrialized sounds of hissing steam, pounding presses and hammers soundscape that portion of the exhibit. Once you are brought to the second phase where you are boarding the ship, Irish jigs and reels are playing. Onboard the ship, the mood shifts with Romantic period waltzes, and later, popular tunes of the day such as the refrain of the old ragtime standard "Oh, You Beautiful Doll," accompany the journey as you walk through the Grand Staircase exhibit.

As you make your way through the ship you find yourself on the promenade deck, under a simulated starry, but moonless night sky upon the Atlantic. The further down the ship you go, you come to the boiler rooms, and eventually, you find yourself walking on the sea floor while viewing actual footage of the wreck underwater. You can rest in the replica scaled-to-size lifeboat and touch a chilly simulation of the iceberg. Eventually, you come to the wall of names of survivors and those who perished.

### A Titanic Texas connection

The Titanic may have met its end in frigid, 34-degree waters in the North Atlantic, but there are a few ties to the Lone Star State, as the exhibit demonstrates.

There were at least three survivors who eventually made their way to Texas to make their lives, with Beila Moor and Adal (Adele) Nasr Allah Shamaley settling in El Paso, and Albert James Horswill retired and moved to Humble.

The only Texans who were actually onboard the Titanic were Samuel and Emma Risien, who lived in Groesbeck. They were both lost to the disaster.

Also of note, a Texan oil tycoon named Jack Grimm was bound and determined to find the ship in the 1980s and launched three expeditions to do so. However, those efforts failed, and it was not found until September 1, 1985, when an expedition led by Dr. Robert Ballard and Jean-Louis Michel discovered it.

While the shipping industry in Texas is not directly tied to Titanic, it does share some important historical context. During that time, Texas was becoming increasingly involved in maritime commerce due to the expansion of ports. For example, Galveston was once the busiest port in the Gulf of Mexico. During that time, the state was positioning itself as a critical trade hub, particularly for oil. The growing demand for the transport of goods and the development of Texas' shipping infrastructure would link the state to international shipping lines, including ones that would have been in direct competition with the White Star Line.

# Virtual reality puts you at the wreck site, and then on the ship

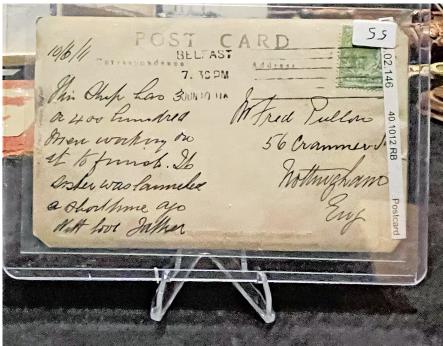
Visitors can also partake in a virtual reality tour of the wreck after walking through the exhibit. That component of the tour will take you two and a half miles down to the ocean floor in order to view the wreck up close. Without providing any spoilers, I will say that if you are at all squeamish, I don't recommend looking down into the crow's nest. Apart from the wreck site tour of the VR experience, simulations also will bring you aboard the ship as it looked in 1912.

Mark Lach, creative producer of the exhibition, said that "as a member of the last team to dive to the Titanic wreck site to recover artifacts, I saw firsthand the awe-inspiring scale and significance of the ship. Of course it was exciting, but it was

[below left] Life jacket from White Star Line, used by sister ships Olympic and Titanic. [below right]Postcard from Titanic's launch in May 1911.

Photos by Mollie LaSalle.







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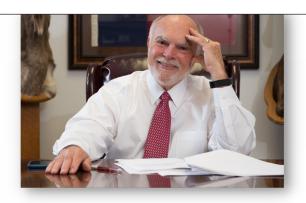
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very emotional as well. Through the passengers' stories, immersive recreations and authentic artifacts, we've brought that sense of wonder and discovery to our guests, allowing them to step back in time and experience Titanic's legacy like never before."

He added "It's one of those stories that just captured the public's fascination and still does, and I think it speaks to not only the excitement of the story. Passengers boarding the ship with every expectation of arriving safely in New York, the rich and famous, but also the simple immigrant, the excitement of starting a new life, and for many, that didn't happen. At the end of the day, it's a personal story, it's an emotional story, it's a story that appeals to all ages, and that satisfies the fascination we have."

As with any disaster of monumental proportions that later is parlayed into big business, the Titanic has carried a great deal of folklore with its tragic tale. One takeaway that may or may not be true is the claim that the ship's captain, Edward John Smith was overheard to say "Even God himself couldn't sink this ship." Whether that was actually uttered or not is ultimately unverifiable, but it has proven itself to be an item that looks good in print. Regardless, the fact remains that the iceberg that lusted for the ship's hull was first spotted at 11:40 p.m. on Sunday, April 14 in the ship's path, and by 4:10 a.m. the next day, any trace of the RMS Titanic's existence was lost to the dark, chilly void of the Atlantic Ocean.

This is the story of the designers and builders who created her. This is the story of the passengers and crew. This is the story of Titanic.

The exhibition opened February 14 and runs through May 11. It is located at Pepper Square, 14902 Preston Road, Dallas. Admission prices start at \$34 for ages 13 and up, \$25.50 for children ages 4-12, or members of the military, and \$27.50 for seniors 65 or older. Children under four get in free. Discounts are available for groups of four or more. Go to: titanictheexhibition.com/dallas to book your tickets.

Binoculars used by the lookout in the crow's nest. Photo by Mollie LaSalle.



# TITANIC by the Numbers

Here's a look at what all was carried aboard the Titanic besides passengers. The ship's designation as a Royal Mail Ship (RMS) meant that it carried mail across the Atlantic. More than 26,000 cubic feet of the ship's hold was allocated for mail.

Titanic recorded on its cargo list a variety of goods from more than 125 companies and private citizens, which amounted to a cool \$420,000 in 1912 dollars (\$9.9 million in 2025). These included:

- 437 casks of tea from Wright & Graham Co.
- 34 cases of athletic gear from Spaulding & Bros.
- 185 cases of wine, 110 cases of brandy, four bales of skins and one cask of china from H. Hollander
- 63 cases of champagne from F.B. Vandegrift & Co.
- Three cases of books, two cases of furniture, one case of pamphlets, one case of plants, one case of eggs and one case of whiskey from Wells Fargo & Company

Also recorded were cases of cheese, medical instruments, periodicals, straw hats, walnuts, lace, fish, golf balls, toothpaste, soap, linoleum, orchids, ostrich feathers, leather, silverware, a jeweled copy of a collection of poetry titled the Rubiyat of Omar Khayyam and even a motorcar.

As far as provisions for the journey went, here is a sample of some of the edible and potable items in the ship's cargo hold:

- 75,000 lbs. of fresh meat
- 11,000 lbs. of fresh fish
- 4,000 lbs. of salted and dried fish
- 7,500 lbs. of bacon and ham
- 25,000 lbs. of poultry and game
- 40,000 fresh eggs
- 2,500 lbs. of sausages
- 10,000 lbs. of rice and dried beans
- 40 tons of potatoes
- 3,500 lbs. of onions
- 36,000 apples
- 6,000 lbs. of butter
- 2,200 lbs. of coffee
- 1,750 quarts of ice cream
- 10,000 lbs. of sugar
- 250 barrels of flour
- 800 lbs. of tea
- 15,000 bottles of beer
- 850 bottles of Scotch, gin and whisky
- 1,200 bottles of mineral water

# The Guenther House

# Brunch outing results in historical discovery

### By Emily Banks Wooten

While in San Antonio for my husband to attend a conference, our daughter and I scoured the internet from our hotel room looking for a place to eat brunch. While we love the riverwalk and all that it has to offer, we wanted to venture out a little and try something different. After deciding on The Guenther House, we entered the address in the GPS and set out, with no idea the winding path we were about to embark upon and the treasure trove of history we'd find once arriving. We were very pleasantly surprised.

Located at 205 E. Guenther St., The Guenther House sits in what is referred to as the King William Historic District, just south of the central business district of San Antonio. The district comprises parts of some 22 blocks with 79 historic structures, most dating from the second half of the nineteenth century.

The well-kept grounds were beautiful and enchanting. We meandered our way around to the restaurant and entered, amazed at what felt a bit like a step back in time. The restaurant encompasses the original kitchen, tea room, dining room and the outdoor arbor areas of the Guenther House. In the art nouveau style of the 1920s, it includes the use of stained glass, symmetrical lines and extensive plant motifs. It also reflects the miller's trade, with plaster bundles of corn and wheat used as supports for the mantel and wall buffet.

But I'm getting ahead of myself. A little history first ...

Carl Hilmar Guenther, a 23-year-old German apprentice millwright boarded a ship bound for America in 1848, traveling through the Midwest before embarking down the Mississippi River to Louisiana and, ultimately, Texas. He did a variety of work during this time including lumbering, farming and flour milling.

Finding out that in America "You seize the opportunity that presents itself," three years after his arrival, with the financial help from his parents, he did just that, building a flour mill 75 miles northwest of San Antonio on the Live Oak Creek in Fredericksburg, Texas.

Business flourished and Hilmar expanded and improved his mill over the next several years. Unfortunately, drought depleted the crops so badly in 1858 that he had little grain to grind and little water to drive the wheel. He closed the mill and relocated his business on the San Antonio River, purchasing seven- and three-quarter acres of land just below the center of the city. In 1860, after the mill was erected, Guenther began to build a home where he and his wife, Henrietta Dorothea Pape, raised seven children.

The mill prospered and over time, Guenther replaced millstones with steel rolls to grind grain and waterwheels gave way to electricity as a source of power. According to records found through the Texas State Historical Association, his mills were incorporated as C.H. Guenther and Son in 1898, though the name was later changed to Pioneer Flour Mills.

Guenther also established a small ice plant called the Southern Ice Company (later Southern-Henke Ice Company). He helped found San Antonio's German-English School and held membership in the Beethoven Männerchor, the Arbeiter Verein, and the Casino Club, San Antonio's first social club and theater. Guenther and his descendants constantly improved and enlarged the mills. By 1900 their 200-horsepower engine was the largest in the city.

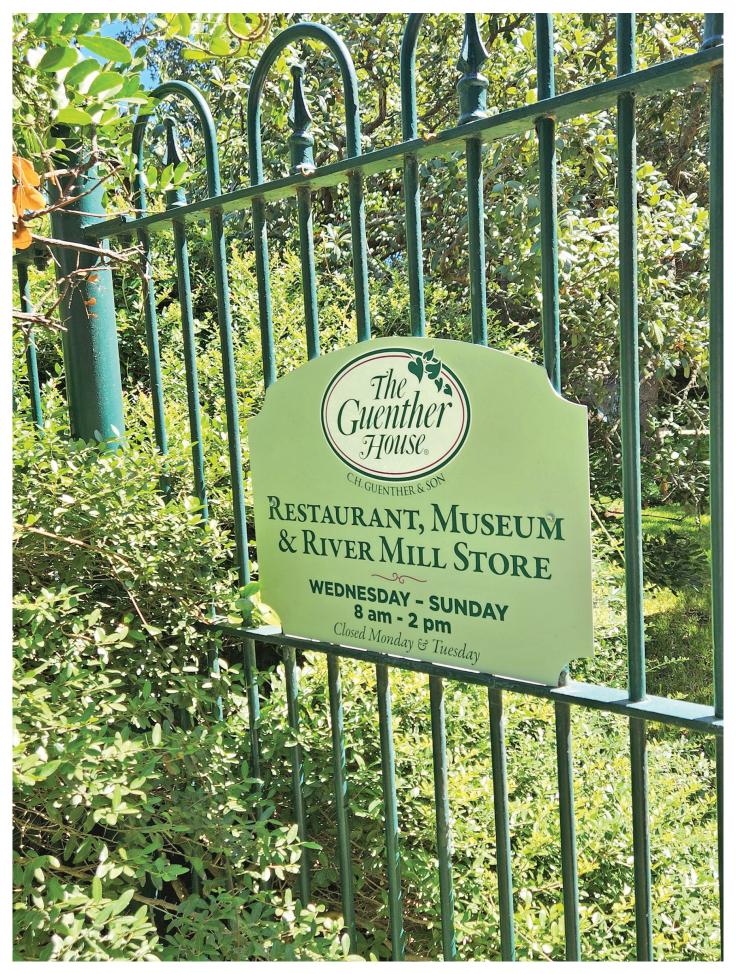
In 1902 Erhard Guenther, Hilmar's youngest son, became president of Pioneer Flour Mills. He also undertook a major remodeling of the family home, making changes that give The Guenther House the look it has today. The original metal roof was replaced by a green tile. Two stories and a side veranda were added.

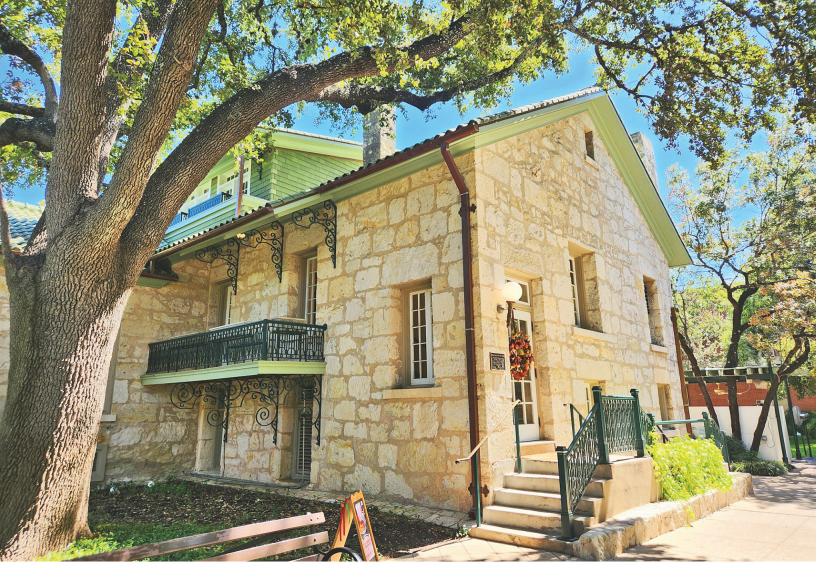
The home's original library, now referred to as the museum, houses mill memorabilia including antique baking accessories, cookie cutters and anniversary Dresden china plates which were given to customers by the mill. After World War II, Dresden plates were replaced with American-made china until they also stopped in 1952.

Erhard's silver-plated trophy from the Casino Club Bowling Team of 1897 is also located in the museum, as is a beautiful hand-carved Victorian marble-top table, a gift to Erhard and his wife, Lottie Hamisch Guenther. An alabaster and brass ceiling fixture has been returned to its original place in the museum, as well.

The home also houses the River Mill Store where one may browse and purchase San Antonio River Mill Brand mixes for biscuits, breads, cakes, pancakes, waffles and gravies; preserves, honey, butters, sauces and syrups; Founders Choice Coffee; baking accessories including various themed cookie cutter

[right] As you enter the grounds of The Guenther House Restaurant, Museum and River Mill Store you will be taken aback by the pristine beauty. Photo by Emily Banks Wooten.







sets; aprons, dish towels and other items made from flour sacks; gift sets, books, drinkware and home decor; and an assortment of Guenther Brand items.

