

the

VOL. 4 NO. 4

FALL 2017

HEART BEAT



OF THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY



Pumpkin Patch

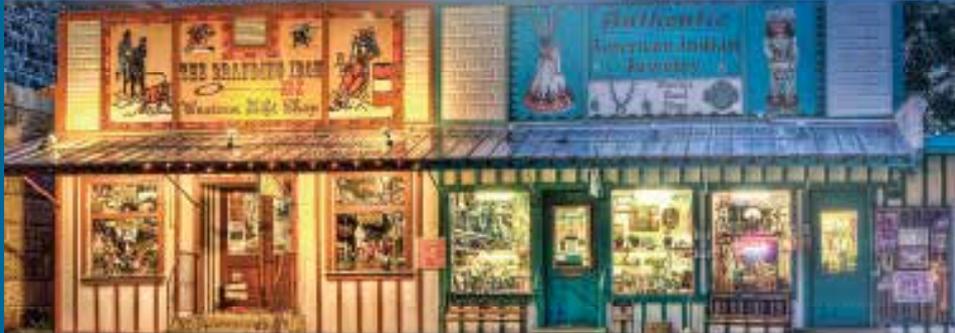
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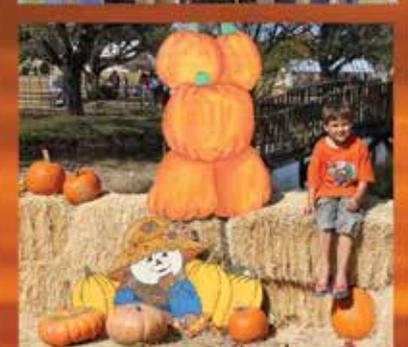
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Phil Houseal **Texas Music is Classic**

Texas is well known for it's music - usually the sound of steel guitars and fiddles but there is another aspect to Hill Country music that is often ignored - classical music.

The Symphony of the Hills is a real gem and something we can be very proud of and they have a great season coming up.

Betty Sharp **The Value of Stuff and Nonsense**

Collectibles and antiques are treasures sought by both Texans and visitors. Is there a fine line between collector and hoarder? What may appear to be leftovers from an estate sale can be precious treasure to others. One thing for sure, we love collecting.



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Allyce's Attic
Things That Go Bump in the Night
In the dark of night you can hear the moans of the departed in the Hill Country. From the ghost in the old Bandera Cabaret to the wild whoops of departed Comanches on Enchanted Rock, the Hill Country is full of ghosties .



Carlotta Schmittgen
Mystery Man with Super Bowl Ring
Carlotta found herself at the NFL Conference USA Kickoff recently and struck up a conversation with a stranger. Little did she know that her "mystery man" wasn't just another attendee. Seems that during their first chat she missed the detail that he was wearing a Super Bowl Ring....



Joe Herring
Kerrville's Long Love of Football
The Friday night stadium lights were just a futuristic vision when Kerrville and the Tivy Antlers were just starting out. Twenty students answered the call in 1911 and , wearing old baseball uniforms and handmade helmets, they were the precursors of Johnny Football and the strong teams that are taking to the field today.



Linda Koehl
Folk Festival View from a Broad
Singer/songwriter Linda Kohl visits with anther great artist and performer, Shake Russell. One of Texas' great talents shares what it means to be a writer and gives us a glimpse of a career sustained over decades.



Homer Stevens
Native Grasses in the Hill Country
Before the Spaniards got to Texas, it was a rolling plain of native grasses and without a cedar tree in sight. These grasses are still in play in the Hill Country and a major part of our local environment. Homer knows about all varieties and shares what he knows in his Conservation Handbook.





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**NEWS FROM THE FESTIVAL
NEW FOLK WINNERS & FOLK ALLIANCE
By Dalis Allen**

Moving into the fall is always my favorite time of the year. Not only can we begin to hope for some cooler temperatures, there are several events during that time that are wonderfully fun.

A celebration with Ponty Bone on July 31st in Austin was a happenin' thing to let him know what a treasure he is to all of his friends and family and fans. I'm sure that Ponty and his crazy sense of humor and his wonderful danceable music has been a part of many of your lives.

The Music Camp for Teens was in July and was another great success. As the young folks that attend come back as counselors the connections and the resulting breakthroughs grow exponentially. I am so privileged to be a part of this event every year!

September 1 -3, over the Labor Day weekend, is the Kerrville Fall Music Festival.

Featuring a Craft Beer Seminar of "Texas IPAs" at the Threadgill Theater on Saturday at 3:30PM and a Texas Wine Seminar "THINK PINK - Texas Rose" on Sunday at 3:30PM.

Artists for your listening pleasure include on FRIDAY - Jaimee Harris (Austin, TX), Drew Kennedy (New Braunfels, TX), Bob Livingston Trio (Austin, TX), Seth Glier (Easthampton, MA), Pike & Sutton - Patrice Pike & Wayne Sutton (Austin, TX). On SATURDAY - Peter Mulvey (Milwaukee, WI), Double Set In-The-Round with: Susan Gibson (Wimberley, TX) Walt Wilkins (Cedar Park, TX) and Michael O'Connor (Denver, CO); The Honey Dewdrops (Baltimore, MD), Sam Baker (Austin, TX). And on SUNDAY - The Brother Brothers (Brooklyn, NY), Thad Beckman (Den-

ver, CO), Susan Werner (Chicago, IL), SONiA disappear fear (Baltimore, MD), South Austin Moonlighters (Austin, TX)

A full schedule and information about camping and everything else we know you need to know is on our website.

www.kerrvillefolkfestival.org.

You can talk to real people at 830/257-3600.

The Southwest Regional Folk Alliance Conference is once again in Austin Texas September 27 - October 1, 2017. Many of the artists from the Kerrville Festivals and other venues in the Hill Country are featured every year. It is pretty much a 'Festival' in a hotel setting. Friday and Saturday nights in the Ballroom you could hear 8 different artists for a mere \$15. Do I hear 'Road Trip'???????????

www.swfolkalliance.org

The 2017 Grassy Hill Kerrville New Folk Award Winners - Mia Rose Lynne (Nashville, TN), Rachel Kilgour (Duluth, MN), Chris Moyses (Nashville, TN), Letitia Van Sant (Baltimore, MD), Winona Wilde (Toronto, ONT), Ingrid Gaudins (Nashville, TN) - will be on tour again in November, culminating on Friday night at the Fischer Fest, another great festival in the Hill Country. This year just two of the artists, besides the Kerrville New Folk Award Winners, are Joe Ely and Tim O'Brien. Check out the whole schedule at <http://www.fischerfest.org/>

Be great to have you join me at one or all of these wonderful events.

Thanks for reading about the Kerrville Folk Festival and other great songwriter events in the Heart Beat of the Texas Hill Country!

Dalis Allen



FOOTBALL'S LONG HISTORY IN THE HILL COUNTRY

by Joe Herring

In 1911 Professor Alvin Dille, who later was superintendent of the Kerrville Schools, organized the first football team at Tivy. Teams from other area schools formed around the same time.

The September 26, 1957 issue of the Kerrville Times, has a story written by E. T. Butt, Florence Butt's son.

"Football came to Tivy in the fall of 1911," the page one article begins. "Prior to this time baseball was the principal sport and when school started in September the boys started baseball and played until the weather became too cold.

"Basketball was also a popular sport and Tivy had top teams both of boys and girls. Games were played with Center Point, Bandera, etc. Of course, the game was a great deal different from the way it is played at present, and a player would not get very far dribbling as they do now. It was mostly a passing game.

"In the summer of 1911, Professor Alvin Dille . . . was elected head of the Kerrville Schools. When school started in September, one of the first things he did was call all of the older boys together and to say, 'Boys, we are going to organize a Tivy Football Team. Who wants to try out for the team?'

"Of course, almost all of the boys were interested, although there was not a boy who had played football before and but few of them had even seen a game. There were a very few hold-backs, however, for nearly every boy who wore 'long breeches' tried out and there were about twenty on the first squad."

"Professor Dille taught the boys the fundamentals of the game. The team

worked from a straight T formation. Only simple plays were used -- such as end runs, 'line bucks,' and forward passing.



"We had one or two so called trick plays. One was the criss-cross in which the quarterback gave the ball to one end and he gave it to the other end coming from the opposite direction. It was slow, though, and we never gained much with it.

"The Tivy boys had no uniforms, but wore old baseball uniforms or caps, old sweaters, or anything they had. A few of them got hold of old pieces of football equipment," Butt wrote.

"I acquired a nose guard somewhere and it was responsible for the only touchdown we scored that season.

"The town team was punting and I broke through the line and the ball hit my nose guard and bounced back over the kicker's head and over their goal line, and Lewis Moore, a Tivy end, fell on it for a touchdown."

And that's the story of Tivy's first ever touchdown.

Joe Herring Jr. is a Kerrville native who's been in Kerrville for more than half of the Tivy football team's history.

