

the

# HEART BEAT

VOL. 5 NO. 2

SPRING 2018

OF THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

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## Phil Houseal

### Rob Mahoney and His Magic Piano

"Hi! I'm with the band? Where do we load in?" "Park around back, go up the ramp through the kitchen. then up the stairs to the the third floor." This is probably the last thing a musician sporting a real piano or Hammond B3 wants to hear. Rob Mahoney has the answer with is PianoBack piano.

## Betty Sharp

### Growing Younger and Probably Wiser

Think that you have a better grip on the march of technology than your parents or grandparents? That you're a tech ninja and the older generation is still using fax machines for electronic communications? Think again. The Baby Boomers are wired.

60

80

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### Allyce's Attic Super Size Me

#### (Once in a Super Blood Blue Moon)

Mary Allyce noticed, like many of us, that everything is "super" these days. We even have more varieties of Super Moons than you can shake a telescope at. Take a gander..



### Kathleen Hudson Sittin' in with Chris Booker

Dr. Hudson chats a bit with emerging singer-songwriter Chris Booker who has just released her first CD (see CD review page 53). Chris shares the journey that brought her to music and her outlook on life. She gives us an inside look at the creative process she utilized with Hill Country co-producer Tony Young .



### Joe Herring The Hill Country Cattle Kingdom

Kerrville was cattle country in the late 19th Century . Trail rides north all the way to Kansas started here before the railroad ended an era in 1887. Over 500,000 cattle made their way from Kerrville and Central Texas to the Kansas stockyards. You could turn a good dollar herding a fifty cent cow north to sell at \$15 in those wild and woolly days .



### Greg Forest Home of the Brave & Other Reviews

Greg Forest put his ears to three CDs this issue; Taking a look at Chris Baker, Brent Ryan, Slim Bawb and Jeff Bryant .Forest also offers up a review of Donna Bryson's new book, "Home of the Brave." She tells the truly heroic tale of a women on a mission to transform her community to one that **really** says, Thanks for your service"



### Dalis Allen Kerrville Folk Festival Updates

Are you ready for the 47th Annual Kerrville Folk Festival? I know that lots of "folks" are. 2018 has a great lineup and Dalis shares some of the ancillary events that revolve around the Quite Valley hub. Heal in the Wisdom.



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## NEWS FROM THE FESTIVAL

### NEW FOLK WINNERS & FOLK ALLIANCE

By Dalis Allen

Nanci Griffith, Lyle Lovett, Lucinda Williams, Hal Ketchum, James McMurtury, Robert Earl Keen all have one thing in common, the first time we ever heard them was at the Festival when they were finalists in the Kerrville New Folk competition. Our path to discovering new songwriters from around the world is the Grassy Hill Kerrville New Folk Competition which accepted entries through February 28. The concerts featuring the 32 that are chosen from a field of 600 - 800 songwriters are on the first weekend of the Festival, Saturday May 26 and Sunday May 27 from 1 - 4PM.

As the weather is giving way to warmer temperatures I'm sure that everyone is venturing out more and more. I certainly worked from my home more this year than ever before, and got a bit spoiled by it. The change in temperature is allowing the work at Quiet Valley Ranch to begin in preparation for the festival in May. The property is undergoing many renovations for the comfort and safety of the folks that work there and all that attend the Festival.

We are having a Kerrville On The Road Tour this year, scheduling concerts of Kerrville Folk Festival artists around Texas in April and early May. (There is also one at SXSW in Austin on March 14th at the famed Threadgill's South) The venues include Saxon Pub in Austin, Poor David's Pub in Dallas, Galveston Old Quarter (Texas Music Magazine), Anderson Fair in Houston, Coupland Dance Hall, Bugle Boy in LaGrange and The Hilltop Café in Fredericksburg. The dates and artists are posted on the website [www.kerrvillefolkfestival.org](http://www.kerrvillefolkfestival.org).

February saw us once again in Kansas City to hear artists from around the world at the annual Folk Alliance International Conference. We attended panels

and even presented a few. We featured Kerrville artists in showcases, in particular our New Folk Award Winners. This year in attendance from 2017 were Letitia VanSant, Rachael Kilgour and Mia Rose Lynne. The number of artists that we hear in 5 days far surpass what we could hear in any other way and many of the artists that play Kerrville Folk Festival were heard for the first time at these conferences. A few examples on the 2018 line-up; Seth Glier, Twisted Pine, All Our Exes are from Texas a band from Australia, Sultans of String, The Crane Wives, The Accidentals...

The Music at the Mansion Concert Series season line-up is complete. This is the collaboration between Kerrville Folk Festival and Schreiner University presenting Festival Songwriters to the community of Kerrville all year long. You may view the schedule on our Facebook page. Just search for Music at the Mansion.

The opening concert was on February 9, next ones up are March 9 with George Enns and Verlon Thompson and April 6 with Steve Seskin & Allen Shamblin.

At the Festival, in addition to the nightly concerts, we offer schools and workshops for Songwriters, Guitar, Harmonica and Ukulele and they are ready to accept registrants. World class faculty will be on hand to work with you for several days of sessions for any one of these schools. Specific information about each one is on our website under the Activities tab.

[www.kerrville-music.com](http://www.kerrville-music.com)



**The 2018 line-up includes:**

**FIRST WEEKEND**

(Thursday, May 24 - Sunday, May 27)

**Heather Pierson Trio**  
**The Peterson Brothers**  
**Jon Brooks**  
**Pierce Pettis**  
**The Sirens of South Austin**  
**In the Round with Susan Gibson, Walt Wilkins and Michael O'Connor**  
**Drew Kennedy**  
**Jaimee Harris**  
**Trout Fishing in America**  
**Seth Glier**  
**Johnny Nicholas**  
**Ordinary Elephant**  
**Amilia Spicer**  
**John Gorka**  
**Mary Gauthier**  
**Johnsmith**

**SECOND WEEKEND**

(Friday, June 1 - Sunday, June 3)

**Beppe Gambetta**  
**Sam Baker**  
**Eliza Gilkyson**  
**Big Thief**  
**The Honey Dewdrops**  
**The Crane Wives**  
**Warren Hood**  
**David Ball & That Carolina Sound**  
**Pike & Sutton**  
**The Brother Brothers**  
**Twisted Pine**  
**Joe Filisko & Eric Noden**  
**The Accidentals.**

**THIRD WEEKEND**

(Friday, June 8 - Sunday, June 10)

**Son of Town Hall**  
**Bob Livingston**  
**SONiA disappear fear**  
**Brave Combo**  
**Bonnie Hearne**  
**Remembrance with Tish Hinojosa**  
**Shake Russell & Michael Hearne**  
**Bill Hearne Trio and Albert & Gage**  
**All Our Exes Are From Texas (from Australia)**  
**Sultans of String**

And as always we will close with our anthem "Heal in the Wisdom".

Please take a look here or just go to our website, <http://www.kerrville-music.com>.

You can join our mailing list for updates and specials by going to <http://www.kerrville-music.com/> and filling in your email when prompted.

Tickets are at a discount online so just go to the website to join us for the 2018 Kerrville Folk Festival!!!

If you have questions and want to speak to a person just call us at 830/257-2600. Our offices are on Quiet Valley Ranch property where the Festival is held 9 miles south of Kerrville on Hwy 16.

