

BLUES ALL DAY, BLUES ALL NIGHT!



JAKE'S BAR 12246 TX-16, PIPE CREEK, TX 78063 -- 820-535-6699

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Phil Houseal Hve Cider

"There is a new home for musicians in Fredericksburg -Mindy's Music. Nobody knows the needs of musicians more than a musician and Mindy Brown is a darn good one. Her store features a wide variety of instruments and accessories for musicians of any genre. Drop by and pick a tune any time.



Betty Sharp Losing Things Good and Bad

Ever wonder where your cell phone is hiding? Perhaps that other sock when doing laundry? We have filled our lives with the accouterments of a technological life but still have to use our primitive wetware (brains) to remember where we put it all. It's going to get way beyond tying a string around your finger.

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FALL 20

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.



Dana Armitstead LatinX- Passport to a Brighter Future

LatinX is an outreach program that seeks to educate children using role models of scientists, writers, doctors - even Supreme Court Justices. Using a program both innovative and fun, LatinX introduces children to the tools that can bring about a bright and more prosperous future. Dana Armitstead, Joyce Humble, and Jeanette Ruark tell us what is coming up.



Joe Herring The Immigrant's Gift

Immigration's a hot topic these days and Joe reminds us that every community in Texas at one time was founded and built by immigrants. In Kerrville, we were particularly lucky to have a founding father that brought not only prosperity to the region but built many of the educational and social structures we enjoy today. Who is this immigrant? Read on



Greg Forest

Irene VanWinkle - Busiest Woman in Print

Fake news? Not! Its not often that you find a magazine singing the praises of a journalist working for another periodical. Unless you have been living in a cave, you have probably seen Irene at almost every news-worthy event in the Hill Country. When it comes to documenting what's up in Central Texas, Irene is without peer. Read more about our treasured literary resource.....



Dalis Allen

Kerrville Folk Festival & SWRA Updates

The festival may be over Dalis is still burning the midnight oil out at the Ranch. Without the fall festival to work on, Dalis is focusing on the upcoming Soutwest Regional Folk Alliace Conference in Austin in September.







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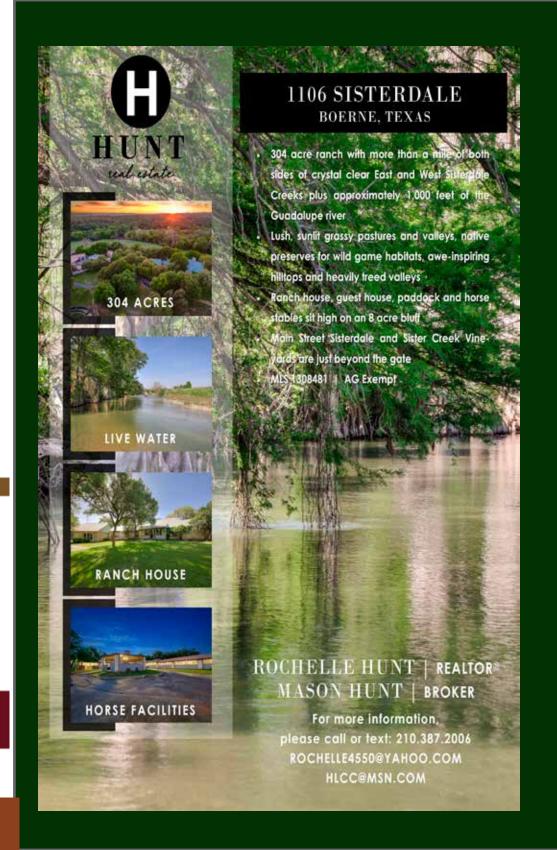
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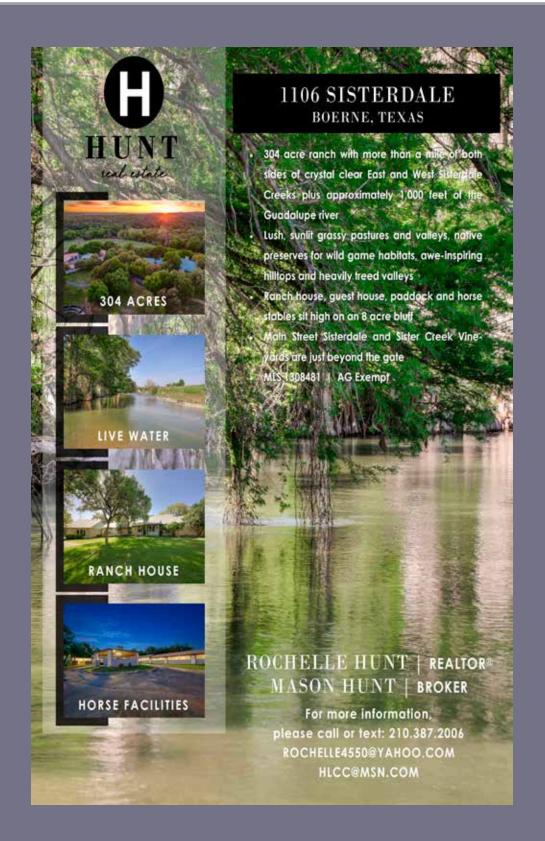
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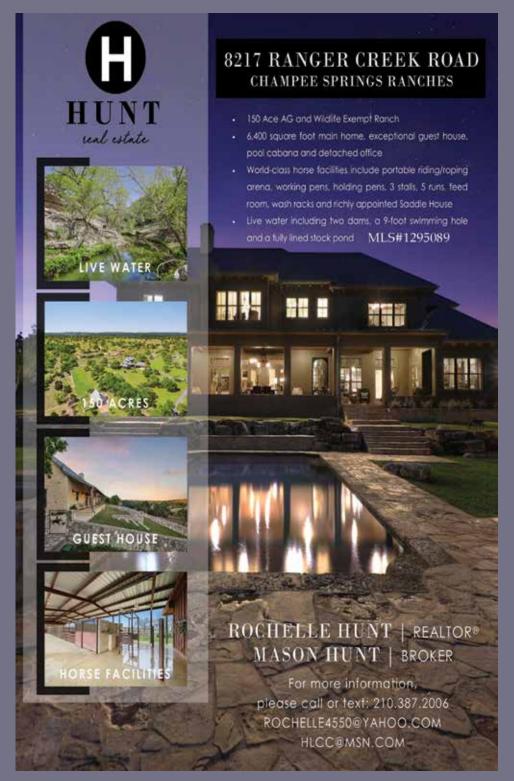
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think 90's is better than 100's......the lawn still isn't impressed. If the temperatures didn't get you then how about this was the first Kerrville Folk Festival since 2011 that it did not rain. At all. No kavaking in the campgrounds, no show cancellations. We liked that last part a lot.

We had a great Festival and plan to do it again in 2019. We are not however having the Fall Music Festival in 2018 but will be back with a fall event as well in 2019.

In July we had our annual Music Camp for Teens a collaborative effort with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Texas. The faculty is a team of artists that have played the Kerrville Folk Festival and work with 50 - 70 teens to find their voice, through song, poems, stories and/or playing an instrument. Many have never been on a stage before and by the end of the camp they are all excited to share what they have written onstage.