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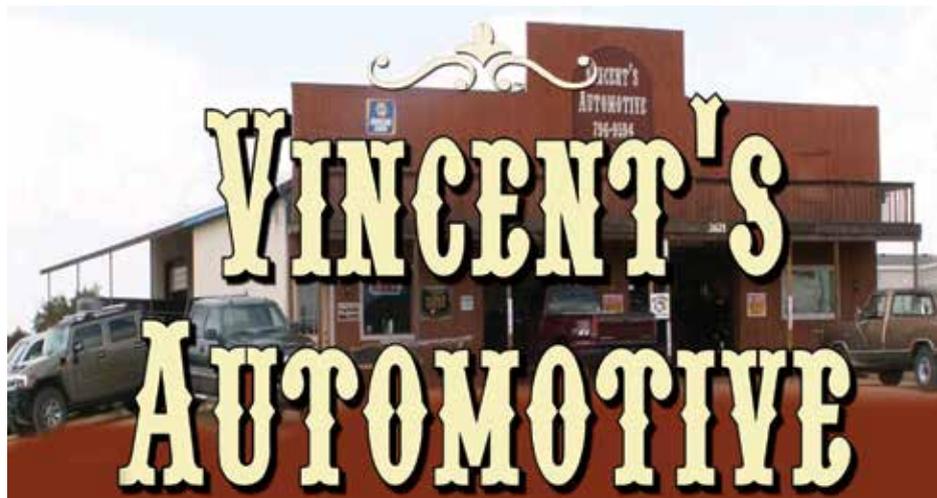


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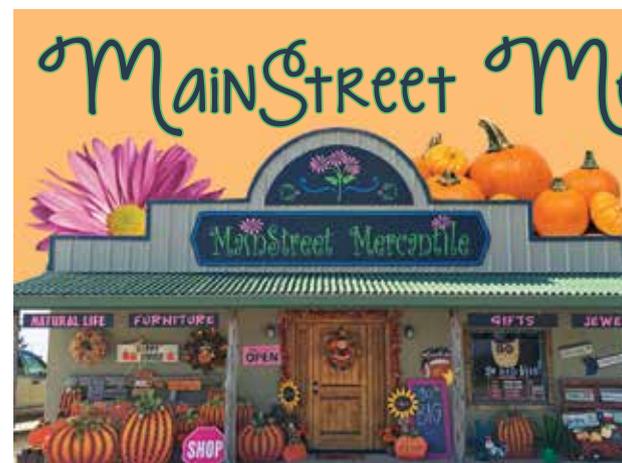
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DINNER BELLE

BY JIL UTTERBACK

As I continue on my journey to eat healthier I would like to share with you some recipes I have found that might be something for you to try for the upcoming holiday meals. I don't want to sit down to a holiday meal and watch others down on all the traditional foods loaded with butter, fat and sugar and feel I am being shorted! So rest assured, these healthier recipes can be just as good served this meatloaf to a group of women at my home and it got rave review

Vegetarian Mushroom-Walnut Meatloaf

- 12 ounces crimini mushrooms, chopped
- 1 small red onion, finely diced
- 1 red pepper, seeded and diced
- 1 TBSP ground sage
- 1 ¼ cups cooked brown rice (I buy steamable in frozen section!)
- ½ cup walnuts, finely chopped
- 1 envelope onion soup mix
- 1 cup oat bran
- 1 cup wheat germ
- 2 egg whites lightly beaten
- 1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tsp prepared mustard.
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
- Lightly grease a 9x5 loaf pan



Sauté mushrooms, onions, red pepper and crimini until onion is transparent—add a little water to skillet if needed. Sprinkle sage over the vegetables and cook 5 more minutes. Transfer to a large mixing bowl. Stir in all the rest of the ingredients until blended. Spoon into the loaf pan and press down mixture. Bakes for 1 hour. Let rest 10 minutes before slicing.

To top of that meatloaf or for your mashed potatoes here is a delicious gravy!

Vegan Brown Gravy

- 2 cups vegetable broth
- 2 TBSP tahini (usually with Asian food items)
- 2 TBSP low sodium soy sauce
- ¼ cup brown rice flour (add flour last and stir in with wire whip)

Butternut Squash Casserole

- 1 cup mashed cooked butternut squash (can get frozen even)
- 2 TBSP + 2 tsp brown sugar
- 1 TBSP melted Earth Balance butter
- 2 oz crushed pineapple
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- ½ tsp vanilla
- Shake of nutmeg and walnuts on top if desired
- Mix all and bake until golden



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"Jake, I thought that game wuz over last year!"



When I owned the Cabaret in Bandera, locals delighted in telling me there was a ghost in the old dancehall. Struggling under the weight of the business, combined with constant maintenance, my response was, "If he shows up, I'll hand him a mop and a broom and tell him to get to work!"

I never did make the acquaintance of the Cabaret ghost, but there are tales of haunted buildings throughout the Hill Country. Let's see if we can find some.

In her book, Spirit Magnet in Texas by Ann Bridges (© 2016, Shiffer Publishing, Ltd), the author recounts tales of haunted buildings, houses, and historical places. She references Enchanted Rock in the heart of the Hill Country where the yips and howls of coyotes give voice to Comanche warriors who once waged bloody battles here. The Silver Spur guest ranch, The Bandera General Store and the legendary Bandera Pass are also mentioned as ghostly habitats. Unfortunately, the only "evidence" of spirits are shivers, second-hand tales and things that go bump in the night. Ghosts? Maybe. Maybe not.

In 2004, Hoot Gibson, Mark Andrews and I made a horseback ride from Bandera to Calgary, Alberta, Canada. We covered a lot of ground – 2500 miles to be exact – and saw a lot of towns, countryside and buildings along the way. Two towns in particular speak to the subject of ghosts.

As described in my book, Riders On The Storm: "We camped . . . surrounded by the skeleton of the town of Clairemont. The old red stone courthouse was still strung with Christmas lights, although who hung them, or the lights on two trees flanking the deserted building, was any-

one's guess. A similarly decorated water tower, the old jail, and other abandoned and decomposing buildings formed the backdrop of our campsite. To say it was eerie was an understatement, but more than that, it was unutterably sad. Turned out the town had not died. It moved over several miles along with a new highway. Good news, but it made the old town seem sadder and the Christmas lights only made it worse. This was the melancholy ghost of the town of Clairemont.

The other "ghostly" encounter we had on the ride was a town I identify in my book only as "Nameless" It had the same feel as Clairemont, but with a newer look to it, which somehow made it all the more unsettling: "Our first impression was sadness. This was a town in its final throes, dying, on life support . . . The school was the most unsettling. Relatively new, in mint condition, it might have been simply closed down for a holiday. A peek through the windows showed fully equipped classrooms, some with bulletin boards decorated with colorful cutouts. Chairs were stacked on desks. You could have unlocked doors, set chairs in place, filled the rooms with children and started teaching. It was an eerie scene and the ghostly impression echoed throughout the town."

It reminded me of a Stephen King book, The Langoliers, where an entire planeload of people goes through a time warp. Whenever they land and go into a building, it appears there were people there not long ago, but now the place is abandoned. "Nameless" felt like that.

Continued on Page 39





A Ray of Light on a Dark Journey

It was 2002, and I stopped by a small bar in Johnson City, called in by a voice I heard coming out of the open door. Then Catherine Powers and Lee Duffy told me to check out this young woman, **Pauline Reese**. I did, we talked the next night at the Broken Spoke with James White, owner, hanging around while a group of tourists from The Netherlands lined up to dance to some pure honky-tonk they expected to hear. And they, as well as I, were not disappointed.

First, I had an inspiring conversation that led to many other meetings, some accidental when Willie Nelson was playing at Floore's or a picnic. She had quickly fulfilled one dream by singing with Willie and opening for him. She credits Freddy Powers for his support and mentoring, as well as Redd Volkhaert for some great guitar mentoring. As a woman who also trained barrel horses once, I was thrilled to hear for her involvement in rodeo, her style of dress authentic and backed up by a lifestyle on the ranch, and her own experience riding a horse at a rodeo in France. They expected that of this cowgirl, and then the horse decided to buck. She rode him, than sang for the French audience.

What an inspiring young woman she was and is, and that interview is in my book published by UT Press in 2007. Lots has happened since then. Her life with a new husband, led to a life balanced with rodeo and music, as he traveled and competed. And now, in 2017, this inspiring beautiful spirit posted on Facebook the journey of recovery (still in progress) as her sweet husband broke his back and neck in a fall off a bucking horse. Facebook was a platform that allowed her to share her story AND inspire others with her faith.

"Filling everyone in at once. Bill (Herbert) had an accident tonight on a



bucking horse in Marble Falls. He has a broken neck... We are in the ambulance headed to the Temple Trauma Center. He is on heavy pain meds and doing pain management. Likely they will operate but won't know until a more extensive scan is done. I will fill everyone in as we get more information. The kids are taken care of with friends and family. Prayers are a must. Thank you all, we love you." She begins sharing with love and continues with gratitude as she goes through what must be a dark journey. At one point, she mentions that she has spent time helping out others, but this outpouring of love and support is overwhelming to her. And there is another way to help through gofundme as they have limited insurance. Not a negative word from her mouth, and this confirms what I felt around her the first time we talked. As of the time of writing this column, Bill has left the hospital and another journey of recovery begins. Her website shows that she is performing in August, has a 7th album out and a song on Willie Nelson's 2016 album. She is described as a woman blazing a trail in Texas music with her "no-holds-barred blend of alternative country, rock, Western swing, honky-tonk, folk and Tejano..."

