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### Off The Tracks In Colmesneil

When Jerri Smart decided to purchase the oldest house standing in Colmesneil, the decaying home of W. T. Colmesneil, person for whom the town was named, she had no idea what she was getting into. Now its a Museum of the cities history.





Page 8

Professional baseball is a tough nut to crack. Many high school atheletes strive for it - few make it. But here in Woodville not too long ago, many dreams came true when Chad and Casey Beck were both drafted by major league baseball teams.

### Tyler County Dogwood Festival: Fun For The Whole Family Pg. 10

For three magical weeks, from mid-March to early April, Dogwood trees grace Tyler County with their white-flowered blossoms. Tyler County folk's love for these trees spawned a Festival that is celebrated over three weeks in the spring of each year.

### Allan Shivers Library & Museum

Pg. 12

Allan Shivers Library and Museum, located at 302 N. Charlton Street in Woodville, has become a repository of many historical documents and objects related to Texas Governor Allan Shivers' life.

### Heritage Village: Tyler County History Comes Alive

Pg. 14

People come from all over the world to tour the Village and dine at the Pickett House, says Ofeira Gazzaway, Heritage Village director. Altogether, the Village hosts some 30,000 visitors each year.

ON THE COVER: If sports is an obsession in Tyler County (and few would argue that it is), then youth baseball is the biggest obession of them all. Baseball dominates sports in the spring and summer of each year in the county.

## Discover Tyler County Magazine 2007



**lim Powers** 





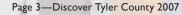
**Advertising Becky Byley** 



Ad Design **Mark Dominy** 

Discover Tyler County Magazine 2007 is published by Polk County Publishing Company, Livingston, Tx. Serving Chester, Colmesneil, Doucette, Fred, Hillister, Spurger, Warren and Woodville, Discover Tyler County Magazine is a visitors' guide to the pineywoods of Deep East Texas, with emphasis on Tyler County and surrounding areas and is dedicated to the people and businesses that make Tyler County such a wonderful community to work, live and play.

This publication is a joint effort of Polk County Publishing Company, Tyler County Chamber of Commerce and The Tyler County Booster, serving as an information resource for area residents, businesses and visitors.





## Message From The 2007 Chamber President

Dear Readers,

Like a child at Christmas As a great place to visit or a with anticipation and excitement, we welcome you to Tyler County through the 2007 Discover Tyler County Magazine.

This years issue, like our county, has so much to offer. Please read the articles and ads to see what is happening in our area.

We are becoming a wonderful tourist destination with four Bed & Breakfasts and a new hotel opening this year. With our music county is the place to be. RV parks, lakes, Heritage Case knife show in Spurger, tylercountychamber.org. Trade Days and Music Fes- Sincerely, tival and downtown revi- Susie Winn talization in progress, Tyler 2007 Tyler County Chamber County has something to of- Of Commerce President

fer everyone.

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### Tyler County Art League: GROWING WITH TYLER COUNTY

new space for classes.

But art doesn't just happen. Most artists usually people who have never faced Haney, Art League president a blank canvas or sheet of explained. "With researching paper think that inspiration and asking surrounding Art is the finished product. Well, was officially born. folks, it just doesn't happen work of art.

An Art Gallery doesn't just happen, either. Before the first painting is hung on the walls, members of the Tyler County success. a reality.

From its birth on February lery, located in downtown 18, 2003, Tyler County Art Woodville and owned by Tyler League has been on a steady County Art League, is filled course of growth. This year has with art representing the talent seen that growth accelerate, of over 60 artists, an amazing as the League purchased the number when you consider building housing the Gallery that just a little less than two and expanded next door with years ago, there was no Tyler County Art League and no Gallery.

**Discover Tyler County 2007** 

"In October 2002, a few work alone in their home or artists got together to talk studio. Because creation is so about the idea and concept of often done in private, most starting an art league," Judith just flows effortlessly onto the Leagues about how to do it, our medium until a work of art group decided to do it on our is created. After all, the only own." On February 18, 2003 thing the patron usually sees the Tyler County Art League

Tyler County Dogwood that way. Artists work many Festival of the Arts was the hours at times to translate first event the group officially their vision into a finished participated in. They were two weeks old at the time.

"Mainly, we participated in 2003 just to let people know that Tyler County had an Art many volunteers have spent League," Haney said. The hundreds of hours making it League had a total of eight possible. Translating the vi- members at that time. After sion of an art gallery for Tyler the Festival, the group grew County into reality must be to 15 members. Now the a labor of love. Thanks to the membership is in the hundreds vision and tireless work of and the dream has become a

Art League, that dream is now The Fine Art Centre & Gallery is located at 210 W. Bluff Artistic Expressions Gal- (Hwy 190 W.) in Woodville.

