



**Carmage Walls**  
**Commentary Prize**

**2019 Entry Form**

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**Is your newspaper under 50,000 circulation or above 50,000 circulation?** Less than

**Please give a brief explanation of issues discussed and the results achieved. (This space will expand as you type in your comments.)** Each of these editorials deals with an aspect of economic development and why those opportunities are so important to the renaissance of this community. Our editorial page has equated economic development in Lufkin as the business world equivalent of the circle of life. People with quality jobs are more willing to spend money on discretionary items because they are not worried about buying the essential items they must have on a day-to-day basis. That money boosts the quantity and quality of municipal services and educational opportunities, which in turn makes the community a more attractive place for businesses and their employees. A number of new manufacturing facilities have opened or expanded over the last year, adding 500 jobs to our workforce.



OPINION

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

6A

The Lufkin News editorial board

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OUR OPINION

A Reason to Celebrate

New softwood lumber production plant an economic boost this community sorely needs

Today's announcement that Angelina Forest Products LLC is building a new softwood lumber production plant in Lufkin is terrific news.

Without a doubt, it's the economic development shot in the arm for which this community has been longing for a generation.

The company purchased the former General Electric Buck Creek site and will begin construction of a \$100 million state-of-the-art sawmill this summer with plans to be operational in the second quarter of 2019. The company will employ hundreds of workers during construction and expects to provide careers for more than 100 full-time employees when operational.

That doesn't include the potential ancillary jobs. The sawmill will be capable of producing in excess of 220 million board feet annually. The company expects to receive 600 log trucks a week from timber owners within a 100-mile radius and will ship 200 trucks of finished product per week throughout this area and other parts of the United States.

"A sawmill creates jobs not only at the sawmill, but in the forest, in transportation and beyond," Lufkin Mayor Bob Brown said. "Our economy should see a positive change, and we look forward to working together to help make this a success story."

Of course, the mayor is right, but the cynics among us will note that we've been down this road before. This community has a long, proud history of industrial achievement because of the can-do attitude of its workforce. Over the last 20 years, we watched the bigger players in those industries gobble up our local companies and maximize profits by sacrificing our talented workers. That downward spiral is damaging to the collective psyche of this community. In that time we've lost Louisiana-Pacific, Texas Foundries, the paper mill and have witnessed the methodical dismantling of Lufkin Industries by General Electric. Temple-Inland was at one time a Fortune 500 company headquartered in Diboll before being acquired by privately held Georgia-Pacific.

The Angelina Forest Products sawmill will be different because its owners are third- and fourth-generation Angelina County natives making a commitment to this community and its people. They're our neighbors and lived in this community through the economic carnage wrought by those corporate actions. Executive Vice President Stephen Raley said AFP's leadership team has more than 100 years of experience in the building products business.

A world-class sawmill offers career-oriented jobs vital to the survival of families in our community. Perhaps more importantly, it provides future generations of workers with a long-term employment option so that they can remain here to rear their families.

Other recent economic developments that have happened or are happening include expansions at Atkinson Candy Co., Lockheed Martin, American eChem Inc. and LufTex Gears; the acquisition of Angelina Hardwood by Overseas Hardwood Co.; and a partnership between Align Midstream Partners II and BP America Production Company to commission a new gas gathering and treatment facility. In addition, the city is pursuing a foreign-trade zone designation, which will promote a positive business environment.

We've used this space frequently to write about economic development in this community, likening it to the business world equivalent of the circle of life. Statistically, people with quality jobs are more willing to spend money on discretionary items because they are not as worried about buying the essential goods and services they must have to live day-to-day. That infusion of money into the economy boosts the quantity and quality of municipal services and educational opportunities. Make no mistake, a vibrant economic environment is attractive; it's what every other community in this country is pursuing.

Raley said, "It's the right time for the lumber industry, and it's the right time for Angelina County."

He's right. And that's a reason to celebrate.

Some things that happen only in America

Traveling around the world has made me so thankful I live in America. Those who know me would agree that had I lived in many other countries, I would be among the MIAs. But knowing I live in one of the best countries on this planet, I am soooooo happy the First Amendment of these United States is alive and well. So, here goes:

Only in America can you stand on any street corner, roadway or in any room and yell to the top of your voice about how unfair, uncouth and how often our current president uses "alternative facts." In London, there is a perch where anyone on any given day can talk about anything except the Queen. I will bet our president wishes he had one of those. Speaking unkindly about the leadership in mean countries could bring death not only to the speaker but to their families, as well. Aren't you happy you live in this country where you can speak your piece?

Only in America can persons torn from their native land, kept in bondage and subjected to attempts to strip them of everything that helps them remember who they are be told, "Get over it. Slavery was 200 years ago." Let's evaluate this



GUESSIPPINA BONNER

saga. Anyone seen "Black Panther"? The symbolism in that movie is amazing. Descendants of that powerful world have been told for years they were dumb, ignorant and had nothing to offer the world. Here in America, our talents were stolen, our genius was marginalized and our heritage was diluted. Russia even recognized Pushkin, who was black, as a major contributor to their culture.

Only in America can a whole people's culture be marginalized and land taken, and then we rally and yell and scream to put up a wall when it was their land in the beginning. Columbus discovered America. When he walked off the boat, there were humans. Unlike the moon, which was barren, the country Columbus found had people. However, many soon died because of the diseases their European visitors brought with them. Someone beat Columbus to these shores. But in this America, we rally to keep the people out whose ancestors welcomed Columbus and the pilgrims. Short memory, America.

Only in America do we forget the teachings of our Founding Fathers, of all colors and ethnic origins, who struggled and died in many wars to give us the right to participate in this democracy. Today, voter suppression is rampant. One should look at the way political districts are drawn. You would think you are in a facility being evaluated to determine if your sanity is intact. Mean-spiritedness is the norm, not the exception. Fair play

and kindness are struggling. News break — there is enough in America for all. No need to be greedy. Have you ever seen a Brink's truck in a funeral procession?

Only in America can you instill in a people the need to pull their fellow countrymen down. For those who may not have heard the story of "Willie Lynch," read it. After you have read this saga, then look around. Three hundred years after he wrote this checklist about how to turn black people against each other, it still works today.

There are many more "only in America" items. However, opportunities are available for the taking. It might take a few more years to have a female president, but it will come. It might take some time for well-meaning people to respect everyone's contribution and not feel the need to have their ideas take centerstage. One day the beacon that stands and welcomes refugees in New York harbor will shine her light along the Rio Grande.

America has room for us all. America can stand the attacks and all the "isms" we hear today. Sitting in an airport watching soldiers goose step with loaded rifles was so frightening, but when I just looked up and saw that big plane that had "American" on its side, the fears subsided. America — I am not going anywhere, so you better learn to live with me.

Guessippina Bonner is the Lufkin City Council member for Ward 1. Her email address is [Guessippina620@gmail.com](mailto:Guessippina620@gmail.com).



Rubio, Price (briefly) join #TheResistance

Who knew Marco Rubio and Tom Price were joining #TheResistance?

OK, that's an exaggeration. But in the past week, both the Republican senator from Florida and the ousted health and human services secretary unexpectedly criticized Republicans' signature legislative achievements.

In Rubio's case, he acknowledged — at least initially — that GOP tax cuts have flopped.

"There is still a lot of thinking on the right that if big corporations are happy, they're going to take the money they're saving and reinvest it in American workers," Rubio told the Economist.

"In fact, they bought back shares, a few gave out bonuses; there's no evidence whatsoever that the money's been massively poured back into the American worker."

That's all true, of course.

Apple, for instance, bought back \$22.8 billion of its stock in the first quarter, a record for any U.S. company. For context, it's bigger than the entire market capitalizations of 275 different companies in Standard & Poor's 500-stock index.

In total, companies are projected to repurchase about \$800 billion of their own stock this year, according to JPMorgan Chase analysts, a greater than 50 percent increase from last year. Dividend payouts are likewise expected to rise 10 percent.

Meanwhile, worker pay has barely budged.

This, by the way, was all wholly predictable when Rubio himself *voted for the bill*.

Companies including Apple were already sitting on mountains of cash. Interest rates were (and are) low. Long-term price-to-earnings ratios are near their highest level since the dot-com bubble, meaning equity financing has been quite cheap. If firms wanted to expand, hire or raise wages, they easily could have done so. If their investment behavior disappointed, it's not because they needed more cash but because they didn't see lucrative investment opportunities.

So of course when given a tax windfall, companies determined the best use of the money would be distributing it to shareholders.

If a tiny portion also went to raises or bonuses, that was a PR stunt, puffing up pay hikes that likely would have occurred anyway. Even the economists who *believe* the supply-side story — that corporate tax cuts will ultimately result in large wage increases — cited a mechanism that takes years if not decades to materialize. It was



CATHERINE RAMPPELL

a mistake for Republicans to promise voters immediate wage bumps that their own economic advisers knew wouldn't come.

So why has Rubio suddenly become a truth-teller on this large-scale "tax scam," as Democrats have taken to calling the GOP tax overhaul?

Presumably because he's realizing that the tax cuts were an unfortunate twofor: bad policy *and* bad politics.

For tax cuts to have been a winning midterm issue for Republicans, the answers to three questions would have to be yes:

1. Are people noticing they got a tax cut?
2. Do Americans care more about their own tax liabilities than they do about the overall fairness of the tax system?
3. Is tax policy the biggest (or even a major) driver for how people cast their votes?

But right now, the answer to all three questions is no, based on multiple polls.

Also experiencing buyer's remorse this week was Price.

At the World Health Care Conference on Tuesday, he committed a Kinsley gaffe (i.e., accidentally telling an inconvenient truth) by acknowledging that killing the individual mandate is likely to raise insurance premiums. That's because, in Price's words, "you'll likely have individuals who are younger and healthier not participating in that market, and consequently that drives up the cost for other folks within that market."

Well said.