They also get to go on a canoe trip which is also a new experience for most of them. The teens that have passed the age of 17 are all so attached to being at camp they have become counselors. This is a fabulous bridge for the young folks attending for the first time. The camp is an important part of the lives of all involved. You can help to sponsor a teen to the camp by calling the office at 830/257-3600.



And in keeping with the talk of temperatures I am heading to Taos NM where it is already in the 50's and high 40's at night!!!! Michael Hearne's Big

Barn Dance, a Festival I have wanted to go to for years. Terri Hendrix & Lloyd Maines, Shake Russell & Michael Hearne, John Fullbright, Michael Martin Murphey, Walt Wilkins and The Mystiqueros to name just a few...... http://bigbarndance.com/

The Southwest Regional Folk Alliance Conference, another great music happening which I am privileged to coordinate is happening in Austin September 26 - 30, 2018. There are showcase and panels/seminars, open mics and lots of friendly conversation. If you can't make the whole event just come on Friday or Saturday night for the Official Showcases. Eight juried artist performing for a \$15 cover charge. Go to www.swfolkalliance.org for more details.

The next Music at the Mansion Concerts for 2018 in Kerrville are September 14 with Walt Wilkins, Susan Gibson, Michael Hearne In The Round; October 12 with Harpeth Rising and John Gorka AND November 30 with Mike Blakely and Ken Gaines. These concerts are held in the Schreiner University Junkin Campus Ministry Center. To find out if tickets are available contact Deborah Scott at (830)792-7355

Also in November is Fischer Festival in Fischer Texas. Another great Festival that features all Grassy Hill Kerrville New Folk Award Winners on their Friday night line-up. Including the six 2018 New Folk Award Winners in the round too! Rich Krueger, Mac Leaphart, Sarah Morris, Ben Bedford, John R. Butler, Helene Cronin. Go to http://www.fischerfest. org/ to see the full schedule for 2018.

You just can't go wrong out to these events. comina Hope I see you there.

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



Many gardeners I know live in suburbs and cities, and rely on "citified: water for their of city chickens I am "allowed" to have gardens. What do I mean by "citified" water? I mean chlorinated and fluoridated water, among other added contaminants. These products are certainly not good for you, your "hidden in plain view." pets, and your gardens.

Don't tell me about the Dental Assn. recommendation for fluoride. It's bunk. Chemical Fluorine was used in Nazi Germany to drug prisoners. It kept them docile, and it's cheap. It is a waste product. chemical soup I was formerly applying. Do not confuse the junk in our water with I also mixed some "diatomaceous earth" the naturally occurring fluoride minerals with "calcium bentonite clay" and even found in nature. They are vastly different.

Likewise, chloride and chloramines are also toxic. No argument about that either. would help detoxify the soil. I am blessed to garden in the country with clean well water. There, my gardens almost a noticeable difference in the health of always are lush and rich. For the first time. I also have a garden in the city. My frustration levels have elevated with my city garden because no matter what knowledge I apply to benefit my city garden plants, they are really struggling. Wilty leaves, weak, thin stems, look of the plants appear to indicate good and the produce tastes bland.

I was visiting with a farmer recently and we discussed the problem. He asked "Do you city water. I learned something! water with city water, or are you watering from a rain barrel?" He did not need to explain. because the obvious cause of the miserably dilapidated plants hit me like a ton of bricks.... the chlorine, chloramines, flourines (all bad Halides) are poisoning my plants. They are miserable!

He then asked, "You aren't drinking that stuff are you?" (meaning "citified" water). I said no, I NEVER drink it. I'm super careful to filter out the chlorine, chloramines, and fluorides, among other nasty components from the water I drink and cook with. He said with a fatherly look, "If you don't drink the stuff, then why are you letting your plants drink it?"

I then thought about the couple to produce eggs for me....even they are getting filtered water.

Sometimes the obvious is

Well, I stopped using toxic water on my plants. I started collecting water in a rain barrel, and yes, I even bring clean water from the ranch, hoping to quickly purge my garden of the nasty added some "charcoal dust" into my soil, knowing that in time, the good additives

It only took a few weeks to see my plants. The tomatoes have become vibrant with lots of lasting bloom-set, and I finally have some good looking fruits beginning to grow. The leaves of my other plants have greened up, and the overall health. In my opinion, plants produce better when watered with rain water over

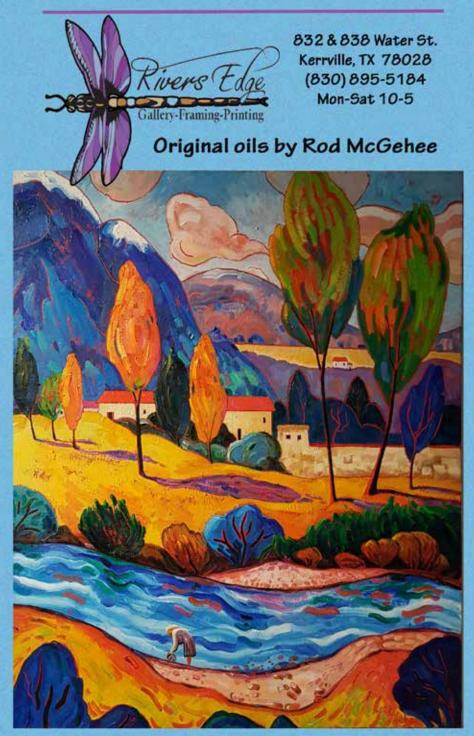




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HUNTER'S



In the early days of our community, a young immigrant moved to Kerr County. He had little formal education. His life was not an easy one: he lost his parents when he was young, and was on his own at 16. Though he lived here most of his life, he always spoke with a slight accent.

He loved Kerrville and Kerr County and his actions proved his feelings for our community.

The immigrant was a hard worker, and he was smart. His business acumen was phenomenal. He was not trained in business; his father had not been a businessperson; he was never an apprentice, learning from a mentor. Still, he was a gifted businessman, with an eye for value, and he was an excellent merchant. He built a great fortune,

His customers liked him, and his community trusted him: they elected him to several public offices, including county treasurer.

Late in his life, after providing for his large family, he gave a lot of his wealth away, in gifts large and small. mostly benefiting the community of Kerrville and our neck of the Texas Hill Country.



He donated lands for schools, churches, and camps. He donated money for a road building fund. He donated money to bring the railroad to Kerrville.

The gift which has touched the most lives was his gift of a school on the outskirts of Kerrville, a preparatory school for boys.

The immigrant first had the idea for the school before World War I. He announced his plan: he would donate \$250,000 to establish the school, with the provision work on it could not begin until the war was over and at least a year had passed from the signing of the peace treaties.

In those days \$250,000 was an enormous amount of money, much greater than it is today. In the years after the announcement about the school, the immigrant added to his gift; the total he gave for the school eventually added up to a little over \$550,000.

It wasn't until 1922 that construction on the school began. Three buildings were erected: a three-story main building, a dormitory, and a headmaster's house. The architectural style of the buildings was described in the Kerrville Mountain Sun as "English Colonial," a style "which is specially adapted to the rugged surroundings and has the further advantage of being very homelike."

When the cornerstone was dedicated, the immigrant was there.

In September, 1923, 95 years ago, the school opened its doors to students. Again, the immigrant was there for the festivities.



That immigrant, of course, was Charles Schreiner; the school he started was Schreiner Institute, which is known today as Schreiner University.

Immigrants helped build our community, our state, and our country.