The hallway between the museum and the River Mill Store was originally the home's front door entryway. A silver-plated, gas-lit chandelier originally located in another house on the mill property has been placed in The Guenther House. The stained-glass door and sidelights that are now the entrance to the ladies' room reflect the miller's trade.

Pioneer Flour Mills, on East Guenther Street, is still family owned and operated. Extensive renovations were completed in 1988, and the house was opened to the public as a restaurant and museum for Pioneer Flour Mills. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. Department of the Interior in 1990.

[above] Construction began in 1860 on what was originally a six-room, two-story home. The Guenther House was built with limestone blocks quarried north of San Antonio on the present-day site of the San Antonion Zoo. Much of the first floor is partly below the level of the ground, which served as insulation from the summer heat. Erhard Guenther, C.H. Guenther's youngest son, later transformed the home, adding a three-story addition that covers the original entrance facing the mill, a new entrance built on the side and a green tile roof covering it all. The last Guenthers moved out of the house in 1948, and it became a test kitchen for new products and office and storage space. A two-year renovation in 1988 returned The Guenther House to its original splendor.

[left] Originally the home's front door entryway, this stained-glass door that reflects the miller's trade is now the entrance to the ladies' room located between the museum and the River Mill Store.

Photos by Emily Banks Wooten.



The Guenther House is located at 205 E. Guenther St. in San Antonio.

The telephone number is 210-227-1061.

The restaurant is open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. The San Antonio River Mill Store is open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays.

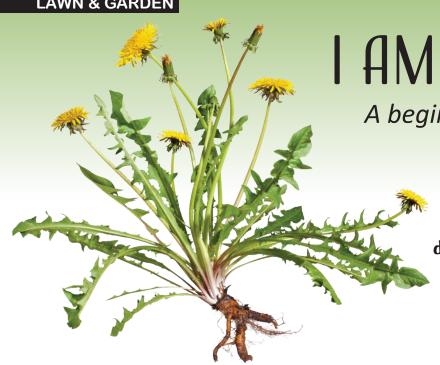
For more information, go to www.guentherhouse.com.

[above] Part of the original structure, the parlor dates to 1860 and reflects the late Victorian influence of the period. The furnishings are Victorian as well, with the intricately carved mahogany tilt-top table in the center of the room that was characteristic of the era. The floors were constructed of virgin pine, a wood preferred for its hardness and pleasing pattern. The casement windows are one-quarter inch glazed beveled glass. Window coverings, similar to those shown in a 1902 photograph, are of "Rosini" lace imported from Germany. The window cornices and wall mirrors are gold metal leaf. The mirrors are arranged to give the illusion of a never-ending reflection.

[right] The River Mill Store features an assortment of items for purchase, including San Antonio River Mill Brand mixes for biscuits, breads, cakes, pancakes, waffles and gravies, as well as aprons, dish towels and other items made from flour sacks.

Photos by Emily Banks Wooten.





I AM NOT A WEED

A beginner's guide to foraging in East Texas

> "If I ever go looking for my heart's desire again, I won't look any further than my own back yard."

> > - Dorothy Gale The Wizard of Oz

# By Amy Holzworth

One of my earliest memories is being outside playing at daycare. My favorite activity was scouring the yard, particularly around the fenceline, for my favorite dark purple flower, which I now know was a wild violet. I would then proceed to squish the flower between my little fingers and eat it. Lucky for me, wild violets are safe to consume and did not make me sick. Not only that, they are quite beneficial, being used for their anti-inflammatory and expectorant properties as well as being good for the heart. Of course, I didn't know any of that back then, but that very well may have been the start of my fascination with the plants around me and their many uses.

Our ancestors had to forage to survive, and learned how to use everything around them for food, for medicine, for dyes or even insect repellant. We've lost a lot of that valuable knowledge, and end up buying something from around the world that could be growing in our very own East Texas. Have a cold? A tincture of green sweetgum balls can be used to kill viruses in your body. Pestered by fleas? Rosemary oil repels them as well as other bothersome insects. Sinuses a little stopped up? Mullein tea makes a great expectorant. Wanting to just eat off the land? Acorns can be harvested and turned into flour or roasted and ground into a coffee-like drink. These remedies and so many more have been used for thousands of years and need to be preserved, not only for ourselves, but generations to come.

### **EVERY PART OF ME**

The dandelion is the poster child for plants that are considered undesirable weeds, but they are a vastly underrated plant. It has been used in traditional medicines for centuries, having uses as a diuretic, digestive aid, liver support, antiinflammatory, antioxidant, moisturizer or to soothe skin irritations. They are an excellent source of vitamins A, C, K and also contain vitamin E, folate and small amounts of

other B vitamins, as well as several minerals, including iron, calcium, magnesium and potassium. Nearly every part of the dandelion is useful. The roots can be eaten raw or dried for tea. The stems can be pickled or used in salads. The leaves can be added to salads, soups or stir-fried. The yellow flowers can be used to make tea, wine or jelly. The puffed out seed heads? Well, they can be used for wishes. Personally, I wish for more dandelions.

### **PRFTTY IN PINK**

As one of the first heralds of spring in East Texas, redbud flowers are more than just a pretty face. They are high in vitamin C, and can be eaten raw, tasting a little fruity and sour, or made into a beautiful, tasty jelly.

### REDBUD JELLY

Pick approximately four cups of redbud flowers, separating as much of the green stem as you can, it can add a bitter flavor. Pour eight cups of boiling water over the petals and allow to cool. The color won't be very impressive at this point, more of a pea green, but trust the process. Once cool, cover and set in the refrigerator for 24 hours.

Strain the flowers through a cheesecloth into a pot with four tablespoons of lemon juice and bring to a rolling

boil. Add one packet of Sure-Jell (use the low-sugar kind for this or any floral jelly) and stir for one minute. Add eight cups of sugar. Once sugar is melted and mixture is back to a rolling boil, continue to cook one minute before removing from heat. Jar immediately as you would any jelly.

Makes approximately 13 pints.







### THE QUEEN HAS HAIRY LEGS

When foraging, it's crucial that you properly identify plants. One particular plant, Queen Anne's lace, can be useful as a diuretic, antiseptic and to soothe the digestive tract. However, it is nearly indistinguishable from poison hemlock, which can cause symptoms ranging from vomiting to seizures to respiratory failure. One way to tell the two apart is to examine their stems; Queen Anne's lace has tiny prickly hairs covering its stems while poison hemlock is smooth. Be very careful identifying plants. Look at multiple sources and pay close attention to factors such as stems, leaf size, shape and growing regions. Research similar plants and learn how to tell them apart. It can make all the difference in finding a helpful plant versus something that could potentially harm you.

### YAUPON IN YOUR CUP

The yaupon is the only plant native to North America that produces caffeine, and has long been used to make tea. It is also rich in antioxidants, an anti-inflammatory, a heart and digestive support, has been used to help boost mood and focus and treat headaches. Leaves can be used green, or dried and/or roasted, giving different flavors, though mostly it has a taste similar to green tea.

Poison hemlock [above] and Queen Anne's lace [below] share many visual similarities and are members of the same plant family as carrots, celery and parsley, but while one is helpful, the other can be deadly. Make sure you know which you are picking to avoid disaster.





Mullein can be identified by its soft, fuzzy leaves and later by its tall, stalk of yellow flowers. Its leaves can be dried and made into a slightly bitter tea, but honey and lemon help. It can help loosen a stuffy nose.

## FORAGER BEWARE

There are a few things to remember when foraging. Always make sure that where you are gathering is legal to pick plants; public or state parks are usually a no-go, as may be your neighbor's yard. Also confirm the area has not been sprayed with pesticides.

While many may claim that certain plants cure everything from the sniffles to cancer, please remember that while some have been tested, many benefits are only based on word of mouth across generations. Always do further research; don't just take my word for it, or that of a quick Google search. Also, something that works for someone else may not work for you, or your body may have an adverse reaction. Be careful testing any new plant and be aware of potential side effects. Consult a doctor if you have any concerns.

In my own search to find value in everything on this vast earth we've been given, I've stumbled across many others with similar interests online through various websites, blogs and Facebook groups. I take great joy in the sharing of experiences and information, just as our ancestors did, even if it's gathered around a computer instead of around a campfire.





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# Puttin' on the Ritz



# New life for an old favorite



## By Jan White

For small towns across America, the local movie theater is a vital part of the community, bringing people together, and creating a sense of shared experience. It's a reflection of neighborhood values, artistic tastes, and historical context. In the heart of Crockett, Texas stands just such an icon – the Ritz Theater.

Originally established as an opera house in 1894, it served as an epicenter of entertainment during the era of vaudeville shows and silent films. Over its lifetime, the theater witnessed Hollywood's Golden Age, experienced the challenge of wide-screen formats and surround sound, and faced competition from the home entertainment industry. In its heyday, the Ritz was considered a bit of a cultural hub for the city, providing many local residents with their first employment opportunities.

Although ownership and management changed over the decades, most of Crockett's current residents remember the theater under the management of Bill Schulman, who took over operations in the 1980s. Known fondly as "The Movie Man," Bill's charismatic personality endeared him to patrons. Nathan Schulman, Bill's grandson, recalls his grandfather as "...larger-than-life. When he walked into a room, people lit up. He was funny, he was silly, he was cordial. Everybody has a memory of my papaw."

[left] Newly renovated lobby featuring handcrafted handrails and restored antique chandelier. Photo courtesy of Jacque Fleming.
[below] Old concession stand. Photo courtesy of Piney Woods Fine Arts Association.

35







Despite its history and Schulman's best efforts, a decrease in patronage and profitability led to the theater's decline. Following Bill's passing in 2013 and the subsequent death of his wife, Christine, in 2018, the Ritz Theater ceased operations. For a small town like Crockett, it was a disappointing blow, marking the end of a much-needed source of entertainment and social interaction. Although there was talk about a possible reopening, structural and cosmetic damage along with challenging economic factors made reviving the Ritz a challenge. Consequently, the building remained vacant and deteriorating, with little hope for restoration.

But in December of 2022, an anonymous donor purchased the Ritz Theater and gifted it to the Piney Woods Fine Arts Association, offering them the opportunity to restore and reopen the historic landmark.

It seems fitting that the organization was given the opportunity to bring this showcase for the arts back to life. Established in 1991, the Piney Woods Fine Arts Association (PWFAA) is dedicated to promoting and recognizing performing and visual arts to enrich the lives of the people of Houston County and surrounding areas. Each year they sponsor the 'Signature Series' of concerts, featuring nationally known musical guests, as well as the Houston County Youth Talent Showcase, Missoula Children's Theater, Jim Jefferies Summer Arts Workshop, and the free Summer Concert Series every Friday in June.

Restoring an old theater is no small feat, but the PWFAA was up for the challenge. Executive Director Ann Walker discussed the renovation. "For the exterior," Walker said, "we wanted to go back to the retro look, to the 50s and 60s. That's how it was when we grew up, so the majority of the people today will remember how the Ritz looked back then." Her vision was for the outside to reflect those memories while giving the interior an elegant touch.

The effort has been a labor of love. After getting bids from contractors outside the area, Walker made the decision to use local workers instead. "The other contractors just wanted to put a bandaid on it. Put some paint on the walls – just do the basics. But I decided that's not what I wanted. I wanted it to be a showplace for Crockett."

[above] Early photo of the Ritz.
[middle] Exterior before renovations.
[left] Artists rendition of updated Ritz, showcasing the restored neon lighting.
Photos courtesy of Piney Woods Fine Arts Association.

Initial renovations were estimated at \$2 million. The T.L.L. Temple Foundation, whose mission is to enhance the quality of life for East Texans, offered a \$544,000 matching grant based on the town's ability to raise the other half. Because the grant allowed "in kind" contributions, local businesses and philanthropists played a crucial role. By contributing tools, equipment, materials, and labor, they significantly reduced the need for monetary funds while still meeting the grant's terms.

Walker maintains oversight of the project. "The girls and I here in the office pick out every single thing from the wall colors to tile to chairs. We do everything ourselves because it's important for us to keep this in Crockett." She asked local metalwork artist, Robin Ogg, to create a banister for the stairs. Art, created by students from the summer arts workshop, will be framed and hung throughout the building. The high school welding team is attaching the railing on the upstairs balcony.

Jared Cravens, an area resident who specializes in neon sign restoration, offered to restore the "Ritz" sign for free. The sign itself is an iconic part of the theater. Its restoration isn't just about preserving a piece of history. It provides a tangible link to the memories of those who grew up with the Ritz as a central part of their lives and invites new patrons to experience everything the venue has to offer.

While the building's exterior retains its retro look, the interior is modern with new flooring, comfortable seating,

accessible facilities, an updated concession area, and a modern HVAC system. Advanced lighting and sound systems will enhance the audience experience.

Walker's hope is that the Ritz will once again become a vibrant social center in Crockett. "The theater will be a 500-seat multi-use venue that will allow for a variety of events such as dance recitals, piano recitals, children's theater, community theater, and UIL competitions." And of course, movies. Although, as Walker explained, the movies will be more family-friendly older offerings rather than first-run movies, which are "very expensive to stream."

The grand opening of the Ritz was held March 28. The PWFAA hosted The Texas Tenors, Emmy award-winning musical artists, and 2022 Texas Country Music Hall of Fame inductees.

The revitalization of the Ritz Theater is a testament to the importance of preserving the town's heritage, and serves as an inspiration to other communities, demonstrating that with passion, dedication, and collaboration, it's possible to breathe new life into historic buildings.

\*Continued donations are welcome. Please contact Ann Walker via email at ann@pwfaa.org or call 936-544-4276 for more information.



#### Vicious Vegetation

#### By Jolene Renfro, Master Gardener

When we think of plants, we think of flowers with delicate beauty, put on earth to charm us with color and perfume. However, there are many plants that aim to kill or maim and have evil reputations.

What do rhubarb, cashew nuts, kidney beans and potatoes have in common? They all contain toxic compounds that require thorough cooking before human consumption! The leaves of rhubarb contain high levels of oxalic acid which can cause difficulty breathing, gastrointestinal problems and even death. Grocery stores don't sell raw cashew nuts because they are part of the same botanical family as poison ivy; they are steamed before roasting. The red kidney bean must be cooked to avoid nausea and vomiting. And a potato that's been exposed to light long enough for its skin to turn green – it will contain increased levels of solanine, which causes gastrointestinal symptoms and, in rare cases coma and death.

We knowingly invite monstrously ill-mannered plants into our homes to live with us, mostly because they come from a jungle environment and take to our indoor climate nicely. Some of these indoor plants that will cause problems if ingested are the peace lily (not to be confused with calla lily), English ivy, philodendron, dumb cane, ficus and rubber tree.