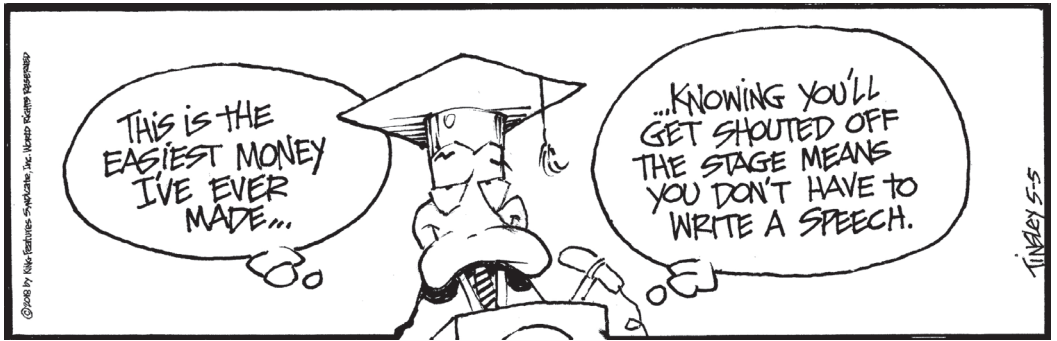
And, once again, wholly predictable. Any health economist, insurer, actuarial or health-care provider could have warned Price last year that eliminating the mandate would raise premiums — and oodles of these people did. Nonetheless, Price insisted the opposite was true back when he was in the Cabinet and had some influence over party policy. Of course, the mandate was unpopular, and instead of trying to convince voters why it ought to be preserved, he chose to exploit public confusion for political gain.

Facing an onslaught of Democratic triumphalism, both Rubio and Price walked back their comments Wednesday. Price said his words had been taken out of context and that, if anything, he believes the GOP hasn't gone *far enough* in destroying Obamacare. Rubio said the tax law wasn't terrible; it just could have been better.

It's a pity. They came so close to advocating good policy, regardless of the personal political fallout. Instead, they gave in to buyer's-remorse remorse.

Catherine Rampell writes for The Washington Post. Her email address is [crampell@washpost.com](mailto:crampell@washpost.com).

MALLARD FILLMORE



By Bruce Tinsley

HEADLINES in Local HISTORY

MAY 6

- One year ago
- St. Cyprian's Episcopal School is first school in America to earn anti-litter youth initiative award, the Keep America Beautiful Youth Initiative Award for litter control.
  - Four Lufkin teenagers charged with stealing golf cart and two Kawasaki mules from Lufkin High School.
- Ten years ago
- Texas Forestry Museum seeks nominations for Texas Forestry Hall of Fame.
- Twenty years ago
- Union Pacific Railroad moves into new facility on Herndon Street.
  - Angelina County Commissioners to consider purchase of land for new jail on Lufkin Avenue.
- From the pages of The Lufkin Daily News, compiled by The History Center, [TheHistoryCenterOnline.com](http://TheHistoryCenterOnline.com).

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, May 6, the 126th day of 2018. There are 239 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 6, 1937, the hydrogen-filled German airship Hindenburg caught fire and crashed while attempting to dock at Lakehurst, New Jersey; 35 of the 97 people on board were killed along with a crewman on the ground.

On this date:

In 1527, unpaid troops loyal to Holy Roman Emperor Charles V attacked Rome, forcing Pope Clement VII to flee to safety; some scholars mark the ensuing sack of the city as the end of the Renaissance in Italy.

In 1757, during the Seven Years' War, Prussian troops under King Frederick II forced Austrian soldiers to retreat in the Battle of Prague. (Prussia then lay siege to Prague, but ultimately failed to take the city.)

Have your say

To submit a letter to the editor, bring it to us at 300 Ellis Ave. in downtown Lufkin, mail it to P.O. Box 1089, Lufkin, TX 75902-1089, or visit an easy-to-use form at [lufkindailynews.com/letters](http://lufkindailynews.com/letters). Or you can email your letter to [news@lufkindailynews.com](mailto:news@lufkindailynews.com).

Please limit your letters to 350 words.

Be sure to include a daytime telephone number on your letter.

All letters are subject to editing for length and clarity, and unsigned letters will not be used. We will only publish one letter per writer during a 30-day period.

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|--|--|--|
| Let your elected officials know what you think. Here is contact information for each.  |  |  |
| <b>U.S. White House</b><br>Comment Line<br>(202) 456-1111  | (202) 224-5922<br><a href="mailto:cruz.senate.gov">cruz.senate.gov</a>   |  |
| <b>Gov. Greg Abbott</b><br>Room 200, State Capitol<br>Austin, TX 78701<br>(800) 252-9600<br>(512) 463-2000<br><a href="http://gov.texas.gov/">gov.texas.gov/</a>   | <b>U.S. Rep. Louie Gohmert</b><br>2234 Rayburn HOB<br>Washington, D.C. 20515<br>(202) 225-3035<br><a href="mailto:gohmert.house.gov">gohmert.house.gov</a>   |  |
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OPINION

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OUR OPINION

Slowly but Surely  
Economic development opportunities  
beginning to pay off in our community

Slowly, but surely, the efforts put forth by Lufkin's 4B Economic Development Corporation are bearing fruit.

The Lufkin City Council on Tuesday approved the economic development agreement between the 4B group and Overseas Hardwoods Inc., a major importer and supplier of lumber products. The incentives package is a \$50,000 one-time payment and \$4,000 for every primary job up to 45 jobs. In exchange for this, Overseas has guaranteed it will retain 15 jobs and provide 15 new jobs, as well as invest at least \$1 million into the new facility, said 4B Director Bob Samford. An agreement was made earlier this year when the company had planned on moving to Lufkin. Overseas Hardwood was unable to acquire that location, but is now considering a location off Highway 103 east. The 4B group and county already have approved the revised agreement.

In addition, a nationwide company that revolves around transportation of gasoline and the chemicals that make it recently opened in Diboll.

With 22 positions on its payroll, Dana Transport is one of the largest companies in Diboll, according to Paige Paulette, the terminal manager for the Diboll branch.

She said the company has the potential to add dozens more jobs. Dana Transport invested \$250,000 into the creation of the terminal and its opening. The business has owner-operator positions and company drivers that will haul the chemicals, primarily locally, she said.

And General Electric/Baker Hughes/Lufkin Industries has moved out of the Buck Creek Facility, allowing Angelina Forest Products to begin work in earnest on turning that property into a \$100 million state-of-the-art sawmill, with plans to be operational in the second quarter of 2019.

As we said in this space earlier this year, economic development focuses on the recruitment of business operations to a region, assisting in the expansion or retention of business operations within a region, or assisting in the startup of new businesses within a region.

Paulette's statements about the opening of the Dana Transport facility drove home those points. "We're supporting the Diboll community," she said. "Dana is invested in Diboll and Lufkin, and we want to create more jobs and revenue for Diboll. Because everything we do, whether it's new tires, new parts or fueling up here, it all comes back to Diboll and Lufkin."

Yes it does.

FACEBOOK QUESTION OF THE WEEK

These are your responses to our Facebook question of the week: "What measures are taken in your household to conserve natural resources?"

**Michael Morgan** — To conserve natural resources in my household I (1) recycle paper, plastic and glass. (2) have three birdfeeders (yes birds are a natural resource). (3) use rainwater to water plants as much as possible. (4) have a garden so I don't have to buy a tomato picked green and shipped 1,000 miles. (5) have tried to eliminate invasive trees and plants on my land and plant native trees (thanks for Forestry Service yearly free tree event). (6) try to purchase quality merchandise that will last and avoid dollar store junk that will not. (7) print my own postage and avoid driving to the post office. (8) rarely buy bottled water (it's ridiculous to have a truck haul water many miles ... just turn on the tap. (9) try to plan to take care of multiple errands to cut down on driving time. (10) avoid plastic anything if possible. (11) don't use Round-Up ... it's not good for the environment to pour liquid cancer on a weed ... remember a quaint instrument called a hoe? (12) pay bills online.

**Monika Vincent** — We come from a country (Germany) where we were raised as a small child to recycle everything. Here in America we brought that with us even though it was not easy to do here long ago. In our house we take our glass, cardboard, newspapers, plastic etc., to the recycle center. Also our electronics when they have the day for that. We conserve water with low-flush toilets and our food waste we put in the garden or compost. Thank you America for caring about the environment.

**Kathy Petersen** — We have low-flush

toilets. We don't live inside Lufkin, so we recycle everything we can and take it to the recycling center. We use drip hoses to water our plants near the house. We take our plastic bags back to the grocery store.

**Chasity Boatman** — We try to be an eco-friendly household and teach our children about the importance to minimizing our impact to the environment. Some of the ways we do that include bringing reusable bags to the grocery store so we are not using plastic bags. Limiting shower times, and not having the water run while we wash our hands and brush our teeth. We don't do laundry unless we can do a full load. We also replaced all of our light bulbs with energy-saving ones. Additionally, we hardly use our lights during the day. We just open all the blinds.

**Nancy Johnston** — We recycle aluminum and glass and store newspapers and cardboard to use as mulch around the tomatoes in the garden. We have three wire compost bins for leaves and grass. Insulated shades and curtains help keep the electric bill down.

**Sharon Ranne Lea** — Catch rain water for plants. Conserve your water. Recycle.

**Ronnie Scogin** — We unplug all appliances that we are not using, turn off all lights we are not using and we only cook what we can eat, so no leftovers.

*Editor's note: If you would like to chime in on this topic (or any other issue affecting our community), you can still send us a letter to the editor via email at news@lufkindailynews.com/letters or by mail at P.O. Box 1089, Lufkin TX 75902-1089. Please try to make it no longer than 350 words.*

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, July 19, the 200th day of 2018. There are 165 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 19, 1980, the Moscow Summer Olympics began, minus dozens of nations that were boycotting the games because of the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

On this date:

In 1553, King Henry VIII's daughter Mary was proclaimed Queen of England after pretender Lady Jane Grey was deposed.

In 1812, during the War of 1812, the First Battle of Sackets Harbor in Lake Ontario resulted in an American victory as U.S. naval forces repelled a British attack.

