



MARIE BETH JONES
BRAZOS TALES

Joining the US divisive for both

Annexation was a word on the tongue of every adult Texan during the first couple of years in the 1840s, and those who lived in counties along the Gulf Coast were overwhelmingly in favor of it — the sooner, the better.

To most landowners living in Columbia, Brazoria and Velasco, the thought of once again being citizens of the United States appeared to offer the answer to some

of their most serious problems, even though Texas had won independence from Mexico, and now was a republic governed by their own elected officials.

While they, like others living in the newly freed area, took pride in their status as an independent republic, they faced the realities of the adverse effects this placed on their pocketbooks, along with the continuing danger that Mexico would once again attempt to reverse that condition.

Despite their successful rebellion and current state of freedom, the possibility all-out war with Mexico might again break out was a threat they couldn't ignore.

All it would take would be for the new Mexican leaders to bring forth all of that country's forces against them instead of threatening and harassing the untrained Texans with a mere portion of their might.

And most Texans weren't really sure of their new country's standing with European nations.

Could France and England really be trusted to provide continued support, if it came to warfare, or would they further their own interests and attempt sovereignty over the vast, rich land that was Texas?

Despite their claims of friendship, leaders of those "friendly" countries still tended toward meddling in Texas politics and policies, speaking of friendship while stubbornly refusing to approve the loans so sorely needed for the land-rich but cash-poor new nation to thrive financially.

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JENNA KIESER/The Facts

Lake Jackson Historical Museum Executive Director David Thomas stands amid the archives of the museum.

YES, WE SCAN

Effort to digitize personal items, records benefits both families and Lake Jackson Historical Museum

By WES WOLFE
news@thefacts.com

LAKE JACKSON

The impossibly heavy metal file cabinet in a dusty room, or the contents of any of a series of boxes long ago stashed away in storage — they might be out of sight and out of mind most times, but they could also contain one-of-a-kind historical documents that not only tell the story of your family or a relative, but of southern Brazoria County.

The Lake Jackson Historical Museum is looking to augment its ability to tell the story of the founding and growth of the area with scannable documents and pictures that can more comprehensively represent local history. The idea came about through a vacation by one of the museum's board members.

"I visited my sister's hometown, Glenville, Ohio — it's much older than Lake Jackson, it was established in the 1800s," museum board President Susan Buell said. "They have a museum there, and they were telling me about the scan day. That's where we got the idea, from this museum in Ohio. It just sounded like such a neat idea, to get the public involved."

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JENNA KIESER/The Facts

Vintage clothing and other items are kept safe in the archives at the Lake Jackson Historical Museum.



JENNA KIESER/The Facts

An area of the museum titled "Treasures From the Vault" at the Lake Jackson Historical Museum. The museum has hosted "scan days" where residents can scan old historical documents of photos they find in their homes, and the museum can keep a copy in their archives.



JENNA KIESER/The Facts

An old motion picture film is one of many items stored in the archives at the Lake Jackson Historical Museum.



JENNA KIESER/The Facts

Rows of books filled with Lake Jackson history line the shelves in the history museum's archives.



GIN CRAWFORD
CONVERSATIONS WITH GIN



Contributed photo

Gin Crawford becomes temporary captain of the ship courtesy of the real pilot, Bobby Patterson.

Diner takes the wheel

We did it! Peter, his daughter Vanessa and I went for an evening cruise from Dido's. It was not the prettiest weather, but the ride was fun, the food was good and the dessert was even better. Of course, dessert was Nancy's homemade banana pudding, which no amount of begging would get me the recipe for me and you.

I also got to captain the ship. I drove it or piloted it or whatever. I got to use the old-fashioned wheel on that boat, which is probably older than me. (It is older than me. Hard to believe isn't it?)

I was thrilled to see who the actual pilot of that boat was. It was a kid I knew before I got married into the Crawford family — Bobby Patterson. He was attached to my brother-in-law Jerry. Where you saw one, you knew the other one was not far behind. They have been friends since they were 6 years old or younger. I used to haul them around. I even took them to midnight horror shows at the Show Boat Theater in downtown Freeport. That really dates me, but oh well, it is what it is. It was a real hoot, good music (not too loud) and good food.

■ ■ ■

Every time I clean the filter in my dryer I want to mention this to you: Clean the lint filter after every load.

Lots of fires are started because of the filter being overloaded with lint. It's a simple thing to do and very easy when you use the dryer sheet to rub over the filter. I even go so far as to run the vacuum hose down as far as it will go to remove any lint that might remain in there. It's not too much to do to help prevent a fire.

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SARAH BELLES/Contributed photo

Taylor Bennett holds three downy Wilson's plover chicks after they received their new bands.

Wilson's plover chicks have hatched

We are at the peak of beach nesting bird season along the Upper Texas Coast. Gulf Coast Bird Observatory is studying these birds as they nest and raise their young. The species we are focusing on are the Wilson's plover and least tern.