## Off The Tracks In Colmesneil

The W.T. Colmesneil House

by Elizabeth Adkisson

Jerri Smart is a petite powerhouse who runs a couple of small businesses in the sleepy community of Colmesneil, Texas. But she is a dreamer of the first order.

When she was growing up there, the town still had many businesses and even one hotel. But she watched the businesses and buildings disappear one by one as what once was the largest town in Tyler County made the decent that so many towns in this region did. They shrunk as the lumber mills closed and the railroads moved away. One day she determined that something had to be done to halt the complete disappearance of the past.

town was named. Her friend, mind!" Billy Gregory, had already secured the old Colmesneil train during the period when the depot and had been collecting railroad stopped at Colmesneil. railroad memorabilia for some Trains carried away lumber

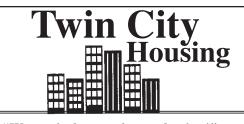
Jerri began negotiating for



the house and lassoing Billy That was the day she decided into putting up half the price. to purchase the oldest house When the price was finally standing, the decaying home of settled, Billy said, "If you got W.T. Colmesneil, the conducthe money, I got the money." tor on the first railroad train After seeing the condition that came through the area of the place, Jerri's husband's and the person for whom the response was, "You've lost your

> The house was built in 1883 from the Yellow Pine Mill, Continued on next page...

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jetties in Galveston and people traveling to Beaumont and beyond. At its height, the town ect. had three hotels, many stores, a doctor, a pharmacy, a jail, a saloon and an opera house. When Jerri and Billy pur- two fireplaces. Some walls were As of October 29, 2006, display. chased the house, they found it infested with termites and suffering from neglect, unsub-holding up cheap paneling. It was a was unpainted and had only holding up cheap paneling. It quiet, beautiful fall day. The been painted twice in its it infested with termites and stantial add-ons and less than took two assaults by a termite leaves were finally beginning to lifetime. The second job was

rocks from Rockland for the was 2002. Jerri sold her beauty termite infestation, but then the board walls are exposed and

had fallen off, as had one of the today.

standing only because they the house was ready for the adequate repair efforts. That exterminator to get rid of the turn. Dappled sunlight fell on very incomplete, not covering the house and its first official visitors. Walking up the new house. So, it was possible to brick path to the front porch, discover the original color of those visitors had little idea of this exposed buttermilk paint. all the labor leading up to that The house now sports that

Before came years of discov- were pieces of the original wallering what was in the house, paper. Under the house was the under the house, missing from original front door and some of the house and how to solve the bricks from the fireplace. hundreds of challenges. All With those bricks and others the doors, windows, baseboards from local chimneys that were and hardware are original. The coming down, the renovators floors are the original heart have been able to rebuild the

shop in Silsbee and began the came the discovery that large painted, others have wall paper renovation, reclamation proj- rats had been building nests as did the original walls. The in the walls for years. But one house is on pillars and one of The front porch, which faced would have trouble imagining them was actually a 340-year the railroad and not the road, all that looking at the house old stump, a section of which has been removed for eventual

> The house, when constructed, anything leaning against the paint color. Behind baseboards pine and curly pine. Many of missing fireplace with bricks

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originally made at the old brick Texas and its inhabitants. factory in Colmesneil.

stove. The jewel of the exhibits used to communicate with the on the right. The house will be engineer.

There are lots of small treaffrom 2-6 p.m. and by special sures on display in every nook appointment. historical books about East 283-1332.

For several years Jerri and The furnishings are of the Billy worked on the house, period but not of this particubut this year volunteers began lar house. They are beautiful to help with the restoration. antiques that might be a cut None of the work was easy above what furnished the but the results are charming. original farmhouse, but they One of the volunteers, Martha are all interesting. Some Jerri Stark, contributed the original found through her antiques painting that hangs above one business, others were gener- of the fireplaces. It pictures a ously donated. One should locomotive steaming through especially look for the ornate the piney woods, a sight that pump organ, the spinning Mr. Colmesneil must have wheel and the wood-burning enjoyed from his front porch. The Colmesneil House is is the dining set from Franklin at 601 South Pitzer Street. D. Roosevelt's Pullman car, Take Highway 256 east from along with the cabinet hous- Highway 69, turn south on ing the intercom system he Pitzer and look for the sign

and cranny, many of them con- It will also be available for nected with railroad history. A booking special events. For room at the back of the house is tour and event information, a library Jerri hopes to fill with contact Jerri Smart at 409-

