

Upper East Side of Texas

county line

SPECIAL EDITION • WINTER 2020

M A G A Z I N E

**Pandemic Pause
and Other
EXTRA
Good Stories**

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Jawad Nour
2018

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COVER: "Reflected Glory" by Janak Narayan of McKinney — one of the artists set to attend the 2020 Van Go Art Fair that cancelled due to COVID.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

While the Pandemic Pause of 2020 put much on hold this year, including the print distribution of *County Line Magazine*, we managed to produce the remaining of our usual six bi-monthly issues in digital format and release hundreds of articles throughout the year in between issues. Find a selection of those extra stories in this special edition we've collected into a Winter 2020 issue.

You'll find a lot of references to "virtual," and "social distancing" and — like the rest of the world — a pivot from business as usual to finding new ways of going about our lives. Life continues, stories do too, keep turning the page.

I remain deeply appreciative for the people who have stepped forward to make this challenging year better than it might have been without them. People that live in the knowledge that we are all in this together. The artists who brightened our 2020 and keep reminding us of the beauty in this world. From photography, poetry, paintings, pottery, and prose, they lift us up. The songwriting from our talented musicians is incredibly meaningful and the creative virtual concerts helped many through tough weeks.

We made significant history this year. Keep telling the stories.

— P.A. Geddie

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MAGAZINE

Reach those who
Live & Play
in the
Upper East Side
of Texas



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Kyser Nods to 40 Years With Limited-Edition Capo

Jan 16, 2020

Kyser Musical Products, Inc. has released the Limited-Edition Milton Kyser Signature Acoustic Quick-Change Capo, or the “Milton” capo, in celebration of its 40th anniversary in 2020. The capo is thoughtfully designed to pay tribute to company founder Milton Kyser, who revolutionized guitar performance with his invention of the Quick-Change capo, while looking forward to a bright future of invention and expression through Kyser’s humble East Texas handcrafting facility, and its global stable of artists.

“With this special product, we’re not only paying homage to Uncle Milton’s 40-year legacy of fine craftsmanship,” said Kyser owner and President Meredith McClung, “we are also acknowledging and honoring his commitment to unity through music. This capo represents 40 years of making that vision a reality, but will also empower future artists and inspire creativity and human connection for years to come.”

Available in an exclusive run of 2,020 units and handcrafted in Texas, the “Milton” capo features a number of premium touches never before curated together on Kyser’s flagship Quick-Change design. Features include a special powder-coated chrome finish, a “Milton Kyser” original signature stamp, and blackout appointments, including a black boot, black rubber pad and black low-tension spring for seamless, in-tune performance.

“The Kyser brand is strong because the product is strong,” said Kyser CEO Scott Attebery. “Milton Kyser’s design has withstood the test of time. He set the standard for quick-change capos with a commitment to American-made, handcrafted quality. That’s why artists have trusted Kyser for 40 years now.”

The capo comes bundled in a special keepsake box complete with a hand-numbered certificate of authenticity signed by McClung herself. The official anniversary festivities kick off at the 2020 National Association of Music Merchants Show in Anaheim, California. this week. Check the Kyser website for public availability of the limited-edition capo at www.kysermusical.com.



Tour Set for Volunteers for Animal Sanctuary

Jan 16, 2020

This Saturday the world-renowned Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch in Murchison, Texas, hosts its first Wild Impact Volunteer Experience for people over age 18 who are interested in helping animals and experience life at an animal sanctuary.

Participants spend an exciting day working alongside of dedicated animal care and facilities staff and get a rare behind-the-scenes look into what it takes to care for more than 800 residents. The Wild Impact Volunteer Experience includes a plant-based lunch with the staff, and a bus tour around the 1,400 acre property where participants see the sanctuary’s resident primates, horses, bears, burros, bison, tortoises, tigers and dozens of other species living a peaceful, safe and healthy life.

The event starts at 7 a.m. and goes until 4 p.m. Tickets are \$99 per adult. For more information and to register, visit fundforanimals.org/cabrsocialimpact. Spots are limited and tickets must be reserved in advance. No one under the age of 18 is admitted.

According to Noelle Almrud, director of Black Beauty, “While we are not open to the public on a regular basis out of respect for the animals, we do want to give people the opportunity to visit and see the important work that we do here every day to care for over 800 animals and over 40 species.”

Visitors are encouraged to bring supplies of all kinds including gently used toys, cleaning, landscaping, office supplies, and other items to donate to the sanctuary.

For more information email thanson@fundforanimals.org or call 903.469.3811

Founded in 1979, the 1,400-acre Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch, operated by the Fund for Animals in partnership with the Humane Society of the United States, is one of America’s largest and most diverse animal sanctuaries. Located in Murchison, Texas, Black Beauty is a permanent haven to more than 800 domestic and exotic animals rescued from research laboratories, circuses, zoos, captive hunting operations, factory farming, and government roundups. Residents include tigers, bears, primates, bison, tortoises, horses, burros and more. To respect the peace and privacy of the animals, the sanctuary is open to the public only twice a month for intimate prescheduled Ranch of Dreams Tours. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/BlackBeautyRanch> for regular updates on the work and tours.

Scott Simons “Fields” Exhibit at Winnsboro Center for the Arts

Jan 16, 2020

“Fields” is a solo exhibit by Scott Simons now through February at Winnsboro Center for the Arts, 200 Market Street. The exhibit showcases both ceramic and canvases by the artist.

Growing up with an artist parent in an East Texas farming town, Scott Simons’ creative nature was nourished from a young age. Art classes started around the age of five and included private



tutoring in watercolors and oils by middle school. Art studies in high school morphed into design studies in college, then morphed back into a painting practice in early adulthood.

From Simons' website, he makes the following statements: "Through this series of work, I continue to explore the same themes and visuals that have always kept me painting."

"Whether you look through a microscope or look through an airplane window, our world is textured, diverse, pocked, patterned and burnished in its splendor. It isn't always pretty, but it's always beautiful."

Simons continues, "I love deep forests, oceans, vast deserts, and outer space - the mystery and beauty of what seems like endlessness. We can only see what we can see. For me, there is something deeply spiritual there; something very human about being slightly blind, all the time. We are, in many ways in this life, operating with very limited sight."

For more information on the "Fields" exhibit, call (903) 342-0686 or visit www.winnsborocenterforthearts.com.

1982 Movie Filmed in Upper East Side of Texas

Jan 18, 2020

The Warner Brothers film, *The Long Summer of George Adams*, was filmed mostly in Nacogdoches County and some in Kaufman County. It starred James Garner and Joan Hackett, and premiered January 18, 1982.

Although the movie is about a railroad yard worker in a small Oklahoma town, it was filmed at the Texas State Railroad in Rusk, Texas. Other filming locations for this movie in the Upper East Side of Texas include Appleby, Douglass, Mabank, Cushing, and Maydell.

The movie is about George Adams, a railroad yard worker in 1952. Adams also works a night shift as a sort of local constable to patrol the small town, for which he earns \$40 per month. Everyone likes George and most people get along with him. He lives with his wife and two sons, about 9 and 11 years old, and his wife's sister who will be starting college in the fall. His world is about to change as the railroads retire steam engines in favor of diesels. As George says, this is a year he'll never forget.

American Paddlefish Being Saved From Extinction at Caddo Lake

Jan 23, 2020

The American Paddlefish is now the only remaining species out of six previously existing paddlefish species, and it is being successfully restocked into Caddo Lake. The Paddlefish is North America's oldest living species, said to be 50 million years older than the dinosaurs.

While news of the extinction of another species is always sad, there is a positive side to the story herein Texas and Louisiana. It was recently announced that the Chinese Paddlefish is now extinct.

Though the American Paddlefish are alive and well in many

U.S. rivers, they had disappeared from Caddo Lake/Big Cypress Bayou (on the border of Louisiana and Texas, but now historic agreements with the Corps of Engineers and a broad coalition of supporters are restocking them.

In 2005, the Caddo Lake Institute, with many key nonprofit and government partners, began working on a flows regime that would help restore habitat and fisheries in Big Cypress Bayou/Caddo Lake. The Paddlefish, considered a key native species, had disappeared from Caddo because of a loss of springtime pulses indicating it was time to spawn, and lack of rocky bottoms on which to lay their eggs. The flows project fixed those issues, providing springtime pulses and sediment scouring. The Corps of Engineers placed gravel spawning shoals in Big Cypress Bayou which remain clear of sediment.

Experimental releases of paddlefish began in 2014, were successful, and in 2018 the U.S. Fish Wildlife Service, along with Texas Parks and Wildlife and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, embarked on a 10 year full-scale restocking of Paddlefish back into Caddo Lake. This will continue until a viable population can be established.

These fish that are older than the dinosaurs are filter feeders, have no scales and essentially no bones. They are listed as threatened in the state of Texas and are not game fish. Game fish restocking occurs regularly in Caddo, but now the Paddlefish are also being restocked, good news for the saving of a species.

For more information on this project, contact Caddo Lake Institute at (318) 541-6923 or visit their website at www.caddolakeinstitute.org.

Winnsboro Center for the Arts Has Exciting Year Planned

Jan 26, 2020

Winnsboro Center for the Arts (WCA) reports that they have a great line up of concerts and theatre performances set for this year.

Upcoming concerts include Beyond the Pale on February 15, Sofia Talvik on March 14, Mary Gauthier on March 28, and John McEuen & the String Wizards on April 17. Scott Simons' solo art exhibit continues through February 22, then there is a Linda Lucas Hardy exhibit February 29 through April 11. A live theater performance of the comedy "The Inheritance" is scheduled for May 9 and 10.

Also scheduled are their regular annual events, including A Starry Night on March 7, Festival of Books in May, youth summer camp, and Winnsboro Cowboy Poetry Gathering in October.

WCA Director Tonia Nix says, "I am especially excited to announce a new event for us in 2020. Winnsboro Four Corners has decided to merge with Winnsboro Center for the Arts in hosting the very successful Art and Wine Festival in November.

Winnsboro Center for the Arts is located at 200 Market Street in Winnsboro. They have also expanded their workshop and class

offerings. They have gained access to additional space at 212 Market Street, and this space has been built out to provide classrooms and workspace for art and music education. The WCA Annex is a first step towards the ultimate goal of a new Performing Arts and Education Center.

In addition to their popular one-day workshops, they are to offer longer running classes in various topics. Nix says, "we are currently finalizing the instructors and curriculum for group art and pottery classes, open studio times and private music lessons."

For more information, call (903) 342-0686 or visit their website at www.winnsborocenterforthearts.com.

Susan Howard from TV Show "Dallas" Born in Marshall

Jan 28, 2020

(caption: Micky Dolenz, Geoffrey Deuel, John Graham, Susan Howard, Davy Jones, Philip Ober, and Peter Tork in *The Monkees* (1965) Courtesy IMDB Pro

Susan Howard, best known for her eight years as Donna Krebs in the prime-time soap opera "Dallas," was born Jeri Lynn Mooney in Marshall, Texas on January 28, 1944.

Winning awards for acting at Marshall High School, she then attended the University of Texas for two years before following her dream in Los Angeles. She won a Soap Opera Digest award for her role in *Dallas* in 1986. Other TV shows and movies she appeared in, from the 1960s through the 1980s, include *The Monkees*, *The Flying Nun*, *Star Trek*, *I Dream of Jeannie*, *Bonanza*, *Columbo*, *Marcus Welby M.D.*, *The Paper Chase* and *The Love Boat*.

She and her husband now live outside Austin, Texas, and she continues to be a frequent visitor to Marshall where her mother and brother reside.

She is an active member of the Writers Guild of America, and continues writing for television, something she began on *Dallas*. She also serves on the Texas Commission on the Arts.

Have You Eaten at Best Restaurant Winners?

Jan 28, 2020

County Line Magazine's annual Best of the Upper East Side of Texas readers survey this year set a record with 4,591 nominations for a growing list of gems in the region across 56 categories. Among these nominations and ultimate recognitions were numerous restaurants, drinking establishments and places to get food - prepared or for cooking. This blog will feature the food and drink winners in various groupings over the next few weeks.

Some of the categories' winners are divided by size of the town, 50,000 and under and 50,000 and over. The winners represent a great selection of what visitors and residents alike enjoy in the way of great food in the Upper East Side of Texas.

Best Restaurant

The Ginocchio, Marshall.



The Ginocchio presents steaks, seafood, pasta, and appetizers in the historic Ginocchio Hotel across the tracks from the Marshall Depot. They have a full bar with an extensive list of specialty cocktails, wine, and beer. People love this place not only for the food, but the ambience. The building was originally constructed in 1896 by Italian immigrant Charles Ginocchio. It began as a hotel and restaurant for passengers traveling along the Texas and Pacific Railroad and eventually fell into disrepair until new owners began renovating it in 2015. They kept much of the original building materials to maintain its character. The Ginocchio is open for lunch from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and dinner 5-9 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. The bar is open from 4-11 p.m. 707 N. Washington Ave. (903) 927-1400. www.theginocchio.com

Hall of Fame: Four Winds Steakhouse, Wills Point

Best New Restaurant

Stefano's Greek Kouzina & Pastry Shop, Emory.

This tiny treasure popped up in downtown Emory at the end of 2018 serving homemade Greek salads, gyros, dolmas, spanakopita, pastitsio, baklava, and more. Opa! The Greek music on the patio helps create a destination experience. Guests are raving about the Greek fries and baklava cheesecake. BYOB. They open at 11 a.m. Wednesday through Sunday, open until 8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 9p.m. Friday and Saturday, and until 2 p.m. on Sunday. 234 E. Quitman St. (903) 953-0111.

Dallas Winter Boat Expo Features the Future of Boating

Jan 30, 2020

Guests get their first look at next-generation boats, technologies, and products during the Dallas Winter Boat Expo from January 31 - February 2 and February 6 - 9, 2020 at Dallas Market Hall, 2200 Stemmons Freeway.

As advancements in technology continue into the next decade, the boating industry is looking forward to the next generation of nautical machinery. One major update is the implementation of digital switching on newer boat models.

According to Boats.com, digital switching replaces mechanical toggle switches on a boat's dashboard with a simple control panel that lets boat operators automate just about anything, allowing electrical devices like alarms, lights, power hatch lids, bow thrusters, climate controls, pumps, windlasses, cameras and other equipment to be run from a multi-function display. Using a familiar, mobile phone-like graphic user interface, digital systems tend to be easier for consumers to operate.

Bron Beal, Executive Director of the Dallas Winter Boat Expo, says, "With new digital technology, you can set up a fishing mode, for example, that with one push of a button turns on the fish finder, starts pumping water through the live well, lowers the electric motor or puts power to the downriggers. You wish you could flip on the cockpit lights before you get out of the truck in



the pre-dawn hours? Digital switching and sensors can be used to turn things on and off remotely.”

Attendees at the Dallas Winter Boat Expo, presented by the United Boat Dealers of North Texas, will see digital technology and the latest models of marine accessories and boats, from runabouts and family cruisers to fishing boats, ski boats, pontoons and sailboats all in one place.

For more information, visit www.dallasboatexpo.com.

Visit The Redlands Hotel For A Valentine Get-away

Feb 1, 2020

By P.A. Geddie

The Redlands Hotel in downtown Palestine, Texas, is a great destination for Valentine’s Day which falls on a Friday this year. Make a full weekend of it with the town’s annual Mardi Gras celebration on Saturday and enjoy brunch at Queen St Grill Sunday morning before hitting the road for home.

The Redlands’ luxury suites promise a “home away from home” with pricing from \$135 to \$179 per night.

Guests enjoy the patio overlooking downtown Palestine.

Located on the first floor of the hotel is the Queen St. Grille, offering fine dining and a full bar.

They serve delicious appetizers including calamari, roasted artichoke hearts, grilled quail, lobster mac and cheese, baked shrimp fondue, and even alligator ribs. A bar menu is also available.

Brunch is served on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. featuring Crab Cake Benedict, Artisan Pastries, Oaxacan Brisket Tacos, Steak and Potatoes, The Queen’s Quiche with Nueski’s applewood smoked bacon, plus Australian Lamb Rack, and more.

It’s worth a trip just to drive over for lunch at Queen St. Grille that also features the The Queen’s Quiche, Chef Sam’s Meatloaf Sandwich, Wagyu Flat Iron Steak Salad, 1855 Tenderloin Shepard’s Pie, Vegetarian Past, soups, salads, and more.

For your Valentine, a romantic dinner at Queen St. Grille gives choices of Crab Cakes, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Pistachio Crusted Seabass, 1855 Brand Black Angus Filet, two kinds of Ribeye, Oaxacon Tomahawk Porkchop, Stuffed Flounder, Braised Port Osso Bucco, and Sea Scallops.

Plan a weekend in Palestine and visit their antique shops, Texas State Railroad, Old Town Palestine, award-winning bakeries, and the Curious Museum.

Mardi Gras on Main takes place Saturday, February 15 in celebration of local flavors and cuisine offered by Palestine Main Street restaurants. Showcasing the talents of each local chef, they host a culinary cooking demonstration and tasting every 45 minutes from 2:30 to 6 p.m. Plenty of stores are open for shop-

ping and the 10th Annual Mardi Gras family-friendly parade begins at 6 p.m. Afterwards guests can enjoy dinner at Queen St. Grille or the other Main Street restaurants and find celebrations continuing at The Shelton Gin and Platinum Zone. See www.visitpalestine.com for details.

To make reservations for a stay at The Redlands Hotel visit www.theredlandshotel.com or call (903)729-2345.

Enjoy J D Miller's LIVE Painting for Valentines

Feb 1, 2020

Renowned contemporary artist JD Miller is scheduled for an annual Valentine's Day LIVE painting from 6 - 9 p.m. on February 14, 2020 at Samuel Lynne Galleries, 1105 Dragon Street in Dallas.

This year marks the fifth year of this favored event. The performance is in Samuel Lynne Galleries' main gallery space, to incorporate the ever-increasing audience size. Viewers have the unique opportunity to witness Miller's artistic vision at work as

he utilizes color, texture, and shape to create a visual masterpiece before their eyes.

This Valentine's Day, audiences have the opportunity to become a collector of JD Miller's coveted artwork like never before. He is releasing a special Limited-Edition series of his "Zen Acrylic" paintings, to celebrate the passionate emotion of love.

JD Miller began his painting career 20 years ago with a vision. Pursuing the law of attraction, with a conscious practice as a professional musician, he developed Reflectionism. Exploring other mediums, he began using oil paints, based on sensorial experiences to create the 3-Dimensional oil technique. With this 3-Dimensional oil, Miller conveys his sense of freedom, his joy in the miracle of creation, and the synchronicity of the universe. Miller's passion for painting and his process for like-energy attracting like-energy translates the law of vibration into the energy emanating from his work.

To create, Miller calls upon the universal vibrations of light and sound to flow through him to allow for the molding of 3-Dimensional oil paint. A unique process that identifies him among oth-



er artists, Miller creates impactful, strong, enlivening canvases that take viewers on a journey as he paints.

For more information about this live painting event, call (214) 965-9027 or visit www.samuellynnne.com.

Wolf Brand Chili's Cowboy Nachos a Good Choice for Super Bowl Sunday

Feb 2, 2020

One food that will be seen in lots of places across the nation today, on Super Bowl Sunday, is nachos. Here is an easy nachos recipe using Wolf Brand Chili, which got its start right here in the Upper East Side of Texas.

Check *County Line Magazine's* recent article about Wolf Brand Chili's start 125 years ago in Corsicana.

Cowboy Nachos

Zesty nachos with a hearty flavor big enough to be a meal

Ingredients:

1 can (15 oz each) Wolf® Brand Chili No Beans

1 can (15 oz each) Ranch Style® Beans, undrained

1 bag (10 oz each) tortilla chips

1-1/2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese

1 can (10 oz each) RoTel Original Diced Tomatoes & Green Chilies, drained Guacamole, sour cream, sliced ripe olives or sliced green onions, optional

Directions:

1. Combine chili and undrained beans in medium saucepan; heat until hot.



2. Arrange tortilla chips on large platter. Top with chili mixture; sprinkle with cheese.

3. Top with drained tomatoes and additional toppings, such as guacamole, sour cream, sliced ripe olives or sliced green onions, if desired.

Tip: For a different variation, use corn chips instead of tortilla chips.

Nutrition Information: 407 calories, 38g Carbs

These Activities Get Voters' Approval

Feb 10, 2020

The recent Best of the Upper East Side of Texas contest received nominations from over 4,500 readers of County Line Magazine this year. These nominations narrowed down to winners in such categories as best winery, best arts district, best golf course, and more. Below are winners that point the way to great activities and experiences in this region.

Best Winery

Enoch's Stomp Winery and Vineyard. Harleton. Founded by Altus Koegelenberg and Jon Kral in 2004, Enoch's Stomp sits upon 90 acres of beautiful rolling hills. Their wines are winning awards in competitions all over the world. The property sports 12 acres of grape vines including six varieties that are well suited for the East Texas territory. Fine dining is available on Friday and Saturday evenings. The tasting room is open for casual dining Wednesday through Sunday during regular business hours. The tasting room menu features light fare including pizzas, tapas, salads and dessert. Live music is performed by local artists Friday and Saturday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the tasting room. 871 Ferguson Rd. (903) 240-1587. www.enochsstomp.com

Honorable Mentions: Harvest On Main, Mount Vernon; Wings Over Pegasus, Murchison; Winnsboro Art & Wine Festival; Heritage Syrup Festival, Henderson; Eagle Fest, Emory; Mardi Gras Upriver, Jefferson; Edom Art Festival

Best Cultural Destination

Edom. Local artists began settling in Edom more than 45 years ago and created an authentic tiny arts community that entices visitors throughout the year and thousands during their annual Edom Art Festival each fall. This year the founding artists were joined by several new businesses that represent more than 40 area artists and have weekly events that keep the town hopping on a regular basis. The Palate Dining Room offers gourmet cuisine and The Shed Cafe is good for those who enjoy country cooking and a good piece of pie. The Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriot is about 10 minutes away on Interstate 20 and several cabins, B&Bs, and Airbnbs are nearby. Get more information on www.visitedom.com and contact individual businesses by phone before going. Some shops are open seven days a week, while others are open Thursday through Sunday.

Best Attraction



Under 50k population

Cherokee Trace Drive-Thru Safari. Jacksonville. Cherokee Trace is a wildlife park that is home to an amazing variety of wildlife. See over two dozen exotic and endangered species that thrive in an open habitat similar to their native territory. Enjoy a self-guided drive through the hills and open savannahs of this 300-acre preserve. From the comfort of one's own vehicle, people can observe, feed, and photograph these beautiful creatures in a natural environment with miles of roads that seem like a whole different world. 1200 County Road 4405. (903) 683-3322. www.cherokeetrace.com

Honorable Mentions: Hopkins County Veterans Memorial, Sulphur Springs; Mineola MiniTrain; Scarbrough Haven, Emory; First Monday Trade Days, Canton

Over 50 population

Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary. McKinney. Founded in 1967, the Heard consists of a 289-acre wild-

life sanctuary and a natural science museum for the primary purpose of educating children about nature. It exists to bring nature and people together to discover, enjoy, experience, restore, and preserve the priceless environment. The emphasis of the Heard's education programs is children; however, it also offers programs that will interest visitors of any age. Different events are available throughout the year as well as a photo contest. 1 Nature Place. (972) 562-5566. www.heardmuseum.org

Best Golf Course

Tempest Golf Club. Gladewater. This scenic and challenging renovated golf course takes advantage of dramatic Piney Woods topography, with its rise and fall of almost 200 feet, incredible core golf vistas across as many as five holes in the routing's lower confines, and a pair of holes that play across a four-acre freshwater lake. Public and member tee times and fees are available. 568 E. Wilkins Rd., (903)984-5335. www.tempestgolfclub.com

Steel Magnolias at Henderson County Performing Arts Center

Feb 14, 2020

PHOTO: The cast pictured above includes Mary McCreary, Timber Stamper, Laural Bass, Linda McLendon, Pat Jousan Williams, and Davette Shands Ligon. Courtesy Photo

The Henderson County Performing Arts Center's 2020 season continues with a hilarious production of the play *Steel Magnolias*. Performances are at 7 p.m. two weekends - February 20, 21 & 22 and 27, 28 & 29, and at 2 p.m. Sunday, February 23, at 400 Gibson Rd., Athens.

Marriage and motherhood, friends and enemies, life and death – there is always gossip down at Truvy's beauty salon, and there's a good chance it makes people laugh. Hilarious and touching, this play follows the lives of six women as they stop in at the local beauty shop for some gossip and a blow-dry. The ladies of Chinquapin, Louisiana may be as delicate as magnolias, but they are also as tough as steel, as this much-beloved show proves.

Reservations are \$15, \$10 for children, at HCPAC.org or by calling 903-675-3908. This play is sponsored by Steve Grant Real Estate.



Craving a Certain Cuisine?

Feb 19, 2020

Sometimes, you want a specific type of cuisine. From the recent 2019 Best of the Upper East Side of Texas contest winners, we highlight below the best restaurants to satisfy cravings such as Italian food, Mexican food, vegetarian and even breakfast meals. We hope that you get a chance to go try each of these when those cravings hit.

Best Breakfast

Under 50k population

CJ's Coffee Cafe. Sherman. This family-owned location takes a break from traditional breakfast offerings. Their menu includes baked oatmeal (plain, blueberry, raisin, and apple); ham and cheese or egg and cheese croissant; assorted pastries and breakfast cookies and several loaded-up toasts with toppings that include chicken, bacon, and ranch; berries, cream cheese, basil, chia seeds, and honey; house-made hummus, tomatoes, and salsa; avocado, bacon, feta, micro greens and balsamic drizzle; and The Elvis, with peanut butter, banana, bacon and maple drizzle. They roast their own beans and offer many coffee options. 818 N. Travis. (903) 487-2400. www.cjscoffeecafe.com

Honorable Mentions: Cake Lady, Mount Vernon; Country Kitchen, Quitman; Dinner Bell, Van; Herschels, Mount Pleasant; The Forge Bar & Grill, Ben Wheeler

Over 50k population

The Grove Kitchen & Gardens. Tyler. The Grove's chef-crafted menu emphasizes farm to table for quality. With their dishes, including classic breakfast items as well as Crispy Nola Beignets

and roasted chicken tamales, they aim to create a connection with the local community. 3500 Old Jacksonville Hwy.(903) 939-0209. www.thegrovet Tyler.com

Best Pizza

Under 50K population

Switch Brick Oven Pizza & Wine Bar. Palestine. Everything on the menu, from the dough to the mozzarella, is freshly made in their kitchen every day. The Italian menu selections include Neapolitan-style pizza, which includes importing the pizza flour as well as the San Marzano tomatoes from Italy

and baking it in a unique high-temp Woodstone oven. Their unique pizzas include Margherita, Mediterranean, the Capra, and The Switch, which has roasted pear, dolce latte, speck, gorgonzola, roasted walnuts, and arugula. 1615 S. Royall St. (903) 729-7700. www.switchbrickovenpizza.com

Over 50k population

Roast Social Kitchen. Tyler. Their slogan is "Thoughtfully Prepared and Joyfully Shared." They are proud to say they make all of the ingredients that become their menu items in-house daily "because it's fun, tasty, and you're worth it." They offer unique pizzas such as Bee's Knees which has roasted garlic, a four-cheese blend, calabrese, Italian sausage, Mike's Hot Honey, thyme, and orange drizzle, and their Smoke Stack with pecan-smoked TX Akaushi brisket, Stanley's BBQ sauce, whole milk mozzarella, and diced red onion. They also offer gluten-free dough and vegan cheese. 1125 E 5th Street. (903) 202-0295. www.roastsocialkitchen.com

Best Mexican Cuisine

Gloria's. Rockwall. The food at Gloria's was conceived by Glo-



ria and Jose Fuentes and born out of the traditions of El Salvador. Inspired Tex-Mex additions provide a diversity, skirting the line between tradition and innovation. Located on Lake Ray Hubbard, guests can take in a beautiful view while enjoying their great food. 2079 Summer Lee Drive. (972) 772-4088. gloriascuisine.com/locations/rockwall

Best Vegetarian

Logan's Place. Mineola. This friendly spot is located in the old Beckham Hotel in historic downtown Mineola across from the train depot. Their vegetarian menu includes Avocado Wrap, Veggie Sandwich, Mushroom Grilled Cheese, and Egg & Cheese Sandwich. They also have sweet potato fries, veggies ides, and loaded baked potatoes. 113 E Commerce St. (903) 638-8320.

Second Annual Townes Van Zandt Tribute Scheduled in Ben Wheeler

Feb 20, 2020

The Van Zandt Arts & Cultural District Foundation presents the second annual Tribute to Townes Van Zandt from 6-8 p.m., Saturday, March 7, 2020, at The Forge Bar & Grill in historic downtown Ben Wheeler.

The late Townes Van Zandt is often referred to as the most influential Texas songwriter of the 20th century. Musician Steve Earle says he was "the best songwriter in the world."

Performers imbedded in Townes Van Zandt music honor the legend in song swap style during the Tribute event. They include Matt Harlan, Chris Edwards, Shane Rendon, Grady Lee, Nick Brumley, and Cole Allen. Other musicians are invited to bring instruments and continue the tribute in an open jam session after the show.

