

MUSINGS

www.gregghistorical.org

Spring and Summer 2026

A PUBLICATION OF THE GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM



EAGLE CAPITAL



ADVISORS

OUR DEDICATION TO SERVING OTHERS STARTS WITH YOU

GIVE US A CALL - 903.236.5300

OFFICE LOCATION - 140 E. TYLER ST. STE 240, LONGVIEW

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



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As we welcome the New Year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible dedication and support that carried the Gregg County Historical Museum through another memorable year. Whether you served on our staff, volunteered your time, supported us as a member, or simply walked through our doors with curiosity and appreciation for local history—thank you. Your commitment keeps our mission alive.

2025 was a year of growth and connection. From new exhibits and educational programs to preservation projects and community events, each milestone we reached was made possible by people like you. The dedication of our staff, the selfless service of our volunteers, and the continued loyalty of our members form the foundation of our success.

As we step into 2026, we look forward to expanding our reach, enriching our programs, and continuing to honor the rich heritage of Gregg County. With your continued involvement and support, we are confident this year will be one of progress, preservation, and pride in our shared history.

We were thrilled to partner with Leadership Longview, whose members took on the meaningful task of improving our children's area. Their hard work and vision are transforming the space into an even more engaging, educational, and welcoming environment for our youngest visitors. We are excited for the many young minds who will be inspired by history through this renewed space.

In addition, we are deeply thankful to the Hollandsworth Foundation for their continued support and generous donation toward the renovation of the Dalton Gang Exhibit. Their longstanding commitment to the museum has made a meaningful impact on our community, allowing for significant improvements that ensure the exhibit remains engaging and educational for residents and visitors alike. 2026 is already shaping up to be an exciting year for the museum as we join the nationwide celebration of America 250—the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. This historic milestone provides an opportunity to reflect on our nation's founding principles, to honor the diverse stories that have shaped its history, and to engage communities in meaningful dialogue about the American experience. In recognition of America 250, the museum will present special exhibits, programs, and educational initiatives that highlight both national history and its local connections. These efforts will invite visitors of all ages to explore the past, to understand the present, and to envision the future while fostering civic pride and historical awareness. With your continued involvement, we will keep building on our momentum expanding our programs, deepening our community ties, and bringing Gregg County's stories to life for generations to come. At this time, I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our past president, Marcus Welch, for his outstanding leadership and guidance during his tenure as Board President. His vision, commitment, and dedication to our mission have made a lasting impact on the museum. On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, thank you for your tireless efforts, wisdom, and unwavering support. I wish you and your families a joyful, healthy, and inspiring New Year. Here's to another year of making history together!

Angela Choy
GCHM President



ADMISSION

\$5 Adults, \$2 Senior Citizens, \$1 Students
FREE to Museum Members

GCHM HOURS

Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.



214 North Fredonia Street
Longview, TX 75601 903-753-5840

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MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Gregg County Historical Museum is to preserve and exhibit, for public benefit, education and enjoyment, the historical heritage of Gregg County.

GCHM - CALENDAR EVENTS

February 19, 2026 - Lecture Series - **WOMEN IN THE RODEO** - 5:30 pm - Martha Josey - Rodeo Legend

February 28, 2026 - Tiny Thinkers - **LET'S TALK ABOUT THE RODEO!** 9:00am - 10:00am

March 19, 2026 - Lecture Series - **RODEO** - 5:30pm

March 28, 2026 - Tiny Thinkers - **INSECTS** 9:00am - 10:00am

April 9, 2026 - Ribbon cutting - **LEADERSHIP LONGVIEW**

April 11, 2026 - **DALTON DAYS** 12 - 4:00pm

April 11, 2026 - **GREGG COUNTY- 250 KICK OFF CELEBRATION**

April 21, 2026 - Exhibit opens **WHEELS THAT FORMED A NATION**

April 25, 2026 - Tiny Thinkers - **LET'S LOOK AT CARS!** 9:00am - 10:00am

TBA - April - **2026 ROBOTICS COMPETITION**

May 7, 2026 - Lecture Series 5:30pm

May 21, 2026 - Lecture Series 5:30pm

May 23, 2026 - Tiny Thinkers - **LET'S GO CAMPING!** 9:00am - 10:00am

June 4 - 5, 2026 - **CUB CLUB CAMP** 1st - 3rd Grades, 10:00am - 12:00pm

June 27, 2026 - Tiny Thinkers - **TRACTORS** 9:00am - 10:00am

June 27, 2026 - **CANNIBAL BLOCK PARTY** 1:00pm - 3:00pm

July 21 - 24, 2026 - **"WHEELS IN MOTION" - SUMMER CAMP** 4th - 7th Grades, 9:00am - 12:00pm



The Gregg County Historical Museum



Preservation Award Reception Honoring Gay Kirkland and Lucy Harrison



Held on Sept.12, 2025
Special thanks to
Jill and Frank
Chaney



GREGG COUNTY

A Brief History of Gregg County

Long before Texas became a state, the Caddo people lived in what is now Gregg County. They built thriving villages, farmed the rich soil, and traded widely across East Texas. By the early 1800s, Anglo-American settlers arrived, drawn by fertile land, tall pines, and opportunity.

Gregg County was created in 1873 from parts of Upshur, Rusk, and Harrison counties, named for Confederate General John Gregg. Its county seat, Longview, grew quickly as a railroad hub. Cotton, timber, and other goods shipped through its depots, fueling commerce and making Longview the county's economic and cultural center.