LatinX

Community Outreach Celebrates Role Models

by Dana Armitstead

Positive role models diminish stereotypes and validate the unique strengths of the LatinX community. The Kerr County LatinX Community Outreach Project is presenting children with role models who have made an impact as scientists, writers, activists, doctors and on the US Supreme Court.

The project presents a Role Model Fair that is interactive and fun. Between four and eight learning stations, each with a stand-up cut out of the role model and activities, teach children about the life, education and career of each.

Passports are stamped as children visit the learning stations. Once completed, the passports are presented at a final station for a small reward. Books about the role models are displayed and a bibliography is offered to parents. These books will then be available in a prominent display at the Butt Holdsworth library to encourage continued education.



Off to a Great Start

The Kerr County LatinX Outreach had its first huge success through a partnership with Schreiner University Latino Engagement group at the Dia de los Ninos

celebration in April of this year. Despite the blustery wind at the outdoor event, about 50 passports were completed by children.

The next event was through a partnership with the Notre Dame Catholic school for Cinco de Mayo. The event was tremendously successful as over 135 students, Kindergaretn through 8th grade participated.

What is LatinX?

LatinX is an inclusive term that encompasses people with origins in Mexico, Central and South America. It is a gender neutral term, so it includes people of regardless of their gender indentity.

Fall Fairs and Beyond

Six events are scheduled for the fall 2018 in Kerrville, four of which are open to the public. Most of the events are scheduled during Hispanic Heritage

National Hispanic Heritage Month is the period from September 15 to October 15 in the United States, when people recognize the contributions of Hispanic and Latinx Americans to the group's heritage and culture.

September 15 - Kendall County First Annual Hispanic Heritage Festival 10 a.m -1 p.m. - Comfort Pavillion

September 16 - Diez Y Sies

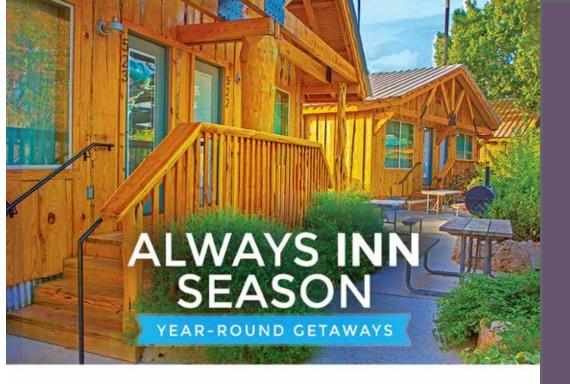
10a.m. - 1 p.m. Hill Country Veterans Center

September 28 Kerr County Hispanic Heritage Festival

10 a.m. -1pm Schreiner University Robin's Lewis Pavilion

November 1 - Dia de Los Muertos 6 - 8 pm - Schreiner University

For more information, or to donate or volunteer, please call Dana at 830-313-9100.





Treehaus Luxury Suites



Resort Activities

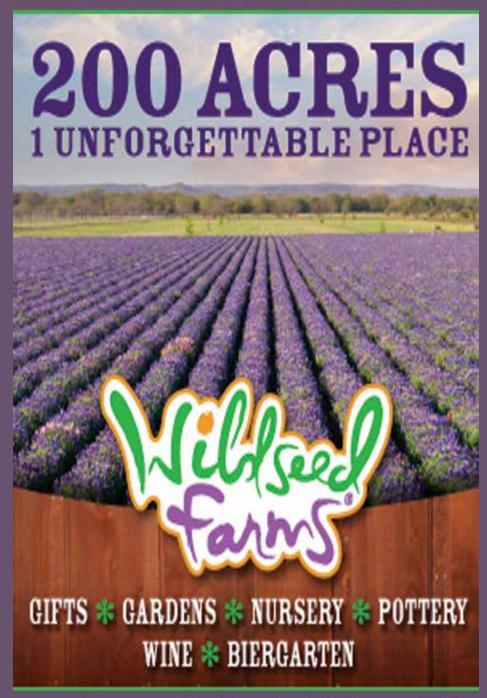
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7 P.M. JUNKIN CAMPUS MINISTRY CENTER



THURSDAY

SONGWRITING WORKSHOP

3-4:30 P.M. RIVER ROOM CCAC

Faciliated by Jon Hogan and Maria Moss

JIMMIE RODGERS FILM NIGHT

7 P.M. CCAC THEATER

Attendees will see a trailer of an upcoming film on Jimmie Rodgers and hear stories from Rodgers' great-grandson. Performances by Jon Hogan and Maria Moss.



FRIDAY

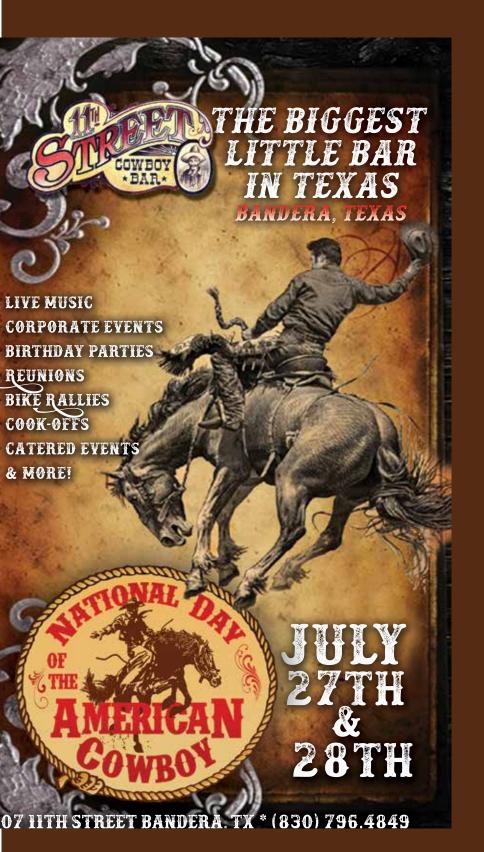
50+ PERFORMERS

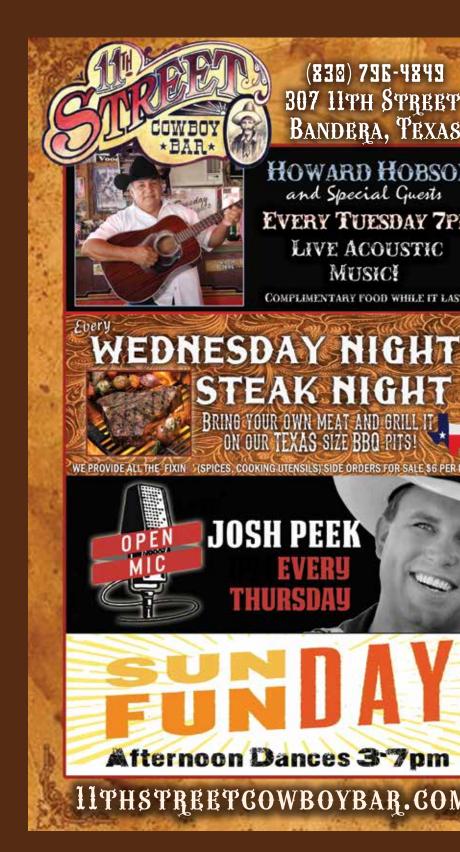
9 A.M.-1:30 P.M. ROBBINS LEWIS PAVILION

This event will showcase major genres in Texas music, presentations on Comanche and Apache heritage, chuckwagon lore, camel stories in Texas, Texas Parks and Wildlife's Buffalo Soldier Heritage Team, "Living History Program: The Story of Life on the Early Texas Frontier," Gospel music and a noon tribute to Jimmie Rodgers, the father of country music.

