

## **ALFORD: Lots of fun in store for this weekend**

By STEVEN ALFORD  
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Last week we advertised the "Pen and Pigment" poetry and art show at SFA in the Griffith Gallery. Turns out we got sent the wrong information and the show actually ended up being on Wednesday, not Friday night as previously thought.

Well, I ended up going to the show (on the correct day) and it was a lot of fun. I initially went to support my friend and artist Joyce Jackson, who had some abstract pieces up for display, but I quickly found myself amazed by some other of the other works too.

To make a long story short, the place was packed to the brim and I'm glad it all worked out, despite the incorrect listing. A very honorable mention goes out to artists Melissa Windham and Shaun Roberts, whose paintings collectively blew my mind. Awesome job to both.

This weekend we've got some more fun stuff going down at different art galleries around the area.

Friday night check out the new "Friday Night Live" music series at the First Street Arts Center in downtown Lufkin from 5 to 7 p.m. Jacqueline Becker has been doing a great job bringing in events every week, and the new concert series, featuring different bands every Friday, is another superb addition.

If you're in Nac Friday, swing by the Fredonia Hotel for the 5th Annual "Jazz on the Patio" event featuring the Nac Pac Jazz Trio from 7 to 10 p.m. These guys always bring out a large crowd when they play, so get there early and turn on to some great jazz.

On Saturday, the "Downtown Hoedown" comes to Lufkin.

Last year was my first opportunity to experience the event, which left a lasting impression on me - and a sunburn (don't forget the sunscreen). I had funnel cake, bounced around in a moonwalk, and got to check out some local wrestlers duke it out in front of the courthouse. Sounds like a typical Saturday in Lufkin right? That was a joke.

No seriously, come on out to the Hoedown which kicks off at 10 a.m. and lasts until 5 p.m. There's food vendors, bands, great stuff for sale and a whole lot to see and do.

Finally, on Sunday, the Museum of East Texas is hosting "An Afternoon on the Neches" lecture at 2 p.m. The event is free to the public and sounds like it's going to be very interesting.

Dr. F.E. Abernethy, distinguished regents professor emeritus of English at Stephen F. Austin University, and Janice Bezanson, executive director of the Texas Conservation Alliance, will both be speaking about a wide range of topics involving the Neches River region.

Adventurer and author Richard Donovan will also be on hand to sign copies of his book, "Paddling Down the Neches," and Abernethy will be signing copies of his book, "Tales of the Big Thicket." Both books will be available for sale.

The "Life on the Neches" exhibit is currently up at the MET and features some amazing photographs of the Neches River region. Check it out if you haven't already.

In movie news, the newest "Crank" installment drops tomorrow, along with "State of Play." I saw the first Crank movie when it came out and was surprisingly impressed with the cinematography and action. Whether the second one will be as good or interesting is anybody's guess. "State of Play," a thriller set in Washington D.C., looks pretty interesting to me, however. I've seen a few Russell Crowe movies recently (check out "A Good Year" and "Proof of Life"), so he's kind of been on my radar. Doesn't hurt that he plays a reporter too. Call local theaters for show times.

Well that about does it. Come check me out at the First Street Arts Center tonight or at the Hoedown Saturday on the Regions Bank stage at 2:45 p.m., I'll be at both, rocking out - guitar in hand.

Otherwise, keep sending in those e-mails so we can put your entertainment events up here too!