Go outside and you do not fare much better with all the evildoers lurking in your backyard. You and the pets want to steer clear of yew trees, oleander, larkspur, delphinium, lily-of-the-valley, tulips, daffodils, chrysanthemums and monkshood to name just a few floral fiends. Touching some plant saps,

stems, or leaves may cause a skin rash and parts of many plants may lead to severe gastrointestinal upset if eaten. Ingesting some plants may result in heart problems or nervous system issues.

The lovely pink flowers that are members of the nightshade family and all parts of the angel's trumpet are poisonous and fatal to humans and animals and should be handled with care. The same is true of the plant that farmers and ranchers know as Jimson weed. Sometimes juice from these plants is used as a recreational drug producing hallucinations, but the risk of overdose and death is high. It is in the same family as belladonna, the deadly plant with the innocent name, 'Beautiful lady.' Long ago, ladies would put drops made from the plant into their eyes to make them look open and bright. Atropine, made from the belladonna plant, is still used by eye doctors to dilate pupils and paralyze muscles in the eye when they do eye examinations. Morning glories are distant kin to these plants and have some of the same properties – just milder.

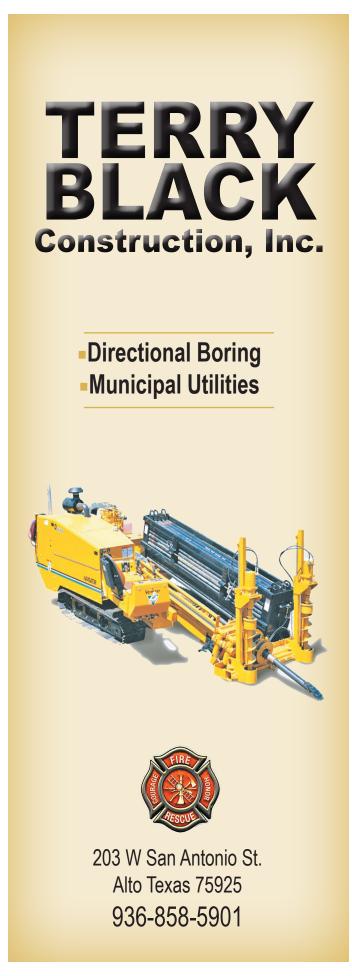
Finally, there is a poisonous plant in Nigeria called the calabar bean, also known as the 'lie detector' or 'judgment' plant. The accused person chews on one of the beans, and if they are guilty, they die, if innocent, they live. The psychology at work is that guilty people chew slowly and ingest more poison, and innocent people gulp it down and less poison enters their system.

The bottom line to all the information from today is – don't worry too much about things that go bump in the night, instead worry about the innocent-looking plant that wants to do you in. You have been warned!







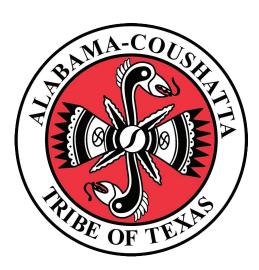


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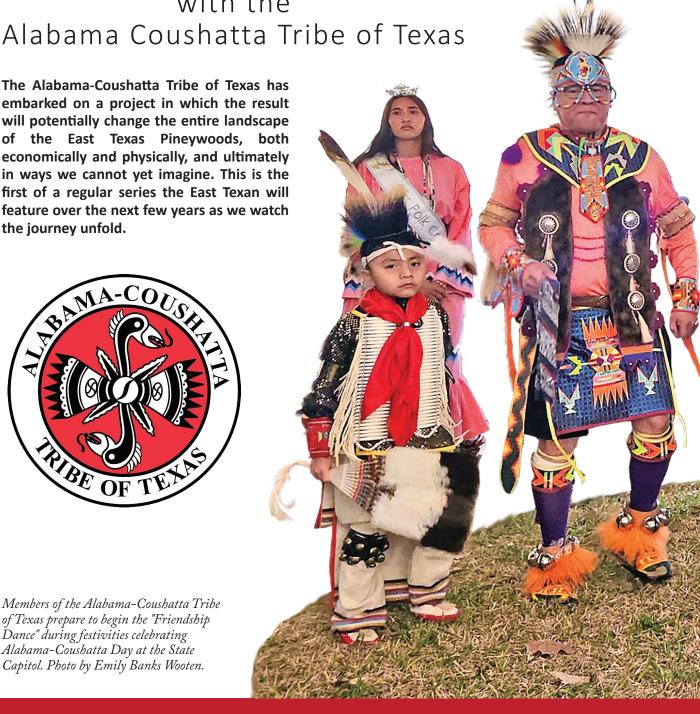
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The Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas has embarked on a project in which the result will potentially change the entire landscape of the East Texas Pineywoods, both economically and physically, and ultimately in ways we cannot yet imagine. This is the first of a regular series the East Texan will feature over the next few years as we watch the journey unfold.



Members of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas prepare to begin the "Friendship Dance" during festivities celebrating Alabama-Coushatta Day at the State Capitol. Photo by Emily Banks Wooten.





#### Join our journey alongside the oldest Indian reservation in Texas as they navigate the future while preserving the past

#### By Emily Banks Wooten

I was blessed recently to have the opportunity to travel via chartered bus to Austin for Alabama-Coushatta Day at the State Capitol. The meaningful day – held every other year when the Texas Legislature is in session – is an opportunity to celebrate the rich heritage of our friends and neighbors, the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, as well as take pride in their unique contributions to the history and culture of our beloved Lone Star State.

It was a drizzly winter day, and the inclement weather confined us to a big tent on the south lawn of the state capitol but that didn't stop us from enjoying a sequence of moving tribal dance presentations. Tribal members displayed their crafts and there were numerous cultural and historical displays as well. We also enjoyed a delicious barbecue lunch with all the trimmings, provided by the tribe for its guests.

Just as the funambulist has mastered the skill of walking the tightrope, the tribe astutely continues to preserve its past – which is steeped in tradition – while also working to build a bright future for its people and community.

For over 240 years, the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas has made its home on the oldest reservation in the state located on approximately 10,200 acres in the Big Thicket of Deep East Texas, 16 miles east of Livingston on U.S. Hwy. 190. A sovereign nation, the tribe has a fully functioning government with a full array of health and human services, including law enforcement and emergency services. There are more than 1,300 members, about half of whom live on the reservation.

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Initially two separate tribes, the Alabamas and Coushattas lived in adjacent areas in what is now the state of Alabama. By 1780, the tribes had migrated to modern-day East Texas. The tribes have been closely associated throughout their histories and have designated themselves as the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas. Culturally, these two tribes have always been one people, despite minor differences. Their languages are mutually understandable, although some differences occur in individual words. The tribes have woven a history together. Marriages between members of the two tribes have been frequent since the earliest times.

#### **Inauguration of New Second Chief**

The tribe kicked off this year with a traditional inauguration ceremony on New Year's Day in which Herbert Johnson Jr. was installed as the tribe's new Second Chief, Mikko Istimaatokla, following in the footsteps of his late father, Mikko Skalaaba Herbert Johnson Sr., who exemplified the tribe's values of service, cultural pride and leadership.

A proud member of the Deer Clan, Johnson's appointment marks a significant moment in the tribe's leadership and heritage. Mikko Istimaatokla, or Second Chief, is a revered role within the tribe, responsible for assisting in the tribe's governance, cultural preservation and the passing down of traditions to future generations.

Johnson brings his experience, dedication and passion for the tribe's well-being and future to his leadership, ensuring that the Alabama-Coushatta people continue to thrive and carry forward the legacy of their ancestors.

Speaking to a group from the Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce recently, Johnson said, "We've been neighbors for many years. Nacogdoches is known for being the oldest town in Texas but before that, it was a trading area for the tribe. We hunted. We farmed. We made tools. And these would all be traded. We made friends with a lot of people before Texas was a state."

#### New Casino Resort/Entertainment Destination

The tribe owns and operates Naskila Casino which first opened in 2016 with 365 Class II gaming devices. Today, Naskila Casino has over 900 of the newest Class II gaming devices, two cafes and a gift shop in addition to the Ischoopa Travel Center.

Having invested over \$212 million in East Texas, Naskila Casino is an economic driver in addition to being one of the largest employers in Polk County with a \$22.5 million annual payroll. Called "the luckiest spot in Texas," every jackpot won

[left] Valerie Robinson distributes T-shirts commemorating Alabama-Coushatta Day at the State Capitol.

[right] Principal Chief Donnis B. Battise cuts the ribbon for the newly remodeled Ischoopa Travel Center as tribal members and other well wishers watch.

Photos by Emily Banks Wooten.

there is won by someone who will spend their money to eat, sleep, shop and refuel in East Texas prior to returning home – something that benefits the entire region.

Plans are underway to break ground later this year for the construction of a brand-new casino resort/entertainment destination on tribal land. The resort will offer a variety of amenities including a state-of-the-art casino floor, hotel accommodations, diverse dining and entertainment options and an array of attractions for the entire family. The new resort will add 1,000 additional jobs.

"All these surrounding counties are feeling the (economic) effects. Of course, we're called the luckiest spot in Texas. There are a lot of jackpots, and those people spend money," Johnson said, adding, "We're not trying to cultivate gamblers. We're trying to be an entertainment destination."

The project is presently in the design phase, as the tribe continues to determine what will be included in the resort complex. There have been talks of a movie theater and a bowling alley, although these are as yet unconfirmed. "We're still in that phase of trying to get it together," Johnson said.

#### Ischoopa Travel Center

The former Ischoopa/One Stop Convenience Store and Truck Stop, having undergone an extensive remodel/renovation earlier this year, is now the Ischoopa Travel Center which features 81 of the newest Class II gaming devices on the east side of the building and a convenience store equipped with a variety of snacks, tobacco and food concessions available on the west side. There is also a 12-bay fuel station with diesel fuel. Expansion of the travel center – which has gone to a 24-hour operation – has not only provided economic benefits but has also provided additional jobs and services.

#### **Economic Benefits**

The economic benefits from the revenue stream created by the creation and opening of Naskila are regularly put back into tribal coffers to provide needed services such as housing, education and

healthcare for the tribe and neighboring community. A 500-acre site for new homes was earmarked last year. Thirteen new homes have been constructed and nine more are expected to start this spring. Ongoing work on water lines and fiber optics is presently underway as the tribe continues to maintain and upgrade its infrastructure.

"We help out our neighbors. We recently helped Polk County Cares with their annual crawfish and shrimp boil and that event raised over \$150,000. We still continue to help our neighbors, to help our state. Everything that we have helps with housing, education and healthcare. Nothing is going in anyone's pockets," Johnson said.

#### **Education Center**

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was recently held to celebrate the opening of the tribe's new "House of Teachings," a 49,000-square-foot education center that will house its education department, Head Start Program, tribal library and youth programs. The building includes classrooms, offices, common areas, kitchens for several of the programs, a courtyard, two play yards and a multipurpose gym. It is located near the Veterans' Pavilion behind the Chief Kina Clinic.

#### 55th Annual Powwow

The tribe will host its 55th annual Powwow June 6-7 at its Veteran's Pavilion located 16 miles east of Livingston on US Hwy. 190 and the public is invited to attend. Gates open at 2 p.m. on Friday, June 6 with a gourd dance at 5 p.m. followed by the grand entry at 6:30 p.m. On Saturday, June 7, gates open at noon and a gourd dance is slated for 2 p.m. A break, as well as some entertainment, is from 4-6 p.m. followed by another gourd dance at 5 p.m. and a grand entry at 6:30 p.m.

For more information about the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, go to alabama-coushatta.com For more information about Naskila Casino, go to naskila.com



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#### Brunch in Austin ...

#### It doesn't get much better



#### By Emily Banks Wooten

In our daily lives, we're not typically breakfast eaters. However, we've never met a brunch we didn't like ... especially if we're on vacation or just roadtripping on the weekend.

With Daughter about to wrap up her first year at the University of Texas, we're finding ourselves heading to Austin any chance we get. And we seem to be making quite the habit of indulging in a nice brunch each trip.

Three brunch spots we enjoy are Kerbey Lane Cafe, Another Broken Egg Cafe and First Watch. And these aren't just limited to the Austin area. Though Kerbey Lane Cafe has seven locations in Austin, it also has locations in Round Rock, San Marcos and San Antonio. Another Broken Egg Cafe is a franchise with more than 80 locations in 15 states and First Watch is a restaurant chain with more than 535 locations in 29 states.

#### Kerbey Lane Cafe

Kerbey Lane Cafe first opened its doors to the Austin community in 1980, serving scratch-made comfort food out of a small 1930s bungalow in Central Austin on Kerbey Lane.

We first learned of it many years ago through our friends Melinda and Butch who were such big fans they were occasionally known to drive many miles out of their way just to get some of the famous cowboy queso with fresh guacamole, black beans and pico de gallo. It didn't take us long to find out why.

[left] The original Kerbey Lane Cafe opened in 1980 in this little 1930s bungalow at 3704 Kerbey Lane in Central Austin. Our first visit there was during Spring Break 2015 following a visit to the State Capitol where we visited the offices of our state representative and state senator.

[right] "Chicken & Pancakes" at Kerbey Lane Cafe are golden fried all natural chicken strips and cinnamon beignet pancakes drizzled with sweet and spicy maple Buffalo sauce and powdered sugar.

Photos by Emily Banks Wooten.







Our first visit to Kerbey Lane was in March 2015 while we were on our spring break trip to Austin and San Marcos. It was the original location in the little bungalow at 3704 Kerbey Lane. It was a wonderful experience; the food was amazing, and we immediately became converts. And as soon as we'd eaten the first bite of that cowboy queso, we completely understood Melinda and Butch's love for it.

Although we haven't yet made it back to the original location, we've eaten several times at the university location at 2606 Guadalupe and most recently, at the south location at 3003 S. Lamar.

Migas are one of my all-time favorite breakfasts, having been first introduced to them by my husband many years ago when we first started dating. A Tex-Mex classic, migas are scrambled eggs with fried corn tortilla strips, pico de gallo, cheese and salsa and sometimes grilled onions and peppers and are traditionally served with refried beans and additional tortillas. They were typically my go-to at Kerbey Lane. As much as I love them, however, I've been trying to get out of my rut and try some different things. As a result, I've tried a couple of things there recently that I loved and would highly recommend.

Last August, I had the "Cuban Benedict" – a buttery biscuit served open faced, stacked with all-natural pulled pork, two poached eggs, hollandaise, topped with bacon, cilantro and onions, garnished with fried plantains and served with a side of breakfast potatoes. It was delicious.

In February I tried the "Chicken & Pancakes" – golden fried all natural chicken strips and cinnamon beignet pancakes drizzled with sweet and spicy maple Buffalo sauce and powdered sugar. Oh my gosh. This was amazing. Sweet and spicy with a tinge of heat, it was just decadent ... and so filling that I could eat only half of it.

#### Another Broken Egg Cafe

Though there may be Another Broken Egg Cafes in more than 80 locations in 15 states, our only experiences have been at two of the Austin locations – 8012 Mesa Dr. and 6406 N. I-35 Frontage Rd., Ste. 1600.