See www.kathleenhudson.net for information on both my oral history books on Texas music. Working on a third book now, the Tex/Mex voices in Texas music. *Ils sont partis.* - KH

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Fall is my favorite part of the year – changing of the leaves, relief from sweltering temperatures and of course, football. During the summer I attended the two-day Conference USA Kickoff where I interviewed coaches and players from the fourteen schools. I wondered who of this group was in the one per cent who might see the NFL gridiron in the next few years and which coach was a winner not just in championships, but with lessons in life for his team.

Before the session even started, I had one of those, “This Could Only Happen To Me” moments. I was still trying to get orientated and passed a slender black man in a suit. “Are you Coach Frank Wilson?” No, he wasn’t. He did look to know what he was doing, unlike me, and politely gave me directions to the room set up for the media.

A few hours later, I again saw the mystery man. He was now wearing a Conference USA tag. He asked me how things were going and of course, I excitedly told him about my interviews so far.



We chatted about football and somehow ended up in an area I am passionate about, the NFL. “So who

do you like in the Pros?” I inquired. He grinned. “The 49ers” and then walked away. A photographer I knew from NASCAR walked up to me and said, “Wow, you were talking to the man.... Merton Hanks!” Yes, I googled him when I got home. “Safety San Francisco 49ers... 4 times Pro BowlerDefensive Player of the Year... Super Bowl Champion.” How did I miss that gigantic Super Bowl Ring? A good thing there was a day two!!

It’s no secret with young kids being thrown into the limelight overnight; coaches have their work cut out for them being a manager, mentor and in some cases parent. Imagine having that responsibility to 115 kids between the ages of 18 to 22. It takes special men to be coaches. According to Coach Brad Lambert of Charlotte, “I look at it as I do my own children. I have eighteen years to pack their suitcase. When they leave home, they go with this suitcase. When our guys come in, you have to look at who has been packing their suitcase for the last seventeen years. Some you have to unpack then repack. It’s a fun process, just getting to know kids and bringing the right ones in. Hopefully they leave better men than they came in.”

I asked how the coaches could keep their teams from unpleasant sagas like Baylor’s. Coach Jay Hobson of Southern Miss found that having two daughters of his own is advantageous to getting out his message – “I emphasize the importance of being a good man. I’m always looking for the guy that gets between the white lines – a guy that’s an extreme-

ly physical football player, but outside the lines, it’s my wife, my daughter, their mother.” As he pointed out, the morals and the principles are the same as our era, but young men have to be careful not to put any negative vibe out there especially with social media. We agreed that coaches have their work cut out for them.



Middle Tennessee’s Coach Rick Stockstill embraces the responsibilities. “A good coach wins games, but a great coach saves lives. I want to help these kids learn how to be a good husband, good father, good parent, good son and good person so when they leave my program; they are ready to take on the world.” His athletes must understand “You aren’t going to be able to play football all your life. There are more important things than football – get your education, build relationships that can get you the job you want, get involved in the community and internships. You may play football until you’re only twenty-five.” Unless you’re Merton Hanks, I thought to myself.... Where was he anyway?

I did catch up with Merton toward the end of the session. Known for his interception gyrations during his 49ers’ tenure, he is currently Senior Associate Commissioner of Conference USA. We chatted about his playing under Hayden Frye at the University of Iowa, being drafted into the NFL and life as a 49er as well as after the gridiron. His favorite quarterback to play against? Joe Montana in practice! And his last career interception? Brett Farve on Monday Night Football. His

advice to the kids coming into football? “Don’t specialize in one sport. Play a little bit of everything. Guard against burnout. Guard against injury. Your body only has so many reps.” Merton also played baseball, basketball and ran hurdles in track. “My mom ran track too,” I interjected. “I didn’t take after her. I ran after the track team though.” We laughed in unison.



GHOSTS Continued from Page 35

Ghosts? Could be. Time warps? Could be. Maybe it’s the longing for what was that propels the ghostly tales. Long lost love, children happily playing in simpler times. Was there a ghost in the Cabaret. Maybe it’s the music of great entertainers hanging in the air, the sound of boot heels on the old wooden dance floor. What about Clairemont and Nameless? I wrote, “It must be terrible to watch your town die around you.” Think of the implications, the energy of bodies and souls who once inhabited these places who might want to go home again.

I have no answers, but it sure is fun to tell stories! I’ll bet you can come up with at least one tale that might indicate a supernatural encounter. Go ahead and tell it. Who knows if in the telling you find a truth, a memory, a shiver, or a whisper in the night that might have been a voice.

BOO!

The Menu Board

By Karyn Lyn
Where to eat in the Texas Hill Country



Backyard Bistro, Pipe Creek, Tx

The Backyard Bistro and Chef Aaron's "Farm to Table Fare" proudly serve their dishes using only the finest fresh ingredients available; Including: organic eggs from their own chickens and herbs from their very own garden-picked daily for your culinary delight. Available for parties, catering & wine tastings. Live Music Friday & Saturdays. 167 Panther Ridge, Pipe Creek, Texas 78063, Hwy 16 South (Behind Country Accents Antiques) (830) 535-4094 www.backyardbistrobandera.com



4Way Bar and Grill, Lakehills, Tx

Located near the "4 Way Stop" on FM 1283 and PR 37, the 4 Way Bar and Grill, is Medina Lake's premier establishment. Well known for their BIG and juicy cheeseburgers, Texas-sized dinner plates, Ice Cold Beer, and Full Bar. To top it all off, they bring in Top-tier artists to perform LIVE every Friday and Saturday night from 9pm-1am. There is FREE entry to WIN prizes every week by playing in their poker, pool, and dart tournaments. Come on out to the 4 Way Bar & Grill and enjoy the best tasting food around or to have a whole lotta' fun that you've never had before! 9742 FM1283, Lakehills, TX, (830) 751-3400 4waybarandgrill.com



TJ's at the Old Forge, Bandera, Tx

TJ's lunches offer sandwiches, burgers, along with a selection of hot entrees, and a Soup, Salad and Potato Bar. Kids' menu with fun, healthy options. Some dinner options include: steaks, tuna steaks, shrimp, pastas, TJ's is open 7 days a week featuring live music on selected nights. The kitchen will be open for lunch Tuesday-Sunday. Open for lunch and dinner - Tuesday-Saturday. 807 Main St Bandera TX 78003



Mac and Bernie's Roadside Eatery, Tarpley Tx

Lunch on Fridays and Saturdays includes cheeseburgers and their famous Cabrito Burger. Dinners on Friday and Saturday night feature steaks, catfish, ancho chile honey basted quail and specials such as grilled pork tenderloin with a sweet-tart Vietnamese dipping sauce or grilled Tuna with roasted Jalapeno Mayonnaise. 830-562-3727 11804 FM 470 (junction of FM 470 and FM 462)



Bandera Meat Market, Bandera, Tx

Whether you just want some cheese or a jerky snack, breakfast sausage, or a tender choice steak for grilling, Bandera Meat Market is the place to go. Owner Kirby Jones prides himself on keeping a wide variety of quality products on hand that he knows his customers want. In addition to his over-the-counter sales, they also supply local restaurants and guest ranches. If you want to stock your freezer, go to the website BanderaMeatMarket.com and check out their Butcher Packs. 702B Main Street in Bandera 78003



Love Creek Orchard's Patio Cafe, Medina Tx

The Patio café was listed among the Top 40 best Small Town Restaurants in Texas by Texas Monthly Magazine. Try their Spicy Pepper Jack Burgers or homemade Chicken Salad. Choose from one of their award winning desserts: apple pie, apple cake, cookies, strudel, turnovers, muffins & famous Apple Ice Cream. 830-589-2202 14024 State Hwy 16 North Medina, TX 78055, www.lovecreekorchards.com



Camp Verde General Store, Camp Verde Tx

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Buffalo Nickle, Fredericksburg Tx

Down-home joint dishing up Texas-inspired bar fare & entrees such as chicken-fried steak, bison sliders, Indian rain sticks (batter fried squash) USDA steaks, seafood, and the smokin' bleu burger w/portabella mushrooms, maytag bleu cheese, & raspberry chipotle. Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 11am-10pm - Fri.-Sat 11am-12am & Sun. 12 pm-6pm. 105 S. Llano, Fredericksburg, TX 78624 - www.buffalonickefbg.com



Cafe on the Ridge, Kerrville, Tx

The Café at The Ridge Marketplace offers a place to share stories over a glass of sweet tea and a chicken fried steak. All of their delicious heirloom recipes are created using only fresh ingredients. Their award winning Wild Flour Bakery offers an abundance of treats to suit even the pickiest sweet-tooth. All of the baked goods are made from scratch every day Stop by The Artisan Pantry at The Café to browse the selection of gourmet food items We make ALL baked goods in house, from cookies to hamburger buns! 13439 S Ranch Road 783, Kerrville, TX 78028



Pier 27, Kerrville, Tx

On the shores of the Guadalupe in Kerrville, you can enjoy a sunset food and drink from Pier 27's massive deck overlooking the river. Pizza, burgers and other Texas comfort food is available. A short walk down the deck and you will find the Hill Country's best billiard parlor with slate tables rented by the hour. The Pier also features live music Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. (830) 896-7437 1521 Junction Hwy, Kerrville, TX 78028