For more info, contact: Dr. Kathleen Hudson • e-mail: texasheritage@schreiner.edu









've lost my keys, my temper and my heart. At times I've lost my marbles. Certainly, I've family but also wanted a quiet drive, seelost opportunities, my wits and my nerve. ing the country and escaping daily routine. Not to mention money, glasses and concert "Making time" on interstates while whizzing tickets I carefully put someplace so I'd know by orange burger outlets wasn't a concept

states it's impossible to know simultane- much adventure and fun could I stand? ously the exact position and exact speed of anything. I understand that because pickup from Texas to the Appalachian Trail when I put my keys in one place, the lit- to Pittsburgh to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, tle devils move at high speed to another back to Texas, and from Texas to Colorado. place. Ergo quantum physics explained. I wasn't by myself, however. I had a giant ca-And don't get me started on lost pounds nine guard, mostly Rottweiler. Lone females because they always come back at high driving a pickup with a gun rack across the speed and there's no pinpointing their new back and a 101-pound dog on the front seat

Vacations are a prime time to lose things both material, such as phone neither of my dogs are willing to travel pochargers, and fears, such as expecting litely. Although I love paper maps, learning the worst or "awfulizing." Sometimes its to use my phone GPS was one common good to lose your inhibitions on vacation, sense solution. I did gather maps and travel although I'm not suggesting losing your magazines, which thankfully still exist, but conscience and respectability simultane- having GPS helped me lose "awfulizing." ously. There's a difference between enjoy- What was the worst that could happen? If I ing tubing on the river because you no longot lost, so be it. Every road led somewhere ger care about looking bathing suit perfect else eventually. If I had gas, I could handle it. (good for you!) versus acting like a jerk while

vacation, but then obsess about the fast- experience strengthened my belief that est route and how many activities they can objects purposefully move themselves at stuff into a week. That voids the best stress high speed while snickering at humans busters--enjoying the "getting there" and trying to locate them. You may think I'm "being in the moment". I had to explain this losing my marbles again but be honest. to friends as I planned my first driving trip How many times have you lost somealone outside of Texas in thirty years. I got thing, searched everywhere, replaced it, advice on driving 500 miles a day, the fastest and later found it exactly where you had route through St. Louis and zipping in and previously looked? I tell you, it's a plot. out of fast food/gas station franchises on the

I was traveling to Chicago to see where they were, and then they weren't. that added adventure or fun. Then again, I There's a physics principal that would be alone and I'm older now, so how

In my younger days, I drove my location in reference to their old location. were pretty safe even without cell phones.

Now I'm older, drive a Subaru, and

What I didn't count on was lostubing (bad for you and everyone else!). ing the charge in my phone, then two Most people want to lose stress on phone chargers and pieces thereof. That

I lost my phone charge while drivinterstate. Not my idea of a enjoyable trip. ing, not realizing how quickly GPS would eat it up. I dutifully recharged the phone office and little else. The lone postal that this was one of the few U.S. post offices that lacked plumbing-no bathto the adventure and I got good advice on the best roads to take toward Hannibal.

I know you're wondering why I didn't plug my phone into the car portal and recharge. That might have worked if I had found the portal. Seriously, I thumbed the Subaru booklet, checked the dashboard high and low, looked everywhere old-fashioned way-no technology aid.

nibal, Mark Twain country along the Misget to my hotel in Quincy. Illinois. Signs town Hannibal was devoid of stores and closed down for the day. No gas help because this area wasn't detailed.

Then. I spotted firemen washing their trucks outside their station. Luckily, asked me if he could look in my car, flipped and uncovered the portal which had been charger?" he asked. "What's a car charger?" I said. After they stopped laughing, one fireman insisted on giving me an extra plug that fit on the end of my charger and into the portal. Who knew? Not me!

None of those Missouri firemen are likely to read this so they'll never know that the next night I carefully tucked the car charger away in a safe place. I couldn't find it the next morning. Why didn't I leave it in the car? Beats me. Guess when I did find it? Back in Texas

texasheartbeat.com

overnight but in the wilds of backroads while cleaning out my purse, I discovered Missouri the GPS gave up the ghost. I the little critter had hidden itself inside the soon came across a hamlet with a post lining. On purpose, I know. I also lost a regular charger cord on that trip someworker was fun to talk with and I learned where between my car and hotel room. It just walked off on its own.

I may have lost my wits a few room. That wasn't a lot of fun but it added times on this trip but it turned out to be a great vacation because I lost "awfulizing" about what might happen. I just accepted the moment when something did happen. That's the secret to not losing it entirely and enjoying yourself.

If you want to lose vourself in the fantasy of quitting your job and opening a Hill Country shop, read Susan Wittig Also I thought, but no portal. Since I had bert's "Witches' Bane." Set in a fictional lost my fear of traveling alone by this time, town near Austin, it's a perfect Halloween I just settled in and enjoyed the drive the read. If you bet you can spot the killer you'll lose, but you will win an appreciation of how I made it early evening to Han- hard it is to run a one-person retail shop.

Lost treasure movies just for sissippi River, which I needed to cross to fun are "Romancing the Stone" (1984), "National Treasure" (2004) and "Time pointed the way downtown but there Bandits" (1981). A classic movie about were no bridge crossing signs. Down- losing one's conscience and moral values to overwhelming greed is "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre (1948)." stations in sight and the tank was get- Humphrey Bogart never got better than ting pretty low. My maps weren't much this except for "The African Queen" in which he causes Katherine Hepburn's character to lose her inhibitions.

"The Treasure of the Sierra they hadn't lost their sense of humor or Madre" is famous for a particular bit of patience and listened to my plight. One dialogue. You might be able to use it to your advantage when you can't find those open the arm rest, removed the DVDs concert tickets you carefully hid away. "Tickets? We don't need no tickets. I don't hiding there all along. "Where's your car have to show you any stinkin' tickets." But I wouldn't bet on it because I think vou'll lose. Best to take the advice of the Federales in the movie: "Why don't you try being a little more polite?"







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By Ace Reid

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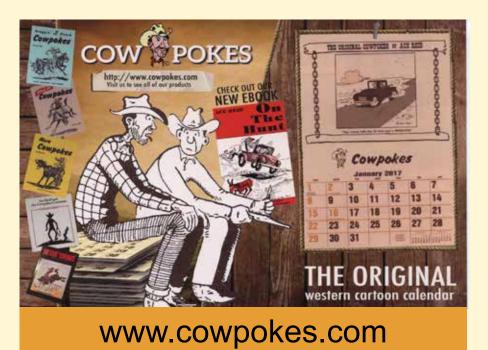
By Ace Reid





"Boy--that's what I call shootin'!"