Last year, in celebration of the 75th anniversary of Van Zandt's birthday March 7, his family's record company, TVZ Records, along with Fat Possum Records, released a new album, Sky Blue, a collection of unreleased songs created 47 years ago. Newly released this year are other records including a double LP compilation, The Best of Townes Van Zandt; reworked artwork and lyric sheet and remastered 180gram vinyl, Townes Van Zandt/50th Anniversary Edition; and Our Mother The Mountain/50th Anniversary Edition. A limited supply of vinyl and CDs are available at the Tribute with proceeds benefiting the arts foundation and a larger variety are available online at www.townesvanzandt.com.

The Van Zandt family — former wife and literary executor Jeanene, and children J.T., Will, and Katie Bell— continue to illuminate his songwriting process and evolution.

"Townes always said that he did not measure his success by the charts, but by how many learning institutions will be studying his work 100 years from now," Jeanene says. "My job is to make sure that all the material is there."

Townes Van Zandt died January 1, 1997, at the age of 52 from cardiac arrhythmia while recovering from hip surgery. He is bur-

ied in the Van Zandt family plot in Dido Cemetery near Fort Worth. He came from a long line of Texas nobility. His three times great grandfather, Isaac Van Zandt, was a prominent leader of the Republic of Texas and the namesake of Van Zandt County in the Upper East Side of Texas. His great, great uncle Khleber Miller Van Zandt was one of the founders of Fort Worth.

Although he was born into an affluent family, he endured poverty and often sang of folks living on the edge.

He was a poet and songwriter beloved by his many fans and peers. Don Williams and Emmylou Harris had hits with his song "If I Needed You." Willie Nelson and Merle Haggard reached No. 1 with their version of his song "Pancho and Lefty."

His influence on Americana music is immense and continues today. Artists who cite Van Zandt as a source of inspiration include Bob Dylan, Neil Young, John Prine, Lyle Lovett, Guy Clark, Norah Jones, Robert Plant, Alison Krauss, and Garth Brooks to name a few.

For more information on the Tribute to Townes Van Zandt March 7 at The Forge Bar & Grill go to theforgebenwheeler.com or call (903) 833-5970.

To learn more about the Van Zandt Arts & Cultural District Foundation, go to vanzandtacd.com.

Motorized Barstool Races Featured At Saint Patrick's Day Celebration

Mar 3, 2020

The sixth annual motorized barstool races take place beginning at 2:45 p.m. March 14 in downtown Ben Wheeler during the town's Saint P's 279 Street Party.

Participants race their motorized barstools down a small strip of Highway 279. Each barstool is built offsite by the rider following the rules provided by The Barstool Riders Association. The racers are competing for first prize cups, but more importantly, the notoriety and bragging rights of winning this renowned competition. All proceeds from the barstool races benefit the Ben Wheeler and Edom volunteer fire departments.

While the barstool races are the main attraction, the rest of day is filled with festivities for the whole family all within the downtown area.

A KidZone is onsite with snow cones and a bounce house the Ben Wheeler Library is offering books and snacks. Each child may take up to five books home for free.

There's a Go Green "Leprechaun Yourself" photo booth and enjoy sweets from Deb's Double Barrel Dessert Company. The Blade Bar demonstrates the art of knife making and is holding a



mini-sword workshop. Vintage Cork 917 shares local wines and there's a pop-up art show and plenty of shopping opportunities.

Two award-winning restaurants are ready to serve. Moore's Store is featuring crawfish in their backyard, while The Forge Bar & Grill is offering a taste of Irish and Texas craft beers, green beer, and Irish Fusion food.

Live music takes place on four stages with Lauren Alexander, Drew Jones Project, Hootenanny, The Rightly So, Hot Club Vintage Revival, Meredith Crawford & Chris Rasco, Heather Little, Stephan Prigmore, and Riley Redding.

Green Go Grande's Birthday Bash starts at 5 p.m. after the races at The Forge. Green Go Grande is The Forge-sponsored barstool rider. He and his crew lead the way in competitions including wrestling, thumb wrestling, green Twister, food eating, and other entertainment. Special guests include St Patty & Gemini and Modelo the Red Warrior.

Admission to all activities during the day is free. For more information on the barstool races visit the Barstool Riders Association page on Facebook or call Kay Dorman at (903) 571-0244. For information on Saint P's 279 Street Party and Green Go Grande's Birthday Bash call (903) 833-5970 or visit www.the-forgebenwheeler.com.

EVENT SCHEDULE

11 a.m.-5 p.m. KidZone
11 a.m. Riley Redding (St P's Street Stage)
Noon Stephan Prigmore (St P's Street Stage)
1 p.m. Heather Little (St P's Street Stage)
2 p.m. Meredith Crawford & Chris Rasco (St P's Street Stage)
2:45 p.m. Race Exhibition w/ Bagpipes and National Anthem
3 p.m. Races Begin
4:45 p.m. Winners Circle
5 p.m. Green Go Grande's Birthday Bash (Forge)
5-7 p.m. Hot Club Vintage Revival (Gristmill Stage @ Forge)
7-9 p.m. Hootenanny (Oak Tree Stage @ Forge)
7-10 p.m. The Rightly So (Indoor Stage @ Forge)
9 - 11:45 p.m. Lauren Alexander (Gristmill Stage @ Forge)
9 p.m. Drew Jones Project (Moore's Stage)

Gallery Main Street Presents Caldwell Arts Academy Student Exhibition

Mar 3, 2020

Gallery Main Street in Tyler is showcasing works by Caldwell Arts Academy students from March 5 through April 7 at the gallery's new location inside Plaza Tower, located at 110 N. College Avenue.

The exhibit opening and reception is from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, March 5. It features an opportunity to meet the young artists and check out the new space. The event is free and open to the public.

This exhibit features works by local students and is in partnership with Caldwell Arts Academy. The Caldwell Arts Academy

is a K-7 public magnet school with a focus on engaging students through the fine arts.

"In addition to enjoying the gallery opening, we invite our guests to make it a complete evening by visiting our Downtown Tyler restaurants and bars," said Main Street Director Amber Varona.

Gallery Main Street is a project of the City of Tyler Main Street Department in cooperation with the volunteers of the Downtown Tyler Arts Coalition. This year the gallery hosts two juried exhibits and three featured artists exhibits.

Information on Gallery Main Street hours and rules for entering the exhibit jury process can be found at www.DowntownTyler-Arts.com or by calling (903) 593-6905.

Henderson County Art Club Show & Sale in Athens

Mar 4, 2020

The Henderson County Art Club presents their 92nd annual Fine Art Show & Sale April 16-18 upstairs in the Women's Building at the East Texas Arboretum, 1601 Patterson Rd., Athens. Works of art from local painters, sculptors, and photographers will be on display.

The purpose of the Henderson County Art Club is to stimulate and improve members' creative endeavors and art skills; to provide opportunity for communications and exchange of ideas between members and interested community participants; and to expand community awareness in the education of the arts.

For more information, visit www.hendersoncountyart.org.

Lake Country Symphonic Band Starts New Season with High Sticking

Mar 9, 2020

The Lake Country Symphonic Band in Mineola launches its 2020 season this Sunday, March 15, at 2p.m. Titled "High Sticking," the concert features the talents of three energetic percussionists on Mark Ford's "Stubernic Fantasy." Written for Eugene Corporon and the band at the University of North Texas, the work calls for the three soloists to all be on one marimba at the same time, sometimes playing on the edges of the instrument and even walking around it. Featured are Tyler Broadhurst, percussion coordinator at Kennedale ISD; Nick Alberts, percussion director at Kauffman ISD; and Jeff Garza, percussion coordinator at Sulphur Springs High ISD. Alberts and Garza are current members of the Lake Country Symphonic Band; Broadhurst is a former member.

Also on the program is "Pines of the Appian Way," the final movement of Respighi's "The Pines of Rome." More epic Roman music is "Parade of the Charioteers" from Ben Hur. The concert also includes a world premiere of the piece, "The Sword of St. Michael," by the band's Composer in Residence, Kelly Bennette.

Other selections are “Ashokan Farewell,” honoring the memory of longtime band member and retired high school band director Jasper Huff, who passed away in December; a rollicking Irish piece, “Lanigan’s Ball;” “Of Honor and Valor Eternal,” dedicated to the Tuskegee Airmen; and Rimsky-Korsakov’s “Russian Easter Overture.”

The Sunday March 15 performance begins at 2 p.m., followed by a Tuesday March 17 concert starting at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for 11 and under. The box office open one hour prior to each concert. Reservations are a must and can be made by calling the box office at (903) 569-2300. Season tickets for the band are still on sale for \$20 for four concerts.

The Lake Country Symphonic Band performs its concerts at The Historic Select Theater, a venue that is celebrating its centennial this year. The theater is located at 114 North Johnson Street in Mineola.

Pegasus Project Holds Wings Over Pegasus

Mar 9, 2020

For the sixth year in a row, to assist with its efforts to protect horses, The Pegasus Project is hosting Wings Over Pegasus, an airplane and equine extravaganza. The event is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3p.m. Saturday, April 11 at the 95-acre Pegasus Ranch, located at 7111 FM 2339 in Murchison.

Wings Over Pegasus features a variety of airplanes and helicopters. The Piney Woods Experimental Aircraft Association/Young Eagles Program offers free airplane rides to kids between the ages of 8 and 17. The day is a casual, carnival atmosphere featuring the “Raptor” and the “Pegasus” airshow, skydivers, face-painting, fun horse games, pony rides, an Easter egg hunt, gourmet food trucks, arts and crafts, and competitions for the whole family. There is a silent auction and a raffle drawing for two roundtrip tickets on Southwest Airlines. Guests can enjoy photo opportunities with a variety of aircraft, Pegasus horses, and “Pegasito,” the winged-donkey in his kissing booth.

The Pegasus rescue horses are available to meet, pet, and finger-paint. Guests can visit with the Pegasus trainers and staff to



learn about the horses and get information regarding adoption and sponsorship opportunities. The SPCA of East Texas is on-site with a variety of adoptable dogs.

Parking is \$10 per vehicle. Food, refreshments, and participation in games are available for purchase.

This event is to raise awareness about the lifesaving work The Pegasus Project does year-round to care for at-risk horses in this community. Because horse neglect, abuse and abandonment in East Texas is a prevalent and serious problem, The Pegasus Project was founded in 2010, and over the past 10 years has rescued, rehabilitated, retrained and re-homed hundreds of mistreated horses, donkeys, and mules. The public is invited to come enjoy the day and help with this very worthy cause. All proceeds benefit the horses of The Pegasus Project.

For success stories see horse photo albums at www.facebook.com/PegasusRescue.

For more details, go to www.PegasusRescue.org.

Beauty and the Beast Tours Tyler March 14

Mar 10, 2020

Tyler Bicycle Club’s 32nd Beauty and the Beast Bicycle Tour races through Tyler beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 14, with more than 1,000 participants. Races begin in the heart of Tyler’s brick streets section, at College and Erwin streets, and continue east toward Overton in three routes of 26, 43 and 62 miles before returning downtown for a celebration.

At one time one of the state’s largest cycle races, the tour returns to Tyler this weekend after nearly a decade of rolling through Bullard.

Bill Lewis of the Tyler Bicycle Club says the race features two contrasts. The first is the beauty of central Tyler’s blooming azaleas in spring versus the beast of an uphill challenge along Old Omen Road on the return run from Lake Tyler.

The second is the beauty of art by Dace Kidd, a cyclist whose works appear all over Tyler, versus the tour’s beast, world-class triathlete Clay Emge, also of Tyler.

Kidd’s world-renowned art graces the Wings project on Broadway Ave. and the Mural Under the Bridge. Kidd painted a unique design for the race featuring a bicycle crank arm decorated with foliage.

Emge was USA Number One Triathlete in 2018 and has competed in France, Canada, and World Championships in Hawaii.

Proceeds from the race benefit the Fresh Juniors Race Team, a youth cycling team whose members compete in mountain biking events. Funds also benefit the mountain bike trails at Lindsay and Faulkner Parks, which are maintained by members of Tyler Bicycle Club.

City buses run early Saturday morning to bring cyclists downtown to cut down on parking overflow. Participants pick up packets Friday, March 13, at ETX Brewing Club. For information, contact Lewis at (903) 372-4511 or lewislandman@gmail.com.



Longview 150 Exhibits Registered Texas Historic Landmarks

Mar 11, 2020

Longview Museum of Fine Arts presents “Longview 150 — Registered Texas Historic Landmarks,” featuring selected original works by East Texas artists through September 19, 2020, in downtown Longview.

The exhibit celebrates Longview 150, the city’s sesquicentennial celebration, with roughly 100 original works on paper and canvas showcasing the city’s commercial, residential, and public historic landmarks.

The exhibit shares “the skills and artistry of local artists and the importance of historic preservation,” says Tiffany Jehorek, the museum’s director and curator.

All works are based on Texas Registered Landmarks within the city limits of Longview, and are available for purchase.

The exhibit is sponsored by grants from the Summerlee Foundation of Dallas and the City of Longview’s Cultural Arts Commission.

Admission is free to museum members and \$5 for non-members. Museum hours are Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Thursday, 6 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The museum is located at 215 E. Tyler St. in downtown Longview.

For more information, visit www.lmfa.org or call the museum at (903) 753-8103.

Atencio Headlines East Texas Leadership Summit May 20

Mar 12, 2020

Acclaimed journalist Mariana Atencio presents the keynote speech at East Texas Leadership Summit 2020, 11:30 a.m. to

1 p.m., May 20. Leadership Summit is the third annual conference of Hispanic Professionals Alliance of Tyler, held at Rogers Nursing & Health Science Center at Tyler Junior College.

Atencio is an award-winning journalist, news personality, author, and public speaker who champions diversity, inclusion, and authenticity in storytelling.

A co-founder of Go Like, Atencio has traveled the world to discover what makes people unique and interesting. She is perhaps best known for her TEDx Talk, “What Makes You Special?” which has 10 million views, with translations in 10 languages.

As keynote speaker at the United Nations “Girl Up” Leadership Summit, Atencio inspired people worldwide to become leaders in their communities. She recently gained US citizenship.

“In a time when our nation seems more divided than ever, I hope to inspire the next generation of leaders to lead with authenticity, heart, and pride in our community and values,” Atencio said.



Kiepersol Offers Drive-Thru Options for Food and Wine

Mar 21, 2020

COVID-19 is changing how all businesses operate today. Kiepersol is offering unique additions to facilitate guests that want options in this changing environment.

Drive-thru wine is now a reality. Kiepersol has created a location at their headquarters for customers to drive up and get wine without getting out of their car. The location at 3933 FM 344 E, Tyler, TX 75703, is currently open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday. Wine, as always, can be ordered online for shipment to homes anywhere in Texas at shop.kiepersol.com.

The Distillery at Kiepersol is able to provide spirits — rum, vodka and bourbon — for curbside pick up by calling (903) 894-8995.

Restaurant meal pick up is available for call ahead orders. Additionally, food delivery is a new option for the local area. See the delivery menu at

kiepersol.com/restaurant-delivery. Call (903) 894-3300 to order.

Marnelle Durrett, proprietress and founding winemaker shared

her thoughts before announcing the convenience additions.

“Our hearts go out to those impacted by COVID-19, and our main concern remains the health and safety of our visitors, our employees, and our community. We’ve escalated the already comprehensive cleaning and sanitizing procedures at all locations including thorough cleaning and disinfecting of frequently-touched surfaces, high-temperature sanitizing of all glassware and tableware, and scrupulous attention to hand washing protocols by our experienced hospitality team. As always, we are committed to providing you with warm hospitality and an excellent guest experience whenever you choose to visit us. We are thankful people choose small local businesses and your patience in quickly changing times.”

For the latest updates on this changing situation, please visit their Facebook page. Contact the winery at (903) 894-8995 and the restaurant at (903) 894-3300.

Kiepersol is a food, wine and spirits destination outside of Tyler, Texas, featuring a chop house restaurant as well as wine and spirits tasting rooms. Since 2000, Kiepersol has been producing 100% estate-grown wines from 63 acres of European grape varieties. In 2014, Kiepersol launched three spirits brands into the Texas market — Dirk’s Vodka, Jimmy’s Bourbon and Pierre’s Rum.



Meanwhile in Winnsboro

Mar 23, 2020

Photo by Jim Willis

Sofia Talvik of Sweden played one of her last U.S. tour shows March 14 in Winnsboro, Texas, before COVID-19 brought an end to gatherings for the foreseeable future.

“We had arrived early that day in Winnsboro and it all seemed so peaceful compared to the headlines that was shouting at me every time I opened my phone,” she says. “In Winnsboro the birds were singing and the trees were full of blossoms. The air was sweet and you would never know what was going on in the rest of the world.”

She wrote a song about her experience of being there and what’s going on all around the world now.

“I wrote the song without prejudice or judgment. It is merely a reflection of the situation I have found myself in, being on tour in a different country, far away from my family, watching news about



people hoarding toilet paper and food like there is no tomorrow.”

It is her small testament to the times,

she says. Here are the lyrics below and to listen and learn more about her go to sofiatalvik.bandcamp.com/track/meanwhile-in-winnsboro.

Meanwhile in Winnsboro

Will you starve
Keep from going very far
Will you brace
for the end of the world

Have you forgot
All the luxury that you’ve got
As you brace for
the end of the world

Meanwhile in Winnsboro
Apple blossoms bloom
Spring is coming soon
Spring is coming soon

Meanwhile in Winnsboro
It doesn’t look so bad
I think of all I had
I think of all I had

If this really is the end
How will you spend it my friend
Holed up in your house
Till you’re alone in the world

All the food you could eat
Till this virus is beat
Holed up in your house
Till you’re alone in the world

Meanwhile in Winnsboro
Apple blossoms bloom
Spring is coming soon
Spring is coming soon

Meanwhile in Winnsboro
It doesn’t look so bad
I think of all I had
I think of all I had

A million miles away
From the ones I’m keeping safe
I hope that he’s ok
At the end of the world

The world looks just like yesterday
And yet not in every way
Will the songs all be the same
At the end of the world

Meanwhile in Winnsboro
Apple blossoms bloom
Spring is coming soon
Spring is coming soon

Meanwhile in Winnsboro
It doesn’t look so bad
I think of all I had
I think of all I had

Meanwhile in Winnsboro
You would never think
We are at the brink
We are at the brink

Meanwhile in Winnsboro
We can still pretend
This is not the end
Not the end of the world

CREDITS

Released March 23, 2020. *Meanwhile in Winnsboro* - 04:51. Written by Sofia Talvik; Vocals and Guitar - Talvik; Pedal Steel - Tim Fleming; Mix and Master - Jonas Westin; Cover Photo - Jim Willis. Recorded live in Surfside TX, March 2020, Released by Makaki Music. All rights reserved.

Artist Draws Inspiration from East Texas Nature

Mar 31, 2020

The piney woods of East Texas had a profound impact on the art of Russ Havard, born in Lufkin in 1971, who now creates paintings and collages featuring the trees of East Texas as symbols of our inner and outer lives.

Havard's works are simple yet complex, exploring the intersection between nature and our conceptions of it, as expressed in thoughts and dreams. They depict the synchronous effect of humans on nature and the enduring, symbolic influence nature has on our lives.

"The process of endless building and re-configuring transcends the physical, and encompasses the symbolic," he said.

The artist combines shapes with mixed media to display concepts such as time and space. Using watercolors, Havard constructs images on paper and wood then uses a razor to deconstruct them and arrange them as collages that he calls "constructed landscapes." He casts the collages onto built shapes that allow our minds to visualize them in new ways.

The collages take on a sculptural form, sometimes popping out of a flat wall or surface. The collage titled "Tomorrow and Tomorrow," for example, casts dawn and sunset onto opposite ends of a concave structure that emphasizes the continuous passage of time.

Havard resides in Nacogdoches, where he teaches fine arts at Stephen F. Austin State University. His works are featured in galleries nationwide, mainly in Michigan, New Mexico, New York and Los Angeles.

Art lovers can view his works online at russhavard.com, artslant.com, and artcld.com.

Fun Things To Do During the Spring 2020 Pandemic Pause

Mar 31, 2020

Here are our picks for good things to do during the pandemic pause of Spring 2020. Check back as we'll be updating it from time to time. Send your ideas and submissions to editor@countylinemagazine.com.

MUSIC

- **LIVE STREAMING CONCERTS.** Check the County Line CALENDAR for upcoming shows. We LOVE these shows! Updated almost daily.

- **AUSTIN CITY LIMITS.** See Willie Nelson, Billie Eilish, Vampire Weekend, and many others.

- **MUSIC WORTH A LISTEN.** Some local talent. Some from other places in the world. All connected. All good.

"Let It Be," GENTRI

"Ripple," Playing For Change

"The Weight," Playing for Change

"Traci," blacktopGYPSY

"The Pila Song," Max Stalling

"Phenomenal Woman," Ruthie Foster

"Georgia On My Mind," Maryah McHam & Martyn Popey

"Seduction," Ginny Mac

"11 Years," Meredith Crawford

"Carousels," Nick Brumley

"Sabine River Blues," Cole Allen

"I Wish You Love," by Miumiu

"Fly Me To the Moon," by Miumiu

- **VIRTUAL MUSIC LESSONS.** Guitars Etc in Athens. (903) 292-1733, burgin@guitarsetcathens.com, www.guitarsetcathens.com

- **BROADWAY WORLD LIVING ROOM CONCERTS**

- **THE SHOWS MUST GO ON.** Andrew Lloyd Webber musicals are streaming online free each week. Shows begin Friday, April 3 and are available for 48 hours on their YouTube channel.

- **THE SOCIAL DISTANCING FESTIVAL**

The Social Distancing Festival is an online artist's community made to celebrate and showcase the work of the many artists around the world who have been affected by social distancing.

ART

- **VAN GO ART FAIR VIRTUAL VISIT.** The second annual Van Go Art Show was scheduled to take place Saturday, April 11 in Van, Texas. It cancelled due to COVID-19. Please take a look at the artwork of these artists and visit their sites to see more and purchase if you can — all their spring and summer shows are cancelled so support them if you can and get yourself some really beautiful art.

- **ONLINE THEATER CLASSES**

- **DOWNTOWN GREENVILLE ART WALK**

- **VIRTUAL DRAWING CLASSES.** Captain Underpants author and illustrator Dav Pilkey is creating weekly videos for kids



and adults who want to try their hand at drawing. Hosted by the Library of Congress, go to their website for free content. Activities include tips for creation your own character or acting out scenes from Dog Man, part of the Underpants universe. Pilkey releases new videos with drawing demonstrations, reading aloud, and more every Friday morning at 8 a.m.

• JESCIA HOPPER ART CLASSES

• **NORTH TEXAS PERFORMING ARTS VIRTUAL CLASSES.** A full curriculum of fun and unique interactive classes to join from home. Classes are taught by arts education directors, actors, and singers who have worked from Broadway to L.A. Cost \$9.99 - \$14.99. See their full schedule, class descriptions, and register [HERE](#).

• **ENDANGERED AMERICAS.** A visual tour of the show at Artes de la Rosa at the historic Rose Marine Theater in Fort Worth with insights by artist Stormie Parker. These beautiful ceramic works depict animals with humanistic expressions to allow the viewer to empathize with their natural struggle as species face extinction.

• **GOOGLE ARTS & CULTURE.** Goes inside and up close with world-famous paintings like Gustav Klimt's "The Kiss," and Monet's "Water-Lily Pond."

• **THE PANDEMIC FAIRE.** The Pandemic Faire. A virtual online art fair curated to aesthetically invigorate you during this time of self-quarantine.

• **DALLAS CONTEMPORARY.** Offers DC From Home with real time content for all ages.

• **DALLAS MUSEUM OF ART**

• **LONGVIEW MUSEUM OF ART.** 60th Student Invitational Virtual Exhibit.

• **AVANT CHAMBER BALLET.** 360-degree world premiere video of 19th Amendment recorded on February 15, 2020, at Moody Performance Hall, spotlighting choreographer Katie Puder and composer Quinn Mason.

• **STAR HARBOR WATERCOLOR SOCIETY.** View works by members of the National Watercolor Society who live near Cedar Creek Lake.

FOOD

Check with your local communities. Most have numerous restaurants offering curbside, pickup, and/or deliveries. Treat yourself to your favorite grub and support this hard-working industry.

VIRTUAL PUBS, WINERIES, AND BREWERIES

• **THE VIRTUAL PUB.** Jo Bowtell manages a Facebook group page hosting live music, quizzes, DJ sets, open mic, and comedy nights as guests chime in.

• **LANDON WINERY'S VIRTUAL TASTING**

HOME ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS AND ADULTS

• **TYLER PARKS AND REC OFFERING VIRTUAL AC-**

TIVITIES. While most of their facilities remain closed due to COVID-19, the department has shifted focus to facilitating activities that can be done from home. Check out their Boredom Busters page where they post activity packages, videos and books for children. They have also created a new Facebook page, where visitors can find workout ideas for adults and kids, activities, giveaways and more.

• **JAPANESE GARDEN IN BLOOM.** Enjoy a virtual walk through the Japanese Hill-and-Pond Garden in Brooklyn, one of the oldest extant Japanese gardens in the United States.

• **TJC VIRTUAL PLANETARIUM.** FREE virtual field trips. These 10-15 minute long videos are designed to be great supplements to online and homeschool lessons students are already doing while staying-at-home. The first virtual field trip to the planetarium covers phases of the moon. Future planned trips include: Constellation Storytime for Kids, Solar System Tour, Deep Sky Objects, Navigating the Night Sky, and Stargazing from Home: Tips, Tools, and Apps.

• **ANIMAL IN YOUR HOUSE.** You can see an animal in your house if you Google search an animal name (on iPhone or Android) and then press 'View in 3D'. It opens your camera and shows the animal moving in your room. You can walk around it and take a picture of it with people.

• **DALLAS HERITAGE VILLAGE AT OLD CITYPARK DIGITAL FIELD TRIP**

• **VIRTUAL VISITS | NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION.** Videos, 360-degree views, photographs, and live webcams featuring monuments, landmarks, and animals of US National Parks.

• **TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT ONLINE EVENTS.** Texas park rangers introduce kids and adults to wonders of the outdoor world.

• **TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION: HISTORY AT HOME.** As families are creating new routines and learning how to educate students from home, they are providing free instructive resources about Texas history, preservation, and heritage tourism.

• **BULLOCK TEXAS STATE HISTORY MUSEUM.** The state's official history museum offers a variety of online resources: Texas Story Project, Texas History Timeline, Artifact Gallery, Interactive Texas Map, Texas Story Podcast, Campfire Stories, and Texas Through Your Lens.

• **100 ACTIVITIES TO DO AT HOME**

• **LUNCH DOODLES.** Mo Willems invites YOU into his studio every day for his LUNCH DOODLE. Learners worldwide can draw, doodle and explore new ways of writing by visiting Mo's studio virtually once a day for the next few weeks. Grab some paper and pencils, pens, or crayons and join Mo to explore ways of writing and making together. If you post your art to social media, be sure to hashtag it with #MoLunchDoodles! New episodes are posted each weekday at Noon and then remain online to be streamed afterwards. Check back each weekday for new LUNCH DOODLES!

- 20 VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS TO TAKE WITH YOUR KIDS
- A 3D TOUR OF FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S "FALLING WATER"
- SOME GOOD NEWS WITH JOHN KRASINSKI 1-4
- AMAZE YOUR BRAIN. YouTube videos by Perot Museum of Nature and Science.
- DISCOVERY LAB. Fort Worth Museum of Science and History. YouTube Channel.
- GOOGLE EARTH TOURS OF NATIONAL PARKS
- VIRTUAL TOURS. More than 300 Museums, Exhibits, and Points of Special Interest
- FORT WORTH AVIATION MUSEUM TOURS
- INDOOR/OUTDOOR SCAVENGER HUNTS FROM BROOKSHIRE'S READING & WRITING
- HARRY POTTER AT HOME
- GOODNIGHT WITH DOLLY. Dolly Parton reads children's books weekly at 6 p.m. CST starting April 2. It runs for 10 weeks.
- HISTORICAL CHILDREN'S BOOKS
- STORY ONLINE
- THE LISTENING BOOTH. More than 600 online poetry recordings from Harvard University Library's Woodberry Poetry Room, 1930s to present.
- COUNTY LINE ARCHIVES. More than a thousand articles about the people, places, and unique aspects of the Upper East Side of Texas.
- ASTRONAUTS READ STORIES FROM SPACE
- SIGN UP TO GET THE CLM WEEKLY IN YOUR IN-BOX

TAKE A DRIVE

Sometimes you just have to get out for a mental health break away from the house. Please don't try to congregate in grocery or other food stores or anywhere else as it puts all in an unsafe situation. Take a drive and see some sites. The region is so beautiful this time of year. Texas State Parks, Mineola Nature Preserve, and other outdoor public settings are reopening this week with strict guidelines.

MOVIES

- AFI's 100 YEARS... 100 CHEERS. Visit the American Film Institute's list of the 100 most inspiring movies of all time. The interactive list, known as "100 Years... 100 Cheers," aired as a CBS special in 2006. Check off movies you've already seen then watch new ones to catch more inspiration.