The 1930s discovery of the East Texas Oil Field changed everything. Kilgore, once a small farming town, became the epicenter of the boom. Its skyline bristled with derricks standing shoulder to shoulder, earning worldwide fame. In 1935, Kilgore College opened, later home to the celebrated Rangerettes, the world's first precision drill team, who brought national attention to the community.

Nearby, Gladewater also transformed. Originally a logging and farming town, it erupted with oil activity during the boom years. When the frenzy faded, Gladewater reinvented itself, becoming known as the "Antique Capital of East Texas." Today, visitors browse its shops, enjoy its music history, and attend the Gladewater Rodeo, one of Texas's oldest.

Historic Windshield Tour



White Oak, west of Longview, shared in the oil excitement of the 1930s. Though smaller than Kilgore or Gladewater, the town grew quickly as oil workers and families poured in. White Oak built a reputation for strong schools and close-knit neighborhoods, and today remains a proud residential community while honoring its oilfield roots.

Together, Longview, Kilgore, Gladewater, and White Oak tell the story of Gregg County's resilience and transformation. From Native traditions and pioneer farming to the oil boom that reshaped East Texas, each community contributed to the county's identity.

Today, Gregg County thrives as a blend of history and progress. Oil remains important, but new industries in healthcare, manufacturing, and education have expanded the economy. Festivals, museums, and community traditions celebrate the region's heritage. Visitors can stroll downtown Longview, see Kilgore's World's Richest Acre, shop antiques in Gladewater, or walk the friendly streets of White Oak.





For more information about each stop on this tour, including historical background. Each location featured in the driving tour is listed, making it easy to follow along and learn more as you travel.

1. [Gregg County Historical Museum/Everett Building](#)
214 N Fredonia, Longview, 75601

2. [Longview Museum of Fine Art](#)
213 N Fredonia, Longview, 75601

3. [Gregg County Courthouse](#)
101 E Methvin, Longview, 75601

4. [Whaley House](#)
101 E Whaley, Longview, 75601

5. [Petroleum Building](#)
202 E Whaley, Longview, 75601

6. [First United Methodist Church](#)
400 N Fredonia St, Longview, 75601

7. [Magrill Plaza](#)
500 N Green St, Longview, 75601

8. [Greenwood Cemetery](#)
705 Magrill, Longview, 75601

9. [First Christian Church](#)
720 N. Sixth St, Longview, 75601

10. [Nugget Hill Historic District](#)
802 N Sixth St, Longview, 75601

11. [Boy Scout Hut Troop 201](#)
1201 Park Lane, Longview, 75601

12. [Teague Park](#)
415 American Legion Blvd, Longview, 75601

13. [Teague House](#)
22 Teague St, Longview, 75601

14. [Longview Train Depot](#)
905 Pacific Ave, Longview, 75601

15. [Harmon Hospital/Speer Chapel](#)
2100 S Mobberly, Longview, 75601

16. [Northcutt House](#)
313 S Fredonia, Longview, 75601

17. [Longview Municipal Building/Central Fire Station](#)
100 E Cotton St, Longview, 75601

18. [Utzman Farmhouse](#)
602 W South St, Longview, 75601

19. [Kilgore Public Library](#)
301 N Henderson, Kilgore, 75662

20. [East Texas Oil Museum/Rangerette Showcase/Shakespeare Garden](#)
1301 S Henderson, Kilgore, 75662

