



The CHAMBER inFORUM

A Publication of THE CHAMBER, Angelina County/Lufkin • Promoting & Serving the Business Community of Angelina County Since 1919

12th Annual Texas Forest Festival, Something for Everyone

From September 18-22, thousands of guests will visit the Angelina County Expo Center for the 12th annual Texas Forest Festival. With nightly entertainment, a giant carnival, and arts/crafts booths - the entire family will enjoy the dozens of activities planned for the 5-day festival.

The festival will kick off Wednesday night with Hispanic Night. Eastex Bilingual Services has organized entertainment, food and games for everyone to enjoy Wednesday night. Also on Wednesday, admission is free for children in grades K-6 with a ticket provided from their school. Regular admission is \$4. Thursday night is Coke Night. Bring 2 cans and receive a \$2 discount off the arm band price to the carnival.

Hired entertainment for the festival includes the popular Lumberjack Show, Comedian Freddie Prez, Chainsaw Carver, Zeek the Hillbillie, Stringbean the Clown, Calhoun Family and Mime Brad Bodary. Prior to the festival, Brad will visit Angelina County schools to present a program on self expression to elementary school children.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Southern Hushpuppy Olympics. To celebrate the anniversary, the original founders of the competition will be honored during the Olympics on Saturday, September 21.

Crowd favorites such as the BBQ Cookoff, Cheerleading Competition and the Chainsaw Carver will please the expected crowd of 25,000. New events to look for at the 5-day festival include a New Car Show, Christian

Concerts, and a Fast Draw Competition.

On Sunday afternoon, the crowd will witness professional shooters competing for the title of World's Fastest Shooter. As a preview to the competition, local celebrities will compete in the Fast Draw competition, Sunday, September 22.

Applications for arts/crafts booths, food booths, commercial booths, BBQ Cookoff, Hushpuppy Olympics, pageants, cheerleading competition, or fun run can be obtained at the Chamber of Commerce at 1615 S. Chestnut.

Whether it be the Children's Activities, Petting Zoo, Carnival, Clowns, Concerts, Chainsaw Carver, Lumberjack Show, Arts/crafts Show, Antique Engines, Commercial Booths, Trail Trot Fun Run, Fast Draw Competition or BBQ cookoff - every member of the family will find fun at the 12th annual Texas Forest Festival.

Tickets are \$4 at the door. Call 409-634-6644 for more information.



Festival Entertainment Lineup

Gary Patterson, Master Chainsaw Sculptor

NationsBank presents Chain Saw Sculpturing at the 1996 Texas Forest Festival. Not only are Gary Patterson's sculptures refreshing and new, but his method of wood carving is so incredible that the performance of his work is as valuable as the work itself. Patterson can create a 2' tall carving from an ordinary log in as little as 30 minutes. The taming of the dangerous tools is no easy task, and Patterson, a native of Missouri, has been honing his unique skill since 1986. Patterson won first place for his work at the Grand Nations in Minnesota in 1991, 1993 and 1994. You will have the opportunity to view Patterson at work at the Thursday through Sunday, September 19-22 at the Texas Forest Festival.

Zeek the Hillbillie

Zeek and his cars have been all over the country appearing on America's Funniest People, Kentucky Derby parades, and hundreds of fairs and festival. "Old Heifer" is a creation started in 1960 and now pleases crowds by the thousands. "Old Heifer" is a 1930 Model A Roadster. "Bum Steer" was brought out as a sidekick three years ago. This 1929 Town Sedan converted into a Hillbilly RV camper complete with a wood burning stove, running water, and electric lights. Zeek can gently shake the cars back and forth and rock their engines to sleep. A touch to a headlight sets off a fire alarm and may even trigger a squirt of water from the radiator. Children of all ages can participate or simply enjoy looking at the museum of old relics hanging on the Model As.

Broken Top Lumberjack Show

Temple-Inland presents the popular Broken Top Lumberjack Show beginning Thursday night, September 19. Inside the Expo Center's main arena, the show will feature tree topping, speed climbing, rigging climbing, limb walking, tight wire, trick axe throwing and flaming axe juggling. The lumberjacks will travel from Oregon to Lufkin for this exciting and unique show.