In November I had the "Shrimp Benedict" – poached eggs on grilled focaccia with sautéed mushrooms, roasted peppers, onions and arugula, topped with Gulf shrimp in a creamy velouté sauce and sliced green onions and served with fresh seasonal fruit. It was absolutely delicious, albeit another decadent, rich meal.

[above left] "Double Crunch Breakfast Tacos" from First Watch's holiday menu are double-layered tacos, each with a wheat-corn tortilla filled with refried beans and cheddar and monterey jack, wrapped around a crispy corn tortilla shell filled with scrambled cage-free eggs, hardwood smoked bacon and hand-pulled carnitas, topped with lime crema, housemade pico de gallo, fresh avocado and cilantro.

[below left] The "Southwest Scrambler" at Another Broken Egg Cafe is scrambled eggs filled with chorizo, onions, tomatoes and green chilies, topped with cheddar jack cheese, sides of guacamole and salsa and served with flour tortillas.

Photos by Emily Banks Wooten.



[above] First Watch also features a colorful, eye-catching mural.

[below] The "Florentine Benedict" at First Watch is two poached cage-free eggs atop toasted ciabatta with fresh baby spinach, avocado and vine-ripened tomato and covered with hollandaise and served with lemon-dressed organic mixed greens.

Photos by Emily Banks Wooten.

In February I had the "Southwest Scrambler" – scrambled eggs filled with chorizo, onions, tomatoes and green chilies, topped with cheddar jack cheese, sides of guacamole and salsa and served with flour tortillas. It was a good, solid brunch.

#### First Watch

While First Watch isn't new to us, it's always a good brunch option. We've previously eaten at one in Dallas and one in The Woodlands.

I've had the pleasure of having the delicious and relatively healthy "Florentine Benedict" – two poached cage-free eggs atop toasted ciabatta with fresh baby spinach, avocado and vine-ripened tomato and covered with hollandaise and served with lemon-dressed organic mixed greens.

Back in November I had the "Double Crunch Breakfast Tacos" from their holiday menu and these things were the bomb ... so very good. It was two double-layered tacos, each with a wheat-corn tortilla filled with refried beans and cheddar and monterey jack, wrapped around a crispy corn tortilla shell filled with scrambled cage-free eggs, hardwood smoked bacon and hand-pulled carnitas, topped with lime crema, housemade pico de gallo, fresh avocado and cilantro. The tacos were served with a cup of fresh fruit sprinkled with Tajin® seasoning. I'm strongly in favor of putting these on the regular menu.

A definite must anytime you're at First Watch, is the "Million Dollar Bacon" – four slices of signature hardwood smoked bacon baked with brown sugar, black pepper, cayenne and a maple syrup drizzle. It might as well be called sweet and salty meat candy. Just go ahead and plan on ordering a couple of these for the table. You'll thank me later.

To find locations near you, go to:
kerbeylanecafe.com | anotherbrokenegg.com | firstwatch.com

#### The Beauty and Style Guide

by Madison







I don't know about you, but anytime I think of spring trends, I picture a scene from The Devil Wears Prada. Miranda Priestly is in a meeting with her employees, discussing the trends for April that will be featured in their magazine, Runway. Someone suggests florals for spring, and Miranda Priestly replies, "Florals? For spring? Groundbreaking." I laugh every time that scene comes up, and for anyone who has a love for

the fashion world, I would highly recommend watching it.

Now don't get me wrong, florals are absolutely chic, and I would consider them a staple in a woman's closet. But since florals aren't groundbreaking for spring, what is groundbreaking? Let's take a look at the groundbreaking spring trends of 2025 and what you can expect to see on the runway and in your favorite department stores.



#### Boho, Fisherman Style and Fabrics

This spring, Boho with a modern twist is very much in. Think maxi dresses, earth tones, flowing fabrics, and lots of accessories. Chloé is a great brand to reference, as this season Boho is really being embraced by them and can be seen at their Paris Fashion Week show. Along with Modern Boho, Nautical or Fisherman style is trending—blues, whites, and

reds. Chunky sweaters, turtlenecks, stripes, and linens are key pieces.

In addition to linens, transparency is in, though not in an immodest way of course. Think chiffon and organza for layering options, like a basic white tee paired with a chiffon white button-up.



#### **Trending Colors**

A great starting point is color trends. This year, there will be a lot of pastels, chocolate brown, powder pink, cherry red, and sage green. These colors have played a significant role in the Chanel Spring 2025 Couture Collection. During my personal shopping trips to the Galleria of Houston, I've noticed these colors displayed frequently. I'm especially excited about cherry red and powder pink. Cherry red has always been a favorite of mine, and lately, I've been venturing out to wear pink. I even bought a pink sweater from ALO the other day during one of my shopping outings. For some reason, Valentine colors are really working for me.

[left] Madison is wearing a thrifted outfit featuring this year's trending colors.
[below] Mannequins at Houston Galleria feature a chic and classic style.

Photos by Madison Bland.



#### Trends come and go, but style is forever

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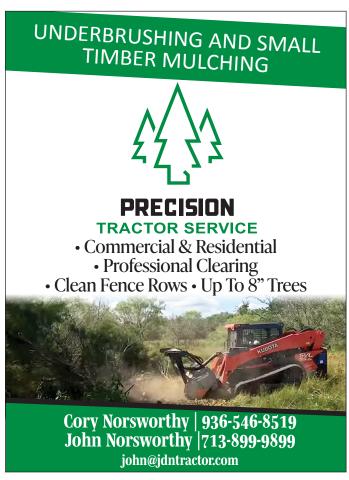
Something I have always said is trends come and go, but style is forever. While I might say sage green isn't for me, cherry red absolutely is. Maybe Boho isn't your style, but chiffon is — because remember grandmother wearing it, and it always had a special place in your heart or closet. You might also be like me, someone who would have never thought powder pink was your color, but after trying it on, you fell in love. I believe there's always something for everyone amid trends; you just have to pick and choose what best fits your style.



# easttexasnews.com











## My favorite V A C A T I O N COCKTAILS

#### RED FROG PUB JAMAICAN SUNRISE

From cocktailbuilder.com

#### **INGREDIENTS**

4 1/2 oz of Orange Juice 2 oz of Vodka 1 oz of Cranberry Juice 2 oz of peach schnapps Orange wedge (for garnish) Cherry (for garnish)

#### MAKE IT

- 1. Fill glass with ice
- 2. Add cranberry juice.
- 3. In a shaker mix vodka, peach schnapps, and orange juice. Shake well.
- 4. Pour in glass over cranberry juice.
- 5. Garnish with orange wedge and cherry.



#### JOE'S CRAB SHACK MASON JAR MARGARITA

From crabsavory.blogspot.com

#### **INGREDIENTS**

2 oz. tequila

1 oz. lime juice

1 oz. simple syrup

1 oz. Triple sec

Ice

Salt (optional)
Lime wedge (optional)

#### **MAKE IT**

- 1. Fill a Mason jar with ice.
- 2. Add tequila, lime juice, simple syrup, and Triple sec to the jar.
- 3. Add a pinch of salt if desired.
- 4. Put the lid on the Mason jar and shake vigorously.
- 5. Remove the lid and garnish with a lime wedge if desired.



From allrecipes.com



#### **INGREDIENTS**

1 lemon, chilled

1 lime, chilled

1 orange, chilled

11/2 cups rum or brandy, chilled

½ cup white sugar

1 (750 milliliter) bottle red wine, chilled

1 cup orange juice, chilled Club soda to taste, chilled (optional)

#### **MAKE IT**

1. Before getting started,

make sure all ingredients (except sugar) are chilled.

2. Slice the fruit into thin rounds and place in a large glass pitcher.

3. Pour in the rum or brandy, and the sugar. Chill in the refrigerator for 2 hours.

4. When you're ready to serve, use a wooden spoon to lightly crush the fruit.

5. Stir in the wine and orange juice.

6. Top if off with club soda if desired.



#### **PEACH SANGRIA**

From simplejoy.com

#### **INGREDIENTS**

750 milliliters Moscato chilled 1/2 cup vodka
1 cup peach schnapps
1/2 cup peach juice
3 peaches sliced

#### **MAKE IT**

1. Combine all of the ingredients. 2 Serve in stemless white wine glasses with a reserved peach wedge and enjoy!

Serves 6 cocktails



#### COSMOPOLITAN

From liquor.com

#### **INGREDIENTS**

1- 1/2 ounces citron vodka
3/4 ounce Cointreau
3/4 ounce lime juice, freshly
squeezed
1/2 ounce cranberry juice cocktail

Garnish: lime wedge

#### **MAKE IT**

1. Add the vodka, Cointreau, lime juice, and cranberry juice cocktail into a shaker with ice and shake until well-chilled.

2. Strain into a chilled cocktail glass.

3. Garnish with a lime wedge.



#### CARNIVAL CRUISE LINE MIAMI VICE

From cruisingearth.com

#### **INGREDIENTS**

5 oz Bacardi 151 Rum 1 Package Frozen Pina Colada Mix 1 Package Frozen Daiquiri Mix

#### **MAKE IT**

1. Mix pina colada mix with 2.5 oz rum with ice. Set aside.

2. Mix daiquiri mix with 2.5 oz of rum with ice.

3. While frozen, add pina colada mix to a cocktail glass.

4. Add daiquiri mix on top (keeping separated).

5. Serve.



#### **RUM RUNNER**

From allrecipes.com

#### **INGREDIENTS**

2 cups ice, divided, or as needed

1 fluid ounce pineapple juice

1 fluid ounce orange juice

1 fluid ounce blackberry liqueur

1 fluid ounce banana liqueur

1 fluid ounce light rum

1 fluid ounce dark rum

1 splash grenadine syrup, or more to taste

1 fluid ounce high-proof rum (such as Bacardi 151)

1 slice orange

#### **MAKE IT**

1. Combine 1 cup ice, pineapple juice, orange juice, blackberry liqueur, banana liqueur, light rum, dark rum, and grenadine in a cocktail shaker; shake to combine.

- 2. Fill a hurricane glass with ice.
- 3. Pour in mixture.
- 4. Add high-proof rum for a floater and garnish with orange slice.



#### By Barbara White

I love a one-pot dinner. Very little muss and no fuss, this one fits the bill and smells fantastic while cooking.

#### **Ingredients:**

2 small ham steaks, cut in half

4 canned pineapple rings (save juice from the can)

1 lb. baby gold potatoes (cut in half if large)

½ lb. fresh green beans, trimmed (can use more if you really like green beans)

½ cup pineapple juice (reserved from can)

3 tablespoons salted butter, melted

2 teaspoons Dijon mustard

1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

½ teaspoon garlic powder

½ teaspoon onion powder

1/8 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1 pinch ground cloves

Salt and pepper to taste

#### **Directions:**

Add the ham steaks in slightly overlapping layer, with pineapple slices in between, to the middle of a six-quart, oval slow cooker. Add potatoes on one side of the ham and pineapple, then add the green beans to the other side.

In a small bowl, add the melted butter, pineapple juice, Dijon mustard, Worcestershire sauce, onion powder, garlic powder, cinnamon and cloves. Whisk until smooth.

Pour the sauce over everything in the slow cooker.

Cook on low for 5-6 hours. Add salt and pepper to the potatoes and Photo by Amy Holzworth green beans if desired. Serves 4 56

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#### Our Distant Human History Reconsidered

### The Controversial Ideas of Graham Hancock

#### By Kevin Wooten

Television, at its best, should make us think more deeply about everything. But doing so sometimes makes us uncomfortable because deep critical thinking can force us to question some very fundamental beliefs we hold about ourselves, our world, and our history.

As a person who teaches history as a full-time job, I am fascinated by the past. The events and the people that came before us have shaped who we are as a species, as well as the world in which we live. But one thing that I have learned regarding our past, especially the distant past, is that we clearly don't know everything that has happened throughout time. It is especially difficult to know what occurred before the advent of writing and the documentation of events. Much of what we do know is passed down orally through stories from indigenous peoples. Since we don't have any first-hand descriptions from antiquity, to understand these distant times we must search for evidence such as fossils, pottery and other artifacts, and then make educated guesses. It is this aspect of history that is sometimes controversial. Archaeologists, or those who study

antiquity, build careers and reputations around their work regarding past human history. They oftentimes pose rigorous defenses against any challenges to their theories, even going so far as launching personal attacks against those with whom they disagree.

This brings us to Graham Hancock and Ancient Apocalypse. Graham Hancock is not an archaeologist. He will proudly remind everybody of that. What he is, he would tell you, is obsessively curious about distant human history. He has a controversial theory that he has been promoting for years. He believes that a past, highly advanced, civilization existed before the last Ice Age. He argues that his research strongly suggests (We can't know anything "for sure" about the distant past) that a comet, or large fragments of a comet, struck earth about 12,900 years ago. The impact, according to Hancock, destroyed an advanced civilization that possibly existed in North America and/or elsewhere. The comet impact led to abrupt and intense cooling of the Northern Hemisphere. Scientists have named this period of extreme climate change The Younger Dryas. Multiple species of megafauna went extinct during this period.

Hancock has written extensively about his theories and



has been criticized and attacked by mainstream archaeology because his ideas challenge the accepted theory that modern humans have only been in North America for around 15,000 years and were simple hunter-gatherers. He has cobbled together the evidence of his life's work in a documentary series on Netflix called Ancient Apocalypse.

Through two seasons, Hancock takes us on a journey throughout the world to expose the hidden secrets of our past,

while also directly challenging the archaeological status quo.

I don't want to give too much away, so I will simply say that if you are willing to set aside much of the history we learned in school such as "Clovis First" theory, which argues the earliest modern humans in North America lived near what is now Clovis, New Mexico, this show might be for you.

Hancock begins season one by arguing that there is evidence that a cataclysmic flood, not unlike the Biblical Great Flood, occurred around the time of the Younger Dryas. He travels to places such as Gunung Padang in Indonesia which contain ancient manmade structures. He also explores pyramids in Mexico, Megalithic Temples the Malta, the underwater of structure known as Bimini

Road, the recently discovered ancient ruins of Gobekli Tepe, and finally ancient mounds and structures in the present-day United States.

In each of the eight episodes of season one, Hancock ties these places and their artifacts to his greater theory that an advanced

civilization existed long before we previously imagined and survived the Younger Dryas cataclysm. Afterward, the survivors traveled the world imparting knowledge to the rest of the world in the areas of agriculture and astronomy, and others.