Thanks for reading about the Kerrville Folk Festival in Heart Beat of the Texas Hill Country.



**Eliza Gilkyson**

Photo by Philip Rosenthal



**Heather Pierson Trio**



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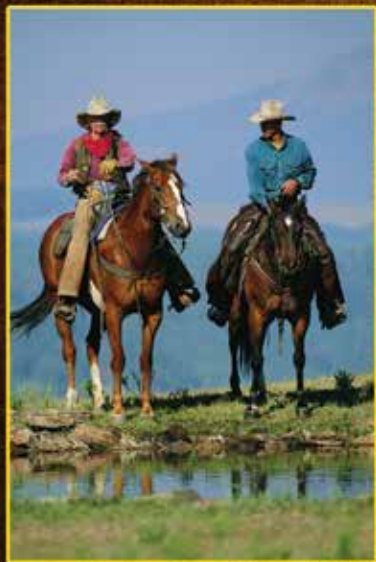
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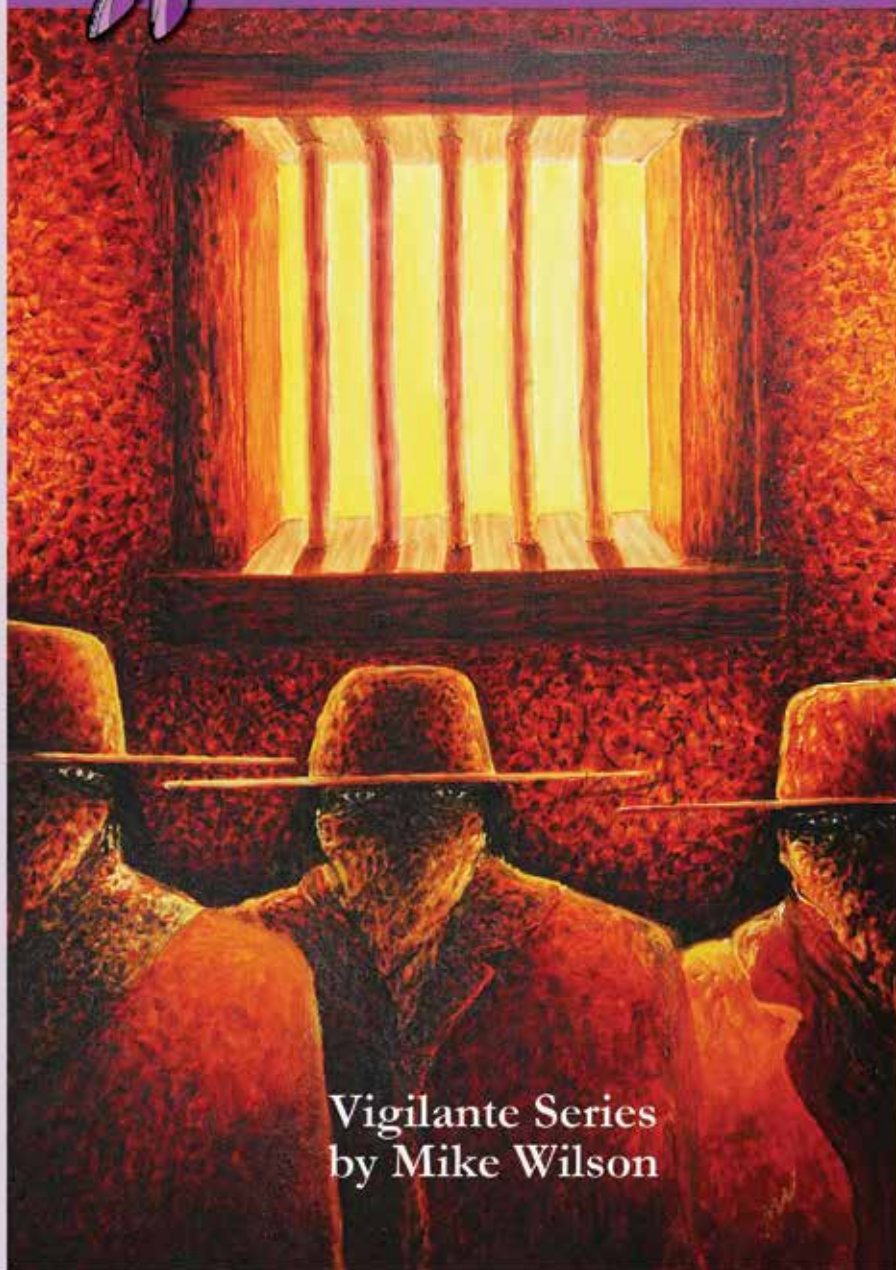


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# THE CATTLE KINGDOM

by Joe Herring

In downtown Kerrville there is a living reminder of the great cattle drives of the late 1800s.

Captain Charles Schreiner, along with partners, sent many cattle “up the trail” during the 1870s and 1880s, until the arrival of the railroad here in 1887.

According to the Texas author T. R. Fehrenbach, the fellows we recognize from the Westerns, the flickering black and white *matinée* images, the Cowboys, were really a part of the short-lived Cattle Kingdom that sprang up right after the Civil War and was virtually gone by the 1890’s. What gave rise to this important, but brief, part of our history was pure economics: cattle was worth 50 cents a head in Texas, but worth \$16 per head in Kansas. The cowboy was invented to meet the challenge of getting the cattle from here to there.

Many cultures contributed to the cowboy we recognize today. A significant part of his heritage came from Mexico, where the *vaquero* way of life was well developed, importing such words as *ranch*, *corral*, *mustang*, *lariat*, and even *rodeo* to our vocabulary. The cattle of Mexico were largely used for their hides; the markets in Kansas focused on the value of the beef needed to feed the growing industrial cities of the American North. All types of people were needed to help move the cattle north to market, and many of the cowboys were Hispanic or Black, foreign or Yankee, and they blended together into their own culture. They were almost uniformly young, “teenagers out in a dangerous area making their own rules.”

According to research by Sue Whinery, “Kerr County played a key role in the cattle trailing industry, due largely to Capt. Charles Schreiner and his partners, Capt. John Lytle, John W. Light and T. M. McDaniels. It was Lytle who actually blazed the Western Trail in 1874. By then, increasing settlement along the Chisholm trail

route demanded a more westerly route. In addition, Texas herds were quarantined from eastern Kansas due to cattle fever. The Texas cattle carried a tick that transmitted the disease, but the sturdy longhorns were immune to the disease. From 1874 until the late 1880’s, Schreiner, Lytle and their partners delivered more than half a million head of Texas longhorns to Kansas markets.”

Captain Schreiner’s son, Gus, spent his adult life in the cattle business, and had actually been on at least one cattle drive north.

Family lore says from one of those cattle drives, he brought back a piñon pine seedling to his parents, which they planted in the front yard of their Earl Garrett Street home.

That tree still stands there, a reminder of the great cattle drives of the late 1800s, and of a young man who brought his parents a living keepsake of those days.