The Calhoun Family

Lufkin Mall presents the Calhoun Family. This is a talented 4 member musical family performing a variety of styles including country, classic rock and roll, gospel, patriotic and original. Fifteen year old Diana is a fantastic vocalist and keyboard player. Jim, her 14 year old brother is a phenomenal drummer and showman. Their father Jim is a multi-talented entertainer along with their mother, Chris who plays several instruments and is a superb vocalist. The Calhoun Family is not limited to musical performances. The kids clog and Jim presents a magic show. This talented family will perform at the Texas Forest Festival Friday through Sunday, September 20-22 at the Angelina County Expo Center.

Freddie Prez Show

One of the most unique acts found to be touring the U.S. and Canada is the Freddie Prez Show. Part of the intrigue is created by the striking sounds emanating from Prez's clear acrylic violin. Still more from his lyrical alterations to popular tunes. Yet, the real show stealers are Prez's animatronic band of electronically animated characters. The show features two electronic look-alike "sons", Frankie and Eddie and a host of supporting animals. In addition, the Mini-Monster Truck show will entertain the crowd in between performances. The Freddie Prez Show promises to entertain young and old.

Pantomime Artist Brad Bodary

First Bank and Trust presents mime Brad Bodary. Bodary will perform at the Texas Forest Festival, Wednesday, September 18 through Sunday, September 22. In addition, Brad will take his mime, juggling and stiltwalking act to area schools to present a program on self-expression. You don't want to miss this mannequin, clown, hobo, toy soldier and robotic cowboy performer.



Members of the KLSB cooking team prepare hushpuppies during the 1995 Southern Hushpuppy Olympics. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the cooking competition.

The Chamber INFORUM

Published monthly by The Chamber
Angelina County/Lufkin

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Phone Number Provides Valuable Information

Residents and visitors to Angelina County can now find out valuable information by calling 639-INFO. The Pineywoods INFO-LINE offers information about local weather, lottery, fishing conditions, restaurants, churches, garage sales, events and attractions. New Chamber members, David and Meredith Smith own Lufkin Computerized Business Services - the company that operates the INFO-LINE. The Chamber of Commerce has recently joined the INFO-LINE by adding information about Angelina Beautiful/Clean, Tourism, Drug Education, Chamber activities and more. The service is free and you can learn about upcoming Chamber meetings and events as well as other community information. Any Chamber member wishing to advertise on the INFO-LINE will receive a 10% discount. Call 639-INFO to see what you can learn about Lufkin and the Angelina County Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber Update Featured on KRBA

Every Tuesday you can tune to KRBA 1340 AM for the Chamber of Commerce update. David Saltzman, News Director for KUEZ/KRBA developed the program to inform the community about upcoming Chamber events, activities and meetings. Be listening each Tuesday at 7:00 a.m. or 12:15 p.m. for the Chamber Update brought to you by the Chamber of Commerce and KRBA.

The Chamber
Angelina County Lufkin

Adams Recognized for Volunteer Efforts

Hudson Independent School District Superintendent, Mary Ann Adams has dedicated hundreds of hours to oversee the successful completion of the Learning Center project. The Beth and Horace Stubblefield Learning Center is a non-traditional educational facility aimed at training students at risk to drop out of school. "The drop out rate in Angelina County has soared in recent years and I wanted to help get a project going that would stop that trend," said Adams. Adams is a native of Corrigan, Texas and has worked in the Hudson school system for

eleven years. She also volunteers on Region VII Service Center Committees, TEA Texas School Improvement Initiative and several State committees dealing with education. She is on the Education Council, the Drug Education Council, and the Board of Directors for the Chamber of Commerce. Because of her endless dedication to the Learning Center project, Adams has helped open the doors of the Beth and Horace Stubblefield Learning Center. Congratulations to Mary Ann Adams, August Volunteer of the Month!



Mary Ann Adams, Volunteer of the Month

Lufkin Ambassadors Debut at Festival

Soon our tourists will be greeted by energetic volunteer Ambassadors who are eager to get to work. The group of Lufkin Ambassadors consists of retired volunteers who will greet tour groups and Lufkin convention participants. Imogene Stewart, Ambassadors President said, "I'm looking forward to meeting people who come to Lufkin from out of town. I hope I can make them feel welcome and help them enjoy their stay."

Individuals who have volunteered include Boyd and Imogene Stewart, Jane Cornelius, Jennie Murphey, Dorothy Dodson, Dorman and Helen Forrest, Mary Clark, Cecile Edwards.