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



JEWLER



Even though I usually write about one Gary Nicholson was joking about getting woman in Texas music, I must write about songs to her about food and parties. two right now! Both women have new al- Then she proceeded to sing one. Marcia bums out on Alligator Records, based in is amazed, as we all are, at the 5 de-Chicago. Both are Texas women with na- cades of music that are part of her life. tional and international followings. Mar- She started with piano lessons at 5. This cia Ball as about 30,000 likes on her FB tall gracious women does not carry her page, and Shemekia Copeland is list- wounds in public or share her hardships; ed at 28,000. At time of counting. I see she lifts us up. patterns and synchronicity everywhere; these two women can be talked about at the Memphis Blues Awards in 1986. in the same conversation...and column. Willie and BB King were co-hosting. I

of Texas music, and Marcia is the bridge be- Phillips showed up at a party. I innocenttween my first book on Texas Songwriters ly asked him to speak to me, we turned and my second book on the women. Marcia on my tape recorder and talked. Later was born in Louisiana, but chose Austin soon that night he took me to hear Jerry Lee enough (on a road trip to California) to be- Lewis at Hernando's Hideway. Bruce come Freda and the Firedogs in the Cosmic asked me later, "How did you get that in-Cowboy Scare (thanks Fromholz). Sheme- terview." "I just asked as he walked by." kia is daughter to the Houston-based Texas I replied. Maybe the red leather pants Twister, Johnny Copeland. He was a found- helped? ing board member of my music foundation in 1987, lending his performer support. Monterey Bay Blues Festival in Monte-And he was an interview in my first book. rey when I interviewed her the first time.

terns that show up in my musical journey. his guitar. That interview was years ago.

Bright" is getting lots of airtime on Sirius XM Alligator album, "American's Child," and Bluesville, a channel I have on when I drive. I hear some new perspectives. She said.

ries about the songs. She gave Shelley the truth and say what's true." Then on King, Carolyn Wonderland and Gary Nich- her album she takes on social justice. olson shout outs, and she talked about Worth a close listen, even as you move her band members, her co-writing, and your body to the rhythm. her philosophy. On her new album: "It is a ridculously hopeful, cheerful record." you...heart, mind and body. -KH

She joined Alligator Records, created by Bruce Iglauer, in 2001 with her kathleenhudson123@hotmail.com album "Presumed Innocent." She went on www.kathleenhudson.net to receive 10 Blues Music Awards. 10 Living Blues Awards, 5 Grammy nominations and the 2018 Texas State Musician recognition. In her interview she reported that

A Brue Iglauer aside: I was Both are in my book on the women wanted to interview them. Then Sam

Shemekia was playing the Ah, I love this tapestry of pat- She rocked out on the spot Jimi burned Marcia's new album, "Shine Now I listen to her talk about her new I heard her interview and her sto- "In this climate it's important to speak

Yes, both women will move



Last year, while my hubby and I were watching the NFL Draft on TV, an announcement was made that next draft would be in Arlington Texas, home of the Dallas Cowboys. I immediately added "Attending the NFL Draft" to my bucket list.

My other half replied, "Your bucket list has become a wash tub!" Towards the end of February this year, there was an announcement during the local news, that volunteers were needed to work the NFL draft in April. By the end of the night I had talked my cousin Sherry as well as friend Melissa into signing up with me. One week later, our background checks were completed.

"Customer Service and Security Training" was the week of the draft. Seated on the front row. I was distracted by a backpack between the stage and us. Mental note: "Don't trip over it when class is over!"

The bag turned out to be needed for the security portion to see if the class noticed its presence and let someone know. Melissa did and won a prize! Three days later we reported to the volunteer tent and were issued our NFL volunteer red t-shirt, windbreaker and cap. What are the odds of meeting someone in line from the town next to one's hometown over 1700 miles away? I did. Next were our assignments. Sherry was sent to the Red Carpet. Melissa and I headed to the fan interaction area with our lead. Joe.



"I need two people who can throw a football," he said. Not us. "I need two people to run alongside the fans doing the dash." Not us. We finally found

our home at the Super Bowl Trophies display. Six and a half hours after arrival, our shift was over with no break—the entire time on our feet and in the hot sun. Most volunteers elected to go home and rest up their feet for Day 2. I couldn't. Remember - attending the NFL Draft was on my bucket list.



I had free tickets for the 1st round of the draft six rows from the top of the nosebleed section. I was in envy of the fans in the VIP sections that were just a few feet away from the stage and players being drafted who were specks for me. But I was there!

It seemed like I had just fallen asleep when the alarm went off for Day Two. My feet were reminding me they were not the same feet that worked to Germany eight hours in heels over twenty years ago. Melissa and I worked an event coaching fans on how to use the special goggles which made them feel like they were on the sidelines of an NFL game. Sounded easy and was inside with A/C - a relief to my sunburned arms,

Of course the goggles would overheat or I couldn't find my laser point - Melissa was always close by to rescue me. I met hundreds of fans representing all thirty-two teams. The shift went by quickly and I was once again ready to be a fan the rest of the afternoon and night. Melissa's common sense took over and she headed home. I found my cousin and I soon had passes for later that night back in the nosebleed section.

Short crisis – I forgot my jersey to change into - \$14.99 later. I was in a Gronkowski T-shirt. To kill time until the draft. we visited the displays of locker rooms, uni-



Carlotta with NFL Commissioner Roger Goddell

forms and helmets. While posing in front of a Patriots helmet, a gal in New England garb approached me. She offered us tickets for the draft and unlike ours: these were in the Patriots fan section a few feet from the stage!

Soon we were looking up at the poor souls in the nosebleed section - and not only night two but day three as well! We received foil pom poms and inflated cheer sticks, got to meet a couple of retired players and Commissioner Goddell, be on the big screen TV several times and even trash-talked with fans of other teams! Life couldn't have been any better for this sports fan! Check! What's next on my bucket list... err.... wash tub?







Backyard Bistro, Pipe Creek, Jx

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

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



Bandera Meat Market, Bandera, Tx

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



Love Creek Orchard's Patio Cafe, Medina Tx

The Patio café was listed among the Top 40 best Small Town Restaurants in Texas by Texas Monthly Magazine. Try their Spicy Pepper Jack Burgers or 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 Hwv 16 North Medina, TX 78055, www.lovecreekorchards.com



Kamp Vede General Store, Camp Verde Jx

For more than 150 years, Camp Verde General Store has occupied this little piece of Texas. Give yourself a moment to include 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 Jx

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, TxThe 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 Par and Brill and Authiter 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



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-Eve 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, Jx

Vaguero'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 & 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 Fredricksburg 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







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, Backvard, 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 Hwv 16 Pipe Creek, TX



TITH STREET COWBOYBAR BANDERA TX

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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...

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"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 JIMS 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 HOUSEBAR 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) 683-3366



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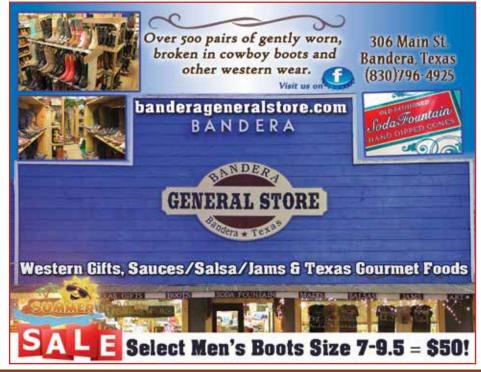


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910 Main Street, Kerrville, TX (830) 896-9393

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1001 Junction Hwy. Kerrville, TX (830) 895-5000

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307 11th St Bandera TX (830) 796-4849

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(830) 796-8826

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108 W. Austin St. Rocksprings, TX

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QUICK CONCERT REVIEW



CHRIS GAGE & FRIENDS Kerrville Folk Festival by Rand McCullough

Chris Gage - The Best Friend A Song Ever Had

t has been a couple of years since I have seen Chris Gage play at Donn's Depot deep in the heart of Austin but I caught his act on the Threadgill Stage on May 22 during the Kerrville Folk Festival. The festival is a world renown venue for song writers, usually falling into the folk/ country genre.