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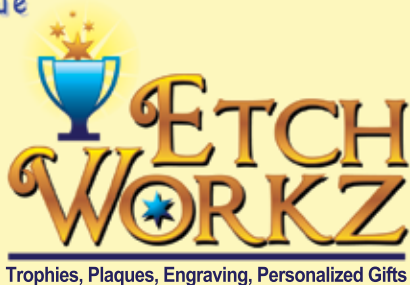
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*"Well sir it's like this. I wuz offered 25 cents on them 28 cent calves, but I was holdin' out for 40 cents. Now it looks like we're gonna have to feed them 21 cent calves til spring."*  
by Ace Reid

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# ALLYCE'S ATTIC

## SUPER SIZING

by MARY ALLYCE



In 2004, director Morgan Spurlock released the documentary "Super Size Me", in which he pigged out on fast food to draw attention to the dangers of the trend to make everything, including portion sizes, bigger if not better. The results included a number of unhealthy side effects, not the least of which was a significant increase in his weight. Duh.

Apparently, we need to super size and overstate everything. Advertising, astronomy, sports and news, among others, found power in hype and tacking on the word "super" was an easy, quick attention getter. We have Super Sale Saturdays, Super Moons, the Super Bowl, and news anchors frequently sound like they're breathlessly announcing the apocalypse complete with a snazzy logo and a coined title like Apocalypt-aggon proving the word "super" is not necessary to overblow a point. We have Blue Blood Moons, Snowmageddons, Snowpocalypses, and my new favorite, Bomb Cyclones, which translates to really big snowstorms where the barometric pressure falls 24 millibars in 24 hours, if you want technicalities.

As a kid growing up in Wisconsin, snow and cold temperatures were expected anytime from November (sometimes October) through March (sometimes April). If it was less than six inches we called it a "dusting". If it was really heavy, it was a blizzard. Windchills, didn't exist before the 1970's. They weren't needed. If it was even a degree above 32o, it was a "January thaw". If you went outside and your feet went numb and the first breath you took froze the hair inside your nose, it was "pretty darn cold". We knew what it felt like without a number attached. It was winter. It was cold. It snowed.

And then there's the moon. There were always full moons, new moons, and the occasional eclipse of the

moon. It wasn't enough. Last winter at the end of January, we had a much anticipated Super Blue Blood Moon. Maybe I'm too hard to impress, but it seemed to me we'd just had a Super Moon and maybe even a Blue Moon. Until the last few years, I thought Blue Moon was primarily a song about a lovelorn soul and the most exotic lunar occurrence was the annual appearance of the Harvest Moon. That one had something to do with the autumnal equinox. It was a really pretty, big, fat moon.

For those of you who are into this stuff, a Super Moon is a 14% bigger and 30% brighter moon and a Blue Moon is two Super Moons in one month. If there's also an eclipse, it's a Blood Moon, so we got the highly ballyhooed Super Blue Blood Moon. Did the old Harvest Moon turn into a Super Moon? Was it ever a Super Blue Moon? When did this happen and if so, why, and who makes these decisions?

I want my lovely, evocative Harvest Moon back. You keep the new ones.

Not that supersizing everything is new. Super Novas, the phenomenon of an exploding star, was first described by a Caltech professor in 1931. Superman first appeared in 1938. Super Dave showed up on the John Byner Comedy Hour in 1972 and the super peppy song "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" came along in 1964 in the movie "Mary Poppins". Interestingly, the word appeared in print way back in the 1930's, although who coined it is disputed. All agree, however, it falls under the definition of a 34 letter, 14 syllable, feel-good nonsense word.

Which takes us back to the good old Super Moon. Turns out the term

continued next page

has no official astronomical designation. It was first used by astrologer, Richard Nolle, in 1979. I guess it just sounded good. Sort of like supercalifragilisticexpialidocious. Face it, we love to super size everything, including our words.

So have a super spring. And don't worry if you missed the last three Super Moons. There are three more coming up in June, July and August. Looks like a super special summer ahead. See you super soon.



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Don't forget that Heart Beat also has an online edition of our magazine. You can view the whole magazine in a flip format or download the current and all back issues in Acrobat format any time you want.



Heart Beat is developing a double shot of apps for both Android and in HTML 5 for iPhones and iPads. Download today from the home page of our web site today for the latest events and special announcements to your cell phone or portable device.

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## CHRIS BOOKER

She said, "I write to express what happened to me and how I feel. Looking back I see that God has taken me on this incredible journey." I was talking to Chris Booker of the band Exit 505 after a recommendation from her bandmate and friend, Danny Stisser, owner of AC Print. "Talk to Chris. She just finished a recording with Tony Young, and this is her first. She is passionate about her music and her songs." I made the call.

Tony, one of the first people I met when I moved to Kerrville, has a long successful career working with musicians in the studio. He recorded the Jimmie Rodgers Tribute I did in 1996, and he is seminal in the recordings with Texas musicians doing songs with the poetry of Hill Country Youth Ranch kids. He worked on a rare Leon Russell recording at the Ranch in the state of the art studio, now being rebuilt after a big fire. And his talent moved into his kitchen when he recorded Chris as well as laying down tracks by many other musicians who joined in: Larry Nye to name one. Yes, in true Texas tradition, Tony has a recording studio in his house.

Chris describes her music as Christian oriented, with a message. "People started asking me if I had a recording after a gig," she added. A retired nurse practitioner, she is following her bliss. The project of love has taken two years, and she is ready to bring the music out. Her [reverbation.com](http://reverbation.com) site has the songs, the lyrics and her story. She started playing music in 2001 and got serious in 2005. She took fiddle lessons with Dick Walker who died a year ago, but she was able to include him on the recording.

Her brother has a global head injury from an electric shock 23 years ago. A music therapist works with him, and the results are profound. Misty Ecklund, that therapist, also plays with Exit 505 on sax, ukulele and clarinet. The band is a group of friends



who have joined together to follow their dream, to play and perform. You can hear them locally at private parties, at the Hunt Store, at local Wineries, and outdoor markets. Chris and her husband, Bill, have also been performing recently as a duo.

Living out her dream and her passion, Chris is a leader of the Praise Team at the United Methodist Church in Hunt, Texas, and she expresses her own beliefs in her songs. "Live" is the title cut on her CD, and the song speaks to her journey, sometimes through darkness. "I write when I am out running," she explained. "All the songs have stories. I was a fan of *Gone with the Wind*, and the idea of 'Live' came from the one-liners in that book/movie." She heard a country song saying you can't change the world, and she mused, "But God can." Then she wrote "Be Like Thee." The CD is well-produced, of course, with master Tony Young at the board. "I never imagined I would be doing this," she added as we ended our conversation in the Lion's Den at Schreiner University.



2017 will be the year I almost stopped being a fan of the National Football League. Commissioner Roger Goddell had already been testing my patience with inconsistencies in officiating, his handling of player misbehaviors and interpretations of rules like “what is a catch” over the past three years. However last year, I was truly disappointed at how the NFL dealt with the players kneeling during the National Anthem. I don’t have a problem with someone wanting attention for their platform. Our forefathers wrote the first amendment for that reason. However, I draw the line at doing this during the National Anthem. Our flag is a symbol of this nation’s pride and our freedoms. People have risked their lives, been injured, or died defending our country.

While other professional sports addressed their players on the need to stand during the anthem, the NFL ignored the situation. Momentum escalated to some players not only kneeling, but clenching Black Panther fists and laughing with each other during the anthem. The media was not helping by filming the players kneeling rather than ones with their hands on their hearts.