The Lufkin Ambassadors will make their first official appearance at the Texas Forest Festival, September 18-22 at the Angelina County Expo Center. However, a few Ambassadors will be on hand to welcome a group of tour operators who will travel to Lufkin on September 9. Ambassadors

will also welcome guests at the Texas Forestry Museum, Ellen Trout Zoo, Pineywoods Purgatory and Holiday on the Square.

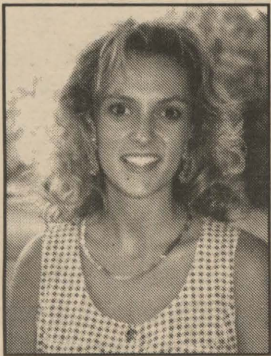
Carol Riggs, Chairman of the Lufkin Tourist Council Ambassadors committee said, "This group will help make a visitor's stay in Lufkin even more enjoyable. The Ambassadors will help answer tourists' questions and give them suggestions on what to do while they are here."

If you know of a group visiting Lufkin, please contact the Chamber so our Ambassadors can give them a warm welcome.

Lufkin Ambassadors

Leadership Lufkin Class Features Variety of Leaders

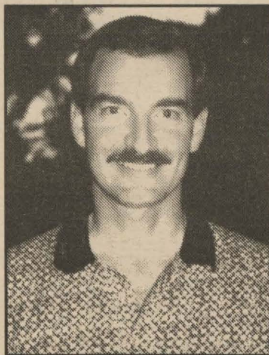
Twenty-four community leaders began the 10-month Leadership Lufkin class last month. The 1996-97 Leadership Lufkin group features a variety of leaders from both small and large Lufkin businesses. Class members will meet once a month for sessions on city government, county government, education, history, industry, state government, leadership development and more. The class kicked off the 10-month course by participating in a retreat August 23-24. At the retreat, class members tackled both physical and mental elements at the Ropes Course and learned leadership techniques. This year's class marks the 15th in Lufkin. Leadership Lufkin is sponsored by the Lufkin-Angelina County Chamber of Commerce.



Crissy Arnold

As the Patient/Guest Relations Representative for Columbia Woodland Heights Medical Center, **Crissy Arnold** is responsible for handling complaints, organizing community health fairs and public relations. Arnold graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University. She volunteers with the American Heart Association, United Way, Lufkin Parks and Recreation and is a member of Providence Baptist Church. She enjoys volleyball, swimming and reading.

Randy Baker is the Sales Engineer for Polk Oil Company where he has worked since 1989. He serves on the board for Lufkin Crimestoppers and Lufkin Host Lions Club. In addition, he is a member of United Way, National Wild Turkey Federation and Denman Ave. Baptist Church. Baker is married to Ray Ann and he has one daughter, Jessica and one step-daughter, Amy. He enjoys hunting, fishing and golf.



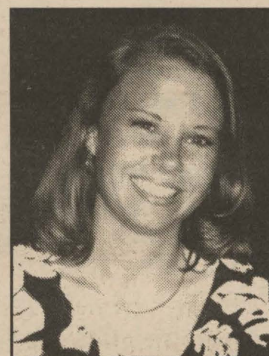
Randy Baker



Michael Bieniek

As the City Planner for the City of Lufkin, **Michael Bieniek** is responsible for administering zoning ordinances and the daily growth and development of Lufkin. Bieniek received his Bachelor and Masters degrees from Kansas State University. He enjoys sports and computers. Bieniek has lived in Lufkin for 9 months; he and wife, Pamela have two children, Tiffany and Kristin. He has been involved with United Way, and previously served as a planner for the cities of Manhattan, Kansas and Abilene, Texas.

Anita Caraway is a Claims Representative for Farmers Insurance. She graduated from Texas A&M University and volunteers with 4-H. She is a member of the Angelina County Texas A&M Club and First United Methodist Church. Caraway is married to Chris and they have two children, Cole and Corinne. She enjoys horseback riding, antiques and swimming.



