



Presented by Brookshire Brothers

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Blueberry fun for the young**

NACOGDOCHES - Blueberries will spark the child's imagination at the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Texas Blueberry Festival, presented by Brookshire Brothers, held downtown on Saturday, June 14.

"Everyone should take time to visit Festival Plaza this year to see all the cool kid's stuff we'll have in that area," said Stacy Dicks, Kids and Pets events director.

"From 9 in the morning through 4 in the afternoon, children will be having a ton of blueberry fun." Festival Plaza is the grassy and tree-shaded park just south of downtown, between Pecan and Fredonia streets.

All budding artists may express their creativity as they paint the Big Blue Murals. Eight murals will be available this year, waiting for little hands to wield the brushes that will transform them in to true works of art. At the point of painted perfection, a mural will be mounted for display and another mural will be ready for painting. "It's like pages from a giant coloring book," Dicks said. The activity is open to all children and is free of charge. This attraction is sponsored by Consolidated Communications and Sam's Club.

Dicks said, "All the youngsters with lots of energy can bounce their way through the giant bounce houses and slide down a huge inflated slide and enjoy other activities on giant inflatables."

The Rock Climbing Wall is back for thrill seekers ready to scale to new heights. All Bounce Park activities require tickets or armbands. Tickets are \$2 each or play all day with an armband available for \$10. Listen to 90.9 KSWP for chances to win free Bounce Park arm bands.

Bethany Home Health will host the Make-and-Take Craft Tent with a variety of activities that will have creative juices flowing. Children can spend time working their hands and their minds as they make truly unique items ready to give to someone special or keep as reminders of a grand day. This is another free activity offered to all children attending the festival.

“The True Blue Petting Zoo gives every child a chance to get close to four-legged, furry and fuzzy friends that will include ponies, mini-horses, goats, llamas and baby ducks and chicks. Plus, the Nacogdoches Animal Shelter will have adoptable animals at the festival ready for a new family and a new home,” Dicks said.

Entrance in to the petting zoo is free of charge. Photos with animals and pony rides are available for a nominal fee. The Petting Zoo is organized by the East Texas Horse Rescue and Sanctuary, assisted by the Nacogdoches County Expo Center crew.

A well-known favorite event of the festival, the Blue Threads Costume Contest, will begin with registration at 9:45 a.m. in the Commercial Bank lobby. Children will parade in their costumes beginning at 10:15, and ribbons will be awarded to the winners in front of the Convention and Visitors Bureau at 10:30.

“Don’t miss the Blue-tiful Doll Display,” Dicks said, “also in the Commercial Bank lobby. The folks from Party ‘N Things will have a fascinating collection of dolls for viewing, and the display makes an interesting backdrop for taking photos of the kids.”

The Texas Blueberry Festival is a production of the Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce. For more information visit the festival’s web site at [www.TexasBlueberryFestival.com](http://www.TexasBlueberryFestival.com) or call (936) 560-5533. The festival is a Keep Nacogdoches Beautiful litter-free event.

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**Photos:**

**Photos by Bruce R. Partain**

***BigBlueMural\_07.jpg***

Painting the town is free, easy and fun with the Big Blue Murals.

***RockWallClimbers\_07.jpg***

Adults and children will have the opportunity to climb to the top of The Rock Climbing Wall at the Texas Blueberry Festival on June 14.

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