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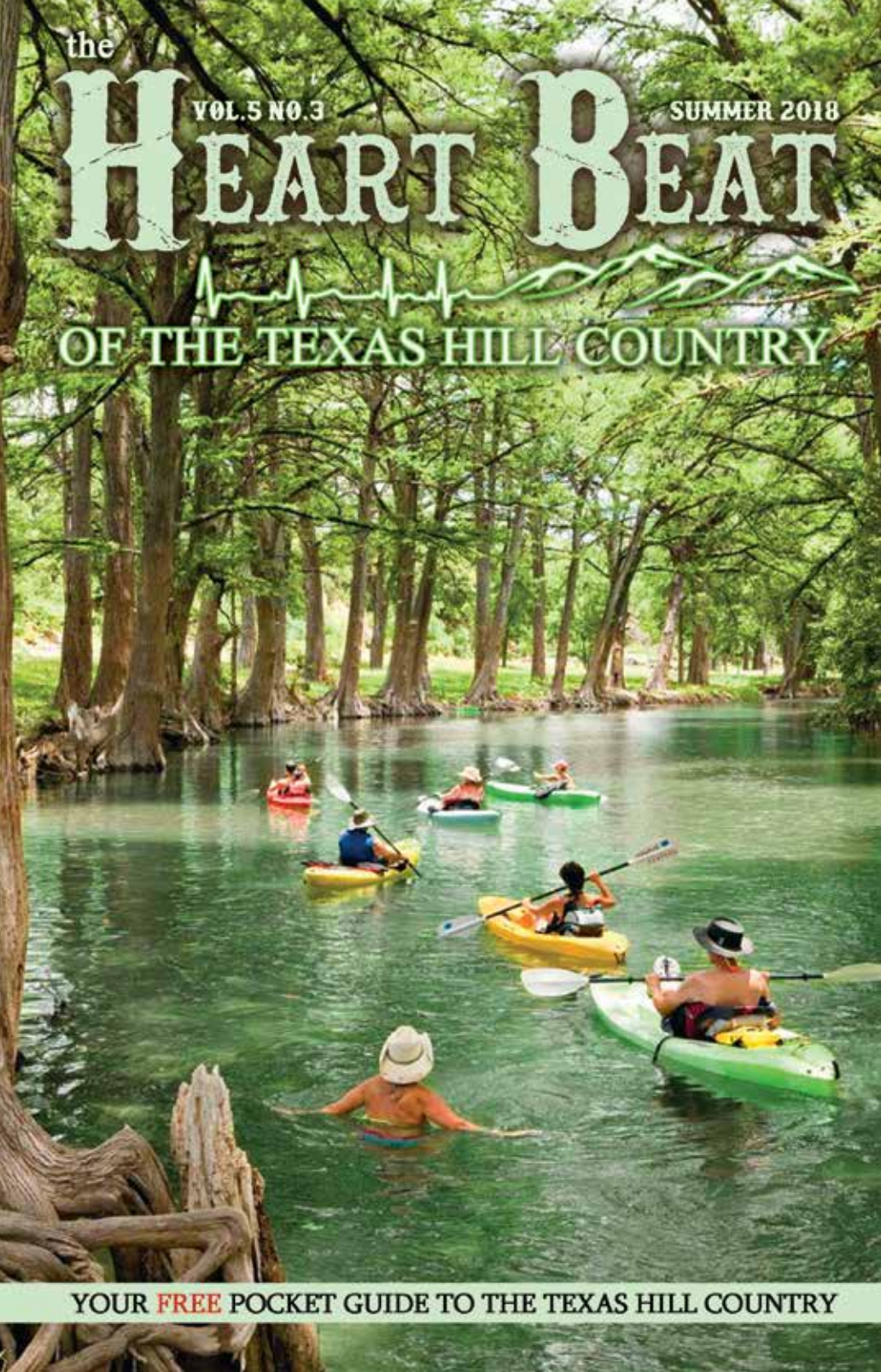
VOL. 5 NO. 3

SUMMER 2018

HEART BEAT



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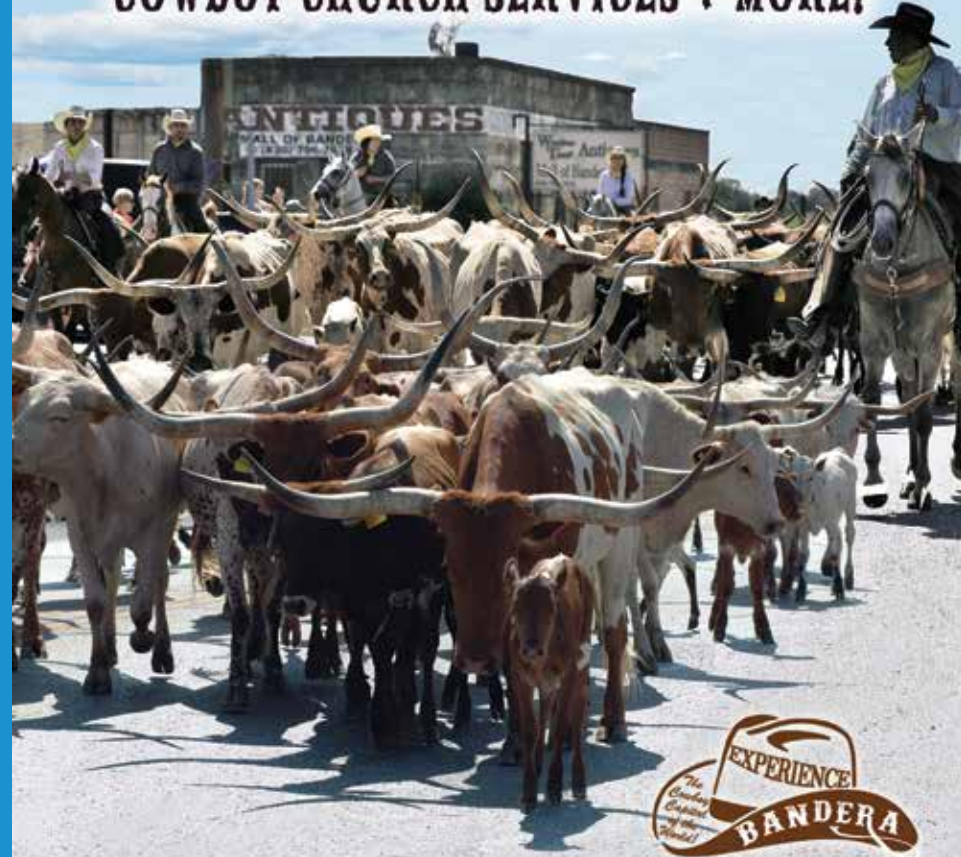
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Publisher/Designer: Karyn Lyn
Publisher/Editor: Greg Forest

Design & Layout: Lonesome Dove Design Studio
Columnists & Contributing Writers: Karyn Lyn, Greg Forest, Kathleen Hudson, Joe Herring, Phil Houseal, Jil Utterback, Gary Lockte, Mary Schenk, Genie Strickland, Betty Sharp, Homer Stevens, Colleen Brooks, Carlotta Schmittgen, Jennifer Kulick & Jack Armstrong

Proof Readers: Jil Utterback, Guy Barzetti
Layout, Multimedia & Web Site: The Music Office
Photographers: Greg Forest, Karyn Lyn, Nancy Essary
Sales: Karyn Lyn, Greg Forest, Colleen Brooks, Jennifer Nimrichter, Gary Smith, & Guy Barzetti.

Contact Heart Beat
texasheartbeat.com | PO Box 1204 |Bandera,TX 78003
Karyn (210) 316-2986 karyn@texasheartbeat.com
Greg (830) 746-8041 greg@texasheartbeat.com

Phil Houseal Mindy's Music in Fredericksburg

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Betty Sharp More Sounds Than Silence

Two plus two equals four. 1 + 4 + 5 equals a country song according to the Nashville number chart method of transcribing music for session players. There is a lot going on in your brain as you tap you feet to your favorite tunes. Betty pulls back the curtain on music and your mind. She shows us how it all adds up.