Anita Caraway



Patti Ellish

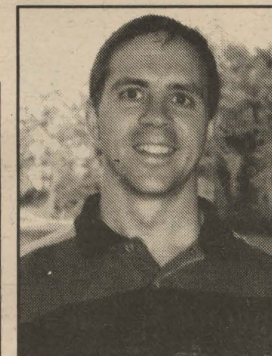
Patti Ellish is the Vice President/Chief Operating Officer of Memorial Health Systems of East Texas. She has volunteered with Krewe of Cleopatra and American Organization of Nurse Executives. Ellish received her B.S. from the College of St. Francis and her Masters degree from Tulane. She and husband Gary have two children, Melissa and Michael. She enjoys traveling, crafts and cooking.

Loretta Garrett has worked with Huntington State Bank since 1981 and currently serves as their Comptroller-Vice President. Garrett volunteers as the Treasurer for Junior Achievement and teaches banking courses at local schools. She has lived in Angelina County for 29 years and is married to Phil. They have three children, Amanda, Alecia and Shane. She enjoys reading, arts/crafts and antiques.



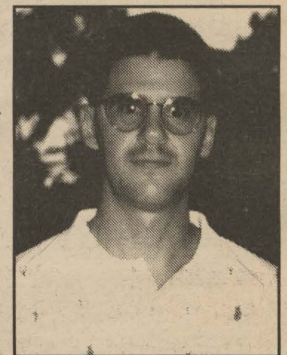
Loretta Garrett

As the Senior Corporate Attorney for Temple-Inland, **David Grimm** handles a broad range of legal issues for the forestry products corporation. Grimm, originally from Missouri, received his B.B.A and J.D. from Southern Methodist University. He is an Advisory Board member for Junior Achievement and is a member of St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church. Grimm enjoys swimming, snow skiing and the Internet. He is married to Beth and they have two children, Andrew and Alex.



David Grimm

Doug Hixon is a salesman for Lufkin Industries - Foundry Division where he has worked since 1989. Hixon is a member of Saturday Bass Anglers, Harmony Hill Baptist Church and is an Assistant Coach for Farm League baseball, basketball and football. He graduated from Texas A&M and is married to Carrie. They have two children, Justin and Cody. Hixon enjoys bass fishing, woodworking, and church activities.



Doug Hixon

Cont. on page 4.

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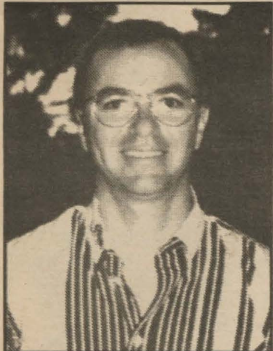
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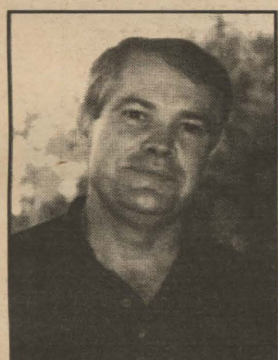
Charles Hughes

Charles Hughes has worked with Champion International since 1984 and currently serves as their Environment Supervisor. Hughes graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University. He and wife Susan have two children, Aron and Austin. He volunteers with Boy Scouts of America and is a deacon at Harmony Hill Baptist Church. He enjoys golf, fishing and hunting.

Stacy Irwin is a Commercial Loan Officer for NationsBank where he has been employed since 1993. Irwin graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University and is a member of Lufkin Noon Lions Club, Texas Forest Festival committee, and Trailblazers. In addition, he volunteers with Junior Achievement. Irwin is married to Rischa and they have one son, Austin. He enjoys golf and reading.

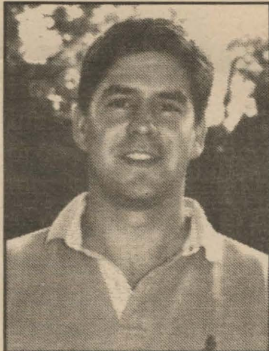


Stacy Irwin



Jim Kinney

As the Assistant Superintendent of Lufkin State School, Jim Kinney supervises the fiscal and support services departments of the state facility. On a volunteer basis, Kinney is involved with Lufkin Hosts Lions Club, United Way and is a member of First Christian Church. He graduated from Angelo State University and is married to Marian. They have two children, Alison and Daron. Kinney enjoys golf and reading.



Kevin Langston

Kevin Langston is the Project Manager for Don Langston Construction, Inc. where he coordinates projects with subcontractors, architects and material vendors. He graduated from Baylor University and enjoys tennis, hunting and reading. Langston is a life-long resident of Angelina County and is married to Allyson. He is involved with the Lufkin Host Lions Club, Habitat for Humanity and Wednesday Men's League.