MIND, BODY, & SPIRIT

- YOGA CLASSES WITH YAMA YOGA STUDIO

- FUN DAILY WORKOUTS FOR KIDS. Good for adults too with Joe Wicks
- RETREAT AT HOME. Retreat in the Pines holds women-only retreats with Zoom meetings, yoga, conversation, and more.

Texas Forest Trail Asks for East Texas Stories

Mar 31, 2020

The Texas Forest Trail invites you to take the time to share a story about East Texas with all of East Texas. The roots of those who live in East Texas run deep and strong. The area is known as the gateway to Texas. Texas heritage and culture are everywhere – from historic downtowns, restored buildings, landmarks, and designated historical sites.

"In a time when travel is discouraged, we implore you to share something about East Texas that speaks to you – the story about how your Uncle helped build the railroad, how a great grandfather owned the first clothing store downtown, your ghost encounter in a local hotel, or how many generations of your family have lived in East Texas," said Del Polikretis, Executive Director of the Texas Forest Trail.

"We want to help you share these stories through our social media. They deserve to be told, especially at a time when reflection can help us focus on positive things. Tell us your stories of the days gone by and we will post them for all to read. It's a way to have a human connection while we work together for the greater good of the community."

All stories submitted will be posted on <https://weareeasttexas.com> and throughout Texas Forest Trail's social media. The Executive Board of the Forest Trail will choose the five most interesting stories submitted. They will be available at the end of the entry period on Facebook where our followers will vote on their favorite story entered. All five stories chosen will receive a We Are East Texas prize pack, and the story with the most votes will receive a \$500 cash prize.

Stories may be submitted at <https://weareeasttexas.com/story>. The deadline for entries is May 31, 2020.

"As a non-profit, we are proud to serve the community and we will continue with our mission to connect people with how great our community is," Polikretis said.

For more information about the Texas Forest Trail please contact Polikretis at 936-560-3699 orhello@texasforesttrail.org or visit www.texasforesttrail.org or www.weareeasttexas.com.

Nacogdoches Postpones 31st Annual Texas Blueberry Festival

Apr 9, 2020

The Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce announced the postponement of the 31st Texas Blueberry Festival presented by Tipton Ford scheduled for Saturday, June 13, 2020.



“The impact of COVID-19 has forced the Blueberry Committee to recommend to the Nacogdoches County Chamber Board of Directors that this event be postponed until later this year,” said Texas Blueberry Festival Chairperson Grace Handler. “The amount of advance planning for this event and the uncertain health environment forced us to make this difficult decision. We will reevaluate this decision later this year to determine if we will move forward with this event.”

The Texas Blueberry Festival attracts annually over 20,000 visitors and has over 200 vendors and exhibitors. Updates and information will be posted at www.TexasBlueberryFestival.com.

C. Wayne Mitchell, President & CEO of the Chamber is hopeful that the event can be rescheduled later this year. “Once we get past this current situation, our visitors and participants will be ready to engage and celebrate the many blessings of Nacogdoches County,” Mitchell said.

To contact the Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce, call 936 560-5533.

Black Beauty Ranch Embraces East Texas Giving Day

Apr 9, 2020

Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch is embracing East Texas Giving Day, 6 a.m.-12 a.m., April 28, to bring public awareness and support to the building and completion of its state-of-the-

art primate habitat that costs nearly \$600,000. East Texas Communities Foundation sponsors East Texas Giving Day to provide critical funding for area nonprofits.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the care of the nearly 800 residents residing at the sanctuary continues. On Giving Day, the sanctuary is hoping to raise \$10,000 for the completion of a new primate house for nine resident macaques and five capuchins and future monkeys rescued from the exotic pet trade and research labs. When completed, the new structure can house more than 50 primates and will include two wooded half-acre yards, spacious heated housing for the winter months, platforms and climbing structures.

While these animals are currently in well-equipped enclosures, the new structure will further enhance their physical, social and psychological needs. Nanette and Gabby, are two rhesus macaques retired from research living at Black Beauty since 1997. Nanette, identified in research as RH-1228 gave birth to her daughter, Gabby, identified as RH-1278 “the infant of RH-1228” in 1992. The pair spend hours grooming each other in the sun, foraging, enjoying food puzzles, digging through grass and sunning themselves on a high platform.

On East Texas Giving Day, Black Beauty is asking everyone to spread the word and take advantage of dollar-for-dollar matching funds—a great way to inspire donors to give and help the sanctuary reach its goal of giving these primates a better life. Prescheduled giving starts April 6. To make a donation, visit [www.easttexasingivingday.org/clevelandamoryblackbeuty ranch](http://www.easttexasingivingday.org/clevelandamoryblackbeauty ranch).

Butch Whitfield Photography



Pay a Virtual Visit to the Artists of the No Show Van Go Art Fair

Apr 9, 2020

The second annual Van Go Art Show was scheduled to take place Saturday, April 11 in Van, Texas. It cancelled due to COVID-19. Please take a look at the artwork of these artists and visit their sites to see more and purchase if you can — all their spring and summer shows are cancelled so support them if you can and get yourself some really beautiful art.

Kerian Massey, KeriansArt.com
 Sherry Gasper, Shasha's Studio
 Lori and Dan Dudley, DirtOnYourSkirt.com
 Mary Geisler, MaryGeisler.net
 Christi Barrett, ArtistChristiBarrett.com
 Michael Tate
 Monica Lubiani, Facebook.com/LubianiStudios
 Orlando Guillen, OrlandoGuillen.com
 Randall Ricketts, RandallRickettsDesign.com
 Sandy Park, Artspark, Facebook.com/SandyParkArt1
 Tamra Licha, Facebook.com/Tamra.CrawfordLicha
 Tina Couet, SunshineSunbeams.wixsite.com
 Valery Guignon, Guignon.com
 Randy Martin, Facebook.com/ArtByRandolphMartin

Melissa Moore, Facebook.com/TiltingStarsMelissaMoore Art
 Laurie Aurand, LzAurandArt.com
 Amy Seymour
 Breeana Padilla, Facebook.com/Breeana.Padilla
 Janak Narayan, JanakNarayan.com
 Cynthia Grogan, Facebook.com/CynthiaGroganArt
 Brenda Roberts, Facebook.com/SayADreamStudio
 Cindy Fuqua, Facebook.com/Cindy.Fuqua.5
 Amelia Bough
 Don Cutler
 Shaun Marie Graham, PelesSongJewelry.com (photo)

Online Auction Raises Funds for Abused and Abandoned Horses

Apr 14, 2020

The Pegasus Project is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and placement of neglected, abandoned or abused horses. Their horse sanctuary is located near Murchison, Texas.

Care of neglected horses is expensive requiring veterinary care, blood tests, de-worming, and immunizations. Routine horse care maintenance costs include the purchase of feed, hay, bedding,

and any special-needs supplements. There are other expenses that arise with unexpected illnesses, injuries or emergency care.

Pegasus Project accepts donations throughout the year to support their mission. Their largest fundraiser is Wings Over Pegasus, cancelled this year due to COVID-19. They are doing a number of fundraisers online to try to help offset the costs.

The Pegasus Silent Auction is underway now until noon, Sunday, April 19. They have more than 50 items in seven different categories including horses, aviation, apparel, sporting events, and more. They have several pairs of boots, hats Coach purses, helicopter and airplane rides, and tickets to the Cowboys, Rangers, and Stars games.

Find several other ways to donate on their Wings Over Pegasus page and website.

It's a Thang in Texas

Apr 14, 2020

Photo and Poem By Lisa Hilbers

Rusty barbed wire,
crooked fence posts;

it's a thang in Texas,
that's just what we know.

Bluebonnets grow and
color the fields,
a sure-fire save
from what Winter kills.

Sweet iced tea, and
working the crops,
cutting hay in the Summer,
when the weather is hot.

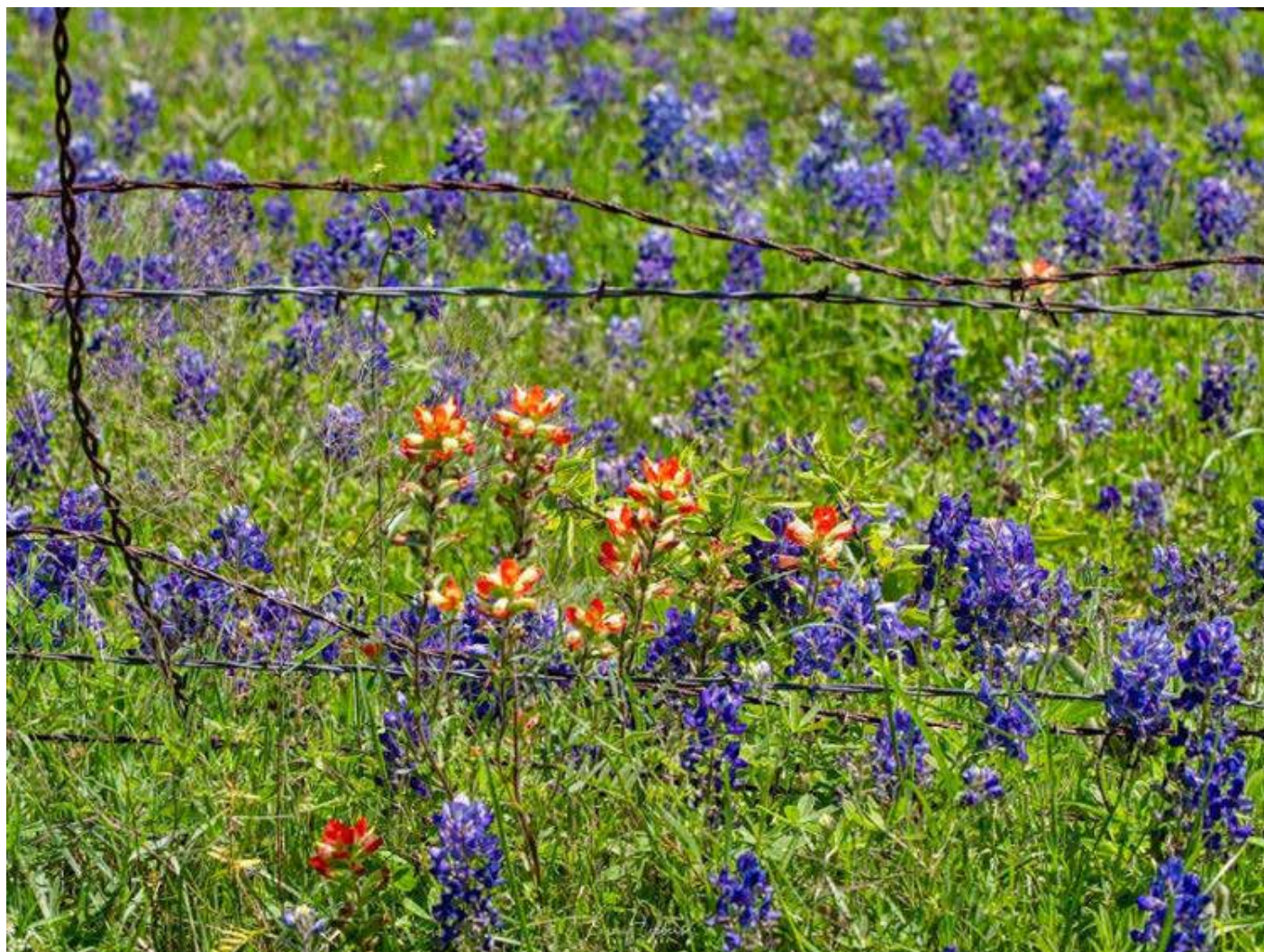
Old hound dogs lay on
the porch in the sun,
just waiting on nightfall,
when the critters run.

The large oaks tower,
the limber pines sway,
there are storms in Spring,
but Summer's on its way.

The colors of Fall, pleases our senses,
while Winter forms ice on all the fences.

For those that reside here,

Know it's been,
a Thang in Texas to
stay close to kin.





Artist Brings Watercolor Dreams to Life

Apr 16, 2020

By Lisa Tang

PHOTO: "Interlude" by Celene Terry

Celene Terry always dreamed of painting in watercolor. After retiring from a career in education, she seized the opportunity and developed advanced skills over the past 14 years while living near CedarCreek Lake and participating in the Star Harbor Watercolor Society.

"It has been an adventurous journey, and I have learned to view the world around me with new eyes," she said.

Terry has won regional and state awards for her paintings, which portray a variety of subjects, including children, animals, still lifes, vehicles, public spaces, and landscapes. The images feature vivid colors and contrasting lights and shadows. Soft lines and perspectives also convey her subjects' personality and point of view.

"My artwork reflects what intrigues me – vibrant color, the story behind the subject, people and animal life, light and shadow, point of view – in a representational style," she said.

Primarily a watercolorist, Terry also dabbles in pastels and acrylics. She studies with renowned watercolor artists and frequently wins top prizes in regional and statewide competitions, from the Henderson County Art Show to the State Fair of Texas.

Terry paints some works on commission, but mostly looks for inspiration in photographic images that challenge her artistic ability in transparent watercolor.

"Every time I paint, I learn something new," she said.

"Interlude" features a swan that has just raised its head from the water, represented by drops falling from its beak. The challenge included painting the swan around the white of the paper (the color of the swan's body), as well as depicting the reflection and the falling drops.

"Miss Gizmo" offered the challenge of representing the cat's fluffy fur without having to show every piece. The painting has sentimental value because the friend's cat was lounging on a pillowcase made by the friend's mother when she was a girl.

Terry said her paintings are not photographically precise, but use impressionist techniques to portray a mood or personality.

"Pool Nymphs," also based on a photo, shows two young girls

bathing in a play pool. Terry wanted to portray the lighting across the scene, plus the flowing waves in the play pool.

Terry belongs to Star Harbor Watercolor Society at Cedar Creek Lake, the Southwestern Watercolor Society, and the Society of Watercolor Artists. Her paintings are on display at 211 Gallery in Athens through June 10, 2020.

For information about Terry's art, visit www.celeneterry.com. For information about 211 Gallery's "The Colors of Life" exhibit, call (903) 203-1746, or visit artgallery211.net.

The Stratton Story: Greenville Baseball Star Overcame Tragedy

May 11, 2020

The Stratton Story, a movie based on the true life of Monty Stratton, starred Jimmy Stewart and June Allyson, appeared in theaters nationwide on May 12, 1949.

Stratton pitched for the Chicago White Sox in the 1930's, gaining a record of 37 wins to 19 losses, until his career took an unusual turn.

Stratton was hunting rabbits on his family farm when he fell and his shotgun discharged. The bullet hit a major artery in his right leg, which doctors amputated the next day.

After Stratton was fitted with a wooden leg, he continued coaching and practicing with the White Sox. Stratton made a comeback as a Minor League pitcher in 1946 and continued his career into the 1950's.

Stratton died of cancer in 1982 and rests in Greenville's Maryland Memorial Park.

The movie recounts the romantic story of Stratton and his wife Ethel as they overcame the physical loss, rebuilt their lives, and Stratton resumed his career as a Minor League pitcher.

The Stratton Story premiered May 12, 1949, at The Texan Theater in Greenville.

Greenville's Audie Murphy/American Cotton Museum displays memorabilia from Stratton's career, including the wooden leg.



Red Garland Achieved Fame as Jazz Pianist

May 11, 2020

Jazz pianist William M. (Red) Garland was born in Dallas May 13, 1923. He learned to play clarinet as a child and alto saxophone at Booker T. Washington High School, though he did not graduate. He joined the Army in 1944 and served at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, where he learned to play piano from other servicemen.

After leaving the Army, Garland joined a band led by Henry (Buster) Smith in 1944 and played in New York City and Philadelphia with Charlie Parker, Billy Eckstine, Coleman Hawkins, and Fats Navarro. Garland's block chords became a hallmark of classic jazz. He later joined the Miles' Davis' Quintet playing side man in recordings of "Workin' and Steamin'," "Round About Midnight," and "Milestones" between 1955-1958. The group achieved fame and introduced a new era of jazz.

Garland formed his own trio and cut three albums in 1957: All Mornin' Long, Soul Junction, and High Pressure.

Garland returned to Dallas in 1965 due to his mother's illness and resided there in his later years. He cut a new album, Red Alert, in 1977 and performed in the late 1970's. He last performed at Lush Life in New York City's Greenwich Village in 1983.

Garland passed away in his home in south Dallas in 1984.

North Texas Performing Arts Hosts Virtual Summer Camps for All Ages

May 12, 2020

IMAGE: Tony Award winner Sally Cade Holmes is teaching a virtual class for North Texas Performing Arts beginning May 22.

North Texas Performing Arts, based in Plano, Texas, is hosting virtual summer camps for all ages. NTPA is adding two new programs for youth ages 7-18: A half-day "Virtual Theatre Explorers" and full-day "Virtual One-Week Productions," in addition to hourly online class options throughout the summer of 2020.

Each year, NTPA provides opportunities to more than 6,000 youth ages three to 18 years old to experience the impact of the performing arts through its learning lab training process. The organization began offering online classes at the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, and is continuing them through the summer in addition to traditional camps.

Online camps include "Virtual Theatre Explorers" for ages 7 to 14 and "Virtual One-Week Production" for ages 10 to 18, as well as weekly classes.

"We want to make our summer camps and classes accessible to everyone," said CEO Darrell Rodenbaugh. "We think this will evolve to students employing both a physical and an online approach to learning."

Instructors are expert performers, directors, producers, choreographers, and musicians with years of professional experience.

Sally Cade Holmes, a Tony Award-winning Broadway producer, is hosting a “Broadway Happy Hour” about show business for ages eighth grade through adult, beginning May 22.

Online and physical classes start at just \$9.99 and are available in hourly sessions, half-day and full-day. In person summer programs also include two-week productions culminating in an onstage performance. Complete information available at NTPA.org/camps.

NTPA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing the character of youth through quality performing arts education and family entertainment. The organization evolved from the Plano Children’s Theatre created almost 30 years ago, and is headquartered at Willow Bend Center of the Arts in Plano, with theaters in Fairview, Frisco, and Dallas.

NTPA’s vision is to enable every child, regardless of sex, religion, race, or socioeconomic limitation to have the opportunity to enjoy and experience the arts.

Mineola Black Spiders Played Ball in Texas and Midwest

May 15, 2020

Citizens of Mineola celebrated the determination of its former independent baseball team, the Mineola Black Spiders, with a historical marker on May 21, 2011.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, African American teams played separately from white teams. Though it was small, the town of Mineola had both white and black sports teams.

The Spiders, also known as the Texas Black Spiders, formed in the late 1920s when about 30 men and teens formed a team to play against other African-American teams in the area.

The team wore gray uniforms and played at south Mineola’s Epperson Park, where they sometimes played for 200 spectators. The team also traveled to play in Dallas, Commerce, and Shreveport.

Vernon Klingaman moved to Mineola in the late 1920’s and began managing the team, opening the roster to non-residents, and changing the team’s name to the Texas Black Spiders.

As the team’s owner, Klingaman moved the Spiders to the Midwest in 1932 to improve their opportunities. They often staged exhibition games in rural areas, and became known for their fast-paced, entertaining style of baseball. Some newspapers referred to them as the “Champions of Texas.”





The same year, the team's name became the Mason City Black Bats, headquartered in Iowa, though some members stayed with the Spiders, while others moved back to Texas.

The Spiders continued their success. In 1936, they achieved a record of 34 to 1, but underwent a major change in personnel and probably disbanded in 1938.

Mineola's Black Spiders are mostly forgotten, yet remain an important part of the town's history as a team that achieved success in Texas and the Midwest.

More information is available at the Mineola Historical Museum.

TJC Reopens Summer Shows at Hudnall Planetarium

May 15, 2020

The Earth and Space Science Center at Tyler Junior College has reopened the Hudnall Planetarium for a daily schedule of summer shows, from Tuesday, June 23 through Saturday, Aug. 29. Tickets are available online at the discounted rate of \$3 per ticket.

The center is offering new private show screenings at 9:45 a.m. Tuesday through Friday for guests who prefer to reserve the planetarium for their family and friends. For \$25 (or \$20 for

members, please call for discount code), you may reserve our planetarium theater for up to 15 people. You can select any one of our planetarium shows from the show library to enjoy. Selections include children's shows, live narrated presentations, documentary style movies, and music and holiday shows.

In 1963, Tyler Junior College (TJC) opened the first planetarium located in East Texas. Originally known as the Hudnall Planetarium, it was reopened in 2011 after a major expansion and renovation of its facilities and renamed The Center for Earth and Space Science Education.

Home to the first 40' Spitz nano-seam domed theatre in East Texas, the state-of-the-art Planetarium features an immersive, full-dome video experience. The new theater is equipped with Digistar 5, the latest in digital projection technology.

The facility also features interactive displays and exhibits, classrooms and outdoor play spaces. For more information call (903) 510-2312 and visit www.sciencecenter@tjc.edu.

"Seeing! A Photon's Journey," is premiering this summer. Join famous astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson as he takes you on a journey exploring the life of a photon. Discover how the eye works, how technology has enabled us to restore vision and prevent a variety of diseases that affect sight.

A favorite program returning this summer is the popular Space Park 360 show, which takes audiences on a wild immersive ride

through the Solar System while recreating the experience of amusement park thrill rides — roller coasters, pendulums, inverters and more.

Show Times

9:45 a.m. — Private Show Screening (by appointment)
11 a.m. — Children's Show
12:15 p.m. — Space Park 360
1:30 p.m. — Seeing! A Photon's Journey
2:45 p.m. — The Hot and Energetic Universe
4:00 p.m. — The Sun, Our Living Star

The center is following health and safety guidelines and recommendations with spread-out seating in the planetarium, ample cleaning between shows, and social distancing markers. They also require that all tickets be purchased online for a contactless payment process.

For those who are unable to visit the center in person, the website still offers free “virtual field trips” to the planetarium on the TJC website.

These videos are designed to be great supplements to online and homeschool lessons students are already doing and anyone really who enjoys the night sky.

Topics include Phases of the Moon, Night Sky Constellations: Winter Triangle (Orion, Canis Major, and Canis Minor), and Stargazing with Star charts.

The Science Center's goal is to increase science literacy in the Upper East Side of Texas and to foster lifelong learning for people of all ages.

Bessie Heard Built Successful Wildlife Sanctuary

May 20, 2020

Bessie Heard, born May 26, 1886, in McKinney, established the Heard Wildlife Sanctuary and Museum. The child of John Spencer Heard and Rachel Caroline (Wilson) Heard, Bessie inherited her family's business fortune and dedicated her life to improving her community and supporting preservation projects.

Later in life, as Bessie saw more concrete poured around Collin County, she envisioned a place for young people to experience and learn about nature, so she began researching the project and started a foundation.

Construction on the museum and sanctuary began when Bessie was in her seventies. Her personal collections of natural objects and illustrations, including originals by naturalist painter John James Audobon (1785-1851), formed the nucleus of the museum's collection. Opened in 1967, when Heard was 80, the sanctuary is still operating today — and welcoming almost 100,000 visitors per year.

Bessie died March 22, 1988, at 102 years, but her legacy and the work of the sanctuary continue. School groups, scouts, and families with children visit frequently. Children especially enjoy

visiting and observing live animals in the natural setting and exploring the interactive museum.

After 47 years, the sanctuary continues Miss Bessie's desire for education, preservation, and conservation for communities in Collin County.

Meadows Gallery at UT Tyler Exhibits Student Art Online

May 21, 2020

IMAGE: "Irreconcilable Differences" by Laminda Miller

The University of Texas at Tyler is presenting online art exhibitions featuring works by students graduating with Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts degrees. The exhibits are published online due to public health precautions, and can be viewed on the Meadows Gallery web page.

“We are incredibly proud of the students featured,” said Merry Wright, professor and chair of the Department of Art and Art History. “They have remained steadfast in their commitment to creating and have approached the unfolding events with the highest caliber of professionalism.”

The MFA exhibitions include works by Jessica Sanders and Nora Schreiber of Tyler; John Miranda of Del Rio; and Laminda Miller of Gladewater.

Sanders makes delicate-looking ceramic sculpture. Her exhibition is titled “Attach | Manipulate | Respond.” “This body of work deals with form, space, and visual accessibility,” Sanders said. “The pieces are made up of small, individual ceramic pieces that are attached together with wire, making flexible ceramic sheets.”

Miranda's exhibition, “Pan Dulce in the Sauce,” features sculpture and paintings inspired by his hometown. “My work is a visceral response to a lived reality, an abstraction of space and memory,” he said. “Inanimate entities become communities within space as I try to find a balance between cultural history and personal experiences.”

Miller makes animal sculptures of epoxy clay and mixed media. Her exhibition, “Intentions,” features deceptively whimsical



works that are allegorical representations of the social, psychological and literal constructs of identity.

Schreiber explores a curiosity of the world around her in her exhibition titled “ALL IT CAN BE IS WHAT IT WAS NAMED.” She asks her audience to step into a visual exploration of the mundane in their daily lives, with a theatrical twist.

The BFA exhibition, titled “Nascent,” includes works by eight graduates.

Lidia Alvidrez of Dallas is a ceramic artist whose work is influenced by life experiences and dealing with a mental disorder.

Katherine Emmel of Overton focuses primarily in painting and reflects several dystopian and emotional narratives found within everyday society.

Willow Lanchester of Tyler works primarily in clay and metal sculpture. Her art pieces are focused permutations of form that explore themes of concealed information.

Maggie Pierce of Tyler uses photo-based printmaking techniques to create highly altered versions of desert landscape. Her work examines the landscape and our relationship to it as something that is mediated by various technologies.

Payton Poole of Tyler works with multimedia, three-dimensional sculptures, both interactive and wearable, that open conversations about mental illness and the stigma against it.

Grace Richardson of Troup uses screen-printing methods to create nonobjective forms that render familiarity through their interactions and emphasis on color. A vocabulary of shape and color is established through these arrangements, creating a relationship and language between form and viewer.

Justin Witherspoon of Kilgore is a printmaker who works in both relief and mono-type. His current body of work is focused on contrasting hard lines and stark objects with nebulous color, inviting exploration.

Teresa Young of Marshall is a sculptor whose works incorporate disposed items such as shipping material and objects from nature. The items signify abandonment and reincarnation.

For more information about the exhibitions, contact Michelle Taff, UT Tyler gallery coordinator, at (903)566-7237 or mtaff@uttyler.edu.

Cedar Creek Islands Attract Birdwatchers

May 24, 2020

Cedar Creek Lake (Reservoir) in Henderson and Kaufman Counties has three islands managed by Texas Parks & Wildlife (TPWD) for aquatic birds. People are not allowed on the islands but birdwatchers enjoy viewing from boats or from the banks of the lake.

Big Island (A) is near Kemp past King’s Creek bridge.

Persimmon (B) and Bird (C) Islands are just off the bridge to Seven Points going to Gun Barrel City. Both are convenient to

Big Chief and Tom Finley launch sites.

Cedar Creek Islands Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) comprise a total of 160 acres. The areas are viewable year round, but keep spring and summer viewing as unobtrusive as possible. The islands are heavily used as rookeries (nesting areas) by the birds and should not be disturbed during this time when the birds lay their eggs and rear their young.

Before visiting a Wildlife Management Area, be sure to call for current conditions and access information. Wildlife Management Areas are working laboratories for learning about wildlife and habitat. These activities may effect what birdwatchers see and do while visiting. A representative may be reached at (903) 389-7080.

For places to stay, shop, or dine in the area, visit the Gun Barrel City website.

Actress Piper Perabo born in Dallas

May 25, 2020

“Cheaper by The Dozen” actress, Piper Perabo, born in Dallas October 31, 1976. Perabo starred as the oldest Baker, Nora, in “Cheaper by the Dozen.”

Prior to the film, Perabo made a name for herself starring as Violet Sanford in “Coyote Ugly” (2000).

After her role as Nora Baker, the actress went on to appear in a variety of films and on television shows.

Along with starring in “Cheaper by the Dozen 2,” she went on to appear in films such as “The Prestige”(2006), “Because I Said So” (2007), “Beverly Hills Chihuahua” (2008), “Looper” (2012), and “Angel Has Fallen” (2019).

From 2010 to 2014, she also starred on USA Network’s “Covert Affairs.” She appeared on Showtime’s “Penny Dreadful: City of Angels” in May of 2020.



Get Fair Food in Tyler

May 28, 2020

The East Texas State Fair presents “Fair Food Drive-In” from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. June 4-7. Vendors offer a variety of fair food to go including Funnel Cakes, Double-Decker Funnel Cakes, Jumbo Corn Dogs, Texas-Sized Turkey Legs, Loaded Nachos, Loaded Waffle Fries, Loaded Tater Tots, Volcano Fries, Wonderstick Ice Cream, Ice Cream Cones, Ice Cream Floats, Fresh Squeezed Lemonade, and Iced Tea.

The Fair Food Drive-In vendors include East Texas-based McKinney Concessions and Corky Westmorland Concessions alongside Wonderstick Ice Cream.

This year has been challenging to say the least, but the COVID-19 pandemic has hit the event industry especially hard. Local food concessionaires are suffering staggering losses after a summer full of events were canceled. The East Texas State Fair is stepping in to help by setting up this event.

The grounds are equipped with hand sanitizing stations and staff to make sure visitors are adhering to social distancing standards. Food stand workers are required to wear masks and gloves at all times.

