SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2014

BusinessLINK

A PUBLICATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LUFKIN NEWS A[illegible]HE LUFKIN/ANGELINA COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

the Chamber
Lufkin · Angelina County

Brookshire Brothers
PRESENTS

30th Annual
Texas State
Forest Festival

TEXAS STATE FOREST FESTIVAL
LUFKIN, TX

A Project of the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce

September 17-21, 2014
Wednesday - Friday: 5 p.m.-10 p.m.
Sat. 9 a.m.-10 p.m. • Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
George H. Henderson Jr. Expo Center • Lufkin, TX

$6
GATE
admission

BusinessLINK
A PUBLICATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LUFKIN NEWS AND THE LUFKIN/ANGELINA COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
the Chamber Lufkin · Angelina County

The mission of the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce is to continuously improve the economic prosperity, the business environment and the quality of life in Angelina County.

Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce
1615 S. Chestnut, Lufkin, Texas USA 75901
phone (936) 634-6644 fax (936) 634-8726

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Mollie Wood
Creative Design

Kelsey Samuels
Contributing writer

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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT
TSFF VOLUNTEERS

This year the Texas State Forest Festival celebrates its 30th year. Over the decades this festival has become an integral part of East Texas tradition, and it would not be possible without the help of our volunteers.

Hundreds of volunteers come together each year during the five day festival to aide in its operation from open to close, with smiles on their faces and an overwhelming willingness to work.

Some are retired, some are local employees, some are students, and some are members of local volunteer organizations. No matter their reason or background, every year people from all over our area pool together and make the festival run like a well-oiled machine.

This event not only brings in an annual average attendance of 30,000 people and $60,000 of profit for the community, it also brings joy and excitement to our area.

Thank you to our dedicated Texas State Forest Festival volunteers! Without you this event would not be possible!

Brookshire Brothers volunteer helping keep festival grounds clean.

Volunteers selling tickets at the gate.

Angelina College cheerleader helping with the hushpuppy competition.

RENEWING CHAMBER MEMBERS

Chick-Fil-A At South Loop Crossing
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Hammer Equipment
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Heart to Heart Hospice of Lufkin
Oceans Behavioral Hospital of Lufkin
Laminate Technologies
Lifestyle Furniture Showroom Inc.
Music World
Hill's Auto Ranch
Quality Inn
Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites
Boy Scouts/ East Texas Area Council
Pest Commander

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

Connie & Crew
Angelina County Ladies
Lions Club
Tome Catering
Legacy Real Estate Group
Texas Specialist Center
Harbor Hospice
Lockets & Lace
Smith Koenig Radio
Biscuit Eater Bakery
Pour House Events
Diesel Diagnostics
Lufkin Vapor Supply
First Presbyterian Church
Kevin McKay, CPA
Walgreens Pharmacy

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

SEPT./OCT. 2014

20 YEARS
Better Business Bureau

15 YEARS
Havard Sales Management Company
Pearson Financial Corp.

10 YEARS
Lufkin First Church of the Nazarene
Lamar Advertising

5 YEARS
K & B Pools
Bodacious Bar-B-Q
JM Management
Oak Creek Center
Smoothie King
Guardian Force Security Services
Inverness Mobile Home Community
Chris Caraway
Jason Armstrong, PLLC
Gary Bolt Construction, Inc.

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CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 5TH

FIRST FRIDAY AND SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Noon-1pm Crown Colony Country Club, 900 Crown Colony Drive. Tickets are $15. Call 936-634-6644 to RSVP. Thank you to First Friday presenting sponsor Lufkin Coca-Cola Bottling Co. and Small Business of the Year presenting sponsor City Wide Directories

SEPTEMBER 25TH

BUSINESS AFTER FIVE HOSTED BY PINECREST RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

1302 Tom Temple Dr.

SEPT. 17TH - SEPT. 21ST

30TH ANNUAL TEXAS STATE FOREST FESTIVAL

Presented by Brookshire Brothers
George H. Henderson Jr. Expo Center
TexasStateForestFestival.com

SEPTEMBER 26TH

POWER NETWORKING BREAKFAST

8am. Chamber of Commerce Community Room "Native Plants" with Elaine Cameron. Thank you to presenting sponsor Southland Federal Credit Union.

OCTOBER 3RD

FIRST FRIDAY AND JACK O. (BUTCH) MCMULLEN SILVER SPIKE AWARD

Noon-1pm. Crown Colony Country Club, 900 Crown Colony Drive. Tickets are $15. Call 936-634-6644 to RSVP. Thank you to First Friday presenting sponsor Lufkin Coca-Cola Bottling Co. and Silver Spike presenting sponsor First Bank & Trust

OCTOBER 9TH

BUSINESS AFTER FIVE

Hosted by Beard Fine Jewelers, 2002 South 1st Street

OCTOBER 24TH

POWER NETWORKING BREAKFAST

8am at the Courtyard by Marriott with guest speaker from the Angelina Heart Alliance. Thank you to presenting sponsor Southland Federal Credit Union.