Redbud Cafe, Blanco, Tx

Redbud Cafe's food is made fresh daily using premium products, local and organic whenever possible. They serve Blanco's own Real Ale Brewing Company beers on tap, along with a number of other local and national bottled beers. Hours: Mon-Thur 10:30am to 3:30pm Fri-Sat 10:30am- 9:00pm and Sunday 10:00am-3:00pm. They are open for dinner every Friday and Saturday evening, with live music starting at 6:30pm on Fridays, and at 7:00pm on Saturday evenings. 410 4th Street, Blanco TX 78606 www.redbud-cafe.com



Paddler's Porch Patio Bar and Grill and Outfitter Junction, Tx

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Dagger Grill Golf Resort, Castroville, Tx

The Dagger Grille's culinary delights will charm the senses. Take a table on the outside patio overlooking the manicured greens, or sit in the spacious indoors. Selections from the grille include the famous juicy, tender Hamburger on a toasted jalapeno cheese bun and our delicious chicken salad sandwiches. New to the menu is delicious, tender, smoked turkey. www.alsatiangolfclub.com/grille (830) 931-3100



Cowboy's Restaurant, D'Hanis, Tx

Cowboy's is famous for their juicy Rib-Eye steaks, NY steaks, pepper steak, Chicken Fried Steak, homestyle burgers, a large variety of mexican food (variety selection), apple pie ala-mode, peach cobbler ala-mode, and fried ice cream. Hours: 11am-9pm, Mon-Sat 7345 Highway 90 W D'Hanis, Texas - (830) 363-2282



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Alamo Springs Cafe, Fredericksburg, Tx

Alamo Springs Cafe was immortalized on the cover of Texas Monthly awhile back with a shot of their monster burger. The Cafe, which is right next to the famous bat tunnel, is famous for its burgers and other Texas comfort food. It is outside Fredericksburg and a bit off the beaten path but well worth the drive. Seasonal live music on weekends. 107 Alamo Rd, Fredericksburg, TX (830) 990-8004 Visit them on Facebook!



If you would like to be included in our Menu Board, "Where to Eat in the Hill Country" section, please contact Karyn @ (210) 316-2986





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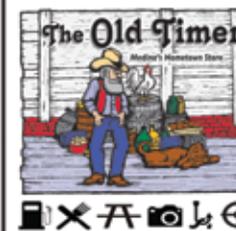
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Lace, Grace & GEARS

Lace, Grace, & Gears will be held in Bandera, TX from September 28-October 1. Mark your calendars! This rally promises to be one with many literal twists and turns and amazing surprises! Visit them on Facebook for updates!



DEEP IN THE HEART OF BANDERA

BY GENIE STRICKLAND

No place prettier than the Hill Country in the Fall. When you live in a small town, local events will fill your time with wonderful things to do for awesome causes. The Cowboy Capital of the World will keep you busy! Be sure to get to Bandera between high noon and 4 pm each Saturday for an opportunity to catch the Bandera Cattle Company Gunfights at Rattlesnake Ridge behind the Visitor's Center at 126 State Hwy 16 South.

Bring the kids, the Bandera Cattle Company is always looking to deputize some younger wranglers. Shows at noon and 2pm and its FREE! Then stroll Main Street and visit our local businesses and we bet you will catch a Chuckwagon, or riding a Longhorn, strolling cowboy singers or find a cure for what ails you at Dr. Robert Bob's Medicine Show. You might even get to try your hand at roping.

Cowboy fun. On Tuesday September 5th and again on October 3rd, visit the Cowboy Capital Opry at the Silver Sage Community Center hosted by Gerry and Harriet Payne. Refreshments and Door Prizes. Entry fee \$5 or \$12 for the entire family! The third Thursday of each month our local singing cowboys host a Pickers Circle at the Beverage Barn Pavilion.

Bring your guitar and join in or just sit back and sing along. Starts at 7pm, its free and all are welcome! On the 29th of October, check out Rumble on 11th Street rally!

The end of Summer is welcomed by Bandera's biggest event Labor Day Weekend. Experience Bandera featuring a Longhorn Cattle Drive and parade down Main Street on Saturday, Arts and Crafts on the Court House Lawn, Texas Ranch Rodeo on Sat-

urday night at Mansfield Park and Muttin Bustin and Cowboy Mounted Shooters on Sunday night. Check schedules at www.ExperienceBandera.com.

September the 23rd, be sure to make the Cajun Fest at the Lakehills Civic Center for some awesome food and fun! Beginning the 28th of September, Twin Elm Guest Ranch will host the first all woman's Bake Rally, Lace Grace and Gears for three days of fun!

October is Pumpkin Patch month and we have plenty in Bandera County! Love Creek Orchards will begin their 24th year at the Great Hill Country Pumpkin Patch in Medina, open each Saturday, Sunday and Monday to the public and open for school tours on Thursdays and Fridays. Voted the #1 Best Pumpkin Patch in the state, you just have to bring the kids! The same weekend, the Pipe Creek Pumpkin Patch opens to the public as well. Just as awesome! Attend both! Great experience for the kiddo's and the adults!

October 14th don't miss the Texas Hill Country Music Fest at 11th Street. Benefits local Charities!

The Bandera Chamber of Commerce will host their Annual Hunter's BBQ Dinner scheduled for November 4th

Folks, there is so much more! Go to www.BanderaCowboy-Capital.com for a complete list of all our fun! Yee Haw, Ya'll!



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Our Great Texas Hill Country

by Colleen Brooks



I love this time of year! After a partial summer hibernation with triple digit temps, we couldn't possibly be more excited about Fall's arrival and the opportunity to be outdoors seizing all that the Texas Hill Country has to offer! There is an array of exciting things to do and see!

New Braunfels has a lot to offer. Adventure seekers will enjoy Texas Ski Ranch, Natural Bridge Caverns, or the drive-thru safari at Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch! Afterward, head on over to Krause's Café & Biergarten for authentic German fare and Texas favorites. Krause's Café has an extensive menu with over 60 beers on tap, and they often have live music. Landa Park is a nice place for families to host an impromptu picnic. It has a children's train, nearby hiking trails, paddleboats, and mini-golf. New Braunfels most anticipated event, Wursthfest, will take place November 3rd – November 12th, so brush up on your chicken dance and get your dirndls and lederhosen ready! If you're not in the area then don't despair, there's always plenty of live music going on in town - check out Billy's Ice House or the Freiheit Country Store.

Gruene is lovely this time of year and offers plenty of shopping and outdoor dining. Infernos Pizza, situated just beyond the historic district into New Braunfels, is one of my personal favorites. Adults will enjoy their Limeade Ritas, custom wood-fired pizzas and Stromboli, and live music.



It's also family friendly. The Gruene River Grill, Cantina del Rio, and The Gristmill all offer dining with a magnificent view overlooking the Guadalupe River. This year's Music and Wine Festival will be held October 5th – the 8th. Plan to drop by during this four-day event to enjoy German, Texas, and New World wines, beer, and food! There will also be plenty of live music and a craft market on Saturday and Sunday.



There's so much going on in Wimberley! Adventure seekers will love Wimberley Zip Line. Also, stop by Wimberley Glass Works to see beautiful hand-blown glass and watch a live demonstration of glass blowing. Nestled in the back roads of Wimberley is one of its best-kept secrets, Bella Vista Ranch. Here, you can get a tour of their olive orchard and tastings of their specialty olive oil, jams, and wine - in addition to imported balsamic vinegar. After, head on over to The Leaning Pear and dine in their treehouse. Wimberley is also home to the EmilyAnn Theater and Gardens, The Boot Trail, Blue Hole Park, and Odie's Food Place food truck court. There's no shortage of fun to be had in this charming little village!

Seize all that hill country has to offer. There's something here for everyone!

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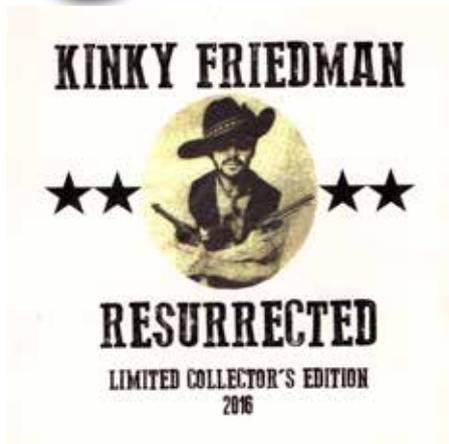
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Kinky Friedman "Resurrected"

Produced by Gordon "Big G" Ames
Independent Release
Review by Greg Forest

Kinky Friedman, performer, writer, politician (retired) and a cherished Texas character for almost 50 years has released an unplugged EP that is quite different from what most of us are used to.

Sitting down with Gordon Ames in the studios at KERV radio and performing into a single microphone, Kinky let his hair down and sang about love, redemption and, of course, dogs.

"Resurrected" brings five heart-felt ballads that are about the things that are important in life, especially love. As you listen, Kinky is giving you a vision of what it really means to be human. There isn't a tongue in cheek tune in the mix.

Not that Kinky doesn't still have a good one-liner in his pocket at all times and a barbed wire sharp wit, this poetic excursion is a much deeper look into a complex man and life.

The best place to get a copy is at a Kinky appearance so keep your eyes peeled for shows in your area. Check out Kinky's tour dates at kinkyfriedman.com.



