

The **NORTH TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (NTAS)** meeting for **April** will be **in person and on Zoom**.

**NTAS** meetings are **free** and visitors are always welcome.

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# Benchmark

Volume 38, Issue 4

April 2024

## President's Message

Hello, everyone, and welcome to our April newsletter! Spring has sprung and sneezes abound in our household as the pollen drops at alarming rates. NTAS had a very busy winter and we're looking forward to the next set of opportunities on the horizon. Thank you to everyone who joined us in March, either in person or via Zoom. Lance Tahmahkera shared stories about his family, Cynthia Ann and Quanah Parker. We were honored to host Lance and hope to again in the future. If you were unable to join us in person, I have included some photos of the regalia and other items Lance brought with him and displayed for our members to see and discuss with him. If you missed his presentation, it is available on YouTube.

We are excited to welcome Mike McBride for our April 11th meeting. He will be presenting "10,000 Years of Hill Country Archeology: Ongoing Excavations at Crying Woman Ranch (41KR754), Kerr County, Texas". Mike is the Past-President of the Hill Country Archeological Association and is the Principal Investigator for the Crying Woman Ranch Project. Mike will also be sharing some exciting new data from the Pine Ridge Preceramic Project in Northern Be-



lize. We are excited to host Mike and we hope everyone can join us!

Somehow, June is almost upon us! If you have not signed up for the TAS Annual Field School in Nacogdoches, [registration is open](#). A general reminder that NTAS offers scholarships for the field school and the applications are open to anyone who would like to [apply](#). So, if you, or someone you know, could use some financial support to attend field school, please apply today. In addition to TAS Field School, NTAS will once again be participating at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center's kids' archeology camp from June 25-27. There's a new, investigative spin on it this year wherein the kids will search for clues in the excavations to find the missing senior archeolo-

## Connect with NTAS:

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[www.NTXAS.org](http://www.NTXAS.org)

For general inquiries, please contact [info@ntxas.org](mailto:info@ntxas.org)

**North Texas Archeological Society**

gist. Little do they know the "missing" senior archeologist is sitting at the nearest campfire regaling junior archeologists with tales of past discoveries. If you are interested in volunteering for this event (the camp, not the campfire story time), please contact [Gen Freix](#).

The April 11th, 2024, monthly meeting will be a hybrid meeting (in person and via Zoom) held in our usual meeting room on the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC) campus in the Research & Education Building, Room 114 (see page 4 for map). The meeting will start at 7:00 pm and we look forward to seeing you in person at the UNTHSC or on Zoom for the hybrid meeting. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on April 11th to hear about Crying Woman Ranch and Northern Belize!

**Allen Rutherford**



*Dance regalia worn by Lance Tahmahkera's sister*



*Miscellaneous items including a bois d'arc bow*

## **An Evening with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Archeologists**

**Allen Rutherford**

Current and former USACE archeologists are scheduled to participate in a panel discussion at the November 14, 2024 NTAS meeting. In advance of this program we want to ask the membership to consider and submit (to [info@ntxas.org](mailto:info@ntxas.org)) discussion topics on the [USACE](#), and especially the role USACE archeologists play in protecting and managing archeological resources. Having these discussion topics in advance of the November meeting will help guide the program, which will be a panel discussion with the NTAS membership as opposed to a set presentation. We look forward to receiving your discussion topics and questions and to hosting Arlo McKee, Skipper Scott, Jay Newman, and others on November 14!

## April Speaker: Mike McBride

### *10,000 Years of Hill Country Archeology:*

#### **Ongoing Excavations at Crying Woman Ranch (41KR754), Kerr County, Texas**

Since the summer of 2018, the Hill Country Archeological Association (HCAA) has performed continuous field work investigations at Crying Woman Ranch (CWR), 41KR754, a multi-component site in western Kerr County, Texas. McBride's presentation will review the 5 years of HCAA's work and artifacts recovered from the site, documenting occupations from a 19th-century farmstead, back through all periods of Late Prehistoric and Archaic, and into the Mid- to Late-Paleoindian Periods.