As a Communication Specialist for Bob Bowman & Associates, Susan Larkin is responsible for handling public relations and writing for Bowman clients. Larkin graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University and is currently working on her Masters degree. She is married to Rick and they have one daughter, Elizabeth. Larkin serves on the Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity and is a member of the Lufkin Rotary Club.



Susan Larkin



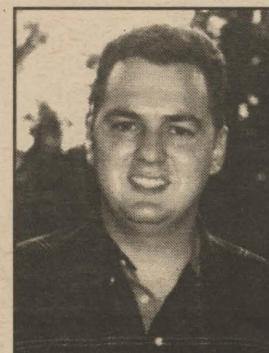
Janette Lewis

As the CRA Officer for Lufkin National Bank, Janette Lewis is responsible for overseeing the bank's community reinvestment program. Lewis is a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity and the Women's Shelter of East Texas. In addition, she is a member of the Police Homeownership Program committee. She graduated from University of Texas, Texas Bankers Assoc. Basic Compliance School and Southern Methodist University, Personal Trust Administration School/Texas School of Trust Banking. She is married to Amos and has one son, Tom.

Glenda Merrell is the Marketing Director for Lufkin Mall where she plans events and promotions for the shopping center. Merrell graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University and volunteers on the Texas Forest Festival committee, Angelina Beautiful/Clean Recycling committee, Lufkin Tourist Council committee, and School-to-Work Tech Prep. She is married to Danny and they have one daughter, Chandler. She was previously employed with KTRE-TV and enjoys walking and reading.



Glenda Merrell



Larry NeGron II

Larry NeGron II is the Director of Purchasing at William George Co. NeGron enjoys sports and travel and is involved with the Young Republicans and Expo Center Birthday Party committee. He is a member of the Lions Club and First Baptist Church. NeGron previously worked with American Federal Bank and NationsBank. He is married to Sallye.



Kristin Skebo

As the Manager of the Lufkin Visitor and Convention Bureau, Kristin Skebo is responsible for promoting tourism in Lufkin. Skebo graduated from Western Kentucky University and attended the University of Louisville School of Law. She enjoys crosstitching, camping, boating and church youth activities. Skebo volunteers at KSWP radio, First Assembly of God and is a member of Lufkin Rotary Club. She is married to Bob, manager of Lufkin Mall.

Cont. on page 5.

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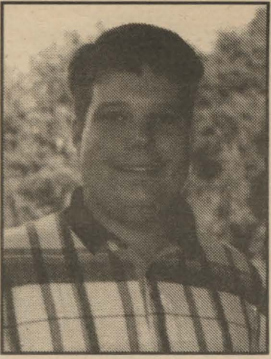
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Scott Skelton

Scott Skelton is an attorney with Zeleskey Law Firm. He received his B.A. from Abilene Christian University and his J.D. from Baylor Law School. Skelton volunteers as a teacher at North Street Church and troop leader for Boy Scout Troop 518. In addition, he serves on the Youth Fair committee, Regional Task Force, and is a Museum of East Texas Guild Member. He is married to Shelia and they have one daughter, Lauren. Skelton enjoys hunting, fishing and sports.

Isabel Sloan received her B.S. from Texas A&M and her Ph.D from the U.T. Health Science Center. She has lived in Lufkin for three years and is married to Dr. Lance Sloan. Sloan is director of the Korean-American Association and enjoys teaching Korean-American children.

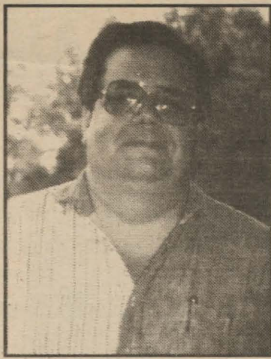


Isabel Sloan



June Smith

As the Vice-President of B&J Excavating, Inc., June Smith is responsible for payroll, safety, accounts payable/receivable and overseeing employees in all areas. Smith is involved with the Small Business Council, Angelina County Family Community Education, Angelina Beautiful/Clean, and the Central ISD Advisory Council. She is married to Bobby and has two children, Bridgett Jones and Clinton Smith.