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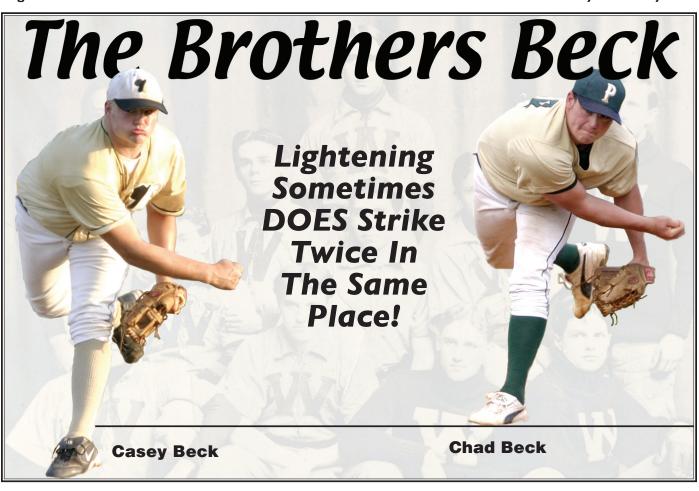
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by Dave Youngblood

the professional level are truly baseball teams.

When you consider the big show'as it is often referred and Casey, a freshman at the Becks were. That's easy to number of young men who to is the field of many a young Houston's San Jacinto College, see now and it was easy to see take to the playing fields each man's dreams and, for most, added another page to their back when they were playing year on high school and col- only a dream. But, here in impressive baseball stories on fields wearing the gold and lege baseball teams across the Woodville not too long ago, with their 'big show' selections black of the Eagles. When country, you know right away many dreams came true when and fueled an already hot local asked about their accomplishthat those who 'make it' or go Chad and Casey Beck were baseball fever. on to continue their careers at both drafted by major league



Chad, a junior at the Univerbut maybe not so tough for Major League baseball or 'the sity of Lousisana-Lafayette, one raised the right way. And

had memorable high school athletic careers. All Star nomi-All State awards and always in multiple sports. But baseball was always number one. Never line or the defense. more evident than when Chad

Making the right move might and say hello first.

ments or their games, they Both of the Beck brothers looked you straight in the eve and talked about their teams. Casey, a feature quarterback nations, All District honors, on the gridiron, never once accepted praise for a Woodville success. It was because of the

Their parents, Tammy and turned down a four-year free Kelly, gave their boys values ride to Lafayette to play tight when many young people aren't end for a junior college base- sure how to spell the word. If ball berth in Panola County. you met either off the field It turns out it was the right or away from campus, they reached out to shake your hand

be a difficult task for a teen Littlewonder then that when, struggling with big choices less than two months after onship and earned the Most dealt with it differently, you where they finished third. entire community mourned part of who they are," said their Chad posted a 2-2 record in With the signings, Woodville deeply when Tammy passed aunt Suzanne Rigby. "They limited appearances with 38 may possibly have gained a star away so suddenly. The true know what an opportunity strikeouts in only 30 innings on the national baseball map 'Team Mom'that cheered end- this is, they know what it can and opposing hitters struggled but, surely and more imporlessly for everyone, had a gleam mean for them and they're both to a .206 average against tantly, the Beck signings have in her eye whenever the Eagles winners. I'm sure we're going to him. were mentioned, and on most hear lots more about them." days had to step over players Casey was the first to be other brother combinations in for these two young men. and friends who crowded her drafted. He was picked in the home whenever there wasn't a eighth round by the Atlanta

For so many who get the op- week. portunity, it passes them by but, Casey is coming off a successfirst step in the majors will lead to headlines in the future.

Braves and has joined their Many still mourn the loss and, rookie team in Florida. Chad surely, both boys carry a heavy was selected shortly later in burden but they have carried the fourteenth round by the it well. More evidence of the Arizona Diamondbacks and is values they learned and live. on the roster of their Class A They have continued to work team in Yakima, Washington. hard, to give what they have Both will see their first acand make something better. tion on their new teams this

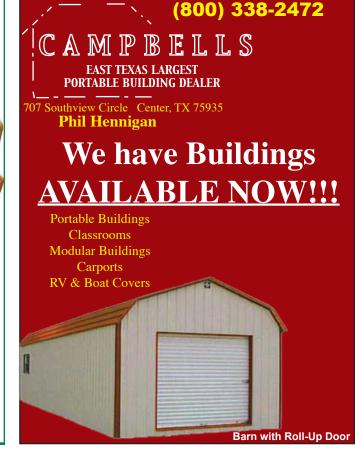
for the Becks, you know their ful first season at San Jacinto. The Gators number one closer, he helped the team advance

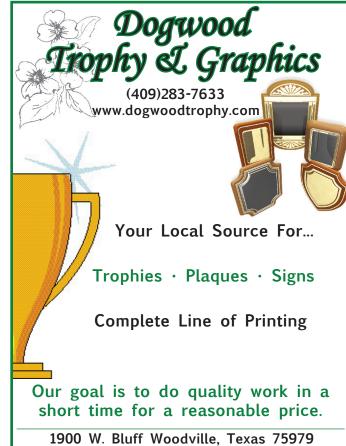
Casey led the Eagles to the "They've had so much to deal to the NCAA Junior College this year's draft, it is a rare event. 2005 State baseball champi- with and even though they've World Series two weeks ago Prior to this draft, the last time Valuable Player award, an know that Tammy is such a big This past season in Lafayette, same year was 1997.

two brothers were drafted the

further secured a place in the Although there were two hearts of all Tyler Countians







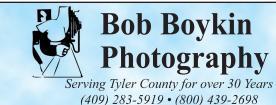
County. For three magical the Big Thicket.

