

Talk Tuesday, the digital publication of *Texarkana Magazine*, is a weekly look into the lives of some of Texarkana's most incredible residents and community events. Each heartfelt story is a first-person account of people who are finding love, achieving goals, overcoming obstacles, and learning new things across our community and beyond. This year's top ten most read stories drew thousands of readers and confirmed once again that "everyone is famous in their hometown."



Gideon's Miracle by Morgan Ford Harris | January 21

A 16-month-old boy is diagnosed with a rare and aggressive brain tumor. When complications delay his surgery, something miraculous happens as the tumor shrinks by 22%, stunning doctors. This inspiring story reveals how faith, prayer, and God's grace transform a family's darkest nightmare into hope and healing.



Daniels-Holyfield Wedding by Se'Sha Holyfield | February 25

Se'Sha and Decosta met at church and felt an instant connection. Their wedding at The Venue at Twelve Oaks brought together loved ones from every chapter of their lives to celebrate their union. It was the perfect day surrounded by people who truly matter to them.



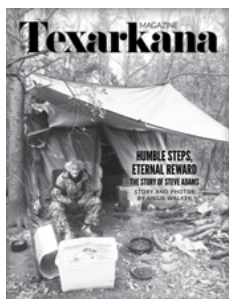
From Dreamer to CEO by Amanda Condon Shavers | September 2

As an unemployed single mother with a GED, Amanda arrived at UAHT uncertain about her future. Through scholarships, mentorship, and support, she became a multi-award-winning scholar and graduated debt-free. Today, she serves as the CEO of Arc & Root Funding Co., helping students and communities achieve their dreams.



The Power of Grace by Brittany Robles | March 28

Diagnosed with autism at age 10, Grace Williams didn't fully understand her diagnosis until age 16. With unwavering determination, she graduated from Texas A&M University-Texarkana with a degree in Mass Communication. Grace advocates for autism acceptance and proves that with perseverance, anything is possible.



Humble Steps, Eternal Reward by Angie Walker | March 4

A chance encounter with Steve Adams, a homeless man on Richmond Road, changed one woman's life forever. Through his gentle spirit, deep faith, and selfless acts of kindness, Steve taught her that true wealth lies not in possessions but in spiritual connection and unconditional love for others.



2025 TALK TUESDAY TOP 10



TISD 2025 Senior Perspective by Oviya Justin | June 3

Oviya Justin's Valedictorian speech uses a musical metaphor about pauses between notes to describe graduation as a suspended moment. She urges the Class of 2025 to be present, support one another's mental health, and recognize that true success is personal and non-material.



Bougie Grubs Peachberry Pastries by Angela Evans | September 23

Bougie Grubs' Peachberry Pastries are elegant yet simple desserts combining puff pastry, whipped cream cheese, fresh peaches, and blueberries. This thirty-minute recipe yields four servings with minimal prep. The pastries are baked until golden, dusted with powdered sugar, and best enjoyed warm with coffee for a sophisticated treat.



Scoop It Forward by Jason B. Johnston | August 5

Blue Rooster Scoop Shoppe creates a gathering place centered on connection and joy through homemade ice cream and Italian ice. Beyond serving desserts, owners prioritize making people feel valued. Their "Scoop It Forward" program encourages community generosity, turning ordinary visits into meaningful memories shared with loved ones.



Where Hustle Meets Home by Brandy Eldridge | May 6

The Assembly Line will be a downtown co-working space designed to support local entrepreneurs and creatives with mentorship, workshops, and funding assistance. This collaborative hub, developed by regional institutions, aims to drive economic growth and establish Texarkana as a hub for innovation and entrepreneurship.



How to Carve a Pumpkin by Matt Cornelius | October 28

Matt Cornelius provides a step-by-step Halloween pumpkin carving tutorial using a Dremel rotary tool instead of traditional saws. The beginner-friendly method involves applying a stencil, carving outlines with specific bits, adding details, and preserving the pumpkin with bleach. The result is a glowing design with clean lines, completed quickly and easily.



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