Food stands are set up along Fair Park Drive near Rose Stadium for visitors to drive up, order, and take to-go.

For more information, visit the East Texas State Fair website.

View Majestic Scenery at Caddo Lake State Park

May 29, 2020

By Lisa Tang

An “East Texas treasure,” according to Texas Parks and Wildlife, Caddo Lake’s majestic scenery makes it an unforgettable destination. Dozens of cypress trees rise above the lake’s shallow waters, while Spanish mosses drape from their branches.

The state’s largest naturally-formed lake, Caddo was formed centuries ago by a logjam on the Sabine River. Dams and reservoirs now control the lake’s waters and maintain its diverse ecosystem.

A trip along the waters of Caddo Lake is truly unique. Kayakers and canoers explore miles of paddleways through the lake’s 26,810 acres of bayous, wetlands, and backwaters, which have an average depth of 8 to 10 feet.

Visitors also enjoy viewing the park’s variety of natural flora and fauna on foot. Hiking through the park’s trails is another way to experience the lake’s ecological diversity.

Fishing at Caddo Lake is also exceptional. The lake contains 71 species of fish, with plenty of largemouth bass and crappie. Other popular activities include geocaching, camping, and glamping in one of the park’s historic cabins built by the Civilian Conservation Corps.



Caddo Lake State Park is located at 245 Park Road 2, Karnack, Texas, 75661. Contact the park at (903)679-3351. State parks across the state are now offering day passes and overnight camping. Call (512)389-8915 for park reservations, or register online at <https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/>.

Enjoy Upscale Rustic Dining at Four Winds Steakhouse

Jun 3, 2020

Four Winds Steakhouse offers a memorable destination dining experience in a relaxed country setting. The elegant dining room features a large fireplace and a sweeping rustic view of a large pond and mature oaks, part of the 1,000-acre ranch in Wills Point built and formerly owned by Dallas Cowboy LeeRoy Jordan.

The dining atmosphere, however, is secondary to the high-end menu and service. Chef Frank Rumoré serves award-winning steak and seafood selections, coupled with wines from California, France, and Spain.

Rumoré combines traditional steakhouse cuisine with enticing flavors from New Orleans and the South. Guests rave about the tender steak cuts and exceptional service.

“I had the filet mignon and it was melt-in-your-mouth. Absolutely amazing. It was cooked perfectly and even seasoned just right” Tiffany Nicole Yeager

“Consistently great food. Nice steakhouse atmosphere and service. Great for celebrations or anytime you want an excellent meal.” Krystal Crawford Atwood

“Always the best service and steaks.” Sue Reese Romer

“Hands down the best steak I have ever eaten. Also the best service I have ever had. Highly recommended.” Layla R. Hughes

Specialties include traditional steakhouse standards cut and cooked to order. The featured menu item is a 26-oz. Bone-in Ribeye with Brandy Peppercorn Sauce. Guests can also choose Filet Mignon, New York Strip Steak, or Ribeye in 12 or 14-ounces.

Chef Rumore prepares a variety of main courses, such as Sugar-Cured Pork Chops, Chicken-Fried Beef Tenderloin, Pecan Breaded Catfish, and Fried Jumbo Shrimp.

Favorite appetizers are the Jumbo Lump Crab Cakes, Grilled Goat Cheese with Roasted Red Pepper and Crostini, Escargot,

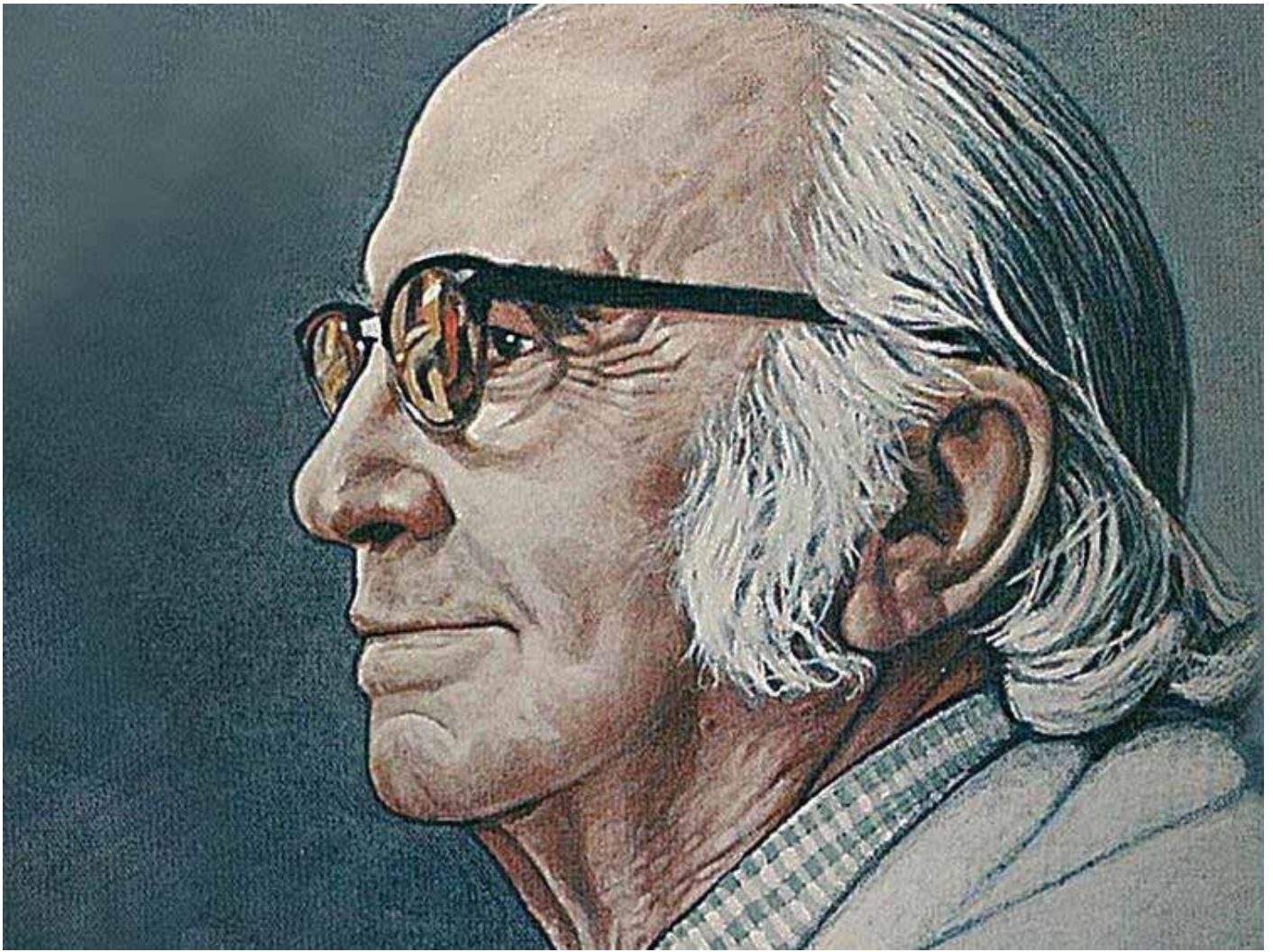
and Shrimp Remoulade. Fresh salads include a choice of House Salad, Mixed Greens, Caesar, Iceberg Wedge, and a House-Made Mozzarella, Tomato, and Onion on mixed greens with a Basil Balsamic Vinaigrette.

Four Winds gained national recognition when OpenTable.com designated it as one of Diners’ Choice Top 100 Steakhouses in 2014 based on patrons’ reviews. Guests have written thousands of glowing reviews. Many say they choose the steakhouse for special dining occasions, such as birthdays or wedding anniversaries.

Few restaurants in the region match Four Winds’ cuisine and service, rated as “Best Steakhouse” in *County Line’s* “Best of the Upper East Side” Hall of Fame.

Four Winds is located near I-20, 21191 FM 47, Wills Point, Texas, 75169. For information, call (903) 873-2225 or visit www.fourwindssteakhouse.com.





Threadgill Legacy Continues in Greenville

Jun 6, 2020

By P.A. Geddie

The iconic Threadgill's on North Lamar in Austin closed down for good a few weeks ago as it faced an uncertain future amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The restaurant and musical hotspot opened in December 1981 by Kenneth Threadgill, one of the people who created the world-famous Austin music scene. Formerly the site of an old gas station, he turned it into a venue that carried his name and was a second home for musicians who became famous.

Many people shaped that scene including Willie Nelson, Allen Damron and Rod Kennedy, DJ Joe Gracey, and of course the musicians themselves.

Right in the middle of it all was Kenneth Threadgill, known as the "father of Austin country music." He was born in tiny Peniel on September 12, 1909, the ninth of 11 children of the Rev. John Threadgill who ministered in Texas and New Mexico. Kenneth spent his early years in Peniel, which was annexed into Greenville in the 1950s, before his family moved to Beaumont where he met idol and future mentor Jimmie Rodgers backstage at the Tivoli Theater.

In 1923, the family moved to Austin where Kenneth worked at an old Gulf gas station on North Lamar Boulevard. The minister's son quickly bought the place, naming it Threadgill's Tavern. He and his wife, Mildred, sold gas and food and, after Prohibition ended, got the first beer license in Austin.

The tavern closed for a few years during World War II and Kenneth worked on his own music, singing and yodeling like his idol and once, when another icon, Hank Williams, was late for a show at Dessau Dance Hall, filling in by singing Hanks songs until Hank showed up.

The heavysset Kenneth – with long white hair and beard and horn-rimmed glasses – reopened the tiny Threadgill's after the war, packing the 45 seats on weekends with his Hootenanny Hoots band. On Wednesday nights, locals of all kinds would gather to drink beer and listen to casually impromptu country music. The place was open 24 hours a day until Austin enacted a curfew in 1942 and Kenneth had to buy a lock for the front door.

One night, two local musicians brought in some young newcomers from Beaumont; one of the hippie newcomers – her name was Janis Joplin – got on stage and sang "Silver Threads and Golden Needles." She became a regular and a friend of Kenneth and Mildred's, even if her voice wasn't always at its best.

"One night, in jest, she got two free Lone Star beers from Ken-

neth for not singing,” wrote Alan Lee Haworth. “She loved Threadgill’s Tavern and frequented the establishment. Kenneth always swore that Janis did not get her start at his tavern, but rather started herself.”

In 1970, three months before she died, Janis canceled a \$15,000 gig in Hawaii to come, instead, back to Austin and sing at Kenneth’s birthday picnic that attracted 8,000 people. Congressman J.J. Pickle entered the party into the Congressional Record.

Kenneth closed Threadgill’s after Mildred died in 1974, eventually selling it to Eddie Wilson, who owned Armadillo World Headquarters where Kenneth often performed. Wilson reopened Threadgill’s as a restaurant in 1981 and a second restaurant, Threadgill’s World Headquarters (TWH), in downtown Austin in 1996; both featured lots of Kenneth Threadgill and Austin memorabilia and hosted regular performances of roots music. TWH closed in 2018 due to the cost of rising rent.

Kenneth came onto the national scene himself in the early 1980s when Willie asked him to sing in the movie and on the soundtrack for “Honeysuckle Rose.”

He sang “Coming Back to Texas” and “Singing the Yodeling Blues,” picking up \$3,000 for acting and \$4,000 for the songs. Eventually, the soundtrack sold nearly two million copies.

Kenneth Threadgill and the Velvet Cow pasture released their first album, Long-Haired Daddy, in 1981.

He sang optimistically about social issues, World War II, his father, patriotism, and Texas, creating his own style from early influences including Jimmie Rodgers and Al Jolson. Some of his best-known songs were “Silver-Haired Daddy of Mine,” “There’s A Star-Spangled Banner Waving Somewhere,” “T for Texas, T for Tennessee,” and “It Is No Secret What God Can Do.”

Kenneth died of a pulmonary embolism on March 20, 1987, at Brackenridge Hospital in Austin.

His name continues to inspire young singer-songwriters. It’s still the name of the stage at the Kerrville Folk Festival that welcomes new talent each year and people in his birthplace keeps his spirit alive with the Kenneth Threadgill Concert series.

One of the founders of the Greenville series, Larry W. Green, Jr., said the name was serendipitous.

“An attorney I worked with in Greenville, Joe Weis, went to the University of Texas in the early and mid-1970s, and was at a place called Shakey’s Pizza Parlor near the campus,” Green said. “Kenneth Threadgill and his band were playing. During a break, he came over and asked Joe, ‘Where you boys from?’ Joe said Greenville, and Kenneth said he was from Greenville, too.

“Around that time, we were starting a series and we needed a name for it. We picked Kenneth’s because he was from Greenville and had such an impact on Texas music. The type of music we wanted to present was really the kind of music Kenneth Threadgill helped support. He was a patron of those artists, and gave them a place to play,” Larry said.

“A lot of our headliners here knew him personally and could share anecdotes about him. Junior Brown dedicated a song to Kenneth Threadgill. Jerry Jeff Walker and Gary P. Nunn and Ray Wylie Hubbard all knew Kenneth Threadgill personally, and some have even mentioned him in their songs.”

In Texas, getting your name mentioned in a song is similar to canonization. In Kenneth Threadgill’s case, it is an affirmation of his own love of music, his own bigger-than-life personality, and his legacy in the live music capitol of the world and his home town.

A March concert in Greenville was cancelled due to COVID-19. Plans are in the works for a concert during the Bob Wills Fiddle Festival and Contest held November 6-7 this year. To learn more about the Kenneth Threadgill Concert Series, visit www.greenville-texas.com/concert.htm.

Excerpts in this article were taken from the County Line Magazine archives.

McKinney Community Band Hosts Online Patriotic Concert

Jun 23, 2020

The McKinney Community Band is presenting an online patriotic concert titled “Americans We” on the band’s YouTube channel at 7 p.m., Saturday, June 27.

During weekly discussions and musical challenges on weekly video calls, band members developed the idea of a virtual concert.

MCB Conductor Jeremy Kondrat worked with the organization’s board to program the concert, drawing from audio and video recordings from the past few years of the group’s live performances. New recordings will also be part of the event.

“We selected some patriotic favorites and we have some extra surprises along the way, too,” Kondrat said. “We all miss making music together and performing for our audiences so much, and we look forward to when we can all be together, live and in person, face-to-face again.”

Until that time, he explained, a virtual concert was a way to keep in touch with the band’s audience, fans, and friends while restrictions on distancing and gathering sizes are in place.

The program includes a tribute to band members who have served in the armed forces and a new arrangement of “America the Beautiful” recorded by musicians from their homes. Also, many of the pieces in the 45-minute program have been re-edited to give the online audience a different vantagepoint, as if they were sitting with the musicians on stage.

A link to the McKinney Community Band’s YouTube channel is accessible from both the event on the band’s Facebook page and from the group’s website, www.McKinneyBand.com. For anyone who is not able to watch at that time, the recording will be accessible for viewing via YouTube.

Donations to the band are always accepted via the group's website. All donations coming in through the end of July will be split between the MCB and One Heart McKinney, a community effort bringing area organizations together to provide immediate response to those in need due to the COVID19 crisis.

For information, contact Chris Heider, band president, at (469) 964-1929 or Heider3@aol.com, or Beth Shumate, marketing chair, at (214) 208-3692 or shumatebeth@hotmail.com.

Ragtime Texas Thomas Left Lasting Legacy

Jun 26, 2020

By P.A. Geddie

Henry "Ragtime Texas" Thomas was born in Big Sandy, Texas, in 1874, one of nine children of former enslaved humans who sharecropped on a cotton plantation in the northeastern part of the state. Thomas left home around 1890 to pursue a career as an itinerant "songster."

Thomas took to the rails to escape from a life of farm work and made a living by singing along the Texas and Pacific and Katy lines that ran from Fort Worth and Dallas to Texarkana. In a

song he wrote called "Railroadin' Some," he includes the Texas towns of Rockwall, Greenville, Denison, Grand Saline,

Silver Lake, Mineola, Tyler (where Thomas was last active in the 1950s), Longview, Jefferson, Marshall, Little Sandy, and his birthplace, Big Sandy.

Texas communities are not the only ones cited in this song, for Thomas traveled into the Indian Territory, as he still called it, to Muskogee, over to Missouri and Scott Joplin's stomping grounds of Sedalia, and on up to Kansas City, then into Illinois: Springfield, Bloomington, Joliet, and Chicago, where he attended the 1893 Columbian Exposition, as did Joplin.

William Barlow — author of the book *Looking Up at Down: The Emergence of Blues Culture* — calls "Railroadin' Some" the most "vivid and intense recollection of railroading" in all the early blues recorded in the 1920s. The cadences in this early rural blues "depict the restless lifestyle of the vagabonds who rode the rails and their boundless enthusiasm for the mobility it gave them."

Thomas first taught himself to play the quills, a type of American panpipe made from cane reeds and similar to the Italian zampogna; later, he picked up the guitar. On the 23 recordings



he made from 1927 to 1929, he sings a variety of songs and accompanies himself on guitar and at times on the quills.

His accompaniment work on guitar has been ranked “with the finest dance blues ever recorded.” According to American blues writer Stephen Calt, “its intricate simultaneous treble picking and drone bass would have posed a challenge to any blues guitarist of any era.”

Jazz Journal’s Derrick Stewart-Barker commented that Thomas was the best songwriter “that ever recorded.”

The range of Thomas’s work makes him something of a transitional figure between the early minstrel songs, spirituals, square dance tunes, hillbilly reels, waltzes, and rags and the rise of blues and jazz. Basically his repertoire, which mostly consists of dance pieces, was out of date by the turn of the century, when the blues began to grow in popularity. Thomas’s nickname, “Ragtime Texas,” is thought to have come to him because he played in fast tempos, which were synonymous for some musicians with ragtime. Five of Thomas’s pieces have been characterized as “rag ditties,” among them “Red River Blues,” and such rag songs have been considered the immediate forerunners and early rivals of blues.

Out of Thomas’s recorded pieces, only four are “bona fide blues,” so that he has been looked upon as more of a predecessor rather than a blues singer as such. One commentator has claimed that Thomas’s blues are original with him and that other musicians seem not to have performed his pieces. However, Thomas’s “Bull Doze Blues” ends with the four bar “Take Me Back,” a Texas standard of the World War I era, which Blind Lemon Jefferson had recorded around August 1926 as “Beggin’ Back.” It would seem, then, that Thomas’s blues represent many traditional themes and vocal phrases. For example, Thomas’s “Texas Easy Street Blues” contains the verse made famous by Jimmy Rushing and Joe Williams in their 1930s to 1950s versions of the Basie-Rushing tune, “Goin’ to Chicago.” Another well-known phrase found in this same Thomas piece is “blue as I can be.” But perhaps most indicative of Thomas’s transitional position between the early black music and jazz is his “Cottonfield Blues,” which contains several standard blues themes: field labor, the desire for escape, and the role of the railroad in providing a freer lifestyle.

The importance of Thomas’s recordings as something of a compendium of the popular song forms of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries—from spiritual to “coon song,” from “rag” song to blues—is enhanced by the similar range of instrumental techniques found in his work with guitar and quills. In a sense, then, Henry Thomas represents a vital link between the roots of music in Africa, nineteenth and twentieth century American folksong (including spiritual, hillbilly, “rag,” and “coon”), and the coming of the blues—all of these contributing in turn to the formation of jazz in its various forms, which are reflected in the varied approaches to rhythmic, tonal, and thematic expression practiced by “Ragtime Texas” decades before he made his series of recordings from 1927 to 1929.

Singer-songwriter Norman Blake, on his 1998 “Chattanooga Sugar Babe” record, includes a song he wrote for Thomas.

Ragtime Texas

Where the Texas Pacific Railroad
ran through cotton gin towns
The lumber mills and the peach orchards
used to stretch for miles around
He’d change cars on the Katy ‘cause
he didn’t know where he’s bound
With his ragged clothes and old guitar
he’d walk right through their towns

And they called him Ragtime Texas,
Henry Thomas was his name
From Deep Ellum down in Dallas
to the Texarkana cane
Kansas City to Saint Louis,
Chicago in the rain
He’s on his way but he didn’t know where,
just a-ridin’ on a train

His daddy sharecropped cotton
in East Texas bottom land
He became a drifter
before he was a man
Playing country dances,
the cane quills he blowed
Then he found an old guitar
and a hard life on the road

Down to cruel Huntsville prison farm
they run him on in

He never knew from day to day
if he had a friend

In the boxcars and the migrant camps,
on the sidewalks of the town

He seen all them hard traveling men,
on their last go ‘round

A resurgence of fascination with Thomas can be traced roughly to 1952. In that year, two of his finest performances, “Fishing Blues” and “Old Country Stomp,” were reissued on Harry Smith’s *Folkways Anthology of American Folk Music*. The Anthology, featuring American folk music in the best sense of the word as represented on pre-War commercial discs and unified by an inspired logic, brought Thomas and his music to the attention of Northern, urban, folk revival audiences for the first time.

By way of the Anthology, Thomas’ music captured the fertile imaginations of the likes of Bob Dylan, and Alan Wilson of Canned Heat. In 1968, Canned Heat converted Thomas’ “Bull Doze Blues” into the hit “Going Up the Country” complete with Thomas’ basic rhythm and melody and with multi-instrumentalists Jim Horn reproducing Thomas’ quill parts on the flute.

Dylan, on his 1962 “Freewheelin’” record, sang a composition entitled “Honey, Just Allow Me One More Chance.” While not a straight cover of the Thomas performance of a similar name,

it utilizes some of the same phrases and Dylan freely acknowledges the influence of “a recording by a now-dead Texas blues singer.”

Thomas’ most enduring tune is his “Fishing Blues,” a song with minstrel show origins that has become something of a standard in old-time and blues circles, covered by artists as diverse as Taj Mahal, Mike Seeger, and Bruce Molsky.

His legacy lives on in the music of those who continue to sing his praises and perform his songs —songs that may well have been lost if not for the creative impulses of an obscure musical itinerant.

“Bull Doze Blues” by Henry “Ragtime Texas” Thomas

www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1xBwWm46ug

“Fishin’ Blues” with Taj Mahal

www.youtube.com/watch?v=iQC2_NJj2iA

Sources: *Texas State Historical Association, The Old-Time Herald*

Fort Boggy State Park Offers Tranquility Close to Home

Jul 3, 2020

If tranquility has a home, it’s probably at Fort Boggy State Park near Centerville, Texas. One of the state’s smaller parks, Fort Boggy is unknown to many, yet has a convenient location halfway between Dallas and Fort Worth on Interstate 45.

The 15-acre lake receives its waters from a spring with cooler temperatures, which is perfect for summer swimming. Hiking and biking trails are suitable for families with children. The park offers a 1.5-mile lake trail and a 2-mile nature trail.

Fishing is also popular at Fort Boggy State Park. Visitors fish from the pier, the lake bank, or on the water from small boats or paddle boats. The park has a small boat ramp, but does not rent watercraft.

Overnight stays at Fort Boggy are particularly memorable. Rough camping is available at sites without electricity, water, or restrooms, which visitors reach by hiking. In contrast, the park’s furnished cabins, with air conditioning, kitchen appliances, and indoor toilets and showers, spoil even experienced glampers.

Find Fort Boggy at 4994 Highway 75 South, Centerville, Texas, 75833. Call (903) 344-1116 to contact the park directly. More information is available at www.twpd.texas.gov.

State parks are now offering day passes and overnight camping. Call (512) 389-8915 for park reservations, or register online at tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks.

Seaman Knapp Planted Seeds of Agriculture Extension Service

Jul 5, 2020

Four separate historical markers attest to the significance of the Porter Farm, also known as Walter C. Porter Farm, near Terrell in Kaufman County,

Texas. Carol Highsmith, Library of Congress

In 1903, Seaman Knapp, a special agent with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, launched agricultural demonstrations at Porter Farm in Kaufman County (three miles north of Terrell) to help farmers combat boll weevil threat to cotton.

Knapp’s work served as a model for the creation of the Agricultural Extension Service, now operating across the nation.

Knapp set up the county agent plan in 1906 and eventually started organizations for youth that were forerunners of the modern 4-H clubs. The site of the Porter Farm received a National Register of Historic Places designation in 1964.

Beauty and the Box Program Adds Two New Pieces

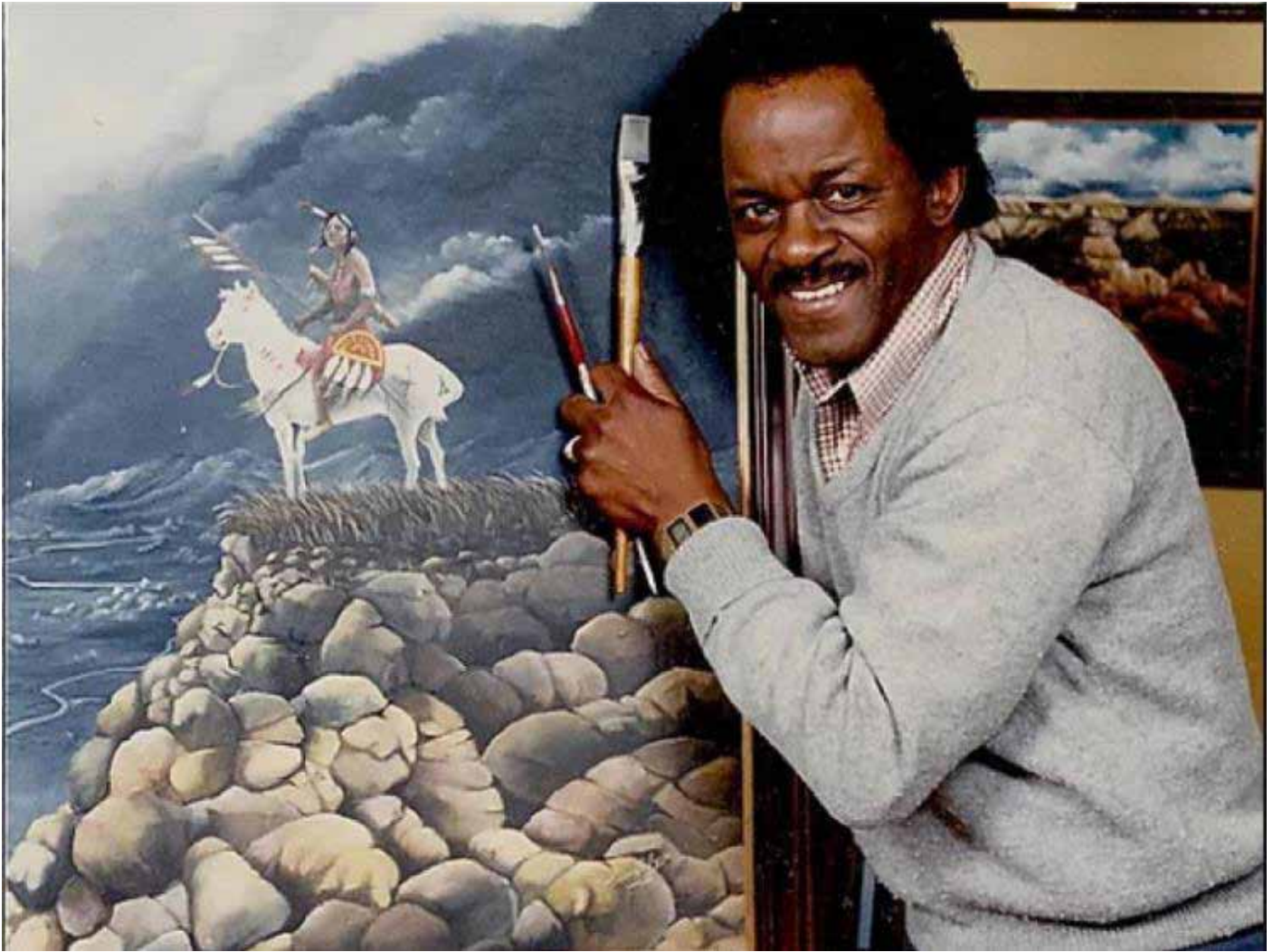
Jul 12, 2020

The City of Tyler Beauty and the Box program is a beautification effort that began in 2016 to take utilitarian traffic boxes and transform them into works of art by local artists. What started as a pilot program of 10 boxes in the Downtown Business Arts and Culture District has grown to 58 vinyl-wrapped boxes all across the City of Tyler.

Above is artwork created by Susan Sellars featured at Loop 323 and Paluxy Drive. It is sponsored by Champions for Children. Below, is artwork by John York, at University Boulevard and Lazy Creek Drive, sponsored by Ogle Constructions.

Keep Tyler Beautiful’s goal is to encourage beautification, waste reduction and recycling activities in the community. Through planning, initiating and coordinating programs for litter control, environmental sustainability and beautification, they strive to bring people together and raise public interest in building a cleaner, better city.





For more information, contact Keep Tyler Beautiful Coordinator Belen Casillas at (903)595-2307 or email atbcasillas@tyler-texas.com. View more information on the website at www.Keep-TylerBeautiful.com.

Buffalo Soldier Artist Bob Snead Dies at 84

Jul 12, 2020

By P.A. Geddie

Artist, actor, and decorated war veteran Bob Snead passed away at 84 years old in Prosper, Texas, on July 11.

