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## EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

With Women's History Month occurring in March each year we often get some female topics of interest to feature but this year the influence of the "Me Too" and "Time's Up" movements has infiltrated even our little piece of planetary heaven. Without much planning at all the topics we gathered for this issue easily rolled up neatly into a fabulous feminine force we couldn't ignore.

In this issue you'll meet many strong women of the Upper East Side of Texas. There's the incredible amount of women who own businesses during an era of revitalization in downtown Greenville; the two owners of Blue Moon Gardens celebrating their 25th anniversary; the women of Longview Ballet who continue to see their students go on to national fame; the women who wrote our Feel Good articles for this issue who do their best every day to help people live their best lives; and the hundreds of other women woven into the tapestry of events,

communities, and area attractions that make the Upper East Side of Texas a great place to live, work, and play.

To all of these women, and to the thousands of other women who may not be mentioned here but are no less responsible for making our lives so much better, we say THANKYOU, keep up the great work, and we've got your backs.

The other hot topic hard to miss in this issue is the beauty our spring is bestowing upon us. A more gorgeous place on earth there cannot be than ours this time of year with so many natural wildflowers, blossoming trees, plants, and gardens galore.

Add in countless choices for live music, the arts, stage performances, festivals, wineries and breweries, a tour of the Rose Capital of America, delicious gourmet and Southern comfort dining experiences, and we've got the perfect recipe for the best spring ever.

*P.A. Geddie*

## LETTERS

I picked up one of your *County Line Magazines*. I saw the museum from Greenville and was so excited. I love history about any town so I decided to subscribe.

*Roy and Linda Dawson  
 Campbell*

I am from Texas. I grew up in Brownfield, southwest of Lubbock. Spent some time in East Texas — Longview, Kilgore, and Marshall. I just learned that there is a Bug Tussle, Texas. (*Road Trip to Bug Tussle, Texas. Population Seven. July 2012*)

*Dennis Jones  
 Minot, North Dakota*

I nabbed a copy of your wonderful magazine in the doctor's office recently and quickly realized my wife and I needed to subscribe. What a wonderful wealth of "what's happening now" information pertaining to events throughout "Upper East Side" of our great republic. We are looking forward to all the wild and wooly gigs and digs this year has to offer. Thanks for publishing such an outstanding and beneficial publication.

*Collie Grey  
 Rusk*

*Please feel free to send us  
 your comments.*

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*Bug Tussle, Texas by Eric W. Hodge*



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Ten women of downtown Greenville took a quick break from business to gather for a photo at Uptown Forum. Back row (l-r): Janeen Cunningham, former owner, Calico Cat; Gloria Jordan, owner, Office Solutions; Luann Dickens, owner, Greenville Floral Gifts & Boutique; and Threesa Sadler, CEO, Raffa Clinic. Third row (l-r): Angela Melia, owner, Pizzo's Sicilian Cafe; Carrie Crowson, owner, C.C. & Company Boutique; and Deana Lowe, CEO, Keep Greenville Beautiful. Second row (l-r): Gail Sprinkle, owner, Uptown Forum; and Shannon Harris, owner, Corner Street Pub. Front: Lana Dollgener, manager, Texan Theater. PHOTO BY TERLINGUA ROSE

# Women Behind the Town

## *Greenville Thrives With Female Influence*

By Tracy Torma

A popular saying these days predicts, “the future is female.” But when it comes to the city of Greenville, women are the past, present, *and* future of the town’s growth and prosperity.

Located just 35 miles northeast of the Dallas, Greenville offers all the charm of a small Texas town. Today, women are playing a strong role in the renaissance of the city’s downtown, which features a variety of shops, restaurants, services, a renovated historic theater, and an award-winning winery – most of them owned and operated by women.

### **A Strong Past**

Women have made headlines in Greenville for many years. Lallie Carlisle quietly made history in 1902 when she became the first woman in Texas to hold public office. When her husband, E.W. Briscoe, died she was appointed to serve out his term as county clerk of Hunt County 18 years before women won the right to vote and 23 years before Texas elected its first female governor.

That was back in the day when the city was a bustling cotton center. Known as “the cotton capital of the world,” Greenville boasted the world’s largest inland cotton compress, breaking world records in 1911 and 1912.

Greenville continued to prosper through the mid-century years and many women were integral to the success of their family businesses. Nita “Tubby” Adkisson served as the face of Adkisson’s Florist, established in 1913 and still thriving today. Eunice Ayers owned and operated Ayers Grocery from the 1940s through the 1960s. Sarah Plunket photographed the portraits and weddings of generations of Texans from the 1960s through the mid 1980s.

The area began to shift from agriculture to industry in the 1950s and the city developed its first industrial park and became an industry leader in aircraft maintenance and modification. As the county seat of Hunt County, Greenville’s downtown was vibrant with court activity

in a beautiful courthouse in the center of town, surrounded by two hotels, several bank buildings and five major department stores.

Janeen Cunningham remembers going downtown on Saturday mornings in the 1950s and ‘60s for shopping or to catch a movie. “Even doctors and dentists had their offices downtown,” she remembers. “Throughout the week, people came downtown to conduct business, see their service providers and stroll the streets. It was a lively place to be.”

### **Starting a Trend**

As with many small Texas towns, highway expansions caused businesses to move with the traffic flow, leaving downtown buildings vacant. “While this is not unique to Greenville, what is unusual is how large our downtown is and the number of large buildings we have that need renovation and restoration,” Cunningham says.

Dortha McGaughey is credited with breathing life into one of those old buildings in the mid-1970s when she bought the defunct, two-story Perkins Brothers department store and rehabilitated it in the likeness of Olla Podrida, a unique artist mall in Dallas that looked like a Spanish village with wood framing and natural lighting. She named her building Uptown Forum and created a unique space for specialty boutiques and small businesses.

When Cunningham moved her thriving Calico Cat boutique into Uptown Forum in the late 1970s, she drew visitors from around the region to downtown Greenville. Cunningham, whose boutique specialized in clothing, gifts, shoes, jewelry, and handbags, bought Uptown Forum from McGaughey in the 1990s and operated it until recently.

With a knack for event planning, Cunningham came up with creative activities to promote the downtown area, including the Greenville Follies, a downtown variety show that has raised more than \$680,000 for community projects. Cunningham, along with other talented

women, started Bras for the Cause in 2009, a community benefit which last year raised more than \$160,000 for breast cancer awareness and treatment.

Elaborately decorated bras are displayed on the city sidewalks and in store windows up and down Lee Street and residents vote on the winners. Proceeds from the event benefit Janice’s Closet, a service for breast cancer patients; the Tubby Adkisson Mobile Mammography Unit; and Hunt Regional Healthcare Foundation.

Cunningham also initiated the popular Downtown Strolls, which bring people to downtown several times a year to experience shopping, eating, and events after hours. So when Cunningham decided to retire after 47 years, close the Calico Cat, and sell Uptown Forum, the city held its collective breath wondering who could possibly fill the gap.

### **Downtown Revitalization**

Enter hometown girls Barb Horan and Gail Sprinkle, and Chicago transplant Pat Guess, making an impact on today’s downtown revitalization.

Horan bought and restored the town’s Texan Theater, which features top-name performers in a gorgeous, state-of-the-art performance venue that began its life in 1895 as the King Opera House and later became the town’s main movie theater. Guests today enjoy a sumptuous four-course meal and usually meet and greet entertainers after the show. Besides a spectacular venue for a concert, theatergoers don’t have to fight traffic or trek long distances from the parking lot to see a big name performer. Horan books a wide variety of acts like county music legend Asleep at the Wheel, rock icons Quiet Riot, the elegant Lorrie Morgan, and the prolific JD Souther.

Horan also restored a former jewelry store next door, establishing the Texan Theater Lobby, which serves coffee and light meals with free Wi-Fi. Horan is assisted in managing the theater and coffee house by Lana Dollgener, another

*Continued page 10*

## GREENVILLE WOMEN *continued from page 9*

Greenville native who retired and moved back home in hopes of a slower pace after a career in marketing communications in Dallas. Things have never been busier for Dollgener.

In addition to the spectacular renovation of the Texan Theater, Horan has also purchased the Townhouse, formerly the Beckham Hotel, which covers most of a city block right across from the city's regal Municipal Auditorium. Current plans call for renovating the building's downstairs for businesses and upstairs for residential lofts.

Pat Guess is another visionary who is renovating several blocks of buildings downtown into retail spaces and residential lofts, including the old Cadillac Hotel, built in 1926 and once one of the finest hotels in Texas.

Gail Sprinkle, a human resources professional who moved from Greenville in her early 20s, moved back three years ago to take care of her aging mother. She recently purchased the Uptown Forum from Cunningham and is gradually restoring the building and attracting new boutiques and services. C.C. & Company Boutique, owned by Carrie Crowson, opened in October 2017 in the former Calico Cat space. Pizzo's Sicilian Café and The Wind, The Willow bookstore opened recently and Magnolia Events and Wedding Rentals opens this spring. Ten of the 11 businesses housed in Uptown Forum are women-owned and/or operated.

"It's a very exciting time here being able to contribute to the revitalization of downtown. The people I get to work with, the other downtown business owners, are creative, progressive, enthusiastic and welcoming," Sprinkle says.

And a good majority of those business owners are women. Take a walk downtown and you'll find shops, restaurants and local watering holes owned by women.

Greenville Floral Gifts & Boutique has been a part of Greenville since 1984 and is owned by Luanne Dickens. Besides flowers, it houses many gift lines, dinnerware and an exclusive line of ladies fashions, jewelry and accessories.

Other downtown women-owned businesses also are thriving. Attorney Holly Gotcher, a Greenville city council member, has a law office downtown, as does attorney Katherine Ferguson, who renovated a downtown bank building for her law practice.

"The downtown community is unmatched," says Abigail Kweller-Sullivan, another attorney who established her law office downtown. "There are great places to eat, administrative offices within walking distance to easily handle business matters, and it is almost impossible to walk down the street without seeing a familiar face. We have the luxury of being in the middle of great activities and community events, while also enjoying the quiet nature of our quaint downtown."

Gloria Jordan who operates Office Solutions, a full-service printing, copying, and shipping service, agrees. "I love the sense of 'neighborhood' in downtown. I can walk to other businesses and talk to people," she says.

Even nonprofits, headed by women, are adding to downtown's business vibe, including Keep Greenville Beautiful, CASA for Hunt County, the Hunt County Children's Advocacy Center, and Raffa Clinic.

"Our clients can walk to the clinic from

the neighborhoods around us," says Threesa Sadler, executive director of Raffa Clinic, a nonprofit medical clinic that provides no-cost pregnancy services to women of Hunt County. "We have so many donors and supporters who come to visit us, and they are amazed when they see all that downtown has to offer."

## A New Generation

Having played a role in keeping the downtown business fires burning for so many years, Cunningham is excited the torch is passing to a new generation of women. "The fact that women feel the independence and confidence to put their energies, creativity and smarts to work and care enough to do it downtown is to me the best thing that's happened in Greenville in a really long time," she says.

"Compared to the Metroplex or more affluent small downtowns like Rockwall and McKinney, it is incredibly inexpensive to have a business here. There is wonderful infrastructure to work with in these beautiful old buildings," Cunningham continues.

"I don't feel there is anything that will stop women if they put their minds to it. We are determined. We're survivors, and we keep on working on a project until we get it finished," she adds.

And that kind of moxie is making a difference in Greenville, where the future is definitely female.

*Pat Guess (below, left) is renovating several blocks of buildings downtown into retail spaces and residential lofts, including the old Cadillac Hotel, once one of the finest hotels in Texas. PHOTO BY KEVIN BANKS. Cynthia Green (below, right) owns The Muddle, an antique and home decor shop in a historic building where her father once practiced law. PHOTO BY TRACY TORMA*





(L-r) Anita Marquez and her daughter Mariana Rivas serve up hand-dipped ice cream and fresh smoothies at La Sabrosita; Shannon Arnold Foltz greets guests with her delicious treats at Ain't Just Pie; sisters Allena (left) and Alyssia Aussicker help customers with home decor at Lolly County Line. PHOTOS BY TRACY TORMA

# Spend Some Fun Time in Greenville

For those looking for a fun day of shopping, food and entertainment, Greenville is a good destination. Here are some of the women-owned businesses that create a vibrant downtown experience.