In 1848, a pioneering women's rights convention convened in Seneca Falls, New York.

In 1903, the first Tour de France was won by Maurice Garin.

In 1943, allied air forces raided Rome during World War II.

In 1969, Apollo 11 and its astronauts, Neil Armstrong, Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin and Michael Collins, went into orbit around the moon.

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

FYI: Are there any regulations for pools?

**Q**: What are the regulations for public pools regarding life-guards, diving boards, etc.?

**A**: There isn't much unique language in city and state legislation concerning pools and amenities except for the safety standards of the water itself. The water must be clean and chlorinated well enough to remain clean with people getting in and out of the pool.

State law does defer to national regulations that are a little more stringent. There are a few things that pools are required to have to help prevent drownings, according to the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act.

All pools must have a safety vacuum release system, suction-limiting vent system, gravity drainage system, automatic pump shut-off system and a drain disablement system. Pools must also have gates that are self-latching, doors with an audible alert device, pool alarms and pool covers.

Nowhere does it state any requirements regarding having lifeguards or any regulations regarding diving boards.

**Q**: How can you make and pass laws in Lufkin if you're not part of city council?

**A**: If you are in the city and you have a law/ordinance you want passed or repealed, you may not have to sit and hope that council discusses it. Going to council meetings and reading the city ordinances and the city charter can help you understand what the city has already passed or is planning on passing.

You have access to "propose any ordinance, except ordinances appropriating money or levying taxes



JESS HUFF

or ordinances repealing ordinances appropriating money or levying taxes," according to the city charter.

Your ideas have to be submitted to the council as a petition signed by at least 15 percent of the qualified voters in the city. The petition has to be passed along to the city secretary.

If that is provided to the city, they can either pass the initiative within 30 days, submit the ordinance without amendment to a vote for the qualified voters at a regular or special election, or submit to a vote a city-initiated amendment or ordinance on the same subject but proposed by the city council.

Stumped? Ask us. The FYI column is designed to let readers email (to [newsroom@lufkindailynews.com](mailto:newsroom@lufkindailynews.com)) or call in (to 632-6637) questions you want answered, whether about road construction, how-to tips, trivia or other information. You do not have to leave your name.

You also can use that email address or phone number to give us a news tip — anonymously, if you'd like.



A matter of life, death when you least expect it

The phone call I had dreaded for years came into my office on a Friday afternoon a few weeks ago.

"Mom, I think you might want to meet me at the hospital," my youngest son said in a shaky voice.

I had just put out a traffic alert on my TxDOT Lufkin Twitter page about a major accident on state Highway 94 at Loop 287 in Lufkin.

As a newspaper journalist, I always dreaded the thought of coming upon an accident scene and possibly finding loved ones involved. I never did. So, as a TxDOT spokeswoman, my ambulance chasing days are done, but the alert system I use daily to get the word out about blocked roadways due to emergencies and construction is something the public relies on. As I sent out the alert, it was no different than any other crash. Yes, it was. This one involved my family — my daughter-in-law and my youngest granddaughter.

Instead of driving to the hospital, I drove straight to the scene of the crash where I would find traffic



RHONDA OAKS

blocked in all directions, emergency lights, fire trucks and an ambulance. I knew a shortcut into a parking lot adjacent to the accident.

It's hard to miss my son, who is 6-foot, 7-inches tall. I spotted him immediately. Tucked into his arms was his youngest daughter, who I refer to as my baby grand. She also carries my middle name and acts more like me than I sometimes want to admit. She and her mom were leaving town for a weekend softball tournament when someone ran the red light and hit them squarely on the passenger side door where she was sitting.

I threw my car into park and didn't even turn off the engine. That tall, beautiful 11-year-old had a bruised, red cheek from the impact of the side airbag, an injured shoulder and a couple of cuts. My son was about to take her to the hospital himself when I asked about my daughter-in-law.

"She's in the ambulance."

I listened to a witness tell me how the car went airborne before flipping over three times. I scanned the accident scene and spotted their SUV. It was totaled. The windshield was hanging into the front seat and there was no exit from the passenger side. My granddaughter crawled

between the seat and the shards of glass hanging inches from her to exit the driver's side. They were both covered in tiny pieces of glass. I asked her later what she experienced in the seconds that their car was rolling over.

"I heard momma scream, but I was praying. I was still praying when the car stopped," she said through that beautiful smile.

She told me of how an elderly man helped them as they crawled out of the vehicle. He asked if he could pray for them before he handed my daughter-in-law his phone to call my son. He walked away before they could thank him.

At the hospital emergency room, the first thing my daughter-in-law said to me through her tears, her pain and her bleeding was, "They saved our life. The seatbelts. They saved our life."

The cuts and abrasions on their necks, shoulders and across their chests looked as if someone had taken a knife and made the perfect imprint of a seatbelt that worked. A seatbelt that did just what it was supposed to do.

Their wounds will heal and with a little rehab, my daughter-in-law should be fine and my baby grand will throw a softball as good as ever. But the reality is things could have turned out very differently.

I constantly talk of how if a vehicle rolls and the occupant is not wearing a seatbelt, the likelihood of being thrown from the vehicle and becoming a fatality greatly increases.

If you don't do anything else today, make the choice to buckle your seatbelt and make sure your family buckles up. They work, and when you least expect it, they will save your life too.

Rhonda Oaks is the public information officer for TxDOT's Lufkin district. Her email address is [Rhonda.Oaks@txdot.gov](mailto:Rhonda.Oaks@txdot.gov).

HEADLINES IN Local HISTORY

**JULY 19**

**One year ago**

■ The trial for Walter Diggles, the former executive director of the Deep East Texas Council of Governments, is set to start at the Ward Burke Federal Courthouse in downtown Lufkin. His wife and daughter also will be going on trial.

■ Angelina College softball standout Kali Holcomb signs to play with Bowling Green. Holcomb set the single-season home run record for Angelina College with 18.

**Ten years ago**

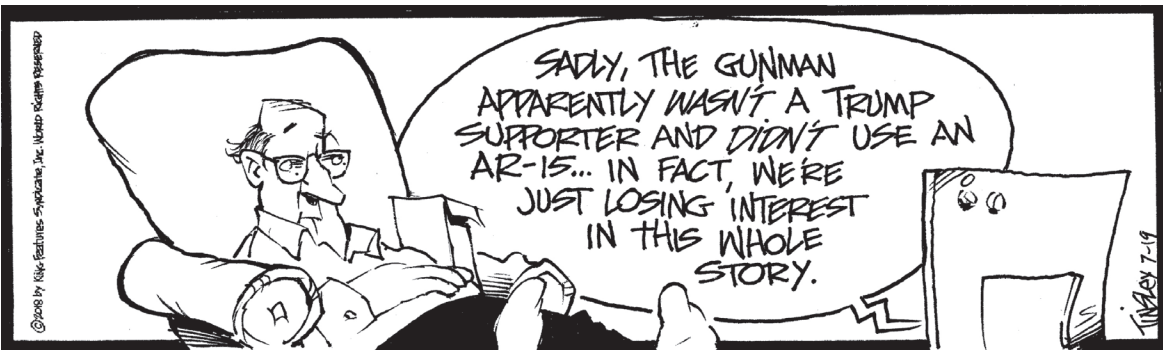
■ Jury hands down a 45-year sentence for robbery to former Lufkin Boys and Girls Club boxing coach Darwin Brown.

**Twenty years ago**

■ Angelina County's first 1999 budget proposal includes salary increases of about 9 percent for several department heads, including county commissioners.

From the pages of The Lufkin Daily News, compiled by The History Center, [TheHistoryCenterOnline.com](http://TheHistoryCenterOnline.com).

MALLARD FILLMORE



By Bruce Tinsley



OPINION

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

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OUR OPINION

Welcome to Lufkin

\$825,000 grant from Texas Enterprise Fund helps close the deal on newest manufacturing facility

Thursday’s announcement that Sterling Lumber Company LLC plans to open a new manufacturing facility in Lufkin will help pave the way for the city’s continued economic development and recovery.

Literally.

Sterling Lumber plans to move into the former Buck Creek facility next to Angelina Forest Products LLC to open a TerraLam Cross-Laminated Timber mat manufacturing facility. The mats are used for site access and ground protection around construction projects. The company will invest \$30 million and create 150 new jobs.

Work continues at AFP to turn its portion of the Buck Creek property into a \$100 million state-of-the-art sawmill, with plans to be operational in the second quarter of 2019. AFP will produce the locally sourced yellow pine timber used by Sterling, according to Bob Samford, director of Lufkin’s 4B Economic Development Corporation. The close proximity will allow improved product turnaround, he said.

Sterling Lumber is a family-run company that has been in business for nearly 70 years. They produce high-performance protection mats and have more than 300 products sold worldwide, in addition to timber products like wooden lagging, shielding and specialty pallets.

“It is very exciting to announce a significant expansion of Sterling’s manufacturing capacity in Lufkin and the Lone Star State,” said Carter Sterling, chief executive officer of Sterling. “I can’t think of a better place to continue our stated mission of supporting our colleagues, communities, customers and company.”

Gov. Greg Abbott, Angelina College, the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce and the Texas Forest Country Partnership were part of the group that helped bring Sterling Lumber to East Texas, Angelina County Judge Wes Suiter said. While the LEDC has approved a \$250,000 grant incentive, it still needs approval by the Lufkin City Council. Angelina County Commissioners also may approve a separate grant in a special called meeting Tuesday.

“A hardworking and family-run company like Sterling requires a workforce with the same values, and that is exactly what the Lufkin community will provide,” Abbott said. “I thank Sterling for their commitment to Texas and the people of Lufkin, and I look forward to building on this already successful partnership.”

An \$825,000 grant from the Texas Enterprise Fund helped secure that commitment, according to Abbott’s office. The fund is used as a final incentive tool for projects that offer significant projected job creation and capital investment. It is the largest fund of its kind in the nation and one of Texas’ most competitive recruitment tools. Texas Enterprise Funds are used primarily to attract new business to the state or assist with the substantial expansion of an existing business as part of a competitive recruitment situation. That fund allows the state — and by extension, this community — to take the initiative on investing in its future by offering competitive incentives to companies who are creating jobs and driving innovation.