Songswarm Vol 1

Producer: Taylor Pie
Puff Bunny Records
Review by Greg Forest

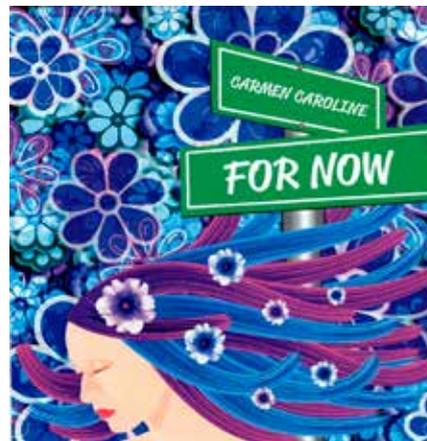
Taylor Pie of Puff Bunny Records has brought a new compilation of songs by noted singer/songwriters. Twelve songs all recorded live at a variety of venues. The mix is a great cross section of what's up and coming regarding the most important but often overlooked component of the business - the songwriter.

The list of writers is impressive: George Enslie, Michael O'Conner, Greg Whitfield, Taylor Pie, Jack Saunders, and Jeff Plankenhorn - each contributing two songs to the compilation.

There is a Songswarm 2 in the works for 1Q 2018 and Puff Bunny is releasing a live recording of Shake Russell and Michael Hearne recorded recently at this year's Wildflower Festival.

Taylor Pie, although she is currently working out of Nashville, has close ties to Texas and is one of the strongest proponents of Texas music and writers.

Check out more Puff Bunny projects at puffbunnyrecords.com and be sure to like Taylor on Facebook.



Carmen Caroline "For Now"

Produced by Rand McCullough
Wooden Fish Records
Review by Greg Forest

One of our favorite and most prolific artists, Carmen Caroline just released "For Now" - her second CD release in 2017.

Produced by her dad, renowned Austin songwriter and performing artist Rand McCullough, this new CD features ten songs penned by Rand and friends.

The CD features 10 songs from sweet ballads and rockabilly to straight ahead rock-n-roll. The gems I enjoyed the most are, "Lookin' for You," "Twistin' the Truth," a flashback to a 60s surf sound, and "Something New," a swinging ballad that aspires to bring a bit of change in relationship and great piano work by T Jarrod Bonta.

Other well-known Austin players that clocked in on the project are Joe Forlini, Marvin Dykhuis, Doug Robb, Steve Meador and John Borchard.

Capping off the A-team of players the CD was mastered in Austin by Mark Hallman at Congress House Studios. Visit and like Carmen Caroline on Facebook.

AIN'T NOTHIN' FANCY <<IN STEREO>>



Roxy Roca

"Ain't Nothin' Fancy"
Produced by Lars Goransson
& Roxy Roca
Stag Records
Review by Greg Forest

Sextet: (sounds like something you would do on a cell phone) defines a group of six musicians. In this case, great musicians.

On a recent trip to the Roddy Tree Ranch for one of their busiest concert weekends in August, I had the good fortune to stumble on a band I was unfamiliar with - Roxy Roca and was totally blown away.

This Austin band has really got the funk! Serving up infectious and muscular R & B, Roxy Roca kept the dance floor full their entire show. They were kind enough to give me a deep discount on a CD and here is the result.

The band is working it hard, sometimes playing up to 200 shows a year and this is reflected in their seamless and tight performance.

All songs on the CD are written by Taye Cannon and Errol Siegal.

Check them out on Facebook and roxyroca.com for tour dates.

REX FOSTER AND FRIENDS



**REX FOSTER, MERILEE WEBER & RICK BERESFORD
REVIEW BY GREG FOREST**

Anyone familiar with Texas songwriters knows of Rex Foster who has been on the scene for decades delivering his soft-spoken intimate songs of love and redemption. Along the way Rex has garnered the friendship and respect of every musician between here and Nashville.

When first starting out in the business, I remember Rex performing at the Bijou in San Antonio with other young emerging writers and performers - Joker Moon, Blind George, Willis Allen Ramsey and many others in the top tier of Texas writers.

Imagine my delight and surprise when Rex hit the stage at Quiet Valley Ranch with two of his old Bijou buddies - Rick Beresford (aka Rick Casual) and Merilee Weber.

It was like a school reunion and hearing these three perform some of the best songs on Rex's current list and some of the great

tunes from the Bijou era.

My walk down Memory Lane found myself remembering (no small feat these days) and singing along to *Slippery Elm* and other songs I haven't heard in decades.

At the close of the Bijou period, the songwriters sailed out on the four winds with Rex remaining here in Texas, Merilee struck out for L.A. and Rick built a strong reputation as a writer/performer in Nashville. All three gravitating to Quiet Valley Ranch for this show was quite a treat.

In addition to Rex's songwriting and performance skills, he is a gifted artist creating unique jewelry at his gallery in Comfort.

Friends this close are almost family and certainly sound like it when sharing tight harmonies of songs. I hope I don't have to wait another 40 years to hear them together again.

You can friend and like Rex on Facebook or visit his web site at rexfostermusic.com.



The Kerrville Folk Festival A View From A Broad by Linda Kohl

Memorial Day weekend was upon us, and I was ready to head north for my favorite event of the year. My husband never cared much for the atmosphere there's lots of hairy legs and armpits, and that's just the women, so he stayed behind at the YO Hotel with a friend. Meanwhile, I threw on my hippest looking dress, guitar pick earrings, and sandals and set out with my friends Lizzie and Una to attend the first night of the Kerrville Folk Festival. The weather was ominous, and the thought of slogging through mud and getting pelted by rain was not appealing, but we undaunted and we persevered. Alas, all was beautiful and the only vestige of unusual weather was a cool breeze flowing gently through the grounds.

We started with dinner. Two gyros and a frito pie later, we grabbed our wine and wandered among the vendors' stalls of tie dye clothing, goat milk soap, handmade guitars, and jewelry, and as always, we did some serious people watching!

We ran into Una's friend, Shake Russell, who was scheduled to perform that evening, and asked him what he was up to. He'd just played a gig the night before with Clint Black at the Nutty Brown Cafe in Austin.

"The place was packed--it was great!" He said with a smile. Shake and Clint go way back. They collaborated years ago and have written half a dozen songs together that Clint recorded in his career, including, *Put Yourself In My Shoes*, which was

a huge hit for Black back in the day.

Shake's biggest news was that Miranda Lambert is recording a song he wrote in the seventies, *Wouldn't Know Me*. Yeah, it's an old song that I'd forgotten about--I don't even play it anymore! One day my wife told me that her friend heard that Miranda was putting it on her new album. "I actually had no idea!" he told us. I went to her Facebook page to look for myself and sure enough, it was listed on there. It's on a double album with 24 cuts, and my song and one other are the only two that she didn't write herself.

That speaks volumes, but wait a minute. How is it that a songwriter is not informed that his song is going to be on someone else's album? Know he said, shaking his head. That's not protocol, and I haven't had a chance to meet her to find out the whole story. I don't know why she put my song on her album. We do, Shake.

After he'd heard the news, he played a gig near Miranda's hometown of Lindale, TX. It was there that he met a woman who told him that "You Wouldn't Know Me" was one of the first songs Miranda learned when she started playing guitar. John de Flores over at Mineola at the Picking Parlor taught her that song," Shake said.

I asked him about his signature song, *Traveling Texas*, and how he came to write it. I was living in Houston and was friends with lots of

Continued Next Page



Shake Russell & Michael Hearne

With the recent death of musician Jimmy La Fave, who traditionally closes the Friday concert, one would think an impenetrable pall would be cast on the entire evening. Not so. It was wonderful--magical even! On a starlit night, a huge group of performers paid homage to the songs and life of the beloved musician.

The Kerrville Folk Festival never disappoints, but this time, it was truly outstanding. It was a great tribute to a great musician. If you missed it, that's a shame. Somewhere deep inside of me, I know that, from wherever he had to come, Jimmy didn't . . .

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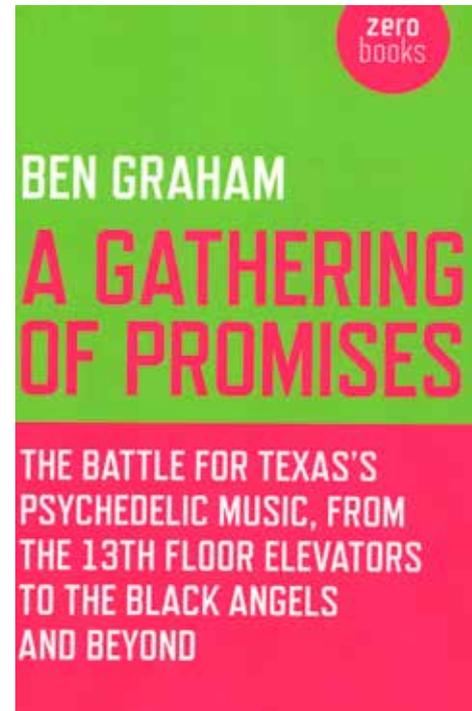


Heart Beat Radio featuring host singer songwriter Beth Williams is the latest addition to our growing media outlets.

Beth shares the best in Texas music each issue with prime cuts of the

artists featured in our CD and concert reviews.

BOOK REVIEW



When it comes to Texas Music, the largest icons have always been country, blues and Western Swing Artists. Bob Wills, Earnest Tubbs and of course Willie Nelson come to mind. These musical innovators turned country music on its ear. Between the heyday of Western Swing and the arrival of Redneck Rock in the 1970s, There were bands in Austin breaking new sonic ground that was resonating across the nation in that great transformative period.

