

# Lobanillo

There are four faces of old Lobanillo, which straddles East Texas' oldest highway less than 20 miles from the Texas-Louisiana border.

But overriding the name is the fact that the site is considered to be one of the oldest places continuously occupied in East Texas.

First, of course, was La Lobanillo, the pueblo of Gil Ybarbo, where his mother and other refugees remained when Spain evacuated colonists from western Louisiana and East Texas in 1773.

When Lobanillo exchanged hands, it was known as Shawnee Village and later as Jimtown, a name shaped after the first names of Jim Halbert and Jim Willis.

And, finally, along came Geneva, today's name for the town at the intersection of El Camino Real (Texas Highway 21) and Farm Road 330 in northwestern Sabine County.

To tell the town's story, you have to reach back to when Ybarbo was born at Los Adaes, Louisiana, then the provincial capital of Spanish Texas, in 1729. His parents were colonists sent to Texas the same year from Andalusia, Spain.

At Los Adaes, Ybarbo married Maria Padilla and they settled on Lobanillo Creek in what is now Sabine County. They called their place Rancho Lobanillo.

When Spain recommended the abandonment of its missions and forts in East Texas, Ybarbo became the leader of the displaced persons of the area, who were given the choice of settling at San Antonio or the Rio Grande River.

When Ybarbo petitioned Spanish authorities to let the settlers return to their homes in East Texas in 1774, they were allowed to travel as far

## All Things Historical



By Bob Bowman

east as the Trinity River, where they founded the town of Bucareli in present-day Madison County.

But Ybarbo and his fellow settlers soon abandoned Bucareli and went to what is now Nacogdoches, where he is credited with laying out the town. He died at his home on the Attoyac River near Nacogdoches.

Lobanillo apparently did not have a post office during the Republic of Texas years, but on July 23, 1884, a U.S. post office was established with the name Geneva and William W. Johnson as the first postmaster.

In the latter part of the 1800s, Geneva began to grow and soon had a population of 150. It acquired several cotton gins, a gristmill, a hotel, two churches, a livery stable and at least five stores.

Sabine County's first independent school district was organized at Geneva in 1904. During the 1934-1935 school year, the community had 351 students.

The town lost its post office and the last cotton gin in Sabine County was operated by Joe Harris at Geneva until it went out of business in 1959.

Today's Geneva has only one store, a cluster of homes at the intersection of its two highways, and a number of collapsed buildings.

## Hank Rogers attends Isaiah's second annual Motorcycle Run

When it comes to tackling difficult issues and the needs of others, Hank Rogers can be found front and center, ready to lend a hand. No task is too small, or too large.

Take, for example, when Rogers learned of 10-year-old Jake Hardin's leukemia diagnosis.

Rogers, along with members of the Harvest Time Riders Motorcycle Ministry and many others, wasted no time organizing the 2nd Annual Isaiah's Motorcycle Run, and "Eatin' for Jake" barbecue fundraiser. Recently held at the Athens Wal-Mart, nearly 200 motorcyclists arrived in formation at the end of the run to pay tribute to the young lad from Murchison, and help raise funds for his treatment. "This is a tough time for him," Rogers said. "He's a great kid."

A fifth grader of the Murchison ISD, and the son of Matt and Stephanie Hardin, Jake is currently undergoing cancer treatment and hopes to return to school after the Christmas holidays.

"I feel like I'm famous," Jake said, of the celebration held in his honor complete with several members of the Athens Volunteer Fire Department, and the landing of the ETMC Air 1 helicopter.

Rogers is no stranger to the effects and devastation of cancer.

In May 2006, he endured chemo/radiation therapy for throat cancer, and has since been given a clean bill of health.

"This means everything to me," Rogers said during the fundraiser. "People really reached out to me when I was in his condition. I owe it to God to do this for him."

Believing he has been given another chance to serve others, Rogers tossed his hat in the ring to run on the Democratic ticket for Henderson County Pct. 3 Commissioner, and says he is truly dedicated to the office of County Commissioner if elected.

"First and foremost, I promise to be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week," Rogers said. "I also intend to be nothing less than frugal when it comes to budgeting and spending the hard earned dollars of the taxpayers. I will distribute those dollars evenly throughout the precinct."

Finding solutions to problems and helping people comes easy to Rogers. Aside from his business, Hank's Barber Shop, and serving as pastor of the Harvest Time Riders, Rogers helps out wherever he is needed.

"Helping people is what you're supposed to do," he said.