## Food and Beverage

For breakfast or lunch, stop by **Ain't Just Pie** (2205 Lee St.), owned and operated by Shannon Arnold Foltz, a self-professed "Pie-o-Neer." Located near the Farmers' Market, Ain't Just Pie features Foltz's famous homemade pies. But as the name implies, guests can also enjoy breakfast or lunch.

Joyce Delgado operates the **Blue Mesquite Grill** (2808 Lee St.), a bar and grill featuring burgers, wraps, salads and Jamaican jerk pork and chicken.

Laura Rose Jones serves soups, salads, wraps, and burgers at **The Ashen Rose Pub** (2809 Lee St.), featuring a full service bar. "We opened our business in 2015. It seemed like something downtown was missing and I wanted to help a beautiful downtown grow," Jones says.

Shannon Harris provides a cozy place to kick back and relax with friends at the **Corner Street Pub** (2702 Lee St.), featuring 14 specialty craft drafts, a full bar, good food, an outdoor patio, and live music every Saturday.

For hand-dipped ice cream and fresh fruit smoothies, stop by **La Sabrosita** (2830 Lee St.), owned by Anita Marquez,

who brings a touch of Hispanic culture to downtown.

The **Texan Theater Lobby**, owned by Barb Horan, serves specialty coffee and light meals seven days a week from 7 to 7 in a bright and modern space with complimentary Wi-Fi.

**Pizzo's Sicilian Café** opened in February 2018 in Uptown Forum. Owned by Angela Maria Melia, her specialty is the Italian panini.

No Greenville guide is complete without the award-winning **Landon Winery and Bistro** at 2508 Lee St.

## Shopping

**Uptown Forum** (2610 Lee St.), owned by Gail Sprinkle, is a gathering of shops, artists' studios and services. Its anchor store, **CC & Company**, is an upscale boutique featuring Brighton jewelry, women's clothing, handbags, and shoes, owned and operated by Carrie Crowson.

**The Wind, The Willow Bookstore**, owned by Mary Grace Rodriguez, which opened in February, is also housed in Uptown Forum.

**Two Elizabeths Design** (2805 Lee St.), owned by Elizabeth Lea Bray and Elizabeth Harrison, sells painted and redesigned furniture, artistic jewelry and custom florals, candles, pillows and wall art.

**Forbidden Gallery** (2717 Lee St.), owned by artist and curator Erica Painter, fea-

tures a variety of Texas artists as well as serves the community as a vinyl record store and other curiosities.

**The Muddle** (2408 Stonewall St.) features English antiques, home décor, and interesting collectibles in the historic building where owner Cynthia Green's father once practiced law.

**MoSheri Weddings** (2701 Lee St.), owned by Sheri Garrett, features wedding gowns, prom dresses, Quinceanera dresses, and other formalwear.

Luanne Dickens expanded her **Greenville Floral Gifts & Boutique** into downtown at the corner of Lee and Johnson and offers full floral services, gifts, jewelry, clothing, and special event space.

**Lolly County Line** (2903 Lee St.) is owned by Alyssia Aussicker. They have antiques, shabby chic furniture, and home decor items. They are also a retailer for country chic paint.

## Entertainment

The **Texan Theater Greenville** (2712 Lee St.), owned by Barb Horan, features a four-course meal and concert experience in a spectacularly renovated theater.

The above-noted Landon Winery & Bistro, Blue Mesquite Grill, Corner Street Pub, and Ashen Rose often have live music and entertainment takes place regularly at the Greenville Municipal Auditorium.

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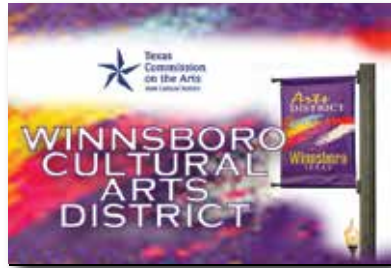
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Blue Moon Gardens owners Sharon Lee Smith (left) and Mary Wilhite are celebrating 25 years in business this year. Besides offering quality gardening crops, classes, and a gift shop, they recently added a fiber studio to the grounds where they make hats, hook rugs, and dye fibers for other needlecrafts. PHOTO BY GAILE ROBINSON. OPPOSITE PAGE: Throughout the grounds visitors enjoy scenes of art, flowers, and plants, and inviting places to sit and enjoy the tranquility.

## Blue Moon Gardens Continues to Blossom

*Owners of this enchanting garden center celebrate 25th anniversary*

By Gaile Robinson

When friends Sharon Lee Smith and Mary Wilhite used to get together after a long day's work in the early days of their careers, they tended to grouse about their jobs and wondered what it would be like to run their own business.

"Well, come to find out, now we know," Wilhite says. "It's hard work."

The hard work has paid off. They began with a wholesale herb nursery and it grew. Soon they were open to the public. This year marks their 25th anniversary as a retail garden center.

The entrepreneurs were still holding down their day jobs in Tyler when they started Blue Moon Gardens outside of Edom. Smith's employer, Laura Miller at Thompson-Hills Nursery, a garden center of long standing in Tyler, encour-

aged them to consider growing herbs as it was a niche market that had no competition. Nurseries weren't selling them, and there were no growers in Texas. Wilhite's husband James invested \$600 and the women began growing herbs in the Wilhite's backyard.

They delivered their fledgling crop to independent garden centers in Austin, Dallas, Brenham, and Shreveport. Wilhite was the first to quit her day job. She made the delivery runs using Smith's Datsun pickup truck. To make the Austin run they began loading the truck at 4:30 in the morning. Smith went to work and Wilhite got back to the greenhouses at 10 o'clock at night. Using the headlights of her car, she and Smith loaded up the truck for the next day's deliveries.

Soon the business was able to support both of them and they graduated to a box van. The loading took longer, the

hours were longer, and their delivery area enlarged.

Herbs were not an easy sell at first. They weren't colorful. Martha Stewart wasn't singing their praises nor were there any cable television cooking shows that kick-start foody trends.

Smith and Wilhite went to garden shows and hawked their herbs. They gave cooking and growing classes at the nurseries they supplied with herbs. They used the gardens on their property as their research and development laboratories to find plants that did well in the Texas climate.

Their wholesale customers were some of their first champions.

"They had an excellent product and they were growing for the Texas region," says John Allen, general manager of Nichol-

son-Hardie Nursery and Garden Centers in Dallas.

He invited them in to teach herb classes. “We’ve been interested in helping young growers since the beginning, but really it was self-serving. We needed plants that were healthy that customers could plant and were assured would grow. Theirs were the best out there.”

The Blue Moon business grew and when a small frame house next door to their greenhouse property came up for sale, they bought it.

“I missed the retail clients,” Smith says.

The house was turned into a gift shop and in March of 1993 they opened a retail garden center with a gift shop, display gardens, and 11 greenhouses. Blue Moon Gardens is still located on Farm to Market 279, four miles east of Edom and 15 miles west of Tyler.

Today they have craft and gardening classes that vary according to the interests of their customers. They began the classes just to inform their customers of the many uses for herbs but they were so popular they remain part of their ongoing calendar.

Herbs are still a large part of Blue Moon’s business and so are shade plants.

“It’s East Texas, there are a lot of big trees — we are always looking for new shade plants,” Smith says.

Over the years they have seen gardening trends come and go. Water gardens and fountains were a hassle for the crew and for the customers so they are on the wane. Fairy gardens had a 10-year run. Smith suspects they were the first garden center in the area to sell the tiny houses and plants that make magical dioramas popular among grandmothers and their grandchildren.

Many of their customers have been with them for decades. Some of the older clients like dwarf shrubs that need less pruning and appreciate Blue Moon stocking up on those. Younger customers, new to gardening, want quick results, and for them completely planted container gardens in large colorful pots are ready to whisk home and plunk on the patio for instant pretty.

The gift shop mix has stayed fairly consistent with candles, lotions, hats, and jewelry, often from local resources. Outdoor rugs, garden furniture, and garden art are used as much to beautify Blue Moon’s gardens as they are staged to sell.

The garden center is so artfully arranged that there are times visitors come just to enjoy the lovely setting.

“We have people who come and just walk around for inspiration. Others come after the death of a pet or a loved one because they find it peaceful,” Wilhite says. “We never expected that. It’s a lovely setting to work in but I’m sure we’re not getting the same peace of mind.”

They both are surprised that the partnership has lasted.

“Most of the time I feel Mary and I try to impress each other with what we accomplish when the other is not around. We don’t want the other to think we are slacking. It’s a good impetus for surviving,” Smith says.

They also credit their husbands for their patience and support as

*continued page 17*



# THIS TIME OF YEAR

The future belongs to those  
who believe in the beauty  
of their dreams.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT



APRIL 29, 1943

## You're the One in a Million Duane Allen



Happy birthday to Duane Allen, one part of the four-part harmonies of the Oak Ridge Boys. Allen was born April 29, 1943, in the tiny crossroads community of Taylor Town south of Paris, Texas.

Before he joined the band he was a DJ at KPLT radio in Paris and he attended Texas A&M University at Commerce.

On April 15, 2014, Lamar County officials dedicated the Duane Allen Memorial Bridge on Duane Allen Road just a few hundred yards from where Allen was born and raised.

Pictured are the Oak Ridge Boys, (l-r) William Lee Golden, Joe Bonsall, Duane Allen, and Richard Sterban. Together since 1973, they still do about 150 shows a year. They'll be at the Texan Theater in Greenville April 8.

APRIL 13, 1958



## The Texan Who Conquered Russia

It was 60 years ago when Kilgore's 23-year-old Van Cliburn took the world by storm when he won the International Tchaikovsky Piano Competition in Moscow during the Cold War. He played Tchaikovsky's "Piano Concerto No. 1" and Rachmaninoff's "Piano Concerto No. 3" in the competition that some say the Soviet's designed to demonstrate their cultural superiority.

In Haward Reich's book *Van Cliburn*, he said that although some tried to marginalize Cliburn so they could knock him from the competition, he made it to the finals. Judges, fearing exile to Siberia, brought in Soviet leader Khrushchev as they deliberated. The premier asked them if he was the best, and told them to give him the prize when they answered yes. This was credited with bridging the Cold War gap.

Cliburn's performance earned an eight-minute standing ovation, a ticker-tape parade in New York City, a cover story in *Time* magazine naming him "The Texan Who Conquered Russia," and a long, successful career that included a Grammy award, the first-ever platinum album for a classical recording, and gigs for royalty, heads of state, and every U.S. president from Harry S. Truman to Barack Obama.

Van Cliburn died February 27, 2013, at the age of 78. Read more about his life in the *County Line Magazine* archives, [www.countylinemagazine.com](http://www.countylinemagazine.com).

MARCH 6, 1963

## Papa's Delicate Condition



The movie *Papa's Delicate Condition* starring Jackie Gleason released on March 6, 1963. The story comes from a book of the same title written by Corinne Griffith – she's represented in the movie as six-year-old Corrie.

Griffith grew up in Texarkana and went on to become a famous silent film star and then one of the richest women in the world. Some of her money was made from the books she wrote including this one.

In the story, her mother leaves her father and takes her to her grandfather's house in Texarkana. The boisterous and hard-drinking father buys a circus among other extravagant gestures.

Academy Award-winning song "Call Me Irresponsible" was first introduced on the soundtrack here by Jackie Gleason.

Go to [www.countylinemagazine.com](http://www.countylinemagazine.com) for more on Corinne Griffith and *Papa's Delicate Condition*.

## BLUE MOON *continued from page 15*

Wilhite and Smith each work weekdays and at least one day of the weekend. They have missed countless gatherings and family events.

“We are completely devoted to making Blue Moon work, and without them willing to put up with that it wouldn’t have happened,” Smith says.

They have managed their business well and their track record with employees is impressive. Several of the women who work for them — and it is mostly women — have been there for more than 20 years.

“Our work is very particular and detailed — usually men are not as enamored of that as women,” Smith says.

Pull their employees aside and ask about the working conditions and they begin to whine, just like Wilhite and Smith did about their old jobs, but they know they have a good thing going.