He is well known for his series of paintings on the Buffalo Soldiers — the all Black 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments of the U.S. Army. His work was featured in an exhibit by the Michelson Museum of Art in Marshall, Texas, last year and he spoke about it with the Marshall News Messenger:

“Right after the Civil War, well, during the Civil War, both the Union Army and the Confederate Army had negro troops in their ranks, over 200,000, and when the war ended in ‘65, the United States Army experimented with the idea of forming six black regiments of negro troops,” Snead said. “Now at that

time, there were no officers, no negro officers in the military. So all the officers were white, and they trained these guys, and my concentration has been on the 9th and the 10th cavalry. Those were the ones that were referred as the Buffalo Soldiers, and they were referred to as the Buffalo Soldiers by the Plains Indians, who had never seen negro troops before. They’d only seen white troops.

“The reason that they called them Buffalo Soldiers is because of their black faces and their short black curly hair and the way they fought every time they encountered them in any type of skirmish,” Snead said. “They fought just like the buffalo. So the Indians equated that as these people being descendants of the buffalo. So they referred to them as buffalo soldiers, and that name kind of stuck.”

The Buffalo Soldiers were the only military in the New Mexico territory right after the Civil War, Snead said, and they protected and provided security for the settlers and pioneers moving west during that time. They also fought during the Indian Wars.

“So what I’ve done is I’ve put together this collection of paintings chronicling what they did, how they did it and how they contributed to the settling of the American West,” Snead said.

He created 167 pieces on the Buffalo Soldiers which toured

the world many times over, his daughter Karen Partee says, with several original pieces now hanging in private collections through the country and the Texas Governor's Mansion. Twenty-six pieces are currently on permanent loan with the McCall Neighborhood Center in Central El Paso. Snead called El Paso home for 42 years before recently moving to Prosper to be with family during his four and a half year battle with advanced stage colon cancer.

An impassioned advocate for Texas arts and arts education across the state, Partee said, Snead was appointed by former Gov. George W. Bush to the Texas Commission on the Arts and as the designated artist on the committee to design the Texas State Quarter.

Aside from his artistic accomplishments, Snead had a 30-year career as a military aviator. He received three Purple Hearts during the Vietnam War, among other military honors. He starred in a touring one-man play called "Held in Trust: The Story of Lt. Henry Ossian Flipper," about the life, mistreatment and ultimate redemption of the first Black man to graduate from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. The show was broadcast by PBS in 1996, featuring an introduction by Gen. Colin Powell, and garnered a Bronze Apple Award for Educational Excellence.

Adventure Awaits at Area Zipline Parks

Jul 14, 2020

Summer and early fall are perfect for enjoying the breezy rush of a zipline adventure. Guests enjoy the contactless sport at a few venues in the region offering packages for individuals and small groups. Adventure awaits for almost anyone meeting participation requirements, which vary among parks.

New York, Texas Zipline Adventures is centrally located near LaRue between Tyler, Athens, Jacksonville, and Palestine. They feature a series of rides from some of the tallest points in the Upper East Side of Texas. Participants see beautiful scenery as they zip above wooded areas, water, and wildlife. Guests choose from two different tours, with six or nine ziplines.

Guests must call ahead of time to book tours at (903) 681-3791 and use recommended equipment. People five years and up can participate, though some medical and weight restrictions apply. For nearby accommodations and attractions, visit their website.

Diana, Texas, near Longview, is home to Thomas Falls Zipline Challenge Course and Outdoor Adventures. In addition to zipline fun, they have lately added several activities, making the park a good destination for groups. Ziplining at Thomas Falls may be less strenuous than at other parks; they offer a wagon ride to the zipline origin and boast they do not require excessive walking or climbing.

Attractions at Thomas Falls include a 100-foot waterfall slide, a ropes cross challenge, a floating wall climb and barrel cross, paddle boats, and kayaks. A large outdoor pavilion is available. Thomas Falls also offers onsite camping and one lakeside cabin for up to seven guests.

Visitors to Thomas Falls must call ahead to reserve a time at (903) 968-6924 and follow the park's guidelines. Visit the Thomas Falls website for more information.

Go Ape! Zipline and Treetop Adventure Experience in Plano offers zipline tours with obstacles and treetop bridges and a high-ropes adventure course. Beginners enjoy a one-hour introductory journey through suspended bridges, obstacles, and zip lines, while intermediate explorers prefer the two to three-hour Treetop Adventure.

GoApe! is located inside Plano's 800-acre Oak Point Park. The company operates more than a dozen adventure parks in 13 states. Its headquarters are in Rockville, Maryland.

GoApe! participants must be at least 10 years old and meet specified weight limits. GoApe! accepts online reservations. Call (800) 971-8271 or visit their website for more information.

Serve up Simple Summer Vegetables

Jul 18, 2020

Summer vegetables from the garden or the farmer's market are plentiful this time of year, but cooking and canning can be a chore. As summer temperatures rise, it's still possible to prepare nutritious meals with local vegetables without heating up the kitchen. Here are three simple, delicious side dishes that add vitamins and fiber to everyday meals, use local produce, and cut meal preparation time.

Tomato and Cucumber Salad

The tomato and cucumber salad is both simple and versatile. Cucumbers provide a cool, refreshing taste, and adding cilantro and a small amount of sliced red onions makes it delicious. Add a touch of favorite salad dressing, such as ranch, vinaigrette, or plain Greek yogurt to create an easy side dish to complement



just about any meal. For a simple dinner, serve with rotisserie chicken, grilled salmon, or steak.

Ingredients:

1 large cucumber, peeled and sliced
1 tomato, sliced
Leaves from 2 fresh cilantro stems, torn or sliced
1/8 sliced red onion
1-2 teaspoons salad dressing, to taste

Mediterranean version: Add 1/4 cup of crumbled feta cheese and 1/3 cup pitted black olives.

Summer Squash and Zucchini Bites

Summer squash and zucchini are two vegetables with flavors that complement each other perfectly. Wash the vegetables, cut off the stems, and slice them into rounds or matchstick shapes.

Serve with sandwiches or burgers or arrange the slices around a bowl of salad dressing or dip for a quick, healthy appetizer, snack, or party tray.

Grilled or Roasted Veggies

Grilling or roasting vegetables in a toaster oven are two other easy ways to add simple deliciousness to almost any meal while keeping temperatures down inside the home.

For hearty servings of summer squash or zucchini, cut off the stems and slice in half lengthwise. Spray with olive oil then place on a pan and roast in a toaster oven at 400 degrees for five to seven minutes on each side.

Grilling adds more flavor, so when you can, add these to the grill when cooking main dishes to keep temperatures cool inside. Cook face down for five to seven minutes then turn and cook for the same amount of time, until tender.

Veggie Kabobs

For a colorful side dish, wash and slice large, round chunks of summer squash, zucchini, bell peppers, tomatoes, garlic, or red onion -- whatever is on hand. Add the veggie chunks to a thin kabob stick, coat lightly with olive oil, and cook for five to seven minutes on each side, until tender. Sprinkle with tarragon and sea salt for a delicate accent.

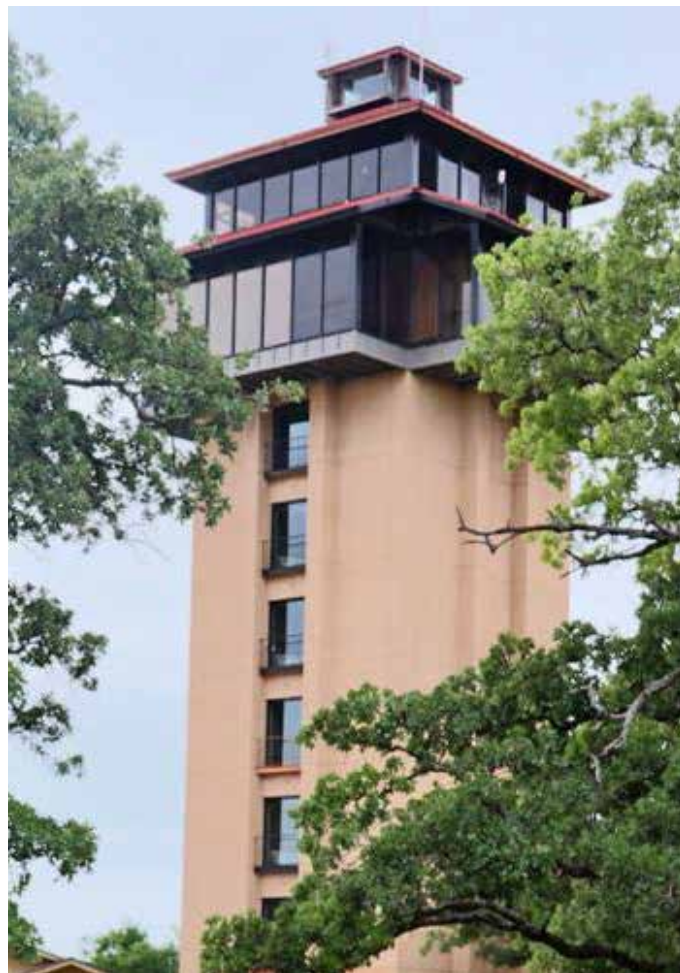
Delicious served with simple proteins, such as chicken, beef, pork, or seafood. Add a baked potato or rice for a simple, satisfying meal.

Architect O'Neil Ford Designed Lasting Architecture

Jul 20, 2020

PHOTO: The Lighthouse Tower at Tanglewood Resort and Conference Center near Denison was designed by renowned architect O'Neil Ford. Photo by Lisa Tang

Texas Architect O'Neill Ford was born in Grayson County near Sherman December 3, 1905 and worked at firms in Dallas and San Antonio.



Ford was a mid-century architect considered the most prominent in the Southwest. His designs combined European modernism with qualities of early Texas architecture. He was influenced by the English Arts and Crafts Movement's use of visual arts in architecture.

Ford built projects in North Texas for Texas Instruments, the University of Dallas in Irving, and Tanglewood Resort on Lake Texoma.

The Tanglewood Lighthouse Tower was built in 1974. The nine-story tower features a beacon visible for miles across Lake Texoma. The is open to visitors, is easily accessible, and features a bar and ninth-floor observation deck.

One of his best-known projects was the restoration of La Villita near downtown San Antonio. La Villita is an arts village in the heart of San Antonio that dates from 1722, when European settlers began building homes at the site of a former Coahuiltecan village.

Ford also designed campuses for Trinity University and the University of Texas at San Antonio, Hemisfair Park, and the Museum of Western Art in Kerrville.

Ford completed only two years of college and a correspondence course on architecture, but broadly influenced modern Texas architecture. He particularly admired the beauty and simplicity of the German vernacular architecture of Central Texas.



Cattle Baron John Chisum's Legacy Lives on Through Descendants

Jul 25, 2020

By P.A. Geddie

PHOTO: A statue of John Chisum stands in Roswell, New Mexico, where he moved longhorn herds from Texas in the mid 1800s.

Pioneer cattle baron John Simpson Chisum was born August 16, 1824, in Tennessee. His family moved to Red River County, Texas, when he was a boy. His father, Claiborne Chisum — a public-spirited and wealthy man — was probably the earliest settler in Paris, Texas.

As a teenager John found work as a store clerk in Paris and as a building contractor. He later served briefly as a road overseer in Hopkins County, accumulated land, operated several small grocery stores, and served as the County Clerk for Lamar County from 1852 to 1854.

John went to work for a large rancher as a cowboy in 1854 and soon started developing his own herd. By the early 1860s, he had more than 100,000 head of cattle and became one of the first to send his herds into New Mexico. He started a ranch there in the Bosque Grande, about 40 miles south of Fort Sumner.

During these years, John provided a home in Bonham, Texas,

and financial support, for his common law wife, Jensie, a bi-racial former slave, and their two daughters, Harriet and Almeady.

In 1875, he purchased the 40 acre South Spring Ranch, three miles south of Roswell, New Mexico, and made it his headquarters of a cattle ranching empire that extended for 150 miles of land along the Pecos River.

John became involved with New Mexico's Lincoln County War, a conflict between rival cattle barons, that involved the notorious Billy the Kid. Nineteen people were killed in this war and a new governor was appointed to try to clean up the mess.

John's life is featured in film with John Wayne playing him in *Chisum* (1970) and James Coburn played him in *Young Guns II* (1990). He's portrayed as a supportive character in numerous other movies and television shows.

In 1958, he was inducted into the Hall of Great Westerners of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.

A semi-biographical story — *Miss Chisum: A Colorful 19th Century Texan Romance* — by Russ Brown was published in 2019. It covers more of John Chisum's life including the personal story of Jensie and their two children. Much of it is told by Jensie and John's granddaughter, Eugie Thomas, in 1970, when she was 84 years old. According to Brown, she saw the movie *Chisum* and wanted to share a fuller picture of their lives.

Eugie's mother was Almeady Chisum, John and Jensie's youngest daughter. Eugie's father, Bob Jones, was a successful rancher for whom Southlake, Texas' largest park, a road, and the city's nature center and preserve is named.

Eugie knew her grandmother Jensie and knew of her grandfather John, although she never met him. According to Eugie in *Miss Chisum, after John moved* Jensie, Harriet, and Almeady to safety in Bonham, Jensie worked as a nurse, seamstress, and housekeeper. After the Civil War, Eugie says Jensie gave up nursing and worked part-time as a cook and a baker and took in sewing work to help provide her daughters with an education.

"Education has always been important in our family," Eugie says. "Ma (Almeady) was really smart, sharp as a nail; she also inherited Grandma's heart and beauty."

John Chisum — who Eugie says was much more likely to be carrying a fiddle than a gun — came back to see his family in Bonham after the Lincoln County War. By then, the girls were grown, starting families of their own. John and Eugie's father, Bob Jones, got along well, and shared their ranching experiences.

In 1883, Chisum discovered a tumor on his neck and the next year, traveled to Kansas City for treatment. His tumor was removed and he returned to New Mexico. However, his health continued to deteriorate and he then traveled to Eureka Springs, Arkansas, to partake of the "healing waters." But, the tumor returned and grew larger.

On December 22, 1884, he died of cancer in Eureka Springs. His body was returned to Paris, Texas, where he was buried in the Chisum Family Cemetery. Jensie is buried in Bonham in an unlocated grave.

John left an estate worth \$500,000 to his brothers Pitzer and James. Jensie and his children were not mentioned in his obituary.

Bob and Almeady Chisum Jones had 10 children and their sacrifices to educate their children remained steadfast. Their descendants attended Howard University, Tuskegee, Kansas State, Julliard, Texas Southern, Notre Dame, the Sorbonne and other prominent schools. Many became educators; others became business owners or musicians or worked in animal science professions. One grandson taught in Liberia. Grandson Dr. William Larue Jones is the Emeritus Professor of Music and Director of Orchestral Studies for the University of Iowa and has guest conducted orchestras all over the world.

An award-winning exhibit, *Bob and Almeady Chisum Jones: A True Story of Resilience, Courage, and Success*, is in a permanent home at the Bob Jones Nature Center. Find a short documentary on their website about the family and learn more on www.southlakehistory.org.

Sources: Kathy Weiser, *Legends of America*; Texas State Historical Association; Russ Brown, *Miss Chisum: A Colorful 19th Century Texan Romance*; *Southlake Historical Society*

Now's the Time To Plant Fall Vegetable Gardens

Jul 27, 2020

By Tommy Phillips

Photo by Monika Grabkowska

Hard to believe but end of July is the right time to begin preparing and planting a vegetable garden for a fall harvest. This year Mother Nature is somewhat cooperating and sending an occasional rain shower that is definitely helping.

The first key for a successful fall garden is to get the weeds out. And if Bermuda or bahia grass are among those weeds, you can't just rototill everything.

Solarization is one method to reduce weeds, and other pests, by using the sun's energy to pasteurize the upper layer of soil. However, this takes time. Prepare the soil, removing garden debris and weeds from your beds and then thoroughly water the soil. Cover the prepared area with clear polyethylene, sealing the edges with soil, to trap the sun's heat.

This doesn't sterilize the soil but reduces populations of harmful nematodes, weeds and other pests. It's critical that this is done during July and August, the hottest time of the year. Treat for at least six to eight weeks. You won't get to plant tomatoes or peppers, but the garden site will be ready in time to plant cool-season vegetables.

Another non-chemical method of killing weeds is to smother them under six to eight layers of wet newspaper, and then cover this layer with pine needles, old hay or grass clippings. Whenever weeds like Bermuda grass show up through the edges, place another layer of paper over it. By continually denying them light, they'll eventually weaken and die. Transplant through the papers, or just use them in the pathways. The paper will mostly decompose by next spring.

Hand digging is another option for real small plots, but take care not to get heat stroke; work early in the morning before it gets too hot.



There are also organic herbicides formulated with oils, soaps, vinegar and other ingredients that will kill many tender annual weeds, but will not eliminate Bermuda and other perennial weeds with one application.

For future weed control, once you have your garden prepared, always maintain some sort of mulch covering the surface of the soil to prevent weeds from taking over again.

Every time you prepare the soil to plant a new crop, always mix in as much compost as you can get your hands on. Add well-decomposed animal manure, fertilizer and lime if soil tests indicate a low fertility or pH, and work all ingredients into the soil.

Southern peas such as blackeye, purple hull, cream and crowders make a great, edible summer cover crop for building the soil and providing food. The pea vines can be mowed and rototilled under while still green for extra soil building benefits or allowed to produce peas and then tilled under.

Tomatoes and peppers need to be planted soon — by the first of August — if they are going to make a good crop before the first frost. What if your garden spot is not yet ready? Buy your transplants now and grow them in a larger container to plant in the garden later.

Get either six-pack transplants or four-inch transplants. Put them in a one or three gallon nursery container filled with potting soil. Do not use soil from your garden. Add slow release fertilizer (like Osmocote or other slow release formulation) to the soil mix. Set the pots in a sunny spot in the yard, not in the shade.

Every time you water, use a water-soluble fertilizer solution instead of just plain water. Your transplants will continue to grow and be healthy, just as if you have transplanted them directly into the ground. Once your garden site is ready, you have large, healthy tomato and pepper plants to set out. They are easier to take care of and you are assured of a bountiful harvest before the first freeze of winter.

Grow fast maturing tomato varieties for the fall harvest. Look for varieties with less than 75 days to maturity, such as Merced, Bingo, Celebrity, Whirlaway, and Carnival. ‘Surefire’ is a smaller, processing tomato variety (with thicker skin) which sets and matures all of its tomatoes very quickly, giving you a “sure fire” harvest that beats the first freeze. Most cherry tomatoes bear within 65 days of transplanting.

Timing is very important for a successful fall garden. Heat tolerant/cold sensitive crops need to be planted in time to mature before cold weather slows and stops growth, while cool season/heat sensitive crops are planted late enough to avoid the heat, but early enough to take the first frosts of winter.

Seeded vegetables can be tricky to get up in the heat of summer. Soil often forms a crust on the surface after tillage and watering. This “crust” can hinder tender seedlings from breaking through. Here are a couple of tips to help get seedlings up in the summer.

Open a furrow down the row as you normally would to sow the seeds. Before sowing, take your garden hose and thoroughly

soak the bottom of the seed furrow with water. Next sow the seed. Finally, cover the seed to the proper depth with dry soil and firm. The seed should stay moist enough until germination, and if you avoid overhead watering, the soil will not form a crust to hinder seedling emergence.

Other folks will place a board or wet burlap over the seed row to provide constant dampness to encourage germination and emergence. You need to check every day for signs of emergence, and remove the covering when you see the first seedlings breaking through.

The following are optimal “windows of time” for planting fall vegetables:

Beans - 8/1 - 9/1 (lima beans 7/15 - 8/15)

Muskmelon (Cantaloupe) - 7/15 - 8/1

Beets - 9/1 - 10/15

Mustard - 9/15 - 10/15

Broccoli plants - 8/1 - 9/15

Parsley - 8/15 - 10/1

Brussels sprouts - 8/1 - 10/1

Peas, English - 8/15 - 9/15

Cabbage plants - 8/15 - 9/15

Peas, Southern - 7/1 - 8/1

Carrots - 8/15 - 10/15

Pepper plants - 7/1 - 8/1

Cauliflower plants - 8/15 - 9/15

Potatoes, Irish - 8/15 - 9/15

Chard, Swiss - 8/1 - 10/15

Pumpkin - 7/1 - 8/1

Collard/Kale - 8/15 - 10/1

Radish - 9/15 - 10/15

Corn, Sweet - 8/1 - 8/15

Spinach - 9/1 - 10/15

Cucumber - 8/1 - 9/1

Squash, Summer - 7/15 - 8/15

Eggplant plants - 7/15 - 8/1

Squash, Winter - 7/1 - 7/15

Garlic - 9/1 - 10/15

Tomato plants - 7/15 - 8/1

Kohlrabi - 8/15 - 9/15

Turnips - 10/1 - 11/1

Lettuce (leaf) - 9/15 - 10/15

Watermelon - 7/1 - 8/1

Tommy Phillips is the County Extension Agent, Agriculture/Natural Resources for Van Zandt County

Clara Willoughby Made Significant Progress for State of Texas

Jul 27, 2020

Clara Willoughby was born September 2, 1902, in Marshall, Texas. She was the great-granddaughter of James Harper Starr, secretary of the treasury for the Republic of Texas in 1839. Her maternal grandmother, Clara Clapp Starr, raised her after her parents — Ben and Clara (Starr) Pope — died during her early childhood.



She attended Whitis School in Austin and graduated from the University of Texas in 1923 with a B.A. degree. After graduation she married Ray W. Willoughby and moved to San Angelo, where the couple made their home and eventually became prominent ranchers and civic leaders. They had two children.

Clara was also a partner in the Starr Holding Company of Marshall, with interests in land, timber, banking, and oil. Her achievements included landmark improvements in child welfare and juvenile justice in Texas over a 50 period. During the Great Depression, when the infant mortality rate was especially high, she helped organize Tom Green County's first well-baby clinic. She secured citizen volunteers to operate the clinic, local doctors to contribute services, and free vitamins for families in need. Volunteers went into homes with donated milk, baby bottles, and a coffee can to demonstrate a simple and safe method for sterilizing infant formula. Another of her projects during the Great Depression was to organize the building of a Girl Scout headquarters in San Angelo on land donated by the city, with materials given by a local rancher, and through the labor of the Work Projects Administration.

In 1949, while Clara was chairman of the Tom Green County Child Welfare Board, she became concerned that there were no trained social workers to protect children placed in foster homes

and to screen adoptive families. "Children are being placed like kittens and puppies," she told legislators, regents, and business leaders to persuade them that state funding was needed for the professional education of child welfare workers. The result of her efforts was the establishment of the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Texas at Austin.

Clara insisted upon the same high standards of professional services for delinquent children. Noting that state law required no training for juvenile probation officers, she and other leaders lobbied the Texas Legislature to establish a state commission to set standards and to provide professional training. In 1981, as a result, the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission was established. Clara became a charter member of the new commission, and during her tenure, juvenile probation services were first extended to all of the state's 254 counties. From 1968 to 1985 she was appointed by five consecutive governors to serve on the Governor's Criminal Justice Advisory Board and on the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Board.

During her years of service on these state boards, more than 5,000 grants were made to school districts, cities, counties, and private agencies to prevent juvenile delinquency and to provide shelter, counseling, education, and residential placement for juveniles referred to court.

Clara was strongly committed to the preservation of local history. She donated Maplecroft, her ancestral home in Marshall and surrounding land to the state. The Starr Family Home State Historic Site opened to the public in 1986. Some of the family heirlooms were donated to the University of Texas, where they are displayed in the Willoughby-Blake Room of the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center.

Clara was honored with a special commendation by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges in 1984, in recognition of her distinguished service on behalf of children; a Centennial commencement convocation in her honor at the Graduate School of Social Work at UT Austin in 1983, in recognition of her contribution toward founding the school; election to the Hall of Honor of the Texas Corrections Association in 1986; and receipt of the Governor's Tourism Award in 1980, in recognition of her donation Maplecroft to the state.

Two youth homes have also been named in her honor: the Willoughby Youth Center in Marshall and the Texas Youth Commission's Willoughby House in Fort Worth. In 1984 her children endowed the Willoughby Centennial Professorship in Criminal Justice at the School of Social Work at the University of Texas at Austin, in honor of their mother's public service in that field. The Willoughby Centennial Professorship in Child Welfare is also endowed in her name at the School of Social Work. Clara

died in San Angelo on August 3, 1985.

The Starr Family Home State Historic Site is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday at 407 West Travis Street. Download the visitors guide and learn more at www.visitstarrfamilyhome.com or call (903) 935-3044 for more information.

Excerpts are from the Texas State Historical Association Handbook.

Trustees Chartered Palestine Female College

Jul 28, 2020

On July 29 in 1876, the former Palestine Female Institute received a new charter and a new name, Palestine Female College. In 1858 a school was authorized by stock subscription to be built on land donated by Reuben A. Reeves and Paul J. and Mary Simons. The school later became the Palestine Female Institute.

The trustees included E.S. Jackson and John Murchison. The transfer of authorization to the board includes the names of John H. Reagan, William Alexander, and W.G.W. Jowers.

Among the institute's early teachers were W.M. Bishop and his daughters, Agnes, Cynthia, and Sally. In 1873 the Palestine Education Association was formed. Professor A.H. Bailey from Ala-



bama served as principal of the school, which offered literary, music, art, and telegraphic courses to male and female students.

In 1881 in a second election, voters approved the transfer of the school property to the public school system. A new building for Palestine Junior High School was built on the site in 1990.

Cheryl Medow Featured in New Online Exhibition

Jul 31, 2020

By P.A. Geddie

IMAGE: Secretary birds by Cheryl Medow

Cheryl Medow is featured in a new exhibition presented online by PDNB Gallery in Dallas through August 29. Medow takes photographs of a diverse variety of birds, traveling to environments sometimes as close as her backyard and often traveling to places far from home.

While waiting for the precise moment to capture the image, she studies the surroundings, allowing her to better understand birds in their home environment, looking for food, balancing on a tree branch, hiding from predators, building a nest, courting and fighting for territory; these moments are fascinating and enable her an opportunity for her curiosity and imagination to find expression.

The next process in her creation happens in her studio in Southern California where images she captured in the field take on a whole new expression. Through the use of photographic technology, she places the birds in a background of places they've never seen like stormy clouds from the Galapagos, the desert landscape of Tucson, Arizona, or the Maasai Mara in Kenya.

Learn more about Medow and see her work at PDNB's online exhibit.

Wood County Dam No. 3 and No. 4 Completed September 1962

Aug 1, 2020

On September 17, 1962, whether by accident or design, the dams of two small Wood County lakes were completed.

Lake Hawkins and Lake Winnsboro, formed respectively by Wood County Dam No. 3 and Wood County Dam No. 4, were both made for recreational and flood-regulation purposes.

The new lakes joined the hundreds of other manmade reservoirs in Texas that provide water for municipal use and irrigation, as well as the means for fishing, boating, swimming, water skiing, picnicking, and other recreation.

(From Texas State Historical Association)

Enjoy Kentucky Butter Cake From Cinnamon Bear's Bakery

Aug 5, 2020

Cinnamon Bear's Bakery in Emory specializes in delicious hand-made, fresh-baked items. Cinnamon rolls and Italian cream cake are the most popular items, but they also make cookies, fried pies, breads, and cakes.

The bakery sells many other items for inspired homemakers, from aprons to fresh eggs and grass-fed meats to homemade cheeses and peanut butters.

The store also offers old-fashioned mercantile items and tasty sandwiches on freshly-baked bread. Don't forget to pick up some local honey or a jar of jellies or preserves from the store's wide selection.

Visitors wanting to enjoy more homemade items can enjoy breakfast or lunch from the bakery Wednesday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Carry-out is available. For information about the bakery or to place an order, call (903) 473-0122.

Proprietor Tammy Kulp shares a recipe for her delicious Kentucky Butter Cake, made with items available from the grocery store. One of the ingredients is soured milk, an alternative to buttermilk. Both contain acid, which helps the cake rise in the oven.

To make soured milk, Kulp recommends mixing one cup of milk with one teaspoon apple cider vinegar. Wait 10 minutes for the milk to acidify. White vinegar or lemon juice can also sour the milk.

To serve, slice the cake and serve with fresh fruit, or drizzle preserves over the top for extra summer flavor. Freshly sliced strawberries, peaches, plums, figs, or nectarines are excellent additions to this satisfying recipe.

Kentucky Butter Cake Recipe

2 cups sugar	2 tsp vanilla
1 cup butter	1 tsp salt
4 eggs	1/2 tsp. salt
1 cup soured milk	3 cups flour

Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs and beat well. Add remaining ingredients and beat well again. Put into a large bundt pan, well-greased and floured.

Bake cake at 325 degrees for approximately 30 minutes or until a toothpick comes clean when poked into the cracks on the top of the cake.

Ingredients for sauce:

3/4 cup sugar	1/3 cup butter
3 tbsp. water	2 tsp. vanilla

Poke holes in the cake while still in the pan and while still hot. A fork works best. Heat the sauce until boiling then pour over the cake. When the cake is almost cooled, gently loosen the sides and invert the pan, removing the cake from the pan.



Plan for Fun Family Time at Farmers' Markets

Aug 6, 2020

By Melisa Rhodes

PHOTO: Kids activities are often available at the Market on the Square in Marshall, Texas.