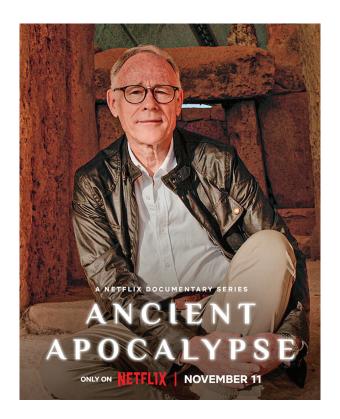
Season two of the series is titled The Americas, which lets us know that Hancock has narrowed his research focus to our part of the world. He discusses ancient human footprints

discovered in White Sands, New Mexico that carbon-dating of seeds found in the sediment layers have placed them between 21,000 and 23,000 years ago. In another episode, he uses DNA to show a distant ancestral connection between inhabitants of South America and populations in places like Indonesia and other areas of the South Pacific. He argues that this "ancient DNA signal" is strong evidence that humans were advanced seafarers, with the ability to cross large swaths of the Pacific Ocean, long before current archaeologists believe. The rest of season two is a deep dive into different areas of the Western Hemisphere where Hancock argues civilizations existed deep into pre-history.

In Ancient Apocalypse, Graham Hancock doesn't claim to have all of the answers regarding our human history. But he does make compelling arguments that

we have overlooked evidence that may completely change the narrative of our ancient history. The only catch is that you must be willing to consider the possibilities.

Ancient Apocalypse airs on Netflix. A third season is reportedly in the works.







#### By Janice R. Edwards

'Twas the night before Christmas when all at Hawkglen Farms, Gathered hay and feed buckets all up in their arms, The goats were gathered all snug in the barn And so begins this storyteller's yarn.

I was visiting my friends Kristin and Lloyd Shirley over the Christmas holidays at their farm in Jasper, Texas. It was unusually warm for this time of year, and it was time to feed the goats and put them in the barn before nightfall. As usual, the goat herd beat us to the barn in anticipation of their Christmas Eve repast.

As we opened the gate and hiked up the hill to the barn, Lloyd quietly stated, "Baby goat."

"What?" Kristin asked.

"Baby goat," Lloyd quietly restated.

I understood what he said before it registered with Kristin, and I looked all around. "He said baby goat," I said as both Kristin and I spotted the little black and white fur baby lying in the hay at about the same time. Each of us had been up to the barn earlier in the day checking on the goats – anticipating at least one birth. But none of us had seen anything. Two of the Shirley's nanny goats, Maggie and Ruby, were very pregnant – but looking around – they still were. So, the mama goat was a

mystery to be solved.

Just then, a buttermilk-colored goat walked up to the black and white baby goat who stood up to suckle. So the mama was Lily – who no one even suspected was pregnant because she was born only 10 months earlier, April 25, 2024, to a cream-colored goat named Millie. Millie had only become a member of the Hawkglen Farms herd when she was purchased (obviously already pregnant) from the Kirbyville Auction Barn February 3, 2024. So, the baby goat born on Christmas Eve was indeed a surprise gift. She was initially named Evie.

Well, this might have been the end of Evie's saga – except a cold front came bringing torrential rains and tornados. Christmas Day began nice and the goat herd went out to forage in the pasture – Mama Lily included. About midday, the sky opened up and the rains came – catching the herd out in the forested pasture. When Evie woke up from her nap wanting some lunch, Mama was nowhere to be found and the torrential rain falling on the barn roof was loud – and for a baby goat, scary.

Kristin and I were in the guest house playing Scrabble and Lloyd was in his studio working on a project when he looked up and caught a glimpse of the day-old Evie running down the road. Why was she out? Lloyd ran out of the studio and chased Evie. He had his hand on her when she slipped under the barbed wire fence into their neighbor's property.

[above] After pulling a couple of frantic disappearing acts, Evie now sports a pink collar with a bell – resulting in a name change. [right] Mama goat Lily nuzzles her kid Evie.

Photos by Janice R. Edwards.







Dejected, Lloyd came up to the guest house to relate what had happened. They decided to wait until the rain let up to search for the baby. When the rains let up enough, a search began for Evie. About 30 minutes into the search, Kristin saw her neighbor's abandoned animal pen. The gate was open – and she thought, "maybe." There, in the corner of the pen – scared, wet, cold, and shivering – was Evie, who did not protest when picked up and wrapped in a towel. She was lovingly dried off and carried back to the barn to a Mama frantically searching for her baby. Lily quickly served Evie's lunch. Panic over.

December 27 dawned colder but with some sunshine and the goat herd was let out of the barn to again forage. Lily left Evie sleeping in the barn – we thought. We knew she would return in time to nurse her baby. About noon, Lloyd went to check on the goats and found the goat herd still out foraging and Evie was gone again. He came back to the house where we were cooking and again, a search for baby Evie ensued. The goat herd was located in the pasture, and 22 acres of pasture were walked. All the goats were accounted for – except Evie.

All the things that could hurt Evie started haunting our thoughts – feral dogs, feral hogs, coyotes, hawks. Eventually, we had to stop looking for her. We were all saddened, but figured the Christmas Eve present was gone. Life is fickle sometimes. But at dusk that evening at feeding time, Evie gamboled up to the barn, following Lily and the rest of the herd. Panic

over - again.

We figured that Lily had done what deer do – the doe taking the fawn out near where she is feeding and hiding the fawn while she eats. But that was two days in a row that precious kid had petrified Kristin, Lloyd and me – and Evie was so small.

That evening, Kristin decided that Evie needed a collar and a bell so they could hear her, even if they couldn't see her. The next day after a quick trip to Walmart, Evie was sporting a pink (formerly cat)

collar and the last jingle bell in the store.

Surprisingly, Evie did not fight the collar and bell. In fact, she frolicked and played wearing the collar. Now everyone could find Evie if she went walkabout. But this development caused a change. Evie was the only goat in the herd wearing a bell and she was so delicate and tiny, flitting around the bigger goats. So, at three days old, Evie became Tinkerbell. "I do believe in fairies, I do believe in fairies." Don't tell me there is no magic in the East Texas woods at Hawkglen.

[above] Kristin Shirley dries and cuddles Evie in a warm towel following Evie's escapades in the rain. [left] Evie suckles from Mama Lily.
Photos by Janice R. Edwards.

#### The Boots By Sandy Carroll

Over by that stump rests a pair of boots, if only they could speak Bout' stumbling through both briar and mud, campfire ash and creek They've hunted deer, wild hogs and quail where most folk fear to tread And listened to a Whip-por-will while their owner talked to God These boots know fear of lightning and have felt a rattler's bite They've rested by a pot of beans as day turned into night This is why I'll keep these boots there's stories in the leather Bout living to the fullest as life's seasons blend together

Available for purchase at your local bookstore, or online at Barnes & Noble and Amazon.



#### By Luke Clayton

We Texans are fortunate to live in one of the best states for hunting wild turkey. The Rio Grande species is widely dispersed over much of the state and this is the bird that traveling hunters most of target when coming Texas.

The eastern part of Texas offers limited hunting for the Eastern Turkey but overall, restocking efforts have been a bit disappointing to many of us old time turkey hunters. I was raised in Red River County in the northeast corner of the state and remember well the first stocking of eastern birds way back in the late seventies. For the first twenty years or so after the stocking, the birds gained a strong foothold but in ensuing years, numbers began to diminish. Some blame the decline on fire ants and others point to damage done to nests by feral hogs. Regardless the reason or reasons, bagging an eastern gobbler in Texas has become increasingly more difficult. Counties along the Red River provide the best opportunity in the state to bag a big eastern gobbler. I rate my home county, Red River at the top of the list followed by Lamar as a close second but there are pockets that provide good hunting in southeast Texas as well.

After about 45 years of hunting spring turkeys, mostly the Rio Grande species but also a few eastern birds, I have pared my turkey hunting gear down to the bare necessities. I do a lot of 'run and gun' turkey hunting and the last thing I want to do is pack a lot of extra gear.

Well before the opener of turkey season, I went through my items for upcoming spring turkey hunts and checked them twice, can't afford to be way back in the woods on a turkey hunt and discover I've forgotten a vital piece of equipment!

I have a 'special' bag with all the basics needed for a day in the spring woods in pursuit of turkey. Calls, extra chalk for the box call, stakes for my decoys, a few extra shotgun shells, tape to attach the tag to the gobbler's leg, a pen to fill out the tag, and an eight foot by four foot piece of burlap camo I use to create a make shift portable blind, it's all in the bag. I have a cord attached to my decoy and carry it over my back, much like a sling on my shotgun. These are the bare essential for hunting gobblers in the spring and I don't want to pack one ounce more than I absolutely need.

I usually stay on the move, stopping occasionally to call. When I hear a response gobble, depending upon how far away the bird it, I set up a blind and stake the decoy out in front or, if the gobbler is out a few hundred yards, I close the distance before setting up to close the deal. Very often calling every hundred yards or so tricks a gobbler into thinking the hen he is pursing is on the move and caused him to come trotting into my set up.

Textbook spring turkey hunting goes something like this, the gobblers hears the hunter's plaintive hen yelps, he struts and gobbles back in the brush and then makes his way to what he thinks is a rendezvous with a hen. If he hears gobbler sounding off from a distance, a bit more calling by the hunter is usually in order. With each calling sequence, the gobbler will sound off back in the woods, getting closer each time until he pops out of the brush puffed up like a peacock, strutting and gobbling his head off. This is textbook turkey hunting but it doesn't always happen this way, actually is usually doesn't happen this way! Through the years, I've killed my share spring gobblers in this manner but it's far more likely that the gobbler will answer the hen yelps from back in the brush and then come in silent and suddenly appear, seemingly out of nowhere. That's why it's important to remain still when calling gobblers; you never know when a gobbler, especially a wary old long beard, will just sneak in to your set up.

The late Bob Hood who was outdoors editor for a major Texas newspaper for over four decades was my turkey hunting companion for many years. Bob had a saying, "Patience kills more turkeys than anything." Bob could set still for hours when

turkey hunting and if he didn't hear a gobbler responding to his calling and he felt he was in a good spot, he remained still and called sparingly. He figured sooner or later, a gobbler out searching for hens would hear his yelps and eventually come in, spot his decoy and eventually come within range of his shotgun.

Calling too frequently is usually counterproductive. Listen to gobblers in the spring, even on days when there is lots of gobbling, individual birds only gobble every few minutes. It's just not the nature of a gobbler to gobble continuously for extended periods. I usually begin a calling sequence with a few soft hen yelps and then wait a couple minutes before resuming with louder yelps. Then I call every five minutes or so until I either have a gobbler sneak in or hear one gobbling back in the brush.

Through the years, I have written and read volumes written by others pertaining to outsmarting a spring gobbler. I have written many times that I have never experienced two turkey hunts that went exactly the same. Truth is, the turkeys are your best teacher, get out in the woods as often as you can and listen and observe, the birds will teach you.

#### TASTY TURKEY FAJITAS

I am about to share a method of making fajitas that is fool proof and rivals or surpasses the best fajitas you've ever eaten! I make these throughout the year using wild pork or venison backstrap or turkey leg or thigh meat when I have it. If using the leg meat from wild turkeys, make sure and wrap in foil and slow cook on the grill a couple hours to tenderize then pull the meat off the bone. If using breast meat or loin, cut

the lean meat into pencil size fajita strips. Place them in a zip lock bag and season liberally with Fiesta Fajita Seasoning (available at many stores). Squeeze lime or lemon juice into the bag and marinate three or four hours. In a cast iron skillet, fry several pieces of diced bacon; do not drain the grease. Add some sliced jalapeno or chipotle (smoked jalapeno) peppers and several diced garlic cloves. Allow the peppers and garlic to cook a couple minutes and then add the fajita meat and allow to cook until almost done. Toss in some sliced bell pepper and onion and cook until done. Serve on hot flour tortillias with your favorite toppings. This is a special meal I love to prepare at turkey camp from fresh turkey meat but I often bring some fajita meat made from wild pork just in case we get outfoxed by the gobblers on opening day!

#### CHICKEN FRIED TURKEY BREAST

Do you enjoy those chicken strips at your favorite drive through restaurant? I have to admit I like them also but they don't hold a candle to chicken fried turkey strips. Begin by cutting 'strips' of turkey breast meat, across the grain. I like to marinate the meat in Louisiana Hot Sauce for a few hours. Dust the strips with seasoned flour and fry until golden brown. Served with white rice and cream gravy with a couple of big 'cat head' biscuits, this is truly a meal fit for a king- or a successful turkey hunter!

Listen to Outdoors with Luke Clayton online at www. catfishradio.org and watch A Sportsman's Life on YouTube or Carbon TV www.carbontv.com



## Find a perfect stranger, while supplies last

#### By Barbara White

I do something that most of us have been warned against doing since we were toddlers: I talk to strangers.

I don't hunt them down – that would just be weird – and I don't bother people who are busy, but if I happen to find myself next to someone who is not otherwise engaged and is not giving off I'm-going-to-follow-you-home-and-kill-you-in-your-sleep vibes, I am liable to say something. I avoid people who advertise their political or religious beliefs on their T-shirts or hats, even if I agree with the message. A good stranger encounter should come with some assurance that you're not going to get caught up in some long-winded conversation.

A perfect stranger conversation should be brief and make both parties feel a tiny bit better about the state of humankind.

Hastened by smart phones, self-checkout, automated ordering, touch screens and home delivery, I fear chance encounters will soon go the way of Plymouths, knobs on radios, the hyphen in email, blue light specials, privacy and a lot of federal employees.

Small talk with strangers used to be abundant. Not so very long ago, I was waiting for my car's oil to be changed – before that, too, became a stay-in-your-car, isolating experience. There were six of us in the small waiting area. Two were young women, in their early 20s if I had to guess. They were both immersed in their phones. There was a middle-aged man who stood, scrolling, against the wall since there weren't enough chairs to go around and his mama had raised him to leave the chairs for the women and older folks. The remaining three people were, well, older folks: two women, including me, and one man

"I hope it doesn't take long," said the older woman who was not me. "I'm supposed to be in Houston by 3."

"Ugh," said the older woman who was me. I am not a fan of the big city.

The old man – I think Jeff Bridges and Netflix have made the term acceptable – asked if she would like to borrow his gun. I don't think he was kidding.

She declined his offer, saying she only had to make it to her daughter's house on the north side of town. "Besides, I've got ... dammit," we thought she said.

Seeing our puzzled looks, she added, "Dammit is my German shepherd. It's a long story." We didn't have that long.

The cashier announced my car was ready and I went to collect my keys and pay the bill. The three of us wished each other safe travels and went our separate ways, but I still remember the conversation and wonder how the dog got its name. My guess is Dammit was not always a good dog.

I used to trade small talk with the manager of a local video store. Over the course of many, too many, visits, I learned she had a son in the Navy and a daughter in high school and we got to know each other well enough to make spot-on movie recommendations. I liked her a lot more than the algorithm that figures that because I watched one disaster movie, I want to see a lot more. That's the last thing I need.

I liked finding a kindred spirit in a grocery store checkout line when I commented on a tabloid headline on a rack near the counter. "Does anyone really care what Taylor told Travis?" I asked no one in particular. The guy in front of me, his eyes following mine to the tabloid, said he was tired of Travis and was relieved when Kansas City lost the Super Bowl. Right on, brother!