He will mainly focus on new data which supports and broadens previously reported evidence of earth oven technology in association with Paleoindian occupations at the site, and the advent of earth oven cooking facilities in central Texas. This evidence includes new radiocarbon dates, and newly recovered projectile points of Paleoindian period types (St. Mary's Hall, Golondrina, Angostura, and thus far unidentified lanceolates). Additionally, there are ongoing excavations into sediment layers below the deeply buried earth oven structures. These have exposed several new hearths at various depths of 0.2 to 0.5 meters directly below the well-defined earth oven structures. A date of 10,250calBP has been reported for one of these new features, although no diagnostic lithics have been recovered thus far. Prospective interpretations for this complex stratigraphy will be discussed.

A lifelong Texan, **Mike McBride** dedicated over 45 years to pharmacy practice and management. He is the founder of Rx Partners Pharmacy, a specialty pharmacy company with operations in San Antonio, Dallas, and Houston. He retired in 2018.

Mike is currently Past-President of the Hill Country Archeological Association in Kerrville, Texas. Previously, he was President and Board Chairman of the Dallas Archeological Society (now merged with North Texas Archeological Society), 2000-2005.

Mike is also on the Board of Directors of the Gault School for Archaeological Research.

He has been Principal Investigator for archaeological field projects in Dallas, Kerr, and Gillespie Counties, Texas. Currently, he is Principal Investigator for HCAA's Crying Woman Ranch Project in Kerr County, focusing on Paleoindian Period occupations at the site.

Since 1984, he has been an ongoing independent researcher in Maya and Mesoamerican Studies focusing on lithic technologies, and has published on the ethnopharmacology of psychoactive agents in ancient Mesoamerican cultures. He has collaborated in field projects in the Yucatan Peninsula, Central Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize with research focusing on lithic technology, and documentation and analysis of chert and obsidian sources in Belize, the Yucatan Peninsula, and Central Mexico.

Currently, he is co-developer, with Dr. Jon Lohse, of the Pine Ridge Preceramic Project in Northern Belize. PRPP research goals include recovery, documentation, analysis, and curation of Paleoindian and Preceramic Period artifacts, which will greatly add to evidence of the earliest human migrations in this region as well as throughout the Americas.

Mike lives near the beautiful Pedernales River in Fredericksburg, Texas with his wife Connie.



**NTAS scholarships are now available to -ANYONE- who applies for TAS Academies, the TAS Field School, and the annual TAS Meeting.**

Please visit the NTAS scholarships webpage to submit your application. [Apply now!](#)

## Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

**May 9th: Vicky Roberts (Nasca, Peru Research)**

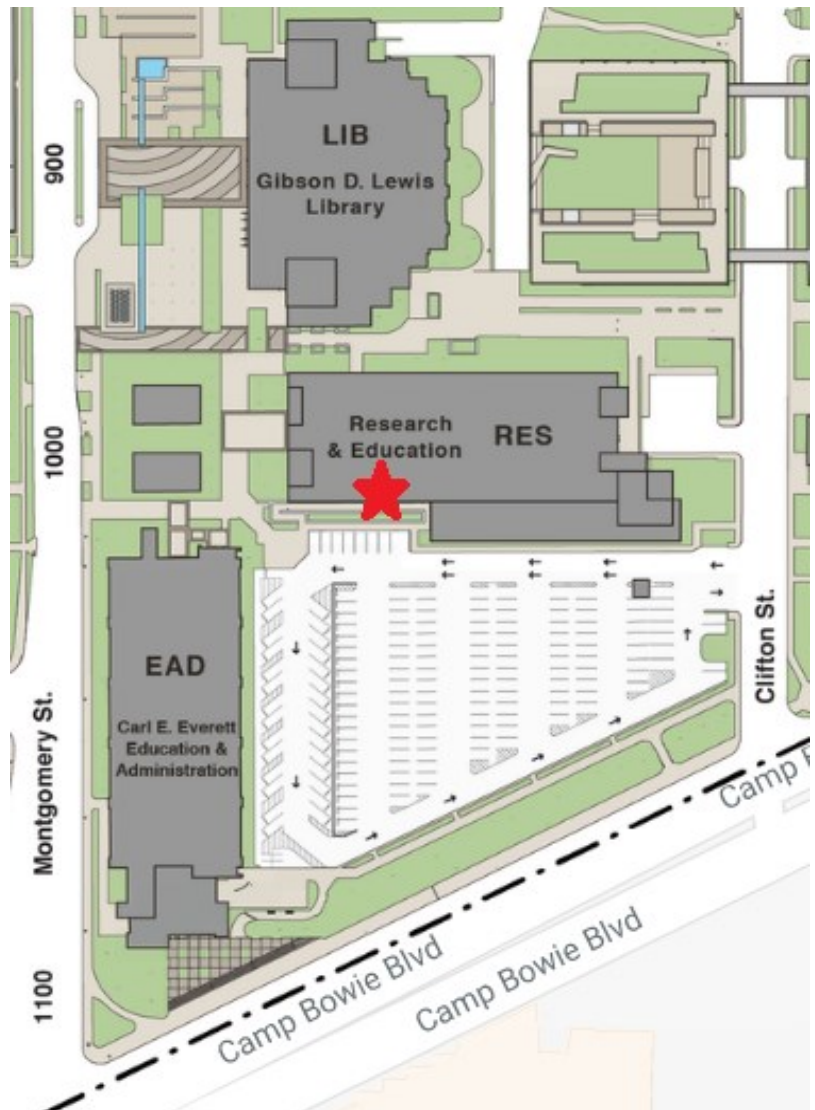
**June: No Meeting (TAS Field School)**

**July 11th: Robyn Dodge (Hun Tun, Belize)**

## NTAS Monthly Meeting Location & Directions

NTAS meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month (except June and December) at the University of North Texas Health Science Center, 3500 Camp Bowie Boulevard, Fort Worth (in the **Research and Education Building, Room 114**), near the intersection of Camp Bowie and Montgomery Street.

Traveling west on I-30 from downtown, take the Montgomery Street exit. Turn right on Montgomery and continue to the five-way intersection at Camp Bowie. Turn right onto Camp Bowie, followed by an immediate left onto Clifton Street. **Turn into the first parking lot on the left (Administrator and Visitor Parking).** You will drive past an information booth as you enter the parking lot. Park on the far (north/west) end of the parking lot and enter the Research and Education building. Once you enter the building, turn right and proceed down the hallway to **Room 114**.

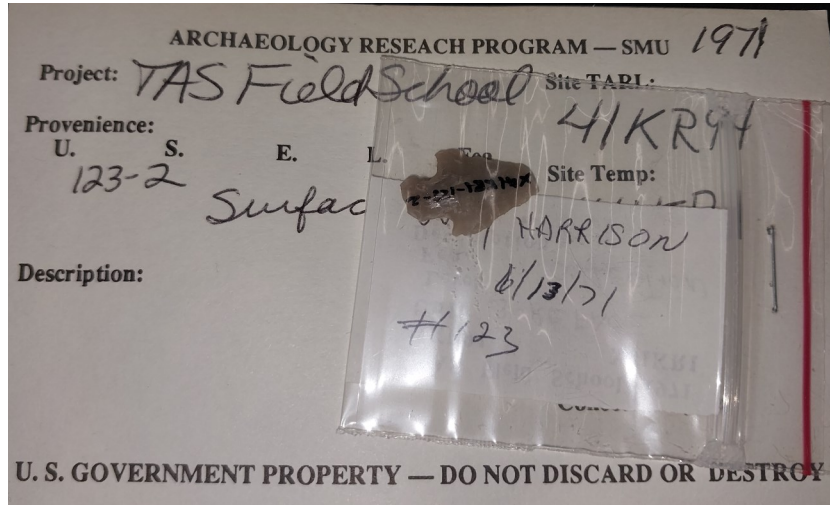
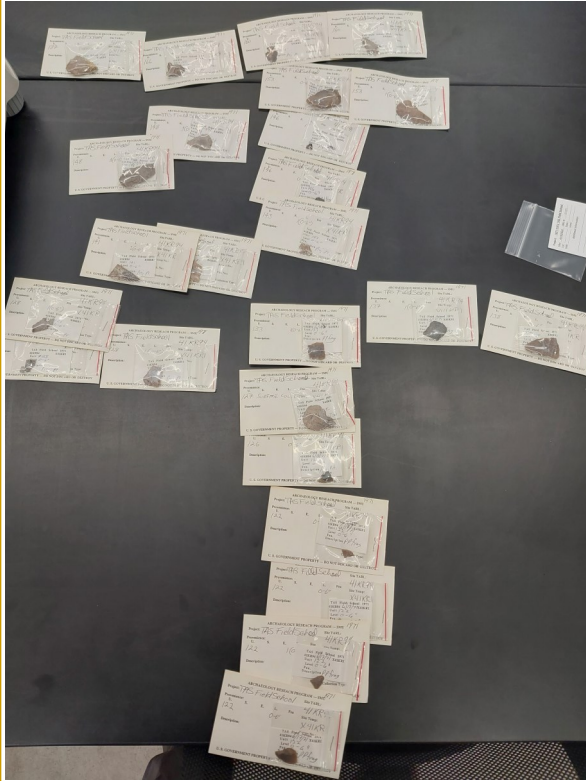


