



DEEP IN THE HEART OF BANDERA

BY GENIE STRICKLAND

A TOWN OF CHARACTER AND CHARACTERS

Bandera really knows how to celebrate Christmas! We even have some great goings on to start the new year in January and of course Bandera would never forget our “Sweethearts” in February! Just like Bandera, we never stop having a good time!

I always like to mention Bandera has some reoccurring monthly and weekly events many like to attend.

The first Tuesday of each month we get a kick start with the Cowboy Capital Opry. Hosted at the Silver Sage Senior Center, the music is awesome and always a surprise. You never know who might show up and often it is well-known musicians just wanting to jam with their friends. Small fee to get in with refreshments and door prizes. The first Friday of each month you can eat your fill of fried fish at the Knights of Columbus Fish Fry at St. Joseph’s Hall.

Bingo is every Tuesday night at the Lakehills American Legion Post 410 and on Wednesday nights at the Bandera American Legion Post 410 or try the Friday night Bingo at the Pipe Creek Volunteer Fire Department.

If you want a real taste of the Cowboy Capital, visit on any given Saturday for the Cowboys on Main program hosted by the Bandera Business Association. Cowboys on Main features chuck wagons, horses, strolling singers around town. At the Bandera Convention and Visitor’s Bureau, see the Bandera Cattle Company gunfights and cowboy skits presented by the Bandera Cattle Company.

On the first Saturday of each month

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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!

As far as scheduled events, Bandera is not without a plan to end the year 2015 and bring in 2016. Always festive and bet your boots a little “cowboy”. It’s just who we are. December will usher in the Christmas Season with events planned by the Bandera Business Association and the Hill Country Trail of Lights.

Friday December 4th the Bandera Methodist Church hosts their annual craft and bake sale from 4:00 pm until 9:00 pm at the church and the Bandera Business Association kicks off the 36th Annual Shopper’s Jubilee at the Bandera County Court House at 4:45 pm. Caroling and Live Nativity. Then visit the Bandera stores for exciting Christmas finds, strolling carolers and treats offered at many of the participating merchants. At 6:15 join the Bandera Chamber of Commerce on 11th Street for their Lighted Christmas night parade.

On Saturday December 5th at 5pm the evening magic will begin on the Banks of the Medina River in City Park as the Bandera Business Association hosts the Cowboy Capital Camp Fire Christmas.

Bring your lawn chair and sing Christmas Carols, enjoy cookies and hot chocolate and a live Nativity “A Holy Night – The story of Christmas” presented by the Chosen Generation Radio Program, spotlighted at dark on the banks of the river.

Bring your lawn chair. It is

spectacular! Stoll the over 100 lighted Christmas trees and holiday scenes presented by the Bandera merchants on the river. Beautiful!

Friday December the 11th, events begin at 11:30am to 1:30 pm at the St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church at their annual Holiday Tasting Tea. Delightful sampling of delicious offerings created by members of the church. \$10 donation.



On Sunday December the 20st join the Longhorn Saloon at their annual “Singing in the Saddle” caroling event. A true Bandera “Cowboy” event for visitors. Bring your best decorated horse or rent a horse or ride in the hay wagon or buggy through Bandera. Bring your guitar and play along. Visit the local health care and nursing homes spreading the Christmas season in song. Great fun Bandera style.

The lighted Christmas displays, part of the Hill Country Trail of Lights, will be open nightly through out December, with January 1st being the last night.

January brings new and exciting events you need to put on your calendar.

January 1, 2016 plan to attend the Cowgirl Round-up & ShowDeo 11 AM-4 PM The cowgirls will gather at High Noon for the annual photo. Bandera County Cowgirls celebrate their cowgirl history as they gather for a panoramic photo in the arena at HCSNA at Noon. Following the photo, examples of showmanship, dressage, and speed events will be held in the arena. Also featured will be storytellers and singer/songwriters. Hill Country State Natural Area. Call 830-796-

4413 for more information.

Also at the Hill Country State Natural Area on January 1st is the New Year’s Day Hike. Starting at 10:00 AM -1:00 PM Cost: Park entrance fees \$6 (ages 12 and up) Hike the highest elevation accompanied by longtime hiker Lisa. Treating your body and soul to the rugged beauty of the Hill Country State Natural Area. Meet at headquarters then drive to more remote, special event parking near 4B trailhead for this moderate to difficult hike.

January 7th – 9th is the 80th Annual Bandera County Junior Livestock Show. Youth of Bandera County show their livestock on Thursday and Friday. Auction is held on Saturday. All events held at the Junior Livestock Show Barn at Mansfield Park. 2886 Hwy 16 North Bandera, TX 78003

January 9th Join the Bandera 100K, 50k, & 25k Race held at the Hill Country State Natural Area. 10600 Bandera Creek Road Bandera,

January 23th Step out for the Annual Baubles and Boots Celebration Dinner & auction benefiting the Bandera ISD Education Foundation. Location to be announced. www.banderacowboycapital.com for location and times.

January 30th - It’s party time again in Bandera at the 11th Annual 11th Street Cowboy Maudi Gras! Giant parade, live Cajun Music, horses, cowboys, feathers, masks and plenty of beads! Gumbo Cook-off and more! February 16th bring your ‘Honey” for the annual Black & Red Ball at the Farm Country Club. Events begins at 7Pm. Annual Valentine Dance fundraiser - Dine and dance with live music by Bobby Flores. Live auction. Admission by reservation only.

February 20th Join the Annual Sweetheart Spaghetti Dinner 5:30 to 9:00 PM. Annual fundraising dinner & auction for Cowboy Capital Pet Assistance League. Meet at the fellowship hall and enjoy the music. United Methodist Church, 1103 Cedar St. Bandera 210-867-1769.

For more information, dates, times, exact locations, and contact information, visit 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!