



2025 REFLECTIONS

2025 may have been our most exciting year yet!

We officially opened the African American Museum of Northeast Texas. Thank you! We could not have done it without you: your financial contributions ... your artifact donations ... your time ... your encouragement ... your presence, and ... your prayers. Many of you were able to share the momentous occasion with us. It was great to see your excited smiles and hear your stories. You were able to tour the museum and see how you and your foreparents have impacted the community. When other museums have "blank pages" where our contributions should be, our pages are filled with our history. Thank you for your donations of family heirlooms from your loved ones' estates. The African American Museum of Northeast Texas reflects our collective history.

You might have even seen us on KLT, local ABC, newscast, a time or two in 2025.



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Continued

We strengthened our relationship with Kilgore College. The KC honors fraternity (Phi Theta Kappa) alphabetized about twenty 3-inch, three-ring notebooks of funeral programs. This work is so important because the programs record and document our

family histories. Even simple acts like alphabetizing them just makes it easier for you to do research when you visit the museum.



Board member Portia Scott also presented some of her Red Rock research findings at a history conference at Kilgore College. Dr. Margo Bell, who is also a board member, brought the youth from the Robert and Margaret Bell Adolescent Center to help physically organize and clean items at the museum before the opening. This was a great example of community organizations collaborating to benefit the community. Ms. Toni Perry and Ms. Odette Alexander have also helped with museum operations.

Thank you to those who gave to RRHA through East Texas Giving Day.

A special thank you to Texas Bank and Trust, Enterprise Mobility Foundation, Camp Normal Foundation, and John Paul Tallent Building Supplies for their continued substantial support of the Red Rock Historical Association. The Upshur County Historical Commission also showed their support for our mission with a donation at the grand opening.

We appreciate community members Mr. Cabron Clay and Mr. Dominic Hawley for helping to maintain outside landscaping on the grounds.

Previous ELITE Pathfinder honoree and multi-term board member, Mrs. Leslie Willeford resigned from actively serving on the board. Her contributions, many of which were done quietly behind the scenes, truly made a difference at our events and activities.

We are looking forward to working with new volunteers: Sandra Ayres, Linda Hanson Humber, Odette Alexander, Frank Steward, and De'Andrea O'Kizee.

If you would like to work with us, we would love to work with you.

MEMORIAL

In Memory

Mr. Frank Pouncey, a long-time supporter and member, passed this year. He will be greatly missed.





17th ANNUAL ELITE PATHFINDER EVENT

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026 @ 1:00 P.M.

**TICKETS \$25 AT
WWW.REDROCKHA.ORG**

We are proud to announce the honorees for 2026 ELITE Pathfinder event.

Erudite: Juel White

Leader: Gwen Jewett

Inspiration: Elane Osteen

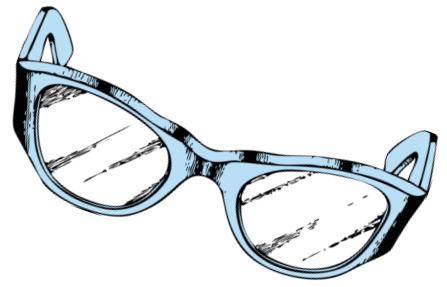
Triumph: Devin Russell

Example: Toni Perry

Pathfinder: Kyera Orange

The event will be held at **1:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 14, 2026** at the RRHA Activity Center, 2629 S. Greggory Lane, Gladewater, TX. You can show your love for them by visiting our website www.redrockha.org to buy tickets (\$25 presale) to the event and/or contributing to a sponsorship level in their honor. Help us congratulate and honor them for their contributions to the community.

Looking forward to 2026



I'm not sure how we are going to top what we achieved in 2025, but we are going to try in 2026.

We have our annual ELITE Pathfinder event in February. Mark your calendar. Buy your tickets.

We will have our fourth community Health and Wellness program April 11. Presenters will share ways we can improve our physical, emotional, and financial health. They will give tips on how we can take care of ourselves and others.

We are planning three new events: Game Night, a Chili Cook-Off, and a Homemade with Love Fair. We will keep you posted via email about upcoming events.

We are excited to offer two travelling exhibits. We are launching the Sign My Name travelling exhibit in conjunction with America's 250 birthday. It is a unique way for your employer to celebrate the country's



milestone. Board member, Dr. Bridget Moore, presented her companion book at the Longview Public Library. The book and the exhibit celebrate the artistry and functionality of being able to sign one's name. We also have some merchandise that you can purchase on the RRHA website to mark this national milestone. Proceeds from the purchases will benefit RRHA.

Our second travelling exhibit is designed to reach collegiate honors programs and possibly strengthen our relationship with future historians. The travelling exhibit is built around Happy Meal® toys, which were donated to the museum as a collection.

The exhibit is made cohesive through a complimenting curriculum.

More and more of you are utilizing the activity center. That is great! We wanted the facility to be a place for community and family reunions, church and personal anniversary celebrations, retirement parties, birthday



parties, baby showers, graduation parties, religious and professional conferences or workshops, summer programs and just a safe place to gather and socialize for any reason. Listening to your feedback, we recently were able to get internet service to the activity center. If you would like to utilize the RRHA Activity Center for an event, please contact Mr. Jerry Hawley at 903-237-9008.

**On behalf of the Red Rock Historical Association Board of Directors ...
From our homes and hearts to yours, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

We look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Mrs. Bennie Moore, founder