21. [Liggett Crim Home](#)
2023 S Henderson Blvd, Kilgore, 75662

22. [Historic Meadowbrook Neighborhood](#)
1306 Houston St, Kilgore, 75662

23. [World's Richest Acre](#)
100 N Commerce, Kilgore, 75662

24. [Kilgore Train Depot](#)
100 Commerce, Kilgore, 75662

25. [Kilgore History and Arts Center](#)
200 S Kilgore St, Kilgore, 75662

26. [Deen-Keener Crim House](#)
112 S Kilgore, Kilgore, 75662

27. [Crim/Texan Theater](#)
112 S Kilgore, Kilgore, 75662

28. [Rock Springs Schoolhouse](#)
1177 Old Hwy 135 N, Gladewater, 75647

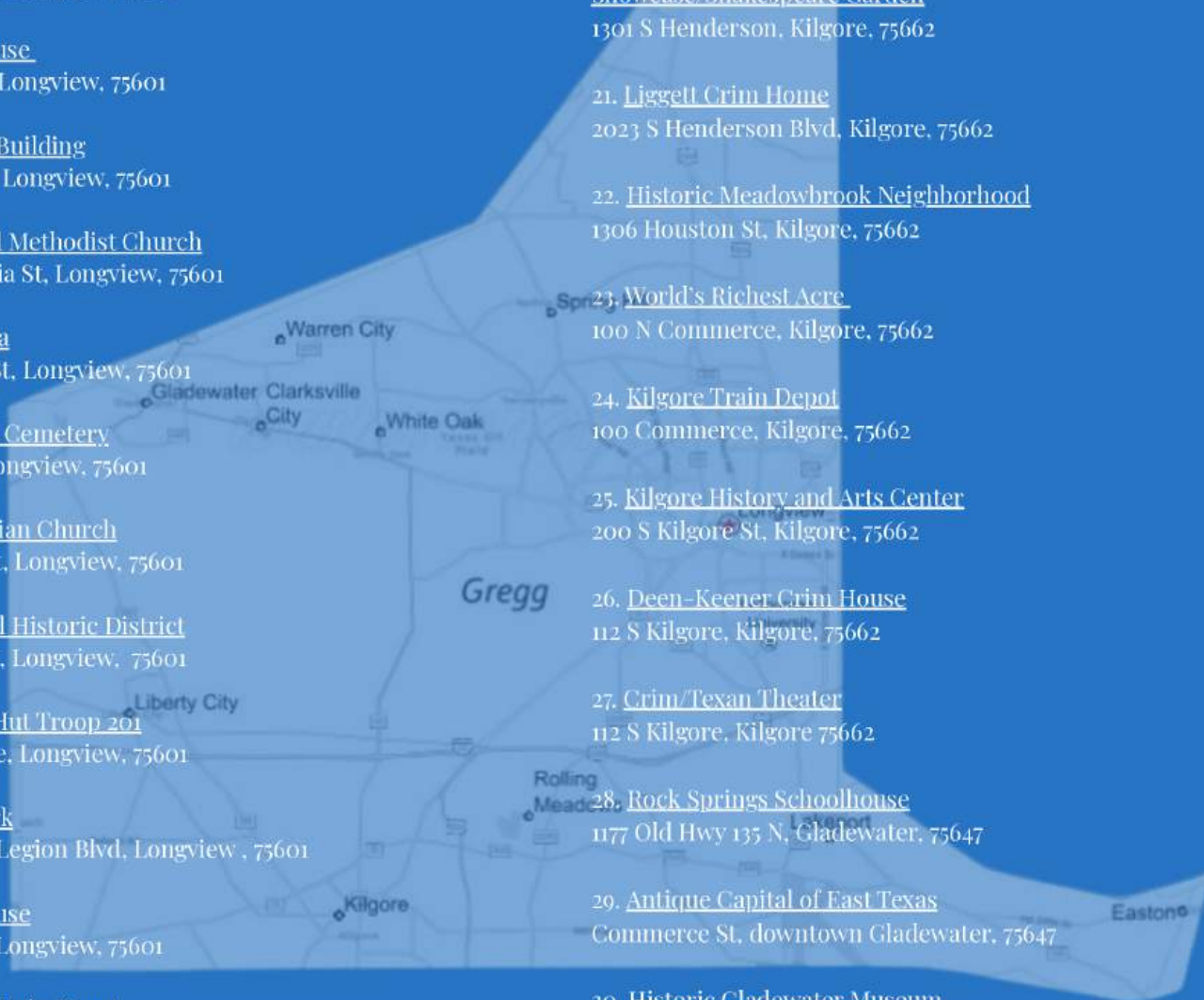
29. [Antique Capital of East Texas](#)
Commerce St, downtown Gladewater, 75647

30. [Historic Gladewater Museum](#)
116 W Pacific, Gladewater, 75647

31. [The Jackson Theater](#)
108 E Commerce, Gladewater, 75647

32. [Shiloh School](#)
1331 Shiloh Rd, White Oak, 75604

33. [Derricks on Sabine River](#)
Hwy 42 between White Oak and I-20





The Gregg County Historical Museum invites you to explore

Where Freedom Rides

In honor of America 250, this exhibit traces how rodeo grew from ranch work and frontier life into a beloved tradition that celebrates courage, skill, and self-reliance. Through sport, music, and pageantry, rodeo connects us to the American West and shaped American identity through enduring ties to freedom, the land, and shared pride.

Tuesday - Friday
10:00 am - 2:00
Saturday
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
214 N Fredonia
Longview, Tx 75601



This program brought to you, in part, by a grant from the City of Longview.

NEW SUMMER CAMP AT THE MUSEUM

Cub club

GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

JUNE 4TH & 5TH
10:00AM - 12:00PM

REGISTER
ONLINE
TODAY



FOR GRADES
1ST - 3RD

Each camper will receive a Cub Club membership to the museum, a hard hat with stickers and a box full of activities

CAMP ACTIVITIES:

Storytelling | Painting | Treasure Hunting | Music & Dance |
Arts & Crafts | Interactive Games | & More

Email us for more information at education@gregghistorical.org

REGISTRATION:

\$35



Scholarships
Available



MAIN OFFICE

411 W Cotton St
Longview, TX 75601

EMAIL: wildts.wiring@gmail.com

PHONE: 903-720-4123



CONTACT MUSEUM
DIRECTOR
JENNIFER WHITE BY PHONE
903-753-5840 OR BY EMAIL
DIRECTOR@GREGGHISTORI
CAL.ORG
TO DESIGNATE GREGG
COUNTY HISTORICAL
FOUNDATION AS A
RECIPIENT
OF THE PLANNED GIFT

THE GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM IS PROUD TO INTRODUCE **THE GCHM LEGACY ENDOWMENT**, AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO VALUE THE PRESERVATION OF OUR REGION'S HISTORY. BY BECOMING A LEGACY MEMBER, YOU PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN SUSTAINING THE MUSEUM'S MISSION TO PROTECT AND SHARE THE STORIES THAT SHAPE OUR COMMUNITY. YOUR SUPPORT ENSURES THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS CAN CONTINUE TO LEARN FROM AND BE INSPIRED BY THE PAST.

AS A VALUED **GCHM LEGACY ENDOWMENT** MEMBER, YOU WILL BE INVITED TO SPECIAL EVENTS THAT CREATE MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS BETWEEN DONORS AND MUSEUM VISITORS. THESE EXPERIENCES ARE DESIGNED TO DEEPEN YOUR ENGAGEMENT WITH THE MUSEUM WHILE PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES TO INTERACT WITH OTHERS WHO SHARE A PASSION FOR LOCAL HISTORY. IT IS A CHANCE TO SEE YOUR IMPACT IN ACTION AND TO BE PART OF A COMMUNITY THAT VALUES CULTURAL PRESERVATION.