## NTAS Open Lab Days at SMU

### Brian Luetchford

NTAS and Southern Methodist University are working together gathering volunteers to assist in organizing, cataloging, and re-bagging artifacts from the 1971 TAS Field School. Open Lab Days are scheduled for Saturdays on April 27 and May 25 at SMU's Heroy Hall. For more information or to sign-up, contact [Brian Luetchford](#).

The photos below are of the March lab day and are courtesy of Jimmy Barrera.



*Editor's Note: Last month's article about SMU lab days contained Dr. Boulanger's name spelled incorrectly.*

## Excavations at Washington-on-the-Brazos

Thanks to Jimmy Barrera for sharing the Houston Chronicle article about the archeological work that recently took place at the "Birthplace of Texas." You can find the article [here](#).

## Archeological Events & Opportunities

### **Pompeii: The Immortal City Exhibit**

**March 30-June 23, 2024**

Arlington Museum of Art, Arlington, TX

Through a world-class multi-media experience, journey back in time with the AMA to Rome just before, during, and after the fateful eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79. Hear and feel the roar of the volcano erupting while you take in the wonder of original artworks and newly-discovered artifacts.

### **Fort Worth Westerners Zoom Programs**

**Third Tuesday of the Month**

Zoom

If you are not a FW Westerner member, click [here](#) to request access to the zoom meetings as a guest.

April 16 - *Quanah Parker: Divided Loyalties* by Dr. Colt Chaney, Dallas College Mountain View Campus

May 21 - *Great Western Trail: 150 Years of Conflict* by Sylvia Mahoney, President West Texas Historical Association, FW Westerners Member

June 18 - *Truth, Myth, and Consequences: Adobe Walls at 150 Years* by Michael Grauer, Curator National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City, FW Westerners Member

### **SAA 89th Annual Meeting**

**April 17-21, 2024**

New Orleans, LA

The program is composed of general sessions, symposia, forums, debates, lightning rounds, posters, and workshops. The SAA Annual Meeting offers unparalleled networking opportunities in its exhibit hall, excursions, and receptions and career-development opportunities.

### **The Joe Reed Site NTAS Work Day**

**April 20, 2024**

Parker County, TX

See pages 8-9 of February's newsletter for details on this ongoing project. If you are interested in participating, please contact [Dana Ritchie](#).

### **65th Annual Caddo Conference**

**April 26-27, 2024**

Fayetteville, AR

The conference will be held at the Don Tyson Center for Agricultural Sciences at the University of Arkansas. Contributions about Caddo archeology, history, culture, and language are welcome.

### **SMU Lab Days**

**April 27 and May 25, 2024**

Dallas, TX

Assist in organizing, cataloging, and re-bagging artifacts from the 1971 TAS Field School. For more information or to sign-up, contact [Brian Luetchford](#).

### **Southwestern Federation of Archeological Societies 58th Symposium**

**April 27, 2024**

San Angelo, TX

See the West Texas Archeological Society's [website](#) for info about the meeting, including a list of the presentations.