“We are family, it works like a family,” says Chris Connell who has been on staff since the retail shop first opened and is now in charge of the greenhouses.

Debra Starr — who was hired, she says, to be “Chris’ grunt” 20 years ago — is another of the lifers, having graduated from grunt to indispensable. “I refuse to look for another job,” she says.

Like their bosses, the employees are willing to put in the hard work.

“People will come and apply for a job saying how much they love to garden, but they do it in nice weather,” Smith says. “Here, we garden every day, when it is really hot or cold or windy. You have to pot, you have to water and do lots of bending and lifting.”

Last year Wilhite and Smith added a fiber studio to the grounds, an extension of their hobbies. Wilhite makes hats. Smith hooks rugs and dyes fibers for other needlecrafts. The studio draws in crafters and this brings in more customers who drive to Edom for the one-of-a-kind artworks available at the shops in town. “Now that they have opened the fiber art building it gives me more of a reason to send ladies down there if they are interested in hand-made,” says Beth Brown of Potters Brown in downtown Edom.

Brown says often people who visit Edom are not aware of Blue Moon Gardens, and Wilhite and Smith admit they are horrible about self-promotion, although customers have found them from as far away as Kansas.

Blue Moon Gardens is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Days they are open differ depending on the season: March through June, seven days a week; July-August, Thursday through Sunday; September-December, seven days a week; and January-February, Thursday-Sunday. Their special events this year include a Spring Open House April 28, a Fall Open House October 20, and Illuminations (a holiday open house) December 1.

Blue Moon Gardens sponsors their own active garden club — the March meeting topic is easy gardening/downsizing and April’s topic is edible patio plants.

Times and dates for events, crafts and gardening classes, and garden club meetings and trips are on their website, [www.bluemoongardens.com](http://www.bluemoongardens.com).

*Gaile Robinson is a freelance writer whose work has appeared in the Los Angeles Times, Dallas Morning News and Fort Worth Star-Telegram.*





# Ennis Attracts Visitors To New Downtown Park



Ennis, a Texas Main Street city, is enjoying many improvements that are making life better for those who live, work, and play there. The downtown area is fast becoming an experiential destination where locals and guests shop, dine, and enjoy entertainment.

Just a few months ago, the new Minnie McDowal Park had its grand opening in the heart of downtown where neighbors and guests gather. Besides plenty of seating, it includes a stunning art wall, water features, a performance gazebo, climbing rocks, shade trees, and public restrooms.

This location was formerly home to Ennis' only indoor movie house that was torn down 24 years ago after severe storm damage. The park is named for the theater's longest-standing employee, Minnie McDowal, at the request of the theater's last owner — Lee Roy Mitchell — before selling the land to the city.

Mitchell purchased the old theater in 1960. It was his first indoor theater and

he went on to form Cinemark, now a leader in the motion picture industry with more than 500 theatres and almost 6,000 screens in the United States and Latin America.

Besides Minnie McDowal Park, year-round things to do in Ennis include shopping on the brick streets of the historic district, farmers market April through October, Bardwell Lake, the Railroad and Cultural Heritage Museum, Texas Motorplex, and the seven-screen Galaxy Drive-In Theatre.

Dining opportunities include choices of traditional American food, barbecue, Mexican, Chinese, Italian, and traditional Czech, and there are numerous bakeries and coffee shops.

Upcoming events in Ennis include the Bluebonnet Trails and Festival and the National Polka Festival.

Learn more about what makes Ennis a great destination at [www.visitennis.org](http://www.visitennis.org).



## Caddo Mounds Features High Flying in March

Programs and activities on raptors and owls take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 24 at Caddo Mounds State Historic Site in Alto. Dr. Brent Burt leads a program covering the importance of habitat diversity for maintaining a broad range of birds at Caddo Mounds. Other discussions include how individuals can better attract birds to their own yards using some of the same principles. Guests are asked to bring binoculars for onsite birding tours.

Caddo Mounds State Historic Site, a Texas Historical Commission property, is the remains of a large village and religious center built on the prairie overlooking the Neches River by a group of Caddo Indians known as the Hasinai more than 1,200 years ago. Located along the historic El Camino Real de los Tejas, the site presents the culture and customs of the Caddo people through intriguing exhibits, displays, and preserved burial and ceremonial mounds.

Caddo Mounds is located at 1649 State Highway 21 west, six miles west of Alto, and approximately 30 minutes from Lufkin, Nacogdoches, Jacksonville, and Crockett. Call 936.858.3218 for directions or additional information and see [www.visitcaddomounds.com](http://www.visitcaddomounds.com).

See MORE EVENTS  
on Page 21 and on  
[www.CountyLineMagazine.com](http://www.CountyLineMagazine.com)

# Nudie Suits Sewed Up Country Music's Glitzy Years



Nudie suits were popular with country music stars and about 20 of them are showcased at the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame in Carthage. Starting left and going clockwise are the suits of Jimmy Dean, Ernest Tubb, Ray Price, and Buck Owens. COURTESY PHOTOS.

By Steve Freeman

The name brand was “Nudie,” and those who wore them were considered the best-dressed country music stars of all time.

The Nudie suit was the “get noticed” stage costume for country performers for more than four decades. Originally created by Ukrainian-born Nudie Cohn and his company, Nudie’s Rodeo Tailors, the outfits featured over-the-top rhinestone-covered suits with bold designs and colors that shined bright under stage lights.

While tastes have changed, the original Nudie suits are collectors’ items today, fetching several thousands of dollars each. Grand Ole Opry stars like Hank Williams, Ernest Tubb, Buck Owens, Glen Campbell, and Dolly Parton wore them, as did the wider pop stars like

John Wayne, Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, Gene Autry and even Elton John, Ronald Reagan, and Cher. The performance attire worn by Robert Redford in the movie *Electric Horseman* was a Nudie, as was the gold lamé suit worn by Elvis Presley on the cover of one of his albums. Country rock’s Gram Parsons was barely 20 years old when he commissioned one of the flashy outfits from Nudie Cohn and famously used it on his first album with the Flying Burrito Brothers.

Perhaps the largest “collection” of Nudie suits in the Upper East Side of Texas awaits visitors to the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame in Carthage. The “collection” of 20 suits is on loan from various owners and the stars’ estates, but that doesn’t matter to the 500 visitors who tour the museum each month, says museum director Tommie Ritter Smith.

“All of the suits are beautiful and well-made,” she says. “Many of the entertainers used the suits as their symbol.”

The museum’s many exhibits include Nudie suits worn by Ernest Tubb, Ray Price, Jimmy Dean, Johnny Rodriguez, and Buck Owens. The largest number — 15 — belonged to Tex Ritter, a cousin to the museum’s director.

The most ornate belonged to Jimmy Dean and Ray Price. Dean’s suit in saddle brown fabric is covered in gold and cream-colored wildflowers. Price’s outfit displays Native American images which reflected his nickname, “The Cherokee Cowboy.”

Others at the Carthage museum still carry the Nudie name, but are less flashy, perhaps more closely matching the style of such country crooners like Tex Ritter himself.



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## EVENTS

*Dates and times are subject to change. Always call ahead before planning a visit.*

March 1-4

**First Monday Trade Days.** Canton.  
903.567.6556. [www.firstmondaycanton.com](http://www.firstmondaycanton.com)

March 2

**Zonta Antique Show and Sale.** Longview.  
Maude Cobb Complex. 100 Grand Blvd.  
903.235.4144. [www.visitlongviewtexas.com](http://www.visitlongviewtexas.com)

March 2-4

**North Texas Irish Festival.** Dallas. Fair Park.  
1121 1st Ave. 214.426.3400. [www.ntif.org](http://www.ntif.org)

March 3

**Half de Paris TX.** Paris. Downtown Square.  
39 U.S. 271 Business. [www.halfdeparistx.com](http://www.halfdeparistx.com)

March 8-11

**Tejas Storytelling Association.** Denton.  
Denton Civic Center. 321 E McKinney St.  
940.380.9320. [www.tejasstorytelling.com](http://www.tejasstorytelling.com)

March 16

**Spring Line Dancing Festival.** Greenville.  
Fletcher Warren Civic Center. 5501 Joe Ramsey  
Blvd N. 903.457.2994. [www.ci.greenville.tx.us](http://www.ci.greenville.tx.us)

March 17

**McKinney St. Patrick's Day Festival & Shamrock Run.** McKinney. TUPPS Brewery.  
721 Anderson St. 318.527.9221. [www.visitmckinney.com](http://www.visitmckinney.com)

March 17

**Bar Stool Races.** Ben Wheeler. [www.benwheelertx.com](http://www.benwheelertx.com)

March 23-24

**Piney Woods Music & Arts Festival.**  
Crockett. Historic Camp Street. 936.544.4276.  
[www.pwfaa.org](http://www.pwfaa.org)

March 29-April 1

**First Monday Trade Days.** Canton.  
903.567.6556. [www.firstmondaycanton.com](http://www.firstmondaycanton.com)

March 31 – April 29 Weekends

**Avalon Faire.** Kilgore. 1076 FM 1252 W.  
903.985.0165. [www.avalonfaire.com](http://www.avalonfaire.com)

April 20-29

**Hunt County Fair.** Greenville. Hunt County  
Fair Association. 9800 Jack Finney Blvd.  
903.454.1503. [www.huntcountyfair.net](http://www.huntcountyfair.net)

April 27

**Arts & Jazz Festival.** Denton. Quakertown  
Park. 321 East McKinney. 940.565.0931. [www.dentonjazzfest.com](http://www.dentonjazzfest.com)

April 28

**Wings Over Pegasus Airshow.** Murchison.  
The Pegasus Project Ranch. 7111 FM 2339.  
903.707.5866. [www.mypegasusproject.org](http://www.mypegasusproject.org)

See [countylinemagazine.com](http://countylinemagazine.com)  
for extended event listings.

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# Enjoy a Fun Day in the Rose Capital of America

*From roses to science, animals to candy, this Tyler tour is good for all ages*

By Gaile Robinson

Tyler has a long list of family-friendly things to do that are appropriate for groups with an age span from toddling to doddering. Visitors spending a day or longer in the “Rose Capital of America” have no shortage of activities to add to their agenda. Here are a few of the must-see places.

## 1. The Tyler Rose Garden and Museum

The gardens are expansive with well-marked beds of rose after rose after

rose. There is ample room for a sedate stroll or for the kids to have a wild romp. Inside, the Rose Museum is dedicated to the history of rose growing in the Tyler area with agricultural history in the back halls, but the big displays are a hall of state of former Rose Queens. The portrait parade of rose royalty in their coronation splendor is quite frankly astonishing. Can there be a sequin left in all of Texas after making one of these outrageous confections?

Each of the gowns’ trains depicts some personal story of the wearer with hobbies and affiliations, or just romantic

fantasies. Trying to engage the kids in this area? Place a bounty on finding a special image on one of the elaborate trains, that will keep the children entertained — try locating the unicorn for one.

After admiring scores of the queens’ crowns, expect to pony up for a miniature tiara in the gift shop. It’s not hard to find as there is no avoiding the vaporous cloud of rose-scented air that wafts across the lobby.

420 Rose Park Drive, 903.597.3130. Admission: Adults, \$3.50, children, 2-11 \$2. Hours: Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; Sunday 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. (Closed on Sunday and Monday November through Mid-March) [www.texasrosefestival.com](http://www.texasrosefestival.com)

## 2. The Center for Earth & Space Science Education

The planetarium on the campus of Tyler Junior College has a few small exhibits, enough to beguile a child until the film starts. They usually present a variety of science-related films on the planetarium’s 40-foot concave screen. Films showing through March are: *National Parks Adventure*; *Dream Big: Engineering Our World*; and *Moons: Worlds of Mystery*. For show times and more offerings check out their website.

Tyler Junior College, 1411 E. Lake Street, 903.510.2312. Admission: Individual shows, \$4 - \$7; All-day pass, \$9 - \$12; Exhibit only, \$3. Hours: Tue. – Fri. 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; Sat. 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. [www.sciencecenter.tjc.edu](http://www.sciencecenter.tjc.edu)

## 3. Discovery Science Place

A visit to Discovery Science Place means parents stand around like sentient hall trees holding jackets, water bottles, and bags while their offspring are encouraged to taste the place at their own pace, from dawdling over a single activity board or racing around the museum trying everything in record time.