The 13th Floor Elevators are an icon of rock history. Dozens of big major label acts have covered their songs in the 50 years since the band was active and the tragic history of the band is well known. Paul Drummond wrote the comprehensive history of the band, *Eye Mind*, years ago but there is another writer on the scene that reminds us the

Elevators weren't the only musical innovators on the scene at the time.

Ben Graham, writing from the U.K., has dredged the Texas psychedelic archives of the era and brought to light artists that weren't as well known living in the shadows of the Elevators and has noted their contributions to the genre and era.

Graham describes the music blossoming in Austin in the context of the times. Bands like Shiva's Headband, Conqueroo, The Golden Dawn, Bubble Puppy and the Moving Sidewalks (later to become ZZ Top). Janis Joplin's contributions to the scene both in Austin and San Francisco are also well documented.

The Levitation Psychfest outside Austin in 2014 has brought to the genre a new, younger audience and judging by attendance the night I attended (7,000+) and the audience's enthusiasm, psychedelic music seeing a major resurgence. Heart Beat (texasheartbeat.com) covered the event and you can find details in our Summer 2015 issue.

Many of the figures that were players on the stage in the 60s have passed on making Graham's efforts timely and in some sense the last word from many of these artists.

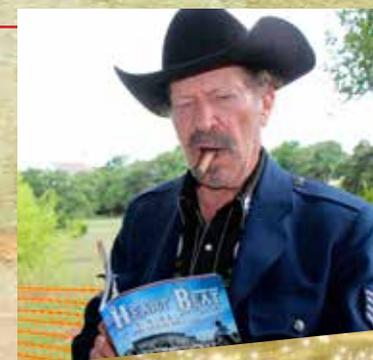
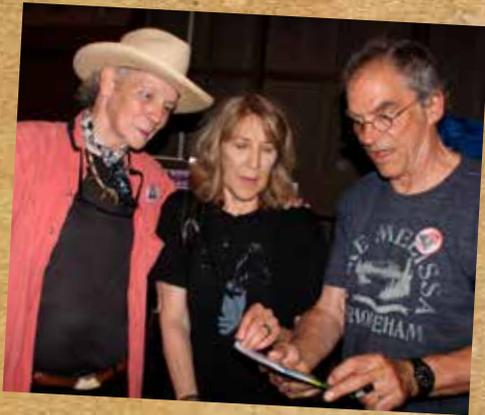
A Gathering of Promises is available on Amazon.com





ON THE BEAT

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FULL HOUSE



Symphony of the Hills: An Unexpected Experience Article & Photos by Phil Houseal

Yeah, yeah. Going to a symphony concert means sitting sedately with a bunch of stuffed shirts peering primly through opera glasses, murmuring approval at the turns of the trumpet and the violinist's virtuosity.

Sorry, but no, that does not describe the Symphony of the Hills, which has announced five very different concerts this season at Kerrville's Cailloux Theater. Offering a creative calendar of concerts that appeal to a range of interests is part of the Symphony's DNA.

"I believe if you don't stretch your audience a little bit, you could end up playing the same old stuff," said Dr. Jay Dunnahoo, who co-founded the Symphony in 2001 and served as Conductor and Artistic Director for 14 seasons. "You should have fun when you come to a concert; it ought to be an uplifting experience."

That is the philosophy that brought to the concert stage such unexpected pieces as Switched-On Bach, "Buddy Holly" shaking to That'll Be The Day, classical guitarist Kevin McCormick playing Mannheim Steamroller, selections from Hair, and The Devil Went Down To Georgia, featuring a fiery fiddle duel between a first violin player and Dr. Eugene Dowdy.

Dowdy, now in his third season as Conductor and Artistic Director, has taken the baton and carried on the tradition of assembling a concert season that attracts sellout audiences.

"One of my favorite topics is 'how to program,'" Dowdy said. "It's a real challenge fitting pieces together in a certain way, when you have so many great pieces. That's one of the things having concert themes does: it lets you pull together diverse music that has a connection."

The perennial dilemma facing symphonies across the country is finding that balance between traditional classical music while mixing in the "pops" pieces that draw a more general audience. Dowdy embraces the challenge.

He checks off all the fields he is trying to present to the audience. They include nationality ("some American music, some from another culture"), time periods ("some modern, some tried and true"), tempos ("some fast, some slow"), and even emotions ("some tear-jerkers, some to get the heart pumping").

"I think of all the different emotions and human characteristics, then try to put them together in a way that reaches the audiences," Dowdy explained. "It's very important to me that people not only feel inspired, but also get a little bit introspective."

The theme for each concert this season is designed to tell a story, according to Dowdy.

"Wild Wild West" Celebrating America's Frontier October 12, 2017, 7:30 PM

"These pieces each show an aspect of not only our western geographical frontier, but also the musical frontier," Dowdy explained. "Erich Wolfgang Korngold came to America to escape Nazi Germany."



Alina Kobialka

"Gloria" Celestial Holiday Music December 7, 2017, 7:30 PM

"Rutter's Gloria is an absolutely fantastic choral work," Dowdy said. "But sometimes the holidays are about separation from family. That's why I include American Spiritual Festival. And of course I love every holiday to feature a Jewish piece, because so many are also celebrating Hanukkah."

"The Magic of Disney" Music from the Magic Kingdom January 6, 2018, 7:30 PM

The music from Disney is just an incredible treasure trove," Dowdy said. "How many of us first learned about classical music from watching cartoons."

"Old, New, Borrowed, Blue" A Cool Musical Blend February 22, 2018, 7:30 PM

"Pictures at an Exhibition is in the top five of every orchestra's list," Dowdy said. "It is an incredible piece, and will leave the house riveted. Each movement is a different picture, like walking through a gallery."

"Strike Up the Band" The Symphony on Parade April 26, 2018, 7:30 PM

"Many classical composers wrote for bands, so all the pieces on this concert show how orchestra music is inspired by band music."

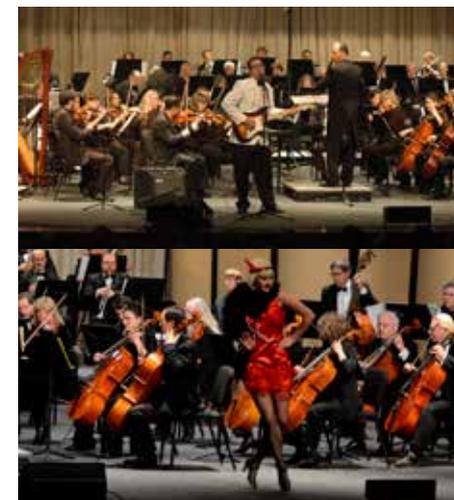
Former conductor Dunnahoo always claimed that the Symphony of the Hills was a special gem, in that it is unusual to have an orchestra of this quality in a community the size of Kerrville.

The 80-piece orchestra is made of local and Hill Country area professional musicians and Schreiner University faculty and their advanced music students. In addition to a full concert season, the

group's mission is to expand the appreciation of music and develop the musical talents of young people. Every fall they present children's concerts for 1600 public and private school students from Kerrville and six neighboring communities.

It is all about adding another musical experience to the soundtrack of the Hill Country, one for music lovers of all ages, and from all backgrounds.

Current conductor Dowdy extends a special invitation to "first timers" to try out a concert this season. It will be an unexpected experience.



"We are all there together, experiencing live music by an 80-piece orchestra in this wonderful concert hall, just going at it live," he said. "It's something to behold."

Symphony of the Hills concerts are held in the 800-seat Kathleen C. Cailloux Theater, City Center for the Performing Arts, 910 Main, Kerrville, Texas. Information and tickets are available at www.symphonyofthehills.org/tickets, (830) 792-7469, info@symphonyofthehills.org.

About the Writer:

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A CONSERVATION NOTEBOOK by Homer Stevens

In the last installment of these documents, it was stated that they were never meant to be political. However, isn't it true that the two most likely topics of conversation are the weather and politics. If folks don't get too serious, speculation on these topics can be fun. For instance, if climate changes had never occurred in the history of the earth, wouldn't we still have dinosaurs. Even more recently it was pointed out that Big Tooth Maples became confined to a relatively small area because of warming temperatures. When hydrocarbons burn, there are two products--carbon dioxide and water. ($CH_4 + 2O_2 \rightarrow CO_2 + 2H_2O$) Why do we only hear about the (CO_2)? Determination that the earth's climate is changing does not seem to be even basic science, just simple observation.

"Grasses are arguably the most important component of the landscape. Of the three types of vegetation (trees, forbs, and grasses), grasses are the best at keeping the soil in place and in good condition which is the prerequisite for a long-term sustainable habitat." This comes from Jim Stanley's book A Hill Country Landowner's Guide.

Many accounts of the Texas Hill Country dating to the 1820's describe a tall grass prairie. With grasses growing stirrup high to a man on horseback. These grasses would have been predominantly Little / Bluestem, Big Bluestem, Yellow Indian Grass, Switchgrass, and a few others. All of these are found growing here on The Farm and may possibly be treated individually in subsequent notes. However, in this edition the species of choice will be a personal favorite, Eastern gamagrass. This is arguably the most desirable of all so far as livestock and wildlife grazing is concerned.