OCTOBER 28TH

ELECTED OFFICIALS RECEPTION AND CROWN COLONY BUSINESS AFTER FIVE

5:30pm at Crown Colony Country Club

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Ribbon Cuttings & Red Carpet Salutes

LUFKIN GOLF CLUB

FORE! The course looks great! Lufkin Golf Club at 1624 Sayers St. is an 18 hole golf course with a driving range. Open to the Public with Memberships available. Lufkin Golf Club offers you a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere for your family and guests. Whether you are an avid golfer or just beginning, Lufkin Golf Club has something for everyone. Full, Senior and Golf only memberships are available. Call Daniel or Diana at (936) 632-2848

BISCUIT EATER BAKERY

The Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce held a Ribbon Cutting Biscuit Eater Bakery on August 12th. Biscuit Eater Bakery is a family owned business located at 207 N. Raguet. They are open Monday - Friday 8-5, Saturday 10:00 - 2:00. They specialize is Cakes - Wedding, Birthday, Baby Shower, Cupcakes, Cookies, Pastries, Pies and of course Biscuits! Call Misti and Gary at (936) 645-7481.

BROOKSHIRE BROTHERS EXPRESS IN ZAVALLA

Brookshire Brothers Express opens in Zavalla! Located at 198 E. Main St. Brookshire Brothers Express offers gasoline, deer corn and Brookshire Brothers famous fried chicken! Open seven days a week from 6am to 9am Brookshire Brothers Express offers a drive through with hot breakfast and lunch specials. Brookshire Brothers is an employee-owned company. Josh Higgins is the Store Director and Sam Dillon and Jacob Casey are the Assistant Store Directors.

MAURICES

The Chamber would like to welcome Maurices to Lufkin! Maurices is located in the Lufkin Mall at 4600 S. Medford Drive. At Maurices customers find a place to express their individuality and feel good about who they are. With styles that match the budget and the occasion – and sizes 1-24 – the fashions always fit. Whether customers are looking for something for work, for home or for a night out, they'll find it at Maurices. Stop in to see Charity and the team today!

WHATABURGER

The Lufkin/Angelina County celebrated with GVCS, Whataburger at their Red Carpet Salute on July 15th. Currently GVCS, Inc. owns 12 Whataburgers in our area. Locations in Carthage, Center, Nacogdoches, Timpson, Woodville, Joaquin, Mt. Enterprise, Corrigan, Jasper and 3 locations in Lufkin. GVCS, Inc. is a family owned business and they love their customers. GVCS, Inc. was recently awarded the 2014 Community Impact Business of the Year Award.

CONNIE & CREW

The Lufkin Angelina County Chamber of Commerce is proud to welcome Connie & Crew to the Chamber. On July 16th Connie & Crew celebrated a Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening at their new location at 1508 S. Chestnut. Connie & Crew is a full service hair salon! Offering hair, nail, and massage services. Call them today at 936 632-4247

Ribbon Cuttings & Red Carpet Salutes

RENEE'S BOUTIQUE & SALON

A refreshingly different boutique offering great quality clothing, excellent customer service, and a skilled fashion advisor on staff. Looking for a great experience and a customized shopping experience in a cozy setting? Renee's is the place for you, offering a personal Fashion Advisor if you need any help. The store has a various selection of costume jewelry, hairbows and a small line of cosmetics. They also carry an amazing line of chocolates if you need a quick gift or just a sweet treat for your day! Renee's is located at 1318 Lufkin Ave.

ORANGE LEAF

Cool down and enjoy great tasting and healthy yogurt. Orange Leaf a self-serve frozen yogurt shop with 24 flavor possibilities. Flavors change weekly so keep coming in to try them all. Top your cup off with 36 different toppings incuding fresh fruit, a variety of chocolates, gummis and nuts. Add Ghiradelli Sauces and whipped cream. Then grab your Orange Leaf spoon and enjoy. Located in the South Loop Crossing at 4505 S Medford Dr.

ANGELINA COUNTY LADIES LIONS CLUB

The Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce welcomes the Ladies Lions to Lufkin/Angelina County. Lions meet the needs of local communities and the world. The 1.35 million members - who perform community service in 208 countries and geographic areas - are different in many ways, but share a core belief: "community is what we make it." The Angelina County Ladies Lions Club meets at noon every 2nd Wednesday of the month at Crown Colony. For more information about this club contact Selena at 936 635-6714.

ADVANTAGE PLUS HOME CARE

Advantage Plus Homecare provides home health services with a team of professionals in the comfort of your home. Registered Nurses and Therapists will work with your Physician based upon their orders to develop a plan of care and maximize your health. The nurses will strive to adapt the healthcare needs with your home environment to reach the highest potential of independence you deserve. Advantage Plus Home Care has a new location at 109 Gaslight in Lufkin.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2014 SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS!

In keeping with the important role that small business plays in the American free enterprise system, each year the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce proudly recognizes the finest small businesses. The Chamber is proud to announce the 2014 Small Business of the Year Awards

And the winners are…

Division I, Lufkin Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Inc.
Since 1905, Lufkin Coca–Cola has been providing products and services to their customers.

Division II, Texas Metal Casting Company
A full service foundry that specializes in high quality castings for customers nationwide.

Division III, Standpipe Coffee House
They serve traditional coffee as well as specialty drinks, host live music events every Friday & Saturday

Scene from a past Business After Five

BUSINESS AFTER FIVE

SEPT. 25, OCT. 9 & OCT. 28

Don't miss your chance to mingle with the business-minded community members at the upcoming Business After Five events:

September 25 — PineCrest Retirement Community, 1302 Tom Temple Dr.