Reggie Squyres

Reggie Squyres is a Loan Officer for Angelina Savings Bank. Squyres is a Lufkin native and volunteers with Boy Scouts, Special Olympics and Lions Club. Squyres enjoys camping and previously coached Lufkin Youth Baseball. He and wife Debbie have three children: Ryan, Reagan and Robert.

As the Drug Education Coordinator for the Chamber of Commerce, Janet Taylor is responsible for coordinating drug education and prevention activities for the six school districts. Taylor graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University and was previously employed by St. Cyprian's Episcopal School. She is an elder at First Presbyterian Church and is a member of the Junior League of Lufkin. Taylor enjoys gardening, reading and cooking. She is married to Joe and they have two children, Matt and Beth.

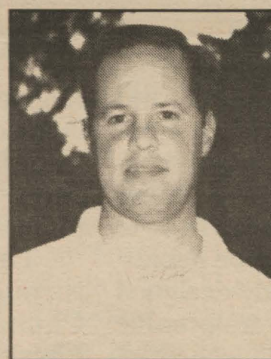


Janet Taylor



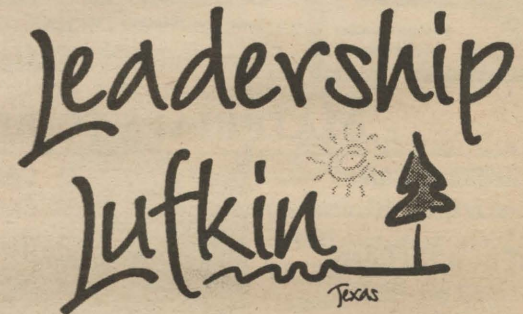
Emily Watts

Emily Watts is the Managing Director for Business Quarters of East Texas where she recruits new tenants and leases building space. She graduated from Baylor University and is the President-Elect of the Junior League of Lufkin. Watts also volunteers with the Museum of East Texas, Drug Education Council and the American Heart Association. She is a member of First Baptist Church and enjoys playing bridge, singing and shopping. She and husband, George have two children, Chip and Lindsey.



John Webb

As the Service Director for the Burke Center, John Webb is responsible for the fiscal and clinical management of the outpatient psychiatric clinic. Webb received his Bachelor and Masters degrees from Stephen F. Austin State University. He is the development chairman for the American Heart Association and enjoys water sports, camping, traveling and reading. He and wife Shelia have one daughter, Kelsey.



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Recycling Made Easier

Angelina Beautiful/Clean and Memorial Medical Center of East Texas have teamed up to make recycling easier for everyone. Learning what to recycle in Lufkin and how to recycle certain products can be confusing. AB/C is hoping a newly designed refrigerator magnet can help solve some of the confusion. The magnet lists the items accepted at the Lufkin

Regional Recycling Center. In addition, instructions on how to dispose of the recyclable items along with the telephone number to the Recycling Center printed on the magnet.

The free magnets are available through AB/C at the Chamber of Commerce, located at 1615 S. Chestnut.



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MATERIALS TO BE RECYCLED

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Cans only. No foil or baking pans.

STEEL & TIN CANS

Cans & Lids. Rinse.

GLASS

Rinse jars & remove lids. Clear, brown & green glass. No mirrors, light bulbs or window glass.

PLASTIC

Any No. 1 or No. 2 plastics. Numbers are on the bottom of products.

CARDBOARD

Flatten & remove any residue or packing materials.

PAPER

Mixed paper: office, computer & notebook paper, newspaper, & junk mail.

PAPERBOARD

Brown paper bags. Very thin cardboard (such as cereal and gift boxes). Flatten.

Regional Recycling Center: 409/633-0340

Illegal Dumping Awareness

Angelina Beautiful/Clean is looking to our younger citizens to help cut down on illegal dumping in Angelina County. Beginning this month AB/C will offer Illegal Dumping Presentations to all area schools.

According to AB/C Executive Director, Yana Pounders-Bullock, the program is aimed at fifth graders, but can be delivered at any grade level. "Youngsters tend to be the best audience when it comes to teaching the effects of illegal dumping. They form good habits early and pass along their new knowledge to their parents and

older siblings," said Pounders-Bullock.

Angelina County Litter Abatement Deputy Michael Champion conducts the presentations. This year the program will consist of a slide presentation on illegal dump sites in Angelina County and each student will be sworn in as Jr. Trash Deputies. In addition, all participants will receive deputy badges for their commitment to keep our area litter free.