Mid-season, when a majority of Houston players took a knee during the anthem, Texans owner Bob McNair finally spoke out with words many fans were already thinking – “the inmates are running the prison.” Many of my relatives and friends stopped watching professional foot-

ball, buying memorabilia and attending games. It was only then the NFL realized the magnitude of their problem.

The league tried to sooth the waters with their players by having meetings with them to discuss their feelings and even run commercials for their platforms. There were creative attempts with having all the players first kneel, and then stand for the anthem with their arms interlocked. They even tried not showing the National Anthem to the TV audiences and having the players remain in the locker rooms until it was finished. The players reappeared on the field during the play-offs for the National Anthem and those who stood, most with their hands on their hearts, were shown on television.

The 2017 – 2018 NFL season officially ended on a positive note. Texans JJ Watt was the winner of the Walter Peyton Man of the Year award which honors a player’s volunteer and charity work, as well as excellence on the field. After initially setting a goal to raise \$200,000 in Hurricane Harvey relief, Watt raised more than \$37 million. He not only did the fundraising, but was very active during the recovery efforts.

Come next season, will fans remember the players like JJ Watt who chose the right moments for their platforms and forgive those who had a lapse in judgment?

That remains to be seen.





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# 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](http://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](http://4waybarandgrill.com)



## *Country Sweets Bakery, Bandera, Tx*

Country Sweets Bakery offers a variety of pastries, pies, cookies, cakes and cheesecakes to curb your sweet tooth. They also serve lunch daily which includes sandwiches, salads and wraps. If a wedding cake is what you need for your Hill Country wedding look no further- go by the bakery or visit our website [banderabakery.com](http://banderabakery.com) - 1210 Hackberry, Bandera, Texas (830) 328-5088



## *Mac and Earnie's Roadside Eatery, Tarpley Tx*

Lunch on Fridays and Saturdays includes cheeseburgers and their famous Cabrillo 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](http://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 homeade 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](http://www.lovecreekorchards.com)



## *Camp Verde General Store, Camp Verde Tx*

For more than 150 years, Camp Verde General Store has occupied this little piece of Texas. Give yourself a moment to indulge in the rich history of this timeless gem. Come have a one-of-a-kind sandwich from our enticing lunch menu and try our wide variety of savory jams, jellies and sauces.

Restarunt hours: Mon-Sun 11am - 3pm [www.campverdegeneralstore.com](http://www.campverdegeneralstore.com)  
285 Camp Verde Road East Camp Verde, Texas 78010



## *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](http://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](http://www.redbud-cafe.com)



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

Paddler's Porch is a great place to meet friends for fresh food and the coldest beer. Not to mention the delicious burgers. Indoor or outdoor dining, sports on our big screens, Free Wifi. Cooler weather creates gatherings around the firepit. Be sure to try their "THE BEAST" a slow cooked pot roast, with provolone on a toasted hogie roll.

126 Flatrock Ln Juntion, TX 76849 713-397-5049 [www.paddlersporch.net](http://www.paddlersporch.net)



## *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](http://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 al-a-mode, peach cobbler al-la-mode, and fried ice cream. Hours: 11am-9pm, Mon-Sat 7345 Highway 90 W D'Hanis, Texas - (830) 363-2282



## *Vaquero's Cafe, Rocksprings, Tx*

Vaquero's offers some of the best authentic Mexican Food around-Burgers, Tacos, and more! Known for their friendly service and HOME OF THE GRANDE AND THE VAQUERO'S BURGER!!!! Open 7 days a week 8AM-2PM, 5-9PM (830) 683-4369 104 US-377, Rocksprings, TX 78880



## *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*





# HILL COUNTRY CRUISIN' BIKER DESTINATIONS



## LUCKENBACH, TEXAS

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## JAKES BAR & GRILL, PIPE CREEK, TX



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12246 State Hwy 16 Pipe Creek, TX



## 11TH STREET COWBOY BAR, BANDERA, TX

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307 11th Street Bandera, TX [11thstreetcowboybar.com](http://11thstreetcowboybar.com)



## FRIO CANYON MOTORCYCLE STOP, LEAKEY, TX

The Twisted Sisters have become three of the most popular roads in the State of Texas. The Frio Canyon Motorcycle Stop is just the place to begin (or end) your ride. We've got plenty of great gear to choose from with new "Three Twisted Sisters" merchandise every season. Enjoy one of the best damn burgers you'll ever have at the Bent Rim Grill. 657 West RR 337 Leakey, Texas 78873830 - 232 - 6629



## LONESTAR MOTORCYCLE MUSEUM, VANDERPOOL, TX

The LONE STAR MOTORCYCLE MUSEUM is located in the heart of the Texas Hill Country with beautiful motorcycling routes all around. They display a wonderful collection of machines from around the world dating from the 1910's to modern. 36517 Hwy 187, Vanderpool Texas (830) 966-6103 [www.lonestarmotorcyclmuseum.com](http://www.lonestarmotorcyclmuseum.com)



## **BIKER DESTINATIONS CONTINUED...**



### **JAIL HOUSE BAR GRILL ROCKSPRINGS TX**

Right on the courthouse square in Rocksprings, the Jail House bar and grill is your drinking and dining destination for Rocksprings.

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### **TOUCAN JIM'S CENTERPOINT TX**

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5814 TX-27, Center Point, TX 78010 (830) 634-2640



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### **THE OLD TIMER MEDINA TEXAS**

The Old Timer is the starting point for several of the Hill Country loops, especially The Three Sisters ranking in the top 10 rides in America! When you are touring the Hill Country step back in time and visit our small, but fully stocked grocery store and fuel stop. We have supplies for all your Hill Country adventures whether you're hunting, fishing, swimming, hiking or just in need of a quick break.

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# DINNER BELLE

BY JIL UTTERBACK



Have you noticed at the grocery store how many different types of lettuce there are these days? In bags, in containers, fresh, organic, with dressing packets and other additives touted as Asian, South Western etc and of course full salads made to your liking...it can all get very confusing! Then there is the salad dressing aisle with so many choices and various prices low to very high, it boggles the mind! But one thing I have discovered is whichever type lettuce that you choose you can make your own dressing easily and much more economically and it tastes really great! One of my very favorites is a honey mustard dressing that my husband has discovered he loves drizzled even over his meat! I will also share a dressing made with smoked paprika that is also very good and healthy! If you make your own, you can avoid those long words you can't pronounce unhealthy ingredients listed on store bought dressings!



## HONEY MUSTARD DRESSING

$\frac{1}{4}$  cup mayonnaise—I use Vegenaize which is made with expeller-pressed safflower oil, olive oil and flaxseed oil and contains less than half the fat and calories of traditional mayonnaise. Look for your healthiest option of the many! I always double this recipe and put it in a mason jar!

1 tablespoon mustard  
1 tablespoon honey (I confess I squeeze in a little more!)  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  tablespoon lemon juice

## SMOKED PAPRIKA SALAD DRESSING

2 tablespoons tahini ( ground sesame seeds)  
2 tablespoons lemon juice  
2 tsp smoked paprika  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon fresh garlic  
Sea salt and ground black pepper  
(I found it gets a little thick the next day so I just add a little water and shake it up!)