Although he ran unopposed in the March primary election, Rogers garnered 1,332 votes while his Republican opponent incumbent Ronny Lawrence, who also ran unopposed, collected 1,499 votes, a difference of 167 votes.

"We did real good in the primary, and I appreciate all the good folks of Precinct 3 voting for me," Rogers said. "I want to be your next County Commissioner, and promise to do my very best to serve the citizens of Pct. 3, if elected. Your support is greatly appreciated. Together we can make a difference."

Election Day is Tuesday, November 4.

## Friends and Flowers meets at newest member's home

by Dixie Taylor

On October 1st the "Friends and Flowers" garden club met in the home of one of its newest members, Carol Bridges.

It was a day spent in the "woods." Carol has a beautiful new home on twenty-seven acres and the drive winding through the woods to get to her house is something to behold.

First on the agenda was a business meeting. One of the topics discussed was how to best serve our community. Motions were made and carried on several suggestions, with three being, cleaning out closets and giving the clothes and shoes to those in need, collecting food for a local food bank, and giving the money to a worthy cause.

Activity planners for the month were Carol Bridges, Wanda McCreary and Carol Blakely with help from Billie Barker. Everyone brought a decorated sack lunch for their meal and there was a contest as to who had the best decorated sack. First place went to Lou Gossett and second place went to Iva Williams. A serving tray was given to

each. For dessert, Wanda McCreary baked mini pumpkin shaped cakes covered with cream cheese icing and served on ice cream.

After lunch the ladies made stuffed cloth pumpkins. For anyone who might be interested in making one, the instructions are as follows. Cut a circle from any kind of orange cloth. (Our pumpkins were made from a chenille bedspread.) The circles were drawn by laying a medium size pizza pan on the cloth, drawing a line around it and then cutting it out. Next you make large stitches with a strong thread all the way around the circle. Pull thread so circle will gather up. Leave a hole (a little larger than a quarter) in the top, knot thread securely and then stuff with poly or cotton stuffing. Cut three felt leaves and a stem, attach with glue and then have a Happy Halloween!

Ladies attending the garden club meeting were Jean Dean, Martha Hardwick, Dixie Taylor, Joyce Jordan, Lou Gossett, Pat McBride, Murlene Wommack, Bobbie Sparks, Iva Williams, Billie Barker, Carol Blakely, Wanda McCreary and hostess Carol Bridges.

## Brownsboro Junior High School STUDENTS OF THE WEEK



Hunter Cave  
8th Grade

Parents: Robin and Warren Cave

Brothers/Sisters: Kaley Cave

Hobbies: Drawing, surfing the internet and watch/play on television



Megan Alexander  
7th Grade

Parents: Kristi and Ted Alexander

Brothers/Sisters: Kaylie Alexander

Hobbies: Reading, writing

## Problem banks multiply, find where your bank is

BauerFinancial, Inc. Coral Gables, Florida announces that 63% of the nation's banks are still strong and recommended by the research firm (i.e. rated 5-Stars or 4-Stars). Granted, problem institutions (those rated 2-Stars or below) have been multiplying in recent quarters, but they still represent only 5% of the industry.

That leaves another 28% in the middle ground (rated 3-Stars or 3-1/2-Stars) and 4% that are too new to rate. (BauerFinancial will not

rate a bank until it has seen two complete years of data.)

"There are plenty of strong banks all over the country," says Karen Dorway, president of the research firm. "The key is to do your homework ... which is easier than you might think."

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## POLITICAL CALENDAR

Henderson County  
**General Election**  
Nov. 4, 2008

### HC Sheriff

**Bill Casey (D)**

Pol. Ad Pd. by Democratic Party  
207 N. Prairieville St. Athens, TX 75751

**Ray Nutt (R)**

Pol. Ad Pd. by Lee Nutt, Treasurer,  
P.O. Box 2639 Athens, Texas 75751

### HC Precinct 3 Commissioner

**Hank Rogers (D)**

Pol. Ad Pd. by Democratic Party  
207 N. Prairieville St. Athens, TX 75751

**Ronny Lawrence (R)**

Pol. Ad Pd. by Sherree Lawrence, Treas.  
10276 CR 3405, Brownsboro, TX 75756

### State Rep. District 4

**Victor Morales (D)**

Pol. Ad Pd. by Democratic Party  
207 N. Prairieville St. Athens, TX 75751

### HC Constable Precinct 4

**John Floyd (D)**

Pol. Ad Pd. by Democratic Party  
207 N. Prairieville St. Athens, TX 75751