“The city of Lufkin and Angelina County is experiencing encouraging economic growth and we expect that trend to continue as we clearly communicate the positive aspects of this region of Texas,” said Lufkin Mayor Bob Brown.

For more information about Sterling, visit SterlingSolutions.com.

Fall season an exciting time of the year

The official onset of the fall season brings about an exciting time of year in our communities, from homecoming rallies and football games, to fall festivals and canned food drives, to crisp early mornings in the deer stand. I hope you’ll take some time in the coming weeks and months to breathe in the autumn air, and thank God for the fall season.

With that, here’s an update from your State Capitol.

**House Interim Charge: Insurance.** The committee of focus this week is the House Committee on Insurance. This nine-member committee has purview over a number of state agencies, including the Texas Department of Insurance. While this committee also examines all matters pertaining to both industry companies and issuing entities, keenly important this interim will be matters relating to the Texas Windstorm Insurance Agency, which provides insurance for those living in disaster-prone areas along the Texas coast.



TRENT ASHBY

As we’ve discussed in most other columns this interim, Hurricane Harvey reared its ugly head more than one year ago. As of August 2018, TWIA has experienced an estimated \$1.6 billion in total losses from this natural disaster, which has caused them to raise rates for residential and commercial policyholders. Throughout the interim, and into next session, the Insurance Committee will play a critical role in identifying possible gaps and vulnerabilities within these programs while also analyzing the ability of the programs to adequately cover policyholders.

Additionally, this committee oversees the health insurance market in Texas. Whether you’re a small business owner providing health insurance to your employees or a hard-working East Texan trying to make ends meet, we are all aware that health insurance premiums and deductibles have been rising at an all-time rate.

Realizing these unfortunate circumstances, the House Insurance Committee is exploring any opportunities that the state has through federal waivers or various other mechanisms to provide critically important aid to citizens who don’t deserve to be forced into a poor

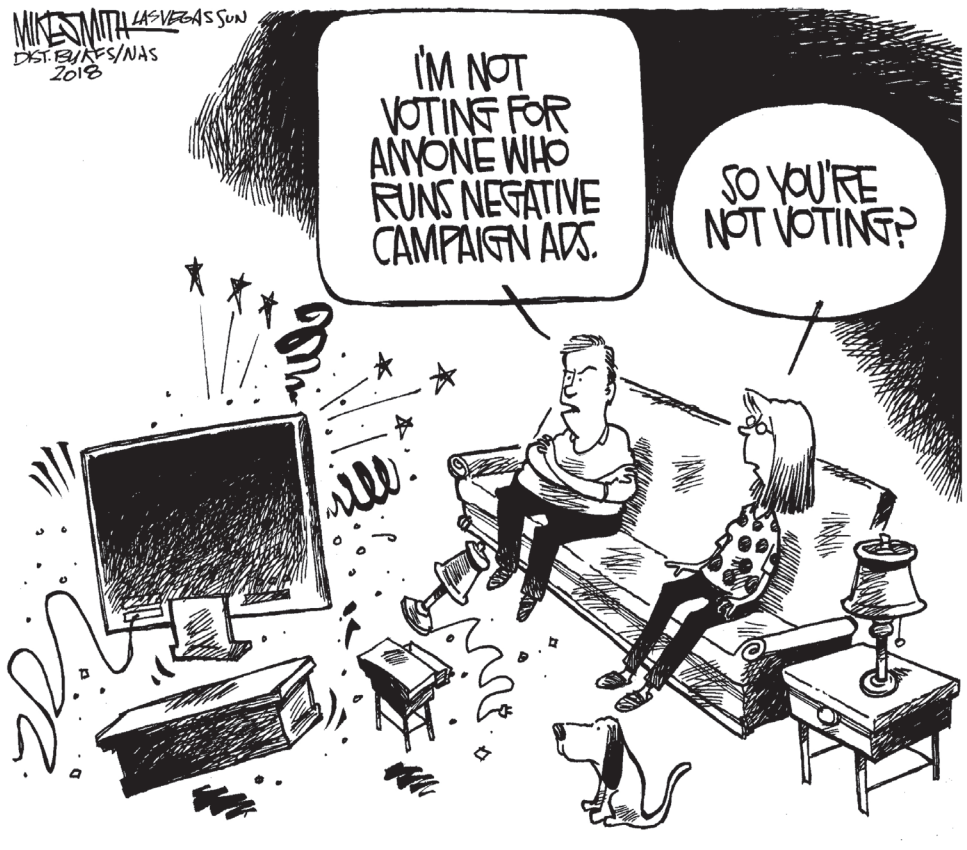
financial situation just to have health care for their family.

Finally, I look forward to hearing the committee’s findings on surprise medical billing practices, as I firmly believe that, no matter the circumstances, all Texans deserve a fully transparent process when receiving medical care. The committee plans to pinpoint where this practice occurs most frequently, and make recommendations that would help increase accountability in such cases.

**Reminders:.** The mobile office is on the road this month and looks forward to seeing you from 9-11 a.m. Oct. 17 at the Houston County Courthouse Annex in Crockett; from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Oct. 17 at the Trinity County Courthouse in Groveton; and from 9-11 a.m. Oct. 24 at the San Augustine County Courthouse in San Augustine.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact our office if we can help you in any way. Our district office may be reached at 634-2762, or you can call my Capitol office at (512) 463-0508.

Trent Ashby is the state representative for District 57 that includes Angelina, Houston, Leon, Madison, San Augustine and Trinity counties. His email address is [trent.ashby@house.state.tx.us](mailto:trent.ashby@house.state.tx.us).



A letter to the son I never had

You’re going to think this is dumb, but my advice to you is: Eat sunflower seeds.

You come from a long line of sunflower-seed spitters. And this is an ancient rural skill you must learn early in life, or you will be hopeless.

Crack open the tiny husks using your teeth, work out the seeds using your tongue, then spit the empty shells. It sounds easy, but it takes years of practice. Get started early.

Learn this one skill, and your whole life will work itself out on its own.

Also: I pray you grow up to be ordinary. I can’t think of any better gift than being ordinary.

A lot of people are scared of being average, but don’t be afraid. Average things are great. Take your old man, for instance. I had a 2.3 grade point average—which is actually BELOW average.

Listen, I’m not saying I don’t want you to be unique. Certainly. You ARE unique—but so is everyone else. And since EVERYONE is unique, this makes “uniqueness” pretty ordinary.

Ordinariness makes you human. It means that you are fully one of us. Meaning: soon, you will give half of everything you own to the IRS.

Eat fiber. Seriously. Society would be better off if we all ate more fiber. If you look at television celebrities, news anchors, politicians, and daytime talk-show hosts, the message is clear: They need Metamucil.

Don’t worry about money. Not ever. Not even when you are broke. To help prepare you for adulthood, I’ve devised a financial training method for coping with how fast money can disappear once you’re an adult. Thus, on your eighteenth birthday follow these steps:

1. Place all your dollars into a shoebox.
2. Close the shoebox.
3. Pour gasoline on the shoebox and light it on fire.

See? No more money. Welcome to adulthood, kid.

The thing is, when you’re an adult, you’ll worry about having enough cash, food, and clothes. And this worry will keep you awake at night if you let it. And it will subtract years from your life.

Your old man spent his childhood worrying about money. Your granny (my mother) worked her tail off to make sure we had enough. We struggled. But somehow, we were taken care of, son.

And that “somehow” is where the magic is. Take a drive on Highway 4, near Baker, Florida. Ride the old roads until you cross the Alabama line. Take Route 41, toward Brewton. It will weave you past acres and acres of soft, snow white cotton. Stop and take it all in.

You will never see anything as magnificent as cotton fields. Not even movie stars on red



SEAN DIETRICH

carpet are dressed as fine as cotton.

Just think: those cotton crops don’t worry about money. Not one red cent. They don’t work ten-hour shifts, pay health insurance, cellphone bills, or file for tax extensions. And look at them.

Nutrients from the soil feed them. Rain gives them drink. If all the cotton in the South is taken care of by the heavens, what makes you any different? Aren’t you worth more than cotton?

Memorize jokes. Lots of them. Jokes for children. Jokes for church people. And keep plenty of jokes in your back pocket for surly old men. You come from a long line of joke tellers.

Jokes are miniature stories. And as it happens, the most important thing anyone has is their story.

You might be beautiful—but it will fade. You might be brilliant—but not forever. You might be a marvelous athlete—but not for long.

But your story. That will last even after you’re dead.

So start making your story. Make it funny. Make it pretty. A woman to love. Beautiful children. Good dogs. Food worth living for. Travel. Rest. Sleep late. Work hard. Take walks. Live. Be funny. Be a big tipper. Be understanding. Be nice. Be so meek it’s almost embarrassing. And be kind when people are hateful toward you.

Make your tale a beautiful one. I’d better go now. I’m busy. And after all, you’re not even real. But I believe you would’ve been an exceptional son, with a lot of jokes that would’ve made your old man smile.

Sorry it didn’t work out that way. I can only imagine what you might’ve been like.

Anyway, right now I am on Highway 41. I wish you could see the crop of cotton I’m looking at. It’s majestic, white, and wide. And it made me think about you. So I thought I’d write you a letter.

Don’t forget what I said about the sunflower seeds.

Sean Dietrich is a columnist, novelist, biscuit connoisseur, known for his commentary on life in the American South. His work has appeared in Southern Living, the Mobile Press Register, the Tallahassee Democrat, and various publications throughout the Southeast, and he has authored nine books.