This is a great museum for pre-school age and young school-age children. The time window for enjoying the sort of interactive experiences offered is



limited but while they are in that sweet spot children seem to find something that specifically engages them. The drivers will want to leave long before the kids are ready.

308 N. Broadway Ave. 903.533.8011. Admission: \$5 - \$8 (Note: Visitors under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult, adults unaccompanied by children will not be allowed museum access.) Hours: Tue. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Closed: Monday. [www.discoveryscienceplace.org](http://www.discoveryscienceplace.org)

#### 4. Caldwell Zoo

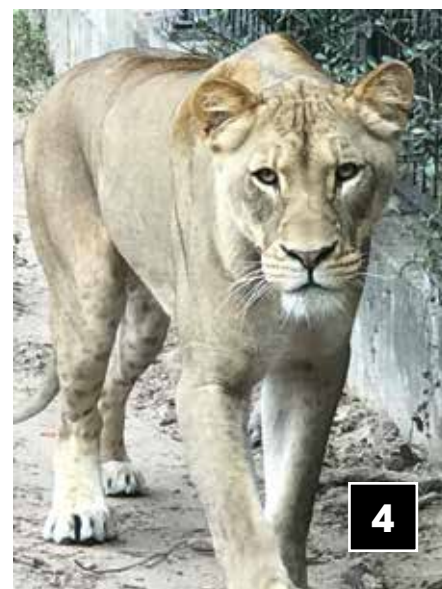
For those looking for a multi-hour stop, one that could entertain a group for an entire day, try the Caldwell Zoo. The grounds are lovely and well shaded with benches available for those who are not capable or willing to hike to every habitat. The recently opened African Overlook allows visitors to watch elephants frolic in their swimming pool. The giraffes' feeding stations are close to a new café so dining with the giraffes is a novel way to while away the lunch hour. The animals often spend as much time checking out visitors as visitors do admiring the animals.

2203 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. 903.593.0120. Admission: Free for members, \$7.16 - \$10.36 non-members. Hours: March 1 - Labor Day 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Labor Day - February 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed: Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. [www.caldwellzoo.org](http://www.caldwellzoo.org)

#### 5. Sweet Gourmet

Everyone deserves a treat for the long day of out and about. The Sweet Gourmet is the place to go for a reward. There is a wall of candy to entice the kids and for a more sophisticated sweet tooth look toward the glass display shelves of luscious chocolate-dipped fruits, made locally for the shop. Sweet Gourmet is the only official Godiva retailer in East Texas. Then there are the culinary items from LaCreuset and Wusthof, along with European table linens, so many luxury cooking items and accessories it's easy to forget the sweets were the reason for the trip. It's a common mistake. Don't forget to leave with the kids — they are over at the wall of candy.

4554 S. Broadway Ave. 903.534.0840. Hours: Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sun. 12:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. [www.sweetgourmetonline.com](http://www.sweetgourmetonline.com)





## Spring Flower Trails Offer Blooming Good Time

Spring in the Upper East Side of Texas means blooms, blooms, and more blooms. From festivals to gardens to natural wildflowers along roadways, this part of the world offers a breathtaking backdrop to rival any in the world. Take a look at this list and set aside some time to stop and smell the roses and enjoy all these brightly colored beauties as this side of nature puts on its annual show.

**Nacogdoches Azalea Trail.** 888.653.3788. [www.visitnacogdoches.org](http://www.visitnacogdoches.org).

**Stephen F. Austin Mast Arboretum.** Nacogdoches. 936.468.1832. [www.sflagardens.sfasu.edu](http://www.sflagardens.sfasu.edu).

**Tyler Azalea Trail.** 903.592.1661. [www.visitt Tyler.com](http://www.visitt Tyler.com).

**Tyler Rose Garden.** 903.531.1213 [www.parksandrec.cityoftyler.org](http://www.parksandrec.cityoftyler.org).

**Palestine Dogwood Trails.** 903.723.3014. [www.texasdogwoodtrails.com](http://www.texasdogwoodtrails.com).

**Linden Wildflower Trail.** 903.240.1394. [www.lindenwildflowertrails.net](http://www.lindenwildflowertrails.net).

**Mrs. Lee's Daffodils.** Gladewater. 903.845.5780. [www.daffodilgarden.com](http://www.daffodilgarden.com).

**East Texas Arboretum.** Athens. 903.675.5630. [www.easttexasarboretum.org](http://www.easttexasarboretum.org).

**Blue Moon Gardens.** Edom. 903.852.3897. [www.bluemoongardens.com](http://www.bluemoongardens.com)

**Mineola Nature Center.** 903.569.6983. [www.mineolanaturepreserve.com](http://www.mineolanaturepreserve.com).

**Glenda Mae's Daylily Farm.** Edom. 903.235.2529. [www.glendamaisedaylilyfarm.com](http://www.glendamaisedaylilyfarm.com).

**Ennis Bluebonnet Festival.** 972.878.4748. [www.visitennis.org](http://www.visitennis.org).

**Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden.** 214.515.6615. [www.dallasarboretum.org](http://www.dallasarboretum.org).

**Emory Blooms.** Scarbrough Haven. 903.473.3104. [www.scarbroughhaven.com](http://www.scarbroughhaven.com).

*See more trails on [www.countylinemagazine.com](http://www.countylinemagazine.com)*



# UPSTANDERS of the Upper East Side of Texas



**Jen Katz**  
Tyler

Originally from New Jersey, Jen Katz moved to Tyler in 2003 when her husband, Neal, became rabbi at Congregation Beth El. He had already served the Jewish congregation as a student rabbi for two years.

Jen Katz is the driving force of a movement to forge relationships among various faiths in the Tyler area. When she's not promoting world peace, Katz works as regional sales director for AFS, which provides leading technology for freight and parcel audit, transportation analytics, and business intelligence to help companies world-

wide reduce shipping expenses. With the company for more than 10 years, she is a member of the Million Dollar Club, representing the savings her customers have realized on their shipping expenses.

Katz has been a Girl Scout leader with the Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas for nine years, serving troops ranging from Brownies to Seniors. She is also a former board member of Tyler Day Nursery, which provides quality child care and preschool education for children of low-income and poverty level families.

She holds a bachelor's degree in English from Mary Washington College and a master's degree in education from George Mason University.

She says the biggest adjustment in moving to Northeast Texas was getting used to the politeness and friendliness typically not seen in larger cities.

"It's a good place to raise a family," says the mother of three children, ages 12, 14 and 17. "When they were younger and we visited bigger cities, I felt I needed to keep an eye on them. Here, I feel it's safer; people look out for each other."



**Dylan Godwin**  
Athens

For every successful actor, there is a community theatre in their past. Just ask Dylan Godwin from Athens.

Godwin was with the Henderson County Performing Arts Center (HCPAC) for more than 10 years, and the HCPAC is proud to call him one of their YES! kids.

Dylan attended the center's YES! classes from nine to 13 year olds for lessons in acting, stage make-up, set design, costume design, playwriting and stage craft

"From the time he found the stage, he accepted a leadership role and was a cheerleader in moving the theatre forward," recalls HCPAC Executive Director Emeritus Dennis Gilmore. "He was in, directed, choreographed, costumed or designed over 20 productions. At the same time, he was assisting in the rebuilding of the high school drama program. What made and still makes Dylan an asset to any theatre is his ability to be a team player."

Godwin is often cast in musical comedies because he exudes the effervescence required of those parts. He was selected for a national tour while still in college and he currently graces the stages of the Alley Theatre, Theatre Under the Stars, and Stages Repertory Theatre, all in Houston. He is also an acting and directing consultant at the High School of Performing and Visual Arts in Houston.



**Dr. Anngienetta Johnson**  
Cedar Hill

Over the course of her 40-year NASA career, Dr. Anngienetta "Anngie" Johnson, put into practice her guiding philosophy of helping others. From her role in helping to develop NASA's Earth observing spacecraft, to her leadership on a NASA partnership with the National Science Foundation to promote collaborative science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) educational programs, to her work evaluating NASA's disaster response plans and her co-authorship of a chapter in "Success Strategies for Women in Science," the concept of service has defined Johnson's work.

While an undergraduate student at Texas Woman's University, Johnson was offered a chance to participate in NASA's Co-op program at the Johnson Space Center. Speaking at her 40th high school reunion, she recalled, "Every emotion one can think of welled up inside of me, fear being the most prominent. How could I work with those geniuses?" But she held her own, and despite not having computer training in college, she taught herself, and began to write programs to process data from Apollo.

In 1981, as a flight operations employee, Johnson was the first African-American to manage a "front" room console position in mission control, just one of many milestones she accomplished.

Johnson is the keynote speaker at Women in Longview Day March 22. The event also features shopping opportunities, a seminar on family violence facilitated by Judge Becky Simpson, award and scholarship presentations, and a luncheon. Learn more about this event at [www.womeninlongview.org](http://www.womeninlongview.org).

# Sticks and Stones by Helen Altman on Exhibit in Tyler



The Tyler Museum of Art (TMA) celebrates the arrival of springtime with a quarter-century survey in the career of one of the most diverse and prolific contemporary Texas artists. “Sticks and Stones: Works by Helen Altman” opens to the public March 11 and continues through June 3. Admission is free.

The exhibition, organized by TMA and curated by Caleb Bell, features more than 40 pieces spanning a dynamic body of work by Altman, a Fort Worth-based art-

ist noted for her ability to move between various series across an eclectic array of media. “Sticks and Stones” particularly focuses on her fascination with flora and fauna, which “have been a much-appreciated constant in my life,” the artist said. “They have been a constant source of joy and also a source of coping.”

Altman’s specific choices of media throughout her career — blankets, wire birds, egg editions and torch drawings, to name just a few — also reflect a pronounced emphasis on exploring the unique in the everyday.

“Many of my works use commonplace materials and objects. I respond to ready-made objects that are often discards or flawed in some obvious way,” the artist said. “Alterations in these familiar things elevate them and draw parallels to our own human predicament.”

Altman received both her bachelor of fine arts and master of arts degrees from the University of Alabama, as well as her master of fine arts from the University of North Texas. Her work has been widely exhibited and is featured in numerous public collections, including the Art Museum of South East Texas, The Grace Museum and Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego.



## Arts in Bloom Promises Fun For All Ages

*During Arts in Bloom in McKinney April 13-15, the downtown streets are filled with fine artists, dancers, performance artists, musicians, Texas wines, craft beers, and food vendors for this three-day celebration. Participating wineries include Landon Winery, Lone Star Wine Cellars, Red 55 Winery, Los Pinos Ranch Vineyards, Sugar Ridge Winery, White Fox Winery and more. Live music includes performances by The Derailers, E Flat Porch Band, Texas Flood, and Hard Nights Day. More than 150 juried artists are involved. Learn more at [www.mckinneytexas.org](http://www.mckinneytexas.org). PHOTO COURTESY MCKINNEY CVB.*

### ARTS EVENTS

*Dates and times are subject to change. Always call ahead before planning a visit.*

Through March 24  
**The Sky’s the Limit Exhibition.** Athens. Gallery 211. 211 N. Palestine. 903.292.1746. [www.artgallery211.net](http://www.artgallery211.net)

March 24-25  
**9th Annual Arts in the Square.** Frisco. [www.visitfrisco.com](http://www.visitfrisco.com)

Through March 25  
**Best Friends II: The Dog as Subject in Fine Art Photography.** Tyler. Tyler Museum of Art. 1300 S. Mahon Ave. 903.595.1001. [www.tylermuseum.org](http://www.tylermuseum.org)

Through June 17  
**In Her Image: Photographs by Rania Matar.** Fort Worth. Amon Carter Museum of American Art, 3501 Camp Bowie Boulevard. 817.738.1933. [www.cartermuseum.org](http://www.cartermuseum.org)

# Winnsboro Exhibits Mosaics



“Mosaic,” the upcoming visual arts exhibition at the Winnsboro Center for the Arts, presents a broad perspective of mosaic art in numerous contexts and features local and Texas talent. The exhibition reflects the rich variety of mosaic mediums and its unlimited applications. The show is open to the public from March 3 - April 14 with an artist reception on March 4 at 2:30 p.m. at the Winnsboro Center for the Arts. Admission is free. For more information call 903.342.0686 and visit [www.winnsborocenterforthearts.com](http://www.winnsborocenterforthearts.com).