I have had a lot of satisfying small-talk exchanges with store cashiers. Right after the holidays I asked one of them if Santa had been good to him. He said he got a car battery for Christmas and, recognizing that I was probably wondering if Santa had run out of coal, assured me that that was what he really wanted. He then changed the subject and nodded to the young man bagging my groceries. "That guy is a pickleball champ," he said. The beaming bagger made my day.

A lot of places have dispensed with cashiers and baggers in favor of self-checkout, and I've noticed more traffic in the grocery pickup area. They'll never know about the dog named Dammit, the car battery or the pickleball champ. Their loss.

I cannot tell you how many times, having made the mistake of checking the news, I have left home with a face longer than a tube sock, only to get a mood boost from a brief encounter with a stranger.

I'm going to miss it.





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## Winners



#### **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

#### **Art Gallery**

1st - Tyler County Art League - Woodville, TX

2nd - Homemade Studio & Supplies - Livingston, TX

3rd - Church Street Art - Nacogdoches, TX

#### **Dance Hall**

1st - Banita Creek Hall - Nacogdoches, TX

2nd - Wet Deck Bar & Grill - Livingston, TX

3rd - Honky Tonk Texas - Silsbee, TX

#### **Entertainment Venue**

1st - Ramsey Ranch Events - Warren, TX

2nd - Black Creek Ranch Event Venue - Warren, TX

3rd - Naskila Casino - Livingston, TX

#### **Event Venue**

1st - Ramsey Ranch Events - Warren, TX

2nd - The Venue at Two Nineteen - Sulpher Springs, TX

3rd - Shepherd Sanctuary - Shepherd, TX

#### **Festival**

1st - San Jacinto County Fair & Rodeo - San Jacinto County, TX

2nd - Dogwood Festival - Woodville, TX

3rd - Hometown Christmas - Livingston, TX

#### **Fundraising Event**

1st - Impact Emergency Crisis Center - Shepherd, TX

2nd - The Annual Lions Club Rodeo - Woodville, TX

3rd - Tyler County Child Welfare Board Purse Auction - Woodville, TX

#### **Kids Party Venue**

1st - Ellen Trout Zoo - Lufkin, TX

2nd - Lake Tejas - Colmesneil, TX

3rd - Gokey's Bowling and Recreation - Livingston, TX

#### **Live Music Venue**

1st - The Den - Shepherd, TX

2nd - Black Creek Ranch Event Venue - Warren, TX

3rd - Wet Deck Bar & Grill - Livingston, TX

#### **Local Event**

1st - Shepherd July 4th Event & Firework Show - Shepherd, TX

2nd - Alabama-Coushatta Pow Wow - Livingston, TX

3rd - Dogwood Festival - Woodville, TX

#### Museum

1st - Allan Shivers Museum - Woodville, TX

2nd - Heritage Museum - Woodville, TX

3rd - San Jacinto County Old Jail - Coldspring, TX

#### **Wedding Venue**

1st - The Firefly Ranch and Gardens - Midlothian, TX

2nd - Ramsey Ranch Events - Warren, TX

3rd - Black Creek Ranch Event Venue - Warren, TX

#### **AUTO & TRANSPORTATION**

#### **Auto Body Shop**

1st - Automasters Collision Center - Woodville, TX

2nd - Woodville Collision Repair - Woodville, TX

3rd - White-Starr Collision, Restoration & Custom - Livingston, TX

#### **Auto Parts Store**

1st - O'Reilly Auto Parts - Livingston, TX

2nd - O'Reilly Auto Parts - Lufkin, TX

#### **Auto Repair**

1st - McGinty's Automotive - Woodville, TX

2nd - Woodville Collision Repair - Woodville, TX

3rd - Jay's Auto Repair - Onalaska, TX

#### **Mobile Car Detailing**

1st - Dust' N Wash Mobile Detailing - Tyler County, TX

2nd - Hollywood's Mobile Wash & Detail - Nacogdoches, TX

3rd - Spot Free Hand Car Wash - Livingston, TX

#### Oil Change

1st - Wayne's Tire Shop & Inspection - Onalaska, TX

2nd - Eason Service Center - Spurger, TX

3rd - Grease Monkey - Woodville, TX

#### **Rims/Wheels Store**

1st - David Norton Tire Center - Woodville, TX

2nd - Wayne's Tire Shop & Inspection - Onalaska, TX

3rd - Discount Tire - Livingston, TX

#### **Tire Dealer**

1st - David Norton Tire Center - Woodville, TX

2nd - Discount Tire - Livingston, TX

3rd - Wayne's Tire Shop & Inspection - Onalaska, TX

#### **Towing Service**

1st - Larry's Towing and Recovery, LLC - Onalaska, TX

2nd - East Texas Towing - Shepherd, TX

3rd - Will Hall Motor Co. Towing Wrecker Service - Shepherd, TX

#### **Window Tinting**

1st - Studio Tint - Woodville, TX

2nd - Will Hall Motor Co. Towing Wrecker Service - Shepherd, TX

3rd - Cool Shades Window Tinting - Livingston, TX

#### **BUSINESS & FINANCE**

#### **Accounting Firm**

1st - Tucker Professional Svcs Inc. - Woodville, TX

2nd - Axley & Rode - Livingston, TX

3rd - Alpha Financial Group LLC - Livingston, TX





Thank you for voting us

Best Entertainment Venue/Best Event Venue
2nd Place Best Wedding Venue in East Texas











### Bank

1st - Citizen's State Bank - Woodville, TX

2nd - First National Bank of Livingston - Livingston, TX

3rd - Peoples State Bank - Livingston, TX

### **Bookkeeping/Tax Service**

1st - Tucker's Professional Svcs Inc. - Woodville, TX

2nd - Aubrey & Barichello Tax Service, Inc. - Livingston, TX

3rd - C&M Tax Associates - Livingston, TX

### **Cleaning Company (Commercial)**

1st - Vickery Cleaning - Livingston

2nd - Superior Cleaning and Restoration, LLC - Lufkin, TX

### **Commercial Real Estate Agency**

1st - Martindale Real Estate Investments - Woodville, TX

2nd - Premier Property Group - Livingston, TX

3rd - Keller Williams - Livingston, TX

### **Full Service Ad Agency**

1st - Savvy the Agency - Lufkin, TX

2nd - Ariel Digital Marketing - Woodville, TX

### **Professional Head Shot Photography**

1st - Free Spirit Photography - Livingston, TX

2nd - Shores Photography - Colmesneil, TX

3rd - Luminary Visions - Onalaska, TX

### **Social Media Management**

1st - Ariel Digital Marketing - Woodville, TX

2nd - Social Elevation - Livingston, TX

### COMMUNITY

### **Chamber of Commerce**

1st - Tyler County Chamber of Commerce - Woodville, TX

2nd - Coldspring Chamber of Commerce - Coldspring, TX

3rd - Hopkins County Chamber of Commerce - Sulphur Springs, TX

### Church

1st - Goodrich First Baptist - Goodrich, TX

2nd - Bethel Baptist Church - Warren, TX

3rd - Hillister Assembly of God Church - Hillister, TX

### **Fire Department**

1st - Shepherd VFD - Shepherd, TX

2nd - Goodrich VFD - Goodrich, TX

3rd - Woodville VFD - Woodville, TX

### Library

1st - Shepherd Public Library - Shepherd, TX

2nd - Allan Shivers Library & Museum - Woodville, TX

3rd - Coldspring Public Library - Coldspring, TX

### **Local Cause**

1st - The Community & Children's Impact Center - Shepherd, TX

2nd - SPCA of Polk County - Livingston, TX

3rd - Tyler County Welfare Board Adopt and Angel - Woodville, TX

### **Local Politicians**

1st - Congressman Brian Babin

2nd - Congressman Morgan Luttrell

3rd - Representative Trent Ashby, District 9

### **Local Website**

1st - www.happylashesnnails.com

2nd - www.easttexasnews.com

3rd - www.tylercountycoc.com

### New Business (opened in 2024)

1st - Onalaska Wellness & Aesthetics - Onalaska, TX

2nd - Luminary Visions Photography - Onalaska, TX

3rd - Drone Bros, LLC - Livingston, TX

### **Non-Profit Organization**

1st - Community and Children's Impact Center - Shepherd, TX

2nd - SPCA of Polk County - Livingston, TX

3rd - iServe 365 - Chester, TX

### Place to Work (less than 20 employees)

1st - Onalaska Wellness & Aesthetics - Onalaska, TX

2nd - Walling Signs - Woodville, TX

3rd - J-Bird's Dogwood Diner - Woodville, TX

### Place to Work (more than 20 employees)

1st - Citizen's State Bank - Woodville, TX

2nd - Georgia Pacific Camden Mill - Corrigan, TX

3rd - Chester ISD - Chester, TX

### **Preschool**

1st - Wee Wisdfom Pre-School - Woodville, TX

2nd - Great Beginnings - Livingston, TX

3rd - Pine Ridge Primary - Livingston, TX

### **Private School**

1st – Tyler County Christian Academy [St. Paul's Episcopal School] – Woodville, TX

2nd - Eastside Christian School - Livingston, TX

3rd - Livingston Montessori School - Livingston, TX

### **Public School**

1st - Warren High School - Warren, TX

2nd - Chester High School - Chester, TX

3rd - Big Sandy High School - Big Sandy, TX

### **Staycation Location**

1st - TRA Wolf Creek Park - Coldspring, TX

2nd - Two Creeks Crossing Resort - Livingston, TX

3rd - White Oak Manor Bed & Breakfast - Jefferson, TX













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### **Waste Management**

1st - Trash Dashers, LLC - Livingston, TX 2nd - Pro Star Waste - Livingston, TX 3rd - Local Sanitation, LLC - Colmesneil, TX

### **DINING**

### **Asian Restaurant**

1st - Sakura - Livingston, TX 2nd - Hunan - Livingston, TX 3rd - Chen's - Lufkin, TX

### **Baked Goods/Bakery**

1st - Goodies by Leann - Tyler County, TX 2nd - Stella's - Livingston, TX 3rd - Hocus Pocus Confections by Gina - Jasper, TX

### Bar

1st - Big Fish Icehouse - Onalaska, TX 2nd - The Mason Jar Bar & Grill - Coldspring, TX 3rd - Foster's Place Restaurant - Pickton, TX

### **Barbecue**

1st - Slaughter's BBQ - Sulphur Springs, TX 2nd - Big Smith's Bar-B-Q and Catfish - Sulphur Springs, TX 3rd - Florida's Kitchen - Livingston, TX

### **Breakfast**

1st - Wild Bill's Grill - Woodville, TX 2nd - The Bull Shack Coffee & Smoothies - Livingston, TX 3rd - Red Barn Café - Sulphur Springs, TX

### **Brewery**

1st - True Vines Brewery - Tyler, TX 2nd - Backstory Brewery - Sulphur Springs, TX

### **Brunch**

1st - Pickett House - Woodville. TX 2nd - The Bull Shack Coffee & Smoothies - Livingston, TX 3rd - Katie's Café and Bakery - Livingston, TX

### **Cajun Restaurant**

1st - Catch Me If You Can - Flint, TX 2nd - Vinny's Cajun Kitchen - Woodville, TX 3rd - Indulge Kitchen & Lounge - Livingston, TX

### **Catering Service**

1st – El Trompo Villarreal – Livingston, TX 2nd – Big Smith's Bar-B-Q and Catfish – Sulphur Springs, TX 3rd – Joe's Italian – Livingston, TX

### **Cocktails**

1st - The Mason Jar Bar & Grill - Livingston, TX 2nd - Wet Deck Bar & Grill - Livingston, TX 3rd - Restoration Bistro - Lufkin, TX

### Coffeehouse

1st – The Bull Shack Coffee and Smoothies – Livingston, TX 2nd – Everything U – Woodville, TX 3rd – Cheeky Coffee – Onalaska, TX

### **Dessert**

1st - Gokey's Old Town Emporium - Livingston, TX 2nd - Big Smith's Bar-B-Q & Catfish - Sulphur Springs, TX 3rd - Big Fish Icehouse - Onalaska, TX

### Donuts

1st - Warren Donuts - Warren, TX 2nd - The Mad Batter Bake Shop - Woodville, TX 3rd - Fresh Donuts - Corrigan, TX

### Hamburger

1st – Big Fish Icehouse 2nd – Big Smith's Bar-B-Q and Catfish – Sulphur Springs, TX 3rd – The Burgerhouse – Colmesneil, TX

### **Happy Hour**

1st - The Den - Shepherd, TX 2nd - Wet Deck Bar & Grill - Livingston, TX 3rd - Hilltop Icehouse - Point Blank, TX

### **Italian Restaurant**

1st - Joe's Italian Grill & Pizza - Livingston, TX 2nd - Sola Bread Co. - Tyler, TX 3rd - San Remo Restaurant - Sulphur Springs, TX

### **Mexican Food**

1st - El Trompo Villarreal - Livingston, TX 2nd - Senor Toros - Woodville, TX 3rd - Tejano's Tex-Mex - Cooper, TX

### Pizza

1st – Joe's Italian – Livingston, TX 2nd – Sola Bread Co. – Tyler, TX 3rd – Nonna Faye's Italian Kitchen – Sulphur Springs, TX

### Seafood

1st – Big Smith's Bar-B-Q and Catfish – Sulphur Springs, TX 2nd – Shrimp Boat Manny's – Livingston, TX 3rd – Floyd's Seafood – Beaumont, TX

### Soup & Sandwich

1st - Big Smith's Bar-B-Q and Catfish - Sulphur Springs, TX 2nd - The Mason Jar Bar & Grill - Coldspring, TX 3rd - Plain & Fancy Sandwich Shoppe - Sulphur Springs, TX

### Steakhouse

1st - Texas Roadhouse - Lufkin, TX 2nd - Leona General Store - Leona, TX 3rd - The Blue Duck Kitchen & Bar - Livingston, TX



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## **Brad Elrod**

Attorney At Law

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- ■Estate & Probate
- Civil Law
- ■Real Estate