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Allyce's Attic Of Commas, Spaces and Periods

Two spaces after a period? What is the "proper" way to use commas? Writing these days can be confusing when it comes to punctuation. What a grammatical quandary! So if you want to your writing to fall into line with the pros, Check out the column. Period.



Kathleen Hudson Life is Getting Rosie

Kathleen Hudson shares an excerpt from her book, focusing on a powerhouse of women in Texas music - Rosie Flores. Rosie has shared the stage with some of the most notable performers on the planet. But she isn't resting on past laurels, you should see what she has up her sleeve for the future.



Joe Herring Kerrville's Bend on the Guadalupe

The weather is warming up and so is the river down at Louis Hayes Park in Kerrville. Joe finds himself sneaking out of his print shop on occasion to take a plunge in the river right behind his office. Joe's not the only one. The convenience to downtown and the beauty of the park is a siren song for swimmers. Come on in, the water's fine.



Greg Forest Hill Country Swimmin' Holes Taking the Plunge

Hey water lovers its time to take the plunge into some of the best swimmin' holes in the Hill Country. I remember when Pearl beer had the motto, "From the land of 1,100 springs." I think they may have been low on the count . This issue we take a look at some of the most popular and accessible swimming, kayaking and tubing destinations in the region.



Dalis Allen Kerrville Folk Festival Updates

It's right around the corner and celebrating it's 47th year. America's premier songwriter festival is again drawing from all regions of the country and the world to bring some of the most beloved writers and a look at who is up and coming.



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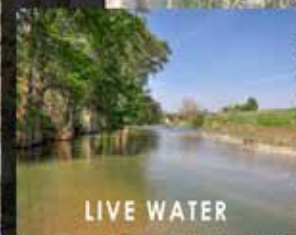
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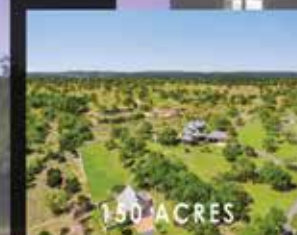
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Celebrating Songwriters and the art of songwriting once again for 18 straight days at Quiet Valley Ranch! If you have been with us thus far you know how much fun we have been having.

AND we still have almost two weeks left of the 2018 Festival through June 10. Before Festival even started we were hosting Kerrville Folk Festival on the Road Tour at venues all around Texas.

We hope to continue some shows like these during the year to keep in touch with friends and fans more often.

The Grassy Hill Kerrville New Folk Award Winners for 2018 have been chosen and celebrated. We are looking forward to their concert on Sunday June 3rd from 1 - 4PM. This is a 3 hour not to be missed concert.

We still have so much music and community left to participate in, join us!

There are Kennedy Theater Mainstage concerts on June 1 - 3 and June 8 - 10 and Threadgill Theater Sundown Concerts on June 4 - 7. Tickets are on sale at the gate.

And a 3-day Ukulele Workshop and also a 3-day Harmonica Workshop June 4 - 6 that are still open for registration.

June 9 of Festival is a Celebration/Remembrance for Bonnie Hearne, one of the sweetest souls I have ever met. Tish Hinojosa, Shake Russell & Michael Hearne (Bill & Bonnie's nephew), Bonnie's husband Bill Hearne with his trio and Albert & Gage will be playing on that evening. It will be a lovely concert filled with great songs and lots of love.

And so will brings to an end the 47th Kerrville Folk Festival, closing as always with our anthem 'Heal in the Wisdom' written by Bobby Bridger and led this year by Christine Albert and Chris Gage of 'Albert & Gage'.

July brings our Music Camp for Teens in collaboration with Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Texas.



We are not having the Kerrville Fall Festival in 2018. Stayed tuned for updates on what we WILL be doing in the fall of 2019!!!

We are celebrating another great festival that happens in Fischer Texas in November called Fischer Fest, kind of easy to remember! And speaking again of Grassy Hill Kerrville New Folk, all six of our 2018 Award Winners will be on opening night on Friday Nov 9. Tickets sell out quickly to this one. <https://www.fischerfest.org/>

Thanks for reading about the Kerrville Folk Festival in Texas Heartbeat Magazine.

- 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".

For more information and updates, visit [/www.kerrville-music.com](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 discounted 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.





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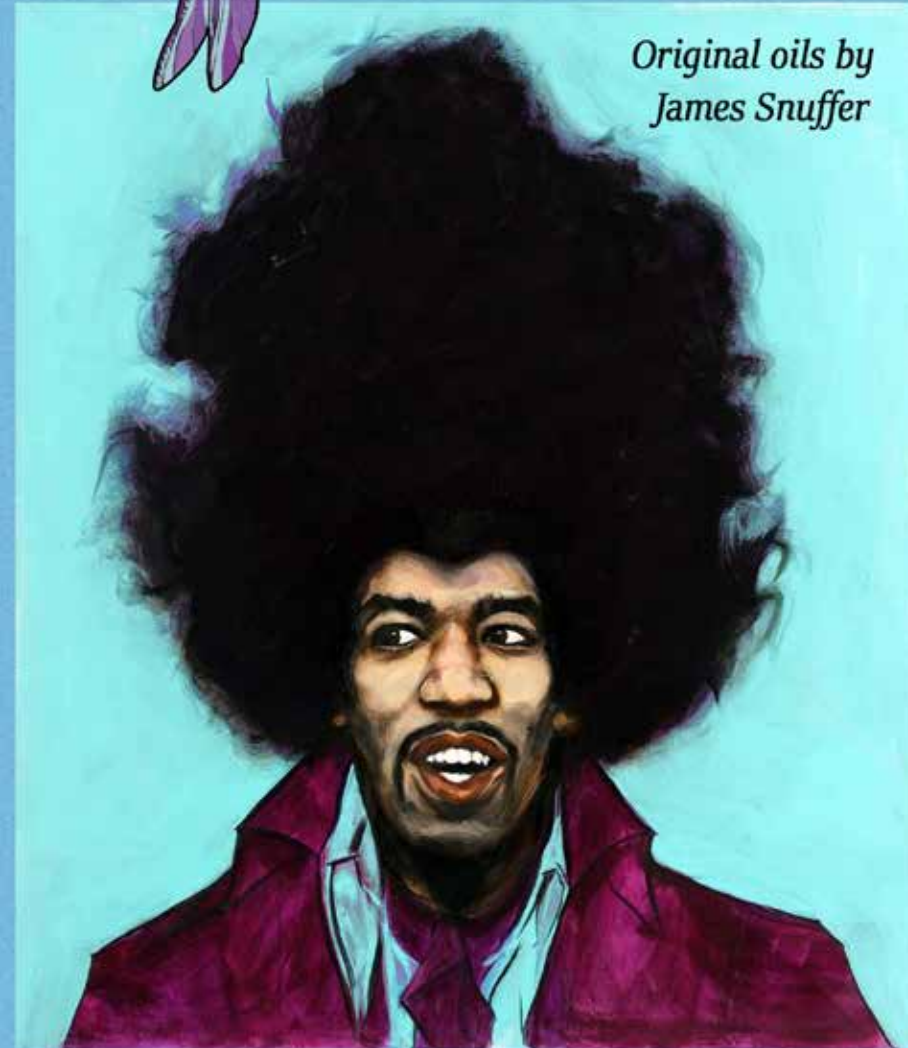




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Our Bend of the Guadalupe River
by Joe Herring



Finally, we're entering that time of year when swimming in the Guadalupe River becomes pleasant.

For a fellow who spends most of his waking hours working beside the river in downtown Kerrville, the temptation of sneaking off to go for a swim starts about mid-May, and doesn't leave until the first cold snap in October. It's a temptation to which I've yielded very few times, but each of those times was memorable. Swimming when one is supposed to be working is especially sweet.

I'm not the only one who enjoys swimming in the river in downtown Kerrville. Each time I go there are many others enjoying the water, most close to shore, and many near the dam at the Louise Hays Park. I often go swimming with my son there, in deep section of river between the Sidney Baker Street bridge and the dam. We swim with those floating styrofoam 'noodles,' putting some distance between us and the swimmers by the shore. It's amazing how peaceful a swim can be, even when it's in the heart of busy Kerrville, with trucks and cars passing over the bridge above, and with the sounds of bells coming from downtown.