Through November 18  
**Commanding Space: Women Sculptors of Texas. Fort Worth.** *Amon Carter Museum of American Art, 3501 Camp Bowie Boulevard. 817.738.1933. [www.cartermuseum.org](http://www.cartermuseum.org)*

March 24-25  
**Azalea Arts and Crafts Fair. Tyler.** *Bergfeld Park, 1510 S. College. 903.531.1214. [www.TylerParksandRec.com](http://www.TylerParksandRec.com)*

April 1  
**Culture of Art Festival. Denison.** *Denison Arts Council, Heritage Park. [www.denisontexas.us](http://www.denisontexas.us)*

April 6-8  
**Deep Ellum Arts Festival. Dallas.** *[www.deep-ellumartsfestival.com](http://www.deep-ellumartsfestival.com)*

April 13-15  
**Dallas Pottery Invitational. Dallas.** *The Empire Room, 1225 N. Riverfront Blvd. 214.649.9004. [www.dallaspotteryinvitational.com](http://www.dallaspotteryinvitational.com)*

April 19-22  
**Main Street Fort Worth Arts Festival.** *[www.mainstreetartsfest.org](http://www.mainstreetartsfest.org)*

## Art Show Set For April 20-21 in Athens



*The Henderson County Art Club holds its 90th Annual Spring Art Show April 20 and 21 at the East Texas Arboretum in Athens. An artists' reception and awards presentation kicks off the show on Friday from 5 to 7 p.m. and the show continues from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. There is no cover charge. For more information call 903.675.7800 and visit [www.hendersoncounty-art.org](http://www.hendersoncounty-art.org).*

## Palestine Art Tracks Sculptures Adorn Downtown Streets



“Unfurling” by Art Fairchild is one of 20 pieces selected for this year’s Palestine Art Tracks, a downtown outdoor sculpture exhibit that runs through November. Eleven artists were selected in November as finalists in an annual bid to show off their work. Art Tracks founder Jean Mollard says the show gives residents and visitors alike a chance to enjoy art while driving by or walking around downtown Palestine.

The installations are made from metal, mosaic, glass, and steel and are available for purchase, with commissions going to the Palestine Main Street program to help finance improvements in the city. Sculpture locations are on public property, and a printed brochure map — available at Palestine Main Street Gallery — guides visitors through the route.

PHOTO BY DAVE SHULTZ

## Longview Ballet and Ballet West Present Aladdin at Belcher Center



PHOTO BY LUKE ISLEY

Longview Ballet Theatre (LBT) and Ballet West present *Aladdin* April 27-28 at LeTourneau University's Belcher Center. The show is choreographed by Ballet West Principal Ballet Mistress Pamela Robinson-Harris and former Ballet West soloist Peggy Dolkas.

This production takes patrons on a magical carpet ride full of romance, comedy, and adventure. The audience follows Aladdin and an entire cast of colorful characters as he strives to win the love of his beautiful princess and spoil the plans of a wicked magician.

Performed concisely in one hour and 15 minutes by the members of LBT and Ballet West, and students of the Studio of Creative Arts, this beloved tale comes to life with a lamp, a mischievous mon-

key, a loveable camel, a magic carpet, and plenty of sorcery. Complete with colorful costumes by David Heuvel, clever sets by Michael Andrew Currey, and an arranged score by composers Jean Sebelius, Carl Nielsen, Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, Edvard Grieg, Dmitry Kabalevsky, and Antonin Dvorak, *Aladdin* is fun for the entire family.

*Aladdin* is the third collaboration between LBT and Ballet West. LBT was formed in 1972 by Pat George Mitchell. Ballet West is the seventh largest professional ballet company in the world.

Three performances of *Aladdin* take place with tickets starting at just \$15. Tickets are available online at [www.belchercenter.com](http://www.belchercenter.com) or by calling the Belcher Center Box Office at 903.233.3080.

### STAGE SHOWS

*Dates and times are subject to change. Always call ahead before planning a visit.*

Through March 3

**The Skin of Our Teeth.** Athens. Henderson County Performing Arts Center. 400 Gibson Rd. 903.675.3908. [www.hcpac.org](http://www.hcpac.org)

March 2-4

**Barefoot in the Park.** Hughes Springs. Community Theatre of East Texas. 114 East First Street. 903.767.5208. [www.facebook.com/CommunityTheatreofEastTexas/](http://www.facebook.com/CommunityTheatreofEastTexas/)

March 3

**Duane Murray "As I Was Saying..."** Denison. The Rialto Theater. 424 West Main Street. 903.462.4300. [therialtotheater.net](http://therialtotheater.net)

March 6

**Motown the Musical.** Tyler. UT Tyler Cowan Center. 3900 University Blvd. 903.566.7424. [www.uttyler.edu](http://www.uttyler.edu)

March 8

**The Music Man.** Mineola. Lake Country Playhouse. 114 N. Johnson Street. 903.569.2300. [www.lakecountryplayhouse.com](http://www.lakecountryplayhouse.com)

March 9

**Alice in Wonderland.** Tyler. UT Tyler Cowan Center. 3900 University Blvd. 903.566.7424. [www.uttyler.edu](http://www.uttyler.edu)

March 11

**ArtRAGEous.** Lufkin. Temple Theater at Angelina College. 3500 South First St. 936.633.3220. [www.angelinaarts.org](http://www.angelinaarts.org)

March 22-31

**Coyote Tales.** Athens. Henderson County Performing Arts Center. 400 Gibson Rd. 903.675.3908. [www.hcpac.org](http://www.hcpac.org)

March 30-April 8

**Little Shop of Horrors.** Palestine. Historic Texas Theater. 213 W. Crawford St. 903.723.9595. [www.thetexasstheater.com](http://www.thetexasstheater.com)

April 14

**Passing Zone.** Longview. LeTourneau University Belcher Center. 2100 S. Moberly Ave. 903.233.3080. [www.belchercenter.com](http://www.belchercenter.com)

April 19-28

**Animal Farm.** Athens. Henderson County Performing Arts Center. 400 Gibson Rd. 903.675.3908. [www.hcpac.org](http://www.hcpac.org)

April 21

**The Wizard of Oz.** Tyler. UT Tyler Cowan Center. 3900 University Blvd. 903.566.7424. [www.uttyler.edu](http://www.uttyler.edu)

See [countylinemagazine.com](http://countylinemagazine.com) for extended event listings.

# Sticks and Stones

Works by  
Helen Altman

March 11  
through  
June 3, 2018

Tyler Museum of Art  
(903) 595-1001 • [www.tylermuseum.org](http://www.tylermuseum.org)

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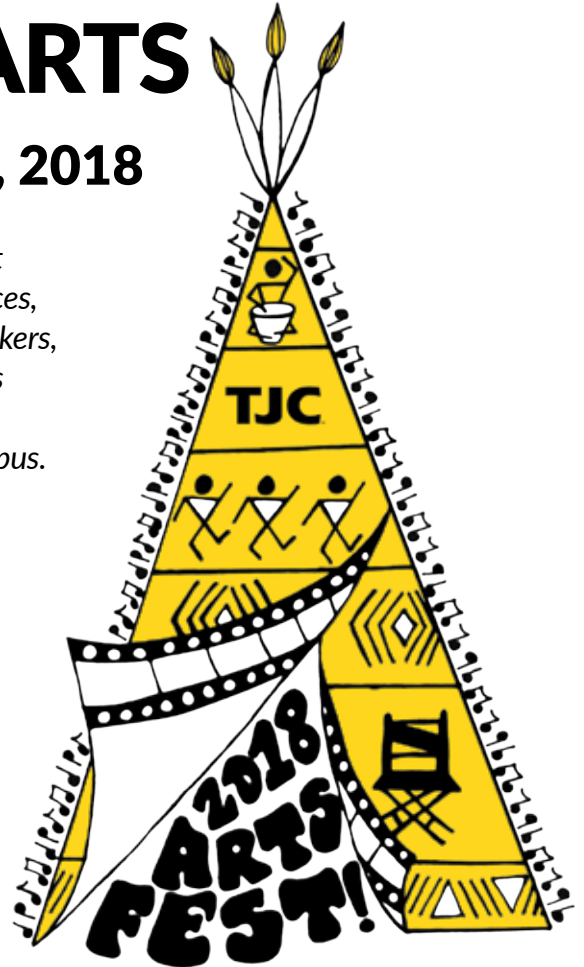


THE ART OF LEE CUNNINGHAM:  
A RETROSPECTIVE  
APRIL 7 – JUNE 23

## TJC's Annual **CELEBRATION** *of the ARTS*

**April 1-30, 2018**

A month-long event  
offering performances,  
exhibits, guest speakers,  
and more at various  
times and locations  
across the TJC campus.



[TJC.edu/artsfestival](http://TJC.edu/artsfestival)



**TJC**

# Up Close and Personal with Novelist Alice Hoffman

By April Canik

Growing up in a less-than-desirable Long Island, New York, neighborhood, American novelist Alice Hoffman found her solace at the library.

“Reading changed the world for me,” she says. “Books allowed me to see other places my friends did not see.” She often describes books as lifesaving rafts, but admits she did not aspire to be a writer until her adult years.

While addressing the 2018 gathering of Pulpwood Queen Book Club members in Nacogdoches earlier this year, Hoffman gave the book club phenomenon a “shout out” for helping the publishing world realize the power of women readers and authors.

“Groups like this really help tell the media what we want to see and read, so I am proud of you for doing this,” she said.

## Personal Plot Twists

Hoffman’s fascination with magic began at an early age.

“I discovered a box of Ray Bradbury books at the time of my parents’ divorce, and in some ways, Ray Bradbury was the father I didn’t have,” she shares. “His books led me to think about magic as a part of the everyday world.”

Meeting him in person has been one of the highlights of her life, she says.

Considering herself a terrible student, Hoffman only pursued college because it “seemed easier than working.” At the urging of her “genius” brother, she landed a Fellowship at Stanford University’s Creative Writing Center and met a writing professor who encouraged her to “write what she could imagine” instead of the traditional wisdom to “write what you know.”

Hoffman is best known for her 1995 cult-classic novel, *Practical Magic*, a book that helped her learn that she was an escapist reader and writer drawn to the themes of love, loss, and survival.



“Fortunately for me, Sandra Bullock loved the book and made it happen with Hollywood making it into a movie featuring Nicole Kidman, Stockard Channing, and Dianne Wiest,” Hoffman says.

She learned something else about herself when she stepped onto the set and into the kitchen she had described in her book.

“I really felt like I was walking into my own book which is a very unusual sensation,” she explains. “It dawned on me that I am much like the set designer when I am writing a book because I am creating a world for my characters.”

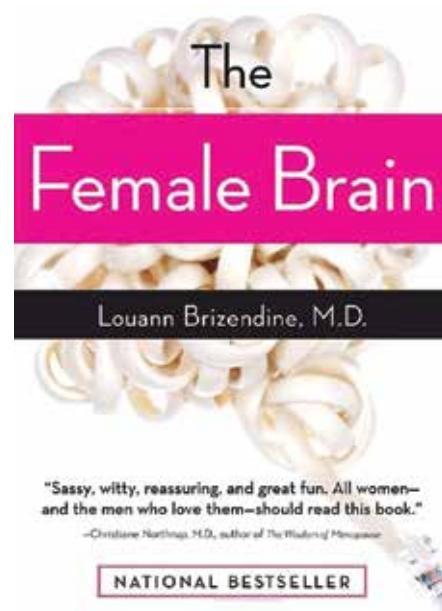
Hoffman considers *The Rules of Magic* to be somewhat of a backstory to *Practical Magic*, believing people don’t really understand you completely until they know you in your youth. “I knew the outside story with this book, but I didn’t really know the inside story – the emotional story – until I finished the book,” she says. Writing the book against the backdrop of her divorce, Hoffman gained insight from her characters’ key life lesson: “No matter what happens to you, you should always love more.” She is flattered to know Warner Bros. is consider-

ing adapting her book for a TV show.