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### Sushi

1st - Sakura - Livingston, TX 2nd - Sake Café - Lufkin, TX

### Taco

1st - El Trompo Villarreal - Livingston, TX

2nd - Big Smith's Bar-B-Q & Catfish - Sulphur Springs, TX

3rd - Hilltop Icehouse - Point Blank, TX

### Winery

1st - M6 Winery - Bullard, TX

2nd - Tempe Creek Vineyard - Livingston, TX

3rd - Teysha Vineyard - Huntsville, TX

### **HEALTH & FITNESS**

### **Assisted Living Facility**

1st - Tall Pines Assisted Living - Livingston, TX

2nd - The Orchard Assisted Living Center - Woodville, TX

3rd - PineCrest Retirement Community - Lufkin, TX

### **Chiropractic Clinic**

1st - Lee Family Chiropractic - Livingston, TX

2nd - Wolfe Chiropractic Clinic - Cleveland, TX

3rd - TLC Chiropractic - Sulphur Springs, TX

### Clinic

1st - Onalaska Wellness & Aesthetics - Onalaska, TX

2nd - Dedicated Medical Center & Urgent Care - Woodville, TX

3rd - Livingston Clinic - Livingston, TX

### **Dentist Office**

1st - Caleb C Spurlock, DDS - Woodville, TX

2nd - B&G Family Dentistry - Livingston, TX

3rd - Dr. Ralph K Jenke, DDS and Associates - Livingston, TX

### Gym

1st - LIV Fierce Fitness - Livingston, TX

2nd - Core Studio Pilates Barre - Onalaska, TX

3rd - Livingston Fitness Center - Livingston, TX

### **Home Health**

1st - TheraCare Home Health - Livingston, TX

2nd - A Pineywoods Home Health Care - Lufkin, TX

3rd - East Texas Home Health - Chester, TX

### **Hospice**

1st - Olive Branch Hospice - Jasper, TX

2nd - Heart to Heart Hospice - Lufkin, TX

3rd - Gentiva Hospice Care - Livingston, TX

### **Hospital**

1st - CHI St. Luke's Health Memorial - Livingston, TX

2nd - Woodland Heights Medical Center - Livingston, TX

3rd - Exceptional Emergency Center - Livingston, TX

### **Massage Day Spa**

1st - Eight31 Esthetics - Livingston, TX

2nd - Serenity Med Spa - Livingston, TX

3rd - Wall's Wellness Massage & Spa - Livingston, TX

### Med Spa

1st - Serenity Med Spa - Livingston, TX

2nd - Revive Esthetics Studio - Lufkin, TX

3rd - Allure Aesthetic - Lufkin, TX

### **Pharmacy**

1st - Brookshire Brothers - Livingston, TX

2nd - Walmart Pharmacy - Livingston, TX

3rd - Woodville Drug - Woodville, TX

### **Physical Therapy**

1st - Lambeth Physical Therapy - Woodville, TX

2nd - Livingston Physical Therapy P.C. - Livingston, TX

3rd - Lambeth Physical Therapy - Livingston, TX

### **Retirement Home/Facility**

1st - Woodville Health & Rehab - Woodville, TX

2nd - Pine Ridge Health Care - Livingston, TX

3rd - Timberwood Nursing & Rehabilitation Center - Livingston, TX

### **Urgent Care**

1st - Dedicated Medical Center & Urgent Care - Woodville, TX

2nd - Exceptional Emergency - Livingston, TX

3rd - Urgent Doc - Livingston, TX

### **HOME**

### **Abstract Company**

1st - Tyler County Title - Woodville, TX

2nd - Polk County Abstract Inc. - Livingston, TX

3rd - Hutson Abstract Co. - Groveton, TX

### **Air & Heating Service**

1st - Rainey Air Conditioning, Inc. - Woodville, TX

2nd - A & S Air Conditioning - Sulphur Springs, TX

3rd - McWilliams & Son Heating, Cooling and Plumbing - Livingston, TX

### **Cleaning Company (Residential)**

1st - Vickery Home Cleaning - Livingston, TX

### **Deck/Porch Contractor**

1st - Fletcher Construction - Livingston, TX

2nd - Neal Construction - Livingston, TX

### **Gas/Propane Provider**

1st - The Propane Co. - Sulphur Springs, TX

2nd - Tyler County Propane - Woodville, TX

3rd - Vickery Propane, LLC - Livingston, TX



### **Interior Design**

1st - Haus of Sabo - Sulphur Springs, TX 2nd - Shady Lane Designs - Livingston, TX

### **Landscaping Company**

1st - Tropical Gardens Nursery & Landscaping - Livingston, TX

2nd - Southern Nurseries - Silsbee, TX

3rd - Poole's Lawncare & Landscaping - Nacogdoches, TX

### **Mortgage Lender**

1st - Citizens State Bank - Woodville, TX

2nd - First National Bank of Livingston - Livingston, TX

3rd - PNC Bank - Tyler, TX

### **Plumbing Company**

1st - Plunge-It Plumbing - Livingston, TX

2nd - So-Low Plumbing & Septic - Colmesneil, TX

3rd - McWilliams & Son Heating, Cooling and Plumbing - Livingston, TX

### **Real Estate Firm**

1st - Fowler Realty - Woodville, TX

2nd - Freedom Realty - Sulpher Springs, TX

3rd - Martindale Real Estate Investments - Woodville, TX

### **Real Estate Title Company**

1st - Patron Title of Polk, LLC - Livingston, TX

2nd - Hooks Title Co. - Woodville, TX

3rd - Polk County Abstract Inc. - Livingston, TX

### **Roofing Company**

1st - Jay Lott Roofing - Woodville, TX

2nd - 3 Cross Construction - Livingston, TX

3rd - Triple Crown Roofing - Sulphur Springs, TX

### **Septic Services**

1st - Sinks to Septic - Tyler County, TX

2nd - HopCo Clearwater - Sulphur Springs, TX

3rd - Lee's Septic Services - Livingston, TX

### **PETS & LIVESTOCK**

### **Feed Store**

1st - Tolar's Feed & Outdoor Supply - Woodville, TX

2nd - Livingston Feed & Farm Supply - Livingston, TX

3rd - Pott's Feed Store - Emory, TX

### **Mobile Veterinarian**

1st - Dehart Veterinary Services - Serving East Texas

2nd - Broadway Veterinary Hospital - Sulphur Springs, TX

3rd - MyVet - Tyler, TX

### Pet Boarding/Day Care

1st - Amanda's Boarding Barn - Jasper, TX

2nd - R Texas Star Grooming & Boarding - Warren, TX

3rd - GBA God Bless Animals, LLC - Goodrich, TX

### **Pet Grooming**

1st - R Texas Star Grooming & Boarding - Warren, TX

2nd - GBA God Bless Animals LLC - Goodrich, TX

3rd - Dolly's Doos (formerly Trusted Companion) - Livingston, TX

### **Veterinarian Clinic**

1st - Woodville Veterinary Clinic - Woodville, TX

2nd - Broadway Veterinary Hospital - Sulphur Springs, TX

3rd - Arena Veterinary Clinic - Livingston, TX

### **SERVICES**

### **Barber Shop**

1st - The Blanchard Barber Shop - Livingston, TX

2nd - B Groomed Men's Salon - Woodville, TX

3rd - Pops Barber Shop - Livingston, TX

### Contractor

1st - LEAT Properties, LLC - Livingston, TX

2nd - Neal Construction - Livingston, TX

3rd - Campbell Custom Homes, Inc. - Bullard, TX

### **Custom T-shirts**

1st - Passin' Thru Boutique - Warren, TX

2nd - Kenzi's Kloset - Livingston, TX

3rd - Sweet Tees - Livingston, TX

### **Dirt Contractor**

1st - Vickery Dirt - Livingston, TX

2nd - Kirkpatrick Construction - Woodville, TX

3rd - J & S Dirt Works, LLC - Colmesneil, TX

### **Dumpster Rental**

1st - Trash Dashers, LLC - Livingston, TX

2nd - Pro Star Waste - Goodrich, TX

3rd - ESTX Dumpsters - Livingston, TX

### **Electrical Contractor**

1st - Shirley Electric Company - Woodville, TX

2nd - 3B Electrical - Woodville, TX

3rd - Piney Woods Electric - Goodrich, TX

### **Electrical Provider**

1st - Sam Houston Electric Cooperative

2nd - Entergy

3rd - Wood County Electric Cooperative



Best Commercial Real Estate Agency in East Texas

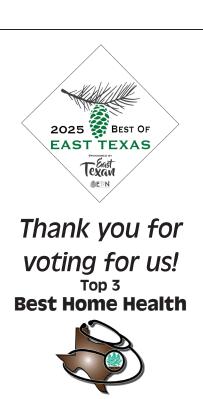
Top 3 Real Estate Firms in East Texas





Thank you for your votes!

-Hannah Cram



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in East Texas



Thank you to our old and new customers . You keep us in business.

A special thank you to
O'Reilly Auto Parts,
TJ Forsyth & LKQ,
Darren Andrews
for keeping us in parts,
Enrique Gonzalez
for paint and body work,
David Nesbit
for transmission work,
Dale Stone
for upholstery work.

### **Funeral Home**

1st - Riley Funeral Home - Woodville, TX

2nd - Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home - Sulpher Springs, TX

3rd - Stringer & Griffin Funeral Homes - Woodville, TX

### **Glass Installation**

1st - The Glass Ninja - Livingston, TX

2nd - Williams Glass, LLC - Livingston, TX

3rd - Commercial Glass & Mirrors - Sulpher Springs, TX

### **Hair Salon**

1st - Studio 409 - Woodville, TX

2nd - Shear Heaven - Woodville, TX

3rd - Madeline's Salon & Day Spa - Woodville, TX

### **Law Firm**

1st - Brad Elrod, Attorney at Law - Woodville, TX

2nd - Bythewood Legal Services, PLLC - Woodville, TX

3rd - Phillips & Andreas, PLLC - Livingston, TX

### **Liquor Store**

1st - Longhorn Liquor Beer & Wine #4 - Woodville, TX

2nd - Andy's Liquor - Shepherd, TX

3rd - Zipp's Liquor Store - Onalaska, TX

### **Meat Processing**

1st - J & M Meat Market - Livingston, TX

2nd - Barnes Deer Processing - Chester, TX

3rd - Fleming's Processing - Point Blank, TX

### **Nail Salon**

1st - Happy Lashes & Nails - Woodville, TX

2nd - Jenny Nail - Livingston, TX

3rd - Royal Nails - Woodville, TX

### **Pest Control**

1st - Broken Arrow Pest Control - Livingston, TX

2nd - Ed's Pest Control - Livingston, TX

3rd - Angler's Pest Control - Yantis, TX

### **Pressure Washing**

1st - Clean Sweep Power Washing - Sulphur Springs, TX

2nd - Nordic Pressure Washing - Woodville, TX

3rd - The Welcoming Company - Livingston, TX

### **Storage Facility**

1st - Got Storage - Livingston, TX

2nd - Arena Storage - Livingston, TX

3rd - Crossin Moving & Storage - Livingston, TX







### **Tanning Salon**

1st - Texas Tan - Livingston, TX

2nd - Chics Dig It - Livingston, TX

3rd - Twisted Texas Tanning and Boutique - Jacksonville, TX

### **Tractor Service**

1st - Vickery Lawn Service - Livingston, TX

2nd - Southern Tractor - Lufkin, TX

3rd - Livingston Lawn and Garden - Livingston

### **Tree Removal**

1st - Elite Tree Service - Livingston, TX

2nd - Arbor Kings - Livingston, TX

3rd - Dandy Bergman Tree Service and Construction - Goodrich, TX

### **SHOPPING**

### **Antique Shop**

1st - Gokey's Old Town Emporium and Creamery - Goodrich, TX

2nd - Dixie's Vintage Vogue - Woodville, TX

3rd - Downtown Treasures - Livingston, TX

### **Appliance Store**

1st - McClure's Furniture and Appliances - Woodville, TX

2nd - Lowe's - Livingston, TX

3rd - Don's TV & Appliance Inc. - Tyler, TX

### **Auction Company**

1st - Family Traditions - Warren, TX

2nd - Bright Star Antiques Auction House - Sulphur Springs, TX

3rd - Nacogdoches Auction - Nacogdoches, TX

### **Boutique Store**

1st - Gokey's Old Town Emporium and Creamery - Goodrich, TX

2nd - Crystal's Small Town Glamour - Onalaska, TX

3rd - Bend the Trend - Woodville, TX

### **Children's Clothing Store**

1st - Bend the Trend - Woodville, TX

2nd - Miche's Mercantile - Livingston, TX

3rd - Discern Resale Boutique - Livingston, TX

### **Consignment Store**

1st - Impact Thrift Shop - Shepherd, TX

2nd - Crystal's Small Town Glamour - Onalaska, TX

3rd - Country to Classy Boutique - Woodville, TX

### Flea Market

1st - Canton Trade Days - Canton, TX

2nd - Liberty Faux Real Trade Days - Liberty, TX

3rd - Nacogdoches Trade Days - Nacogdoches

### **Flooring and Carpet Store**

1st - Parker's Building Supply - Woodville, TX

2nd - Owen Furniture - Livingston, TX

3rd - Floors N More - Lufkin, TX

### **Florist**

1st - Skoops N Stems - Shepherd, TX

2nd - Woodville Florist & Gift Shop - Woodville, TX

3rd - Flowerland Florist - Sulphur Springs, TX

### **Garden Store/Nursery**

1st - Betty's Bloomers Nursery - Silsbee, TX

2nd - The Good Eye Market - Sulphur Springs, TX

3rd - Tropical Gardens Nursery & Landscaping - Livingston, TX

### **Gift Store**

1st - Gokey's Old Town Emporium and Creamery - Goodrich, TX

2nd - Skoops N Stems - Shepherd, TX

3rd - Bend the Trend - Woodville, TX

### **Hardware Store**

1st - Parker Lumber - Woodville, TX

2nd - Sullivan's Hardware - Woodville, TTX

3rd - Red Barn Builders Supply, Inc. - Livingston, TX

### **Home Furnishing Store**

1st - McClure's Furniture and Appliances - Woodville, TX

2nd - Town Square Antique Mall - Sulphur Springs, TX

3rd - Pedigo Furniture - Livingston, TX

### **Jewelry Store**

1st - Dare to Dazzle - Woodville, TX

2nd - Barry Coats Jewelers - Livingston, TX

3rd - Nikki's Resale Shop - Onalaska, TX

### **Lumber Yard**

1st - Parker's Lumber Supply - Woodville, TX

2nd - Red Barn Builders Supply, Inc. - Livingston, TX

3rd - Thomas Supply - Livingston, TX

### **Mattress Store**

1st - McClure's Furniture and Appliances - Woodville, TX

2nd - Pedigo Furniture - Livingston, TX

3rd - Owen Furniture - Livingston, TX

### **Pawn Shop**

1st - Bob's Pawn Shop - Woodville, TX

2nd - Richard's Pawn Shop - Livingston, Tx

3rd - Gulfway Pawn - Port Authur, TX

### **Western Wear**

1st - Bend the Trend - Woodville, TX

2nd - Boot Barn - Livingston, TX

3rd - At Your Feet - Livingston, TX



# Thank You!

For naming Sam Houston EC Best Electrical Provider in East Texas. Follow @SamHoustonEC online to see what the Co-op is doing in your community, as well as learn energy saving tips and tricks for your home.

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# Thank You East exas for Voting!



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# These are a few of OUR FINES

Did you try any of the ideas, products, or services presented last issue? If so, let us know by emailing editor@easttexanmag.com. We would love to hear from you.

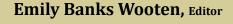


### Kelli Barnes, Publisher

### **Truelux Lotion Candle**

The Truelux lotion candle was gifted to me and has lasted a long time. Light it when you start your bath or shower, enjoy the pleasant smell and atmosphere. The "wax" is actually a warm lotion you can use after toweling off ... such a surprising luxury. I highly recommend this product.