### **Archaeological Society of New Mexico Annual Meeting**

**May 3-5, 2024**

Las Vegas, NM

The 2024 ASNM Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Site Steward Foundation (SSF) in Las Vegas, NM at the Plaza Hotel on May 3-5, 2024. The 2024 ASNM annual volume honoree, John Roney, will be officially honored at the meeting. Presentations will focus on the archaeology of northeastern New Mexico and Plains-Pueblo interactions.

## **TAS 95th Annual Meeting**

Victoria, TX

The Museum of the Coastal Bend (MCB) at Victoria College and the Coastal Bend Archeological Logistics Team (CoBALT) are official hosts for the 95th TAS Annual Meeting. Guest speakers will be Texas' State Archeologist Dr. Brad Jones for the Friday Public Forum and Dr. Leland C. Bement, Senior Researcher at the Oklahoma Archeological Survey at the University of Oklahoma, for the Saturday evening Banquet.

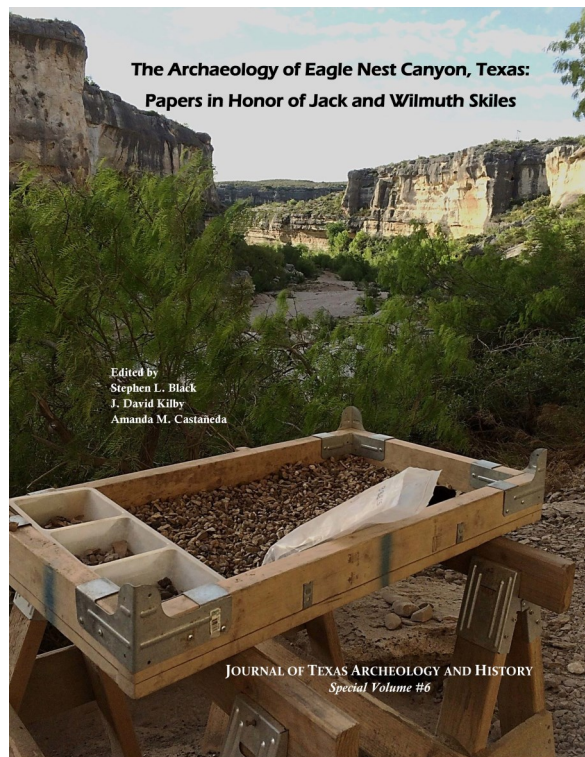
**October 25-27, 2024**

## **Release of JTAH Special Volume #6: The Archaeology of Eagle Nest Canyon**

Journal of Texas Archeology and History is extremely pleased to announce the publication of this very special collection of papers covering the research in Eagle Nest Canyon – The Archaeology of Eagle Nest Canyon, Texas: Papers in Honor of Jack and Wilmuth Skiles.

The 28 research papers in Journal of Texas Archeology and History Special Volume #6 summarize recent archaeological investigations in Eagle Nest Canyon in the Lower Pecos Canyonlands of southwestern Texas. It honors landowners and supporters, Jack and Wilmuth Skiles, their love of the land, and its rich human history. The well-illustrated volume highlights state-of-the-art research at Eagle Cave and Bonfire Shelter, the best-known of the canyon's well-preserved rockshelters, as well as seven other sites representing an archaeological record spanning over 13,000 years.

Get a free, digital copy [here](#).



## **What Can You Do with NTAS? What Can NTAS Do for You?**

### **Involve NTAS in Your Field, Lab, or Reporting Project**

Contact the [Vice President of Projects](#) if you know of a field, lab, data collection, or reporting project that could use the skilled labor of experienced and knowledgeable NTAS members.

### **Contribute Photos and Memories of NTAS Events**

Photos are a great way to showcase what NTAS is all about. We'd love to share your NTAS experiences with the world immediately following NTAS events! Please send your images and captions to the [Internet Chair](#). By providing these photos, they may be used on the NTAS website and social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram.

### **Newsletter and Journal Content**

Contribute highlights from NTAS volunteer opportunities, summaries of archeological research and field projects, announcements and links to events, exhibits, media, and publications, etc. by sending them to the [Publications Editor](#).