Another personal plot twist came in the form of a breast cancer diagnosis, which ultimately fueled Hoffman’s passion to make survival a prominent theme in her writing. Knowing one in seven women is impacted by breast cancer, she is encouraged to announce she is a 20-year survivor.

## Beyond the Buzz

After the likes of 30 novels and other published works, Hoffman’s accolades abound from numerous coveted awards to the public praises of Oprah and Reese Witherspoon. Ironically, repeatedly hitting the *New York Times* Best Sellers list does not bring Hoffman any additional self-confidence. “I still get anxious when I start the next one, and I still look at my books and wonder who wrote them,” she admits.



## The Female Brain

By Louann Brizendine, M.D.

The *New York Times* bestseller notes profound scientific understandings of the nature and experience of the female brain, helping women better guide their lives, and men better understand the women in their lives. The book inspired a romantic comedy released earlier this year directed by and starring Whitney Cummings, and also featuring Sofia Vergara, Jane Seymour, Toby Kebbell, and Ben Platt.

# POETRY

## My Morning Ride

On a back road Saturday afternoon  
with our cane poles in tow,  
me and the boys  
headed for the little fishing hole  
about a mile from home  
hoping to catch something  
other than a spring cold  
with our ample supply of grub worms.  
We all started to wonder  
what kind of day  
it was going to be  
when we saw, at a distance,  
that an older gentleman  
had already staked out  
last weekend's honey hole.  
As we moved closer,  
the boys burst out in laughter  
and jokingly asked their Grandpa  
if he was running a trot line.  
I grinned, asked if he knew  
we were coming,  
and he admitted he was tipped off  
by some woman he met  
at my wedding sixteen years ago.  
With any luck at all,  
maybe his ice chest  
will be full of cold drinks  
instead of all of our catfish.

Darrell Lindsey  
Nacogdoches

## Award-Winning Poet Matt Spezia Performs in Winnsboro



The Winnsboro Center for the Arts presents "Spoken Word," a night of performance poetry, at 7 p.m. March 3 featuring national award-winning poet Matt Spezia and local poets, including Angela Wylie.

Matt Spezia is a powerhouse of lyrical ability, combining a three-time national award-winning poetry style, Kansas City hip hop, and thespian teachings. This artist has two albums and a book published and completed a summer tour last year that consisted of 32 shows in

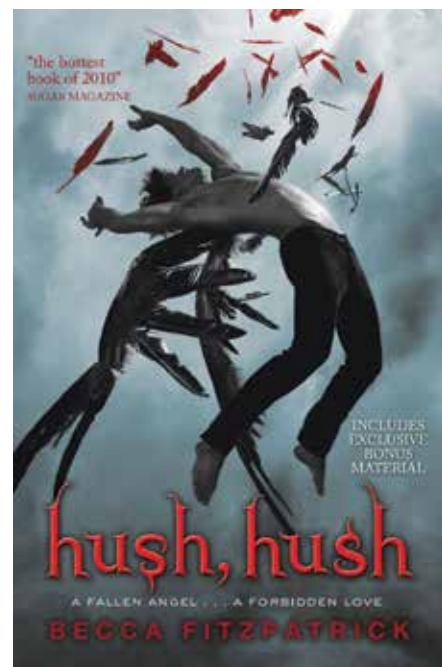
two months. Spezia uses his art to promote self confidence, social awareness, and cultural change, especially to young people and he has worked directly with school children in six different Kansas districts.

He also hosts two weekly national award-winning radio shows that are both fun and entertaining.

Tickets range from \$12.50 to \$15 per person and are available at [www.winnsborocenterforthearts.com](http://www.winnsborocenterforthearts.com). For more information call 903.342.0686.

## HUSH, HUSH

By Becca Fitzpatrick



At the mention of angels, most people imagine glowing humanoid creatures draped in white tunics with pearly wings to match, and golden halos circling their heads. But what about their hell-bound brothers and sisters? The fallen angels? These darkly enchanting creatures become the center focus of Becca Fitzpatrick's novel, *Hush, Hush*, surrounding the life of a not-so-normal teenage girl, a fallen angel named Patch, and his furious Nephilim arch-nemesis. This book, one of four in a series, draws the readers into a perilous journey of love, lust, and betrayal, with confusion and excitement hiding around every corner, guaranteed to keep readers on the edges of their seats, begging for more. — Krista Leard

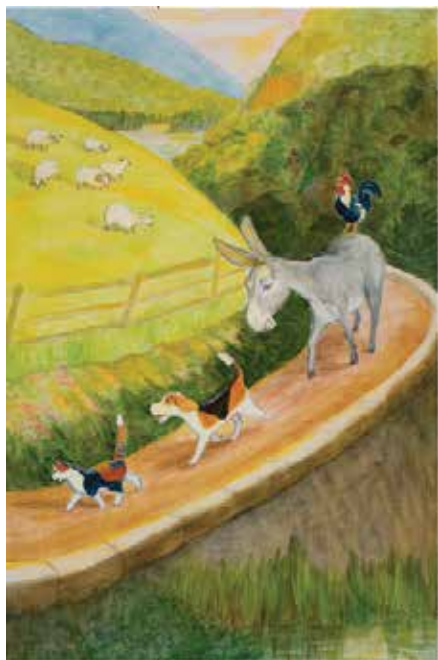
## Women of the World Poetry Slam Set for March 14-17 in Dallas



*Women of the World Poetry Slam is a performance poetry tournament designed for individual competition, where 96 of the world's best female-identified poets perform four poems of varying lengths during preliminary bouts. Taking place March 14-17, the top poets go on to finals to compete for the title of The 2018 Women of the World Champion. During this week, there are also workshops and open mics around the city. Go to [www.wowps2018.com](http://www.wowps2018.com) for tickets and more information.*



## Mount Vernon Music Finishes Season with Bach, Vivaldi, Brahms, and Brydern



When Mount Vernon Music Association (MVM) started getting requests for Baroque music, they came up with a program of pieces for strings, flute, and keyboard (in this case piano) by composers Georg Philipp Telemann, J. S. Bach, Arcangelo Corelli, Antonio Vivaldi, and Johann Pachelbel.

Performing in concert March 3 at Mount Vernon Music Hall is Ebonee Thomas, flute; Mark Miller, violin; Ute Miller, viola; Zachary Mansell, cello; and Evan Mitchell, piano. The program is repeated the next day as part of the Mu Phi Epsilon concert series at the Dallas Public Library.

On May 13, MVM presents a sonata that Johannes Brahms wrote to be played on either of two instruments he especially loved, the clarinet and the viola. They'll divide it between clarinetist Daryl Coad and violist Ute Miller performing with Evan Mitchell, piano, and present it with Venezuelan-born Reynaldo Hahn's Romanesque for flute, viola, and piano; Czech composer Bohuslav Martin's Madrigal Sonata for flute, violin, and piano; and Armenian Aram Khachaturian's Trio for violin, clarinet, and piano, with Ebonee Thomas, flute, and Mark Miller, violin.



This program can also be heard at 7:30 p.m. May 1 in Texas A&M Commerce's Finney Concert Hall as part of the Color of Sound Series, and 7 p.m. May 12 at Collora Piano in Dallas.

MVM's annual children's concert takes place June 11. This year's show celebrates the publication of a book/CD of *The Town Musicians*, commissioned by MVM in 2013 and composed by Benedikt Brydern in 2014. With celebrity narration in English and Spanish, a new twist on a timeless story about four lovable animal characters, and beautiful color paintings, the new book/CD is a delightful way to illustrate the power of music to tell a story.

Before performing *The Town Musicians*, MVM also presents *Beagles' Day Out*, with more music by Brydern, about two little hounds who take advantage of a careless moment to rush out their owner's front door. They enjoy all kinds of adventures, including getting lost, tired and hungry, before finally finding their way back home. *Beagles Day Out* is told in rhyming narration by Rose Roeder, who also created the nearly 100 images that illustrate the story.

### MUSIC

Dates and times are subject to change. Always call ahead before planning a visit.

#### March 2

**JD Souther.** Greenville. *The Texan Theatre*. 2712 Lee Street. 903.259.6360. [www.texantheatergreenville.com](http://www.texantheatergreenville.com)

**Bill Hearne Trio.** Winnsboro. *The Bowery Stage*. 200 Market Street. 903.342.0686. [www.winnsborocenterforthearts.com](http://www.winnsborocenterforthearts.com)

#### March 3

**Baroque Con Brio.** Mount Vernon. *Mount Vernon Music Hall*. 402 Leftwich. 903.563.3780. [www.mountvernonmusic.org](http://www.mountvernonmusic.org)

**Wesley Pruitt Band.** Ben Wheeler. *Moore's Store*. 1535 FM 279. 903.833.5100. [www.moorestore.com](http://www.moorestore.com)

#### March 9

**Paul Renna's Valley of the Moon EP Release Party.** Dallas. *The Green Elephant*. 5627 Dyer St. 214.265.1338. [www.greenelephantdallas.com](http://www.greenelephantdallas.com)

**Ally Venable Band.** Dallas. *Poor David's Pub*. 1313 S Lamar St. 214.565.1295. [www.poordavidspub.com](http://www.poordavidspub.com)

**The Accidentals.** Tyler. *Stanley's Famous Pit BBQ*. 525 S. Beckham Ave. 903.593.0311. [www.stanleysfamous.com](http://www.stanleysfamous.com)

#### March 10

**Matt Dunn & The Runaways.** Greenville. *The Texan Theatre*. 2712 Lee Street. 903.259.6360. [www.texantheatergreenville.com](http://www.texantheatergreenville.com)

**Rupert Wates.** Edom. *The Old Firehouse*. 8241 FM 279. 903.852.2781. [www.theoldfirehouse.net](http://www.theoldfirehouse.net)

#### March 15

**blacktopGYPSY, Matt Hillyer, Colin Boyd and more.** Dallas. Organ transplant awareness show. *Poor David's Pub*. 1313 S Lamar St. 214.565.1295. [www.poordavidspub.com](http://www.poordavidspub.com)

**Dallas Symphony presents The Best of John Williams.** Greenville. *Greenville Municipal Auditorium*. 2821 Washington St. 903.457.3126. [www.showtimeatthegma.com](http://www.showtimeatthegma.com)

#### March 16

**Walt Wilkins & Friends.** Dallas. *Poor David's Pub*. 1313 S Lamar St. 214.565.1295. [www.poordavidspub.com](http://www.poordavidspub.com)

#### March 17

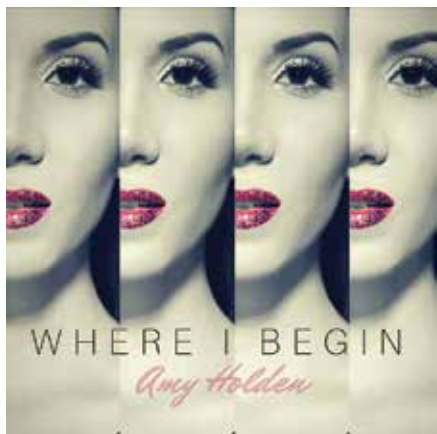
**Terri Hendrix & Lloyd Maines.** Dallas. *Poor David's Pub*. 1313 S Lamar St. 214.565.1295. [www.poordavidspub.com](http://www.poordavidspub.com)

**Chris Stapleton.** Durant, OK. *Choctaw Grand*  
*continued page 35*

# Regional Talents Release New Albums



Paul Renna digs deeper with the release of his new recording *Valley of the Moon*, available on iTunes March 9. “I’ve broken through to a new plane of existence, exploring the deepest recesses of my heart and soul both lyrically and musically,” Renna says. “I try to raise hidden emotions in my listeners, surreptitiously forcing feelings of love, longing, happiness, and heartache from the depths of even the most hard-edged among us.” March 2, Renna appears at Vintage Grill and Car Museum in Weatherford; March 3 at The Rustic in Dallas; March 9 he’ll be at The Green Elephant in Dallas. This summer he’s touring in Australia. Learn more at [www.paulrenna.com](http://www.paulrenna.com).