Ithappens every spring in Tyler the county is in the heart of

weeks from mid-March to And almost as much as they early April, dogwood trees love their trees, they love to grace Tyler County with their celebrate. Combine the two white-flowered blossoms. If and you get the annual Dogthere's one thing residents of wood Festival, Tyler County's Woodville and Tyler County premier event each year. The love, it's their trees. After all, three-weekend event will kick



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### **Discover Tyler County 2007** Page II

## GREAT FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

27 and Dogwood Weekend on County with the festival." April 4.

### Historical perspective

The Dogwood Festival dates back to 1940, when it was blacksmithing demonstrafounded by lifelong Tyler tions, spinners and weavers, County resident James Ed- quilters, painters, period music ward Wheat. After taking a and food vendors. briefhiatus during World War This year the Festival of the II, the festival returned and Arts Festival is expanding to has become firmly established two full days of activities. as an East Texas tradition.

"The Dogwood Festival is Happy trails the root of our hometown," former Woodville Mayor Jimin the springtime."

of the Dogwood Festival Per- Rodeo. manent Directors.

Dedicated volunteers

"Ithink the Dogwood Festival Queen, the oldest outdoor

offwith the Festival of the Arts has meant a lot to Woodville historical drama in the South a beautiful thing for all these at Heritage Village Museum and Tyler County through the and a fireworks show. on March 20, followed by years because many people The fireworks show provides Sara Erdek said. "If anything, Western Weekend on March associate Woodville and Tyler quite a flourish to an event that it's more special now than

> Festival of the Arts at Heritage Village Museum. The of the Village come alive with

The second weekend of the mie Cooley says. "It's so good festival, Western Weekend, that we can do this because our includes arts, crafts and food town and county are so pretty vendors on the courthouse square in downtown Wood-The continuation of the fes- ville, one of the largest trail tival, which has lasted more rides in the state with trail ridthan 60 years, is a tribute to ers converging on Saturday for the commitment of volunteers, a parade through downtown says Fred Sullivan, a president and the Western Weekend

The final weekend of the festival features the Big Thicket Arts and Crafts Fair on the "As one group of volunteers courthouse square, a classic moves away or passes on, there car show, a colorful parade has been somebody else to step through downtown, the regal in and take their place," he says. coronation of the Dogwood

t fresh.

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Queen's crowning.

19th-century-era buildings a Dogwood Queen has been Pageant April 7.

years,"2002 Dogwood Queen draws visitors from hundreds ever." This year, the Festival The event kicks off with the of miles away and follows the of the Arts will be held March 17, Western Weekend March "The tradition of crowning 30 and Queen's Weekend and

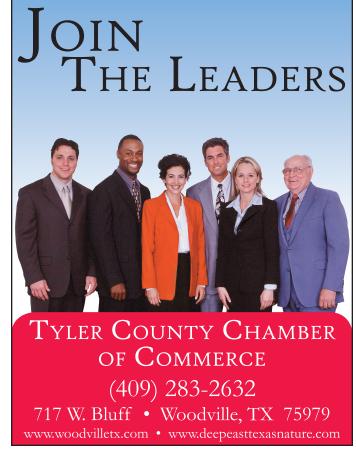


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## Allan Shivers Library & Museum:

(1907-1985) might have been born in Lufkin, but he grew up in Woodville across the street from the courthouse in Tyler County, so Tyler County folks consider him a "native son." Allan Shivers Library and Museum, located at 302 N. Charlton Street in Woodville, has become a repository of many historical documents and objects related to this popular Governor's life.

The building housing the Museum was built by Robert A. Cruse in 1881 and moved from its original location in 1963 to make way for a motel. The Shivers secured the building and had it moved to the present location where it was restored and converted into a museum for the collec-

Governor Allan Shivers tion and display of mementos of the Allan Shivers guber- natorial service. At this same



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time, they also built a com- happen because Kennedy was Sue (Sissie), as she represent- practice law and later become pletely equipped library.