October 9 — Beard Fine Jewelers, 2002 South 1st Street

October 28 — Business After Five and Elected Officials Reception. Crown Colony Country Club

These free events will have food, drinks, and a door prize drawing. For more information on Business After Five or to host one at your business, call The Chamber at 936-634-6644.

Scene from a past Power Networking Breakfast

POWER NETWORKING BREAKFAST

SEPT. 26 & OCT. 24

Power Networking Breakfasts are a great way to meet about 40 potential customers and connections in one hour, all over a free breakfast. Plus, the event features a speaker series and a door prize drawing!

Friday, September 26, 8 a.m. — Chamber of Commerce Community Room "Native Plants" with Master Gardener, Elaine Cameron

Friday, October 24, 8 a.m. — Courtyard by Marriott with guest speaker from the Angelina Heart Alliance.

For more information about Power Networking Breakfast events, call The Chamber at 936-634-6644.

Thank you to presenting sponsor Southland Federal Credit Union.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK

SEPT. 11 & OCT. 9

Mark your calendars for the next two Young Professionals Network Happy Hours.

September 11 — Restoration Wine Bar
October 9 — Beard Fine Jewelers

Call the Chamber at 936-634-6644 for more information about this proactive, business-minded group of young professionals and how to join!

Scene from recent Young Professionals Network events.

FIRST FRIDAY LUNCHEON

SEPT. 5 & OCT. 3

Mark your calendars for the upcoming First Friday Luncheon events.

Friday, September 5 — First Friday and Small Business of the Year Awards-Noon-1pm Crown Colony Country Club, 900 Crown Colony Drive. Tickets are $15. Call 936-634-6644 to RSVP. *Thank you to First Friday presenting sponsor Lufkin Coca-Cola Bottling Co. and Small Business of the Year presenting sponsor City Wide Directories*

Friday, October 3 - First Friday and Jack O. (Butch) McMullen Silver Spike Award-Noon-1pm. Crown Colony Country Club, 900 Crown Colony Drive. Tickets are $15. Call 936-634-6644 to RSVP. *Thank you to First Friday presenting sponsor Lufkin Coca-Cola Bottling Co.*

Deadline for nomination: September 19, 2014

Presening Sponsor: First Bank & Trust East Texas
Silver Sponsors: Angelina & Neches RIver Railroad Company, Angelina Hardwood Sales, Haney Trucking Inc. & The Advanced Financial Group
Award Provided By: Eddie Smelley, East Texas Cabinets, Taylor Brothers Paint and Floor Covering & Angelina & Neches River Railroad Company

Scene from a past First Friday Luncheon.

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SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT
JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

Lace up your running shoes and join Junior Achievement for our 2nd annual Race for Success – a Half Marathon, 5K, and 10K to be held on November 1, 2014 at Slack Elementary.

Last year's race was great fun, and we can't wait to do it again. Bringing a certified half marathon, 5K and 10K to Lufkin is huge, and we are proud to be the organization that hosts it.

We hope that you will join us, as proceeds enable us to provide programs to our local school districts at no charge. These programs teach the students financial literacy, entrepreneurship and workforce readiness skills – core aspects that help students make smart academic and economic choices.

Remember – it's not how quickly you cross the finish line….it's about empowering our local students to be successful in and beyond school. So whether you walk it or run it – we hope you Race for Success!

Lufkin News file photo

Scene from last year's Junior Achievement Race for Success. This year's run will be held on November 1.

LEADERSHIP LUFKIN

Here is the very first photo taken of the 33rd Leadership Lufkin class. This was take at the Welcome Reception held on August 12th at the Pitser Garrison Convention Center. Thank you Community Title for being the presenting sponsor again this year and for our reception sponsor, Consolidated Communications. There are 23 participants this year.

33rd Leadership Lufkin class in alphabetical order:

Cole Alderman, *Bartlett Baggett and Shands Insurance*
Will Alvis, *Merrill Lynch*
Linh Bass, *Century 21 Bryan Realty*
Starla Bickerstaff, *KTRE*
Laura Bowman, *Goff & Herrington, PC*
Eva Brandenburg, *Lockheed Martin*
Thad Chambers, *City of Lufkin*
John Fulbright, *Xerographics East Texas*
Katie Glanton, *Georgia-Pacific*
John Grigsby, *First Bank & Trust East Texas*
Alaina Helton, *City of Lufkin*
Ashley Hitchcock, *Consolidated Communications*
Kim Johnson, *Angelina County & Cities Health District*
Steve Killam, *St. Paul's United Methodist Church*
Doug Lankford, *Memorial Health System of East Texas*
Sabrina Lillard, *Memorial Medical Center – Lufkin*
Scott Neill, *Regions Bank*
Jackie Polk, *Lee TranServices, Inc.*
Wendy Robuck, *Buckner International*
William Price, *Heritage Land Bank*
Melisha Stafford, *The Advanced Financial Group*
Bryan Tyler, *Brookshire Brothers*
Trey Wright, *GE – Lufkin*

More Than 40 Years of Service

As only the second person in Texas history to give 40 plus years of outstanding service and membership to the Chamber profession, Jerry Huffman, Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce President, deserves recognition of the TFEA Hall of Honor Lifetime Achievement award. In 2012, Texas Chamber of Commerce Executive's recognized Huffman's continued leadership with the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce as well as his volunteerism and interest in sharing his experience with professional organizations.