And swimming there has gone on for many generations. Many of the photos in my collection show folks swimming in that section of water, or beneath the dam. In the 1950s, there were even water ski shows in that part of the river.

The first plunge into the water is always a shock. The water is always colder than I expect.

Swimming toward the center of the river, looking for sunshine, is also cold. But once you escape the shadow of the cypress trees lining the southern bank there, floating in the bright light is very nice.

When it's time to return to shore, and you swim toward the falling sun, the surface of the water takes on a special quality. The color is a deep green, and the water feels soft. The water has a smell, too; it's not an unpleasant smell, but it is a definite signature of that part of the river, a reflection of all of the living things that call the water home.

Perhaps I'll see some of you there this summer.

Until next time, all the best.

Joe Herring Jr. is a Kerrville native.

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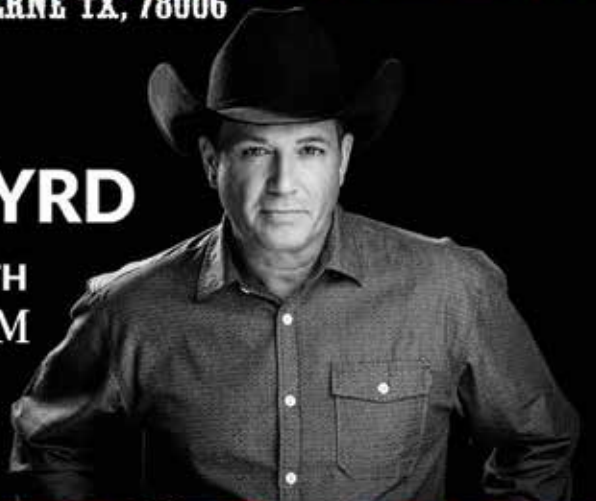
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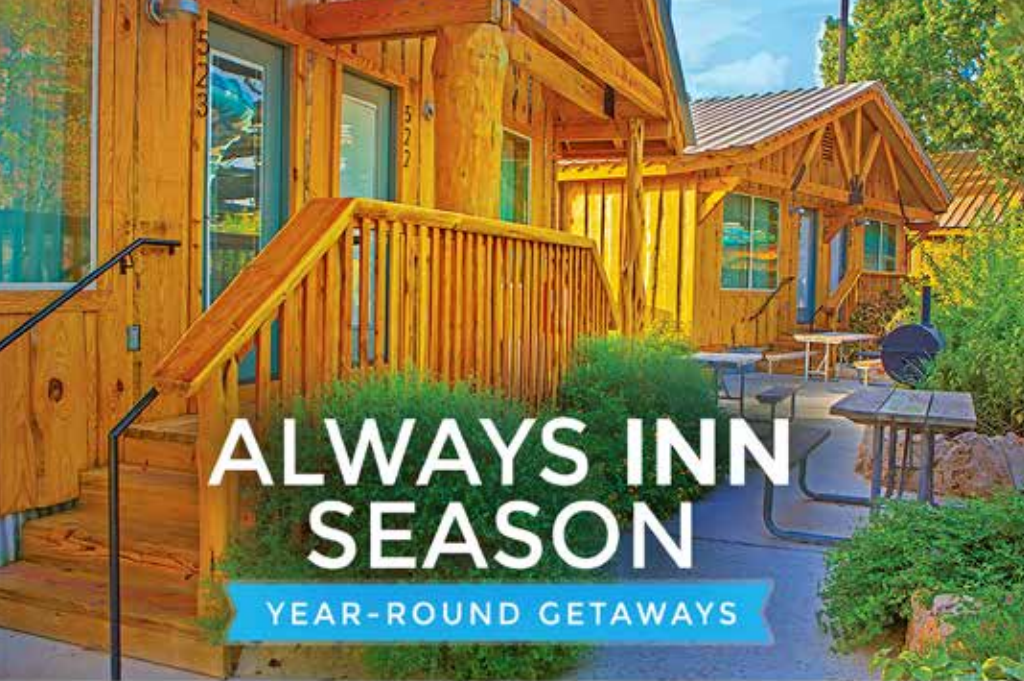
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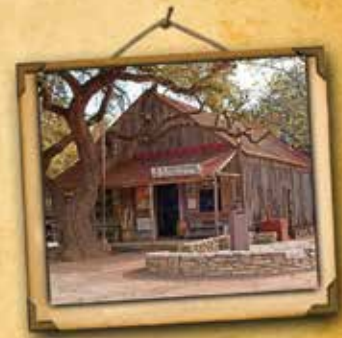
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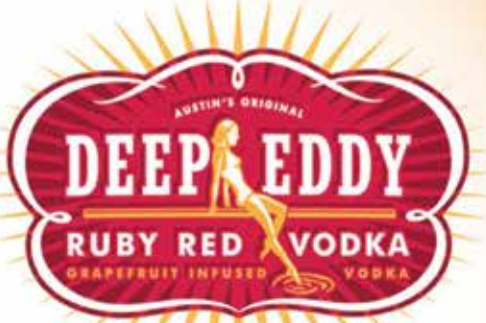
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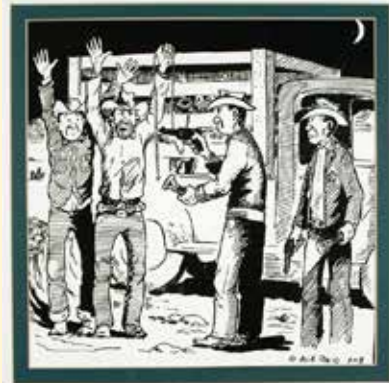
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Gilda Radner, as her news-woman character Roseanne Rosanadana, used to end her wandering rants with, "It's always something . . ." It is, Gilda. It is.

I try to stay up with current trends. Change comes pretty fast these days, so it can be hard to keep up. Thanks, however, to that arbiter of all things discussable, Facebook, we can be sure we're going to know the latest about our friends as well as really important stuff like the Oxford comma and the current debate about one space or two spaces after a period in written text. As a writer, the latter two interest me even if there's no clear cut answer to either.

The Oxford comma (also known as the Harvard comma and the serial comma) is that tiny bit of punctuation used in a series, as in "Lions, tigers, and bears". Its use was never in question until it was in question per the University of Oxford's own stylebook, which announced around 2011, "As a general rule, do not use the serial/Oxford comma: so write 'a, b and c' not 'a, b, and c'. But when a comma would assist in the meaning of a sentence or helps to resolve ambiguity, it can be used – especially where one of the items in the list is already joined by 'and'."

Let the debate begin.

The best and safest opinion, in my opinion, is to use the pesky thing when writing academic and other scholarly texts and forget it for more informal writings. Or, use it wherever and whenever the need strikes you. I have a far weightier matter to consider when I write, like one space or two spaces after a period in typed/printed texts.

This, too, used to be a no brainer. Two spaces after a period. Pe-

riod. That was back in the dark ages when we used typewriters. Everything changed with word processors, closely followed by Word programs installed in computers. There's actually an explanation for the change relating to the ease with which the human eye reads a printed page. Typewriters gave all letters the same amount of horizontal space which apparently drew the readers' eyes in a way that made the two-space rule helpful in reading a block of text. Typeset texts have always followed the single space format, even before typewriters, because letters and characters in print are of different type size and the period, small as it is, creates an extra space by itself. Modern computer/word processing programs function like typesetters making the two-space rule outmoded and unnecessary. Editors simply convert all two-spacers to one. Done deal.

Just because we get it, doesn't mean we like it. Even the most progressive of us balk at all the changes our modern world throws at us. Nostalgia beckons and it's hard to let go. It's not all commas and spaces either. It's our very way of life.

