

the

HEART BEAT

VOL 6 NO.1

WINTER 2018/19

OF THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

11th STREET
COWBOY BAR
COWBOY
Mardi Gras

14th Annual See Pg 6-7

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Owners Sam & Lou Miller

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Back in the Saddle located at 1107 Cedar has been open now for 18 years. That's 3, yes 3, boutiques in Bandera Texas to visit, and each one has their own charm n' character. From Western gifts of all sorts-to Authentic American Indian Turquoise-to modern-day fashion! Lou Miller and manager Allyson Wright attend markets regularly and definitely know what to bring back to the Hill Country!

Back in the Saddle is not just a unique boutique; it is "Your Friend in Fashion!" Miller's bubbly personality is conta-

gious as locals and tourists fill the store full of gift items, home décor, jewelry, purses, and clothing for women, men, and children; there is a slew of personality painted on every wall, rack, and shelf! They carry all sizes, including plus sizes, keeping the inventory up and the prices down. The level of customer service is beyond what most take the time to do because they take it more than one step further to make the customers feel comfortable-- without that irk feeling of being harassed and watched when shopping.



They also enjoy taking customers' pictures in "Back in the Saddle" apparel/ jewelry to post on Facebook for all to see how such attire fits on each body type/age (only if the customer agrees of course); feel free to visit their Facebook page so you can see all the smiling faces that drop in to shop from all over the world. Be sure and check all three stores out for holiday gifts, you will be sure to find something for that special someone! The Texas Heart Beat graciously wants to thank Lou and Sam Miller for their support over our 5 year duration, it's customers like them that keep us thriving-they too strive to please customers as we do!



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Betty Sharp **Tough Cookies**

The Wild West has more than it's share of heroes and villains. Gun slinging heroes blaze across the prairie righting (or committing) wrongs and saving damsels in distress. And it the film genre of Westerns, it appears there is no shortage of distressed damsels.

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Allyce's Attic **Of Season's and Seasonings**

"If you don't like the weather in Texas, wait ten minutes," is an old chestnut here in Texas. As we head into the Texas winter, we are surrounded by the sights and smells of the Holiday season from the Christmas turkey to the crayfish of Mardi Gras. A combination of disparate heritages makes Texas special - there is something on the plate for everyone during the holidays

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Karyn Lyn

Bon Temps! = Mardis Gras

You don't have to drive all the way to New Orleans to have a bon temp. Save yourself some gas money and kick up your heels at the Cowboy Mardi Gras at 11th Street Bar in Bandera. It's the event of the season.

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Carlotta Schmittgen **Texas College Football**

Our sports writer Carlotta Schmittgen is the last person you want to make a bet with over Texas sports - her love and deep well of knowledge of the subject will see your money in her pocket before you can say "adios dinero." Carlotta has a special place in her heart for post-season, playoff and championship games. Check it out armchair athletes!



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Joe Herring **The Deerly Departed**

For most Texans, particularly those who are residents of rural areas, bagging your first buck is a time-honored right of passage. It is almost mandatory to gun up and hunt deer every Fall and Winter. It can also be a bitter-sweet moment. Joe shares the experience of his first hunt.



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Phil Houseal **Magnolia Pearl Found Experience**

It's hard to hit the target when describing the Magnolia Pearl. Its a music and concert venue, repository of art and fashion among other things and their vision for the arts in the Hill Country is a constantly growing horizon.



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Greg Forest **CD and Live Concert Reviews**

Two Hill Country musicians have new CDs out this Winter and Forest gives the platters a spin. Greg Wall and James Keith Asbury both strut their sonic stuff and Greg gives you the quick overview of both releases. Lend me your ears...



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Feb 20-Feb 23, 2019 14th Annual 11th Street Cowboy Mardi Gras

Wednesday, 20th - Cajun Steak Night 6pm
Joe Guidry & Reloaded Zydeco

Thursday February 21st - \$10 Cover
7pm Canine Costume Contest
8pm Chicken Shit Bingo
8:30pm Rusty Metoyer and Zydeco Krush

Friday February 22nd \$25 All Day Pass
3pm Chicken Shit Bingo
4pm Geno Delafose & French Rockin Boogie
9pm Jeff Woolsey and Dance Hall Kings

Saturday February 23rd \$25 All Day Pass
8am World Championship Gumbo Cook off
12pm 14th Annual Cowboy Mardi Gras Parade
1pm Travis Matte and the King Pins
2:15pm Adult Costume Contest
2:45pm Chicken Toss
3pm Travis Matte and the King Pins
4:30pm Championship Gumbo Awards
6pm Wayne Toups
9:30pm Dustin Sonnier and Wanted

