



# DEEP IN THE HEART OF BANDERA

## BY GENIE STRICKLAND

### A TOWN OF CHARACTER & CHARACTERS

In Bandera we have many monthly events that you just can't miss. Of Course the first Tuesday of each month we get a kick start with the **Cowboy Capital Opry**. Got to go, at least once. We have **Bingo** every Tuesday night at the Lakehills American Legion Post 410 and on Wednesday nights at the Bandera American Legion Post 410 or Friday night **Bingo** at the Pipe Creek Volunteer Fire Department. On the first Friday night of each month is a great **Classic Car Show** that gathers at Fat Boyz Sandwich Shop or you can eat your fill of fried fish at the **Knights of Columbus Fish Fry** at St. Joseph's Hall.

Every Saturday, for great family entertainment, visit the **Cowboys on Main** program hosted by the Bandera Business Association featuring chuck wagons, horses, strolling singers and the gunfights at Heritage Plaza presented by the **Bandera Cattle Company**.

On the first Saturday of each month you can purchase some great books at the Bandera Library or the Lakehills Library starting at 10 am. Then at 1:00 pm, visit the **Frontier Times Museum for the Cowboy Camp**. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy some traditional cowboy music. Better yet, bring your guitar and join in! Most bring their own refreshments too. Don't miss it!

Bandera has some awesome events planned for the spring. Well, all our events are awesome, but they are not without a unique spin! You just have to witness the Kronowsky Library of Bandera County's **13<sup>th</sup> Annual WILD HOG EXPLOSION!** I did say unique but did I mention Wild? Scheduled for Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup>, at Mansfield Park, this is a wild Hog catch and the squeals and spills are a hoot! Starts with kids 4 to 5 years old and moves on up to the adults. Of course the hogs start small too and get bigger as you go! Check out the All bike Rally, LSBBQ Cook-off, Bacon Bingo, arts and crafts, well there is a lot more so check it out at [www.wildhogexplosion.com!](http://www.wildhogexplosion.com!)

If catching wild hogs wasn't enough for you, how about riding one? Biker Rallies of Texas presents **Thunder in the Hill's** March 26<sup>th</sup> thru the 29<sup>th</sup>. Held at Bandera's Mansfield Park it includes tent camping, poker run, vendors, food, field events, live bands and special entertainment. Friday and Saturday, a bike show, tattoo contest, a Sunday morning church service, a well you just gotta go. 18 OR OVER NO EXCEPTIONS.

Things change in April and the month's events are kicked off by **Bandera Market Days** around the Court House. Scheduled the first Saturday in April thru November. Arts and Crafts featuring some of the best in the Hill Country. Free and open from 9 to 4pm.

Head to the Medina River as the Bandera Business Association presents **Mayhem on the Medina** featuring the National competition of the Reenactment Guild of America (RGA). The event is scheduled for April 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> at Bandera City Park. The event includes competitions of Living History Campsites, costumes, and gunfights. Competitors from across the nation! Vendors, live Music, wagon rides and more! Step into the past and experience Mayhem on the Medina! Games from the 1800's, exhibits and food. Check it out at [www.MayhemOnTheMedina.com](http://www.MayhemOnTheMedina.com)

Well, you can't come to Bandera and not see horses or a horse event. April 17<sup>th</sup> thru 19<sup>th</sup> TETRA/HC-SNAP will host their annual **Spring Benefit Trail Ride**. Join the Texas Equestrian Trail Riders Association and the Hill Country State Natural Area Partners for their annual spring benefit trail ride at the Hill Country State Natural Area. Registration Friday

May 2<sup>nd</sup> kicks off the month with the **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Medina River Cleanup**. Registration is from 9-noon at Bandera City Park. Join the fun and help keep our Medina river to stay the cleanest, clearest river in Texas!

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## Bandera Characters

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BBQ and music too! Call Bob Brischetto at 210-413-7264 for further information.

Wow, and when you get through cleaning up the river, join the **St. Stanislaus Parish Festival** on Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Church on Cedar Street. Time: 11 AM - 5 PM BBQ, Games, Music, Auction and more.

**Bandera County "Relay For Life"** will kick off on May the 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM - 2:00 AM Bandera High School track and football field. All proceeds are used for cancer education, transportation to appointments, and other items to help those who are going through treatments. Donations and all teams welcomed. 474 Old San Antonio Hwy Bandera, TX 78003 .

One of our most exciting events of the year is the **Annual Bandera ProRodeo** Time: 8:00 PM Annual Memorial Day Weekend. Held Fri - Sun May 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>. Performances Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings. Mansfield Park Rodeo Arena -

On the same weekend there is plenty to do during the day too. Shop the annual **Funtier Days Arts & Crafts Show**. Shop with over 75 vendors on the Courthouse Square in downtown Bandera. Sponsored by the Bandera County Chamber of Commerce. For vendor information call 830-796-4447 or download the application from the Chamber's website [www.banderatx.com](http://www.banderatx.com).

Whew! You **cannot** be bored in Bandera! Be sure to visit our music venues too!

For more information, dates, times, exact locations, visit [www.banderacowboycapital.com](http://www.banderacowboycapital.com) and click on events. You never know, we may even add a few by the time you check it out! Yee-haw, Y'all!



## So Long Winter - Hello Spring! continued from page 26

some fool tried to come to church today." We walked home. Very quietly. No one dared say a word.

There were pluses to blizzards, winter and snow, especially for kids. Maybe the biggest plus was knowing winter was almost over for another year. Usually a thaw brought temperatures in the 30's and even '40's. Almost time for shorts! Then crocuses peeked bright, happy purple and gold heads out of the snow, followed by daffodils and later, tulips. Easter was on the horizon and if we had snow on Easter (which happened more than once) folks just wished one another a "Merry Christmas" with a wink and a smile.

It's hard to appreciate Spring if you haven't navigated a tough winter. It was cold, occasionally icy and we even had a little snow here in the Texas Hill Country, enough to celebrate - or grumble over. So, take time to appreciate Spring, when it gets here, because it's a certainty before you can say "Whew, it's hot out there!" We'll be fanning ourselves and complaining about the heat. Happy Springtime!

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