Consider this. My alma mater, Purdue University, did a study to determine why some folks age more easily than others. The researchers thought they would find the older men and women who enjoyed good health would be the happier, more content lot. Results of the study showed something far different. The more functional, happier older people were those who were better able to adapt to change, of all kinds. Not that they abandoned fond, warm, fuzzy traditions, but they were ready and able to welcome the changes life presented and

...Continued on page 36

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...Continued from page 35

sometimes demanded.

We had a song we sang in Girls Scouts “way back when”. It went: “Make new friends, but keep the old. One is silver and the other gold.” Seems simplistic, but it’s not. If accepting changes like the new Oxford comma or one-space rule while recognizing the validity of the old is tough, how well will we adapt to bigger changes as they inevitably come along?

As Gilda said, “It’s always something . . .” So buckle up. It’s bound to be a bumpy ride sometimes, but it can also be an exhilarating one. Get out there and enjoy something new in our beautiful Texas Hill Country. There’s lots to sample – old and new - from music to restaurants, craft breweries, wineries, food trucks and festivals.

Happy summer!



HYD SILVER



Photo by Bob Zink

Many years ago Alex Gillespie called me and asked if my non-profit would sponsor a series of radio shows for NPR on the history of rockabilly. I said yes, and in 2007 I received a call, saying, “You (THMF) have received a Peabody Award for this radio series.” I said yes to the right person! I did have a chance to be an historical advisor and suggest a moderator for the entire series.

Enter Rosie Flores! We both traveled to New York to walk that stage with Alex and receive that award for “Whole Lotta Shakin,” a series named after a song by Jerry Lee Lewis.

I have heard Rosie at SXSW, at the Continental Club, at Luckenbach, and at other festivals. Once at the Continental Club Wanda Jackson, the reigning Queen of Rockabilly showed up to see Rosie. What a reunion.

Rosie has history, and her roots in the music of Texas run deep. Her pink glasses, boots and colorful clothing can catch your eye, but her voice captures your soul. And then her rowdy rhythmic performance! Everyone loves Rosie, the BluesGuitarFlingin’ Siren, as her facebook page says. And that electric guitar!

I remember talking to her about her times in California, Europe, and in

Nashville, but Texas is her home. I love being at her shows performing with roommate Patricia Vonne. I have been to that house and talked with both women about their lives. Two striking vibrant dark-haired women rocking the house. They do that.

Her website reveals a schedule into 2019, including many private parties and a Norwegian Cruise. June 2018 finds her at Poodie’s, Poor David’s Pub, and McGonigel’s Mucky Duck. Austin, Dallas and Houston. A Texas circuit for her fans. She also has a blog that documents her colorful journey.



She performed on the Sirius Outlaw Country cruise, along with Steve Earle, Jason and the Scorchers, Lucinda Williams, Rodney Crowell, Dale Watson and more. She also went to Memphis and spent a week with Dale Watson, Celine Lee and the Ameripolitan Awards. Reading her blog is getting the inside story with focus on details like the photo of Elvis in her room in Memphis. She played guitar for Wanda Jackson in March and April. Now we need to showcase Rosie in Kerrville. Who is ready to do that? Ils sont partis. KH

www.kathleenhudson.net

kathleenhudson123@hotmail.com



As I write this, I just finished watching the elimination game of the San Antonio Spurs to the Golden State Warriors. Sadness fills me as it is possibly the last game we will see the #20, Manu Ginóbili on the court. Manu was again in double digits just as he was in a lot of the games – Mr. Dependable. After the game was over, he immediately headed to Golden State Head Coach Steve Kerr.

The two men go way back – they were teammates for the Spurs in 2002 – Kerr’s last year as a player. As the two men hugged (Yes, real men hug and eat quiche!), the reporters’ microphones caught part of their exchange. “Keep going, OK?” Kerr quipped. Seriously Steve?!? I know better! Manu and a healthy San Antonio team is the LAST thing you want to see next season.



If this was indeed Ginóbili’s ride into the sunset, he sure went out with a bang – record after record!! He became the only player in NBA history to have multiple 20-point games off the bench at age 40 or older. He was also the first player in his 40s to score 15-plus points in back-to-back games since Michael Jordan in the 2002–03 season.

He surpassed David Robinson’s franchise record of 1,388 for most steals – with 1392. Teammate Patty Mills refers to him as “Grandpa Juice.” I beg to differ – he’s more like the Energizer Bunny leaving the younger players in the dust! Whatever he is doing, I want his secret formula!

In addition to Michael Jordan, Manu is in great company with others in the “Over 40” club for athletes. There’s Jack Nicholas, the oldest Masters winner in history, when he was 46.

Five days before his retirement, 40 year-old Babe Ruth went 4-for-4, three of those home runs. Who could possibly forget Nolan Ryan’s seventh no-hitter thrown when he was 44?!?! I was at that game. Jack Daugherty had left me comp tickets behind home plate. In the 7th inning, I saw the scoreboard and excitedly said,



“LOOK! Nolan has a” Before I could say what I planned to say.... “a you-know-what,” my hubby’s hand was across my mouth!!

We’ve seen Ginóbili through two Olympic medal winning performances for Argentina, four NBA Championships with the Spurs and two All-Star appearances. Yes, Manu.... You can flirt with the “R” word.... or heed Steve Kerr’s advice. Either way, we’ll see you someday in the NBA Hall of Fame!

Even more Lotta Sports on Facebook:

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**US HIGHWAY NORTH
SPRING BRANCH, TEXAS**



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



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 - 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 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



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 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.buffalonickelfbg.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

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 Junction, TX 76849 713-397-5049 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 (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



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



DANCING BEAR CANTINA MICO TEXAS

Dancing Bear Cantina is on the corner of 1283 and 271 in Mico, TX, 20 minutes west on Culebra/1604. Whether you are on your way to Rio Medina, Hondo or Bandera, it's an easy stop and has the most beautiful view of Medina Lake! Enjoy beautiful sunsets overlooking Medina Lake from our deck! We are a full liquor bar and have the coldest beers around. Enjoy a frozen Margarita, a phenomenal burger and other eats from our kitchen! Sit back and relax watching the boats and sunset over Medina Lake. We have an outdoor stage and offer some of the best live music on the weekends. Please see our Facebook page for band schedules. 7794 CR 271, Mico TX dancingbearcantina.com



JAKES BAR & GRILL PIPE CREEK, TX

Beer, Backyard, and Burgers! Jake's offers a nice selection of ice cold beers, wine, and set-ups. Friendly staff, a shady beer garden in the back, and great food from the Cast Iron Kitchen awaits you! They offer Live Music and host BIKE NIGHTS every Thursday from 7pm-10pm. RV spaces are also available. www.jakespipecreek.com 12246 State Hwy 16 Pipe Creek, TX



11TH STREET COWBOY BAR BANDERA TX

The 11th Street Cowboy Bar is a world-famous destination for all brands of folks, from cowboys to cowgirls, bikers to business folk. They come for the good brew, top-tier live Country, Swing, and Southern Rock music. Come park your Harley or ride up on your horse at the "Biggest Little Bar in Texas." 307 11th Street Bandera, TX 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.lonestarmotorcyclemuseum.com

BIKER DESTINATIONS CONTINUED...



LUCKENBACH TEXAS

"Everybody's Somebody at Luckenbach!" If you want True Texas -this is your place! Luckenbach was established as a Trading Post in 1849 making it one of the oldest settlements in Gillespie County. The Post Office/ General Store/ Beer Joint, was first opened in 1886. Now a legendary Dancehall that hosts monthly dances by some of the best Texas musicians-Texas minstrels such as Gary P. Nunn, Ray Wylie Hubbard, Billy Joe shaver and their audiences come to partake of the timeless ambiance, the cold beer, and the increasingly rare sense of being in the center of the known universe. 412 Luckenbach Town Loop, Fredericksburg, Texas.