Amy Holden has a new album premiering March 31, *Where I Begin*. Her influences are Carrie Underwood, Sara Evans, and Martina McBride to name a few. She has gigs coming up March 6 at The Back Porch in Kilgore, March 24 at Big Sandy Music Hall and opens for Cole Risner April 27 at Pittsburg Feed & Seed. Learn more at [www.amyholden.com](http://www.amyholden.com).



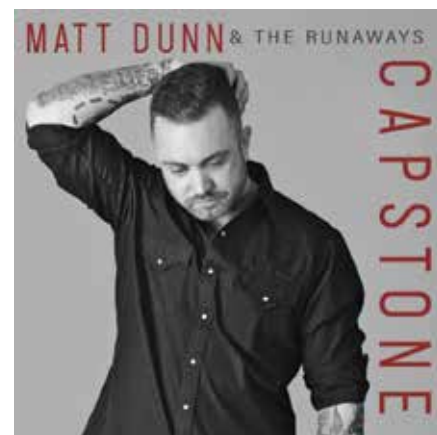
Golden, Texas, native Kacey Musgraves is releasing her new album *Golden Hour* soon, her third LP of completely original material. According to *Entertainment Weekly (EW)*, the music is influenced by Sade, Neil Young, and even her husband Ruston Kelly. The songs deal with different masks one uses to represent oneself.

“None of the masks are solely us, but they’re all us,” she tells *EW*. “On this record, there’s the lonely girl, the blissful girl, the new wife, the girl that’s missing her mom, the angry girl, the sarcastic girl, the 60s-sequined Cruella de Vil with the beehive, the shy girl, the life of the party, the winner, the loser – they’re

all characters on this record. None of them alone are me, but the golden hour is when they all come together and you see me as a whole.”

So “Golden” on this album has more to do with how she’s feeling about herself than her hometown.

After performances with Little Big Town and Midland on The Breakers Tour running through May, she’s got shows with One Direction star Harry Styles June 5 at the American Airlines Center in Dallas and June 7 at the Toyota Center in Houston.



*County Line Magazine’s* Best Singer Songwriter 2017 Matt Dunn releases his debut album with his band The Runaways March 9. *Capstone* was recorded at Modern Electric Studios in Dallas. His first full-length album, it’s a deep dive into love, betrayal, new beginnings, and a desire to find the things in life that matter. The band performs March 10 at The Texan Theater in Greenville and April 6 at Love and War in Lindale. See more at [www.mattdunnmusic.com](http://www.mattdunnmusic.com).

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# Randy Rogers Performs In and Around the Region This Spring



Fans of Texas-based Randy Rogers can see him in several locations around the region this spring. He and the band make appearances March 9 at the Silver Saloon in Terrell and then March 16 at The Stage at Silver Star in Bossier City. On March 24 Rogers appears at the intimate seating Music City Texas Theater in Linden. The show starts at 8 p.m. and VIP tickets are selling for \$100 each that includes a backstage meet and greet before the show. Regular tickets are \$35. Go to [musiccitytexas.com](http://musiccitytexas.com) for more information and to purchase tickets or call 903.756.9934.

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## MUSIC *continued from page 32*

Theater. 3702 Choctaw Rd. 888.652.4628.  
[www.choctawcasinos.com](http://www.choctawcasinos.com)

March 20

**Hayes Carll.** Greenville. *The Texan Theatre.* 2712 Lee Street. 903.259.6360. [www.texantheatergreenville.com](http://www.texantheatergreenville.com)

March 22-24

**17th Annual Palestine Old Time Music and Dulcimer Festival.** Palestine. *Museum for East Texas Culture.* 400 Micheaux St. 903.723.3014. [www.visitpalestine.com](http://www.visitpalestine.com)

March 23

**Billy Joe Shaver.** Greenville. *The Texan Theatre.* 2712 Lee Street. 903.259.6360. [www.texantheatergreenville.com](http://www.texantheatergreenville.com)

**Shenandoah.** Greenville. *Greenville Municipal Auditorium.* 2821 Washington St. 903.457.3126. [www.showtimeatthegma.com](http://www.showtimeatthegma.com)

March 27

**Lonesome Traveller featuring Peter Yarrow.** Greenville. *The Texan Theatre.* 2712 Lee Street. 903.259.6360. [www.texantheatergreenville.com](http://www.texantheatergreenville.com)

March 31

**Bing Futch.** Winnsboro. *The Bowery Stage.* 200 Market Street. 903.342.0686. [www.winnsborocenterforthearts.com](http://www.winnsborocenterforthearts.com)

April - June

**Twilight Tunes Concert Series.** Denton. [www.discoverdenton.com](http://www.discoverdenton.com)

April 6-7

**Bowley & Wilson.** Dallas. **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & Final Performance.** *Poor David's Pub.* 1313 S Lamar St. 214.565.1295. [www.poordavidspub.com](http://www.poordavidspub.com)

April 9

**East Texas Symphonic Band.** Longview. *Belcher Center.* 2100 S. Moberly Ave. 903.233.3080. [www.belchercenter.com](http://www.belchercenter.com)

April 12

**The 5 Browns.** Lufkin. *Temple Theater at Angelina College.* 3500 South First St. 936.633.3220. [www.angelinaarts.org](http://www.angelinaarts.org)

**Adam & Chris Carroll.** Dallas. *Poor David's Pub.* 1313 S Lamar St. 214.565.1295. [www.poordavidspub.com](http://www.poordavidspub.com)

April 26

**Eric Taylor.** Greenville. *The Texan Theatre.* 2712 Lee Street. 903.259.6360. [www.texantheatergreenville.com](http://www.texantheatergreenville.com)

April 27

**The Four Freshmen.** Greenville. *Greenville Municipal Auditorium.* 2821 Washington St. 903.457.3126. [www.showtimeatthegma.com](http://www.showtimeatthegma.com)

April 28

**Joe Ely.** Winnsboro. *The Bowery Stage.* 200 Market Street. 903.342.0686. [www.winnsborocenterforthearts.com](http://www.winnsborocenterforthearts.com)

## The Bowery Stage Spring Line Up Is Hard to Beat for Americana Fans

The Bowery Stage in Winnsboro has an exciting spring lineup. First, on March 2, is the **Bill Hearne Trio** with a little Texas and Western Swing mix and local duo **Lynn Adler** and **Lindy Hearne** open the show, making it a family affair.

Americana/Swedish folk singer **Sofia Talvik** takes the stage March 12 for a Monday-night show. *East Oregonian* says Talvik "is among the likes of Judy Collins, Joan Baez, Allison Krauss, Linda Rondstadt, in that her greatest instrument is her voice."

The **Michael Martin Murphey** show March 17 is sold out.

Singer/songwriter and Appalachian mountain dulcimer player **Bing Futch** returns to The Bowery Stage for the third time March 31. He is also conducting a Celtic Music Workshop before the show at 3 p.m. for \$35 which includes admission to the concert.

Texas country/rock singer/songwriter **Joe Ely** takes the stage April 28. He's in the Texas Songwriters Hall of Fame and was the official Texas State Musician in 2016. Ely also performs March 31 at Big Beat Dallas and April 21 in Waxahachie at Chataqua Auditorium.

**Ari Hest** plays The Bowery Stage May 5. His most recent LPs include the Grammy nominated *Silver Skies Blue* in 2016, a duets album with Judy Collins and his ninth LP, *Natural*, released in the spring of 2017. Many of Hest's songs appeared on TV and film including *The Path*, *The Lincoln Lawyer*, *Private Practice*, *Army Wives*, and *One Tree Hill* to name a few. Besides his solo work, he is also half of the Bossa Nova inspired band Bluebirds of Paradise, a collaboration with Chrissi Poland.

Get tickets for all shows and more information on [www.winnsborocenterforthearts.com](http://www.winnsborocenterforthearts.com)

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## Local Wineries Receive Medals in International Competitions



*In addition to winning Double Gold for its 2015 Sangiovese, Los Pinos Ranch Vineyards in Pittsburg won Silver awards for its estate-grown Besitos de Chocolate, Blanc du Bois, and Colibri, as well as for its barrel-aged 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon and 2015 Texican in the San Francisco Wine Competition and numerous other awards in the Uncorked International Wine Competition. COURTESY PHOTO.*

Three Upper East Side of Texas wineries received awards for the 2018 Rodeo Uncorked International Wine Competition and are part of the Champion Wine Garden during the 2018 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo February 27 through March 28.

Judging for the competition included a record 3,188 entries from 18 different countries, including Argentina, Austria, Chile, France, Italy, Japan, Portugal and South Africa. Texas wineries represented 420 entries.

Kiepersol Vineyards & Winery in Bullard, Los Pinos Ranch Vineyards in Pittsburg, and Sloan & Williams Winery in Grapevine represented the Upper East Side of Texas well with 21 gold, silver, and bronze medals plus several Texas and regional class awards.

### Sloan & Williams Winery

- Sloan & Williams Winery Chardonnay, Lodi, 2016. Chardonnay aged in all or part in barrels (\$25-\$39). Bronze
- Sloan & Williams Winery Port, Amador County, 2013. Desserts - Ports - Ruby & Tawny Port Styles. Silver
- Sloan & Williams Winery Rosé, Texas High Plains, 2016. Other Semi - Dry White (1% - 4% RS, not fortified) (\$22-\$35). Bronze



- Sloan & Williams Winery Sangiovese, Texas High Plains, 2015. New World Sangiovese & Sangiovese Non-Bordeaux Varietal Blends (\$14-\$89). Silver
- Sloan & Williams Winery Spectrum, Texas High Plains, 2015. Rose - Off Dry - (\$16-\$34) Silver
- Sloan & Williams Winery Tempranillo, Texas High Plains, 2015. New World Tempranillo and Blends (\$14 - \$29).

Gold, Reserve Class Champion, Reserve Texas Class Champion

- Sloan & Williams Winery Triplicity Red, Texas, 2016. Other Red Wines (\$23-\$31). Silver

### Kiepersol Vineyards & Winery

- Kiepersol Mengsel Red, Texas, 2014. New-World Red Bordeaux Blend and Meritage (\$15-\$35). Gold, Reserve Texas Class Champion

- Kiepersol Merlot, Texas, 2012. Merlot and Merlot based Blends (\$15-\$24). Gold, Reserve Class Champion, Texas Class Champion

- Kiepersol Rosé of Malbec, Texas, 2016. Rose - Dry - (\$20-\$40). Bronze

- Kiepersol Sangiovese, Texas, 2014. New World Sangiovese & Sangiovese Non-Bordeaux Varietal Blends (\$14-\$89). Silver

- Kiepersol Syrah, Texas, 2013. Syrah or Shiraz (\$6-\$19). Silver, Texas Class Champion

- Kiepersol Texas Artize Red, Texas, 2012. Other Red Wines (\$16-\$22). Silver

*VIDEO LINK: Kiepersol's Burger Bowls pair well with their award-winning Kiepersol Mengsel Red. [www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=54&v=IUEjnmva4J8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=54&v=IUEjnmva4J8)*



### Los Pinos Ranch Vineyards

- Los Pinos Ranch Vineyards All My X's Red Blend, Texas High Plains, NV. Sweet Red (14% alcohol and below) (\$6-\$15). Silver, Reserve Texas Class Champion

- Los Pinos Ranch Vineyards Blanc du Bois, Texas, NV. Other Sweet Whites - up to \$25. Silver

- Los Pinos Ranch Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon, Texas High Plains, 2015. Cabernet Sauvignon (\$30-\$39). Bronze

- Los Pinos Ranch Vineyards Colibri

Sweet Blush, Texas, NV. Rose - Off Dry - (\$16-\$34). Silver

- Los Pinos Ranch Vineyards Moscato, Texas High Plains, NV. Muscat - Still (\$4-\$25). Bronze

- Los Pinos Ranch Vineyards Riserva Sangiovese, Texas High Plains, 2014. New World Sangiovese & Sangiovese Non-Bordeaux Varietal Blends (\$14-\$89). Silver

- Los Pinos Ranch Vineyards Sangiovese, Texas High Plains, 2015. New World Sangiovese & Sangiovese Non-Bordeaux Varietal Blends (\$14-\$89). Gold, Class Champion, Texas Class Champion

- Los Pinos Ranch Vineyards Texican Red Blend, Texas High Plains, 2015. New World Red Italian Varietals and Blends (\$9-\$34). Bronze

Los Pinos also won several awards during the *San Francisco Chronicle* Wine Competition, the largest competition of American wines in the world. From almost 7,000 entries from 35 states across the country, 67 prestigious experts within the media, trade, hospitality, and education industries traveled to Sonoma County to determine the best wines in America.