"Native American Seeds--Ecological Solutions" has this to say about Eastern gamagrass. "The most productive,

nutritious forage grass on the planet. Grows in dense clumps and can be used as a buffer or screen. Seed must be exposed to cold, moist conditions before sprouting in the spring. An ancestor of corn, with intriguing pollination and seed-bearing parts that break at the joints when mature. Good larval food source for butterflies, provides cover and food for turkeys and other game birds. Cattle nearly grazed this highly palatable forage grass to extinction." They then quote their seed price as \$24.57/lb. The drawback to this grass is that it typically has a low seed germination making the pricing even more interesting.

Early on, the Range Management folks at TAM Extension Service taught that Eastern gamagrass seed was sterile and that it had to be sprigged. In the early 60's a small plot was plowed on relatively fertile ground here on The Farm on the west side of Pue Rd. Clumps of the grass were dug up over on the banks of Laxon Creek separated and transplanted in the newly cultivated area. The results were reasonably good. In a little over a year there was a semi solid stand of the rare grass. Then during the drought of 2014 there seemed to be little evidence of Eastern gamagrass anywhere in the plot. It seemed to have been taken over by a mixture of Little Bluestem, Lindheimer muley and Klein grass. Axis deer and Black Buck antelope were given the blame for grazing it into extinction. These species are roundly referred to with vulgarities anyway.

Then came the rains of the winter and spring of 2015 and the result was a thick mat of Eastern gamagrass probably more than ever before. Good sized clumps have appeared on fence lines in several ungrazed areas. These

observations along with the "for sale" offerings of the Native American Seed Co. would indicate that some live seed are being produced.

For many, many years Agrilife Extension Service and Natural Resource Conservation Service policies have been to advocate livestock grazing techniques based on a take half, leave half concept. That means that livestock owners should watch their properties closely and when more than half of the more desirable forages have been eaten, either move the stock to another pasture or sell the livestock. This would allow the remaining grasses to regrow at an efficient rate. This is a far-fetched idea, but wouldn't a small plot of Eastern gamma in each pasture serve as a point of observation that when one half is gone the pastures should be rested. There would be less erosion, greater soil build up, and more water filtering through the plant roots into the aquifer. The folks following this suggestion would then be doing their part to show climate change. Keep in mind that $6CO_2 + 6H_2O > C_6H_{12}O_6 + 6O_2$ is photosynthesis. Note that carbon dioxide is being removed from the atmosphere and oxygen returned. Grasses do this best.

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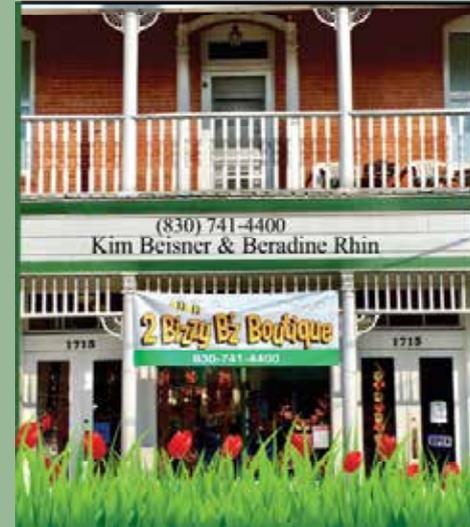
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Prickly Pear Cactus Jelly!

BY GARY LOCHTE

Have you noticed the abundance of prickly pear fruit this summer? The fruits are prolific, exceptionally nutritious, and the treats you can make from them are truly wonderful.

Last weekend I picked a 5 gallon bucket of the beautiful prickly-pear fruit and made jelly. It is so wonderful and beautiful that I had to share it with you.

What to do: if you don't have prickly-pear nearby, a short drive thru the hill country will reveal ample quantities. If found on private land, offer the owner several jars of jelly in exchange for access to the beautiful fruit.

It is important to remember why this plant is called Prickly Pear Cactus.... they are prickly!

The beautiful fruit are protected by sharp thorns, called "glochids". The thorns easily penetrate gloves, so I recommend using a pair of long handle kitchen tongs to remove the purple fruit. Twist, and pull to remove fruit from the thorny paddles, also called "nopales". Use the tongs to hold the fruit as you burn off the glochids by holding them over your stove's gas burner. You may also purchase a small propane burner from the hardware store with good results. One gallon cactus tunas, also called Prickly Pear Fruit

- 1/2 cup lemon juice
- 1 1/2 boxes of fruit pectin
- 6 cups sugar

Gather about one gallon of cactus tunas (prickly pear fruit), and burn the stickers from each tuna over a natural gas or propane flame. A long handle kitchen tong, ice pick, or fondue form is handy for holding the fruit during this process.

Now scrape away the burned thorn (glochid) residue from the fruit with the edge of a sharp knife.

The fruit can now be peeled easily, but rubber gloves are recommended to keep the

juice from dyeing your hands purple. Cut the peeled fruits into quarters and place them in a saucepan, seeds and all, with just enough water to show through the fruit. You may also puree the fruits, or use a potato masher until the fruit looks like purple mashed potatoes.

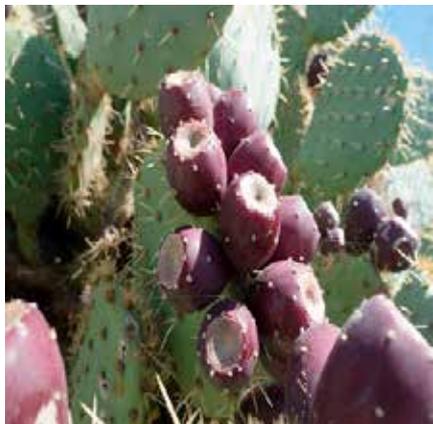
Bring the water to a gentle boil, cover, and allow the fruit to cook for about an hour.

Strain the juice from the pulp and seeds. Cheesecloth works very well for straining. The purpose is to remove all the tiny, granite like seeds.

To 3 3/4 cup of juice add 1/2 c. of lemon juice and 1 1/2 boxes of fruit pectin. Bring this mixture to a boil and add 6 c. of sugar.

Allow the mixture to cook for three minutes. Remove the jelly from the heat and allow it to cool for 45 minutes; skim off the foam and pour the jelly into hot, sterilized jars. Seal the jars immediately with canning lids. Be sure to "water bath" can by boiling the jars at least 12-15 minutes. Let the jars cool and rest for at least 12 hours.

Now you are ready to enjoy your beautiful Prickly Pear Cactus Jelly!



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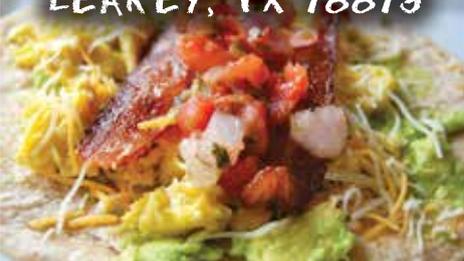
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THE VALUE OF STUFF AND NONSENSE

by Betty Sharp

I serve salad in a 19th century cut glass bowl because I like to use beautiful items, not store them. I'm not a collector. Except for books. Well, and dogs. And clothes in five sizes, vinyl albums, including a prime condition Doc Watson, and seven saddles I don't use. I have a 1960 G. H. Vaught roper with a 15" seat I'll never get my seat in again. Ok, I guess I'm a collector, but I inherited that cut glass bowl from Great Aunt Ruby, whom I inherited through marriage.



Aunt Ruby had over 500 cut glass pieces that she never used. She hosted no dinner parties, no special occasions. Twelve punch bowls with cups and ladles, pitchers, serving dishes and vases were crowded onto bookshelves, marble topped tables and dining room hutches. Her cut glass never made an appearance at a wedding, a christening or on New Year's Eve. Vases never held flowers on a dinner table, but then she never hosted a dinner party. In fact she seldom had anyone but a handful of relatives in her home. So her collection seemed, well, a bit crazy. What was it for?

I first saw Aunt Ruby's mausoleum of a house when I was still in my teens.

My childhood home had one bathroom for six people, and I shared a bedroom with two sisters, so I found her unused rooms filled with unused objects unsettling. It seemed to me that the rooms were purposely decorated to be unwelcoming. I tried to describe the white carpeted formal living room with Victorian velvet couches that no one ever sat on to a friend. I said "Nothing in this house is used, not the rooms or the things. No one sits on the couches. Aunt Ruby lives in the den. The bathroom towels are brand new. I don't think the toilet paper has ever been used."

"Well," he said, you wouldn't want used toilet paper, would you?" Now that set me back a bit.

Although Aunt Ruby's penchant for stiff Victorian couches, oppressive ornately carved furniture and marble topped tables shaped my dislike for that style, through the years I've come to appreciate antiques. I do tend to prefer contemporary style, however. Right now, I'm intrigued by modern architecture mixed with ecologically friendly rustic design, like the Leaning Pear restaurant in Wimberly. If I win the lottery, I'm going to build a house that looks like the Leaning Pear building and fill it with people, parties and a lot of ruckus. But I'd throw in some antiques because I've learned something—objects with a past can make the present richer. The key is why they're collected and how they're used.

Financial guru Suzi Orman says, "People first, then money, then things." Apply that philosophy to collected stuff and add some nonsense. In other words, if your collectibles and antiques bring affordable pleasure, then have some fun with them. I have a friend who loves knife rests. I didn't know what a knife rest was until she gave dinner parties. Soon, I looked for them in antique shops and bought a few for her. Now that years have passed,

I hope she doesn't save them just for dinner parties but enjoys them on her table in the morning when she butters her toast.