With summer upon us, local farmers' markets and produce stands are open for business. This is a great way to practice social distancing in open air markets as we continue to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. Supporting our local farmers markets can be beneficial to all who visit them and purchase produce.

If you are a parent or caregiver, you may pause at the idea of visiting a farmers' market with a young child. Perhaps you envision him or her running off in the open-air market, thinking it is a place to play and explore the outdoors. You may even be concerned that your child will misbehave or knock over items from stands.

Yes, a visit to the farmers' market is different from a trip to a grocery store and may seem to require more effort than it is worth.

From one parent to another — it is worth a try. The first time may make you a little nervous but hopefully with a little preparation you can make it a positive experience for all. After all, it

can be a fun learning experience that will find your child asking when you will be going again to the farmers market.

With some planning, a trip to the market can become a beloved family tradition that your child remembers far into adulthood, and one that could increase his or her acceptance of a variety of healthy foods.

Here are some strategies that make your visit to the farmers market more pleasant and enjoyable:

Have a plan. Prepare yourself as you would for any outing (bring him or her to the bathroom before you leave for the market, bring snacks, go at a time when they are rested and fed, etc.).

Make the first visit brief. Brief experiences can be valuable in exposing your child to new foods, whether a spur-of-the-moment stop at a roadside stand, or a planned visit. Research shows that children benefit from repeated exposures to a variety of healthy foods. Looking, touching, smelling (even without tasting) make children more familiar with the foods, and can make them more likely to try (and like) a variety of healthy foods over time.

Prepare your child ahead of time for behavioral expectations. An outing to the market is an important opportunity to outline your expectations and hold your child to them. Prepare your child by explaining that you are taking an adventure trip to the

farmers' market, and that they need to use their ears to listen and hold your hand to be safe. Next time give her the choice to hold your right hand or left hand. Our young toddlers and preschoolers may need frequent reminders of these expectations. Without getting upset or irritated, calmly remind your child what you expect them to do. Young children are learning how to make decisions and figuring out where the boundaries are. By giving simple choices that are 'parent approved,' you give them chances to learn to make decisions, but within developmentally appropriate boundaries that help them feel safe and help parents feel a lot better, too.

Be consistent and follow-through. Don't say something you aren't willing to follow through on. For example, if you tell your child that you will leave if they will not hold your hand, you need to be willing to do that, even if you aren't done shopping.

Your child really does want to please you. Acknowledge appropriate behavior with immediate verbal statements like "I like the way you are using your ears and following the rules." Tell your child what you want them to be doing, instead of telling them to stop what they are doing, such as "Please walk" rather than "Stop running." Young children do not always know, or remember, what appropriate behaviors are, especially when they get someplace as fun as the farmers market.

Build anticipation. Prepare your child for an upcoming visit to the market in the hours, days, even weeks ahead by reading books about how food is grown. A few recommendations are *Fresh Delicious: Poems from the Farmers' Market* by Irene Latham, *Before We Eat: From Farm to Table* by Pat Brisson and *A Day at the Market* by Sara Anderson.

My daughter's preschool recently had a unit on seed planting and learned about the parts of a plant. Connecting these concepts from school to home to the market helps her begin to understand where food comes from.

Involve your child. Try doing a scavenger hunt where your child spots vegetables or fruits he or she has tried, or those he or she has yet to try. Games like "I spy with my little eye" are a great choice at a stimulating and content-rich place like an outdoor market to help the child focus their attention, and practice identifying colors, shapes and people.

Use the market visit as an opportunity to talk with your child about the names of fruits and vegetables, and where and how it might be grown (on a tree, under the ground, on a plant). Children can make connections to unfamiliar foods and learn about where their food comes from in this way.

You might also consider having your child help by bringing a bag that they can carry themselves. Let your child pick his or her own fruit or vegetable to explore and try together at home.

Practice social skills. As an example, we have plans to visit the market this Saturday. I will practice involving the child in the social interactions of greeting vendors, asking a question, and making a payment. I'm sure they will be excited to hand over the payment for your purchases.

Slow down. Try not to rush — take in the experience through all

your senses. Imagine experiencing the market through the lens of your child. Even better, talk with your child about what you see, hear, smell, touch and encourage them to verbalize their observations, too.

Model openness to new foods and experiences. Food neophobia, literally the fear of new foods, is common in young children. We all want our children to accept fruits and vegetables. That means we have the responsibility to model an open attitude toward trying new foods to get them started. Breathe, smile, and try something new.

Involve your children in learning the importance of community. Going to the farmers market is also a great way to begin fostering a sense of community and supporting local businesses. Children can meet the farmers and you can model asking questions about where the food came from and how they came to be at the market.

Most market in the Upper East Side of Texas run through October -- check with local city offices for dates and times.

Sources for the article include the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Melisa Rhodes, M.Ed. is a family and community health agent with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension for Van Zandt County. She is available to answer questions on farmers markets or other nutrition, food, health, or family related matters at melisa.rhodes@ag.tamu.edu or call (903) 567-4149.

Find the Perfect Brunch Spot Based on Zodiac Sign

Aug 6, 2020

PHOTO: Brunch at Zuzul in Shreveport is recommended for Pisces people so they can get the taste of the coast.

The Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau crafted brunch and astrology pairings based on 12 local restaurants and the characteristics of each zodiac sign. Use your birthday as a guide to find your ideal Shreveport-Bossier brunch spot and post-brunch activity from the list below.

Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)

Your Brunch Spot: Ki'Mexico, 3839 Gilbert Dr., Shreveport

Diving into a cultural phenomenon is your forte, so plan a Sunday brunch session at Ki' Mexico to enjoy a taste of Mexican soul food. The décor, atmosphere, and menu is original, just like you. As humanitarians, you'll appreciate the support they give to local farms. A great post-brunch activity for you is Drag Bingo at Korner Lounge. Let there be brunch.

Pisces (February 19 – March 20)

Your Brunch Spot: Zuzul Coastal Cuisine, 1370 E. 70th St., Shreveport

As a water sign, it's only right that you get the taste of the coast for brunch at Zuzul Coastal Cuisine. This is not your traditional brunch spot, but your mystical side can appreciate the aesthetics of the modern indoor décor, cocktail dressings, and plating



styles. Keep the aesthetics going, and take a stroll through R. W. Norton Art Gallery's garden.

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Your Brunch Spot: Frozen Pirogue, 515 Barksdale Blvd., Bossier City

Believe it or not, Frozen Pirogue can match your energetic spirit. This daiquiri and oyster bar, has an endless menu of Gulf Coast Cajun dishes, including tasty shareables, loaded soups, fresh salads, savory sandwiches, an array of oysters and more down-home foods. The best thing at Frozen Pirogue is that its right next door to Bayou Axe Throwing Company, an axe throwing bar. Eat up, and throw axes.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

Your Brunch Spot: Superior Steakhouse, 855 Pierremont Rd., Shreveport

Hello Taurus — let's tap into your hedonistic side for a pleasurable brunch experience at Superior Steakhouse. Your brunch must-haves include bottomless mimosas, soft music, savory foods, and patio seating. Get that and more in this full-flavored environment. But let's be honest, you'll want to sleep off those mimosas. Just prepare for a post-brunch nap. Uber and Lyft are

available if things get too crazy.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your Brunch Spot: Marilyn's Place, 4041 Fern Ave., Shreveport

Sundays at Marilyn's Place is the unofficial community hang-out in Shreveport's historic Highland neighborhood, which is right up a Gemini's alley. Your talkative and impulsive nature fits perfectly into their comfortable and casual setting. Their menu consists of all your Cajun favorites, including red beans and rice, jambalaya, etouffee, poboys, gumbo, shrimp Creole, and more. After brunch, schedule a group bike tour through the Highland neighborhood with SB Rides.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

Your Brunch Spot: Southfield Grill, various locations in Shreveport-Bossier

Southfield Grill has three locations in Shreveport-Bossier, and this will be a Cancer's favorite place as it corresponds well with their loving nature. To explain, the wholesome feel of each location provides a sense of warmth, great customer service and homemade menu items. Plus, they serve breakfast foods all day. Keep the wholesome experience going and take a mini road

through the countryside on the Boom or Bust Byway.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

Your Brunch Spot: El Cabo Verde, 1023 Provenance Pl., Shreveport

There is no zodiac sign more confident and proud than Leos, and El Cabo Verde is just the brunch you need. Their entire philosophy is crafted in incorporating ingredients of the highest integrity, and providing top-notch service and nutrition. All of their food is made with organic, non-GMO, and gluten-free ingredients that are available in the Shreveport-Bossier area. After brunch, you may be inspired to pick your own organic blueberries at Blueberry Hill in Haughton.

Virgo (August 23-September 23)

Your Brunch Spot: Sauvage, 608 Absinthe Ct., Shreveport

Sauvage is a savory safe haven for Virgos to have that sophisticated brunch that you love so much. You can appreciate the calculated effort and pure passion in the food you'll eat. Some of the savory menu items you'd love include Shreveport hot chicken, shrimp and grits, chicken and waffles, rib tips, and more. After Sauvage, catch a movie at Robinson Film Center in downtown Shreveport.

Libra (September 23-October 22)

Your Brunch Spot: The Hive, located at 820 Shreveport Barksdale Hwy., Shreveport

The Hive is a new social spot and eatery that offers Sunday brunch in the center of Shreveport-Bossier, and this is music to a Libra's ears. Libras' creative and outgoing spirit thrives in fresh surroundings and communal settings, ultimately allowing them to brunch without limits. The Hive's central location allows them to be more spontaneous with their post-brunch activity, whether it be in Shreveport or Bossier City, but glow bowling at Holiday Lanes is highly recommended.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Your Brunch Spot: Parish Taceaux, 708 Texas St., Shreveport

Parish Taceaux offers a bold menu for the boldest zodiac sign, Scorpios. This isn't your traditional Mexican restaurant. Their tacos play on your favorite foods by incorporating the most unorthodox, yet tasty contents, including Nashville hot chicken, Alabama white barbecue sauce, Korean barbecue, and more. After you get your eccentric taco fix, head over to one of three local breweries to keep the momentum going.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Your Brunch Spot: Flying Heart Brewing & Pub, 700 Barksdale Blvd., Bossier City

There is nothing more fly than a Sagittarius and a well-dressed dessert waffle from Flying Heart Brewing & Pub. A Sagittarius is prone to take an independent and optimistic route with brunch, and what's more independent than skipping breakfast and lunch altogether and going straight for dessert and washing it down

with a craft beer? Here's a little lagniappe, Flying Heart is located in the East Bank District, which is just a relaxed walk away from Horseshoe Casino and Hotel and Louisiana Boardwalk Outlets.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Your Brunch Spot: Room Service at Horseshoe Casino and Hotel, 711 Horseshoe Blvd., Bossier City

Capricorns are known for being classy and low-key. Booking a stay at Horseshoe Casino and Hotel and ordering a breakfast spread to your suite is just what you need to brunch at your own pace. When you feel like getting out of bed, keep your low-key status and splash in luxury at Horseshoe's Dare Day club and Ultra pool. There's private cabanas, a full-service bar, and more. This brunch experience is your own.

For more information about places to brunch and things to do, visit www.Shreveport-Bossier.org.

Healthy Homemade Popsicles Are Perfect Summer Snacks

Aug 6, 2020

By Rachel Wilbanks

Photo by Lindsay Moe

Popsicles are a classic summertime staple. There is nothing quite like the excitement of hearing the ice cream truck driving down the street playing that familiar jingle. Then, rushing outside to see all the mouthwatering snacks handed out of the window to eager children waiting below.

Standing in line, scanning the menu, makes for a tough decision of which sweet treat to choose. The list of available options tends to vary slightly, but timeless favorites like the fudgesicle and bomb pop are favorites of many.

Sadly, most of the popsicles found on the market today are loaded with added sugars and corn syrup and that's not good for bodies of any age.

It's really simple to make much healthier versions at home. Popsicle molds are easy to find, and inexpensive to purchase. Try making these fun snacks that are both delicious and nutritious and avoid all the added sugars and chemicals. It's a win-win.

Rainbow Pop. Choose a few fresh or frozen fruits. Strawberries, raspberries, and kiwis are a delicious combination. Puree each fruit separately in a blender or food processor. Layer them in a popsicle mold. Freeze.

Fudgesicle. Combine 1 cup of coconut milk, about 3 splashes of honey, and a few teaspoons of cocoa powder in a saucepan. When warm, pour over dark chocolate pieces until the chocolate is completely melted. Pour the mixture into a popsicle mold. Freeze.

Creamsicle. Combine coconut milk, a dash of vanilla extract, and a few splashes of maple syrup. Pour into a popsicle mold



until about half full and top with fresh squeezed orange juice. Freeze.

Cherry Cream Pop. Fill half of a popsicle mold with vanilla yogurt or coconut milk mixed with a dash of maple syrup or honey to sweeten. Add a mixture of whole and pureed cherries. Blueberries work well in this recipe also. Freeze.

Chocolate Peanut Butter Pop. Mix 1 cup of coconut milk and a few teaspoons of peanut butter. Add melted dark chocolate to taste. Freeze.

Each mold will need to freeze for 4-6 hours.

Summer is a time for adventures. Let that translate over to food choices. Pick up some new fruits and play with different recipes. Make some simple diet changes and remember to have fun with it. Ditch the junk and get creative.

Rachel Wilbanks is in the Health Promotion Bachelor of Science program at the University of North Texas.

John Deaton's Spectrum Shows in Tyler

Aug 6, 2020

Gallery Main Street spotlights local photographer John Dea-

ton by showcasing his solo art exhibit "Spectrum." The exhibit opened July 11 and runs through September 8.

Deaton, who has practiced photography for 50 years, is the first featured artist at the new Gallery space located inside Plaza Tower at 110 N. College Avenue in downtown Tyler.

"My training has been in classrooms, books, workshops, but mostly trial and error," Deaton says. "Throughout the years there has always been the underlying drive to make images."

Gallery Main Street is a project of the City of Tyler Main Street Department in cooperation with the volunteers of the Downtown Tyler Arts Coalition. The Gallery opens a new juried exhibit every eight weeks.

Information on Gallery Main Street hours and details on future shows can be found at www.DowntownTylerArts.com or by calling (903) 593-6905.

Rockwall Once Served As Wedding Capital of Texas

Aug 14, 2020

Rockwall, seat of Texas' smallest county, was once known as

the Wedding Capital of Texas. To commemorate that heritage, Rockwall County Historical Foundation is presenting a free historical exhibit this month. Memorabilia are on display at the Bailey House, on the grounds of Rockwall's Historic Park, at 901 E. Washington St., through August 22.

In the 1940's and 1950's, a marriage license could be obtained at all hours of the night. A local doctor who kept his practice open late provided blood tests, while a night watchman at the courthouse, Gene Payne, doubled as the deputy county clerk.

Mrs. Mildred Barnes, Justice of the Peace of Precinct One, who served the unexpired term of her husband, sometimes married as many as 15 couples in a weekend. Mrs. Barnes, one of only a few female justices of the peace in Texas, married more than 6,000 couples between 1952 and 1957.

That practice was ended in the late 1950's when wedding business operations in the smallest county in Rockwall County were required to keep regular business hours, closing at 5 p.m.

Included in the display is a photograph of Glenn and Orpha (Bailey) Cross who married on July 3, 1933, and the dress worn by the bride for her wedding. The exhibit includes examples of ladies' hats and fashions.

Virtual Field Trips with TJC's Hudnall Planetarium

Aug 30, 2020

The Hudnall Planetarium at Tyler Junior College is offering live virtual field trips on a range of earth and space science topics this fall to schools, scout groups, and community groups.

Virtual trips require stable internet and a Zoom connection, or prerecorded programs are available. Popular topics are constellations and the night sky, sun-earth-moon system, moon phases, planets and the solar system, and geology. Each program lasts 30 to 45 minutes.

Virtual field trips can accommodate up to 50 students (or two classrooms) for each live session. Private show screenings are limited to a total of 15 visitors (students and adults). Cost is \$25 per session. <http://sciencecenter.tjc.edu/field-trips>

TDA Announces Award Finalists

Sep 3, 2020

PHOTO: The newly renovated Plaza Tower in downtown Tyler is one of the finalists in Texas Downtown Associations Presidential Awards. Other finalists in the Upper East Side of Texas include Silver Grizzly Espresso, Longview; Denison Main Street 30th Anniversary Campaign; Made Fresh & Local, Garland; Front Street Station Groundbreaking, Mesquite; Denison Forward; HachieHeart Windows, Waxahachie; and Liberty Hall: Concerts from the Couch, Tyler.

Congratulations to the Upper East Side of Texas towns and others across the state that made the list of finalists for the 2020 Texas Downtown President's Awards. Winners are announced during their first ever Awards Week Celebration October 26-30.



Judges include: AJ Fawver, Verdunity; P.A. Geddie, *County Line Magazine*; Bill Hidell, Hidell and Associates Architects; Lynda Humble, Consultant; Julie Kunkle, Open Sky Media, Inc.; David Newman, MESA Design Group; Marie Oehlerking Read, Komatsu Architecture; Lynn Osgood, Civic Arts; and Chance Sparks, Freese & Nichols, Inc. and APA-Texas Chapter.

DESIGN CATEGORIES

Best Commercial Interior

Finalists – Under 50,000 population
Bastrop – Copper Shot Distillery
Boerne – 153 S. Main
Ennis – Rooftop 101

Finalists – Over 50,000 population
Midland – Second Story Coworking
San Antonio – Maverick Whiskey
Wichita Falls – Wichita Falls Brewing Company

Best Renovation/Rehabilitation/Restoration

Finalists – Under 50,000 population
Buda – Buda Mercantile Co.
Celina – City of Celina Council Chambers
Goliad – The Best Little Gun Shop in Texas
Plainview – Conrad Lofts
Seguin – Seguin Development Services Center

Finalists – Over 50,000 population
Garland – Shirlee Mae Building
Harlingen – Baxter Lofts
Longview – Alton Plaza/Petroleum Building
Wichita Falls – Landmark on Lamar

Best New Construction

Finalists – Under 50,000 population
Celina – Huddleston Building
Mineola – Tommy Warren's Building

Finalists – Over 50,000 population
Odessa – Odessa Marriott Hotel and Conference Center
Temple – Temple Business Center Building

Best Public Improvement

Finalists – Under 50,000 population
Buda – Main Street/RM 967
Ennis – Dallas Street
Uvalde – Park Yourself in Uvalde
Waxahachie – Railyard Park

Finalists – Over 50,000 population
Temple* – Santa Fe Plaza & Santa Fe Market Trail
*Sole finalist winner

ACHIEVEMENT CATEGORIES

Best Downtown Business

Finalists – Under 50,000 population
Bastrop – Neighbor's Kitchen & Yard
Buda – A Snowball's Chance
Plainview – The Broadway Brew
Finalists – Over 50,000 population

Longview – Silver Grizzly Espresso
Temple – The Hub
Temple – H5B3
Best Downtown Partner
Finalists – Under 50,000 population
Levelland – Wallace Theater
Navasota – Navasota Examiner
Uvalde – Uvalde Radio
Finalists – Over 50,000 population
Longview – Verabank
Temple – Academie Musique of Central Texas
Tyler – Fitzpatrick Architects

Best Economic Game Changer*

*No entries were submitted in the under 50,000 population group
Finalists – Over 50,000 population
Amarillo – Hodgetown Minor League AA Baseball Stadium
Tyler – Plaza Tower

Best Promotion – Digital Campaign

Finalists – Under 50,000 population
Bastrop – Downtown Bastrop Curbside
Denison – Denison Main Street 30th Anniversary
Navasota – Shop Local Navasota
Finalists – Over 50,000 population
Garland – Made Fresh & Local
Temple – Virtual First Friday

Best Promotion – Traditional Event

Finalists – Under 50,000 population
Buda – Cocoa Jingle & Downtown Lighting Ceremony
Goliad – Christmas in Goliad
Uvalde – 4 Square Friday
Finalists – Over 50,000 population
Mesquite – Front Street Station Groundbreaking
Odessa – Night of Light
Resiliency Award
Finalists – Under 50,000 population
Denison – Denison Forward
San Saba – San Saba Grocery
Waxahachie - #HachieHeart Windows
Finalists – Over 50,000 population
Midland – The Micro Market
Tyler – Liberty Live: Concerts from the Couch

Jim Beck's Studio Rivalled Nashville in the 1950's

Sep 11, 2020

On August 11, 1916, legendary record producer and promoter Jim Beck was born in Marshall, Texas, living there until about age 12.

By adulthood, he was a DJ for KRLD in Dallas and occasional host for the Louisiana Hayride live country music program. Beck was the first to record country music's Lefty Frizzell and he helped get Frizzell and Ray Price recording contracts.

As a producer based in Dallas, Beck recorded hits by Carl Smith and Marty Robbins. He regularly worked with up-and-coming musicians George Jones, Willie Nelson, Roy Orbison, Jim Reeves, and Hank Thompson for labels such as Decca, King, Imperial and Columbia Records. During this time, Dallas was a rival to Nashville for the country music industry.

In subsequent years, Beck also worked with the Light Crust Doughboys, Sonny James, Fats Domino, and Buddy Holly.

Beck forgot to open a window in his studio while cleaning his recording machine with the toxic chemical carbon tetrachloride. He died a few weeks later on May 3, 1956.

Dallas' PDNB Gallery Features Photography by Earlie Hudnall

Sep 12, 2020

PHOTO: "Hot Summer Days, 2011" Courtesy photo by Earlie Hudnall

Photographs Do Not Bend Gallery (PDNB) of Dallas features "Past and Present: Photographs by Earlie Hudnall, Jr." online through September 30 and in its gallery by appointment, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, September 15 through October 31.

Houston photographer Earlie Hudnall experienced a groundswell of attention locally and nationally in 2020. During this year's Juneteenth celebration, the *New York Times* published his tender image, "The Kiss," taken in 1989 in Houston.

TIME Magazine featured a generous eight-page spread of Hudnall's new and old images in the August 17 issue. Penned by journalist Paul Moakley, he also wrote about Hudnall's influence on cinematographer James Laxton's Oscar-winning film "Moonlight" in 2016.

Hudnall's work is also featured in recent exhibitions including the Museum of Fine Arts Houston's timely exhibition, "Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power." Another solo exhibition at the Houston City Hall features many of Hudnall's images from the historic neighborhood west of downtown with roots that trace back to Freedmen's Town, settled by freed slaves.

His work is also included in an exhibition at Houston's Holocaust Museum this month.

Hudnall's photography provides a window to the vibrant communities of color in Houston's sinner city neighborhoods over 40 years.

This exhibition features new work and older images not seen in the gallery since the 1990's.

To schedule an appointment, call (214) 969-1852 or email info@pdnbgallery.com. The gallery is located at 154 Glass Street, Dallas, Texas, 75207. Masks are required for safety.

East Texas State Fair Offers Tasty Treats

Sep 18, 2020

Foodies can enjoy fair food favorites at this year's Taste of the Fair, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., September 24-27 and October 1-4. All



other activities at the East Texas State Fair are closed this year due to COVID-19 precautions.

Vendors are serving fair food classics such as turkey legs, jumbo corn dogs, candied apples, and funnel cakes and many local favorites, including the Tamale Slammer, the Wonderstick, Peach Puppies, Volcano Dries, and Fried Oreos.

Guests can visit concessions on a come and go basis from food stands along Fair Park Drive at the fairgrounds. Food is served in takeout packages, and no seating is available.

Visitors and staff are required to wear masks and observe social distancing standards. Hand sanitizing stations are also available.

For information, contact the East Texas State Fair Office at (903) 957-2501 or through email atinfo@estatefair.com.

Born to Read Program Available to Parents

Sep 22, 2020

The University of Texas at Tyler announced today that it is seeking participants for the Born to Read program, which promotes early childhood literacy in East Texas.

Born to Read is designed for expectant mothers, parents and legal guardians of children up to 3 years old. The program starts in October 2020 and runs through May 2021. There is a \$25 registration fee per family. Discounts may be given for documented financial need.

"Research indicates that a child's success in school is determined long before he or she reaches the classroom," said Dr. Kouider Mokhtari, UT Tyler K-16 Literacy Center director. "You are your child's first teacher, and the Born to Read program gives parents the resources they need to raise a lifelong reader."

To register or for more information, contact Betty Rose, brose@uttyler.edu or 903.566.7016.

Program sponsors include Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Tyler Sunrise Rotary Club, Carousel Publishing and UT Tyler K-16 Literacy Center.

A member of the prestigious UT System, The University of Texas at Tyler focuses on student success and innovative research in the more than 80 undergraduate and graduate degree programs offered to nearly 10,000 students. Classified by Carnegie as a doctoral research institution and by U.S. News and World Report as a National University, UT Tyler has campuses in Tyler, Longview, Palestine and Houston.

Alien Invasion Takes Place in Jefferson

Sep 22, 2020

More than 80 years ago Orson Welles and his troupe of radio actors interrupted the Columbia Broadcasting System's programming to "report" that Earth had been invaded. The broadcast was a joke but people didn't know that and were scared. Some people supposedly jumped in their cars to flee the area of the "invasion."

The Opera House Theatre Players in Jefferson are presenting the famous broadcast of "War of the Worlds" from 1938 as the opening production of their 32nd season. The recreation runs for two performances on October 23-24 at Enoch's Wine and Coffee House, 116 Polk Street in downtown Jefferson.

Directing and starring in the show is Keith Lack, who was seen lastly in the "Players Radio Days" show in May. Lack has several decades of experience in stage acting as well as film work and prop-making and recreates the sound effects for the play utilizing the original script of the 1938 broadcast.

Others in the cast are Bob Hinckley, Marcia Thomas, Joe Warblaw, Andrew Dickson, and Joe Todaro. Lack will take the lead role of Orson Welles.

Tickets are on sale online at www.JeffersonOperaHouseTheatrePlayers.com. They are \$25 per person and includes the show, wine and a dessert. Due to COVID restrictions, very limited seating is available for the two performances and advance purchases are urged. For information call (903) 665-8243.

East Texas Hillbilly Jamboree Debuts in 1953

Sep 23, 2020

On December 8, 1953, the radio program East Texas Hillbilly Jamboree debuted on KFRO, a Longview, Texas, station. The two-hour program attracted musicians mainly from Texas, including many unknowns who would eventually gain fame.

Billboard Magazine reported several times that the program was very popular. While short-lived, the live radio show was revived in 1964 in the form of a live performance called Johnny Morrison's Hay Barn in Shepherd, Texas.

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was very popular. While short-lived, the live radio show was revived in 1964 in the form of a live performance called Johnny Morrison's Hay Barn in Shepherd, Texas. Names associated with both include Johnny Horton, Bob Wills, Loretta Lynn, Bill Monroe and Earnest Tubb.

Hunt Built Fortune on East Texas Oil Fields

Sep 23, 2020

On November 26, 1930, Haroldson Lafayette Hunt, Jr., better known as H.L. Hunt, made a deal with "Dad" Joiner on his wedding anniversary that made him owner of Daisy Bradford No. 3 and all Joiner's surrounding leases in the East Texas Oil-field. Hunt started in the oil industry in El Dorado, Arkansas. He used money from an El Dorado clothier, P.G. Lake, to buy out Joiner in 1930.

By 1932 Hunt had 900 wells in East Texas. In 1935 he divided his company into trusts for his six acknowledged children. In late 1936 he acquired the Excelsior Refining Company in Rusk County and changed its name to Parade Refining Company. Residue gas from this company's lines blew up the New London school on March 18, 1937. In 1937 or 1938, the Hunts moved to Dallas. On April 5, 1948, *Fortune* magazine labeled Hunt the richest man in the United States.

In 1914, Hunt had married Lyda Bunker in Arkansas. They had the six children, but on Armistice Day 1925, under the name Franklin Hunt, he had also married Frania Tye in Florida, and they had four children. "Franny" didn't know about Lyda until 1934. Hunt apparently shipped Franny off to New York and in 1941 provided trusts for the four children. A friend of Hunt's, John Lee, married her and gave his name to the children.

Lyda Hunt died in 1955. In November 1957 Hunt married Ruth Ray and adopted her four children — appropriately enough, for Hunt was their real father. After their marriage, H.L. and Ruth Hunt became Baptists.

In his later life Hunt promoted "constructive" politics in two radio shows, "Facts Forum" and "Life Line." In 1952 "Facts Forum" endorsed Senator Joseph McCarthy. In 1960 Hunt published a romantic utopian novel, *Alpaca*, and in 1968 he began to process aloe vera cosmetics. He died November 29, 1974. (*From Texas State Historical Association*)

Leonard Brothers Built Retail Empire in Fort Worth

Sep 23, 2020

J. Marvin Leonard was born in 1895 near Linden, Texas. His parents operated a small general store there.

During World War I Marvin moved to Dallas, where he worked in a store that specialized in salvaged merchandise.

On December 14, 1918, Marvin Leonard opened a small store that sold groceries and salvaged merchandise. He was soon joined by his brother Obie and the store grew to occupy more

than six blocks in downtown Fort Worth. Leonard Brothers became a store so large that even to this day it dwarfs anything that any single retail user has ever tried to accomplish.

The Leonard Brothers was a cross between a modern day super store and a shopping mall. It was a place to purchase merchandise and a place to meet up with friends.