**Discover Tyler County 2007** 

tours Weekdays from 9 a.m. Amistad Dam in 1969. until 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays historical and the simply fishing. In the upper hall is father had moved to Port Ar- of the student body. interesting. The first room a Christmas card from the thur when Shivers was 16, to to the right when you enter Bushes from 1998. the museum is decorated as a typical Victorian parlor, the Trophy Room, which complete with sofa, chairs, features animal trophies and chandelier and an old family objects from Central Africa album bond in Velvet.

is the rare books room, filled and 1973. At the head of the with Shiver's private collec- stairs on the upper story is a tion of books and periodicals. New documents recently added to this collection include a Welcome Dinner Invitation exhibits in glass cases, infrom President Kennedy for cluding Festival gowns worn Nov. 22, 1963 (which did not by their daughter, Marialice

The museum, which offers related to the Dedication of and college days.

The upper floor features the Governor obtained on At the rear of the museum safari with his sons in 1971 picture of Mrs. Shivers in an inaugural ball gown.

The North Room features

assassinated, and a document ed Austin during high school a district judge). Shivers dropped out of college to work Shivers graduated from in the railroad shops at Port Also new in the lower hall Port Arthur High School Arthur. He later returned from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., is is a photograph of the first in 1924 and attended Port to the University of Texas at filled on two floors with the President Bush and his son Arthur College in 1925 (his Austin and became president

Continued on Page 20





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## HERITAGE VILLAGE:

A stroll through the grounds such words from his lips. resident lack Whitmever is a walk through history.

The 82-year-old retired praise. electronics engineer is as

of Heritage Village Museum Indeed, Whitmeyer, who has with longtime Tyler County had a hand in constructing or restoring most of the buildings in the Village shrugs off any

"I was raised in the responsible as any one person country 80 or so years ago," for the vibrancy of the Village says the affable Whitmeyer. today, but you'd never hear "Grandpa used to say, 'If you



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## Tyler County History Comes Alive

want a house, get out there historical setting in East Texas and build the darn thing."

got involved in construction goat farm. Fittingly, Clyde Garden - view it while Clyde from a Union gunship. at Heritage Village when he was an artist. told Village founder Clyde out.

at the Village, to building an hour that passed by." a schoolhouse and other structures. His passion for history is reflected in the way he relates the story of how the Village came to be.

become the premier pioneer Village.

"The first time I ran into straighten this darn mess he was sitting in the middle of the street painting the He did that and then building where the Tyler some. Whitmeyer has done County Booster is now, everything from restoring the Whitmeyer says. "The police City of Houston's 1903 clock, put a barricade around Clyde, which once was on display and there was about one car

Anchor started it all

The couple bought the old Rainey Strawberry Farm, What eventually has the current site of Heritage Continued on Page 20

paints your picture."

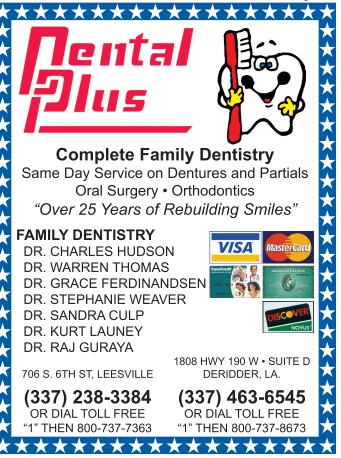
Gray, "If I ever retire, I'm him, Woodville's finest had shipping company owned by at what would become going to come up here and U.S. 190 blocked off, and Bill Gray's family dredged

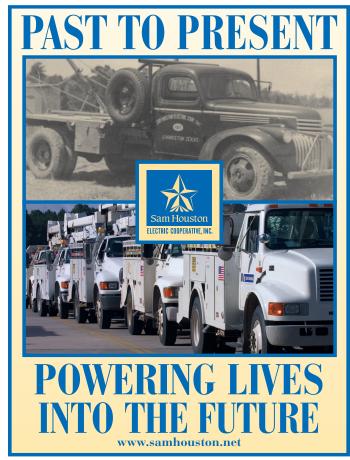
"For something to do, Bill up a Civil War-era anchor, began in the early 1950s when went out behind their house and Clyde and Bill brought And that's exactly what Clyde Gray and his wife, Bill, and planted a little garden," it to Tyler County for display. he has done at the Village. moved from Beaumont to Whitmeyer says. "She put The anchor, according to Whitmeyer recalls that he Tyler County and began a out fliers that read, "Heritage Whitmeyer, could have come

Page 15

That was the beginning of Soon thereafter, the the rich historical collection Continued on Page 25









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**Discover Tyler County 2007** 

## THE BIG THICKET: A CONVERGENCE Of Ecosystems

Get off the beaten path. Area. Explore the back country. leisurely canoe trip. Soak in the history," says Seth Davidson. scenery beneath a cathedral of pines.

ing pristine forests. Rich in Houston area. biological diversity, the pre-69 near Kountze.

occurred in the Big Thicket prairies.

tural Organization's Man and red cockaded woodpecker. the Biosphere Program. The

"The Big Thicket has an Experience the thrill of seeing Astonishing natural resource a rare species of bird. Enjoy a as well as a close tie to ancient

Davidson notes that Tyler County makes for an Visitors to the Big Thicket ideal day trip destination for National Preserve can do all residents of Greater Houston. these things and more in one The county is approximately of the nation's few remain- a two-hour drive from the

"You can go from a very serve encompasses more than urban area to some of the 97,000 acres in and around most beautiful and pristine Tyler County. The Big Thicket wildlife viewing in Texas," Visitors Center is located just Davidson says. "Tyler, Jasper south of Tyler County on U.S. and Newton counties offer some of the most scenic A convergence of ecosystems drives in the United States."