TOUCAN JIM'S CENTERPOINT, TX

On your next Hill Country ride, step off the beaten trail for a stop at Toucan Jim's and have a cold one. Biker friendly with great food & drink. It will be the most memorable stop on your run. Make a stop at The Hill Country's only, "beach." This place is like no other in the beautiful Texas Hill Country and makes you feel like a true land shark! 5814 TX-27, Center Point, TX 78010 (830) 634-2640



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



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. 14178 State Hwy 16N Medina, TX • 830-589-2226 • Facebook: The Old Timer Medina TX



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. The Jail House features a great menu of Texas comfort food including steaks, burgers and more. There is also a full service bar featuring your favorite libations. You can also catch some live entertainment with some of the Hill Country's best entertainers. Now offering lunch. Drop by the Facebook page for menus and special events. 108 W Austin St. (830) 683-3866

This issue I returned to my tried and true recipe collection of which there are so many good old recipes it is hard to choose a few. My focus for the last three years has been to be healthier and plant based, but even old recipes you can modify and make them healthier in different ways. I will try to suggest some healthy alternatives in some cases.*



This is one of my Mother's recipes...using a crockpot on a hot day is nice and no need to heat up the house with stove top cooking or oven. Of course if you prefer this can be made in the oven.



**STUFFED
CABBAGE ROLLS**

INGREDIENTS

- 1 head of cabbage
- 1 pound ground beef (*lean or grass fed or substitute brown rice)
- 2 green peppers chopped
- 2 medium onions chopped
- 1 cup bread crumbs
- 1/3 cup chili sauce
- 2 tsp worchestershire sauce
- 1 8 oz can tomato sauce
- 2 TBSP butter (* or omit)
- 1/2 cup sour cream

DIRECTIONS

Core and cook cabbage 7 minutes in salted water. Drain and cool then select 12 outer leaves.
Cook beef, peppers, onions, drain, then add bread crumbs and chili.
Put the meat in a cabbage leaf then roll and secure with a toothpick.
Place them in a 9x13 pan. Pour tomato sauce over and dot with butter. Simmer 1 hour. Remove cabbage rolls to a platter. Add the sour cream to the tomato sauce then pour over the rolls and serve.

Let me hear if you enjoy these recipes: jilu@indian-creek.net



**OLD WORLD
SAUERKRAUT & SAUSAGE**

INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 TBSP flour
- 2 large cans of sauerkraut
- 3 strips of bacon cut in small pieces
- 2 small cubed potatoes
- 2 small apples cubed
- 3 TBSP brown sugar
- 1 1/2 tsp caraway seeds
- 1-2 pounds polish sausage cut in small pieces
- 1/2 cup water

DIRECTIONS

Fry bacon until crisp. Drain and add flour to bacon drippings and blend well. Stir in sauerkraut. Place sauerkraut mixture in the crockpot. And add all the other ingredients. Cook on low 7-9 hours or high 3-4 hours.

Frozen Strawberry Dessert--This is a great make-ahead dessert

Mix 1 cup flour, 1/2 cup melted butter, 1/4 cup brown sugar & 1/2 cup nuts.
Press into a 9x13 pan. Reserve 1/4 cup for topping.
Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes then cool.
In a large bowl combine 1 cup sugar, 2 egg whites (room temperature)
2 TBSP lemon juice & 16 oz package of frozen strawberries.
Beat 15-20 minutes with mixer. Fold in a 14 oz carton of cool whip.
Top the cooled crust with the strawberry mixture.
Sprinkle with the reserved nut topping.
Freeze at least overnight.



MORE SOUNDS THAN SILENCE

by Betty Sharp

I smell beer and sauerkraut laden hot dogs. I hear wild calls and foot stomps as I watch Uncle Carmen and Aunt Sylvia polka on old wood planks. It's 1960 and I'm a child at a Pennsylvania Polish picnic. A 1980's zydeco performance by Ponty Bone, The Squeeze Tones and Queen Ida at Liberty Lunch in Austin grabbed me and sent me back there. I had no say in the matter. All I did was click the Spring 2018 Heart Beat radio link and the music took over my imagination.

Emotional response to music is universal but individual response to specific music seems to depend on our own life experiences, regardless of the intent of the musicians. I'm sure some of my friends would quickly switch off zydeco music, but then I'll never sit through their Wagner operas. Different taste in music isn't news, but almost every human anywhere having access to all kinds of music 24/7 is news. It's astounding to me.

Think about this: Limited recorded music became accessible electronically in limited areas about 90 years ago, but in the past 10 years accessibility to innumerable music choices, old and new, has exploded. Worldwide, most humans can pull up any music they want at any time they want, battery included.

Much has been written about effects of loss of silence, but what about the intellectual and emotional consequences of constant music accessibility? For example, scientists who study brain development have known for decades of the tie between mathematical cognizance and musical ability. How musicians follow frequencies, scales, intervals and tones that can be expressed mathematically is foreign to me. Heck, I have trouble being on the beat. But will 24/7 accessibility increase brain development, and which comes first: the music or the mathematics?

A retired high school principal said she once asked the band director if he knew the school's best mathematics students were band members. He said no one had ever mentioned it. Maybe we've been wrong in telling teenagers to turn off the music when they study, or is listening different from playing or singing? Regardless, it's nearly impossible to limit music accessibility anymore not only for teenagers but also for everyone worldwide. That's very different from the human music experience for most of our existence. I think we're in for a lot of unexpected surprises in creativity, intellectual growth and healing power just from increased accessibility.

I thought of a literary and entertainment example to explain what I mean—Sherlock Holmes and the PBS tv series, "Sherlock." It's not accidental that Conyan Doyle's intellectually superior 19th century detective Holmes plays the violin for solace, and plays alone, although he sometimes composes. He attends performances of virtuosos and appreciates a Stradivarius, but his own playing is largely to sooth his mind and strengthen his logic. There's nothing social about it.

PBS' 21st century "Sherlock," however, uses Holmes violin playing differently. Set in contemporary London, Benedict Cumberbatch's present day Holmes texts with his thumbs, holding his phone behind his back. Although often as anti-social as his 19th century counterpart, this Holmes composes and plays a waltz for John and Mary Watson at their wedding. He does it to give the gift of his esteem to the couple and to create a lovely, publicly shared moment for their memories. Then, in a dark finale, Holmes runs afoul of his mentally deranged and emotionally vacant sister, Eurus. Finally imprisoned in Britain's most secure facility, Eurus is given a violin. Holmes tries to reach her emotionally through their playing a duet.

This fictional scene parallels what many of us know about our loved ones who suffer from Alzheimer's or dementia. Many can sing a favorite song or play an instrument beautifully, even when they can't recall where they are or who we are. We're learning more about how to use music not only in these cases but also for those suffering from brain injuries, disabilities, depression and addictions. Of course, we've always used music to calm and inspire, to encourage movement and to celebrate. Now, however, Music Therapy is a formal field of study and the payoff could be tremendous. A good place to read more is the site of the Texas Heritage Music Foundation, founded by Dr. Kathleen Hudson, who reviews music for this magazine. Through its "The Music Connection" this foundation offers the "healing power of music."

With all this accessibility to unlimited stored music from all eras, however, why do we still flock to concerts and festivals? Why are bars and restaurants with live music events so popular, particularly in the summer when we can sit outside on the patios with a cold one? (or is that just me?). Do we need to worry about the eventual decline of live music performances? I don't think so.

First, we're tribal. There's no getting away from that. It's great to listen to my beloved Dixie Chicks at home but, wow, being with thousands of others jumping, screaming, singing along, is almost an out of body experience. I want to be with those who can belt out "Good-bye Earl" or who cry to the lyrics of Bruce Robison's "Travelin' Soldier." Its fantastic to share the same reactions with others. That's why we'll keep attending concerts and festivals in mass.

Next, I think we love hearing music in a live setting because its just a whole lot of fun, a break from the routine of every day. Then, there's the anticipation of hearing music that unexpectedly captures our private thoughts and experiences. It touches something we've held inside and didn't know how to express. The music then becomes very personal.