HEADLINES IN Local HISTORY

- SEPTEMBER 30**
- One year ago**
- Deep East Texas Council of Governments negotiates a contract with KSA Engineering as architects for the proposed headquarters building/regional emergency operations in Lufkin.
  - Lufkin Pack’s ‘D’ dominates in District 12-6A opener as Panthers beat College Park 21-3.
- Ten years ago**
- Nearly 400 local workers to be affected by Citation’s plan to close Lufkin’s foundry.
- Twenty years ago**
- Lufkin High School Class of 1948 hosts 50-year reunion at Crown Colony Country Club with 75 out of 130 class members in attendance.
  - Democratic gubernatorial candidate Garry Mauro brings his statewide door-to-door tour back to Lufkin.
- From the pages of The Lufkin Daily News, compiled by The History Center, [TheHistoryCenterOnline.com](http://TheHistoryCenterOnline.com).

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, Sept. 30, the 273rd day of 2018. There are 92 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On Sept. 30, 1962, James Meredith, a black student, was escorted by federal marshals to the campus of the University of Mississippi, where he enrolled for classes the next day; Meredith’s presence sparked rioting that claimed two lives.

On this date:

In 1777, the Continental Congress — forced to flee in the face of advancing British forces — moved to York, Pennsylvania.

In 1846, Boston dentist William Morton used ether as an anesthetic for the first time as he extracted an ulcerated tooth from merchant Eben Frost.

In 1938, after co-signing the Munich Agreement allowing Nazi annexation of Czechoslovakia’s Sudetenland, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain said, “I believe it is peace for our time.”

In 1949, the Berlin Airlift came to an end.

Your elected officials

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Let your elected officials know what you think. Here is contact information for each.   |  |
| <b>U.S. White House Comment Line</b><br>(202) 456-1111  | <a href="mailto:cruz.senate.gov">cruz.senate.gov</a>   |
| <b>Gov. Greg Abbott</b><br>Room 200, State Capitol<br>Austin, TX 78701<br>(800) 252-9600<br>(512) 463-2000<br><a href="http://gov.texas.gov/">gov.texas.gov/</a>  | <b>U.S. Rep. Louie Gohmert</b><br>2234 Rayburn HOB<br>Washington, D.C. 20515<br>(202) 225-3035<br><a href="mailto:gohmert.house.gov">gohmert.house.gov</a>   |
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| <b>U.S. Sen. John Cornyn</b><br>517 Hart, Senate Office Building<br>Washington, D.C. 20510<br>(202) 224-2934<br><a href="http://cornyn.senate.gov/">cornyn.senate.gov/</a><br>Tyler office:<br>(903) 593-0902 | <b>State Rep. Trent Ashby</b><br>Room E2414<br>Capitol Extension<br>P.O. Box 2910<br>Austin, TX 78768<br>(512) 463-0508<br><a href="mailto:house.state.tx.us/members/member-page/?district=57">house.state.tx.us/members/member-page/?district=57</a><br>2915 Atkinson Drive<br>Lufkin, TX 75901<br>(936) 634-2762 |
| <b>U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz</b><br>Dirksen Senate Building,<br>Suite SDB-40B<br>Washington, D.C. 20510<br>(202) 224-5922  |  |

MALLARD FILLMORE

By Bruce Tinsley





OPINION

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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OUR OPINION

Good News

Lawmakers endorse Lufkin’s bid for foreign-trade zone designation

Lufkin’s bid to establish a foreign-trade zone took a step forward Wednesday when U.S. Rep. Louie Gohmert and U.S. Sens. John Cornyn and Ted Cruz wrote a letter of support to Andrew McGilvray, executive secretary of the Foreign-Trade Zones Board.

A foreign-trade zone is an area physically located within the United States but considered outside U.S. customs territory. According to a feasibility report from Ernst & Young, which has been serving as a consultant for the city, a foreign-trade designation helps lower a variety of customs duties, fees and taxes and other related operational costs for certain companies engaging in international trade activity.

As we said in this space earlier this year, a foreign-trade zone designation will elevate the city’s position as a regional magnet for international trade development.

Texas has 32 foreign-trade zone grantees. Statistics show those 32 grantees served 419 businesses that employed roughly 55,000 people. The value of the merchandise received was estimated at more than \$100 billion. The value of exported merchandise was estimated at between \$10 billion and \$25 billion.

“With over 145,000 workforce participants, I am happy to support the City of Lufkin’s request to establish a foreign-trade zone (FTZ),” Gohmert wrote in the letter. “Located near major interstates, airports

and rail transportation, this thriving city in East Texas is prepared and equipped to increase international trade development.

“Not only will this designation create more job opportunities for the residents of Lufkin, Texas it will aid in retaining the jobs already filled and additionally, attract new companies to the region which will generate even more economic success and expansion.”

Gohmert’s comments are spot on.

Water and natural resources are abundant. Access to highways and railways, which is a must for manufacturing and distribution, is easy and stable. And that workforce of 145,000 is both knowledgeable and experienced.

Lufkin and Angelina County are in a strategic position to increase the region’s international trade development. An \$825,000 grant from the Texas Enterprise Fund to help secure a commitment from Sterling Lumber Company LLC to open a new manufacturing facility in Lufkin is proof enough of that. The fund, the largest of its kind in the nation, is used as a final incentive tool for projects that offer significant projected job creation and capital investment.

It’s been a busy year in terms of economic revitalization for Lufkin and Angelina County. Sterling is just the most recent example of that growth.

A foreign-trade zone designation is a key complement to that continued growth.

FYI: Magazine donations, drilling wells

Are there any civic organizations that accept donations of old magazines? Will they come pick them up?

A. Many civic organizations accept magazine donations. Goodwill, Angelina County Nursing Home and Kurth Memorial Library all confirmed they take magazine donations.

However, to the other part of your question, they all said no. At this time, none of them will pick up donations.

A representative from the Angelina County Senior Citizen Center said they used to make pick-ups, but stopped because it wasn’t working effectively. An official with Kurth Memorial Library said they would



JESS HUFF

love the donations, but do not typically make pick-ups. Goodwill has posted on its website that they are not picking up any donations of any kind right now.

Q. What’s going on on FM 2109, six miles toward Hanks Creek? Is it a drilling site for natural gas?

A. From what I can tell, on FM 2109 headed south toward Hanks Creek there are a few closed oil wells, according to Texas Railroad Commission maps. If you are talking about driving north on 2109 toward Hanks Creek, there are mostly dry holes.

There is one that has the potential to be reopened and used, heading due east from the intersection of Faye Jones Road and FM 2109. However, there are no indications it is being used at this time.

Close to that location there is an operational oil well off Myrtie Colwell Road. There is also one oil well in use near Huntington off Cowart

Street.

Other than that, along FM 2109 there are four permitted locations. These locations are where extraction may be taking place, according to the Railroad Commission maps. There are three locations right before you pass Gilliland Creek. This is in an area between Knight Wood Road, Robinson Lane, Forrest Road and FM 2109.

At the point of writing this I am still waiting on confirmation from BP and Align Midstream, who manage some of this business in the county. I am also waiting for response from the Railroad Commission spokesman.

Stumped? Ask us. The FYI column is designed to let readers email (to [newsroom@lufkindailynews.com](mailto:newsroom@lufkindailynews.com)) or call in (to 632-6637) questions you want answered, whether about road construction, how-to tips, trivia or other information.

You do not have to leave your name. You also can use that email address or phone number to give us a news tip — anonymously, if you’d like.

HEADLINES IN Local HISTORY

OCTOBER 11

One year ago

■ Retired Lufkin businessman Don Lymbery is seeking the GOP nod for Angelina County judge in 2018.

■ New motto on county tax office statements generates concern — “Believers Serving Our Citizens” replacing “In God We Trust.”

Ten years ago

■ Lufkin First Church of the Nazarene celebrates its centennial.

■ Pack crushes New Caney in District 14-5A football action 61-0.

Twenty years ago

■ Angelina Neches River Authority studies options on three possible mergers.

■ Rufus H. Duncan, a home-builder and member of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice, will be remembered with the dedication of the Diboll prison unit in his name.

From the pages of The Lufkin Daily News, compiled by The History Center, [TheHistoryCenterOnline.com](http://TheHistoryCenterOnline.com).

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Oct. 11, the 284th day of 2018. There are 81 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On Oct. 11, 1991, testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Anita Hill accused Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas of sexually harassing her; Thomas re-appeared before the panel to denounce the proceedings as a “high-tech lynching.”

On this date:

In 1809, just over three years after the famous Lewis and Clark expedition ended, Meriwether Lewis

was found dead in a Tennessee inn, an apparent suicide; he was 35.

In 1884, American first lady Eleanor Roosevelt was born in New York City.

In 1910, Theodore Roosevelt became the first former U.S. president to fly in an airplane during a visit to St. Louis.

In 1958, the lunar probe Pioneer 1 was launched; it failed to go as far out as planned, fell back to Earth, and burned up in the atmosphere.

In 1961, actor-comedian Leonard “Chico” Marx, 74, died in Hollywood, Calif.

In 1962, Pope John XXIII convened the first session of the Roman Catholic Church’s Second Vatican Council, also known as “Vatican 2.”

In 1968, Apollo 7, the first manned Apollo mission, was launched with astronauts Wally Schirra, Donn Fulton Eisele and R. Walter Cunningham aboard. The government of Panama was overthrown in a military coup.

In 1983, the last full-fledged hand-cranked telephone system in the United States went out of service as 440 telephone customers in Bryant Pond, Maine, were switched over to direct-dial service.

In 1986, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev opened two days of talks concerning arms control and human rights in Reykjavik, Iceland.

Have your say

To submit a letter to the editor, bring it to us at 300 Ellis Ave. in downtown Lufkin, mail it to P.O. Box 1089, Lufkin, TX 75902-1089, or visit an easy-to-use form at [lufkindailynews.com/letters](http://lufkindailynews.com/letters). Or you can email your letter to [news@lufkindailynews.com](mailto:news@lufkindailynews.com).

Please limit your letters to 350 words.

Be sure to include a daytime telephone number on your letter.

All letters are subject to editing for length and clarity, and unsigned letters will not be used. We will only publish one letter per writer during a 30-day period.

America at a turning point in its history

One year and more than six months ago, our electorate brought forth on this nation a new administration, conceived in partisan politics and dedicated to the proposition that all men are not created equal by the Almighty.