Boasting some 250 during the last Ice Age. It winged species, the Big brought together, in one geo- Thicket is a virtual paradise for graphical location, the eastern birders, he says. The preserve hardwood forests, the Gulf is part of The Great Texas coastal plains and the Midwest Coastal Birding Trail, Upper Texas Coast. Among the On Dec. 15, 1981, the species that may be observed preserve was designated an in the Thicket are shorebirds, Înternational Biosphere Re- migrant songbirds, thrushes, serve by the United Nations herons, egrets, pine warblers, Education, Scientific and Cul-bald eagles and the beautiful

"The Big Thicket is a American Bird Conservancy totally spectacular birding has recognized the preserve destination on the Upper





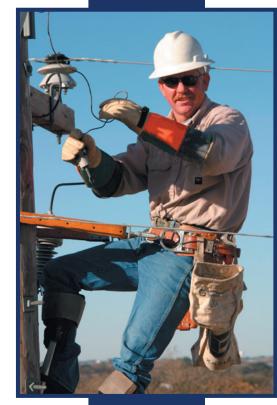
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**Discover Tyler County 2007** Page 19

### THE BIG THICKET: A CONVERGENCE OF ECOSYSTEMS...

Continued from Page 17

Texas Coast that, over the in the Big Thicket. According campers and horseback and the park hosts campers course of a few miles, is to Davidson, one might be riders. There's also off-road and nature lovers who come transformed into a different fortunate enough to catch a bicycling, canoeing, kayaking to explore its many trails. kind of habitat," Davidson glimpse of a mountain lion and boating. says. "If you go to the Upper along the Pitcher Plant Trail Another popular nearby Texas Coast to look at birds in near Warren, wild hogs recreational area is B.A. the spring, you look at birds near the Turkey Creek Trail Steinhagen Lake and adjacent just flying through. They are or alligators at Magnolia Martin Dies Jr. State Park. moving on and far to the Ridge. Deer and wild hogs The lake offers acres of fishnorth into Eastern woodland also abound throughout the ing, boating and swimming, forest and to Canada.

"But there is a group their breeding behavior and naturalists and birders. get a completely different Galveston."

wildlife that may be viewed hunters,

preserve.

When one considers the of those birds whose final myriad species of flora, fauna destination is the Big Thicket. and insects, along with rivers, That's where they will breed streams and creeks, the Big and raise their young. They're Thicket emerges as a premier not just flying through. You destination for both the can listen to them sing, watch casual observer and serious

In addition to birding, picture of them than you wildlife and nature viewing, would at High Island or in the Thicket attracts hikers (to its eight trails with more than But birds aren't the only 45 miles of hiking), anglers, photographers,

PLANNING A BIG THICKET ADVENTURE? CHECK OUT THE MAP ON PAGE 22





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January 14, 1985.

ALLAN SHIVERS LIBRARY & MUSEUM... from pg. 13

before receiving a LL.B degree. He began his law practice in

Port Arthur in 1931 and three years later entered Democratic

politics by winning the election to the State Senate from the fourth district. At that time, he was the youngest member to

sit in the Texas Senate. In 1945, Shivers was chosen to succeed Lieutenant Governor John Lee Smith. Beaufort Jester was elected Governor, but died on July 12, 1948. Shivers was sworn in as governor following Beaufort's death and won election in his own right in 1950. Shivers died in Austin on

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Shivers received his bachelor's degree from UT in 1931 and was admitted to the state bar the same year, two years **Discover Tyler County 2007** Page 21







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## TYLER COUNTY AREA MAP



### **Points of Interest**

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Allan Shivers Library & Museum (409) 283-3709 • Beautiful Tyler County Courthouse Square Peach Tree Village w/ John Henry Kirby Museum (936) 969-2455 - Resident Host Lake Tejas (409) 837-2229 - Ext. 4 • Alabama Coushatta Indian Reservation (936) 563-4391 Dogwood Hills Golf Course (409) 283-8725 • Wildwood Golf Course (409) 834-2940

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**Discover Tyler County 2007** 

## Heritage Village: History Comes Alive

Cabin and the old Midway now grown to be a major East of local residents and visitors. Christmas Tour. School, which since the Texas research facility. early 1970s has housed the world-famous Pickett House blacksmithing, restaurant.