The Wilson's plover is a shorebird that prefers to nest in the soft sand along the dunes, mudflats and shelly areas with vegetation. During the breeding season, they break up into pairs and create their own territories.

The least tern is a water bird that prefers to nest in large groups in open shelly areas. Both of these



TAYLOR BENNETT
NATURE NOTES

species are protected by the Migratory Bird Act and are considered species of high concern due to habitat loss and disturbance. For each species, we monitor for pairs, nests and chicks. We also band Wilson's plover adults and their chicks, when they hatch.

We're monitoring two sites this year: Matagorda Beach and Sargent Beach. For Matagorda Beach, we monitor

half of Matagorda Peninsula and three areas: Colorado River Mouth Flats, Dunes Drive and Three-mile Cut.

Most of the Wilson's plover nests that failed this past month have successfully nested again. We currently have six active nests and one mystery brood along Matagorda Peninsula. A mystery brood is a pair of birds with chicks that had a nest we were unable to locate.

The pair has three downy chicks which we were fortunate to catch and band. We banded three more Wilson's plover adults: two females

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Contributed photo

Abriana Nino, second from right, of Brazosport High School won a scholarship presented by Altus Emergency Center.



Contributed photo

Callie Cochran, left, from Angleton High School won a \$500 scholarship courtesy of Altus Emergency Center.



Contributed photo

Taryn LaSagna, right, from Brazoswood High School won a \$500 scholarship from Altus Emergency Center.



Contributed photo

Nick DeOliveira, center, from Brazosport Christian School received a \$500 scholarship from Altus Emergency Center.

Altus Emergency awards scholarships

Special to The Facts

LAKE JACKSON — Altus Emergency Center recently awarded four scholarships to area high school graduates.

Altus Emergency Lake Jackson Scholarship 2021 drive launched Feb. 1 through the Altus Gives program, which was established to help give back to local businesses and individuals.

Each student received a one-time award of \$500 to pursue a career in health care. The money must be used for expenses related to college such as tuition, fees, books, school supplies and board. Winners were selected in April 2021 by a review panel appointed by the management of Altus Emergency Centers.

Recipients and their reactions were:

■ Nick DeOliveira from Brazosport Christian School: "This scholarship will allow me to be more selective in my time. This will allow me to maximize my time through service-learning, volunteering opportunities, and internships."

■ Taryn LaSagna from Brazoswood High School: "Thank you! This will help me so much as I take my first steps on my journey into health care."

■ Abriana Nino from Brazosport High School: "The scholarship given to me will help me financially by getting me closer to my future nursing career. I am very appreciative of Altus Emergency Center."

■ Callie Cochran from

Angleton High School: "It is an honor to receive a scholarship from Altus, this award is going to help me so much in my medical education at Baylor University. With college being so expensive, everything helps! One day I hope to help people just like myself with their dreams of going into the medical field, just like Altus did for me."

Kris DeVries, adminis-

trator of Altus Emergency Center in Lake Jackson enjoyed the moment she met each of the winners, she said.

"It is extremely rewarding to be able to give back to the community that has shown us so much support over the last seven years," DeVries said. "I am very excited that these students are eager to begin their education toward a career in health care."

Nature

CONTINUED FROM COVER

(A6 and C6) and one male (K6). Unfortunately, the least tern nests all failed due to weather and disturbance.

For the Colorado River Mouth Flats, we had one Wilson's plover nest successfully hatch two chicks, which we were able to band. We also discovered three mystery broods. Two of the broods have three chicks each. We were only able to band one of the three chicks for each brood. The third mystery brood only has one chick, which we banded as well. We currently have two active nests at Colorado River Mouth Flats.

We haven't observed any nesting Wilson's plover or least terns at Three-mile Cut or Dunes Drive.

So far, we have eight active nests, 12 chicks, four banded adults and eight banded chicks total for Matagorda.

Sargent Beach has still proven to be quite productive. So far, we had two Wilson's plover nests hatch with one chick each, and we managed to band both of them. Along

with chicks, we banded four new Wilson's plover adults: three females (Y5, E6 and H6) and one male (J6). We currently have three active nests at Sargent.

The least terns are having to continue to re-nest due to weather and disturbance from vehicles. So far, we have two active nests, two chicks, four banded adults and two banded chicks for Sargent.

April through August is the time when Wilson's plovers, least terns and other nesting birds are most vulnerable. Please remember to fish, swim and play 50 yards away from nesting birds and chicks. Drive slowly, avoid the dunes and sandy areas where plovers tend to nest, and keep dogs on a leash.

All of the Wilson's plover adults and chicks we band this year will be available for symbolic adoption through our online nature store at www.gcbo.org. On behalf of Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, thanks for reading.

Taylor Bennett is a coastal biologist for the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. Learn more about the observatory at gcbo.org.

Scan

CONTINUED FROM COVER

"We finally got to do it once COVID simmered down a little bit. That's sort of how we came about."

The response hasn't been in the numbers hoped, but work is continuing to bring awareness to the project.