This acrimonious newly appointed executive branch immediately plowed forward to disorganize our democratic way of life by squandering an excellent economy, spreading hate against our first black president, making prejudice a common word among our children and pounding conservatism down the throats of the unsuspecting Americans.

Now we are engaged in a piteous cold civil war, testing whether this administration or any administration so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. How long? Not long can we exist as a respectable place in the world under such an administration. How long? Not long can we hate each other through ridiculous politics that have driven us further apart than we have ever been and are continuously doing so. How



DALLAS PIERRE

long? Hopefully, not long can we allow a dictator to rule a democratic society that is conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. How long? Prayerfully, not long can we exist in a demeaning society where women are treated like a toy for the pleasure of powerful rich men.

We have been virtually asleep at the wheel during this weird transformation of power right before our eyes. But it is time for us to wake up to the realization that our democratic way of life is under siege. Those amenities of life which we loved so much are being destroyed and compromised, never to return.

We are at an unswerving turning point of that cold civil war. We are at a point at which we must conclude whether we are a United States of America or a Divided States of America. To that end, it is high time that we bring a halt to this preposterous absurdity. Coming together as a united front with a common purpose is the only solution toward reaching this end. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But in a larger sense, we as common beings cannot fill this empty space of divisiveness. With the power of God on their side, the brave and courageous men and women, living and dead, who

struggled for civil rights and equality have filled it far above our poor power to add or detract.

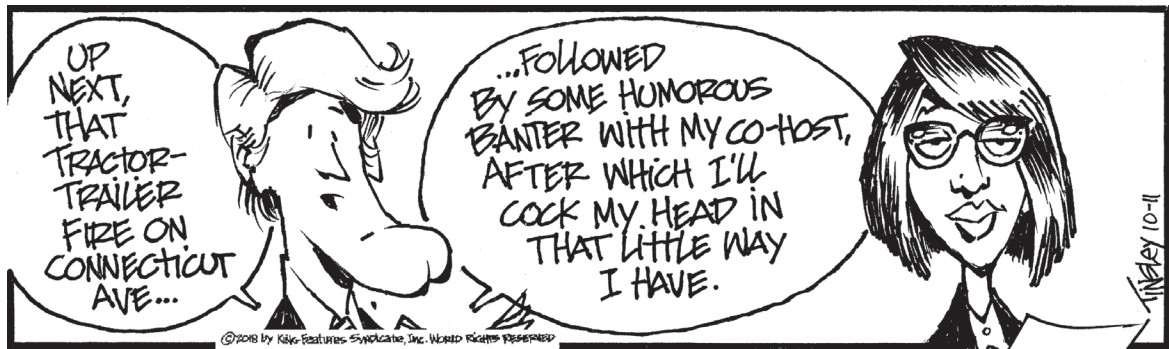
Yes, it is the Martin Luther Kings of the world; the Mother Teresas; the Nelson Mandelas and do not forget John F. Kennedy; the Indira Gandhis; the Abraham Lincolns; and lest we forget, the Franklin D. Roosevelts of the world; and finally, but not in finality, Jesus of Nazareth.

The world will little note nor long remember this comical episodic period of our existence, but it can never forget what these civil rights patriots did here. It’s for us, the younger generation rather, being void of hate, prejudice and partisanship, to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that from these honored civic leaders we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave, in some instances, the last full measure of devotion — that we here highly resolve that these true Americans shall not have struggled in vain, that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom and that this administration of the rich, by the rich, for the rich, shall soon perish from the earth.

Dr. Dallas Pierre is a regular contributor to the Opinion Page of The Lufkin Daily News.

MALLARD FILLMORE

By Bruce Tinsley





OPINION

6A

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OUR OPINION

Raise a Toast

Downtown brewery would provide our community with another economic shot in the arm

The Lufkin City Council on Tuesday approved on first reading Councilman Mark Hicks’ request for a special-use permit his new brewery.

Angelina Brewing Company has been under construction on South First Street in downtown Lufkin since summer. Hicks recused himself from the vote to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest, but otherwise the request passed unanimously. Another public hearing at the next council meeting is necessary before the request can be approved.

Big Thicket Brewery operated in downtown Lufkin from January 2015 until closing in May 2017. Hicks purchased the brewing equipment at that time, saying he planned to open a new downtown brewery, probably in a restaurant-type setting, in the near future.

All we can say is that it’s about time. A downtown brewery would provide our community another economic shot in the arm. Being able to taste the beer and buy it while you’re there has turned microbreweries into tourist attractions across the state and country. We believe it would pair nicely with any number of downtown events.

There were 6,372 regional craft breweries, microbreweries and brewpubs in the United States in 2017. Those small and independent American craft brewers contributed \$76.2

billion to the U.S. economy in 2017, according to the Brewers Association. The industry also provided more than 500,000 total jobs, with more than 135,000 jobs directly at breweries and brewpubs.

Craft brewers in the U.S. produce 6 million barrels or less of beer each year, according to the Brewers Association. They generally make their beer “with traditional ingredients like malted barley (and) interesting and sometimes non-traditional ingredients are often added for distinctiveness,” according to the association’s website.

As a developer, Hicks has played a large role in the renaissance of downtown Lufkin, renovating more than a dozen buildings since 2003. He purchased an additional six downtown properties earlier this year.

“There is a growing popularity for businesses wanting to originate or grow in the downtown area,” Hicks said at that time. “I love old buildings and I want to see them preserved.”

Downtown development plays a critical role in Lufkin’s continued growth. A variety of businesses will bring community members downtown to shop and dine, which in turn will help entice tourists to spend time and money in our area.

To put it another way, growth to our downtown means more tax dollars for the city. And that’s something we could all raise a toast to.

HEADLINES IN Local HISTORY

- DECEMBER 9
- One year ago

■ First Presbyterian Church of Lufkin performs “Christmas Story.”

■ Manger Network of Angelina County makes \$1,300 donation to Toys for Tots.
- Ten years ago

■ Nine arrested in two methamphetamine lab busts.

■ Lufkin High School Choir performs its Christmas concert at the Lufkin Middle School Auditorium.

Twenty years ago

■ Memorial Hospital prepares for plaza’s grand opening with Dr. David Satcher, surgeon general of the United States, as the guest speaker.

■ Lufkin Crimestoppers Band receives 1998 Community Service Award. Band members include Alton Lenderman, Greg Denman, Keith Lewing and Kevin Mobley.

From the pages of The Lufkin Daily News, compiled by The History Center, [TheHistoryCenterOnline.com](#).

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, Dec. 9, the 343rd day of 2018. There are 22 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On Dec. 9, 1987, the first Palestinian intefadeh, or uprising, began as riots broke out in Gaza and spread to the West Bank, triggering a strong Israeli response.

On this date:

In 1608, English poet John Milton was born in London.

In 1917, British forces captured Jerusalem from the Ottoman Turks.

In 1935, the Downtown Athletic Club of New York honored college football player Jay Berwanger of the University of Chicago with the DAC Trophy, which later became known as the Heisman Trophy.

In 1940, British troops opened their first major offensive in North Africa during World War II.

In 1958, the anti-communist John Birch Society was formed in Indianapolis.

In 1962, the Petrified Forest in Arizona was designated a national park.

In 1965, “A Charlie Brown Christmas,” the first animated TV special featuring characters from the “Peanuts” comic strip by Charles M. Schulz, premiered on CBS.

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed a \$2.3 billion seasonal loan-authorization that officials of New York City and State said would prevent a city default.

In 1984, the five-day-old hijacking of a Kuwaiti jetliner that claimed the lives of two Americans ended as Iranian security men seized control of the plane, which was parked at Tehran airport.

In 1990, Solidarity founder Lech Walesa won Poland’s presidential runoff by a landslide.

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Bush’s legacy a timely reminder

As our nation mourns the passing of President George H.W. Bush, we reflect on his steadfast devotion to his faith, family and country. In this time of increased political divisiveness, the legacy of our nation’s 41st president serves as a timely reminder of an era when we were able put aside our differences to serve the greater good.



TRENT ASHBY

Though we grieve with the loss of a great man and selfless servant, it is my sincere hope that we will strive to live by his example of what it means to be a husband, a father, a leader and an American.

With that, we begin a series of columns describing the prominent issues of the upcoming legislative session.

**What to watch for during the 86th legislative session.**

Glenn Hegar, the Texas comp-troller of public accounts, recently

announced that sales tax revenue totaled \$2.998 billion this November, which is nearly 8 percent more than in November of 2017. This increase comes on the heels of three straight months of strong economic growth, which collectively amount to an increase of 10 percent during the same time period last year.

This is excellent news for the state of Texas, as the sales tax represents our largest source of state revenue —almost 60 percent —for the state budget. The importance of additional revenue is underscored when you consider the vast number of outstanding obligations legislators will be faced with this session.

Whether you consider long-term obligations like health care and pension programs, unexpected natural disasters like Hurricane Harvey or meeting the needs of a growing state like transportation infrastructure and improvements in education, the health of our economy is a key component in addressing the many challenges we face.

For Texas legislators, increased resources for the state budget are even more important than in other

state legislatures, as passing a balanced budget is the only constitutionally mandated obligation during the 140 days of the legislative session in Texas.

