



# DEEP IN THE HEART OF BANDERA

## A TOWN OF CHARACTER AND CHARACTERS

BY GENIE STRICKLAND

**B**andera never seems to slow down. For a small community we always have lots to do and this summer was no exception! So what's planned for the last quarter of the year? Take a deep breath, you're gonna get tired just reading about it! For more details, locations, contacts and times go to [www.banderaCowboyCapital.com](http://www.banderaCowboyCapital.com), and click on Events.

Bandera folks can't seem to live the quite life in the Hill Country like most folks. We just have to have an event! The first Tuesday of each month we get a kick start with the Cowboy Capital Opry. Got to go, at least once. The music is awesome and always a surprise. You never know who might show up and often it is a well-known musician just wanting to jam with their friends. Small fee to get in with refreshments and door prizes. Best kept secret in Bandera.

Every month you can count on the Farmer's Market where you can buy fresh, locally grown produce and lots of homemade goodies. Jams, jellies, breads, and yum. They won't disappoint! We also have a Market Day the first Saturday of each month April thru November. Great finds there. And Stroll across the street to the Book Sale at the Kronkowski Library. Good Books are priceless. Once a month Bandera features Classic Car Night at Fat Boyz. Bikers and trucks are welcome too. Or check the schedule for the Rusty Wheel. They have classic cars show off at their venue too. The first Friday of each month stop by St Stanislaus Catholic Church for the Knights of Columbus Fish Fry. Some of the best fish ever!

Of course Saturday's between noon and 4pm you can stroll Main Street and catch the Bandera Business Associations' Cowboys on Main program. Features a shootout at Heritage Plaza with performances by the Bandera Cattle Company Gun Slingers. Great Show and the kids get deputized and get a badge to prove it. Be watching the calendar for the Cowboy Camp and Song Circle at Frontier Times Museum. Bring your chair and some

snacks. It's free and you'll love the music! If later in the evening is more appealing to get out and do something, try you skill at Bingo at the American Legion in Bandera and in Pipe Creek.

As for events, well, Bandera is the best at throwing a party. Got to check it out! In September there will be an Antique Tractor Pull on the 12th and 13th at Mansfield Park. On the 19th through the 21st is the Rumble on the River produced by the Biker Rallies of Texas. Bring your ride, you'll want to ride some of the best runs in Texas.

Down at the Lake you have to save September 27th (11am-10pm) for the 34th Annual Cajun Fest. Great Cajun food, music and fun! Don't miss it! Arts and Crafts and did I mention the food? All Cajun,

October brings some great fall venues. It starts with the ultimate festival for children. It's The Great Hill Country Pumpkin Patch in Medina. Hay bale maze, music, storytelling, petting zoo, pumpkin painting, scarecrow building, apple orchard tours, pig races, barrel train, cider making, gee , and , oh, yeah, you can buy pumpkins! Every weekend and Mondays in October. School tours on Thursdays and Fridays.

October 4th includes the Frogs for Freedom Ride that benefits the Navy Seals. All vehicles are welcome. Starts at 11th Street in Bandera. Then stay overnight for the Annual Cabrito & BBQ dinner that benefits the Medina Livestock and Wildlife Association on October 5th In Medina.

October 18th you have to go to the Ranch Heritage Days at the Hill Country State Natural Area. Free Fun Family Event featuring Ranch skills, Music and stories, antique tractors, Chuck wagon cooking, Branding Irons, Horses and cattle, Working dogs with sheep and goats, covered wagon rides and a giant rocking horse Little Wrangler Rodeo. Dress western if you can and bring a chair. Can't Miss this!

Sat - Sun on the 25th and 26th The Bandera 100K, 50k, & 25k Race is being held at the Hill Country State Natural Area. This ought

to get you moving! Best Run in the State!  
 Oct 31st is the 52nd Annual Hunter's BBQ and Outdoor Expo. Texas size Live Auction, Live Music, BBQ, exhibits, and lots of entertainment. Sponsored by the Bandera County Chamber of Commerce. Great Food and awesome auction. November the 8th the Bandera American Legion's hosts the annual Bandera Honor's Veterans Day, Event begins at 9:00 AM on the Bandera County Courthouse lawn with family displays and continues until 4:00 PM. Music starts at 10:00am with the Official ceremony at 11:00 AM and parade at noon. Free BBQ sandwich lunch for veterans & their wives. Additional food available for purchase. See military displays, concessions, and more.

On the 15th join the Bandera Walk for Diabetes. Registration 7:30 AM Start 9:00 AM Hosted by the Arthur Nagel Community Clinic, the Second annual 5K Walk for Diabetes is part of the American Diabetes Association's Community Walks aimed at stopping diabetes.

Fit into all of this activity is Thanks Giving! You can be sure Bandera has lots to be Thankful for! For more information visit [BanderaCowboyCapital.com](http://BanderaCowboyCapital.com) and click on Events, Yee-Haw, Ya'll

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