The show was billed as Chris Gage and Friends. Chris has been hitting the Stage at KFF for decades. He told me the first Jimmy Dale Gilmore.

including Austinites Micheal Samuels on harmonica followed by Oliver Steck on trumpet. These guys were vaudevillian comedians as well as great musicians performing antics on stage like the 'talking trumpet' having a conversation with Chris and choreographed dancing that was hilarious. Beth Galliger, also

from Austin graced the stage for a few songs with her sweet melodic flute play-

Eventually other singer/songwriters accompanied Chris bringing their own unique qualities to the performance starting with Butch Morgan from Devine Texas



Christine Albert....Chris' lovely wife, appeared with her guitar and played some of her originals as well as a song by the late Jimmy LeFave who obviously had been a close friend of theirs. Ben Jones, time he played there was in 1994 with Chris' mate from England who has a high tenor voice that would humble a Bee Gees His pals came out one at a time fan played a few of his originals as well as a Chuck Berry tune. While between numbers Ben paid tribute to Chris by adding "he's the best friend a song ever had".

> And that my friends, is something I can personally attribute to him. He is a total badass in the studio.

> The show, running two hours long went by fast and just like life it was over way too soon.

QUICK CD REVIEWS







Rand McCullough "Kerrville" **Review by Greg Forest**

texasheartbeat.com

Lisa Beck "Take It Back to Texas **Review by Greg Forest**

Two-disc CD with 25 songs, both new and old, in collection.



t's not often I get a chance to write about one of my favorite topics - writers.

In these days of "fake news," there are many journalists that still do their jobs writing articles by going to locations, interviewing the participants and writing about events without bias or opinion. Much like Joe Friday on Dragnet, real journalists reach out with a "Just the facts Ma'am" attitude. We have one such journalist that works hard every day to deliver "real news" to Hill Country readers - Irene VanWinkle.

Irene has walked a long path to bring her to the Texas Hill Country and West Kerr County Current.

Although born in Austria, Irene's family escaped from Ukraine during World War II. Landing in New York, on the Lower East Side, the family started their climb after moving to the Pelham Bay in the Bronx.

She recently returned to Ukraine to reconnect with family and heritage in support of the We Stand project that is trying to bring relief to Ukrainians during this time of political and economic turmoil

VanWinkle has always been an avid reader and, although as a young girl she didn't know that she would wind up with a career in journalism, both print and other media, over the years.

"I imagined it would be so cool to just be able to express thoughts, ideas and paint pictures with words."

Irene's first published piece dates back to high school days publishing a poem, the title of which she no longer remembers, but she does recall the pride in seeing her words in print for the first time. She then went on to perform one of her poems at the College of Marymount Manhattan.

Her first venture into the world of professional writing started when she became an editorial assistant at Peterson Publishing in New York.

Her time there, although the job didn't require a lot of writing, honed her skill set and gave her a view of what professional writing was all about.

Luckily for Central Texas, Irene married a Texan and moved to the Hill Country to have proximity to her husband's family.

She started writing almost as soon as she hit town, penning articles for the now defunct Kerrville Mountain Sun while also working radio and sales.

She was not only the busiest woman in print but also radio and sales.

In 2005 Irene found a more permanent home when She started working at West Kerr Current, taking over the job vacated by Rosa Lavender.

Since that time Irene has been all over the Hill Country covering every kind of event imaginable - accidents, County Commissioner meetings, to Chamber mixers, floods, fires, murders, veteran's issues and even birthday parties for local centenarians.

Accolades? How about this? The Texas Historical Commission selected Irene for their 2008 Award of Excellence in Media Achievement.

Another project close to Irene's heart is her sesquicentennial history series marking the 150th anniversary of Kerr County. To date she has written almost 470 histories (and counting) of the area covering founding the families, places and events that molded Kerr County into what it is today

Kerrville has some recognition as an artist's town so try to keep in mind that writing is also an art and you are reading the work of a master. Thank you Irene!



Irene in Ukraine in 2017

texasheartbeat.com















ales, and whiskeys pouring from tasting Stonewall. rooms running through the Texas Hill Country, there are those who thirst for a different style of quench.

Company.

"No one was doing cider, no one was doing this kind of product," said Cherry Graham of Hye Cider Company. "We saw the potential, and with the passion and knowledge we had, we wanted to embrace that."

Her interest in the alcoholic arts started in high school, when Cherry and her friend Brian Came couldn't buy beer, so they started making it. Six years ago the pair applied their brewing expertise to making cider, starting with test batches in the kitchen. They perfected the process enough that two years ago they formed "the home team" of Hye Cider Company, along with Cherry's husband, Travis Graham.

"Basically, we're nerds," she said.

Technically, the crisp, clean a versatile product." drink these nerds create is not cider, which is made exclusively from fermented apple juice. Since they add honey during fermentation, their

product is a cross between cider and mead.

The apples are raised by a small group of farmers in Washington State, who work with the Grahams on achieving the flavor profile they desire. They then use as many locally sourced ingredients as they can, including rainwater, herbs from the greenhouse, and "copious amounts" As visitors toast the wines, of honey from Pops Honey Pot in

The result is a light, evanescent drink with 8.5-9% alcohol, a level between beer and wine. While Thus was born Hye Cider most ciders on the market are very sweet, Hye Cider also has a lighter, dryer profile, by design. Since the taste is more open ended, the brewers can add flavors, such as bay leaves, dry hops, and fresh herbs.



subtle, nuanced depth of flavor," Cherry said. "You don't find that with overly sweet shot-style ciders. Especially with the herbal nature, these lend themselves to craft cocktails. This was an opportunity to meet all of the palate needs. Cider is

Their flagship brands are Hye Stylin' (dry), Hye Note (sweet), and Hye Bae (bay leaf), served

straight from the tap into glasses, or bottled and capped in 750 ml growlers from the tap as it is ordered. All their ciders are unfiltered, unpasteurized, and all natural, with no agents or additives, allowing them to retain the healthy benefits of the local honey.

For now, production is kept small intentionally, with distribution is limited to "greater Hye." The goal is to create a consistent tasting cider, and let production grow organically.



"The most common reaction we get when people first taste it is, 'this is actually good!" Cherry said. "My response is, well, don't act so surprised."

That sense of fun is as essential part of the product as the apple juice and honey. The Grahams and their crew want to create a place for people to hang out, sip the cider, and enjoy each other's company. Their Rocky Road location is a casual, informal setting decorated in a fun 50s vibe, with communal spaces, picnic tables, and an open air atmosphere. Chef Kyle Hopper runs his food truck Brick and Mortar on site, serving up flat breads, paninis, salads, and "anything that pairs well with cider."

"We are not a normal business." Hopper noted. "We like to say we are just a trailer away from a commune."