## TAHINI GODDESS DRESSING

2 cloves minced garlic  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup tahini  
4 teaspoons soy sauce  
2 tablespoons of apple cider vinegar  
2 teaspoons of honey  
 $\frac{1}{3}$  cup water  
2 tablespoons of finely chopped fresh parsley  
Finally, the quick and easy 3-2-1 dressing is soooo good and once you start making your own, you will find you can skip those expensive dressings! 3 TBSP balsamic vinegar, 2 TBSP mustard and 1 TBSP maple syrup!

So we are off to a good start for our summer swimsuit time by eating more salad and experimenting with making your own! And you might experiment with lettuce wraps... I put a recipe for a garbanzo(chickpea) bean filling in a previous magazine ( Spring 2017) that you wouldn't know it had no meat! Simply smash them and add a little lite mayo, a little mustard & honey and all the ingredients you would add for chicken salad (celery, onion, etc) and put it in a romaine lettuce leaf—roll it up and enjoy! Maybe even add a little of that honey mustard dressing! We don't need that bread to make a sandwich!

Email me at [jilu@indian-creek.net](mailto:jilu@indian-creek.net) with comments!





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# Our Great Texas Hill Country

by Colleen Brooks



Spring, at last! A time when Texas Hill Country really showcases its beauty. It's fun to watch the bluebonnets and Indian paintbrushes emerge and display their colors under the abundant sunshine. There is plenty to be enjoyed in the warmer spring temps!

A visit to New Braunfels should be on your list. Landa Park is the perfect place to spend a day fishing, playing volleyball, horseshoes or miniature golf, or riding the children's train or paddleboats. Two of my favorite eateries in town are McAdoo's Seafood Company and Krause's Café (and Biergarten), and both have fun outdoor seating. If you're looking for the finest BBQ this area has to offer, a stop to Cooper's Old Time Pit Bar-B-Que is a must! Other nearby attractions include the McKenna Children's Museum, Animal World & Snake Farm Zoo, Natural Bridge Caverns, and Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch drive-thru safari. If you're visiting the area with children, New Braunfels is your place!

The historic district of Gruene is very enchanting when spring is in bloom! Plan to spend an afternoon visiting the quaint shops - or visit their market days, which is held on the third full weekend of every month. One of my favorite things about this charming area is the ability to dine or enjoy cocktails on patios overlooking the beautiful Guadalupe River.

You can find great views at The Gruene River Grill, The Gristmill, or Cantina del Rio. Also, be sure to check out the line-up for Texas' oldest dance hall, Gruene Hall. Some of their spring line-up includes Lee Ann Womack, Shooter Jennings, Los

Lonely Boys & Los Lobos, Roger Creager, and Three Dog Night. There is no shortage of live music to be found here!

As a Texan, one of my favorite things to do in the spring is to take a wildflower drive to see the bluebonnets. The ride from Gruene to Wimberley is one of my absolute favorites! Wimberley is a quaint little village known for its fine arts and theater. There are several galleries here, along with Wimberley Glass Works where you can see a live glass blowing demonstration, and Silo Glass. To check out the live theater schedule, visit The EmilyAnn Theatre and Gardens or Wimberley Players websites. Wimberley also has a boot trail where there are about 50 large boots displayed throughout town. Visitors love finding these boots and taking photos. You can pick up a boot trail map at the Visitors Center.

To enjoy the local beauty, climb Mount Baldy or visit Blue Hole Park where you might be able to catch the bluebonnets in bloom and take some pretty family photos. Chef Jay's Back Porch, The Leaning Pear, and I'noz deck all offer beautiful views with great food. Wimberley also hosts its Market Days on the first Saturday of every month.

So many choices! No matter what you do, the memories you create here will last a lifetime. Enjoy your stay in our beautiful Texas Hill Country!





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their monthly

LOCAL AD



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3876 Medina Highway, Kerrville, TX  
(830) 257-3600

### **Texas Heritage Music Foundation**

2100 Memorial Blvd, Kerrville, Texas  
(830) 792-1945

### **Cafe on the Ridge**

13439 S Ranch Road 783, Kerrville, TX  
(830) 896-0420

### **Pier 27**

1521 Junction Hwy, Kerrville, TX 78028  
(830) 896-7437

### **Azul**

202 Earl Garrett St, Kerrville, TX  
(830) 896-9338

### **Callioux Theater**

910 Main Street, Kerrville, TX  
(830) 896-9393

### **OJ Watering Hole**

1109 Broadway, Kerrville, TX  
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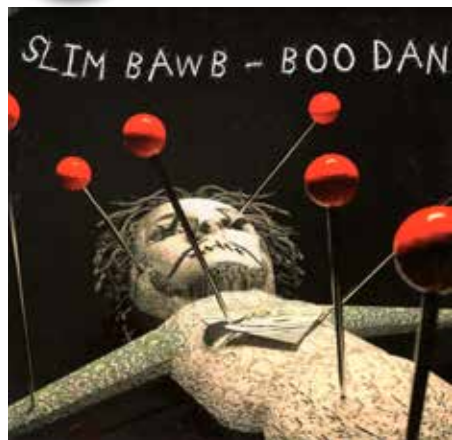
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***Slim Bawb***  
***"Boo Dan"***  
Swampgrass Records  
Review by Greg Forest

A friend gave me this CD awhile back to review and it arrived at the top of the review stack this issue. Better late than never.

"Boo Dan" which won a Texas Music Academy "Gone to Texas" Award in 2012, is one of Bawb's older releases (21 to date) and he has a new release coming down the pike later this year. More on that in a future issue.

Originally from California, Slim Bawb moved to Texas in 2006 and his unique version of swamp, rock, blues and Americana started catching on.

Slim Bawb plays banjo, reso-guitar, mandolin, mandola, electric guitar & foot pedal bass. He is supported by other Texas notables Lil Howard Yeargan on accordion, keyboards, harmonica & vocals and Ron Sherrod on drums & vocals.

In the real world, you can catch Brent at a number of venues across the Hill Country. In the cyber-world you can find him at [brentryanmusic.com](http://brentryanmusic.com) or visit him on Facebook for appearances and updates. Check out the voodoo hoodoo that he do so well.



***Brent Ryan***  
***"Cinnamon Pass"***  
Produced by Benjamin Solomon  
Review by Greg Forest

"Cinnamon Pass" is the new 11 song CD offering from Brent Ryan, a newcomer on the Texas singer-songwriter scene.

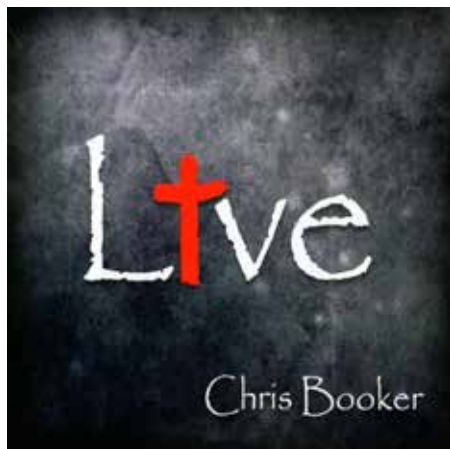
A strong tenor, Brent has an authentic Texas flavor that will make Americana fans happy.

Brent brings a great team to bear on this project including Benjamin Soloman who produced the CD in addition to playing drums and keyboards, Ben Richards on guitar and harmonica, John Reeves - the Hill Country go-to guy for upright bass and Elliot Miller on electric bass. I tight talented band I look forward to hearing live.