307 11TH STREET, BANDERA, TX
11THSTREETCOWBOYBAR.COM *Outdoor Tickets*

Bandera's 14th Annual 11th Street Cowboy Mardi Gras

begins Wednesday, February 20th for 11th Streets Mardi Gras Steak night and continues for three fun-filled days and nights! Enjoy live Cajun & Country music, Cajun food trucks, gumbo cook off, Mardi Gras costume contest (adults only), canine costume contest, Cowboy Mardi Gras Parade, floats, festive horses, cowboys, feathers, masks, and beads galore!



James McGroarty, owner of the 11th Street Cowboy Bar, and Stella Tedesco, owner of the 11th Street Harley and Horses Marketplace, have created a World-Class Texas event that has been recognized as a must-attend on anyone's bucket list!

The 11th Street kick-off party will start Wednesday evening February 20th at 7pm with Joe Guidry & Reloaded Zydeco. Thursday serves up the Canine Costume Contest followed by Chicken Shit Bingo and closing out the evening with Rusty Metoyer & Zydeco Krush. Going into the weekend Friday features Chicken Shit Bingo, Geno Delafose & French Rockin'



Wayne Toups

Boogie. Jeff Woolsey and the Dance Hall Kings close out the night. Saturday, Feb. 23rd, 11th Street brings the gumbo cook-off beginning at 8am; at noon, stake your claim on Main Street for the colorful Cowboy Mardi Gras parade! Right after the parade, head back to 11th Street for Travis Matte & the King Pins. Shortly after 2pm is the Adult Costume Party followed by the Chicken Toss. Travis Matte plays another set before the Champion Gumbo Awards.

Closing out Cowboy Mardi Gras is great music from Wayne Toups followed by Dustin Sonnet and Wanted.

Bandera Texas brings the best Cajun costumes, Cajun food, Country, Cajun, and Zydeco music this side of the bayou at World's Famous 11th Street Cowboy Bar! Laissez les bon temps roulez!

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NEW FOLK TOOLING UP FOR 2019
 By Dalis Allen

The Kerrville Folk Festival is the one festival in the country, maybe the whole world that only hires artists that write their own songs. It is our mission to find songwriters and bring them to Kerrville. Here they find support, validation, community, respect, even adulation :) The stage line-ups are all songwriters, both stages. We search songwriters out through the Grassy Hill Kerrville New Folk competition. Up to 800 submissions of 3 songs are listened to by 40 or 50 pairs of discerning ears and out of those, 32 songwriters come to the Festival to present their songs to 3 judges who are songwriters themselves, quite often having been in New Folk when they were starting out.

Ultimately there are six Award Winners that receive prizes including cash, capos, music magazine subscriptions, scholarships to the SW Regional Folk Alliance, a pass to attend the Kerrville Folk Festival the next year, Swan Percussion shaker, and many other possibilities.

We also plan a tour for the six across Texas the following November. Thomas and Gail Chapmond arrange all of the concerts, including one at their own venue Sycamore Creek House Concerts and run the tour with grace and love for these artists

A couple of quotes from New Folk participants: 'The whole week was such an amazing experience, and I am so grateful for all of it!! I was honored to represent Kerrville as a New Folker, and I really look forward to getting my Minnesotan self down to Kerrville again :)'

'It was so good to see you again last week at Blue Rock and Fischer Fest. Those 2 evenings were so amazing. The whole trip was. I can't rave enough about Thomas and Gail either. They are the coolest, most gracious people and took care of everything we might've needed. When we first learned of the tour, there was no way to understand all that would be involved or how phenomenal it would be. We were treated like royalty and grew much closer as a group during this last week.'

'First of all I want to thank you again for the amazing tour you guys set up for us. It's an honor to be a part of the history of Kerrville New Folk winners and I plan to attend and contribute to the festival in the years to come. It really is a magical experience that offers community and opportunities to up-and-coming songwriters that is not easily found elsewhere.

We will be listening and selecting the 32 to appear at the Festival Saturday May 25 and Sunday May 26, 2019 beginning on December 1, 2018. The guidelines are posted on the website at <https://www.kerrvillefolkfestival.org/newfolk>.

The dates for the entire festival are May 23-June 9. The lineup will be updated as it is confirmed. www.kerrvillefolkfestival.org/lineup/.