### A place to find one's roots

Village and dine at the Pickett find their lost family history." House, says Ofeira Gazzaway,

Heritage Village Museum. couple of pickup truck loads" mounted instead, to buy the the Harvest Festival each fall;

"We have archeological and Indian The nonprofit organization, demonstrators, Civil War collections," he says. "For made up of many dedicated reenactments, food vendors years, people sat on the steps volunteers, is committed to and more. with grandma and were told keeping the Village operating over the world to tour the library is a place where people come.

Heritage Village director, the Village in the mid-1980s the Whispers in the Wind grandparents and those who Altogether, the Village hosts when Gray, who died in 1989, outdoor historical drama, forged into Tyler County in some 30,000 visitors each wanted to donate the property depicting the founding of Tyler the 1800s lived. to the Texas Historical County through romance and the Village is the Whitmeyer the county would then own Wilson family, who lived near everybody." Library. the Village - and might, in Chester; the Festival of the began when he donated "a a local fundraising effort was annual Dogwood Festival); Woodville.

The Heritage Society large was formed in 1987 and Village comes alive with live quilting, raised \$125,000 in 45 days. music, dancing, arts and crafts

Soon thereafter, Gray added of historical books about Village for the perpetual use, Storytelling Night in the late the 19th-century vintage Tolar Tyler County. The library has entertainment and education summer and the Candlelight

Page 25

During most events, the

main thing, People come from all family stories. The research for many, many years to Whitmeyer says, is that the Village is helping to teach Throughout the year, the new generations about how Tyler County nearly lost Village hosts such events as their grandparents, great

"The Village," concludes A more recent addition to Commission. Knowing that adventure surrounding the Whitmeyer, "is here for

Heritage Village is Whitmeyer says the facility the future, decide to sell it — Arts in the spring (part of the located on Hwy 190 west of





**Discover Tyler County 2007** Page 26

## TYLER COUNTY AT A GLANCE

Mileage from Woodvil	le	1970
-	1	1980
Beaumont		
Houston	106	1997
New Orleans	330	2000
Dallas	247	
Austin	266	Sales tay struc

Tyler County census totals

1010	12, 11
1980	16,22
1990	16,64
1997	19,67
2000	21,56

State	6.25
City	1.5
County	0.5

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### Property tax structure (Based on \$100 valuation)

(Dasea on \$100 valuation)
County0.4083
County Special0.1897
CCW/City of Woodville0.421
SB/Chester ISD1.54
SC/Colmesneil ISD1.4987
SS/Spurger ISD1.95
SW/Warren ISD1.5
SA/Woodville ISD1.59
FDDB/Dam B Fire0.0226
ESD1/Ivanhoe0.100
FDS/Spurger Fire0.030
FD/Warren Fire0.0297
FDWT/White Tail Ridge Fire0.0256
FDF /Fred Fire0.0203
FDC/Colmesneil Fire0.030
Hospital District0.0917
•

### Local government

Woodville...General Law Municipality/Mayor and Council. Council neets on the second Monday of each month at Woodville City Hall at 6 p.m. ..409-283-2234 City Administrator.....409-283-2234 ..936-969-2360 ..409-837-5211 Colmesneil.. County....County Judge and four commissioners for four precincts. Commissioners court meets the second Monday of each month at 10 a.m. in the commissioners' courtroom on the first floor of the county courthouse in Woodville. They also meet the following Friday at 8:30 a.m.

..409-283-2141 County Judge.

Appraisal District	409-283-373
District 1-A Judge	409-283-533
88th District Judge.	409-246-515
District Attorney	
County Auditor	409-283-3652
County Clerk	
District Clerk	409-283-2162
Tax Assessor	409-283-273
Treasurer	409-283-3054
Veterans Services.	409-283-375
Justice of	the Peace
Courts	

### .409-283-7748 Precinct 2. .409-837-2447 Precinct 3. .409-429-7129 Precinct 4.

Precinct 1

..409-283-3631

### **County Commissioners**

Precinct 1-2409-283-7296 Precinct 3-4409-283-7013 Constables, Precincts 1-4409-283-2172	
Adult Protective Services	
409-283-3765	
Treasurer409-283-3054	
County Extension Agent	
409-283-8284	
Health Dept409-283-2929	
Caring is Sharing409-283-5800	
Human Services409-283-3765	
Driver's License409-283-7757	
Motor Vehicle409-283-2734	
Forest Service409-283-3785	

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dispatched th	nrough Woodville
or the Tyler	County Sheriff's
office	409-283-2172

### **Public schools**

(	Chester	936-969-2211
(	Colmesneil	409-837-5757
(	Spurger	409-429-3464
١	Warren	409-547-2241
١	Woodville	409-283-3752

### Private school

St. Paul's	Episcopal	School
		.409-283-3710

### Colleges

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Lufkin campus936-6	633-5247
Lamar University	54 miles