After eight years of Chamber work in other communities, Huffman came to Lufkin in 1974 to serve as the Chamber's Executive Vice President. With an opportunity to gain President and CEO experience, Huffman took control of the Galveston Chamber but had a desire to return to East Texas. Subsequently, he moved again into a role with the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce as President in 1986.

Wanting to represent East Texas and become more involved in governmental affairs, Huffman became the District Director for the United States Congressman Jim Turner in 1997, all the while maintaining his status in the Texas Chamber of Commerce Executives as an honorary lifetime member. He came back to the Chamber profession in 2004, and continues to serve, helping grow and develop the Lufkin and Angelina County area as the Chamber President.

With seven employees and more than 1,100 Chamber members, Huffman leads an accredited Chamber (one of less than 500 nationwide!), an honor he first garnered for the Chamber in 1979. He also provides management support for other nonprofits like the George H. Henderson Jr. Exposition Center, the Angelina Chamber Foundation and the Red Barn Foundation. He encourages and expects the employees to continue developing leadership skills by investing in trainings and recognition programs, both statewide and nationally.

Among Huffman's many accomplishments and recognitions, he achieved the designation of Certified Chamber of Commerce Executive (CCE) by the American Chamber of Commerce Executives in 1993, one of less than 300 active nationwide. As a registered Chamber of Commerce Executive (RCE) by the Texas Chamber of Commerce Executives, he has been named Chamber of Commerce Executive of the Year by the Chamber Executives of East Texas, awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Texas Chamber of Commerce Executives for outstanding service to the organization and the Marvin Hurley Award by the Texas Chamber of Commerce Executives for a lifetime of achievement and dedication to the chamber profession as well as recognized by the Texas Chamber of Commerce Executives with an Honorary Life Membership.

Jerry Huffman, center, is pictured accepting an award.

Jerry Huffman is pictured with his wife Deborah.

Along with serving on many local, regional and state organization boards, Huffman has served as past board president or chairman for the Texas Chamber of Commerce Executives, Chamber Professionals of East Texas, Deep East Texas Certified Development Corporation, Credit Counseling Service Board, and Volunteer Services Council of the Lufkin State School. Currently, he serves as Past Board Chairman of the United Way of Angelina County, Immediate Past Board Chairman of the Texas Festival and Events Association, Board Member of the Texas Forest Country Partnership, and Board Member of Workforce Solutions of Deep East Texas.

Jerry Huffman has long been devoted to finding ways to promote the area and encourage the community to become involved and rally around a good cause. The original Forest Festival ran from 1938 to 1953. In 1984, Huffman was instrumental in reviving the Texas Forest Festival. Over the past 30 years, the event has grown from crowds of 8,000 to attendance around 30,000 with annual profits of more than $60,000. Not only does the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce depend on the revenue, other non-profits that benefit are the George H. Henderson Jr. Exposition Center, Angelina Beautiful/Clean and Texas Forestry Museum. During his tenure, a bill was passed in the Texas legislature making the Forest Festival a statewide event renaming it the Texas State Forest Festival. Within the Texas State Forest Festival are many other events that originated under Huffman's leadership as well.

Not only is the Texas State Forest Festival a well-known event in the East Texas area, but so many other events are successful because of Huffman's vision. Among them are Pineywoods Purgatory, the Science & Tech Fair, the Annual Neches River Rendezvous, and Tee It Up for Teachers Golf Tournament. All of these events benefit our area by bringing in funds and visitors to our community.

Huffman understands that the only way to make any festival, event or program successful is to have proper training. He is devoted to making sure training opportunities are available to his staff and key volunteers. Top organization leadership is sent to national training at the U.S. Chamber's Institute of Organization Management and IFEA. Statewide opportunities include TFEA, TAFE, TCCE and TELP conferences and trainings. He not only attends but also sponsors conferences, teaches sessions, serves on boards and committees, volunteers at the events and encourages his staff and volunteers to do the same. He leads by example planning events and mentoring others in the process.

His dedication to leadership and training was noticed early in his career with the creation of the Leadership Lufkin program. As a member of the inaugural class, Huffman has continued to promote, grow and look for ways to improve the program over 32 years. As a result, Leadership Tomorrow has graduated over 400 high school juniors with skills for the workforce and life.

Huffman's knowledge, experience and leadership contributes to countless other areas of our community and have shaped and molded the workers, volunteers and community members throughout Lufkin and Angelina County.

Thank you, Jerry Huffman, for more than 40 years of service!

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Texas State Forest Festival Recognized in 30 Categories

After another successful Texas State Forest Festival, the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce brought home 30 different awards from the Texas Festivals and Events Association (TFEA). The Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce won the Zenith award; which is presented to the best 2013 festival in the state in each budget category. The Chamber was also presented with twenty three 1st place awards, five 2nd place awards and one 3rd place award.

Billy Ball, Chairman of the Texas State Forest Festival committee says, "One of the greatest communities in the world is volunteers. Lufkin is really a 'can do' community. We put this festival on for our families and people from all over the United States. It is because of our sponsors, volunteers and Chamber personnel that the Texas State Forest Festival is so great. I am proud to serve as chairman and really believe in what we do."

Jerry Huffman, center, is pictured accepting an award.