That happened to me at the

Pocket Theatre on Mockingbird in Dallas in—would you believe—the last century. I think it was 1989 when I heard "Thank Heavens for Dale Evans" in this tiny venue. The lyrics "Dale Evans made a cowgirl out of me" put words to the feelings I experienced watching Roy Rodgers and Dale Evans on a 1950's black and white TV. I was a steel mill town little girl who really belonged with horses and hats (cowboys came later). Dale Evans and Buttermilk, her Buckskin horse, were my heroes. I couldn't express it then, and didn't know others felt the same till that song put it all together for me. The musicians? Robin Macey, Laura Lynch, and two teenagers named Martie and Emily. I've been a Dixie Chicks' fan ever since, no matter what.

I know how musicians and composers make money has changed a lot, some of it unfairly, but the live music isn't going to stop no matter the technology and accessibility. The entries to music festivals attest to that. There will always be a younger singer, a younger musician, trying to make it. And I hope there will always be unaccompanied singing in the kitchen while doing chores, and bus loads of annoying middle school kids making chaperons crazy with "99 Bottles of Beer on the Wall." It's the opportunities for use of music, the opportunities for learning, for creativity and healing, and for, hopefully, increased appreciation of others' music that I hope will change and grow. We'd be the better for it.

Besides all the Sherlock Holmes stories and the "Sherlock" series, for summer entertainment, I suggest reading Margaret Maron's Judge Deborah Knott mysteries, beginning with "Bootlegger's Daughter." Deborah has 11 brothers, all of whom play musical instruments. They get together at a barbecue joint every month to jam. Don't expect the Partridge Family because this band's Daddy is North Carolina's most successful bootlegger.



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BANDERA LAKEHILLS

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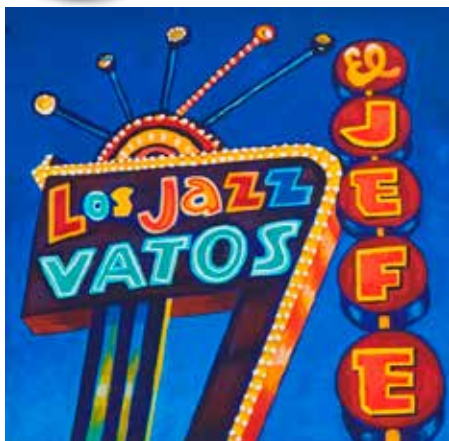
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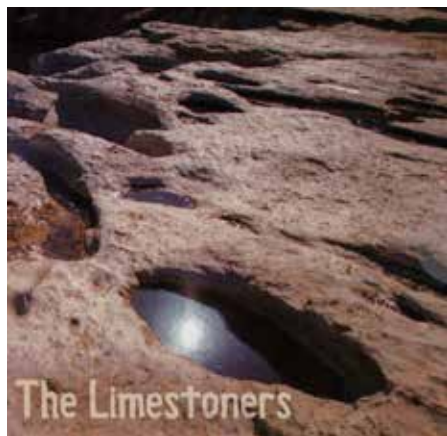
The Jazz Vatos
"El Jefe"
Review by Greg Forest

I met Ernie Durawa many years ago when he graced a track on one of my early albums and the track he played was the bullet. It was a real feather in my cap to have him on the cut as Durawa has been known for decades and the First Call/Go-To Texas session drummer - having been a member of the Sir Douglas Quintet, Willie Nelson, Delbert McClinton Flaco Jimenez and the Texas Tornados. Quite a few Grammy Winners seem think quite highly of Ernie.

The Jazz Vatos revolve around Ernie's close circle of musical friends: Terry Bowness on piano, Jimmy Shortell on trumpet, Steven Vague on sax & flute, Freddie Mendoza on trombone and Brad Taylor on bass.

Although the CD title might have you thinking that this is a "Tex-Mex" release, it is pretty much all over the musical map. Sure there is plenty of Texas and Conjunto in the mix there are also some great twists on standard jazz and pop.

Ernie & Los Jazz Vatos have set up on the web at losjazzvatos.com.



The Limestoners
Produced by Rand McCullough
Review by Greg Forest

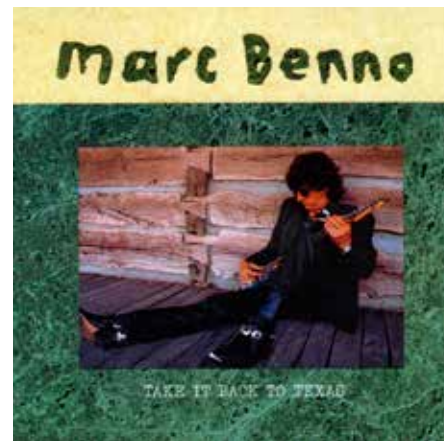
Since recently moving from Austin to Kerrville The Limestoners have been appearing locally and building a large fan base.

Rand McCullough is probably one of the most prolific and skilled singer songwriters on the scene. He has teamed up with wife Barbara to form a versatile duo that is staying busy in the venues across the Hill Country.

Although dated, (a new CD is just finished) this was the initial release for The Limestoners and is a full band production using the top players in Central Texas. There are 14 cuts packed on the release and a few of the ones that jumped my ears are, "*Passion & Heartache*", "*Roller Coaster*" and "*What Loses You.*"

It's a pretty great formula to have great material written by Rand and Barbara (with help from co-writer friends) and great vocal harmonies that bring visions of Tom Petty, The Beatles and other great vocal bands. The music is both contemporary and timeless.

The Limestoners live: at the **1011 Bistro** in Kerrville June 22nd, July 14th & 21st and August 10th, 11th, 18th and 24th.



Marc Benno
"Take It Back to Texas"
Produced by Marc Benno
Review by Jack Armstrong

It would be something of an understatement to say that Marc Benno has been around the block.

Benno was a member of The Asylum Choir with Leon Russell in the late 1960s, before launching a solo career in the early 1970s. His 1972 effort "*Ambush*" was the most commercially successful.

Benno has shared the stage and studio with a Who's Who of artists - most notably The Doors, Eric Clapton, Stevie Ray Vaughan, and Rita Coolidge.

But this now and Marc's *Take it Back to Texas* packs guitar pickin' hard Texas punch. The songs are all by Marc and he was at the helm as producer too.

With long time collaborators/friends the late Doyle Bramhill and Denny Freeman Benno crosses the dance floor of the entire roadhouse of Texas Blues with great songs like the slide guitar infused, title song "*Take it Back to Texas,*" or laid back shuffle of "*Greatest Find.*" Texas native,

Check out Marc on the web at his site. marcbenno.com for concert dates and news..



Monte Montgomery
"Dragonfly"
Review by Greg Forest

Monte Montgomery is recognized as one of the best guitarists on the planet. Although Monte plays electric guitar on occasion, it is his acoustic guitar chops that is his artistic secret weapon that leaves other guitarists with their jaws in their lap. Me personally? He makes me want to cut off my hands.

Dragonfly is a 2016 release from Montgomery that carries on his tradition of great songwriting and musicianship.

This 11-song CD contains some of the best Monte to date. The title song, "*Dragonfly*" is the standout for me with the first track, "*The Secret of Love is on the Radio,*" coming in a close second.

*"If all is fair in love and war
You play to win just to even the score..."*

"*Dragonfly*" is available everywhere. Monte will be performing at the **Uptown Marble Falls Theater on July 13th** and at **The Roddy Tree Ranch outside of Ingram on July 14th**. Get your tickets early!

You can visit Monte on the web at his site montemontgomery.net.

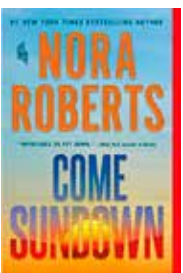
SUMMER BEACH READS

Out in the Hill Country enjoying a bit of water and sun and OMG there is no cell service and the battery is dead! Unable to text friends, take selfies, play games or watch movies, you are forced into using an ancient technology to escape the reality you find yourself in - a book. Here's what's on the best seller lists this summer.



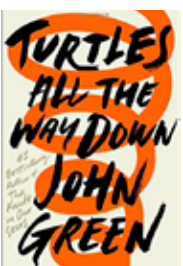
"17th Suspect" by James Paterson

James Paterson is beach read royalty no doubt and he doesn't disappoint in this new book. *17th Suspect* is a crime story telling the tale of a serial killer in the Bay Area. The killer is stalking victims and it appears that something might be fishy in the police department itself. Lindsay, the protagonist, who is suffering from medical issues, finds herself circling down into a web of deceit and double crosses. It becomes hard to tell who's side the players are on.