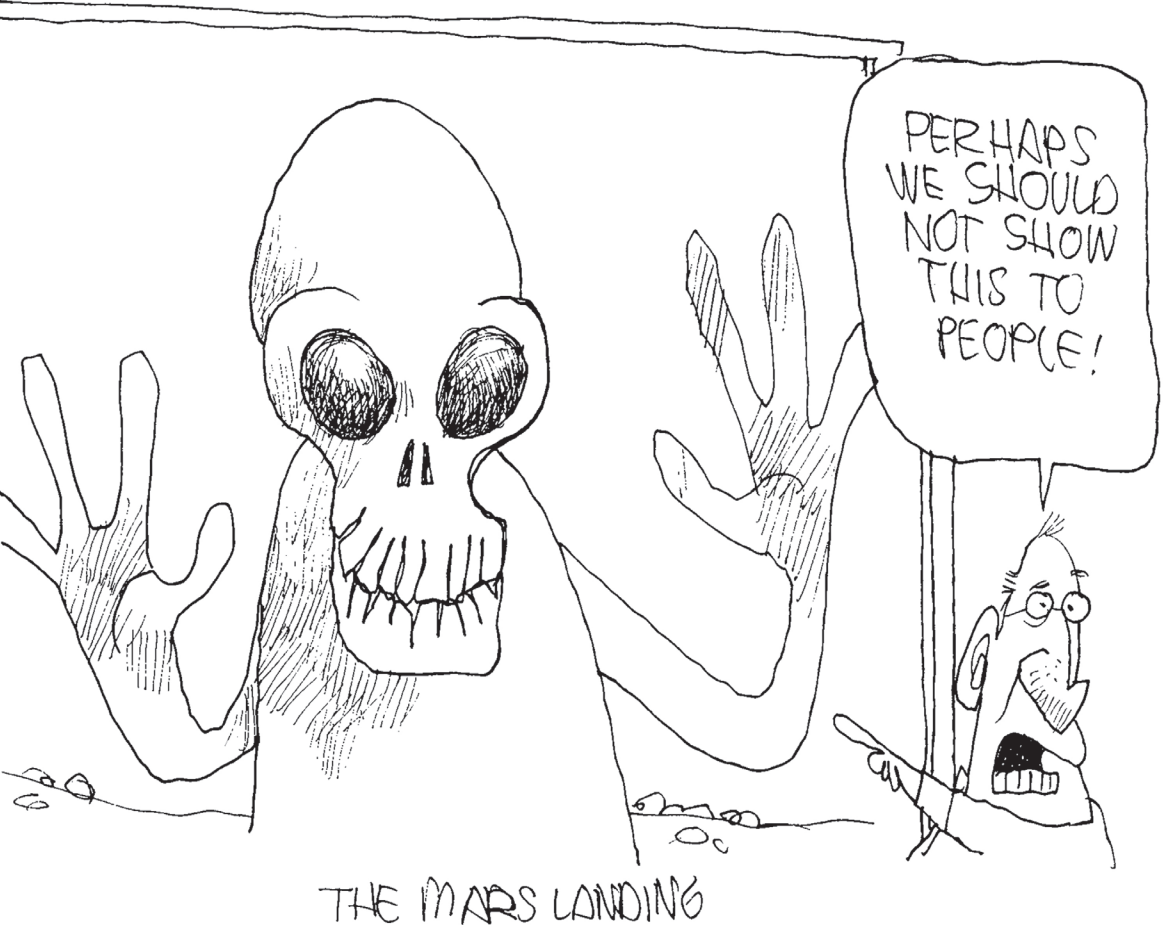
While these additional revenues are a positive sign, we will have a more precise assessment of available funds when Hegar releases his final revenue estimate in mid-January.

**Reminders.** With the holiday season upon us and many special events in all areas of House District 57, please be advised that the mobile office has suspended its regular Wednesday schedule until the start of 2019.

For any questions you may have, or issues you need help resolving, please reach out to one of our offices. We will make every effort to facilitate meetings and respond to your needs.

Our district office can be reached at 634-2762, or you can call our Capitol office at (512) 463-0508.

Trent Ashby is the state representative for District 57 that includes Angelina, Houston, Leon, Madison, San Augustine and Trinity counties. His email address is [trent.ashby@house.state.tx.us](mailto:trent.ashby@house.state.tx.us).



County health: Where do we begin?

First, let me say that the title implies that we are not doing anything for community health, which is certainly not true.

The Angelina County & Cities Health District does amazing work, day in and day out, to provide primary care, immunizations, preventive services and much more. Our two hospitals — and the physicians, nurses and other personnel who staff them — are monumental institutions of care, providing both emergency and specialty services (like heart surgery, neurosurgery, neonatal care and cancer treatment) that many towns our size could only dream of.

Our city and county governments help in their own way, with everything from parks, sidewalks and public transportation to smoking ordinances that, together, form a net of support for any broad public health initiative.

But now what? Last month, I wrote of our poor county health ranking (as determined by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation) and the fact that Angelina County is dead last in Health Behaviors, which include adult smoking, adult obesity, physical inactivity and access to exercise opportunities, excessive drinking and alcohol-impaired driving deaths, sexually transmitted infections, teen births and food environment index.

Collectively, we’ve got to do more to improve the health of the resi-



DR. SID ROBERTS

dents of Angelina County.

As President and CEO of the Episcopal Health Foundation Elena Marks loves to say, health is not health care. We cannot spend our way to health by doing more medical procedures or writing more prescriptions for illnesses. Once people reach the health care system (emergency room or hospital, for example), so much of what determines true health has already been ignored.

What are the determinants of health? Dr. Paul McGaha, formerly with the Texas Department of State Health Services and now Chair of the Department of Community Health in the School of Community and Rural Health at UT Health Science Center in Tyler, describes four broad categories that determine a community’s health.

■ First are social and economic factors, which are 40 percent of health determinants. These factors include education level, employment, income, family and social support, and community safety.

■ Health behaviors, such as tobacco use, diet and exercise, alcohol and drug use, and sexual activity, accounts for 30 percent of a community’s health.

■ Our physical environment, such as air and water quality and housing and transit availability, are responsible for 10 percent of our health.

■ That leaves only 20 percent for what most people think is actually responsible for a community’s health, and that is actual access to and quality of health care. Unfortunately, health care expenditures nationwide are so unbalanced that 97.5 percent of spending — a staggering \$3.3 trillion — is for that clinical care that only accounts for 20 percent of health. In other words, only 2.5 percent of health care spending goes to 80 percent of what determines our health as a community.

The facts are that U.S. health care spending — dollars spent on actual care — far exceed other countries, and U.S. spending on “social services” — including education, parks, public safety, transit, public health,

etc. — is significantly less than other countries. What do we get for all that health care spending? Worse outcomes and lower life expectancy. Yet spending on health care continues to rise.

If we are to improve our county health rankings, we must attack determinants of health on all fronts. Much of that attack must come from outside the health care community, though those of us in health care need to both inform and encourage that discussion.

We must consider the community health needs and ramifications in everything we do. How do we affect overall community health by curriculum choices in the schools, choice of grocery store displays (not to mention availability of fresh, healthy groceries), availability of parks and sidewalks, public safety, welfare, public health spending?

To that end, DETCOG has an opportunity to work with the Episcopal Health Foundation to access county by county data on health care and social services spending (analyzed by health economist J. Mac McCullough, Ph.D., MPH) so that we can learn how spending decisions impact the health and well-being of our residents.

From that, we can explore opportunities to impact the health of our entire community by allocating our precious city and county funds for the biggest bang for the buck. Along with possible school-based initiatives mentioned last month, we must continue to look outside the box of traditional health care spending for ways to actually improve community health.

As they say, it isn’t brain surgery. And that’s the point.

We can’t afford to pay for all the health care we are currently providing and projected to need in the future. The beautiful thing is, by wisely directing our resources now, we will be healthier and less of a burden to care for in the long run. That, my friends, is a win-win.

Dr. Sid Roberts is a radiation oncologist at the Temple Cancer Center in Lufkin. He can be reached at [sroberts@memorialhealth.org](mailto:sroberts@memorialhealth.org). Previous columns may be found at [angelinaradiation.com/blog](http://angelinaradiation.com/blog).

MALLARD FILLMORE



By Bruce Tinsley



OPINION

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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OUR OPINION

First-Class  
State’s recognition  
of airport a potential  
boon for business

The Angelina County Airport recently was recognized as the most improved in the state in 2018 by the Texas Department of Transportation.

The award is the result of years of work by many, according to airport manager Gary Letney. Over the last few years, airport employees and supporters have focused on utilizing state grants as much as they could to improve the landing strip, hangars, utilities and security at the airport, Letney said.

Among those instrumental in that work, he said, were former manager Randy Carswell, the airport crew, current and past Angelina County commissioners and previous County Judge Wes Suiter. He also pointed to the Experimental Aircraft Association for their work on the airport and current County Judge Don Lymbery as being a part of that organization. Letney said each of the commissioners, as well as the sheriff’s office and his crew, offered vehicles, tools or expertise to help make improvements.

“All of that stuff was getting noticed by the state, and the state was looking at how beautiful the airport is and the things Gary had been doing to get the airport noticed and improve the airport appearance and usability,” Lymbery said.

The airport won “Best Airport in Texas” in 1997, when Lufkin and Angelina County were booming. Following the downturn in 2008, the airport stagnated, and any more awards seemed a long way off, Letney said.

“But, boy, in 2016, when the uptick started ... one of the things that really did improve at the airport was the economic output. It went from \$5.5 million in 2011 to a 2018 number of \$26 million.”

That potential for additional economic development would further improve if Lufkin’s bid to establish a foreign-trade zone is approved. A foreign-trade zone is an area physically located within the United States but considered outside U.S. customs territory. Among the possibilities: air transport services, freight forwarding, warehousing and high-tech oriented businesses with products having a high value-to-weight ratio — for example, electronics or optics.

Several white papers over the last generation have been written on airports as engines of economic development. (A white paper is an authoritative report or guide that informs readers concisely about a complex issue and presents the issuing body’s philosophy on the matter. It is meant to help readers understand an issue, solve a problem or make a decision.)

Just as in the past shipping, railway and then highway systems have played vital roles in determining a city’s economic power, global air transportation systems will do so in the future for cities, regions and countries. Airports are magnets for business and trade, and play a major role in the location of corporate and regional headquarters, service companies, research and development facilities and manufacturing sites, according to the publication strategy+business.

Airports move two kinds of things — goods or cargo and people, according to Richard L. Florida, an American urban studies theorist focusing on social and economic theory. He believes a good deal of the argument about airports and economic development has focused on moving things and the business and industries that grow up around that. But in today’s economy, he says, the ability to move people who generate and share knowledge matters even more.

Letney can attest to the veracity of those theories.