TO HONOR YOUR COMMITMENT, **YOUR NAME** WILL BE PERMANENTLY DISPLAYED ON THE MUSEUM'S LEGACY ENDOWMENT WALL. THIS LASTING TRIBUTE RECOGNIZES YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION AND CELEBRATES YOUR DEDICATION TO HISTORY AND EDUCATION.

JOIN US IN BUILDING A LEGACY THAT WILL BE REMEMBERED AND APPRECIATED FOR YEARS TO COME.

*Thank
you!*

LANDMARK SPONSORS

BRICKS & MORTAR SPONSOR
THE CRAIN FOUNDATION

FOUNDATION SPONSORS
VERABANK
EVELYN BOLDING

EXCAVATOR SPONSORS
10 DARBA AND FRANK JACKSON

Landmarks of LONGVIEW



25th Annual
Gregg County Historical Museum
Architectural Home Tour

BUILDER SPONSORS
TEXAS BANK AND TRUST
ORIGIN BANK
DEBBIE AND JIM HANCOCK

**THIS EVENT IS MADE POSSIBLE, IN PART, THROUGH A
GRANT FROM THE CITY OF LONGVIEW!**

Wild West Show

REENACTMENTS AT 12PM, 1PM, 2PM & 3PM

SATURDAY
APRIL 11

FREE
EVENT

DALTON DAYS

GREGG CO HISTORICAL MUSEUM

32ND ANNUAL

Festivities

LIVE
MUSIC



FOOD
TRUCKS



PETTING
ZOO

LOCAL ARTISANS, FACE PAINTING, GAMES, AUTHENTIC CRAFTS &
DEMONSTRATIONS

903.753.5840 ~ WWW.GREGGHISTORICAL.ORG

VENDOR REGISTRATION NOW OPEN CALL GCHM 903-753-5840
FOR DETAILS

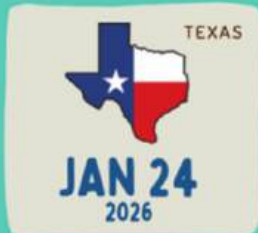
FREDONIA ST. DOWNTOWN LONGVIEW

THIS EVENT IS MADE POSSIBLE, IN PART, THROUGH A
GRANT FROM THE CITY OF LONGVIEW!

TINY THINKERS

AT THE GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

KIDS 5 AND YOUNGER are invited for an age appropriate book followed by crafts and activities on the 4th **Saturday** of each month from **9AM to 10AM** at the Gregg County Historical Museum.



**SCHEDULE A
GROUP TOUR**

FIELD TRIPS,
PRIVATE EVENTS,
QUIETER SETTINGS



FOLLOW US ON



MUSEUM HOURS
TUES-FRI 10AM-4PM
SATURDAY 10AM-2PM
GREGGHISTORICAL.ORG



THANK YOU TO THE CITY OF LONGVIEW



CULTURAL ARTS GRANT



A SEVEN MEMBER COMMISSION REVIEWS AND RECOMMENDS ARTS AND CULTURE GRANTS TO THE CITY COUNCIL, FUNDED BY A PORTION OF THE CITY'S HOTEL/MOTEL TAX. THE GRANTS AIM TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS THAT ATTRACT BOTH TOURISTS AND LOCAL RESIDENTS.

**K-8TH TRAINS:
FULL STEAM AHEAD**

**K-8TH INDIANS:
THE CADDO**

**4TH/5TH GRADE:
THE TEXAS REVOLUTION**

**6TH/8TH GRADE:
WOMEN IN THE WAR EFFORT**

**10TH/11TH GRADE:
WHO IS THE ENEMY HERE?**

**HISTORY DETECTIVES
ADAPTABLE FOR ALL GRADE LEVELS**

TRAVELING TRUNKS

**GREGG COUNTY
HISTORICAL
MUSEUM
EDUCATIONAL
PROGRAMS**

Gregg County Historical Museum offers a traveling trunk program which brings the museum to the classroom. Each trunk contains lesson plans, hands-on activities, and three-dimensional artifacts for the students to handle. All museum programs directly address grade specific Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

About travel trunks:

- Trunks are free to teachers, librarians, homeschool co-ops.
- Trunks may be picked up at the Gregg County Historical Museum.
- Trunks are checked out for up to 10 school days.

All trunks include:

- A curriculum guide, activities, and lesson plans based on TEKS.
- Background information and supplemental activities
- Hands-on objects and artifacts

EMPOWERING EDUCATION



Visit Us Today

214 N. Fredonia St.
Longview, TX, 75601
(903) 753-5840



John Post



THE GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM IS HONORED TO RECOGNIZE JOHN POST, WHOSE LIFE EXEMPLIFIES DEDICATION, SERVICE, AND STRONG COMMUNITY VALUES. BORN IN TYLER, TEXAS, JOHN SPENT MOST OF HIS LIFE IN LONGVIEW, WHERE HE BECAME KNOWN FOR HIS RELIABILITY AND STEADY WORK ETHIC. HIS COMMITMENT TO SERVICE LED HIM TO ENLIST IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS, WHERE HE WAS STATIONED IN CALIFORNIA AND SERVED HIS COUNTRY WITH PRIDE AND DISTINCTION.