Schools are asked to schedule presentations with AB/C. For more information call 63-CLEAN.

AB/C To Recognize Clean School Campuses

Angelina Beautiful/Clean is on the lookout for schools cleaning up their act! During the month of October all schools in Angelina County are encouraged to participate in the Clean Campus competition. According to Education Coordinator, Darlene Herring, this will be the first of two clean campus checks which will be conducted throughout the school year. "We will

have a committee comprised of volunteers, board members and business professionals, score each campus. The outside grounds and the interior of the buildings will be graded on cleanliness, neatness and the availability of trash receptacles," said Herring.

The winner of the competition receives the Clean Campus flag and a cash prize for beautification projects.

Learn How to be A Smart Shopper

Smart shoppers know that there is no cycle in recycle until a throwaway is reused. AB/C encourages everyone to "buy smart" and become environmental shoppers.

AB/C is once again offering environmental shopping tours at all Brookshire Bros. stores in Angelina County. This year's tours will be conducted by Carol Moore with the Junior League of Lufkin. According to AB/C Executive Director, Yana Pounders-Bullock, the tours are 45 minutes in length and are offered free to the public. Pounders-Bullock said, "The tour guide highlights items that are made from

recycled goods and products that can be recycled. In addition, she teaches consumers how to identify products with excess packaging."

The tours will begin in mid October and run through November. Last year hundreds of Angelina County students became smart shoppers as schools signed up dozens of classes for the program. "The tours can be modified for any grade level. In addition, it is a perfect program for civic, business and church groups," said Pounders-Bullock.

Interested groups can call AB/C to schedule tours at 63-CLEAN.

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Dr. Suzanne Stewart, B.S., D.C.

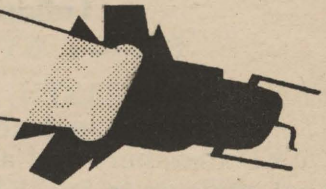
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Small Business Spotlight

We highlight our small business members of the Chamber!



East Texas Advertising, 704 Webber

East Texas Advertising

Since 1984 East Texas Advertising has been operating as the advertising agent for Coca-Cola Bottling in Lufkin, Nacogdoches and Crockett. In 1986 the business expanded their services to any small business. Julie Rhodes has been with the company since 1985. She offers advertising assistance with television, radio, newspaper or billboards and enjoys selecting the proper media for a designated business. East Texas Advertising is located at 704 Webber and can be reached at (409) 639-2469 or by fax at (409) 639-5277. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Angelina Casualty Insurance

Rodney Swor has owned and operated Angelina Casualty Insurance Agency since 1986. His company offers all types of insurance with emphasis on non-standard. His office is located at 107 North Timberland and can be reached at (409) 639-1633 or by fax at (409) 639-4762. Angelina Casualty Insurance Agency is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Swor is not only an active businessman, but an active community volunteer. He is a Board Member for the Z&OO Railroad, Lions Club Board of Directors, Angelina Beautiful/Clean volunteer and Texas Forest Festival BBQ Cookoff Chairman.



Angelina Casualty Insurance, 107 North Timberland

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KYSSED LOCK-IN

Friday, September 13
10:00 p.m. - 6:00 a.m.
Lufkin Mall
\$5.00 + KYSSSED Card

FRIDAY THE 13TH, the Angelina County KYSSSED clubs are planning a Lock-In for all KYSSSED members and are encouraging all high school students to join KYSSSED so that they may attend. Tambra Correll, Junior League volunteer, said there are a variety of fun activities planned for Friday, September 13. Tilt will be open late, a mid-night movie is scheduled, Motivational Media will present "Powerplay", and a dance, games, prizes and food are also planned. This is the KYSSSED EVENT of the YEAR - DON'T MISS!!!!

Admission is \$5.00 and KYSSSED cards are required at the door. For those students who do not have their KYSSSED card yet, pictures will be taken and cards issued if your name is on your sponsor's list. Be sure to let your sponsor know if you are coming. Once students come and check in they will be asked to stay the night. Once a student leaves, he or she will not be allowed to return.

THIS IS A PARTY FOR ALL THE STUDENTS WHO HAVE PLEDGED TO BE DRUG-FREE AND A THANK YOU FROM TEACHERS, PARENTS, AND LOCAL BUSINESSES. WE COMMEND YOUR STAND TO BE DRUG-FREE!!!!