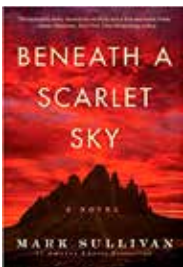
"Come Sundown" by Nora Roberts

Nora Roberts is no stranger to the top of the best seller lists and the suspense-filled *Come Sundown* is no exception. Set in Montana on the 30,000 acre Bodine Ranch, The novel is a mixture of mystery, family revelations, and page-turning suspense. As the body count starts to climb, the evidence starts to circle back to the dark history of the family, which brings choices between family and justice.



"Turtles All the Way Down" by John Green

John Green's *Turtles All the Way Down* could be generally described as a book for young adults, primarily because of the age of the story's heroine, Aza, but there is a lot in the story that any adult would love too. With the help of her best friend, Daisy, Aza, chases a \$100,000 reward investigating fugitive billionaire Russell Pickett. In her close knit community, there are lines drawn in the sand that cause Aza to realign some of her community and family loyalties. She discovers the truth can be very dark indeed.



"Beneath a Scarlet Sky" by Mark Sullivan

Based on a true story, *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* tells a story of courage, honor and resilience during World War II. A normal Italian teenager, Pino Lella is living the life of a normal teen but with the onset of war, his world is quickly shattered and he finds himself having to make moral and ethical choices about his place on the stage of world events. Events steer him all the way to the Nazi High Command and he finds himself in a unique position to change the course of history.

HEART BEAT RADIO



Greg Forest will be hosting the show again with some hidden treasure from his shoe box of old recordings.

This issue's show will take you back again to to Liberty Lunch in Austin where Greg and partner Keith Ayres snagged recordings of Anson Funderburgh and the Rockets - featuring Sam Myers and Jesse Colin Young. 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 and click on the radio link in the top right corner.

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FULL HOUSE

Phil Houseal

Over the years, most Hill Country music stores have gone the way of the Theredmin.

The reasons have varied, not least of which is the competition from the Internet. But musicians prefer to pluck and pick, not hunt and click.

That is the rationale for Mindy Brown to open Mindy's Music in Fredericksburg this February.

When Brown arrived in the Hill Country along with the Memorial Day floods of 2015, she saw the need for a full-service music shop.

"Mainly I noticed a need for good, quality instruments," said Brown, a professional musician who performs on and teaches guitar, piano, ukulele, and bass guitar. "A lot of people buy an instrument at a discount store and it ends up just sitting there."

As a teacher, she took it upon herself to drive to San Antonio or Austin to buy a quality instrument for her students, then resell them at cost. On one of those long trips she had an epiphany.

"Wait a minute, what am I doing?" she asked herself. "I'm selling them at cost and not making any money. Why not open a music store?"

So she did. She found a place in Fredericksburg next to Church's Chicken. It is off the Main Street, but still visible from it.



After only a few weeks open for business, Brown is encouraged by the response. One benefit is that Brown already knows the local professional music community from her playing gigs.

"They bring in equipment on consignment they want to sell, and they buy, too."

What about the online competition?

"I personally hate to buy instruments on line," she said. "You can take two instruments that are the exact same make and model, and they play differently."

Online buying means waiting and paying shipping. Plus there is no follow-up service. When you buy a guitar at Mindy's Music for example, she makes sure it is set up and ready to play.

Another benefit of having a local music store is immediacy. On the day of a gig you realize you need an E string or a drum stick—a situation every musician has experienced—it's too late to find one online.



Her music inventory includes all the popular instruments and amps. She carries accessories such as strings, capos, tuners, cords, straps, and picks. Stands, PA equipment, and music books. She also is expanding into band instruments, selling reeds and providing repair work.

As Brown gives lessons on several instruments, she also stocks music stands and music methods books for piano, guitar, bass, and violin.

Brown's vision is about more than picks and metronomes. She sees her store as a connecting point for musicians. She plans to implement regular pickers circles, jams, and workshops. Brown also believes it's important that the space be inviting.

So she is adding artwork to make it "a beautiful store." Like a true musician, she noted the store has "natural reverb."



She welcomes the curious to stop in to visit and experience that ambiance.

"If you need something right away, come here," she said. "Come in and try things. You can sit and play them for awhile."

In addition to selling instruments, equipment, music books, and accessories, Mindy Brown hopes her new store becomes a gathering place for area musicians.

Which is also how long she hopes to be around.

"I want this store to have staying power and to be here for the community. We need it. All of us musicians are in this together."

Mindy's Music is located at 605 East Austin Street in Fredericksburg.
Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10-6,
Saturday, 10-4
830-307-9748
mindy@mindysmusic.com

(Note: Another local music store to check out is Melody Corner, located at 604-B, Junction Highway, Kerrville. Still going after 60 years.)

Photos by Phil Houseal

Phil Houseal is a writer and owner of *Full House PR*, www.fullhouseproductions.net.

Email at phil@fullhouseproductions.net.

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A CONSERVATION NOTEBOOK by Homer Stevens

In the Spring notes promoting Jim Stanley's books, reference was made to a young retired couple who had just purchased a 40-acre tract of land, built a large home with a large St. Augustine lawn, and stocked the remaining pasture with 5 Longhorn cows, a bull, goats, a pet llama, a buffalo, a flock of chickens with a few guineas, two dogs, 8 cats and a pony for each of the five grand kids. It was forgotten to mention the two automatic deer feeders.

This particular property came from the corner of a large ranch that had been in the same family for many years, but the original owners had passed away. During the litigation, the livestock had been sold. The tract had been fallow with no livestock for several years. Therefore, grasswise the land was in excellent condition, little Bluestem was almost waist high, and there were even a few plants of Big Bluestem and Eastern Gama.

Please remember that the recommended average stocking rate for Hill Country property is one animal unit for each 20-acre tract. This would mean roughly 2 cows or 2 horses (only because horses can't be divided by 3 and they have to have supplemental feed anyway) or 10 goats. This does not account for the fact that humans, dogs, cats, chickens, guineas, exotic pets, attracting extra wildlife

and house and yard space have to be accounted for in some way. Anything that bites, walks on, or lies down on grass has an adverse effect on ground cover. Now! What will happen?

The first most likely environmental effect will be that the beautiful stand of native grasses will be eaten and stomped down to dust. The new owners will blame the problem on droughty conditions, which occur more often than not, and no adjustments will be made in the hope that rains will come. Which they will, and plants will attempt to grow, but the plant survivors will be those that are thorny, produce poisonous sap or quite likely both. It shouldn't be surprising that under these conditions veterinary bills are likely to escalate.

Situations like this are not even neighborly because much of the exposed top soil will erode down onto the adjoining properties carrying with it the large quantities of obnoxious weed seed that have developed in nature's attempt to cover the ground.

The object here is only to point out realities and emphasize that knowledge coupled with thought processes are necessary to properly care for the land. Having individual stalls

and barns for animals, a large exercise area (perhaps an area), purchasing large quantities of supplemental feed of all kinds, and providing lots of labor in exercising and caring for animals can compensate for lack of area to a large degree.

In many cases, it is much better to plan ahead because cutting down on numbers of large animals is much more difficult than buying them in the beginning, especially if attachments are formed for certain individuals. Planning based on knowledge gained from observing others' prior experiences can save lots of consternation.

Granted the original example in this article is somewhat exaggerated, but hopefully it will help illustrate some of the causes and effects of over grazing, coping with drought conditions, and the overall importance of wise considerate land use. Care of the land is ingrained in my personal psyche, and it is not possible to overlook all considerations so far as grass cover and water conservation is concerned.