AFTER HIS MILITARY SERVICE, JOHN BEGAN A LONG AND RESPECTED CAREER WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE. HE RETIRED IN 1992 AFTER 30 YEARS, THOUGH HIS REMARKABLE ATTENDANCE AND UNUSED SICK LEAVE EARNED HIM THE EQUIVALENT OF 40 YEARS OF CREDITED SERVICE, A TESTAMENT TO HIS PERSEVERANCE AND DEDICATION. AS TOMMY EAKER ONCE NOTED, "HE WAS A GOOD SQUIRREL HUNTER, A HARD WORKER, HE WORKED SEVEN DAYS A WEEK ABOUT TWELVE HOURS A DAY," A DESCRIPTION THAT CAPTURES THE DETERMINATION THAT DEFINED JOHN'S LIFE.

FAMILY HAS ALWAYS PLAYED A CENTRAL ROLE IN JOHN'S JOURNEY. HE IS THE PROUD FATHER OF ONE DAUGHTER, GRANDFATHER TO ONE GRANDDAUGHTER, AND GREAT GRANDFATHER TO TWO GREAT GRANDSONS. NOW 88 YEARS OLD, HE CONTINUES TO INSPIRE THOSE AROUND HIM THROUGH HIS EXPERIENCES AND OUTLOOK ON LIFE. IN HIS FREE TIME, JOHN ENJOYS ATTENDING ESTATE SALES, FOLLOWING HORSE RACING, AND VISITING CASINOS, INTERESTS THAT REFLECT HIS CURIOSITY AND APPRECIATION FOR LIFE.

AS A VOLUNTEER AT THE GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM, JOHN BRINGS THE SAME SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AND COMMITMENT THAT MARKED HIS MILITARY AND PROFESSIONAL CAREERS. HIS CONTRIBUTIONS HELP PRESERVE GREGG COUNTY'S HISTORY AND STRENGTHEN THE MUSEUM'S CONNECTION TO THE COMMUNITY. THE MUSEUM IS PROUD TO FEATURE JOHN POST AS OUR VOLUNTEER IN FOCUS, CELEBRATING A LIFETIME OF SERVICE AND MEANINGFUL IMPACT.

Taking a LOOK BACK 2025



Thank You

Leadership Longview

**LEADERSHIP LONGVIEW MISSION:
TO STRENGTHEN AND TRANSFORM THE COMMUNITY OF LONGVIEW
THROUGH A PROGRAM OF LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT,
COMMUNITY STUDY, AND INVOLVEMENT.**

**PRESERVING THE PAST, INSPIRING THE FUTURE: GCHM RECEIVES
LEADERSHIP LONGVIEW GRANT**



Scan to Donate

**Cozy Family-owned Thai eatery
with made-to-order dishes in
the heart of downtown Longview.**

The Gregg County Historical Museum extends its heartfelt thanks to Lil' Thai House for your generous support. Your contribution helps us preserve local history, provide meaningful educational experiences, and continue serving our community. We appreciate your partnership and commitment to our mission.



212 N Fredonia St, Longview, TX 75601

Phone: (903) 236-0155

11-2 Monday - Friday

Capital Campaign

Foundation

Gregg County's early history and formation, highlighting key milestones that shaped its development. The exhibit traces the county's evolution, including difficult chapters such as the 1919 race riots and delayed integration, while emphasizing the community's growth and resilience leading to present-day successes.

Industry

Gregg County's success is rooted in its blue-collar heritage, such as agriculture, oil, and gas, highlighted by artifacts like a model oil rig. The exhibit traces the shift to modern industries such as chemicals, manufacturing, and shipping, showcasing the county's growth into an industrial and engineering hub, specific to Gregg County.

Transportation

This exhibit shows how transportation has driven Gregg County's growth, from roots as a railroad town to the rise of the East Texas Regional Airport. Highlights include a large train platform and physical map, the county's role in the Great Texas Balloon Race, and a hot air balloon VR experience.



Commerce

Gregg County's commercial growth in Gregg County from early mercantile shops to today's global retail presence, including the Gap and Dollar General distribution centers. The exhibit highlights the shift from traditional storefronts to digital commerce, with local experiences.

Military

The deep military ties of Gregg County are focused on service and sacrifice from 1872 onward. With the largest exhibit footprint, it features extensive artifacts such as medals, weapons, uniforms, photographs, and oral histories. The new exhibit will also house the Galvan Research Library for Military and International Affairs that will house primary and secondary source documents open to the public during regular museum hours for enjoyment, education, and research.

Recognition Levels

Legacy Circle \$30,000+

Celebrate your impact with our highest honor.

- Permanent naming opportunity
- Personalized recognition plaque
- Featured in press release & campaign spotlight
- VIP invitations to private events
- Listing on museum website & donor wall

Heritage Steward \$15,000–\$29,999

Lead the charge in honoring our community's story.

- Prominent name placement on donor wall
- Listing in campaign publications & website
- Private tour & VIP donor celebration invitation

Preservationist \$5,000–\$14,999

Support the museum's mission to educate and inspire.

- Recognition on donor wall
- Name in select printed materials & website
- Invitation to donor celebration event

Community Curator \$1,000–\$4,999

Protect the heritage that defines Gregg County.

- Name listed in donor materials & online
- Personal thank-you from museum leadership

Friend of the Museum Up to \$999

Join a proud tradition of grassroots support.

- Name included in final campaign report
- Option for anonymous giving

GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM Revitalize. Rediscover CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

FUNDS RAISED:

\$180,000

of our \$300,000 goal!