Going to Leonard's on a Saturday was an event the whole family looked forward to doing together whether they traveled to the store from across town or from across the state.

Leonard's played an integral role in life throughout the 20th century. It boasted Fort Worth's first escalator, provided coupons and cash vouchers for locals after World War II, hired African Americans during the very early days of integration, and offered a plethora of store-brand alternatives for shoppers. The Leonard brothers even constructed a subway in downtown Fort Worth (allegedly the world's only privately owned subway) that escorted shoppers straight to the store.

Obie purchased his brother's interest in the store in 1965 and sold Leonard Brothers to Charles David Tandy in 1967. On March 4, 1974, Tandy sold Leonard Brothers to Dillard's, and the Leonards' name came down from the stores.

These two little boys from tiny Linden, Texas, left quite a legacy. Visitors can learn more about it and see artifacts at the Leonard's Museum in downtown Fort Worth, 200 Carroll Street. Call (817) 336-9111 or visit their Facebook page for more information.

Excerpts from Texas State Historical Association and Leonard's Museum Facebook page.

Sweeten Fall Veggies With Simple Tricks

Sep 28, 2020

By Lisa Tang

With chilly evenings on the way, it's comforting to stay inside and cook up something warm. Instead of adding calories with high-carb snacks like cookies and brownies this fall, visit a farmers' market for fresh squashes and root vegetables that add variety to main meals.

Sweet potatoes, acorn and butternut squash, and carrots can add semi-sweet accents to complement traditional main dishes like baked chicken, meatloaf, pork chops, or lamb without adding lots of prep time. Simply baking, roasting, or simmering the produce and adding a touch of spice enhances the natural sweetness and satisfies cravings.

Squashes

For a sweet and simple vegetable treat, select butternut or acorn squashes. Slice the vegetable lengthwise and scoop out the seeds with a spoon. Place the halves face-down in a baking dish covered with one-half inch of water, and cook for about 45 minutes at 375 degrees.

Remove from the oven, place the sides face-up, and sprinkle

with cinnamon. Removing the skin is not necessary. It's easy to scoop the squash out of its "shell" with a spoon. The texture of baked acorn squash is smooth and creamy, and the taste is naturally sweet. Serve with butter or a butter substitute.

To serve butternut squash after baking it, trim or peel away the skin, slice, and sprinkle with cinnamon. The squash's texture is soft and its color will brighten the meal beautifully.

Sweet Potatoes

Sweet potatoes don't need marshmallows to taste sweet. Try baking sweet potatoes in the oven for 50 minutes at 350 degrees. To prepare, wash them in warm water, pat dry, and rub butter on them to retain their moisture while they bake inside aluminum foil.

Remove from the oven, slit foil at top, and separate the sides. Serve with a pinch of cinnamon and nutmeg and a single pat of butter or butter substitute.

Mashed sweet potatoes are equally as delicious and filling, and can be ready in 30 minutes. Wash in warm water and use a vegetable peeler to remove the skin. Dice the tubers into one-inch cubes and place in a pot with water that covers the top.

Cook the diced sweet potatoes on top of the stove on high heat and stir every two to three minutes. Once boiling, cover the pan and cook on medium heat for 25 minutes. Add cinnamon, nutmeg, and butter or a substitute to taste.

For a quick snack, sweet potato fries are an alternative way to prepare the tubers while retaining their sweetness. Cut lengthwise, spray with olive oil, spread them out, and cook in a toaster oven for 15 minutes at 400 degrees. Pause the oven half-way through and turn over the fries.

Sweet potato fries can also complement burgers or meatloaf. They taste great alone or with ketchup.

Carrots

Wash and peel carrots and cut lengthwise or in rounds. Cook in one-half inch water over high heat until boiling. Add a pat of butter and two tablespoons of honey for every two to three cups of carrots.

Remove the lid and reduce heat to medium, allowing steam to rise. Stir occasionally. After 20 minutes, the honey, butter, and vegetable juices form a delicious reduction sauce, and the carrots take on the honey's sweet flavor. Serve hot.

Carrot fries also make a quick snack. Slice the carrots lengthwise, spray with olive oil, spread them out, and cook in a toaster oven for 10 to 12 minutes at 400 degrees.

Pause the oven half-way through and turn over the fries. Avoid overcooking, as the carrot slices can dry out quickly. Serve alone or with a main meal such as burgers or sandwiches.

While carrot and sweet potato fries won't offer the same sweetness as some other options, they're a delicious way to add nutrition to main courses or satisfy cravings between meals.



Renowned Photographer Documented Child Labor in Northeast Texas

Sep 28, 2020

PHOTO: "Elbert Hollingsworth, ten year old cotton picker. Picks 125 pounds a day. Also Ruby Hollingsworth, seven year old cotton picker. Works all day, early and late, in the hot sun. Picks about 35 pounds a day. Father, mother, and several brothers and sisters pick. They get only five or six months of schooling. "It's not 'nuff," the father said. The children said "We'd ruther go to school." Address Box 18, R.F.D. Location: Denison, Texas. September, 1913" — Lewis Hine, Lewis Wickes Hine | National Child Labor Committee Collection | Library of Congress

In 1913, Lewis Hine traveled through northeast Texas for the National Child Labor Committee. He documented scores of children in the region picking cotton for long hours in harsh conditions. Some were as young as five years old.

The Texas visit was part of Hine's travels across the nation between 1911-1916, as he documented child labor conditions. In Texas cities such as Dallas and San Antonio, Hine photographed youth working as shop laborers, newsboys, and couriers, either in rough neighborhoods or in dangerous conditions, usually for long hours and little pay.

Many of the photos show children with sad, serious faces in the midst of their labor. Hine wrote detailed captions for each photo, sharing the children's names, ages, family relationships, how much cotton they picked each day and how long they worked.

Hine also asked the children if they attended school. According to one study cited in the report, up to 300,000 Texas children participated in farm labor rather than attending school.

Today, Hine's photographs are considered both artistic and documentary. They show an era that disappeared long ago, thanks to the labor movement and subsequent reforms. His collections appear in the Hine Report, now available on the Library of Congress website.

Born in Wisconsin in 1874, Lewis Wickes Hine studied sociology and taught at the Ethical Culture School in New York City. Hine began taking photographs to enhance his teaching. He documented the arrival of immigrants at Ellis Island in 1904 and harsh factory conditions in the Northeast. The Pittsburgh Survey published his work, and was noticed by the National Child Labor Committee.

For more information about Lewis Hine and the impact of his photography, visit the International Center of Photography online.

Steve Miller Learned to Love and Perform Music in Dallas

Oct 1, 2020

Born October 5, 1943, Steve Miller's career spans 60 years and includes popular singles such as "The Joker," "Fly Like an Eagle," "Rockin' Me," "Jet Liner," "Jungle Love," "Take the Money and Run," and "Abracadabra."

Miller spoke recently on *The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon* about developing a love of music at an early age, and how his family's move to Dallas influenced his later career.

Miller's parents moved the family from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to Dallas in the 1950s. Both parents enjoyed jazz music. Miller describes his mother Bertha as an accomplished jazz singer and his father, a trained pathologist, as an amateur recording engineer. His father recorded frequently in the family's home studio, working with local greats such as Les Paul and T-Bone Walker.

On *The Tonight Show*, Miller says Walker taught him to play guitar behind his back and with his teeth. He also began performing locally with a classmate at 12 years old while attending school in Dallas.

Miller graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in Dallas in 1961 then returned to Wisconsin, where he studied comparative literature at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and continued playing music with friends in a college band, The Ardells.

Miller describes how his early experiences in the Big D influ-

enced his love of music and performing. When telling his parents he wanted to drop out of college six hours short of graduating, they became concerned for his future.

"I said, 'I want to go to Chicago and play the blues,'" Miller says in a *Dallas Morning News*

interview. "My father looked at me like I was insane. But my mom said, 'You should do it now.' So I went to Chicago, and that was a special time."

After six decades and more than 18 albums, Miller was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2016 and the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2020. He continues to perform many popular hits in concerts and on television.

In 2019 Miller released a decades-long collection of memorabilia and music in a new album, *Welcome to the Vault*.

He planned to tour with Marty Stuart & His Fabulous Superlatives and comedian/musician Gary Mule Deer in the summer of 2020, but canceled it due to the pandemic.

Palestine Art Tracks Seeks Sculptures for Ninth Annual Trail

Oct 8, 2020

Palestine Main Street is taking applications for the ninth annual Palestine Art Tracks Sculpture Trail in downtown Palestine.

Artists are invited to send their applications with photos for jury selection. No entry fee is required, and all artists selected will



receive a \$500 stipend for expenses, including transport. Applications are due October 29, 2020, and installations will take place in November.

The 2020-21 trail offers \$2,000 in prizes awarded to artists for the top three sculptures in a later competition. Private individuals and businesses donate funds for the competition and other in-kind services, such as printing.

Sculptures must be a minimum of three feet, though the selection committee encourages taller sculptures, which are suitable for outdoors. All locations are on city right of ways or property and are visible from streets and sidewalks. Although the railroad played a large role in Palestine's past, railroad-themed submissions are not required.

Each artist loans the work for up to a year. Some will stand on bases donated by Texas State Railroad and welded by students at Westwood High School.

Cori Conrad, Palestine Main Street Coordinator, says the program benefits everyone.

"The Art Tracks Program provides modern inspiration and artistic expression to our historic downtown, reflecting our appreciation for the past while highlighting our desire to move forward," she says.

Sculptor Dale Montagne proposed the idea for the trail in 2010 after visiting Palestine. He offered the community a vision of sculpture art as a downtown attraction. The idea, Montagne told them, was train motifs or railroad history in Palestine's public spaces.

In 2012, Palestine Main Street hosted its first Art Tracks Trail. Since the first show, more than 116 sculptures have enhanced Main Street.

Entries for this year's Art Tracks competition are available at www.visitpalestine.com/arttracks, and must be completed online.

For questions about the program or requirements, contact Mary Raum at mraum@palestine-tx.org or at (903) 723-3053.

Lucky Strike Girl Born in Cherokee County

Oct 19, 2020

Janice Jarratt, known as the Lucky Strike Girl, was born on October 19, 1914, in Jacksonville, Texas, Cherokee County. Her father was C.D. Jarratt of Craft, known for shipping the first carload of tomatoes from Cherokee County on June 14, 1897.

Jarratt grew up in San Antonio, and later became the "Sweet-heart of the Texas Centennial" at the State Fair of Texas in 1936. The Los Angeles Times reported her arrival in Hollywood that year to arrange a contract with Universal Studios. The article noted she carried a rifle in a leather case.

Jarratt became one of "The 1936 Flash Lighter Starlets" a group which also included Rosina Lawrence, Cecilia Parker, and Barbara Pepper. She also achieved fame as the "Lucky Strike

Girl" because she posed for many ads for the cigarette brand. At one time, she was dubbed the "most photographed model in the world" in a newspaper photo of her and actor Clark Gable.

In April 1937, Jarratt became engaged to FBI agent Melvin Purvis, announced with the headline, "Janice Jarratt gets her G-Man, Melvin Purvis." Purvis led manhunts for notorious outlaws, including Baby Face Nelson, Pretty Boy Floyd, and John Dillinger. The engagement did not last, however, and the two never married. Jarrett died Sep 29, 1991.

Enjoy Pizzo's All Organic Pasta Primavera

Oct 19, 2020

Chef Angela Maria Melia, known to patrons as Chef Ang, creates fresh Italian dishes at Pizzo's Sicilian Café, inside Uptown Forum, at 2610 Lee Street.

Inside, Pizzo's offers a friendly, cozy vibe. The café also offers outdoor tables in Greenville's vibrant Central District, where guests can enjoy midday al fresco dining. Pizzo's is a favorite local hangout where guests enjoy Chef Ang's personal touch. The bistro is named after her maternal grandparents from Sicily, whose surname was Pizzo.

Favorite dishes at Pizzo's include a variety of paninis, Italian sausage calzone, portabella ravioli, and chicken fettuccine alfredo, but Chef Ang is always planning something new, like the recipe for Organic Pasta Primavera featured below.

Pizzo's offers catering, carry-out options, and dine-in service with spaced seating for social distancing. For information, call (903) 455-2233, or visit Pizzo's on Facebook.

Recipe: All Organic Pasta Primavera

Ingredients: Fresh zucchini, yellow squash, red bell pepper, yellow bell pepper, orange bell pepper, carrots, yellow onion, oregano, basil, thyme, flat leaf parsley, rosemary, extra virgin olive oil, salt, pepper, shaved parmesan (optional)

Cut all veggies into thin to medium-thin pieces. (If you have a mandolin, this will make your work easier, but mind your fingers.) Then, slice these cuts into bite-sized pieces.

Place in a large mixing bowl and add fresh chopped oregano, basil, thyme, Italian flat leaf parsley, finely chopped rosemary (two tablespoons or more of each depending on quantity) and salt and pepper to taste. Toss together with extra virgin olive oil (about a quarter cup) until well mixed.

Place evenly on a sheet pan and bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes, al dente, or a bit longer to desired tenderness.

Serve over angel hair pasta. Top with shaved parmesan, and enjoy.

New Fashion Brand Pops Up in Tyler

Oct 22, 2020

Tyler native Sarah Bray is returning to launch a new fashion brand at Olive and Home, an interior design studio at 6813 Old Jacksonville Highway in Tyler. She is launching a collection of fashions, Sarah Bray Bermuda, in October as a pop-up inside the design store.

Sarah Bray grew up in Tyler, leaving to spend a decade in New York City, where she worked in the fashion and magazine industries, but moved to Bermuda, where she currently lives. Bray said she became disenchanted with the fashion industry in the Big Apple, which promotes consumption of luxury goods, which is not environmentally friendly.

“I was conflicted: I love beautiful things and art history (decorative and fashion history included), but glamorizing wasteful, non-essential products started to hugely conflict with my ethics and love of our planet,” Bray says.

The move to Bermuda was an opportunity to refocus her talents and career. The brand she developed is inspired by the island’s sunny tropical vibe, featuring classic looks made with vintage fabrics, ribbons, and stylish hats made with environmentally-friendly materials.

“In an effort to stop adding non-essential waste to our beautiful world, I am launching a collection made from antique, vintage, recycled, and biodegradable materials,” Bray says. “Anything requiring additional stitching and assembly is done by local artisans within my home state of Texas and new home in Bermuda.”

For information about the new brand, visit www.sarahbraybermuda.com or email Bray at atsarah@sarahamandabray.com.

Jellystone Park at Whispering Pines Hosting Halloween Saturdays

Oct 22, 2020

Jellystone Park at Whispering Pines near Tyler offers possibilities for staycations and special events beneath the peaceful pines. An award-winning venue, the resort offers a setting for special events, family gatherings, and corporate retreats.

Every Saturday in October, Jellystone is hosting Hey Rides through a Magic Pumpkin Patch, hands-on crafts and activities, and a costume party and trunk or treat with an opportunity to meet Yogi Bear. The evening concludes with an outdoor movie and a walk through the Haunted Woods.

The resort features 100 RV hook-ups, 33 cabins, a retail store, a laundry facility, and several family-friendly activities, including swimming pools, a water park, miniature golf, sand volleyball, pickleball and basketball courts, gem mining, and laser tag. Nature trails, outdoor game areas, a catch-and-release fishing pond, and indoor conference rooms are also located on the resort’s 100-acre grounds.

Owners Don and Jan West Tardy purchased Whispering Pines

in 2012 and began making renovations. Soon after, the resort became part of the Jellystone Park franchise, and is still adding activities. The resort is limiting the number of participants to allow for social distancing and is requiring everyone to wear face masks on Hey Rides.

Jellystone Park is located north of Tyler, between Tyler State Park and Hawkins, Texas. For information, visit their site at www.jellystonetyler.com or call (903) 858-2405.

Yellow Rose of Texas Awarded to Sulphur Springs DJ

Oct 23, 2020

This summer Sulphur Springs radio DJ Enola Gay Mathews received the honor of being named a “Yellow Rose of Texas” by Governor Gregg Abbott. Enola Gay Mathews, who grew up in Longview, is known throughout the region by listeners who “start their day with Enola Gay” on KSST Radio. The Yellow Rose of Texas is an honorary commission conferred to Texas women for exceptional community service.

Mathews said, “Receiving the Yellow Rose of Texas Commission is very humbling, yet exhilarating. After learning about the dozens of distinguished recipients across the state and the good these women bring about in their communities, I am moved to set new goals for myself. I’m in awe to be among them.”

Since 1995, Mathews has organized and hosted numerous public gatherings aimed at preservation of local history and heritage. These have included fundraising chili cookoffs, an annual summertime National Day of the American Cowboy event,



a campaign marking the 40-year history of the Mike Pribble Fourth of July Rodeo in Sulphur Springs, and her revival of the Reilly Springs Jamboree, an Opry-style country and western stage show begun during the 1950's.

Mathews was recognized as DJ of the Year by both the Texas Music Association and Academy of Western Artists, and inducted into the Cowtown Society of Western Swing Music Hall of Fame. In 2014, she was named Chamber of Commerce 'Woman of the Year' and today, continues to serve as a volunteer mounted member of the Hopkins County Sheriff's Posse. She writes a weekly feature "At the Corral Gate" in the Millennium Shopper and a blog of her stories about rural living is coming soon.

Have Haymazing Fun in Ennis

Oct 23, 2020

Photo ops and fun abound at the Haymaze and Pumpkin Patch this month in the historic Main Street District of Ennis, Texas. The Haymaze is an anchor attraction for Ennis Autumn Daze, which are building up to a fun finale at the end of October.

The Haymaze features a 100 square foot area with a maze

of hay bales, decorated hay walls, and sophisticated autumn pumpkin arrangements covering the North Plaza Parking lot at 302 N. Dallas St. Pumpkins are for decoration — and photo ops — only.

Hours at the Haymaze are between dawn to dusk, when photo ops are better. Festoon lighting and backgrounds in glow-in-the-dark spray paint are now lighting up the Haymaze in the late evening hours.

October 31 is also the final day of the Bluebonnet Market, just two blocks away from the Haymaze. From 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday, the market offers a variety of produce, baked goods, fall accessories, and handmade jewelry. Market vendors and some local organizations are giving away candy the final morning.

Food trucks are serving fair foods from 1-9 p.m. the last four days of Autumn Daze, October 29 to November 1, near the Haymaze. Fried oreos, turkey legs, funnel cakes, and corn dogs are among the selections.

The last weekend in October is also the last weekend for Sip, Shop, and Stroll, a wine tasting event held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at shopping venues in historic downtown Ennis.

Building the Haymaze was a cooperative effort funded by do-



nations from local businesses and labor provided by the Ennis Parks and Recreation Department. City workers unloaded and arranged three truckloads of hay bales onto the empty lot.

Before opening day, Ben Vyers of Monster Splash Art painted the bales with a variety of kid-friendly characters, hay stacks, and backgrounds to liven the scene. Painting most of the designs over five days before opening, he now returns every few days to touch up the paint and add more designs.

For information, call (972) 878-4748 or look up www.visitennis.org.

Partners Acquired Salty Lands in December 1845

Oct 26, 2020

PHOTO: The Salt Palace in Grand Saline, Texas, is the world's only building made entirely of rock salt.

On December 17, 1845, two partners named John Jordan and A.T. McGee acquired land newly opened for settlement near what is now Grand Saline, Texas.

From the Cherokee Indians who had the land before, they learned that a salty marsh there could produce salt through evaporation methods. Over time, a total of three miles were active in the Grand Saline area, and Van Zandt County became known as the "Salt Capital of Texas."

The Morton Salt company bought the mines over time by 1920 and still operates the remaining salt mine there today. Visit The Salt Palace in Grand Saline for more information.

D and A Oppenheimer Fortune Started in Rusk

Nov 4, 2020

On December 1, 1888, the D and A Oppenheimer bank, one of the oldest in Texas, closed. The bank was founded by brothers Daniel and Anton Oppenheimer, Bavarian immigrants who settled in Rusk in the 1850s. From 1858 to 1861 they operated as small merchants in Rusk and the surrounding area.

In 1861, the Oppenheims closed their store and joined the Confederate Army. After the Civil War the brothers moved to San Antonio and opened a bank in addition to their mercantile business. They also began trading goods to ranchers for cattle and buying land.

The Oppenheims financed many of the cattle drives up the Chisholm Trail. At one time they ran 15,000 head on ranches, and they were among the pioneers of the Texas goat and mohair industry.

Anton died in 1906, and in 1908 Daniel sold their largest ranch and cattle for \$1 million and invested it in the D and A Oppenheimer bank. Daniel died in 1915.

Daniel's son Frederic, a physician, married into the Joske fam-



ily and became manager of Joske's Department Store. He and his wife became noted art collectors. *(Information from Texas State Historical Association)*

See Beautiful Fall Foliage in Texas State Parks

Nov 5, 2020

In November, Mother Nature adds artistic touches of gold, orange, and red to foliage all over the Upper East Side of Texas. For a true delight, visit one of the Texas state parks in our region, which offer a calm, peaceful environment where nature takes center stage.

Parks in our region have the advantage of more rainfall and cooler weather and they offer a good variety of deciduous foliage. Maple, oak, sweetgum, elm, and hickory trees turn a variety of colors.

Driving, hiking, bicycling, paddle boating, and camping allow enjoyable views of foliage along lakes and trails, often in mild, sunny weather.

Though words can't adequately describe the beauty of fall foliage, the science behind the changing colors is not difficult to explain. Leaves are green in the spring and summer, when their green chlorophyll uses sunlight and rain to create nourishing sugars and starches.

As deciduous trees prepare for winter, they draw minerals from their leaves and store them in trunks and roots. As the chlorophyll leaves, so does the green color, and only the remaining colors are still visible.

The brightest fall colors follow a season of abundant rainfall and cooler temperatures, whereas too much hot, dry weather causes them to turn brown. With many lakes and waterways, state parks in our region offer the perfect setting for enjoying the

last days of warm weather.

Many Texas State Parks have capacity limits due to COVID-19 precautions, and reservations for day use and camping are required. Call ahead at (512) 389-8920 or reserve online at www.tpwd.texas.gov.

Source: Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife

Beauty and the Box Program Adds Three Locations

Nov 9, 2020

Keep Tyler Beautiful's beautification program, Beauty and the Box, adds three new boxes to its growing list of wrapped traffic cabinets.

The program began in 2016 with the objective of taking utilitarian traffic boxes and transforming them into works of art, while featuring by local artists. What started as a pilot program of 10 boxes in the Downtown Business Arts and Culture District has grown to 67 vinyl-wrapped traffic cabinets across the city.

Three new traffic signal boxes provide color and beauty to busy city intersections.

A box featuring art by Dace Kidd stands at East Fifth Street and South Donnybrook Avenue. Sponsors are Plaza Tower and People's Petroleum Building.

A box titled "Rose Festival" displaying a photograph by John R. Anderson of the *Tyler Morning Telegraph* beautifies the intersection at TX-323 Loop and Frankston Highway. Sponsors are the Texas Rose Festival and Tyler Rose Museum.

The "Art of Peace" box features a photograph by Dr. Scott Lieberman at TX-323 Loop and West Erwin Street. Art of Peace-Tyler is the sponsor.

Keep Tyler Beautiful's goal is to encourage beautification, waste reduction and recycling activities in the community. Through planning, initiating and coordinating programs for litter control, environmental sustainability and beautification, they strive to bring people together and raise public interest in building a cleaner, better city.

For more information, contact Keep Tyler Beautiful Coordinator Belen Casillas at (903)595-2307 or email atbcasillas@tyler-texas.com. View more information on the website at www.Keep-TylerBeautiful.com.

Texarkana Receives Cultural Project Grant

Nov 10, 2020

The Texas Commission on the Arts Board of Directors met September 3rd, and voted to award \$56,000 to the Texarkana Arts and Historic District for a Texas Cultural Project grant.

This grant award will focus on the Courthouse Square Connections Project, which will serve as a gateway to the Arts and

Historic District in downtown Texarkana. The overview for this project includes:

Bending the Rules III: George Tobolowsky & Friends Public Art Exhibit, which will involve salvaged materials from the iconic Hotel Grim to engage local artists to work with renowned sculptor George Tobolowsky.

Over the Street Wayfinding Banner System, which will provide promotional opportunities north of the U.S. Federal Courthouse and Post Office at the gateway to the district to promote tourism.

Texarkana Museum System Arts and Historic District Visitor Center signage which will direct visitors from the U.S. Federal Courthouse and Post Office to the Arts and Historic District Visitor Center.

"We are grateful for this funding from the Texas Commission on the Arts and the support of the Texas legislature for the Texas Cultural District program," said David Orr, Chair of the Arts & Historic Committee. "These funds will assist with continued improvements to downtown Texarkana."

The Texarkana Arts & Historic District is a collaborative regional marketing initiative focused on historic downtown Texarkana. District partners include Main Street Texarkana, the Texarkana Symphony Orchestra, the Texarkana Regional Arts & Humanities Council, the Texarkana Museums System, the Texarkana Chamber of Commerce and the Cities of Texarkana, Texas and Arkansas. To learn more, check out www.visit-texarkanadistrict.com.

All Aboard The Polar Express at Texas State Railroad

Nov 11, 2020

Put on your pajamas and head to Palestine for the Polar Express Train Ride through the piney woods of East Texas to the North Pole, November 15 through December 26.

The cinematic train ride begins at the Texas State Railroad's Palestine Depot, with cheerful holiday decorations, lights, tinsel, garland, and live characters from the classic film.

Every coach becomes a stage for a live musical performance as Cocoa Chefs serve hot chocolate and cookies while dancing and singing. They also read "The Polar Express," the original picture book by Chris Van Allsburg, as the train journeys to the North Pole.

Ticket holders in the Presidential, sky view Dome, and First Class cars receive keepsake mugs, hot chocolate, and cookies. Coach and open-air coach cars feature historic Pullman-style seats, and all riders receive hot cocoa and cookies.

At the North Pole, Santa and his elves greet passengers and board the train. Santa gives everyone the first gift of Christmas — a silver sleigh bell. According to the story, only believers can hear them ring.



On the ride back, Cocoa Chefs lead passengers in singing Christmas carols.

Train rides depart from Texas State Railroad's Palestine Depot at 789 Park Road 70, Palestine, Texas, 75801. For information, visit www.texasstaterailroad.net or call (855) 632-7729. Go to www.visitpalestine.com to see more things to do in Palestine, Texas.

Rescued Bear and Cub Arrive at Black Beauty Ranch

Nov 18, 2020

A six year old mama bear named Jackie and her year old cub Russell are now safe and in their forever home at the 1,400-acre Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch in Murchison, Texas.

The duo recently arrived from southern California where they were rescued in 2019 by the Fund for Animals Wildlife Center — now called Project Wildlife Ramona. The mom and cub were becoming too comfortable near humans in a suburban California community and it was not safe for the bears or the public. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife relocated them 70 miles away, to the outside edge of their territory. After they

returned and CDFW attempted two more relocations, the bears would have faced a dire outcome if the wildlife center did not take them in until a permanent sanctuary could be found.

Noelle Almrud, director of the Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch, said, “Jackie and Russell can now safely live out their days here with no human interference. They are thriving — exploring their one-acre habitat, climbing trees, splashing in their pool and foraging in the leaves and grass. The duo already has their favorite trees — the huge oaks with plenty of branches for exploring. They can see and hear the other sanctuary resident bears — Sammi and Eve — in their own nearby habitats and their caregivers hear them all making calls to one another. It is an amazing happily ever after.”

Bears and other iconic wildlife are losing their natural habitat as suburban development expands across the country.

The Humane Society of the United States offers tips on how to prevent conflicts with bears for those communities affected on www.humansociety.org.

Founded in 1979, the 1,400-acre Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch, operated by the Fund for Animals in partnership with the Humane Society of the United States, is one of America's largest and most diverse animal sanctuaries. Located in Mur-

chison, Texas, Black Beauty is a permanent haven to nearly 700 domestic and exotic animals rescued from research laboratories, circuses, zoos, private pet ownership, roadside zoos, captive hunting operations, and government roundups. Residents include tigers, bears, primates, bison, tortoises, horses, burros and more. To respect the peace and privacy of the animals, the sanctuary is normally open to the public only twice a month for intimate prescheduled Ranch of Dreams Tours. However, due to COVID-19 concerns, tours are on hiatus until further notice. Visit www.facebook.com/BlackBeautyRanch.

Hudnall Planetarium Hosts Holiday Dome Shows

Nov 18, 2020

The Earth and Space Science Center at Tyler Junior College is offering a variety of Holiday Dome Shows at the Hudnall Planetarium, November 21-28 and December 19 to January 2.

“Let It Snow” airs 11 a.m. daily during the holiday break schedule and at 7 p.m. Saturday, December 19. The 30-minute show features a new variety of festive music classics visually enhanced with animation, special effects, and all-dome scenery.

“Mystery of the Christmas Star” airs daily at 12:15 p.m. The program invites viewers to journey back more than 2000 years to Bethlehem for scientific explanation of the star the wise men followed to find the baby Jesus.