Last year the Texas State Forest Festival saw more than 27,000 people from 102 different Texas cities and 6 different states. The festival brings a large amount of business and tourism to Angelina County and is a great opportunity for entertainment and education for children and adults.

This year's 30th Annual Texas State Forest Festival presented by Brookshire Brothers takes place September 17-21. For more information on festival events, go to TexasStateForestFestival.com.

First Place Awards

Best Event Website *TexasStateForestFestival.com*
Best Organization Website *LufkinTexas.org*
Best Social Media Site
Best Festival/Event Mobile Application *TexasStateForestFestival.com*
Best Event/Organization Newsletter *BusinessLink*
Best Promotional Poster
Best Single Newspaper Display Ad *Lufkin Daily News*
Best Single Magazine Display Ad *BusinessLink*
Best Ad Series *Lufkin Daily News*
Best Miscellaneous Printed Materials *Ticket*
Best Event Invitation *Media/Sponsor Luncheon*
Best Street Banner
Best Single New Sponsorship Program Whataburger
Best Sponsorship Program for Individual Sponsor *KFOX - East Texas Got Talent*
Best Environmental Program *Angelina Beautiful/Clean*
Best Volunteer Program
Best Educational Program *Texas Forestry Museum*
Best New Event *Whataburger - Hometown Heroes*
Best Children' s Programming *Angelina Beautiful/Clean*
Best Public Safety/Security Plan for an Event
Best Press/Media Kit
Best Media Relations Campaign
Best Mascot *Big Jake*

2nd Place Awards

Best Newspaper Insert/Supplement *Kraft Wrapper*
Best Miscellaneous Printed Materials *Thank You Card*
Best Event Photograph *Submitted 2*
Best Event/Program within an Event to Benefit a Charity *Angelina Beautiful/Clean*
Best Community Outreach Program *Whataburger*

3rd Place Award

Best Cover Design *BusinessLink*

Goodbye, Sally!

"Sally has been an integral part of the Chamber team for almost 30 years and has done an absolutely outstanding job. Her work ethic, her dedication and her personality will be missed, we wish her the very best as she begins a new part of her life.",

Jerry Huffman Chamber CEO.

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Salute to Health Care

Nominate someone you respect in the healthcare field to be honored at the upcoming Salute to Healthcare event to be held November 13!

Who can be nominated

Any individual, institution, professional, student, volunteer or program, who through their individual or collective actions have made an extraordinary impact in the Lufkin/Angelina County health care community.

What you should know

The recipient in each category will be selected by an anonymous panel of judges.

The winner in each category will be announced at the Salute to Healthcare event on November 13.

All nominations must be received by October 3, 2014.

If your nominee is selected as a recipient, YOU will be asked to appear on the video describing the qualifications, achievements and contributions of the candidate. The video shown at the Salute to Healthcare Awards event will feature all recipients.

One winner in each category will be announced at the event.

Nomination forms and materials accompanying the nomination form will become property of the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce. A short description of the recipients may be printed in the newspaper and chamber newsletter, Businesslink.

Thank you to our sponsors: Presenting, Memorial Health System of East Texas; Gold, Woodland Heights Medical Center; Silver, Lufkin/Angelina County Economic Development Partnership; Reception Sponsor, Angelina Radiation Oncology Associates

Previous health care award recipients

Nomination Information

Nominee: (Type or Print)

Name _____ Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

Please submit the following:

1. Attach a brief description of the nominee's achievements and contributions. Explain how these achievements go above and beyond the scope of the nominee's job. Your explanation of why your nominee should be chosen will be a primary consideration of the judge's decision.

2. With reference to your nominee, attach to this application a list of activities, programs, in-kind contributions, etc. that directly benefited the Angelina County community. Please provide as much back-up information (up to 10 pages) to illustrate the involvement and any measurable results attributable to the contribution of the nominee.

Your Name _____ Your Title _____

Your Organization _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

Your E-mail _____

The information contained in this application will remain confidential and will be used solely for purposes of the award selection. Materials submitted will become the property of the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce.

I certify that the information submitted is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Nominator's Signature _____

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ENTRIES: OCTOBER 3, 2014

Return Entries to:
Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce
Salute to Healthcare Nominee
1615 South Chestnut • Lufkin, TX 75901
Tel: 936-634-6644 • Fax: 936-634-8726
MWheeler@LufkinTexas.org

the Chamber
Lufkin · Angelina County
1615 S. Chestnut, Lufkin, TX 75901

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS: TEXAS STATE FOREST FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL COMING UP SEPTEMBER 17- 21

By KELSEY SAMUELS
The Lufkin News

To celebrate the 30th anniversary for the Texas State Forest Festival, the Lufkin Chamber of Commerce has brought out several new attractions to the forest festival, along with several traditional ones, to celebrate with the community.

Contributed photo
Among the new events are the Axe Women Loggers of Maine.

In the 30th anniversary for the Texas State Forest Festival, the Lufkin Chamber of Commerce has brought out several new attractions to the forest festival, along with several traditional ones, to celebrate with the community. Starting Sept. 17-21, the Forest Festival sponsored by Brookshire Brothers will bring hushpuppy contests, petting zoos and Forest Festival activities back to the George H. Henderson Jr. Exposition Center for the 30th year in a row.