7th Annual
Kentucky Derby Party

Run for the Roses

*May 2nd, 4-7pm
at The Cherokee Club*

Lake Cherokee, NP-2 Lake Cherokee Dr, Longview, TX 75603

Gregg County Historical Museum

Sponsor Levels

Churchill Downs \$5,000

Table for 12 ~ Program & Social Media Recognition,
Table Sign Recognition, Signature Bottle of Woodford
Reserve, 12 Derby Glasses & Dedicated Unlimited Bar
Service

Secretariat \$2,500

Table for 10 ~ Program & Social Media Recognition,
Table Sign Recognition, Bottle of Wine, Naming
Recognition at Event Activity, Unlimited Bar Service

Preakness \$1,000

Table for 8 ~ Program & Social Media
Recognition, Table Sign Recognition, Bottle of
Wine, 4 Drink Tickets per person

Belmont \$500

Table for 4 ~ Sign Recognition at Table, 3 Drink
Tickets per person

Oaks Lily \$75

Individual Tickets include 2 Drink Tickets

Sponsors Receive: 20 Casino Chips,
\$10 Horse Betting & Hors d'Oeuvres

Additional drink tickets,
casino chips and horse
betting dollars may be
purchased.

903.753.5840
director@gregghistorical.org



NOW AVAILABLE!

*Dress to Impress! Derby Attire Encouraged
Best Hat ~ Best Bow Tie ~ Best Derby Couple
Horse Betting*



A LOOK BACK

The Kentucky Derby



Program

- 4:00 Entertainment Begins
- 4:45 Best Hat, Bow Tie & Couple Contest
- 5:24 Race Begins
- 6:00 Win, Place, Show Winners
- 7:00 Casino Chip In

- *Fabulous Prizes
- *Casino Games
- *Silent Auction
- *Hors d'Oeuvres
- *Signature Bourbon Cocktails
- *Mint Juleps

South Green Miniature Golf Course

By: Marc Welch

Did you know Gregg County was once home to one of the best miniature golf courses in Texas? The South Green Miniature Golf in Longview was honored in the August 1985, issue of Texas Monthly that featured it as one of eight best courses in Texas. Author Joe Nick Patoski stated, "Small fountains, neat brick walkways, planter boxes, exotic flower beds, and tiny Christmas lights strung through the bushes make the setting all the more appealing. For dedicated minigolfers, South Green offers the ideal mix of fantasy and challenge." Today, the almost four acres on Longview's South Green Street is a lost landmark of Gregg County.

The story of the course began in California where James Mauldin experienced miniature golf courses while in the Navy and wanted to bring it to East Texas. In 1943, he and his brother, B.P. Mauldin, purchased the property on South Green near Harmon Hospital where the course would be located. In the summer of 1946, James and Lorene Mauldin opened the South Green Miniature Golf Course. The cost of playing was 25 cents during the day and 30 cents in the evenings. In the summer of 1947, they added a watermelon garden, with whole, half or slices available for patrons.

For years the course was a family affair with the children helping where needed. Daughter Linda worked in the pay station, and son Bill helped keep the course in top shape. It was his job to dye the sawdust that was the course surface, bright green, and he and other neighborhood boys would "drag" the course with carpet to keep the surface playable. In 1978, the sawdust surface was replaced with artificial turf.

James Mauldin retired in 1978 after 32 years of running the business. Bill Mauldin and his wife Layla began operation of the popular attraction which by the 1980s cost \$1.50 for 18 holes. In 1981 an additional course was added next to the original, with James Mauldin laying out and constructing every hole. Bill kept the course open until at the age of 80 it became too much for him to continue operating. The course closed in the 1990s.

Lyla Mauldin's only regret was that a guest book was never started which would have settled the debate if Elvis ever played the course; Lorene says he did! It is known that country singer Lefty Frizzell, pro golfer Jackie Cupit, pianist Van Cliburn, and actress Sandy Duncan did play there, along with thousands of Gregg County adults and kids who still carry fond memories of this South Green landmark.



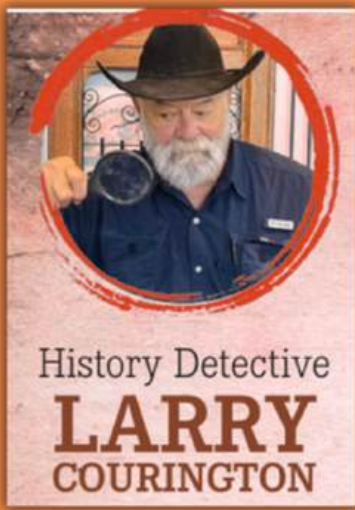
LOST LANDMARKS

WHEELS THAT FORMED A NATION



Exhibit Opens April 21, 2026

From wagon wheels pushing westward to roaring car engines, spinning vinyl, flashing movie reels, and the earthshaking tracks that built our cities, this exhibit reveals how every turning wheel helped drive America's story. As we celebrate America 250, discover the powerful "wheels within wheels" that fueled innovation, shaped culture, and forged a nation always moving boldly forward. These artifacts do not just show how America grew; they show how people powered that growth. Step inside and experience the forces that kept a country in motion and molded the American identity itself. See how each wheel reflects a moment of bold imagination and witness how those moments still propel who we are today.



The Harriet Courington Bird Collection

Among the most cherished displays at the Gregg County Historical Museum is the beautiful collection of porcelain birds assembled by the late Harriet Courington. Over several decades, Harriet cultivated an exquisite array of more than 50 sculpted birds, many created by Bob Gage and Jeff Recham, artists for the Danbury Mint. Each figure captures the delicate grace and vibrant color of its real-life counterpart, reflecting Harriet's deep appreciation for nature and art.