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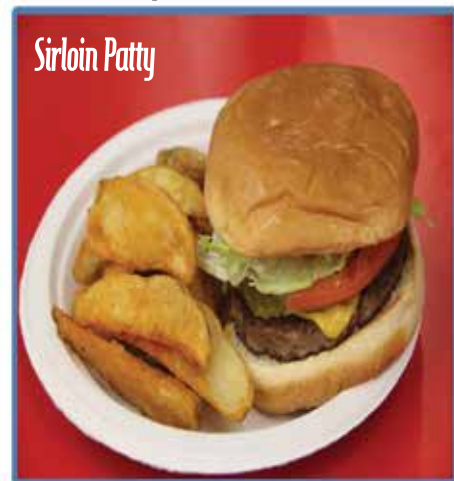
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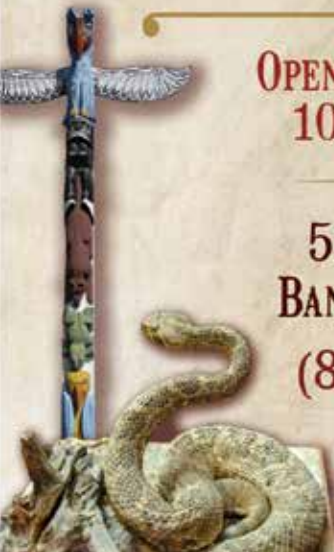
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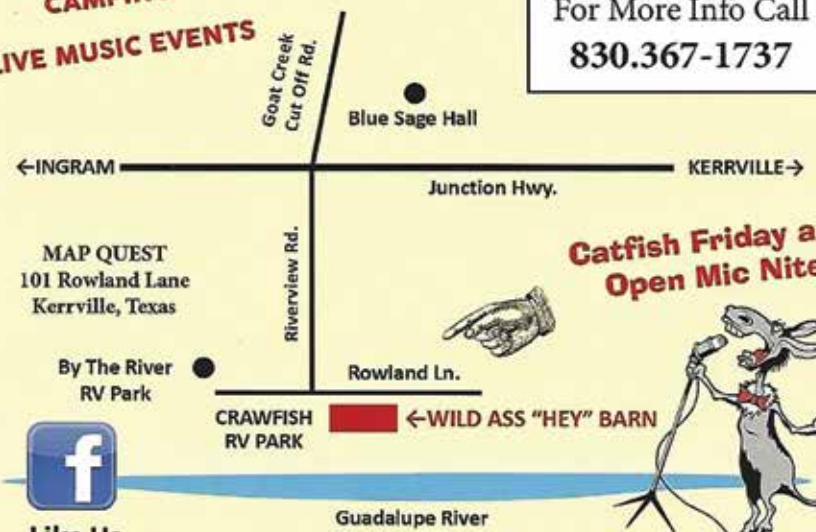
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Our Great Texas Hill Country

by Colleen Brooks



Summer vacation arrives at last - let the fun begin! Not sure where to start? Here's your guide to fun in the sun in hill country!

New Braunfels offers numerous opportunities to cool off on a hot Texas day. Spend a day at Schlitterbahn Waterpark, where there is something exciting for everyone in the family to enjoy.



Another local favorite is the city tube chutes at Hinman Island. This area is serene and beautiful, but don't let that fool you - the tube chutes are pretty thrilling (weaker swimmers may exit just before the chute).

Located just outside of New Braunfels is Natural Bridge Caverns, which maintains a year-round temperature of 70 degrees. Afterward, quench your thirst at Krause's Café and Biergarten. They've been open for a few years now and offer over 70 beers on tap and a wide assortment of delicious eats - including fresh baked pretzels served with ground German mustard - my ultimate weakness!

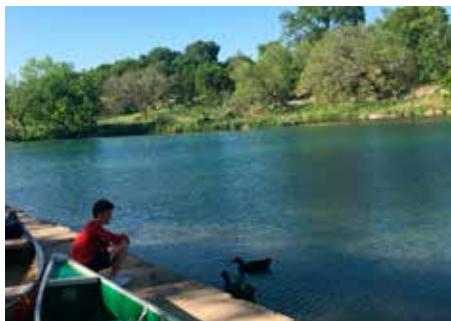
Nearby Gruene is also worthy of a visit. There are several tube outfitters in this little town, and they are located just over the bridge from the historical district. After you've splashed and floated to your heart's content,

Check out Inferno's Pizza Wood Fired Oven and Spirits, home of the Trinidad Scorpion Pepper Sausage. While I can pretty much guarantee that by itself won't cool you down, I can promise their extensive drink selection will - with choices like the Dreamsicle, Pineapple Express, and their Limeade Rita, there is something refreshing for everyone!

Make a splash in Wimberley by securing a reservation at Blue Hole Regional Park (where you can jump from a rope swing secured to a century-old cypress tree), or Jacobs Well Park (where you can jump from a bluff). For a perfect low-key summer day, check out The Back Porch. Here, you can swim and eat (purchase your water wristband next door at The Lodge at Cypress Creek).

The Back Porch is a very special place - Chef Jay and his staff will treat you like family as they serve up homemade burgers, hotdogs, grilled cheese, and mouth-watering Texas style BBQ. If you still have room after all that, check out his seasonal cobbler for dessert, or indulge in a root beer float.

Summer in Texas is hot, but there is no place I'd rather be! We are blessed by the slightly cooler hill country temperatures in the morning and night, and the boundless opportunities for fun water activities and great eats. This makes it a tough destination to beat!



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It can get a bit warm during a Texas summer. Weeks on end with 3-digit temperatures is enough to put a bit of sweat on any brow. But fear not - the Hill Country has more than a few rivers, springs and lakes to take the edge off the heat. From the banks of the Guadalupe River and tubing in Gruene to the springs in San Marcos there are lots of ways to take the plunge into a bit of cool water. This list of favorite swimmin' holes is hardly comprehensive - there are lots of options not listed here but this is a pretty good place to start. Many of the best plunges are in Texas State Parks. If you are going to visit the state sites, you might want to look into a yearly pass for considerable savings. Remember to take your trash with you and help keep Texas rivers & springs clean and ready for the next visitor. You can check texasheartbeat.com for more aquatic adventures. Stay wet.


FRIO RIVER IN CONCAN



The spring-fed Frio River offers crystal clear water and, depending on the flow, some of the best kayaking and swimming in Central Texas. With a variety of in and out points on the river, you can decide how long you want to stay in the water before hopping in.


With lots of accommodations and only a hop skip and jump from Garner State Park, staying cool is a breeze. Local counties may be dry so be sure to fill your ice chest on the way to the river.

BLANCO STATE PARK




Blanco State Park, along a mile of the Blanco River, is a 104.6-acre park on the southern edge of Blanco, Texas. A favorite for decades with locals, the park has many amenities including camping, picnicking, screened shelters, swimming, tubing, nature trails, and a wildlife viewing station. Its less than an hour from both San Antonio and Austin. The fishin' is almost as good as the swimmin' with anglers casting for bass, catfish, sunfish and rainbow trout (stocked in winter).

HAMILTON POOL




This Travis County plunge is so popular that reservations are required to jump in. In the summer, due to the proximity to Austin, the park is packed with sun seekers. The grotto features a 50-foot waterfall into an emerald green pool. Ferns and moss adorn the roof of the grotto giving it a jungle-like experience. Hamilton Pool is part of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve and is a protected environment.

MEDINA RIVER




Up Medina and Bandera way is the Medina River which meanders for miles through a canopy of old cypress trees that afford plentiful shade on your downstream journey. To say it's been a local favorite is underlined by the fact the river was named in 1689. The Medina is primarily fed by springs that bubble up from the Balcones Fault, keeping the water cool year round.

GARNER STATE PARK



Garner State Park is probably the most popular natural water destination in the Texas Hill Country. From Spring Break until the onset of Fall, the park is floating thousands of sun-loving rafters, kayakers and tubers. Be sure to bring your own alcoholic beverages and lots of sunscreen.

INKS LAKE STATE PARK



Ink's Lake State Park has it all - you can swim (no lifeguards on duty), boat, water ski, scuba dive and fish to your heart's content. The park also has a large, no-wake zone for paddling. There are 9 miles of hiking trails and is also home to the famous Devil's Waterhole. You can rent paddle boats, canoes, one- to two-person kayaks, life vests and paddles at the park store.

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