“Season of Light” airs daily at 1:30 p.m. This show recounts the historical religious and cultural rituals practiced during the time of winter solstice - Christian, Jewish, Celtic, Nordic, Roman, Irish, Mexican, and Hopi. It also takes a look at some of our more light-hearted seasonal traditions: from gift giving to the custom of decking the halls with greenery and candles.

“Extreme Auroras” airs daily at 2:45 p.m. The program features award-winning photographer Ole Salomonsen as he journeys through northern Norway, Finland, and Sweden in pursuit of his passion to film nature’s wildest and most spectacular light show: the aurora borealis, or northern lights.

Filmed with fisheye lenses that capture the whole sky and then projected in the full-dome theater, viewers can imagine being right there in the arctic, witnessing this awe-inspiring natural phenomenon.

“Drifting North: Into the Polar Night” airs daily at 4 p.m. The show invites viewers to imagine stepping out onto an ice floe in the middle of the Arctic Ocean, watching and listening as scientists race the fading light to set up one of the most ambitious international climate collaborations ever, MOSAiC.

The mission froze an icebreaker into the Central Arctic Ocean to better understand the remote region and the role it plays in global climate and weather patterns.

Private screenings for groups of family and friends of one of the planetarium’s holiday shows or any other show from its large library are available at \$25 for up to 20 guests; advanced res-

ervations are required. Private show times begin at 9:45 a.m., Monday through Friday.

The planetarium will close Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year’s Eve, and New Year’s Day. The planetarium is open 9:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday. All tickets are \$3 and must be purchased on the planetarium’s website at www.sciencecenter.tjc.edu. Call (903) 510-2312 for information.

Orchestra Shares Music From Concert Truck

Nov 18, 2020

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra (DSO) performs from The Concert Truck during the holiday season. From mid-November through mid-December, the DSO and The Concert Truck presents collaborative community concerts across the city, featuring musicians of the DSO and other arts organizations. Concerts are held outdoors with audiences and performers able to maintain a safe distance while enjoying live performances.

The Concert Truck, founded in 2016 by concert pianists Susan Zhang and Nick Luby, is a mobile concert stage that brings classical chamber music directly to communities. The Concert Truck travels all over the United States performing alone and with other musicians to a variety of venues and audiences. While in Dallas, Zhang and Luby perform a repertoire of their own and collaborate with DSO Musicians.

“Our musicians have been wonderful to volunteer to play chamber music around the city. Since May they have done more than 80 appearances in many different locations,” said Kim Noltemy, Ross Perot President & CEO of the Dallas Symphony. “As the weather has gotten cooler, we looked for a way to continue this music-making, and we found The Concert Truck. This will be an incredible method for the DSO to perform outside the Meyerson in a very professional manner. We are delighted to be able to share the stage, literally, with our colleague arts groups in Dallas and take the show on the road to our audiences around the city. We are so thankful to Susan and Nick for the vision and idea to create this innovative mobile stage.”

Each concert is 45-60 minutes long and free to attend. The Concert Truck pop-up concert schedule includes the following with more details to follow.

DSO and The Concert Truck Schedule

More dates and locations to be added including appearances at the Mexican Consulate, One Arts Plaza and the Dallas Arboretum. Artists and locations subject to change.

Susan Zhang and Nick Luby to perform at all events.

Saturday, November 21 – The Potter’s House Church

Sunday, November 22 – The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza at 2:00PM

Monday, November 23 – Medical City Dallas Hospital at 6:30PM

Thursday, December 3 – Friday, December 4 – NorthPark Center at 6:00PM in the Neiman Marcus Garden

Saturday, December 5 – The Sound at Cypress Water at 3:00PM
Susan Zhang and Nick Luby, piano

Sunday, December 6 - NorthPark Center at 4:00PM in the Neiman Marcus Garden

Tuesday, December 8 – Booker T. Washington HSPVA at 3:30PM

Wednesday, December 9 – UT Southwestern Medical – Clements Hospital at 12:00PM

Wednesday, December 9 – Klyde Warren Park at 5:30PM

Members of Dallas Theater Company's Diane and Hal Brierley Resident Acting Company with Members of the DSO

Thursday, December 10 – HALL Arts Hotel – Urban Garden at 6:00PM

Friday, December 11 – Booker T. Washington HSPVA at 3:30PM

Friday, December 11 – Klyde Warren Park at 6:00PM

Saturday, December 12 – Location TBC at 12:30PM

Sunday, December 13 – The Nasher Sculpture Center at 12:00PM

Sunday, December 13 – Meyerson Symphony Center (on Flora Street) at 3:30PM, Dallas Black Dance Theatre's DBDT: En-

core! with Members of the DSO

Monday, December 14 – Greiner Middle School at 10:30AM

Tuesday, December 15 – Eduardo Mata Elementary School at 9:00AM

Wednesday, December 16 – The Landon at Lake Highlands at 3:00 PM

Thursday, December 17 – Methodist Hospital Dallas at 2:00PM

Thursday, December 17 – St. Paul United Methodist (with caroling) at 7:00PM

Friday, December 18 – Trinity Basin Prep School, Ledbetter Campus

Friday, December 18 – Klyde Warren Park at 6:00PM

For updated information, visit www.mydso.com.

Enjoy Sophisticated Flavor with Queen St Grille's French Toast Recipe

Nov 18, 2020

Palestine's Queen St Grille offers casual fine dining, serving patrons with sophisticated palettes without requiring them to dress up. To meet their needs, Chef Sam Moffitt prepares American cuisine that features flavors from all regions.

Fine dining featuring steak and seafood dishes prevail on the restaurant's evening menu, but Sunday brunch, accompanied



by a large selection of cocktails, is a favorite among locals.

This rich and satisfying Bananas Foster French Toast recipe often appears on the Grille's brunch menu, which can be enjoyed Sundays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Queen St Grille, or now any time in your own kitchen. Call (903) 723-2404 or visit queenstgrille.com for information.

Bananas Foster French Toast

4 thick slices of brioche bread
Caramel sauce
1 banana
Whipped cream
2 oz. brown sugar
1 tbsp. butter
1 tsp. cinnamon
French toast batter (may have extra batter)
6 whole eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup heavy cream
½ cup whole milk
½ cup sugar
¼ cup orange juice
2 tbsp. ground cinnamon

In a skillet, put 2 tablespoons butter slowly melting on low heat. Meanwhile, dip the brioche in the French toast batter and let sit for a minute.

Turn heat to medium and place brioche in a skillet. When one side turns golden brown, flip and repeat. Once fully cooked, cut in half and place on a plate.

In a small skillet add butter, brown sugar, cinnamon, and sliced bananas. Cook for two minutes and pour on top of French toast. Drizzle with caramel and top with whipped cream as desired. Serves two.

Blues Legend Floyd Dixon Born in Marshall

Nov 24, 2020

Blues legend Floyd Dixon was born in Marshall, Texas, on February 8, 1929. He taught himself to play the piano while growing up. He became known as a rhythm and blues pianist, often playing with big bands. Some of his songs include "Hey Bartender" (which was covered by The Blues Brothers), "Hole in the Wall," and "Marshall Texas Is My Home." His first recorded song was "Dallas Blues" for Supreme Records.

After his parents divorced he lived with his grandmother until her passing. He then lived in a tree house until ultimately moving to California to live with his mother at around age 12. To pay the bills, he worked as a caddie and at a drugstore. He also took courses in hotel management and considered a career in football, but the blues kept calling his name.

In 1984 Dixon was honored with a Billboard Blues Award, the

same year he was commissioned to write a blues song for the 1984 Olympic Games. He passed away in 2006 and is buried in Los Angeles.

'Cattle King of Texas' Born in Sabine County

Nov 24, 2020

On February 9, 1837, rancher Christopher Columbus (Lum) Slaughter was born in Sabine County. Slaughter claimed to be the first male child born of a marriage contracted under the Republic of Texas.

About 1877 he established one of the largest ranches in West Texas, the Long S, on the headwaters of the Colorado River, and around 1898 he bought almost 250,000 acres in Cochran and Hockley counties and established the Lazy S Ranch.

Frequently titled the "Cattle King of Texas," Slaughter became one of the country's largest individual owners of cattle and land (more than 1 million acres and 40,000 cattle by 1906) and was for years the largest individual taxpayer in Texas.

Slaughter died January 25, 1919, and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Dallas

(From Texas State Historical Association).

Texas Troubadour Hailed from Ellis County

Nov 24, 2020

Ernest Dale Tubb was born February 9, 1914 in Crisp, Texas, in Ellis County. The release of the hit single "Walking the Floor Over You" in 1941 marked the beginning of honky tonk music and launched Tubb's 40-year career.

Known as the Texas Troubadour, Tubb sang, yodeled, played guitar, and was the first singer to record "Blue Christmas" in 1948 and later recorded "Waltz Across Texas" in 1965. Today, he's considered a pioneer of country western music.

Some of Tubb's albums — produced and sold on his own label — featured duets with Loretta Lynn, including "Mr. and Mrs. Used to Be" and "Are You Mine."

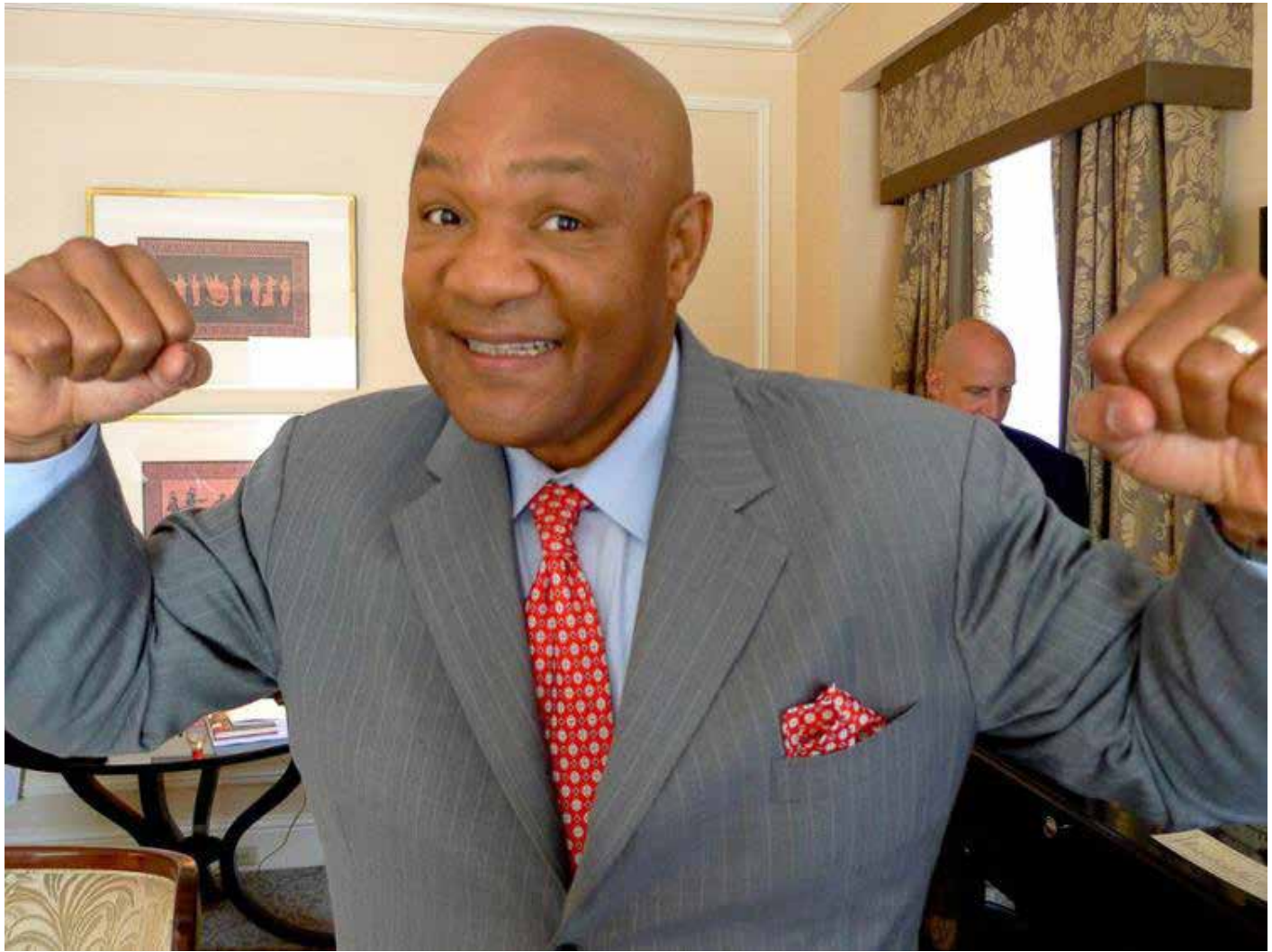
Tubb frequently performed at the Grand Ole' Opry in Nashville and is in the Country Music Hall of Fame.

George Foreman Hails from Marshall, Texas

Nov 28, 2020

Famous heavyweight boxing champion, minister, author, and entrepreneur George Foreman was born January 10, 1949, in Marshall, Texas. Growing up in poverty in Houston's Fifth Ward, Foreman ran into trouble with the law at 15 for fighting and mugging.

However, after joining the Lyndon B. Johnson Job Corps Program, he traveled to California where he met Doc Broadus, a Job Corps counselor who encouraged him to become a box-



er. In 1968 he won a gold Medal in the Mexico City Olympic Games after only 25 amateur fights, and entered professional boxing the following year.

Foreman won his first heavyweight world championship against Joe Frazier in Kingston, Jamaica in 1973. He defended his title twice against Jose Roman and Ken Norton, but fell to Muhammad Ali in the famous fight known as “The Rumble in the Jungle.”

After losing a fight against Jimmy Young in Puerto Rico in 1977, Foreman received inspiration to retire from boxing at age 28 and become an ordained minister. Three years later, he founded The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ in Houston, where he preaches to this day.

Foreman returned to the ring in 1987 when his church’s youth center needed funds to keep going. After his comeback, he won 24 consecutive fights and challenged the undefeated Evander Holyfield at age 42.

In 1994, Foreman defeated Michael Moorer in the 10th round, becoming the oldest boxer to win a heavyweight championship at age 45. He defended his title against Alex Schultz in 1995, but gave it away after refusing a rematch. He retired in 1997 with a career record of 76 wins to five losses.

As a businessman, Foreman has sold more than 100 million George Foreman Lean Mean Grilling Machines with the Salton Corporation and other products. He also markets cleaning and self-care products, and a restaurant franchise. He has authored several cookbooks, an autobiography, self-help books, and two memoirs.

Foreman is also the father of 12 children, including five boys named George and seven girls. He owns a ranch with exotic animals near Marshall, where he enjoys spending time with family.

Houston Oilers’ Earl Campbell Is Still the ‘Tyler Rose’

Nov 28, 2020

Former Houston Oiler linebacker Earl Campbell was born March 29, 1955 in Tyler, Texas. The sixth of 11 children, he began playing football in the fifth grade and went on to become one of the state’s best-known football players.

Campbell was destined for greatness after gaining 2,036 yards as running back for his team in his senior year at John Tyler High School. They went on to win the Class 4A state championship with a 15-0 record in 1973 and he personally was named



High School Player of the Decade by sportswriters. College was no different. Campbell racked up 4,443 yards and 41 touchdowns for the University of Texas and won the coveted Heisman Trophy in 1977.

Campbell's professional career started in 1978 when he was drafted by the Houston Oilers and named Rookie of the Year. Various accolades followed him throughout his eight-year career in Houston but after a losing year with the Oilers he asked to be traded. Campbell retired in 1986 after one year with the New Orleans Saints.

Campbell's career total hit 9,407 rushing yards and 74 touchdowns, four rushing titles and five trips to the Pro Bowl. He earned a place in the Texas, college, and pro football halls of fame.

Adapted from Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) online handbook.

Experience a Wild Adventure at Cherokee Trace Drive-Thru Safari

Nov 29, 2020

PHOTO: A blonde zebra is one of the exotic animals living at Cherokee Trace Drive-Thru Safari. Courtesy Photo

Cherokee Trace Drive-Thru Safari, just 12 miles east of Jacksonville, Texas, is open 361 days a year and is home to more than two dozen exotic and endangered species that thrive in an open habitat similar to their native territory.

Visitors can enjoy a self-guided drive through the hills and open savannahs of the trace's 300-acre preserve in the piney woods of Cherokee County. Miles of roads take visitors through a different world, allowing many opportunities for observation and photography.

Spot a Watusi, or African longhorn cow, mother and calf grazing near a spring-fed pond. Watch the Blackbuck, or Indian antelope, stroll across an open field.

The park's exotic animals include porcupines, alligators, capybaras, deer, bison, emu, llamas, Nigerian pygmy goats, camels, miniature donkeys, elk, ducks, turkeys, wildebeests, plus many other species unfamiliar to most Texans.

For information about the park's hours, animals, and rules call (903) 683-3322. Call ahead to ensure that weather or other factors are not affecting the park's hours, which vary throughout the year.

For more information, visit the park's Facebook page or website at www.cherokeetrace.com.

Ennis Offering Exceptional Holiday Events

Dec 1, 2020

Holidays in the city of Ennis, Texas get bigger and better every year. In addition to offering fabulous holiday events in December, Ennis is adding an outstanding light display that warrants a trip to Ellis County.

The Downtown Ennis Rooftop Lights 2020 are debuting this year. The dynamic LED lights beautifully top the district's newly-renovated Dallas Street above the downtown shopping district. Visitors can enjoy the lights from their own vehicles or from wagon and carriage rides, available the weekends of December 5-6 and 11-12.

On December 3, adults can shop at the Christmas Bluebonnet Market from 5-9 p.m. and visit downtown boutiques during Sip Shop and Stroll from 5-8 p.m.

Daytime activities are also available. At Cookies with Mrs. Claus on December 5, children can decorate gingerbread houses and sing holiday songs.

Lucky's CC Car show and Toy Drive occurs 10a.m. to 4 p.m. in the downtown district December 5. Bring a wrapped toy to donate and enjoy Romero's Mini Donuts and Elite BBQ while checking out the hot wheels.

The Elf Seek and Find game challenges kids of all ages to search for elves inside the window displays of downtown shops. Young participants can pick up prizes at the Ennis Welcome Center, where a train display awaits.

Kids also won't want to miss the chance to sled down The Snow Hill on an inner tube December 11-12.

For more information, contact the Ennis Convention and Visitors Bureau at (972) 878-4748 or visit online at www.visitennis.org.

Enjoy Holiday Activities at Texas State Parks

Dec 3, 2020

By Lisa Tang

State parks all around the Upper East Side of Texas are offering safe, socially-distanced holiday activities that encourage enjoyment of the outdoors — from craft projects to scavenger hunts to decorating a campsite drive-through light displays.

When planning a trip to a Texas State Park keep in mind that parks are operating at a limited capacity. Reserving a day pass in advance is highly recommended. Some parks will reach their capacity limit for special events. Reserve day passes online or over the phone by calling (512) 389-8900.



Lake Tawakoni State Park Twinkle Tour

Come camp at Lake Tawakoni State Park in Hunt County and adorn a campsite with festive Christmas decorations. There will be a campsite decorating contest with prizes for the favorites. Guests who decorate their site will receive their second night of camping for free.

The Twinkle Tour occurs 5-9 p.m. on December 5. Visitors can drive through the park to enjoy the festive Christmas lights. Stop by the amphitheater to participate in a holiday mistletoe craft. Event fee of \$5 per vehicle. Call (903) 560-7123 for information.

Christmas in the Pineywoods at Martin Creek State Park

Take a drive through the Pineywoods and enjoy the decorated campsites at Martin Creek State Park in Rusk County from 6 to 9 p.m., December 5-6. Enjoy a Christmas family event and social distance safely at the same time. This is a wonderful way to celebrate the holidays with your family.

Entrance fees are waived for all visitors who bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to the local community's Operation Blue Santa. Call (903) 836-4336 for information.

Tyler State Park Reading and Nature Wonderland Hike

Reading Ranger Christmas Edition — 3:30-4 p.m. December 5. Sit around a cozy campfire and listen to *A Tale of Two Beasts* and, since it's Christmas time, Santa's Sleigh is on its Way to Texas. Bring your imagination, a chair or a blanket, and dress for the weather. Meet at the amphitheater fire ring. Call (903) 597-5338 for information.

Nature Wonderland Hike — 4-6 p.m. December 12. Join us for a walk around Tyler State Park Lake as the sun goes down and enjoy the sights, sounds, and smells of winter. Dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, bring water and be ready for a two-mile hike. Meet at the Silver Canoe Park Store. Call (903) 597-5338 for information.

Lake Bob Sandlin State Park Christmas in the Park

Drive through and see the entire Lake Bob Sandlin State Park in Titus County decorated in lights from 6-9 p.m. December 11-12. On Friday and Saturday evenings local churches host a Walk Through Bethlehem. On Saturday night there will be crafts, games, a visit with Santa, and even an ugly Christmas sweater contest. Free entry for visitors during the event.

Campers who agree to decorate their campsites will camp for free; cabin campers decorating will receive a 50 percent discount. Reservations are available through the park only. Call the park directly to sign up. Participating campers may begin arriving on December 9. Displays must be ready by noon on December 11. Call (903) 572-5531 for information.

Cedar Hill State Park Christmas at Penn Farm

Located just 10 miles southwest of Dallas, Cedar Hill State Park invites visitors to explore a Christmas-themed Penn Farm from 6-9 p.m. on December 12. Learn about the history and pioneering spirit of the Penn family and the farm they started building more than 150 years ago.

Conclude with caroling around a campfire with sweet treats and

hot chocolate. Call (972) 291-3900 for information.

Winter Wonderland at Cooper Lake State Park

Escape the hustle and bustle of the city and join Cooper Lake State Park's Doctors Creek Unit in Delta County for a fun-filled Winter Wonderland celebration 6-8 p.m. on December 18 and 19.

Campers are encouraged to decorate their campsite and participate in the holiday festivities. Visitors can enjoy a free drive through to view the decorated park. Bring a camera and join in the fun. Reservations required for persons wishing to camp. Call (903) 395-3100 for information.

Light Up the Park at Eisenhower State Park

Join Eisenhower State Park in Grayson County in bringing Christmas cheer by decorating a campsite for the holiday. Campers who decorate their sites will be allowed to camp for up to a full week for free. Set-up runs from December 14-17.

The annual holiday decorations and lights drive through event runs sunset to 10 p.m. on December 18 and 19. During the drive through, the park is waiving entry fees with a donation of a new, unwrapped toy per vehicle for a child 13 or younger. All toys will be donated to the Grayson County Welfare Board, which works in coordination with children in Child Protective Services.

Kids can bring Santa letters to drop off at Santa's North Pole mailbox. Each child receives a candy cane and a do-it-yourself reindeer food kit while supplies last. Call (903) 465-1956 for information.

Christmas in the Park at Atlanta State Park

Decorate your campsite at Atlanta State Park in Cass County and join in bringing Christmas cheer. Camping fees waived for those who participate by decorating their campsite.

Visitors can enjoy a free drive through the decorated park and will get the chance to see Santa, Mrs. Claus, the Grinch and Smokey Bear. Call (903) 796-6476 for information.

Daingerfield State Park 8th Annual Christmas in the Park

Experience a Pineywoods Christmas at Daingerfield State Park in Morris County, 6-9 p.m. December 16-17 and 6-10 p.m. December 18-19.

Follow the lights through the pine forest where you will find the campsites and day-use area decorated with Christmas cheer. Feel the excitement of Christmas everywhere and maybe catch a glance of Jolly Old St. Nick himself.

Free entrance into the park; donations will be accepted. Call (903) 645-2921 for information.

State Historic Sites Host Holiday Fun

Dec 4, 2020

Two of the region's historic sites are hosting family and budget-friendly holiday events this season. Visit the Starr family Home

in Marshall and the Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site for entertaining and educational activities. Both sites encourage guests to call ahead to reserve a time.

Starr Family Home State Historic Site

The Starr Family Home State Historic Site in Marshall is hosting three family-friendly holiday events this month. Group sizes are limited, so call ahead to arrange a time to visit. Both sites recommend calling ahead to reserve a time to visit.

Virtual Sparkles & Sprinkles — 6-8 p.m., December 11-12. Enjoy this fun event from the comfort of your home. Pre-purchase craft kits at Starr Family Home in Marshall to make Christmas slime and a Christmas ornament. We will post an instructional craft video at 9 a.m. and will host story times at 1 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Facebook Live.

Candlelight Tours — 6-8 p.m., December 11, 12, and 18. Tour the home with battery-operated candles while a guide talks about local and state Christmas traditions through the past 150 years. Reservations are requested due to group size limitation.

Wonderland of Sites — 10 a.m.–4 p.m., December 19. Guests are invited to take part in a free Christmas craft activity and a dramatic reading of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. Capacity for the number of guests inside the house is limited.

Call the Starr Family Home at (903) 935-3044 to reserve a time or for information.

Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site

The Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site in Denison is hosting Christmas on the Homefront with holiday tours and craft activities December 5, 12, and 19.

Visitors can grab a self-guided tour packet, walk the grounds, and learn about Christmas past in North Texas. The tour features life in the 1890s when President Dwight Eisenhower was born, and in the 1940s when the Denison community preserved the birthplace house.

Children's craft kits are available for purchase through the site's retail-to-go program while supplies last. Birthplace house tours are available with advance reservation and payment.

Regular tours of the original 1870s home where Dwight D. Eisenhower was born on October 14, 1890 are also available. The site is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Call the Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site at (903) 465-8908 to reserve a time or for information.

Lights of Advent Bring Message of Hope

Dec 4, 2020

By Lisa Tang

Members of Wesley United Methodist Church in Greenville, Texas, are closing 2020 by lighting up the night sky with a message of hope.

Lights of Advent displays 17,000 lights along a two-story, 100-foot wide grid to portray the coming of Jesus as told in the Gos-

pel of Luke. The display portrays a star-filled sky with angels and twinkling stars over the town of Bethlehem with a two-dimensional nativity at its center.

The effort began with a simple enough idea.

Last summer, Brock Johnson shared his vision of covering the church in lights to spread joy during the holidays.

However, the idea changed as others contributed their own ideas. For example, Chris Yost wanted the display to communicate the meaning of the Advent Season.

Church members used their talents in art, engineering, and carpentry to build the project beginning in October. Jeff Cullen designed a grid and rigging system.

Artist Elaine Yznaga transformed the idea of the city, sky, and angels into an image. Retired engineer John Yznaga plotted each light across the grid system to portray the images Elaine designed.

Dozens of volunteers helped build the grids, paint them black, and attach the lights. Others built out the grid system and hoisted panels into place.

“Wesley United Methodist Church is excited to present this gift to the community and the Northeast Texas area,” says Kevin Banks, Greenville’s venue and tourism manager. “It is our hope that The Lights of Advent become a holiday tradition for your family for years to come.”

Visitors can turn off their headlights and listen to 100.1 FM to hear a message about the Advent Season, which runs from November 29 to December 24.

Governor Campbell Hailed from Cherokee County

Dec 27, 2020

Thomas Mitchell Campbell, born in Rusk, the seat of Cherokee County, became Texas’ 24th governor on January 15, 1907.

As a young man, Campbell financed his education by working for the county clerk in Longview. In 1878 he was admitted to the Bar and opened his law practice in Longview. Campbell moved to Palestine in 1892 after he was named receiver for the International & Great Northern Railroad. He was general manager of the line 1892-97.

In 1905, without prior political experience, Campbell announced his candidacy for governor. He received the Democratic nomination despite strong opposition at the party’s 1906 convention. Rallying supporters with the rousing march tune, “The Campbells Are Coming,” he won the election by a large margin and became Texas’ second native-born governor.

In 1908 he was elected to a second term. His administration was marked by strong anti-trust legislation, a pure food law, and prison reform. When his term expired in 1911, Gov. Campbell returned to a banking and law career in Palestine. He died in Galveston and was buried in Palestine’s East Hill Cemetery.



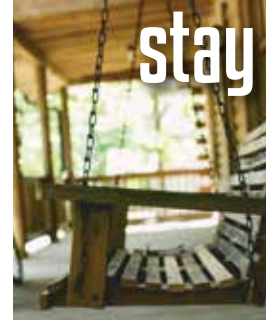
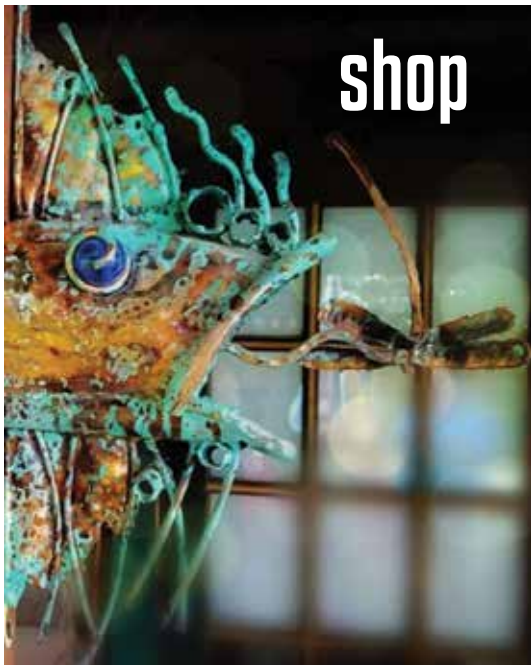
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