For Harriet, the collection was more than decoration, it was a heartfelt passion. Every bird held a special place in her heart, and her family played a loving role in expanding her flock. Her sons would gift her new pieces for birthdays, holidays, and every meaningful occasion, knowing how much joy each new arrival would bring. Together, these birds represent not only artistic craftsmanship but also the enduring bond of family and the joy of collecting. Today, the Gregg County Historical Museum proudly preserves Harriet Courington's collection as a testament to her lifelong love of beauty and nature.



The Doll Shop at Haven's Corners

by Lana Lynne



Books can transport you to places you may never visit in person. They can take you into the future or back into the past. As an avid reader, I have seen firsthand how books can carry you to unknown or even unreachable destinations. Whether it's a journey into the future or a trip into history, books can take you there. At first glance, the cover of *The Doll Shop at Haven's Corners* by Lana Lynne intrigued me because I knew it would lead me back to my childhood and a past that sometimes makes us forget. The novella starts with a young girl admiring a beautiful porcelain doll she sees in a small shop where Mrs. Sanderson and her friends work to find new homes for their dolls.

Readers meet Sara Jane, a little girl who, upon entering the doll shop, chooses a porcelain doll named Savannah and then changes her name to Tasha. This reminded me of the first baby doll I received from my grandmother, and how I immediately renamed it to what I thought it should be. Throughout the story, Sara Jane not only learns more about herself but also discovers her talent and uses it to tell the story of each doll. Her relationship with Mrs. Sanderson grows into a familial bond that stays with her throughout her life, making this story unforgettable. Lana Lynne has taken this story to new heights, exceeding all expectations. With every page, I felt like I was part of the Haven's Corner community and waiting in that Doll Shop to learn more about the dolls. This story is special because it shows how sharing a love for dolls and faith can bring people together. What I loved most was that it made me think about how childhood play can come alive again as we grow into adults. People often forget the toys, lessons, and even the people who come into their lives. This novella reminds us to hold on to those bonds and carry them with us into the future and how they can teach us to live, love, and have faith.

Christian Pippins

Local History and Genealogy Librarian



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On May 23, 1894, the bustling railroad town of Longview found itself on a collision course with the Wild West when a gang of outlaws, led by Bill Dalton, entered a local bank in broad daylight and escaped with more than \$2,000.

Now the Gregg County Historical Museum brings that dramatic day back to life with a renovated exhibit. Step inside to immersive sound, then explore a touchscreen experience featuring first-person biographical narratives that place visitors inside the story and reveal why this moment still echoes in Longview today.



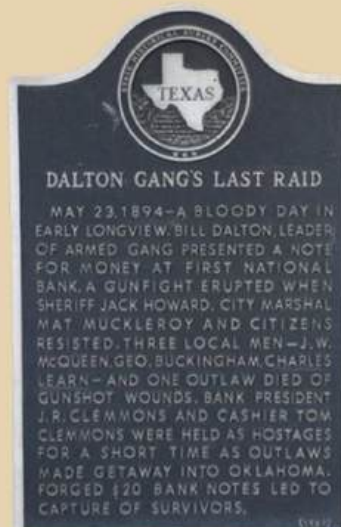
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Thank you for sharing your talents, your heart, and your time with us. You are truly the backbone of our museum, and we couldn't do it without you!



Interested in becoming a member? Memberships provide a significant portion of the funds that the museum uses throughout the year to provide educational events and resources for the community and all visitors!



Membership Benefits

	\$35 Senior	\$35 Educator	\$50 Individual	\$100 Family	\$250 Historian	\$500 Pioneer	\$1000 Industrialist	\$5000 Lifetime
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the community a window into
yesterday and achieve a close-knit
community today.

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Every membership and contribution actively supports a wide range of meaningful projects and programs at the Gregg County Historical Museum (GCHM). Each year, more than 1,500 students walk through the museum doors to experience hands-on history, immersive exhibits, and dynamic educational programming that brings local heritage to life. These visits spark curiosity and deepen learning by giving students real, tangible connections to East Texas history.

Donor support makes it possible to offer creative crafts and engaging STEM-based activities that inspire exploration and critical thinking. Interactive features such as the train table, oil derrick scenic design, and simulated hot air balloon chair invite young visitors and families to learn through play and discovery. Funding also powers beloved programs like Dalton Days, allowing the community to step back in time through memorable experiences.

In addition to student-centered programming, contributions help build lasting exhibits and celebrate community involvement. Projects like the Lifetime Membership Wall and the Kelly Plow exhibit honor both local history and those who help preserve it.



A Celebration of Heritage and Community

Balloon in FOCUS



Eastman Credit Union is proud to feature a vibrant balloon sculpture at our Pine Tree branch in Longview a symbol of our deep connection to this community and its rich traditions. This project was made possible through our support of the Gregg County Historical Museum, allowing us to join other local businesses in honoring Longview's legacy as the home of the Great Texas Balloon Race.

Our vision for the balloon was to blend ECU's commitment to the community with East Texas heritage in a fun and meaningful way. The design showcases longhorns, windmills, and bluebonnets in a whimsical style, reflecting the beauty of our region while incorporating ECU elements. This initiative also complements our role as title sponsor of the Great Texas Balloon Race, a partnership we proudly maintain to celebrate local culture and bring the community together. At ECU, we have served East Texas for more than 45 years, and our commitment goes beyond banking. Through community giving, financial education, and our promise of being beside our communities, we strive to enrich lives and support our members along life's journey with trusted, value adding products and services.



We were honored to collaborate with Jamie Robinson of Palette Mural Design, a talented local artist well known for her exceptional work. This was Jamie's first balloon design, and she brought our vision to life with creativity and passion. This sculpture is more than art it's a colorful reminder of ECU's dedication to East Texas and our promise to stand beside the communities we serve.