While that is a joke, it emphasizes the relaxed atmosphere the company cultivates.

"The reason people should come out to Hye is the opportunity to be themselves," Cherry said. "To let loose, meet people in the community, talk, and hang out. We want people to have fun. We don't want people to feel like they need to be on their best behavior."

Cherry likes to hold fun family events, tied to "strange holidays"-National Junk Food Day, National Lasagna Day, and even a made-up Squirt Gun Day.

"It's a lot like summer camp," she said. "We definitely are a little different."

"A lot different," Hopper added.

"Yes, we wanted to open a cider company," Cherry said. "And, yes, we are running a business. But we also want to have fun. We want the customer to feel a part of that family. We want everyone who sets foot in the door to have a say in what we do. Their opinion matters. We want to please all palates and make everyone welcome."

Details:



www.hyecidercompany.com (830) 282-0143



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Back before promoting Jim Stanley's book Hill Country Ecology and subsequently getting on rant regarding the general topic of over grazing abuses that seem to inadvertently occur due to uninformed new residents, the spring topic was to be Spanish Oak trees or Texas Red Oak. Kathy and I had made the drive from Medina to Utopia circling back through Tarpley to Bandera observing the fall color provided largely by the distinctly red fall leaves of the native Spanish Oaks. Although there are at least seven other species of Oak that are relatively common this area, Spanish Oak is probably second most abundant after the Evergreen Live Oak.

One of the better references. Wasowski's "Native Texas Plants", says that "Spanish Oak in its pure form is found west of Kerrville on the Edwards Plateau. North and east of there it is probably genetically mixed with Shumard Red Oak. Spanish Oak is more drought-tolerant, as well as smaller and shorter lived. It is also more likely to be multitrunked. Around Austin I've seem some beautiful specimens with attractive white patches on the trunks. The leaves are usually more slender than those of the Shumard, but not always."

It was the original intention to treat the Spanish Oak and Shumard Oak in separate articles, but since several of the outside sources insist on including them together, both will get coverage. It is also significant that several of the better nurseries offer Shumard in place of Spanish Oak, and some offer both varieties. It is difficult not to recommend the Spanish Oak to Hill Country residents because there are so many older trees scattered around the hills, and they contribute immensely to the special fall beauty of the area. However, they are very susceptible to oak wilt, will split and fall over for no good reason, and are

the lesser choice of all the oaks for a barbecue or fire wood. The Spanish Oak wood seems to decay rather rapidly after the tree is cut.

The Shumard Oak is credited with being a more East Texas species, but seems to adapt to the Hill Country reasonably well. Sources indicate that this variety is somewhat less susceptible to oak wilt disease, this being the reason that nurseries seem to favor the Shumard species. Here on The Farm there is only one Shumard Oak specimen, and is certainly one of the most beautiful trees on the property. Great care was taken in its planting something over 30 years ago. This was just prior to pouring the concrete slab between the game room and the swimming pool. Five 2' diameter x 2'deep holes were pounded in an almost solid limestone rock base with four holes being on each corner and one in the middle. The planting bed was then filled with commercial potting soil, and the small, less than 2' tall tree planted in the middle of a circle of limestone boulders. Currently this tree is very tall with an over 60' canopy. It provides shade for almost the entire slab where many weddings have taken place. This particular tree probably has good root depth due to the holes that were pounded out for the original planting preparation, but it is easy to see the evidence of the wide spreading shallow root characteristic of most our native Hill Country trees because of hairline cracks in the concrete slab.

Thus far these roots have not surfaced sufficiently to cause humps or buckling in the slab. There is evidence that the Shumard and Spanish Oaks do not readily cross pollinate because on the north end of the Shumard is a Spanish Oak that was dug up out in the pasture and transplanted. The Shumard produces few to no acorns, and the Spanish Oak has prolific acorn production.

Because of its value for shade in the summer and beautiful fall color, Spanish Oak and or Shuamard Oak are wonderful additions to any landscape. However, there are few endeavors of any kind that aren't facilitated by using knowledge and thought processes. These oak species are very good

choices for planting on the west side of a home because they provide shade in the summer and shed their leaves in late winter to allow sunlight to come through. Planting closer that 50 feet from a building might not be a good idea because a three foot tree in 30 years or so will endanger the structure. Care should also be taken in locating water and sewer lines within 20 feet of the base of the tree because the large shallow roots will eventually not only crush these utilities, but can lift up concrete slabs.

Please feel free to visit the Farm grounds, see for yourselves, and make comparisons to determine landscape techniques that may suit your own purposes. We enjoy having folks visit and can show a lot of things that came out right and also some that didn't.





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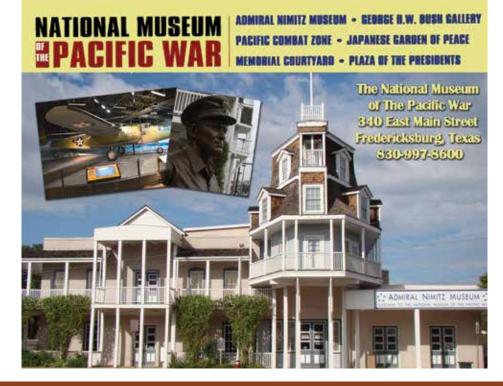


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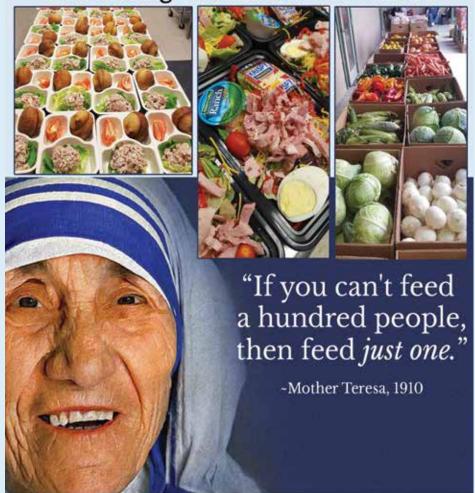


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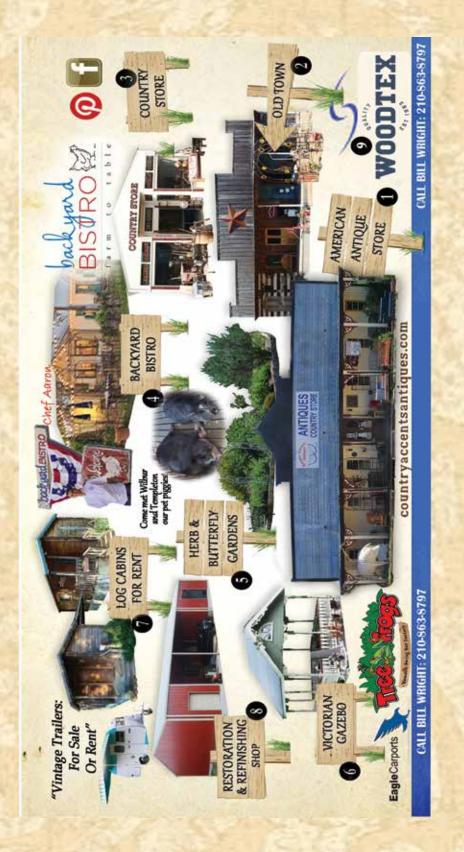


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New Braunfels is home to the McKenna Children's Museum, Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch, Natural Bridge Caverns, and Landa Park. Plan to picnic at Landa park and enjoy a small hike, paddleboats, a round of mini-golf, and the children's train. New Braunfels' biggest annual event, Wurstfest, will be held November 2nd – the 11th and will offer plenty of authentic German fare, beer, and chicken dancing.