NTAS is now looking for articles to fill the 2024 Journal of the North Texas Archeological Society. Please consider submitting an article about your North Texas research, fieldwork, or other related topics. The lead author must be an NTAS member in good standing for the 2024 calendar year. For submissions and inquiries regarding the journal, please contact the [Publications Editor](#). The current volume (2023) is available to members by logging in [here](#). A digital copy of Volume 1 is available to the public [here](#), and physical copies are available for purchase on [Amazon](#).

## North Texas Archeological Society (NTAS) Membership Application Form

(renew online by clicking above)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City\State\Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Type and Fees (Membership Term: January to December)

#### Choose One:

Individual Membership - \$20

Family Membership - \$25

Total Family Members \_\_\_\_\_

Student Membership – \$10 (18 or older student with minimum half-time course load. Those under 18 must contact NTAS in advance of applying.)

#### Choose One:

New

Renewal

### Communication Preferences: I/WE want to be added to the following lists:

General Announcements - *For Meetings, Events, Publications, Membership Dues and NTAS Updates*

Personal Updates - *For personal updates on NTAS members such as illnesses, and obituaries*

**Digital copies of the newsletter are included with every membership.** If you are interested in receiving paper copies, please contact the Publications Editor ([publicationseeditor@ntxas.org](mailto:publicationseeditor@ntxas.org)) or Secretary ([secretary@ntxas.org](mailto:secretary@ntxas.org)) for pricing.

**Donation:** Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Where should your donation go?  General Fund  Memorial Scholarship Fund  BaahKu Project

**Media Release:** I/We DO -or- DO NOT [circle as appropriate] give permission to NTAS to use my/our image (photographs and/or video) in any NTAS publications, website, or social media.

**Code of Ethics (signature required):** I/WE PLEDGE THAT I/WE WILL NOT INTENTIONALLY VIOLATE THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ANY FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL ANTIQUITIES STATUTES CONCERNING CULTURAL RESOURCES OR ENGAGE IN THE PRACTICES OF BUYING OR SELLING ARTIFACTS FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES OR ENGAGE IN THE WILLFUL DESTRUCTION OR DISTORTION OF ARCHEOLOGICAL DATA OR DISREGARD PROPER ARCHEOLOGICAL FIELD TECHNIQUES. I/WE UNDERSTAND THAT FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES WILL PROVIDE GROUNDS FOR EXPULSION FROM THE SOCIETY.

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your Membership Form with check or money order made payable to:  
North Texas Archeological Society — P.O. Box 24679, Ft. Worth, TX 76124

Thank you for renewing or joining the North Texas Archeological Society!

We will send an email to confirm your membership once your payment has been processed. We look forward to seeing you at our next event!



## Welcome, New Members!

Cole Clawson  
 Xandy-Sophia Clement  
 Adonai Garcia  
 Valerie Ganann  
 Yasmeen Khan  
 Julia Magpantay  
 Haley, David, Tucker, and Brigham Murley  
 William J. Robbin  
 SangHo Shin

## Donors

Rebecca Shelton

## NTAS Aims & Objectives

The purposes of the Society are

- (1) the promotion of scientific archeological exploration and research,
- (2) the preservation and conservation of archeological materials and sites,
- (3) the interpretation and publication of data pertaining thereto, and
- (4) education of the public to the aims of archeology.

## NTAS - Preserving the Past for the Future

### Executive Committee

**Allen Rutherford**  
President

**Gwen Durrant**  
Treasurer

**Genevieve Freix**  
Historian

**Stephen Lowe**  
Vice President

**Thomas Standefer**  
Secretary

**Hannah Rainey**  
Internet Chair

**Brian Luetchford**  
Vice President of Projects

**Jimmy Barrera**  
Immediate Past President

**Molly Hall**  
Publications Editor

### Newsletter Submission Deadlines

The newsletter submission deadlines are two weeks prior to the monthly meetings, and upcoming deadlines are listed below.

May Newsletter: April 25

July Newsletter: June 27

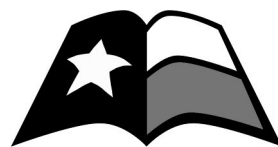
August Newsletter: July 25

September Newsletter: August 29

October Newsletter: September 26

November Newsletter: October 31

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