PRACTICAL PARENTING WORKSHOPS

September 10, 1996
 Tuesday, 12:00 noon to 1 p.m.
 at Kurth Primary
 *Understanding Families

September 17, 1996
 Tuesday, 12:00 noon - 1 p.m.
 at Anderson Elementary
 *Understanding Families



Don't Let Our Kids' Dreams Go Up In Smoke

In the 60s and 70s, marijuana use was cool. In the 80s, it was out. But now, suddenly, in the mid 90s, marijuana is making a big comeback. And its popularity is growing.

Recent studies have alerted us to the disturbing fact that even elementary school students are using marijuana. And usage rates among older students — ages 12 to 17 — have almost doubled since the early 1990s. This could be in part because of the new pop culture that glamorizes marijuana and other drugs. Movies, television shows, music videos, song lyrics and clothing insignia carry pro-marijuana messages.

Complicating this problem is the fact that the parents of many of these kids who use marijuana today may have tried the drug themselves in the past and are reluctant to talk to their children about this controversial subject.

As a result, we have a generation of young people who think marijuana is "no big deal". But the truth is, a number of harms can result from its use. For instance, it impairs young people's judgment, which can lead to unprotected sex, pregnancy and sexually-transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS.

It also contributes to accidents, violence and car crashes. The 1995 Drug Abuse Warning Network report released last November shows that medical emergency room episodes related to marijuana have increased 155 percent since 1990 — from 15,700 to 40,100.

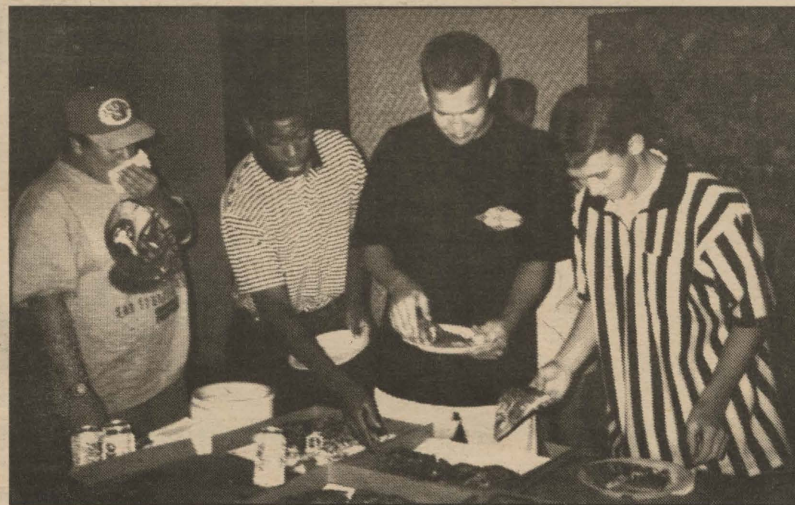
Use of this drug also negatively affects kids' concentration and schoolwork. And using, buying or selling can result in a school suspension or expulsion and a police record.

In addition, some current forms of marijuana are "spiked" with other illicit drugs like cocaine, crack cocaine, PCP and even embalming fluid, making an already dangerous drug even more dangerous.

This is why now, more than ever, it is crucial for parents to know the facts, and to feel comfortable sharing these facts with their children.

Some things parents can do include the following: be a good role model; make sure your children feel safe sharing their fears and thoughts about alcohol and drugs with you; use the media's portrayal of alcohol and marijuana to start a dialogue with your kids about these substances; and help your kids resist peer pressure by listening to their concerns and validating them.

For more information about marijuana, contact the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information at 1-800-729-6686 (TDD 1-800-487-4889) or visit their site on the World Wide Web at <http://www.health.org>. Or call Janet Taylor, Angelina County Drug Education, 634-6644. They can provide free materials that can help adults and youth understand the impact of marijuana and other drug use.



KYSSSED Council members Robbie Michaud, Diboll; Nicholas Tyler, Central; Andrew Hammand, Central; and Phillip Chapman, Diboll serve themselves refreshments before the council meeting. KYSSSED member representatives are planning the KYSSSED LOCK-IN, September 13.

THE CHAMBER
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 P.O. Box 1606
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