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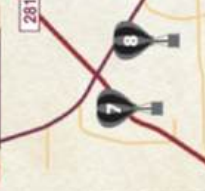
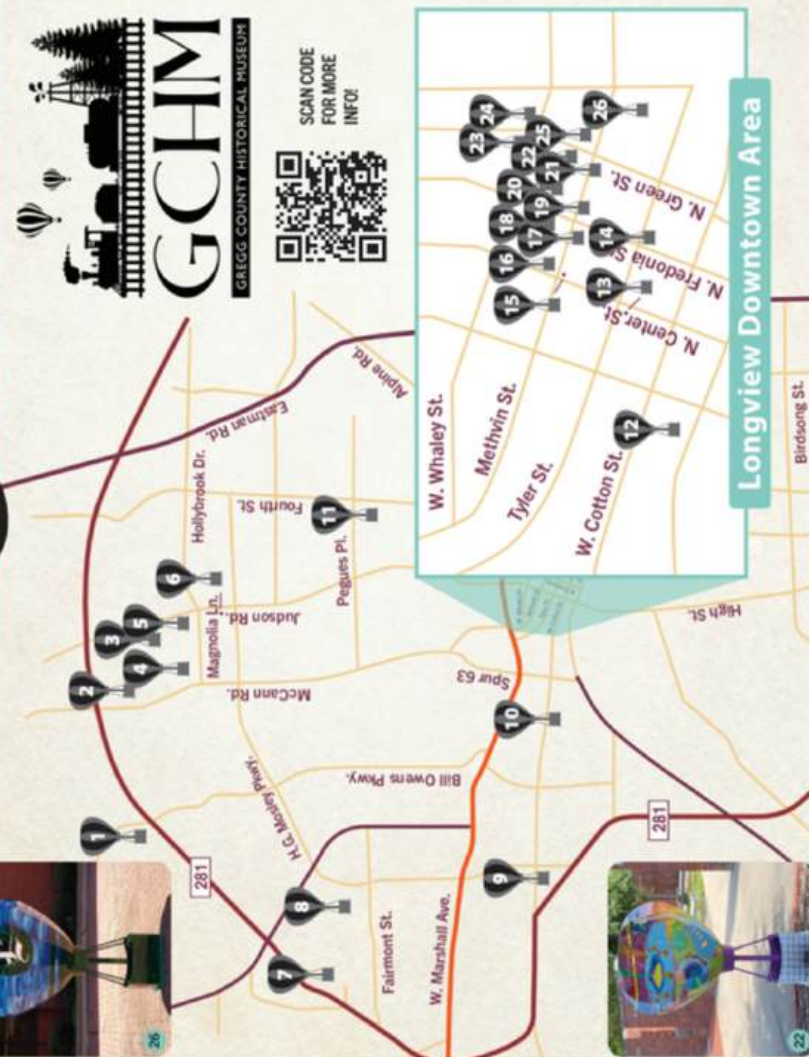


LIFT OFF! LONGVIEW! 2025-26

THE GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM BALLOON SCULPTURE MAP



1. JOHNSON & PACE
1201 W LOOP 281
2. LONGVIEW MALL
3500 MCCANN RD
3. HENRY & PETERS CPA
2101 JUDSON RD
4. CASA FLORA
314 MAGNOLIA LN
5. PRISTINE PROPERTY
MANAGEMENT
107 MAGNOLIA LN
6. LONGVIEW EYE
ASSOCIATES
1821 JUDSON RD
7. EASTMAN CREDIT UNION
PINE TREE
2002 W LOOP 281
8. PINE TREE HIGH
SCHOOL LIBRARY
900 NORTHWEST DR
9. LONGVIEW ANIMAL CARE
& ADOPTION CENTER
303 H.G. MOSLEY PKWY
10. MAUDE COBB
CONVENTION CENTER
100 GRAND BLVD
11. JUNIOR LEAGUE
OF LONGVIEW
1109 FOURTH ST
12. LONGVIEW PUBLIC
LIBRARY
222 W COTTON ST
13. BEER WELLS SERVICES
EAGLE CAPITAL
N CENTER ST & TYLER ST
14. N FREDONIA ST & TYLER ST
15. WILDT WIRING
N CENTER ST & METHVIN ST
SOUTHWEST CORNER
16. SWEPKO
N CENTER ST & E METHVIN ST
NORTHWEST CORNER
17. SUGAR MAGNOLIA
PROPERTIES
N FREDONIA & METHVIN ST
SOUTHWEST CORNER
18. TEXAS ONCOLOGY
N FREDONIA & METHVIN ST
NORTHWEST CORNER
19. GREGG COUNTY
HISTORICAL MUSEUM
N FREDONIA & METHVIN ST
SOUTHEAST CORNER
20. AIR CYBERNETICS
N FREDONIA & E METHVIN ST
NORTHWEST CORNER
21. VERABANK
N GREEN ST & E METHVIN ST
SOUTHWEST CORNER
22. 100 ACRES OF HERITAGE
N GREEN ST & E METHVIN ST
NORTHWEST CORNER
23. COMMUNITY
HEALTHCARE
N GREEN ST & W WHALEY ST
SOUTHWEST CORNER
24. TEXAS BANK AND
TRUST
N GREEN ST & W WHALEY ST
SOUTHWEST CORNER
25. LONGVIEW BALLET
N GREEN ST & E METHVIN ST
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26. LONGVIEW
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320 E METHVIN ST





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