If you prefer a more subdued atmosphere, head on over to Krause's Café and Biergarten, Cooper's Old Time Pit Bar-B-Que, or McAdoo's Seafood Company – all offer fantastic fare. Also, no trip to New Braunfels is complete without stopping into Texas' oldest bakery, Naegelin's. They've been using the same family recipes since 1868, proving there's no need to mess with perfection!



The historic district of Gruene was once an old cotton gin town until it was devastated by fire, the boll weevil, and The Great Depression. Its buildings were shuttered for many years until an architectural student discovered them in 1974. This started its rebirth and today, it's a charming area that rightly proclaims a spot on the National Register of Historic Places.

Gruene is home to Texas' oldest dance hall, Gruene Hall, which has seen its share of notable performances over the years such as George Strait, Willie Nelson, and Garth Brooks. The collection of photos that adorn its walls pay tribute to this amazing history.

The Gristmill Restaurant now occupies what's left of the former cotton gin building and offers spectacular dining views of the Guadalupe River, in addition to fantastic burgers, Texas-sized onion rings, and my personal favorite, "Gruene beans". Also, check out Gruene's best kept secret, Gruene Lake Village. This newer area offers boutiques, spas, fine dining at The Gruene Door Restaurant, a wine bar, and a martini lounge.

Wimberley is a thriving arts community with unique shops and galleries, live theater, Wimberley Glass Works, and the Cypress Creek Reserve Rum Distillery. It's also home to Wimberley Zip Line, where you can get a bird's eye view of the Wimberley Valley. Nestled in the scenic back roads of Wimberley is one of its best kept secrets, Bella Vista Ranch. Here, you can tour their olive orchard and sample their oils, imported Italian balsamic vinegar, jam, and wine.

Not far down the road is the Driftwood Estate Winery, where a glass of wine and a beautiful hill country view await. When leaving the winery, take a right and set your GPS to the Salt Lick BBQ. They have been featured on the Food Network many times, and their aroma will greet you and begin tantalizing your senses long before you even pull in the driveway.

Fall is a spectacular time to be in the Hill Country! Enjoy your stay in our little bit of heaven.

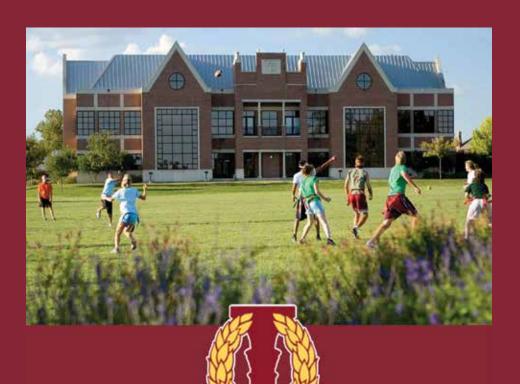


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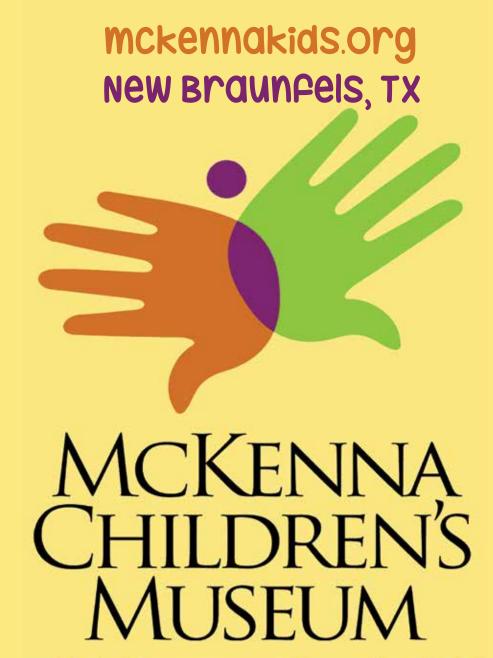




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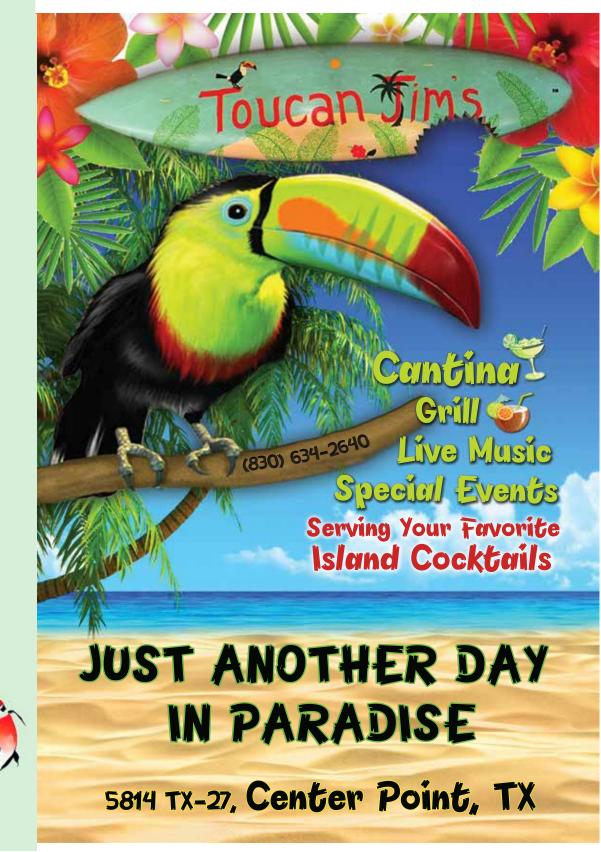


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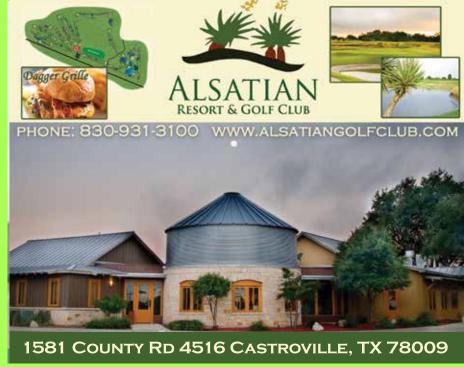
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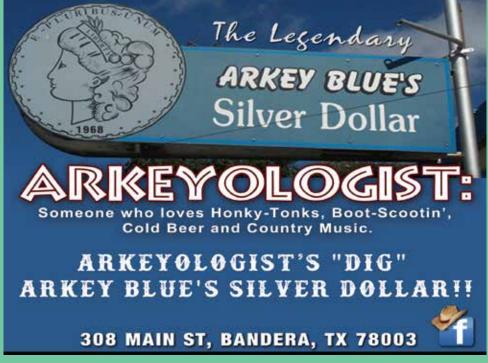


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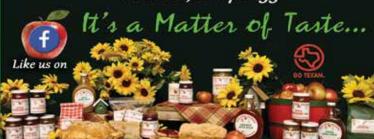
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