Brent's songs cover a wide variety of subjects familiar from the hard work of top hand wrangling, song writing and, close to my heart, a tribute to man's best friend.

In the real world, you can catch Brent at a number of venues across the Hill Country. In the cyber-world you can find him at [brentryanmusic.com](http://brentryanmusic.com) or visit his page on Facebook for appearances and updates.





**Chris Booker**  
**"Live"**

**Produced by Chris Booker/Tony Young**  
**Review by Greg Forest**

I hadn't gotten to the first chorus of the first song before I found myself saying, out loud, "Wow what a great voice!"

The CD is a testament to faith. Chris wrote all the songs and they describe her faith as the primary source of her talent and creativity. Life has its trials and tribulations Chris has let her faith guide her through them all. Her path through life has had Jesus covering her back and supporting her the whole time.

Chris is in good company on this CD with Texas legend Tony Young helping with the production and recording. The CD was, get this, primarily recorded in his kitchen! You can't get much more down home than that. On the production home stretch Texas mastering guru Jerry Tubb at Terra Nova in Austin smoothed the tracks to be smooth as silk. "Live" is as sonically perfect as recordings get.

You can get "Live" on iTunes, Amazon, CD Baby and band-camp.com on the web. Her website [chrisbookermusic.net](http://chrisbookermusic.net) will be up shortly so drop by. You can also friend and like Chris on Facebook. Five Texas-Sized Stars!



**Jeff Bryant**  
**"Sleeping With the Lights On"**

**Produced by Jeff Bryant**  
**Review by Greg Forest**

"Sleeping With the Lights On" is the new CD by Texas artist Jeff Bryant. It has an eclectic electric vibe that pulls you in the first few bars. The music and songs are well crafted with an out of the box approach delivering a pop flavor that is aggressive and runs the gamut from sweet ballads to a bit of funk and rock. Jeff is not only a good writer with intriguing chord progressions and lyrics but an accomplished guitarist too.

The recording performances and production are A-team all the way with a big fat sound that wraps itself around the seven songs Jeff has penned on this project. It is a production he should be proud of.

My favorite cuts on the release are, "Grace," the title track "Sleeping With the Lights On," and the back beat groove of "You Don't Know."

You can pick up this jewel on iTunes and directly from Jeff's web site at [jeffbryantmusic.com](http://jeffbryantmusic.com). You can also drop by Facebook and pick the CD there and join Jeff's rapidly growing fan base. I look forward to hearing more from Jeff.

# BOOK REVIEW

## "Home of the Brave"

by Donna Bryson

Chronos Books

ISBN 978 1 78535 636 0

Review by Greg Forest

"*Home of the Brave*" is a book about heroism. In the violent vistas of war, military casualties are a major portion of the price the U.S. pays to maintain and expand its global reach.

America has real enemies in the global war on terror and we count on our military to keep the wolves at bay. Unlike the reception received by our Vietnam veterans, our returning soldiers are garnering a bit of the respect they deserve.

But there is talking the talk and walking the walk. "Thank you for your service," may be a sincere and heart felt gesture that, although appreciated, does little or nothing to improve the lifestyle and the issues of a wounded vet in the real world.

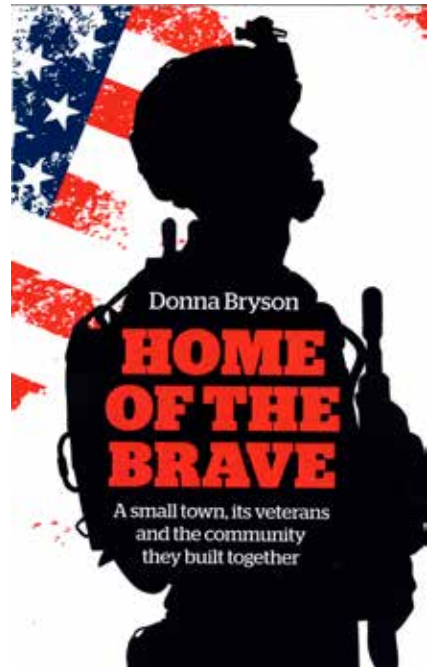
This book is about Melanie Kline, a true hero who brought an entire community together to create the Welcome Home Montrose project to address the issues of disabled veterans from a new and community-wide perspective.

Montrose, Colorado describes itself as, "Friendly. Patriotic. Independent. Embracing. Welcoming."

Like other small rural communities, the economic recovery from the 2008 bust has yet to find its way to Montrose. The U.S. census found almost 20% of the community living under the poverty line.

All across the West you can find similar communities. Montrose is a played out mining town that saw its population decreasing over the years and, even though it was in close proximity to a number of ski resorts, white water rafting areas and other big tourist draws, the local economy didn't see any new economic growth.

Kline, through pure force of will, brought people from across the political and economic spectrum together to make Montrose not just disabled vet friendly but to turn the town into a vacation destination for our wounded vets.



Bryson also gives us a look into how Kline's vision made believers of other players, such as the VA, expert disabled athletes who were initially skeptical of her Welcome Back Montrose program. They quickly became believers and active participants in developing the program.

*"You can't do it because you feel sorry for them. You've got to do it because you respect them."*

Each veteran has their own story, From the aging vets of WWII, the retiring vets of the Vietnam era to the new generation of Middle Eastern casualties. Each also has their own path to recovery.

With a bit of grit, guts and grants the town was able to tame the Uncompahgre river and transform it into a water park with a white water run that is easily accessed by the disabled and landscaped grounds with walking trails.

"*Home of the Brave*" is available on Amazon in both print and Kindle editions and at fine bookstores everywhere.



# HEART BEAT RADIO



Beth Williams is on hiatus for the next installment of Heart Beat Radio so publisher Greg Forest will be hosting the show this issue.

There will be excerpts from the CDs Greg reviewed on the previous pages plus a bonus track or two from the archive shoe box. You can get an earful of some of the best emerging artists and some classic cuts from some of Texas' best. Just go to [texasheartbeat.com](http://texasheartbeat.com) and click on the radio link in the top right corner. The best of Texas just a click away!

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# FULL HOUSE



*Phil Houseal*

## Rob Mahoney and his Magic Piano



Any gigging piano player yearns to have a real acoustic piano under his fingers. Alas, life on the road means you leave the spinet at home and use a succession of digital keyboards, perched on stands, and draped with cords.

Granted, these digital wonders are capable of recreating every style of piano sound, from a rich baby grand to an out-of-tune honkey-tonk upright. If only it looked like a piano instead of an electric ironing board.

Johnson City musician Rob Mahoney has created a solution.



He developed the Stowaway PianoBack, a concept so simple in design and so nimble in use, it's a wonder no one came up with it before.



"The idea came during a conversation with a friend and mentor," Mahoney said. "He said what I want is to hold up a tablecloth and POOF you have a grand piano. I looked off into space, my eyes rolled back in my head, and I punted on that idea for a minute. Then I drew a sketch of the back and sides of a piano, that you unroll out of a tube, and BOOM you got a piano."



The PianoBack was born. It is the image of a piano printed on a durable banner that weighs less than 3 pounds and wraps around a keyboard to hide the stand, pedals, and cords.