"We actually are so excited this year. We have added a few new shows to come out and add a few new adventures," Melissa Wheeler of the Chamber said. To celebrate the 30th anniversary, the festival will have more attractions and events for festival goers. One of the newest perks available to community is coming a Friend of the Forest Festival.

Wheeler said anyone or any business in the community can become a Friend of the Forest Festival. Each Friend of the Festival will receive VIP tickets, admission passes for each day of the festival, two tickets to the Friend of the Forest luncheon, Wheeler said. During the luncheon, Friends will also have a chance to see behind-the-scenes of the festival, enjoy a mini show, a meet and greet and take photos. Friends of the Forest Festival will also have their names printed on a sign out front of the expo, "so they get recognition at the event," Wheeler said.

During the five day festival, guests can fill up on funnel cakes, ribeyes, fresh-squeezed lemonade and other specialty food vendors while enjoying the many attractions, new and old, that the

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The petting zoo is a favorite at the Texas State Forest Festival.

Forest Festival has to offer.

Among the new attractions will be the One World Animal Show, a show that strives to entertain and bring awareness to the endangered species and environmental awareness. During the show, animals like the Asian Fishing Cat, a Tamandua Anteater, three Bengal tigers and a Royal White Bengal tiger will "demonstrate their natural grace and beauty" while also reminded guests of their "endangered status." "The mere presence of these magnificent creatures will most certainly inspire the crowd," the website stated.

One of the most anticipated events of the festival will be the Axe Women Loggers of Maine, a group of World Champion choppers and axe throwers who hold six World titles in underhand chopping, standing block chopping, hot sawing, cross cut sawing, axe throwing and more. Four of the choppers will perform each day of the festival showcasing their skills with an axe.

"That's going to be exciting," Wheeler said. "Those women are all recognized around the country as being world renowned loggers."

Among the new attractions will also be annual Forest Festival staples returning for the 30th anniversary such as the Gunfighters, the Carnival rides, the Show Me Safari petting zoo and pony rides and the ZOOperstars show each day. There will also be the annual East Texas Pom Pon/Dance Team Competition, which brings out local varsity, junior varsity and area dance teams to strut their stuff on the first day of the Forest Festival. And the East Texas Cheerleading Championship, sponsored by Y100 KYBI, will bring out cheerleading squads across Texas Forest Country to scream, shout and show their spirit early Saturday in the main arena.

Also, Whataburger will hold its annual Hometown Hero jalapeño eating contest. But this year, along with the Firefighters Association, several non-profit organizations will be involved in the event, Wheeler said. The Firefighters Association "will showcase their equipment, their departments and accept donations from the community to help with expenses related to their services," the website state. Also, the "Bring the Heat" jalapeño eating contest will allow firefighters and community organizations to compete for prizes and donations. Also, local heros will be honored and acknowledged with appreciation awards for the work they do in Angelina County, according to the website. Visit Thursday night so see the fun.

Winners from last year's Annual Hushpuppy contest are shown.

"They're really trying to get the non-profits involved because they do so much in our community and they are a necessity for our individuals that live in our community," Wheeler said. Organizations like Angelina Beautiful/Clean, Junior Achievement, Hospice of the Pines, Harold's House among others will be involved in Hometown Heroes.

Members of the Chamber of Commerce are currently taking auditions for the East Texas Got Talent competition, where individuals across East Texas come and perform for cash prizes. Last year, the top three performers won $500, $250 and $100 prices respectively. Wheelers said to be considered, each contestant must upload a video of their talent to Youtube, then submit it on texasstateforestfestival.com underneath the East Texas Got Talent tab in Events.

"We want to make sure we get the local talent as well as the region to be involved," she said.

Last year, the Forest Festival had some inclement weather which caused the festival to end early, but Wheeler said their hoping for clear skies.

"Right now it's so far out, so we're planning as if we'll have great weather for the entire event. We have a plan if there is inclement weather and we try to hand out," Wheeler said.

"When you look at the history of the Texas State Festival, the weather has been so great that what we're shooting for again this year."

"We want to make sure that our guests that come out have an experience like none other. Growing up here, I remember when the Texas State Forest Festival started I attended as a child and taking my children now, it's just so fun. It just signifies that Fall is here and it's time to enjoy the outdoors and come together as a community and enjoy what we have around us at the Forest Festival," Wheeler said.

Check out texasstateforestfestival.com for more information, ticket prices and schedules.

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ON the SCENE

Snapshots from recent Chamber events.
To learn more about upcoming events
see the **Chamber Calendar on page 3**.

Business After Five at Community Title

To learn more about upcoming events see the **Chamber Calendar on page 3**.

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ON THE SCENE

Business After Five at Memorial Cardiac Rehab

First Friday August & New Member Showcase

To learn more about upcoming events see the **Chamber Calendar on page 3**.

First Friday August & New Member Showcase *continued*

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ON THE SCENE

June Power Networking Breakfast

July Power Networking Breakfast

Tee It Up for Teachers

To learn more about upcoming events see the **Chamber Calendar on page 3**.

July Young Professionals Network

Women's Networking Luncheon

Young Professionals Network Lunch and Learn

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Economic Development Update

Lufkin/Angelina County

Availability of water, gas attracts energy plant to Lufkin

While Lufkin has many amenities attractive to businesses, the availability of water became the key element in the decision by a Texas-based energy company to build its newest facility here.