"We've only held it the one day, and basically we had more outreach come from it, so more people found out about it by stopping by while they were at the farmers market," museum Executive Director David Thomas said. "We don't have a regular schedule for the event. We are going to hold more of them. There may be — again, over at the Alden B. Dow building, but also we may do it here, in the future."

"So our goal is two-fold — we're trying to offer digitization services to the public, and at the same time, we hope that some of the things they'll bring in will be of historical relevance that then we can utilize in our exhibits and online."

The secondary benefit to the public is most



JENNA KIESER/The Facts

An old typewriter sits on the bottom shelf of a closet filled with archives at the Lake Jackson Historical Museum. The museum keeps several artifacts in the archives, so they can be protected and displayed at other times.

people don't know good archival practices, and common scrapbooking behaviors are detrimental to the long-term preservation of these kind of materials.

"One of the most common things is early photo albums that were used for scrapbooks as well, have that sticky glue in them, and then that film that went over it," Thomas said. "So many people put their photos and their historical documents in those, and

Gin

CONTINUED FROM COVER

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Here is a refreshing recipe from our Becky in Washington. If she sends it in, it is good.

WATERMELON WHIP

Cut watermelon in half. Cut the fruit into pieces and freeze. Keep the two empty halves of the watermelon to be used as bowls. Then you'll need 2 cups cubed/frozen watermelon, 2 cups frozen strawberries and 1/4 cup almond milk.

Combine the watermelon and strawberries and almond milk in blender. Blend. Place blended watermelon whip into the emptied watermelon bowls.

Of course, you would use the small watermelons for this recipe to use as a bowl. Or if you are a real big fan, such as I am for watermelon, you could use the large ones. Or you could use the large anyway to make this dish; you just don't have to use as a bowl. One thing about using the big ones is you would still have lots of watermelon left to eat!

Thank you, Becky, for this refreshing recipe. With our temperatures in the 90s and heat index in the 100s, that would be a real treat.

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Here are some easy recipes for the good old summer time backyard grilling. Easy! These are coming to you from Pillsbury.

HONEY-GARLIC CHICKEN FOIL PACK

INGREDIENTS

- 2 pounds chicken wings and drumsticks
- 1 teaspoon vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 3 cloves garlic, finely chopped

DIRECTIONS

Heat gas or charcoal grill. Spray large sheet or foil with cooking spray.

In large bowl, mix 2 pounds chicken wings and drumsticks, 1 teaspoon vegetable oil, 2 tablespoons honey, 1 tablespoon soy sauce and 3 cloves garlic, finely chopped; toss to coat. Place chicken on foil. Bring up 2 sides of foil so edges meet. Seal edges, making tight 1/2-inch fold; fold again, allowing space for heat circulation and expansion. Fold other sides to seal.

Place packs on grill over medium heat. Cover grill; cook 25 minutes, turning once halfway

through cook time. Remove packs from grill. Carefully fold back foil.

TIPS: Garnish with 1/4 teaspoon sesame seed and 1 tablespoon chopped fresh cilantro, if desired.

Use heavy-duty foil to prevent tears when turning. Give your chicken some extra Asian flair by substituting sesame oil for vegetable oil.

RANCH CHICKEN AND POTATO FOIL PACKS

INGREDIENTS

- 1 bag (20-ounce) refrigerated cooked new potato wedges
- 6 boneless skinless chicken thighs (about 20 ounces) cut in half
- 1 1/4 cups low-fat or regular ranch dressing
- 4 slices precooked bacon, chopped
- 1/4 cup chopped green onions (4 medium)
- 1/2 teaspoon coarse ground black pepper

DIRECTIONS

Heat gas or charcoal grill. Cut four 18-by-12-inch sheets of Reynolds Wrap Heavy Duty Foil; spray foil with cooking spray.

For each packet, place about 1 cup potato wedges and three thigh halves onto center of foil sheet. Drizzle with scant 1/3 cup dressing. Wrap each packet securely using double-fold seals, allowing room for heat expansion.

When grill is heated, place foil packets, seam side up, on gas grill over medium heat or on charcoal grill over medium coals; cover grill. Cook 45 to 50 minutes or until juice of chicken is clear when center of thickest part is cut (180 degrees) and potatoes are tender.

Open packets carefully to allow steam to escape. Sprinkle each with bacon, onions, and pepper.

TIPS: Look for precooked bacon in the meat or deli department of the supermarket.

Using reduced-fat ranch dressing in place of the regular ranch dressing will reduce the fat per serving by about 13 grams and the calories by about 115.

To bake packets, place on large cookie sheet; bake at 400 degrees using times above as a guide.

Be smart in this heat! I've had a heat stroke and it is not fun, believe me. Stay well-hydrated and in the shade as much as possible when outside. If I have something to do outside, I do it late in the afternoon or more likely in the evening before dark. I am not an early riser!

If you have recipes or tips to share, or a request, send to [Conversations with Gin, P.O. Box 334, Clute, TX. 77531](mailto:ConversationswithGin@P.O.Box334.Clute.TX.77531), or