Beaumont......409-880-8301 Sam Houston St. Univ.......75 miles Huntsville......936-294-1040 Stephen F. Austin St. Univ.....70 miles Nacogdoches.....936-468-2504

### Library

	Allan Shivers Library & Musuem in
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2211	
E7E7	Community centers

Colmesneil	409-837-5211
------------	--------------

### Utilities

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Entergy1-800-368-3749

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Commercial	1-800-	499-7928

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### Recreational facilities

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- 114,500-acre Lake Sam Rayburn - 90,000-acre Lake Livingston
- Dogwood Hills Golf Course
- Campgrounds
- Hiking trails
- Lighted baseball complex
- Rodeo arena

### Communications

- Newspapers (daily) -- Houston Chronicle, Beaumont Enterprise, Lufkin Daily News
- Newspapers (weekly) -- Tyler County Booster, Jasper NewsBoy, Polk County Enterprise
- Radio -- KWUD-AM 1490
- -Television (cable) -- CMA Cablevision, 409-384-6862

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Dam B	409-429-2646
Doucette	1-800-275-8777
Fred	409-429-5133
Hillister	409-283-5793
Spurger	409-429-3834
Warren	409-547-3619
Woodville	409-283-2191

### Weather

- Average temp......67 degrees - Annual rainfall......56 inches - Record high......106 (July 1954)
- Record low......6 (Jan. 1962)

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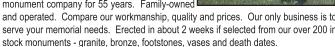
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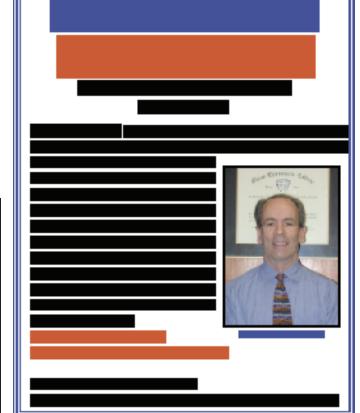
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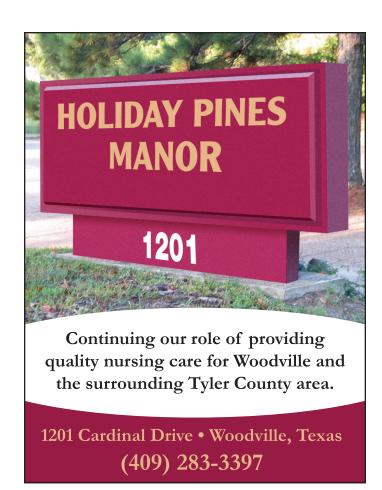
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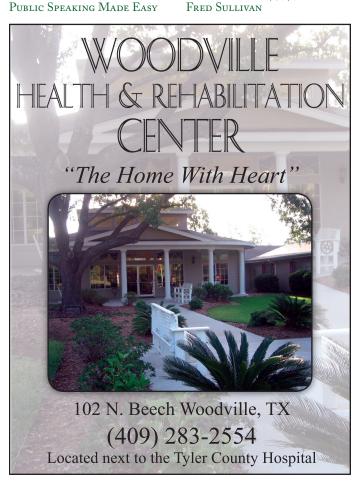


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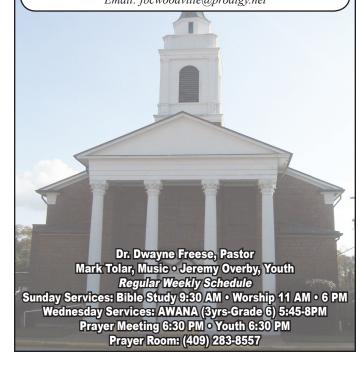


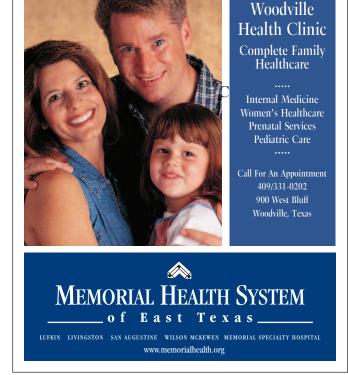
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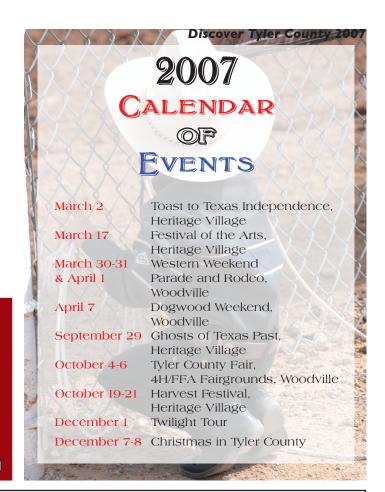
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