Coronado Power Ventures, parent company of Pinecrest Energy, is planning construction of a $450 million, gas-fired electrical generating plant on 83 acres near State Highway 103 and Lufkin's Loop 287.

The availability of surface water was key because the plant will need 14 million gallons per day to use as cooling water.

The city has a water usage capacity of 72 million gallons per day. Currently, the peak usage is 14 million gallons per day during the hot summer months.

The plant's daily use will push the city's daily peak usage to about 21 million gallons per day. That still leaves the city an excess capacity of about 51 million gallons per day. So there is enough water to adequately provide for our citizens, current businesses and this new facility.

The company's plans for construction have begun to move forward since receiving the Prevention of Significant Deterioration permit from the Environmental Protection Agency.

The plant is expected to generate up to 735 megawatts of electrical power, which could provide electricity to about 200,000 homes. The power is to be tied into the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) grid, but just how to connect and how to bring the electricity on-line are still in the planning phases.

Another benefit is the availability of gas at the site. There is easy access to main gas line, and the gas will be used to fuel the combustion turbines and duct burner systems.

Construction of the plant is expected to begin in late 2015 and take about two years to complete.

This is an exciting project for our community. Along with the approximately 50 full-time, high paying jobs it is expected to provide when it is up and running, the value it brings to the tax base for the city, school district and Angelina College is significant.

Lufkin and Angelina County's Economic Development Program is the story of cooperation and leadership from various stakeholder groups including the City of Lufkin, Angelina County, Angelina College, area ISD's, The Chamber of Commerce and various business and industry leaders from throughout Angelina County. Via the dual economic development corporations; the Lufkin Angelina County Economic Development Partnership which is a largely privately funded 501c3 covering all of Angelina County and the Lufkin Economic Development Corporation which is supported by a citizens elected 1/8 percent sales tax for economic development, the Lufkin and Angelina County economic development stakeholder groups pursue the same mission which is: "To enhance and diversify the local economy by the creation of quality jobs (at or above the current prevailing wage), as well as attracting new investment to our service area". The program focuses primarily on industrial, corporate headquarters, back office and the healthcare sectors with two exceptions for specified redevelopment zones located in the historic main street district and along Kurth drive as designated by the Lufkin City Council.

Economic Development Indicators

Lufkin/Angelina County

Labor Force Statistics for Lufkin/Angelina County

This Year (July 2014)				
Area	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate
U.S.	157,573,000	147,265,000	10,307,000	6.5
Texas	13,079,602	12,349,672	729,930	5.6
Deep East Texas	163,436	152,556	10,880	6.7
Angelina	40,357	38,143	2,214	5.5
Lufkin	16,521	15,611	910	5.5

Last Year (July 2013)				
Area	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate
U.S.	157,196,000	145,113,000	12,083,000	7.7
Texas	12,905,019	12,039,214	865,805	6.7
Deep East Texas	165,139	151,747	13,392	8.1
Angelina	40,378	37,670	2,708	6.7
Lufkin	16,582	15,418	1,164	7.0

According to a press release from the Texas Workforce Commission the September and October labor market data for Texas, including the total nonfarm jobs and the unemployment rate, were postponed due to the Federal shutdown. According to ADP Regional Employment Report Texas added 22,330 Private Sector Jobs in September. For more information, please visit Texas Workforce Commission's labor market database at www.tracer2.com.

City of Lufkin
Sales Tax History-Cash Basis 2010-2014

Month	FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11	FY 2011-12	FY 2012-13	FY 2013-2014	Increase/Decrease from Previous Year
October	$909,235.92	$930,115.41	$987,222.68	$1,038,819.47	$1,028,742.67	-0.97%
November	$1,080,824.30	$1,113,884.06	$1,139,305.20	$1,174,785.12	$1,072,565.72	-8.70%
December	$875,153.13	$853,800.00	$964,237.65	$986,749.77	$997,167.18	1.06%
January	$872,493.04	$984,650.00	$1,009,051.23	$969,343.57	$777,486.15	-19.79%
February	$1,393,847.83	$1,437,601.93	$1,502,956.01	$1,567,624.14	$1,489,965.82	-4.95%
March	$837,119.21	$827,032.68	$874,217.29	$1,011,733.01	$943,191.91	-6.77%
April	$830,710.52	$904,895.77	$988,920.18	$1,093,675.87	$1,021,055.22	-6.64%
May	$1,149,989.74	$1,215,468.04	$1,254,399.52	$1,326,336.42	$1,317,880.66	-0.64%
June	$879,219.38	$894,405.60	$942,167.10	$994,927.04	$1,055,012.06	6.04%
July	$906,311.78	$924,408.19	$999,856.61	$1,001,108.76	$1,067,975.66	6.68%
August	$1,280,592.70	$1,212,226.11	$1,250,538.12	$1,274,895.79	$1,257,510.87	-1.36%
September	$907,482.92	$1,025,330.93	$952,712.26	$972,280.47		2.05%
Totals	**$11,922,980.47**	**$12,323,818.72**	**$12,865,583.85**	**$13,412,279.43**	**$12,028,553.92**	**-3.31%**