### **Custom House Key**

I'm so crazy about this house key my husband had made for me. When I lost a set of keys (for the second time in two years), I was scrambling to replace them and asked him to please go to Lowe's and make me a copy of his house key. Imagine my surprise when he handed me this the next day. It put a smile on my face and sure made me feel loved.



### Amy Holzworth, Graphic Design Editor

### Life360 App

I have family spread over several states. We try to get together once or twice a year, but that means a whole lot of driving, or worrying about those that are. We got the Life360 app before our last trip, and I absolutely love it. My mother could see exactly where I was on the road as I was leaving her house to go home, which eased her mind since the weather that day was particularly nasty and I couldn't send updates.



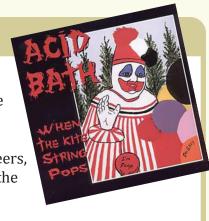




Chris Edwards, Contributing Writer

Acid Bath - When the Kite String Pops

In a year of big news coming in the form of band reunions, the Acid Bath reunion might have been the biggest surprise of all, and hopefully with their coming live performances, a new generation discovers their 1994 debut. The sludge metal pioneers, led by the incredible vocal prowess of Dax Riggs, made one of the best loud/heavy albums ever with truly memorable songs like "The Blue," "Cheap Vodka" and "Scream of the Butterfly."





**Trish Hardy** 

### Garlic Pepper

Totally obsessed with garlic pepper seasoning! It is amazing on just about anything! Sprinkle it here ... sprinkle it there ... sprinkle it everywhere!



Beth Faircloth, Contributing Writer

### Handheld Steam Cleaner

I am loving this handheld steam cleaner from Amazon. It comes with all of these attachments and can clean everything from your furniture to your toilet. I put a few drops of my favorite essential oil in the reservoir with the water when I'm using it on my furniture or rugs.





Ashley Keenan, Regional Director of Sales & Marketing

### Hard Fought Hallelujah

My favorite thing lately is the song Hard Fought Hallelujah by Brandon Lake. It can instantly turn a bad day into a good one or make a hard day easier. Just press play and turn it all the way up.





### Madison Bland, Advertising Representative

### Thrifting

I have been into thrifting, and I got this coat for \$2.50 at Goodwill. A great find!





### Donna Hammer, Advertising Representative

### Member's Mark Steak Strips

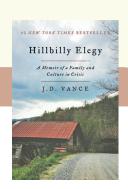
Members Mark steak strips are a great source of protein and they are delicious! Teriyaki is my favorite.



### **Pam Nobles**

### Hillbilly Elegy

This is what I am "in to" right now. I am reading it for the second time. Hillbilly Elegy, a memoir of a family and culture in crisis.



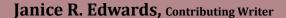


### Mollie LaSalle, Contributing Writer

### The Titanic

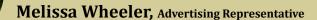
Surprise, surprise, I have found a new obsession. I am now a "Titanic nerd." From Titanic Exhibition in Dallas, this is a replica of a tea pot from the ship.





Gardening

Spring is in the air: birds are migrating and flocking to the seeds in my yard and the trees are stretching and coming to life distributing their pollen everywhere. So, I can't help myself. I've started my garden. I'm trying a new two-cup seedling method this year a friend sent from somewhere on the internet. So far, I planted some Box Car Willie heirloom tomatoes (don't you just love that name?) and some Loofah gourds. And my Texas Star Hibiscus is growing back from the roots. I love watching things grow.



L.A. Colors Rapid Dry Top Coat

One of my biggest pet peeves is chipped fingernail polish. So for 30+ years I have been on the hunt for a good top coat. I have spent upwards of \$15 a bottle searching for something that lasts. Around six months ago I came across L.A Colors rapid dry top coat, and it is the best I have ever used. You can find it at your local dollar store for \$2!! My nails last a week with no chips!!





**Cheryl Lloyd** 

### Cajeta

Homemade from goat's milk courtesy of our dairy divas at T Bar C Farm, our Cajeta is a fan favorite. We love eating the caramel creaminess with ice cream, apples, or even with a spoon.



### **APRIL**

### **Dallas**

Titanic: The Exhibition/Pepper Square, 14902 Preston Rd APRIL 1-MAY 11

### Livingston

Quilt Show/Polk County Commerce Center APRIL 2-5

### Canton

First Monday Trade Days APRIL 3-6

### Spring

Shake Russell at Dosey Doe Breakfast, BBQ, and Whiskey Bar APRIL 4

### **Orange**

The Cher Show, a Musical at the Lutcher Theater APRIL 4

### **Tomball**

Selena Forever Tribute at Main Street Crossing APRIL 4

### Vidor

John Conlee at the Oaks Event Center APRIL 5

### Nacogdoches

SFA Gardens Garden Gala Day Plant Sale APRIL 5

### Humble

Humble Good Oil Days Classic Car Show/ Main Street APRIL 5

### **Paris**

Paris Steak Wars 2025/Love Civic Center APRIL 5

### **Port Arthur**

Cajun Heritage Fest 2025/Bob Bowers Civic Center APRIL 5

### Woodville

82nd Annual Dogwood Festival Queens APRIL 5

### Tomball

The Statler Brothers at Main Street Crossing APRIL 6

### Huntsville

Doug Stone at the Old Town Theater APRIL 8

### The Woodlands

Dave Matthews Experience/C W Mitchell Pavilion APRIL 10

### Tomball

Crystal Gayle at Main Street Crossing APRIL 10

### Humble

Georgette Jones at the Bender Performing Arts Center APRIL 11

### Huntsville

Mudbugs and Buggies Crawfish Cookoff/ General Sam's Offroad Park **APRIL 11-13** 

### Conroe

2025 Montgomery County Fair Association BBQ Cookoff/Fair Grounds APRIL 11-12

### The Woodlands

2025 Waterway Arts Festival/Tom Green Park **APRIL 11-13** 

### Trinity

Lions Club Classic Car Show/103 Stadium Road APRIL 12

### **Nacogdoches**

Spring Brew Fest 2025/Nacogdoches Expo Center APRIL 12

### Lufkin

Gino Vanelli at the Temple Theater APRIL 12

### Colmesneil

Easter Walk with Jesus/Victory Camp Colmesneil *APRIL 12* 

### **Beaumont**

Sesame Street Live at Ford Arena APRIL 12

### Beaumont

Neches River Festival 77th Coronation/Julie Rogers Theater APRIL 12

### Kirbyville

Country Music Show at the Palace Theater

APRIL 12

### Galveston

2025 Elissa Sail Days/Galveston Historic Seaport *APRIL 12-25* 

### **Tomball**

Beatles Tribute at Main Street Crossing APRIL 16

### Lufkin

Jason Crabb at the Pines Theater APRIL 18

### Gladewater

East Texas Gusher Days Festival APRIL 18-19

### Houston

5th Annual Peel for a Purpose Crawfish Festival/Sam Houston Race Park APRIL 19

### Sugarland

The Mavericks at Smart Financial Center APRIL 19

### **Nacogdoches**

Chris Edwards at the Naca Valley Winery APRIL 19

### Kingwood

Easter in the Park/Town Center Park APRIL 19

### Silsbee

Twangsters Union/Honky Tonk Texas APRIL 19

### Livingston

SIXTIESMANIA- A Journey through the Sixties/Polk County Commerce Center APRIL 22

### Orange

Mauriceville Crawfish Festival 5K

APRIL 22

### Conroe

Texas Mineral and Fossil Show/ Lone Star Expo Center APRIL 25-27

### **Nacogdoches**

2025 Do-Dat BBQ/ County Expo Center APRIL 26

### Huntsville

General Sam Houston Day/Sam Houston Memorial Museum APRIL 26

### **Tomball**

Rails and Tails Mudbug Festival/ Tomball Railroad Depot Plaza APRIL 26

### Woodville

Pickin' at the Pickett House/ Heritage VIIIage APRIL 26

### Lufkin

Pineywoods Comic-Con Year 2/ Pitser Garrison Civic Center APRIL 26-27

### Corsicana

Derrick Days Corsicana APRIL 26

### **Nacogdoches**

3rd Annual Multi-Cultural Festival/Downtown *APRIL 27-28* 

### **Port Neches**

Port Neches River Fest 2025/ Riverfront Park APRIL 30-MAY 4

### MAY

### **Port Neches**

2025 Port Neches River Fest MAY 1-4

### **Beaumont**

Iced Out Bull Frenzy 2.0/Fork Park Arena MAY 3

### The Woodlands

Billy Idol with Joan Jett/C W Mitchell Pavilion MAY 3

### **Nacogdoches**

Red Dirt Mud Run 2025/County Expo Center MAY 3

### The Woodlands

The Fabulous Thunderbirds at C W Mitchell Pavilion MAY 4



### **Tomball**

Michael Buble tribute at Main Street Crossing

MAY 7

### **Crystal Beach**

2025 Texas Crab Festival MAY 9

### The Woodlands

MercyMe 2025/C W Mitchell Pavilion MAY 9

### Kirbyville

Kirbyville Country Music Show/Palace Theater

**MAY 10** 

### **Tvler**

Red Dirt BBQ and Music Festival 2025 *MAY 10* 

### **Tyler**

Jason Boland and the Stragglers at the Red Dirt BBQ Music Festival

**MAY 10** 

### Onalaska

OSBA 3rd Annual Art Walk/Lakeside Pavilion MAY 10

### **Tomball**

Hamilton Loomis at Main Street Crossing *MAY 15* 

### Longview

Ark-La-Tex Tattoo and Art Expo/Cobb Convention Center

MAY 16-18

### **Conroe**

6th Annual Crawfish Cookoff/Montgomery County Fairgrounds

MAY 16-17

### Baytown

Baytown Zydeco Festival 2025 MAY 17

### Livingston

2nd Annual Chili Cookoff/Two Creeks Crossing Resort MAY 17

### Lufkin

An Evening with Illusionist Rick Thomas/ Pines Theater MAY 17

### Tomball

Patsy Cline Tribute/Main Street Crossing MAY 18

### Woodville

Pickin' at the Pickett House/Heritage Village

MAY 23

### Longview

East Texas Bully Classic 4/Cobb Convention Center MAY 24

### Rusk

Fair on the Square/Cherokee County Courthouse MAY 25

### Lufkin

Stomp at the Temple Theater *MAY 29* 

### **Orange**

Tyler Dozier at Tia Juanita's Fish Camp

MAY 29

### Conroe

Neil Diamond Tribute/Crighton Theater MAY 30

### Tomball

Bob Seger Tribute/Main Street Crossing MAY 30

### Houston

Dream Con 2025 at George R Brown Convention Center MAY 30-JUNE 1

### **Brookeland**

SETX Bigfoot Conference/Lake Sam Rayburn KOA MAY 31

### The Woodlands

Simple Minds at C W Mitchell Pavilion

MAY 31

### Huntsville

Gene Watson at the Old Town Theater MAY 31

### Tomball

Beach Boys Tribute/Main Street Crossing MAY 31

### **JUNE**

### The Woodlands

Tyler Childers with Hays Carll/C W Mitchell Pavilion

JUNE 3

### **Tomball**

Sundance Head at Main Street Crossing
JUNE 4

### **Orange**

Jace Nunnelly at Tia Juanita's Fish Camp

JUNE 5

### Lufkin

Moe Bandy at the Pines Theater JUNE 6

### The Woodlands

Styx at the C W Mitchell Pavilion JUNE 6

### **Tomball**

Journey Tribute at Main Street Crossing

JUNE 7

### Huntsville

Mo Pitney at the Old Town Theater JUNE 7

### Conroe

A Tribute to the Eagles/Crighton Theater

JUNE 7

### Tyler

2025 Cattle Barons Ball/Tyler Horse Park JUNE 7

### Jacksonville

40th Annual Tomato Festival JUNE 7

### The Woodlands

Steven Curtis Chapman at C W Mitchell Pavilion

JUNE 8

### Tomball

Tom Jones Tribute at Main Street Crossing

JUNE 11

### **Nacogdoches**

35th Annual Blueberry Festival/ Downtown Running of the Blueberries/Pecan Acres Park JUNE 14

### Houston

Metallica at NRG Stadium JUNE 14

### Kirbyville

Kirbyville Country Music Show/ Palace Theater JUNE 14

### Conroe

Conroe Exotic Reptile and Pet Show/Lone Star Expo Center JUNE 14

### The Woodlands

Dire Straits Legacy/ C W Mitchell Pavilion

JUNE 15

### **Tomball**

Gene Watson at Main Street Crossing

JUNE 20

### **Nacogdoches**

G & S Gun Show/County Expo Center JUNE 20-21

### Houston

Morgan Wallen/NRG Stadium JUNE 20-21

### Huntsville

Marty Haggard at the Old Town Theater JUNE 21

### Tomball

Dale Watson at Main Street Crossing

JUNE 26

### Woodville

Pickin' at the Pickett House/ Heritage Village JUNE 27

### **Nacogdoches**

2nd Annual East Texas Showdown/County Expo Center JUNE 28

### **Tomball**

Andrews Sisters Tribute at Main Street Crossing JUNE 29

### **JULY**

### Beaumont

4th of July Celebration/ Downtown Event Center JULY 4



### Jasper

4th of July Celebration/Sandy Creek Park JULY 4

### Lufkin

Summer in the City 2025/Cotton Square JULY 5

### **Tomball**

Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young Tribute/Main Street Crossing

JULY 5

### Houston

International Quilt Festival/G R Brown Convention Center

JULY 6-8

### The Woodlands

Outlaw Music Festival with Willie Nelson, Bob Dylan, the Avett Brothers and more/ C W Mitchell Pavilion JULY 6

### Huntsville

Gene Templeton at the Old Town Theater JULY 11

### **Tomball**

Beatles Tribute Show/Main Street Crossing JULY 11

### Kirbyville

Kirbyville Country Music Show/Palace Theater JULY 12

### Conroe

Montgomery County Christmas in July/ Lone Star Expo Center JULY 12

### Lufkin

Gene Watson at the Pines Theater JULY 12

### Tomball

The Floyd Cramer Story/Main Street Crossing

JULY 13

### The Woodlands

Rick Springfield at C. W. Mitchell Pavilion

JULY 18

### Huntsville

Tribute to Lynyrd Skynyrd at the Old Town Theater

JULY 19

### The Woodlands

Kansas and 38 Special/ C W Mitchell Pavilion

JULY 19

### Longview

2025 Longview Kennel Club All Breed Dog Show/Cobb Convention Center JULY 24

### **Tomball**

Doug Stone at Main Street Crossing JULY 24

### Woodville

Pickin' at the Pickett House/Heritage Village

JULY 25

### Lufkin

The Bellamy Brothers at the Pines Theater JULY 25

### **Tomball**

Soul Sessions: Tribute to Motown/Main Street Crossing JULY 26

### Conroe

Conroe Gun and Knife Show/Lone Star Expo Center

JULY 26-27

### Tomball

Larry Gatlin Live at Main Street Crossing JULY 27

Events are subject to change or cancellation.

To submit an event, email events@easttexanmag.com



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