When business owners are looking to move to the region, many fly in rather than driving, Letney said. “So it’s the first thing they see about the county.”

That good first impression is critical, because the prize is clear: becoming a magnet for business and commerce.

Don’t hesitate to ask for help in wake of storms

After several weeks of thunderstorms, tornadoes and severe weather across East Texas, my heart goes out to the individuals and families who are mourning the loss of a loved one or whose property was damaged by the storms.

As we rebuild and recover, my family and I will continue to keep our fellow East Texans in our thoughts and prayers, and I would encourage you and yours to do the same.

For anyone needing assistance, please don’t hesitate to call either my Austin office at (512) 463-0508 or my district office in Lufkin at 634-2762. With that, here’s an update from your state Capitol.

**Legislative update.** This week, the Texas House took decisive action on a number of bills that help protect our Second Amendment rights. One of the bills I’d like to highlight, House Bill 516, provides immunity to property or business owners who allow the carrying of handguns by a license holder on their property.

Current law is unclear about whether liability applies to property owners who allow for open or concealed carry on their property, and



TRENT ASHBY

this legislation would provide clear protections to those property and business owners who allow law-abiding gun owners to carry a weapon on their property.

Another bill, House Bill 302, protects the rights of owners and tenants of residential units who lawfully possess firearms in their apartments or condominiums. Currently, an individual could be charged for unlawfully transporting a firearm from their car to their residence if the landlord displays a sign prohibiting firearms.

As a lifelong gun owner, I was proud to support both pieces of legislation that I believe will further protect the rights of Texans across the state.

Finally, I had the opportunity to present three bills in the House Committee on Land & Resource Management this week dealing with the ever-controversial topic of eminent domain.

For private property owners facing condemnation of their land, the system can be challenging. Many landowners are unfamiliar with the full extent of their rights, much less the obligations of a condemning entity, and are often faced with a lot of uncertainty when approached by entities seeking to acquire property through eminent domain.

All three bills deal with different stages of

the process, from the initial meeting of the landowner and the condemning entity, all the way until taxes are due on land that has been taken.

I believe these bills strengthen private property rights by empowering landowners with more information about their existing rights and the obligations of those wishing to conduct a survey. These bills level the playing field for all involved parties.

**Reminders.** The mobile office is on the road this month and looks forward to seeing you on the following dates, in the following locations: from 9-11 a.m. Wednesday at the Leon County Courthouse in Centerville or 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Madison County Courthouse Annex in Madisonville; from 9-11 a.m. May 15 at the Houston County Courthouse in Crockett or from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Trinity County Courthouse in Groveton. You can also come see us from 9-11 a.m. May 22 at the San Augustine Courthouse in San Augustine.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact our office if we can help you in any way. Our district office may be reached at 634-2762, or you can call my Capitol office at (512) 463-0508.

Trent Ashby is the state representative for District 57 that includes Angelina, Houston, Leon, Madison, San Augustine and Trinity counties. His email address is [trent.ashby@house.state.tx.us](mailto:trent.ashby@house.state.tx.us).



April has been a busy month

Wow. The month of April has been busy and that says a lot about our great city and the diversity of activities we have to keep us active and informed.

The Museum of East Texas opened a display in early April that featured art work and creations by “Young Scholars” in third, fourth and fifth grades from Anderson, Brandon, Brookhol-low, Coston and Slack elementary schools.

These creations were not only beautiful, but also extremely talented and spoke volumes about the time spent working on the projects. Thank you to every art teacher in LISD for teaching and nurturing these young artists and bringing their gifts and talent to display at our museum.

The Salvation Army held its annual banquet this month. It was well attended, and the program was a message within itself. What touched my heart was the closing prayer by Bob Flournoy when he used the phrase “we live in a community that helps people we do not even know.” That prayer rang in my ears the rest of the day because it is something we experience each and every day and we just do not give it a second thought. We are so blessed as a community and we just share our resources. Thank you, Lufkin.

Thank you, T.L.L. Temple Foundation, for sharing the vision and message of Tom Luce to our community leaders this month.

Luce is an unselfish visionary from the Dallas area who recognizes the need for education in our great state. He recognizes that our state is growing and prospering in new industry and technology, and he wants the state’s education system to be prepared for all the new future techniques coming our way.

Luce is projecting all this new activity to be occurring as the workforce grows by 40% in the next 18 years. His public policy group is called Texas 2036. He is realistic enough to know that it takes time to get the attention and commitment of state leaders and now is the time to become aware and move forward with a plan. He is generous enough with his time to share with us in East Texas and that will give us a voice in the future of education in Texas.

Angelina College President Michael Simon and Lufkin ISD Superintendent Lynn Torres were in attendance. With their input and leadership, I have no doubt that we will have a voice in the future of education in Texas.



BOB BROWN

Thank you, Wynn Rosser, Ellen Temple, Jay Shands and Tom Darmstadter with the Temple Foundation, for bringing Luce to our city to keep us informed.

The Angelina County Fair was a great success again this year, and we saw more than 1,000 young Angelina County youth display their animals, projects and talent for five days.

The fair ended in a sale the Saturday evening before Easter Sunday, and once again you — the great individuals and businesses of Angelina County — stepped forward and contributed more than \$400,000 to these young individuals.

The Angelina County Fair renews my faith in the future of our city, county and state each year. We do have a bright future and it is always gratifying to watch these young individuals step forward and shine. Good job, Todd Kassaw, chairman, and the Angelina County Fair board.

The graduation of the first class of Christian Men’s Job Corp of Lufkin was held on Tuesday. This event marked the true beginning of a group of men who have turned their lives around and want to be better family leaders, skilled workers and volunteers in our community.

The program is led by C.D. Byndom Jr. and will, over time, result in changed lives of men willing to allow God to come into their heart and lead them in to beneficial careers and family leadership. Great job.

This past week, the Lufkin Host Lions Club has been busy presenting the Angelina County Benefit Rodeo and it, too, was a sight to behold. The behind-the-scenes work of the 200 Lions Club members does not go completely unnoticed.

Selling raffle tickets, popping popcorn, making cotton candy (thank you to the late Dr. George Thannisch, Mr. Cotton Candy), selling drinks in the stands, cooking hamburgers and hot dogs and selling programs takes a lot of time and energy. All the proceeds flow back into our community.

The State Supported Living Center is one benefactor, but several worthwhile agencies will benefit from all the hard work of our Noon Lions Club. Mike Mathis, you are my hero. Thanks for your energy and voice of the Angelina Benefit Rodeo.

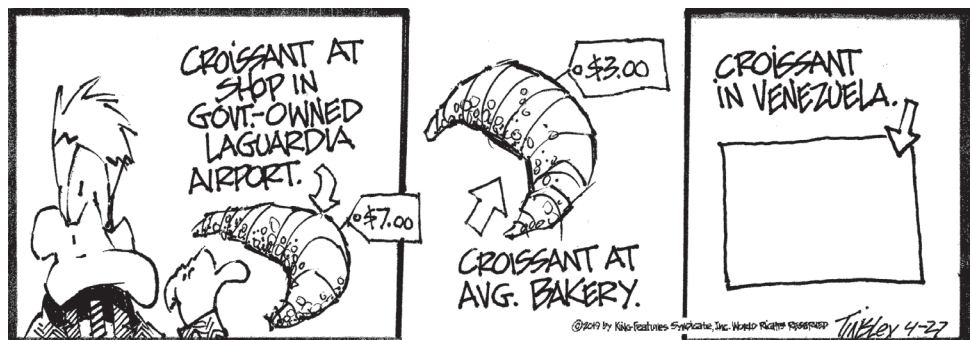
Times are good and things are happening in Lufkin, Texas. Help someone this week and just do it because you care not to get credit. It will make both of you feel better.

Bob Brown is the mayor for the city of Lufkin.

His email address is [mayorbobbrown@cityoflufkin.com](mailto:mayorbobbrown@cityoflufkin.com).

MALLARD FILLMORE

By Bruce Tinsley



HEADLINES IN Local HISTORY  
APRIL 28

One year ago

- A walking trail that cuts through Keltys Cemetery, the oldest in the city, is dedicated.
- Lufkin ISD honors students at Superintendent’s Honor Roll Breakfast.

Ten years ago

- Lufkin residents reconsider travel plans because of concerns about swine flu.
- Lufkin High School optimistic as spring football practice gets underway.

Twenty years ago

- Angelina County commissioners grant partial tax abatement to American Freightways after hearing the company plans to open a trucking center in that will create about a dozen jobs.
- Amy Bradford picks the perfect time to pitch a perfect game as the Lufkin Lady Panthers cruised past Molina Lady Jaguars 7-0 in bi-district playoffs.

From the pages of The Lufkin Daily News, compiled by The History Center, [TheHistoryCenterOnline.com](http://TheHistoryCenterOnline.com).

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, April 28, the 118th day of 2019. There are 247 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On April 28, 1945, Italian dictator Benito Mussolini and his mistress, Clara Petacci, were executed by Italian partisans as they attempted to flee the country.

On this date:

In 1788, Maryland became the seventh state to ratify the Constitution of the United States.

In 1789, there was a mutiny on the HMS Bounty as rebelling crew members of the British ship, led by Fletcher Christian, set the captain, William Bligh, and 18 others adrift in a launch in the South Pacific. (Bligh and most of the men with him reached Timor in 47 days.)

Have your say

To submit a letter to the editor, bring it to us at 300 Ellis Ave. in downtown Lufkin, mail it to P.O. Box 1089, Lufkin, TX 75902-1089, or visit an easy-to-use form at [lufkindailynews.com/letters](http://lufkindailynews.com/letters). Or you can email your letter to [news@lufkindailynews.com](mailto:news@lufkindailynews.com).

Please limit your letters to 350 words.

Be sure to include a daytime telephone number on your letter.

All letters are subject to editing for length and clarity, and unsigned letters will not be used. We will only publish one letter per writer during a 30-day period.

Your elected officials

Let your elected officials know what you think. Here is contact information for each.

|  |  |
|--|--|
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