City of Lufkin
Sales Tax Historical Analysis

Month	% Change 2010-11	% Change 2011-12	% Change 2012-13	% Change 2013-14
October	2.30%	6.14%	5.23%	**-0.97%**
November	3.06%	2.28%	3.11%	**-8.70%**
December	-2.44%	12.93%	2.33%	**1.06%**
January	12.85%	2.48%	-3.94%	**-19.79%**
February	3.14%	4.55%	4.30%	**-4.95%**
March	-1.20%	5.71%	15.73%	**-6.77%**
April	8.93%	9.29%	10.59%	**-6.64%**
May	5.69%	3.20%	5.73%	**-0.64%**
June	1.73%	5.34%	5.60%	**6.04%**
July	2.00%	8.16%	.13%	**6.68%**
August	-5.34%	3.16%	1.95%	**-1.36%**
September	12.99%	-7.08%	2.05%	

Cities Comparison
for August 2014 receipts
State Collections only

City	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change
Lufkin	$1,250,746.26	$1,268,404.59	**-1.39%**
Beaumont	$3,533,381.22	$3,448,642.57	**2.45%**
Diboll	$56,436.10	$73,454.55	**-23.16%**
Henderson	$565,521.93	$490,409.35	**15.31%**
Jasper	$369,443.43	$393,762.85	**-6.17%**
Nacogdoches	$494,979.40	$507,377.22	**-2.44%**
Tyler	$3,527,073.94	$3,468,664.88	**1.68%**

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LCVB UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall is just around the corner and that means that the Lufkin Convention and Visitor's Bureau is in full swing with their fall events! Be sure to mark these upcoming events on your calendar! You wouldn't want to miss out on all the fun!

Lufkin's Bistro

October really gets the ball rolling with the 5th annual Lufkin Bistro! Come join us Saturday, October 5th, 2014

The 5th annual Lufkin Bistro will be held Oct. 5.

from 7:00-10:00pm on the streets of downtown Lufkin for a tasting event that will be nothing less than a fun, and elegant night out! Lufkin's Bistro features cuisine from Lufkin's finest of restaurants and caterers, along with an incredible selection of wines and beers. Tickets for this event are $30 per person and can be purchased at the Lufkin Convention and Visitor's Bureau at 1615 S. Chestnut or by calling **(936)-633-0349**. We hope to see you there!

The Pines Theater will be wrapping up their 2014 Performing Arts Series with the following performances:

September 11th Danny Wright
October 14th Branson on the Road
November 11th Hitsville
December 9th An Enchanted Broadway Holiday

Be sure to get your tickets to these fabulous performances while you still can! Join us September 11th at the Danny Wright performance for the unveiling of the new 2015 Performing Arts Series! We are very excited about the new season! It will provide entertainment to all ages, and we hope that no one misses out on this opportunity for great entertainment!

Season tickets for the upcoming season are $270 for all 9 shows for floor seating, and $225 for balcony seating. Tickets can be purchased by calling **(936)-633-0349** or **(936)-633-0359**. **Tickets for the upcoming season will go on sale as follows:**

October 6th-10th Renewal for current season ticket holders who want to KEEP their same seats

October 13th-17th Renewal for current season ticket holders who want to MOVE seats

October 20th-24th Remaining season tickets will be available for purchase to public

October 27th-31st Purchase tickets for individual shows and/or season tickets

The Pines Theater is also a great venue for other events such as engagement parties, weddings, conference meetings, etc. If you have something in mind, contact us at **(936)-633-0279** to discuss renting The Pines for your event.

The Lufkin Convention and Visitor's Bureau will be hosting several upcoming conferences. We have been very hard at work preparing for the TLFFRA Fire Pension Conference. They will be in town September 7th-10th. We are also welcoming the Texas Forest Association for their 100th anniversary this October. They will be in town October 20th-22nd for their conference. Be sure to make all our guests feel welcome and show them why, "They'll Love Lufkin!" Every detail of every conference has been taken care of by the Lufkin Convention and Visitor's Bureau to ensure that our guests enjoy their time here with us in Lufkin!

If you are associated with a group or association that has an upcoming conference and you are interested in having them come to Lufkin, please contact us at **(936)-633-0349**! We would love to visit with you and take care of any and all conference needs!

Remember, the Lufkin Convention and Visitor's Bureau is here to serve you! If we can be of help in any way, please don't hesitate to give us a call at (936)-633-0349 or (936)-633-0359.

Greetings from the Expo!

Well, the end of summer is upon us and with the cooler weather comes our big events! Preparations are already underway here for the 30th Annual Texas State Forest Festival. We are adding more lighting for better visibility between the barns and opened up more space adjacent to the pavilion for exhibitors and the new acts that are coming!

The Texas State Forest Festival is the largest event we have the privilege to host at the Expo. Did you know we have over 35,000 visitors over 5 days? In addition, the Forest Festival has won numerous awards as one of the top events in Texas. So make plans to attend.

Just as we regroup from the Forest Festival,comes the 23rd Annual Garland L. Parise Pineywoods Purgatory benefiting the Beth and Horace Stubblefield Learning Center. We are anticipating a great turnout and are proud to have the Lufkin Ladies Lions Club extend a helping hand as volunteers for this years' event. We'd also like to thank Fuel City and Whataburger for their input and support.

Most people aren't aware that the George H. Henderson, Jr. Exposition Center is operated as a nonprofit organization. We depend greatly on the generosity of the community and, after having been involved out here for almost four years, I am humbled by the continuous show of support Lufkin gives us both financially and in volunteer hours. Thanks Lufkin!

See you at the Expo!
Burt Hairgrove

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