Some people like to collect memorabilia, like old Coke signs and bottles, or artistic rarities like handmade fishing lures. What I hope is that they share their treasures. Have people over. Tell stories about the history of Coke. Use those fishing lures as table decorations, which would surely start a conversation. Take that cut glass to Antiques Roadshow. Enter one of your prized possessions in the State Fair. Stuff is fine, but nonsense is a lot more fun. Aunt Ruby's cut glass collection never made her smile. I think that's because the collection wasn't shared with people and used at parties. Aunt Ruby would brook no nonsense.

When I moved into my rural home years ago and invited neighbors over, invariably someone would say "Now, don't get out your nice things for me." I wondered why I shouldn't use my "nice things" for them, so I retorted, "Who should I save them for? The Queen of England?" Soon neighbors announced themselves at my door hollering "It's the Queen of England!" It always made me laugh. After twenty-four years, some of those people are gone but whenever I use my "nice things" I have their memory with me.

I know using collectibles or antiques chances damage, and I know some people collect for investment. That is certainly their call, but fads come and go and markets go up and down. If you were lucky enough to sell a rare beanie baby for a fortune while others have sacks full of fairly worthless critters, good for you. But that bumper sticker that reads "She Who Dies with the Most Stuff Wins" probably isn't true. Chances are that whomever cleans up after you will have different tastes even if it's your children. Most likely if it's your children!

Whatever your reasons, I hope you enjoy "antiquing" in the shops for fun. It is possible to come across a priceless item for a steal and resell it for a fortune, I guess, but you can enjoy stuff and non-

sense without a lot of money. I spent \$10 for an unframed original oil painting that hangs over the Bon Appétit sign in my kitchen. It makes me smile every morning. And I found a copy of Now Voyager that I reread often.

As for those vinyl records, I play them often. That 1960 saddle? I enjoy a younger neighbor using it. Clothes in five sizes stuffed in my closet? If I solve that problem, I'll fit back in my saddle! That's another value of stuff and nonsense—it helps you dream.

Hill Country author Susan Witting Albert's Last Chance Olive Ranch is about the dream of sustaining an old Hill Country ranch by creating groves of olive trees. Ms. Albert writes with authority about olive oil processing and with heart about families. It won't spoil the story, so here's a hint from this book: if you collect antique documents, keep them in a safety deposit box!

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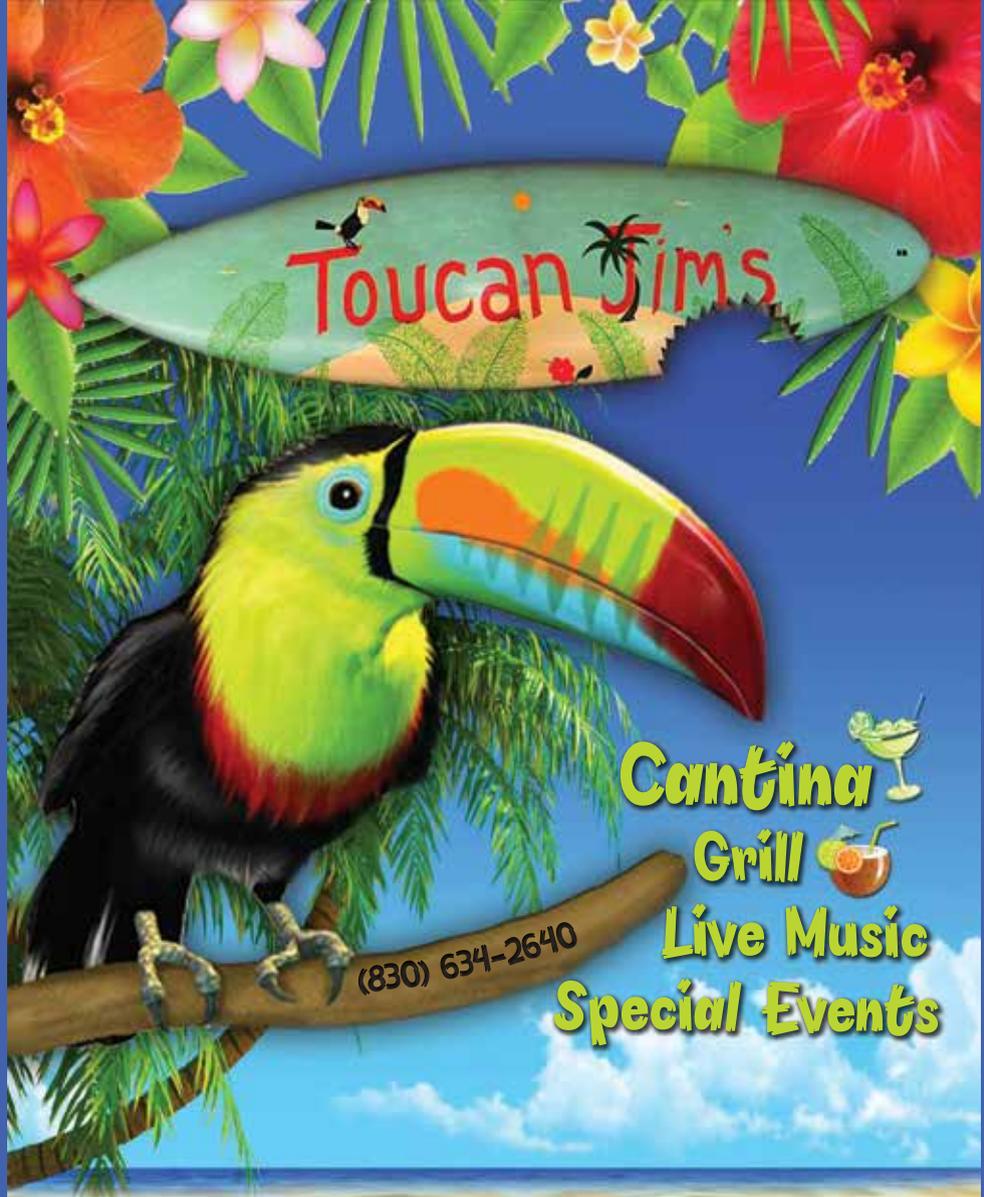
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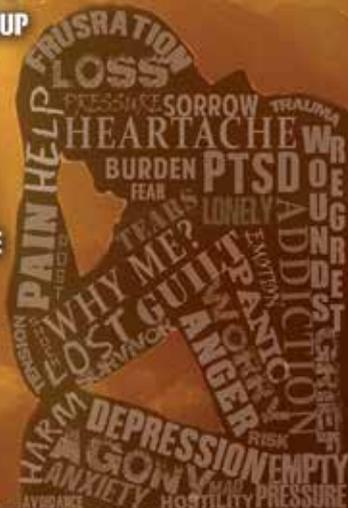
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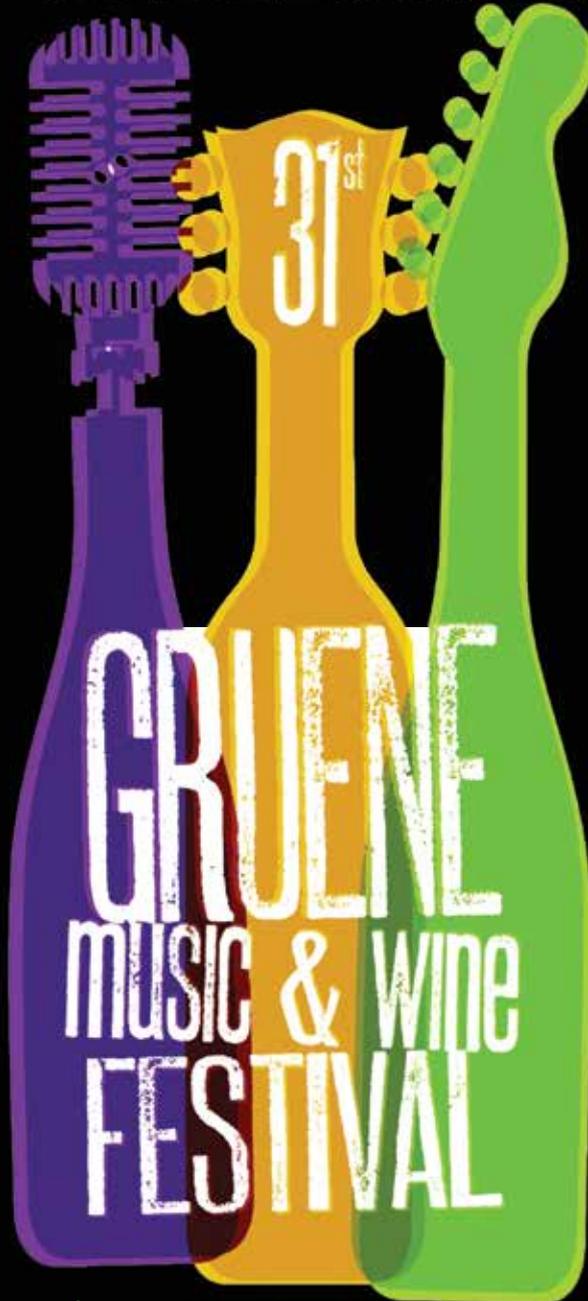
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