Los Pinos received the highest honor of a Double Gold award for its 2015 Sangiovese. They also won Silver awards for their estate-grown Besitos de Chocolate, Blanc du Bois and Colibri as well as for their barrel-aged 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon and 2015 Texican. Bronze medals were awarded to their 2017 Blanco Grande, 2017 Rosato, 2014 Sangiovese Riserva, and All My X's.

"It is evident that our winemaker, Arnulfo Perez, and his team continue to improve on their craft of making excellent wines. To be honored at such a prestigious competition with thousands of entries is truly humbling and we couldn't be more proud," said Los Pinos partner and CEO Matt Lipton.

As for Perez, he simply says, "It is my pleasure in life to make delicious wines with the gifts Mother Nature provides."

For a full list of winners or for more information about the *San Francisco Chronicle* Wine Competition visit [www.winejudging.com](http://www.winejudging.com).



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They have an impressive microbrewery, a small bar area, a large patio, and so many fans they are enlarging. This month, on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, they are scheduled to open their expansion project that includes a restaurant, The Porch at ETX, and a stage with additional seating. The Porch menu includes sandwiches, salads, burgers, appetizers, and desserts.

East Texas Brewing  
 221 S. Broadway Ave.  
 Tyler, TX  
 903.630.7720  
 Hours: Wed. – Fri. 4 p.m. – 10 p.m.;  
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PHOTO BY GAILE ROBINSON

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- June 17-18: JuneBug Festival. The Forge
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## Little Free Libraries Abound Around the Region



Kimber Crow of Edom, whose great grandmother taught school in Edom in the late 1930s, enjoys selecting a book to read from Edom's Free Book Exchange located in front of the Edom Historical Museum.

This local addition to the [www.littlefreelibrary.org](http://www.littlefreelibrary.org) program was provided for the community of Edom by local artists Zeke & Marty. Folks can put books, movies, or music in and get books, movie, or music out for their enjoyment.

There are hundreds of little libraries around Dallas/Fort Worth neighborhoods and others in Denison, Sherman, Paris, Sulphur Springs, Mount Pleasant, Winnsboro, Quitman, Daingerfield, Texarkana, Tyler, Longview, Henderson, Nacogdoches and more. Go to the website to find other registered little libraries throughout the region.

See MORE EVENTS  
 FOR KIDS  
[www.CountyLineMagazine.com](http://www.CountyLineMagazine.com)



## BIG Bunny Sighting at Texas State Railroad

The Easter Egg Express, running on March 24, 25, 30, 31, and April 1, takes the whole family to an Easter Egg Park filled with games and activities for all ages. The interactive train ride and Easter egg hunt, with a backdrop of great music, are eggstra-ordinary venues for a delightful springtime afternoon in the Piney Woods. A variety of food is available for purchase. Go to [www.texasstaterailroad.net](http://www.texasstaterailroad.net) for tickets.

## ArtsView Children's Theatre presents Goldilocks on Trial



Goldilocks is on trial for breaking and entering. Is she found guilty and sent to prison? Or does the truth come out? It's up to Judge Wallabee and some very silly jurors to decide after hearing testimony from Goldee, the bickering Three Bears, and surprise witness Mer-

win the Big Bad Wolf, among others.

This production features kids ages 10-18 on March 8-10 at 7 p.m. and March 10-11 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 online and \$15 at the door. Go to [www.artsviewchildrenstheatre.com](http://www.artsviewchildrenstheatre.com) for more information.

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23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Antique Tractor and  
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# Lemons Are Not Just for Lemonade

By Jennifer DaSha

By now many of you have completely forgotten about your New Years resolution which likely had *something* to do with your health. Annually we make a mountainous decision to reclaim ourselves by becoming more physically fit, eating better, or giving-up some addiction without careful consideration to our state of well-being on a physical, mental, and emotional level. It's not that you completely lack self-discipline or will power to achieve your goals, but simply that your body is possibly depleted and one more (huge) add on to our daily to-do list is simply too overwhelming for true success. This is because we are tired, stressed, and likely dealing with underlying issues contributing to low energy.

Rather than feeling like you're failing, let's consider first a potential root cause; low vitamin C, for which I have a very simple remedy — drink hot lemon water upon waking every morning.

While this may seem *too* simple to provide any true healing benefits, allow me to break it down. Vitamin C is an important antioxidant within the body and it also regenerates other antioxidants, and is needed for at least 300 metabolic reactions to work normally of which the following are noteworthy:

- It is critical to gut health by promoting the growth of friendly bacteria and aiding in synthesizing collagen, which also repairs leaky gut syndrome.
- It is important for adrenal and immune support because it is directly involved in the production of cortisol and is an essential building block for the recovery of your adrenal glands.
- It also stimulates and aids in digestion as well as promotes healthy elimination of waste and toxins from the body.

Additionally, vitamin C contributes to:

- The normal function of the immune



system during and after intense physical exercise

- Normal collagen formation for the normal function of blood vessels, bones, cartilage, gums, skin and teeth
- Normal energy-yielding metabolism
- Normal functioning of the nervous system – *SO* important when coping with stress
- Normal psychological function
- The protection of cells from oxidative stress
- The reduction of tiredness and fatigue
- The regeneration of the reduced form of vitamin E
- Increased iron absorption

I encourage you to take this one small step toward supporting your bigger health goals by positively impacting your overall well-being and ultimately your energy levels. Simply drink one-half lemon squeezed into a cup of hot water upon waking and yes, before your morning coffee.

Now a lemon cocktail in the morning shouldn't be your only supply of vitamin C throughout the day and you may be wondering why I am promoting fresh lemon as your ally as opposed to taking it in pill form. Fresh fruit and vegetables contain macro- and micronutrients and phytochemicals, which provide additional health benefits to your body. In other words, it's best to receive your daily intake of vitamins and minerals from fruits and vegetables. Not to mention, it's a great start to your day, easy to integrate into your morning routine without being overwhelming, and will give rise to higher energy levels.

Lastly, it's extremely hydrating after fasting for eight hours while you've slept. And for the summer months, simply substitute lime for a cooling effect on the body.

With a more *restored* you, you'll be able to accomplish those bigger goals in no time.

*Jennifer DaSha is a certified yoga teacher and Ayurveda consultant and works one-on-one with clients seeking to improve their well-being. Learn more about her at [JenniferDaSha.com](http://JenniferDaSha.com).*

*Content in FEEL GOOD is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Always seek the advice of your physician or other qualified health provider with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition.*



Summer Smith teaches yoga and operates Yama Yoga Studio in Canton. COURTESY PHOTO

# Yoga Practice Provides Healing Benefits

By Summer Smith

When I tell people I'm a Yoga instructor, the first thing they say to me is, "I can't do yoga. I'm not flexible." My reply? You don't go to the gym already fit. You go to get fit. The same is true of yoga. But the practice of yoga isn't just about becoming flexible. Yoga offers so much more, such as:

- Increased muscle strength and tone
- Improved respiration
- Energy and vitality
- Balanced metabolism
- Weight reduction
- Cardio and circulatory health
- Improved athletic performance
- Protection from injury and proper posture

And that's just the beginning.

Most of my beginner students start their journey believing yoga is about learning to twist and contort their bodies into the many elegant and challenging postures they see on television and in magazine articles. The truth is yoga

is about learning to still your mind. The practice helps you relieve discomfort and become more balanced so you can actually begin to get to know your body. Yoga makes you sensitive and aware of your needs so you can better manage yourself.

Yoga links your breath to the postures. This unification brings equilibrium to your mind and calms your body. This is where the true treasure resides. The breathing techniques are meant to oxygenate the body and relieve stress in the mind. Deep breathing quiets your parasympathetic nervous system calming the fight-or-flight effect. It also warms the body from the inside out leaving you less prone to injury while ridding your body of toxins during exhalation.

## Finding your path

The type of class in which you choose to participate has much to do with the movements you practice. One class or style is no better than the other, but simply a vehicle to take you to your desired destination.

**Yoga Stretch** emphasizes slow, deliberate movement meant to deeply stretch the muscles and organs in the body. **Yin Yoga** is slower paced using less postures but

holding them for a longer duration. **Vinyasa** is more cardiovascular and usually practiced in a warmed room. It seeks to increase the heart rate and challenge the practitioner to a wider variety of postures. **Restorative Yoga** helps restore your body, mind, and spirit by making use of props like blankets and bolsters, straps and blocks allowing the body to slowly move into stillness while being supported. **Yoga Nidra** is a deeply relaxing form of creative visualization meant to work deep within the psyche to release past trauma.

According to the *Huffington Post*, the number of Americans practicing yoga has increased nearly 30 percent in the past four years. A recent survey conducted by *Yoga Journal* discovered that more than 20 million Americans are avid practitioners. Yoga is an ancient, proven science. More and more people around the world are discovering the healing benefits of a regular practice. Like many things in life, yoga must be experienced. Words just don't do it justice. Do your research. Try a wide variety of teachers, studios, and classes. Your body, mind, and spirit will thank you.

*Summer Smith is an E-RYT yoga teacher and the owner of Yama Yoga Studio in Canton, [www.yamayoga.net](http://www.yamayoga.net).*

## Spring Plant & Garden Shows Take Center Stage



It's not that rural Upper East Side of Texas needs more of nature's beauty, but many of its inhabitants enjoy gardening and enhancing their yards and businesses with flowers, native plants, herbs, and more. Plant and garden shows are scheduled throughout the region this time of year. Here are a few:

March 24

**9th Annual Spring Plant Sale & Garden Show by Cypress Basin Master Gardeners.** Mount Pleasant. Plant sales by master gardeners, lawn and garden exhibitors, educational speakers and keynote speaker, Howard Garrett, The Dirt Doctor. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. *Mount Pleasant Civic Center, 1800 N. Jefferson Ave. rosiedoodles62558@yahoo.com. 469.658.6419.*

March 24

**Fannin County Master Gardeners 2018 Garden, Lawn and Home Expo.** Bon-

ham. Speaker Steve Chamblee of Chandler Gardens in Weatherford. Great garden and best native and adapted Texas plants ideas. Viticulturist Michael Cook discusses grape-growing and cultivation and Blake Shoot from Texas Bee Supply and Desert Creek Honey is speaking. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Bonham Civic Center, Hwys 121 and 56, 1100 West 5th Street. 903.583.7453*

April 1

**Plant Sale and Earth Day Celebration.** Nacogdoches. The Stephen F. Austin Gardens Spring Plant Sale joins forces with an Earth Day Celebration. Activities include plant sales, gardening booths, children's yoga, upcycled art, non-toxic cleaning strategies, and more. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. *SFA Gardens/Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet Street. sfagardens@sfasu.edu. 936.468.1832*

April 7-8

**Butterfly Plant Sale.** Dallas. Gregg's Blue Mistflower, Milkweed, Mexican Bush Sage, and more. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. *Texas Discovery Gardens at Fair Park. 3601 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd. 214.428.7476 x. 341. www.txdg.org*

April 14-15

**29th annual Spring Plant Sale.** McKinney. Features large selection of native plants, herbs, and plants. Guests are welcome to bring carts or wagons to facilitate their purchases. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday. *Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary, www.heardmuseum.org/plantsale*

April 28

**Spring Open House.** Edom. Informational presentations on topics including: Color from Tropicals, Growing Succulents, Healthy Living Through Herbs, Raising Chickens, and more. Vendors sell daylilies, herbal body care, and seasonings. *Blue Moon Gardens, 13062 FM 279. 903.852.3897. www.bluemoongardens.com*

April 28

**Henderson County Master Gardeners Plant Sale.** Athens. Plants for sale will include a variety of trees, shrubs, bulbs, perennials, annuals, natives, heirlooms, vegetables, and herbs. A new addition to the sale is a garden art section. Master Gardeners are on site for consultation. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. *Senior Citizens Center, 3344 State Highway 31. 903.675.6130. www.henderson-co-tx-mg.org.*

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