Mahoney's leap of insight is not surprising given his background. He got his degree in petroleum engineering ("the day that industry was over"), he worked in radio for years, played in touring bands for a decade (including with The Killer Bees), hosted an Austin music TV show, and recorded voiceovers for commercials and video games.

These days he lives in a house he built out of recycled materials on the banks of the Pedernales River, and plays solo piano gigs, mostly at area wineries, restaurants, and clubs.

While his “picture of a piano” works well as trompe l’oeil and has been selling steadily for nine years, Mahoney has since created sturdier versions out of wood, mimicking an upright piano (FlatStack) and even a grand piano (GrandStand).



They fold up to be flat so they are easy to transport. Once at a gig, he rolls them in on a dolly and unfolds them to surround his keyboard on three sides.

Mahoney has sold his products to musicians, theaters, high school bands, and touring stars, including the “biggest rock band on the planet.”

But he admits it has yet to be a path to riches, “If you want to get rich, don’t make products to sell to musicians,” he advised.

“And this is a niche product, targeted only to piano players, and only piano players that want to look like they are playing real piano. It’s more of an art project, really.”

But a very, very good art project.

“People are so convinced it’s a piano, they don’t even look down and see that it’s really a digital keyboard,” he said.

Amazingly, Mahoney’s piano wrapping not only fools the eye, it fools the ear, according to one satisfied customer.

“One lady told me that I played better with a real piano instead of using a big keyboard,” one user wrote on his page.

“I guess there isn’t a better testimonial than that.”

Rob Mahoney plays at Barons Creek Vineyard most Saturdays through the year. He can be contacted through his web site [www. RioGumbo.com](http://www.RioGumbo.com).

Information on his Stowaway products is at [www. pianoback.com](http://www.pianoback.com).

Phil Houseal is a writer and owner of Full House PR [www.fullhouseproductions.net](http://www.fullhouseproductions.net).

Contact him at [phil@fullhouseproductions.net](mailto:phil@fullhouseproductions.net).







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## A CONSERVATION NOTEBOOK by Homer Stevens

Originally this edition was to be about Spanish Oak trees, but on receiving a copy of Jim Stanley's "Ecology of the Texas Hill Country" for Christmas, I was so impressed that I cannot resist the opportunity to promote his book and his ideas regarding Land Stewardship. Hopefully, quoting from Jim's introductory statement will give insight into the mission of the book. "This book is a labor of love for me because it is about the Hill Country, or at least the native, natural part of the Hill Country. And my purpose for writing it is to teach others about the natural part of the Hill Country."

This statement most certainly exemplifies my own mission in contributing to the Heart Beat every quarter. Jim's "Hill Country Landowner's Guide" was published by the Texas A&M Press, and he was awarded the Carroll Abbott Memorial award by the Native Plant Society of Texas in 2012. In 2014 he published a second book, "A Beginner's Handbook for Rural Texas Landowners, How to Live in the Country Without Spoiling It."

My personal introduction to Jim and the Master Naturalist Society that he so strongly represents came in the Fall of 2012. Having read about the program in the Kerrville Daily Times, I requested and was granted permission to enroll in the sessions. Although I have lived in the Hill Country for some 75+ years and profess to have been an avid conservationist and Land Steward for most that time, the program served me with numerous new concepts and reminded me of forgotten facts.

Two of the most important aspects of Land Stewardship for me would quite likely be growing grass and preserving water. We cringe at the idea of the businesswise, successful early retired couple who purchase 40 acres of Hill Country land, build a large home with a large yard of St. Augustine grass, stock the pasture with 5 Longhorn cows, a bull, goats, a pet llama, maybe a buffalo, a flock of chickens with a few guineas, two dogs, 8 cats, and a pony for each of

the 5 grand kids. These scenarios present a challenge to good Land Stewardship that requires research and thought processes even if the economics of the feed bill is not a factor.

Our Hill Country can easily be classified as a green desert as you look out over the hills. What you see is green due to the abundance of Ash Juniper (cedar). In wet years blue stem grasses grow in abundance. Appearances are very deceiving; even the stated average rainfall of 32" is misleading. There are many more drier than average years than above average years, and the average is supplemented by floods that may last only a few days. It is adaptation to these conditions and issues that Jim's books address, and in my own small contributions, an effort is made to add bits of information gained though many years of firsthand experience.

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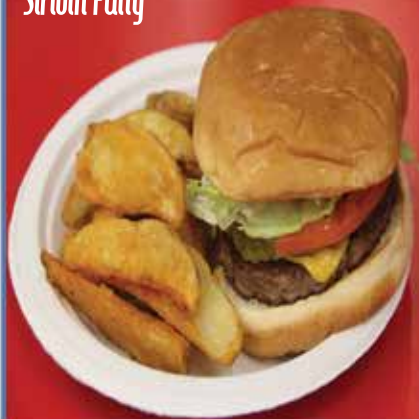


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# Gardening Naturally: Consider Beekeeping

BY GARY LOCHTE



For several years, this column has discussed common sense methods of growing a great garden. Perhaps now is a good time for you to expand your knowledge and elevate your organic garden to the next level by introducing “beekeeping”.

You may not know that since 2006, beekeepers have recorded the death of honeybee populations at increasingly rapid rates. According to a recent article from WWW.GLOBAL RESEARCH CA, *“Recent harsh winters that stay freezing cold well into spring have been instrumental in decimating the honeybee population in **lowa** by up to 70% (<http://www.thegazette.com/2014/03/23/winter-stings-iowas-honey-bee-population-2>) as well as the other historically high yielding honey states – the Dakotas, Montana, Minnesota. The northern Plains and Mid-western states that have regionally always produced the nation’s most honey have been severely hurt by the long harsh winters in the last couple years. Florida as the third largest honey producer and especially California always among the top producers have been hit especially hard by decreasing bee colony populations. In 2006 when the problem of bee loss first was noticed, California was right up at the top with North Dakota producing nearly twice as much honey as the next state South Dakota but its bee numbers have incurred such heavy losses that in 2011, though still second, California’s honey production fell by nearly half (<https://www.statista.com/statistics/191996/top-10-honey-producing-us-states/>) in just six years. The recent severe drought in California has become an additional factor driving both its honey yield and bee numbers down as less rain means less flowers available to pollinate.”*

Bees pollinate countless essential crops which people and animals survive on. Bottom line: declining bee populations means declining food supplies. It is so critical beginning in 2007, the US CONGRESS passed laws governing what

they call HONEY BEE COLLAPSE DISORDER. But as is often the case, the CONGRESS missed the point entirely, and threw our money at the culprits instead of the cure.

We can take the cure into our own hands by bringing beekeeping into our back yards. Beekeeping is local, easy and fun to learn, and is relatively inexpensive. You **can** raise bees, and you should.

Where do you start? Start local. Right now TRACTOR SUPPLY COMPANY has a beekeeping promotion on-line. You can pre-order bees, hives, and all the supplies needed to have a hive of your own. They even have a simple starter kit that comes with everything you need, all for under \$100.

I also found a helpful website which is a 1-stop shop for beekeeping. Check out <https://beebuilt.com/pages/beekeepingforbeginners>.

You might also enjoy leaning about the Texas A&M University TEXAS MASTER BEEKEEPER PROGRAM. The program is described as “An educational program designed to increase the knowledge and skill level of participating beekeepers. The program is a five-year (minimum) beekeeper training and certification program provided by the Texas Apiary Inspection Service in association with the Texas Beekeepers Association.”

Your local county extension agent is a great source of information and help should you decide to investigate further. For information, contact the Bandera office at 830.796.7755





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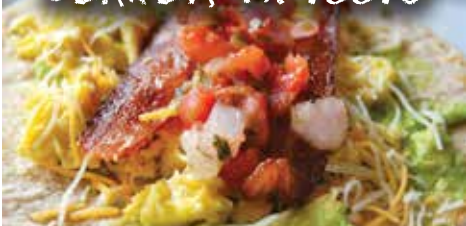


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## GROWING YOUNGER AND PROBABLY WISER

by Betty Sharp



**N**ot every technological advance appeals to me. I won't use a programmable coffee maker because I don't think it has any business knowing when I get up. On the other hand, I'm addicted to my Surface Pro 4. which is easier to carry around than a box of Kleenex. It replaced a 3 pound Thinkpad, which in turn replaced a clunky metal tower that sits in the barn. The cats sun themselves on it. Although I still frequent libraries, my computer allows me to do research at home. I didn't envision this forty years ago, and what I envision for the coming years changes frequently. That's important to younger generations and of course I'm going to tell you why.

It's true that change is occurring faster than most of us comprehend. Few of us can run in place with new product development, let alone outpace it. That's not necessarily bad. I just got my first flat screen TV, for instance, years after friends spent thousands for wall sized screens heavy enough to cause a hernia. I didn't see any benefit to 5' high TV characters in my living room for such money. My quality of life didn't suffer due to old TVs, but I wished for one easily moveable that looked better than Fred Flintstone's. Watching my computer screen didn't suit my purposes. I wanted an inexpensive, lightweight flat TV.

Business and technology finally caught up with me. Last month I paid \$119 for a 32 inch flat screen. I pick it up with one hand, take it outside or to the barn, plug in a \$60 DVD player and enjoy exercising in my yard. I can follow an instructional DVD about massaging my old horse's back, working on him while he stands in front of the screen. (Yes, I think he enjoys watching!). I know my tv has a ROKU box so I could stream but I prefer DVDs. I'm using an affordable product in a way that suits me.

An older person with my attitude is known in academic business circles as

a "lead-user innovator," a consumer who "hacks" a technologically advanced product until it suits her needs. I came across that concept in *The Longevity Economy: Unlocking the World's Fastest-Growing, Most Misunderstood Market* by Joseph F. Coughlin.

This MIT professor argues that baby boomers are going to turn mistaken thinking about the aging population on its head for the benefit of all. Rather than sapping the financial strength of the young, the old are not only the largest new product market but are busily creating new products themselves.

Dr. Coughlin warns, however, that we've been ingrained with the harmful idea of an inevitable "generational storm." We're propagandized to think that we must decrease the financial security of the old to placate the young or we'll be robbing from their future. Well, in a word, that propaganda is poppycock (my word, not his).

Tourism and entertainment industries certainly recognize older people as a strong customer base, so a decline in their financial security and discretionary income spending would hurt those businesses. Further, while it is true that many businesses and entrepreneurs consider older people during product development, it's possible that the overriding image of declining physical and mental abilities is hindering innovation.



Yes, decline comes with age but older people are defining themselves differently than ever before and that's

good for our economy and society and the future of younger generations. In other words, it's not just a better pill sorter that we want to buy or create but to get this across, we need to change the narrative about our aging population.

Let me explain it this way. "Marty" is an excellent 1950's movie about a lonely bachelor who lives with his mother. In a dialogue that has stuck with me for years, Marty's mother is worried that he will marry and move out. "I'm a widow, I'm 55, what's left for me?" That was the perception of old age for decades. Fifty-five was old and the future was bleak. Then, as baby boomers aged and built financial security, ideal retirement was perceived predominantly as leisure time, segregation into age defined communities, lots of golf and RV travel. Old meant the late 60's or early 70's not 55. Now in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, a sea change is occurring. Regardless of economic rise and fall, aging adults are increasingly breaking stereotypes.

Grandmas don't dress like grandmas anymore, jokes about computer ineptitude are fading and many are turning lifelong dreams into reality. That could be anything from buying a first horse, going on a mission trip, or obtaining a university degree.

Second careers through professional training are common now, as are innovative learning opportunities like One Day University. The 70's are "not that old" and the early 80's are "the young 80's."



What does this mean to the younger generations who've been told the aging are a drag on their future? First, it means that you can't put the aging population in a box of just takers anymore. That's exciting for business and could cause explosive economic growth because an aging population that continually adds more years to a vibrant lifestyle expands mar-

kets. The healthier and more financially secure older people are, the more they'll seek experiences that are both fun and meaningful, the more products they'll use, and the more they'll benefit society.

That's happening now and its going to intensify. Aided by everything from Fitbits to service animals and soon by AE (artificial intelligence) in so many ways from help with daily chores to studying languages, it's a sure bet the majority of the aging population isn't going to be sitting around lamenting their plight. They're going to increase volunteering, activism and travel and they're going to add to intellectual growth and overall financial growth in surprising ways. It's not an "old versus young" zero sum game.

Age is not and probably never has been much of a limiting factor in creativity. Circumstances are probably more limiting than age. Our "generational storm" narrative, however, is that a 12 year-old coding whiz is more likely to come up with a world altering idea than an older person. Let me refute that by bringing to your attention Dr. John Goodenough, Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Texas at Austin. Last year, he filed a patent for a new type of battery. I won't attempt to explain it but if it works, it could end dependence on fossil fuels. Yes, for real, this time. Dr. Goodenough is 95 years old. I know you're scoffing but Dr. Goodenough co-invented the lithium-ion battery in 1980 when he was 57. That's the battery that made possible most of the electronic products you're using right now. When he was 23 in 1946, Dr. Goodenough was told he was too old to be a success in his science field. You can read more in the *New York Times* April 7, 2017 article by Pagan Kennedy titled "To Be a Genius, Think Like a 94-year old." It will open your eyes.

Visualizing life changes through new technology is a creative process in itself. For fun with that concept, read Dan Brown's *Origins*, a futuristic take on AE. Reading it is like watching a B movie thriller in your head. You know you should stop but you can't help yourself. Two cautions: you'll discover why "gaudy" means tacky, and if you're a Fitbit wearer, don't say I didn't warn you.



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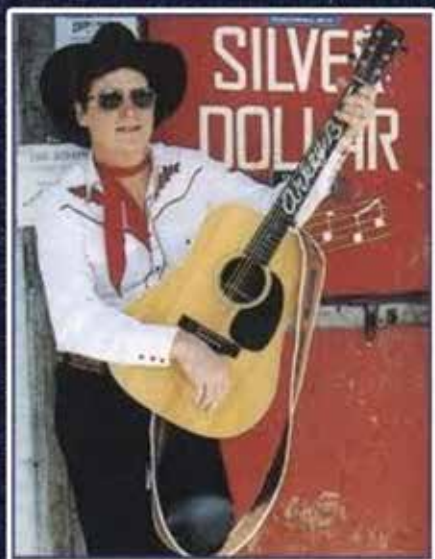
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