Tickets are already on sale. www.kerrvillefolkfestival.org/tickets-2/

We will be attending the Folk Alliance International Conference 2019 in Montreal Canada in February to continue discovering great new artists to present at the Festival.

Image result for poinsettia images clip art From all of us to all of you wishing the brightest and most beautiful Christmas season ever!

And my favorite Happy New Year!!!! (of course I may be a little prejudice since New Year's Day is my birthday) Bring on the champagne and glitter!!!!

Thanks for reading about the Festival in The Heart Beat of the Texas Hill Country!



Dalis Allen



THE DEERLY DEPARTED

by Joe Herring

Gray, cold weather has begun, and a number of camouflaged tourists have been tromping through our local stores. These hunters reminded me of the last time I went hunting, years ago.

Like most things I do, I do hunting wrong.

I know that the primary purpose of hunting is to hang around in drafty shacks with other guys, far from the pleasant company of women, while cleaning firearms and generally enjoying a coarse day or two, with or without the help of alcohol.

Unlike others, I generally hunt alone. And I always take a book. It helps pass the time while I wait.

The last time I went hunting, I spent most of a cold and wet day quietly stalking a small herd of deer over the rugged hills of my cousin Don's place near Bushwhack Creek.

I followed the deer until mid-afternoon, never getting close enough to take a safe shot. Reluctantly I went back to town to attend to a family chore, leaving the deer on a hillside.

As things turned out, I finished quickly in town and headed back to Don's place. It was late in the afternoon, and the cloudy skies had fallen right onto the hills, covering the place with an eerie fog. There is a small canyon on my cousin's place, and as I entered its mouth the weather and the failing light made the entrance a little scary.

"Why are you afraid?" I asked myself after a moment. "You are carrying a gun."

As stealthily as possible I entered the canyon, carefully pulling back the branches that blocked the path, and avoiding noisy sticks and twigs. Behind me the

branches crossing the path closed up like a curtain. Further into the gloom I crept.

I saw the buck before it saw me. It was halfway up the canyon, its head down, feeding. Nine points, the smaller of the two bucks I had been following earlier in the day. It was only about fifty feet away. It still had not seen me.

I crouched down slowly and took the gun off of safety.



My wife once asked me what I think of at that moment, right before pulling the trigger and taking the life of a beautiful and free wild animal. It's a valid question, but it assumes there's time for introspection at that moment; there is not. The truest answer I could give her was this: I ask myself if I have a clean shot. Then I shoot.

As I crouched there the buck looked up and turned its head in my direction. In the next moment it would bound away. I had a clean shot.

That animal weighed almost forty pounds more than me, and it was a good way up the canyon where it fell. As I struggled to bring it to my old truck, night fell quickly, like black paint from a full bucket.

I worked a long time field dressing the buck. In the wet cold air, wisps of steam came from my hands, my

shoulders, and my breath as I worked; it seemed that steam was rising from everything, even the fallen deer.

When I was finally finished, exhausted, I straightened up my old back and stood over the deer's body in the high beams of my truck's headlights.

Over my right shoulder the moon broke through the clouds. I felt like an ancient one, at once barbaric and complete. It's a feeling that's hard to explain.

I haven't been hunting again since then, the night a Comanche moon shone over my shoulder and the world was quiet and dark.



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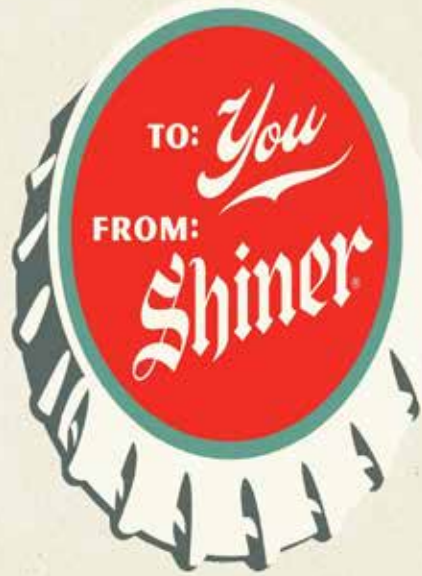


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You'd think I'd be happy watching Sam Elliott and Tom Selleck in *The Shadow Riders*, a 1982 western movie when both these handsome cowboys were in their prime. Still are for the most part. As a character in the current *Grace and Frankie* comedy series remarked when an aging Sam Elliott appeared: "There are only ten men in the world who can pull off that mustache and he's nine of them." You know who the tenth is. I usually enjoy B grade movies set in Texas with great scenery and superb horses, but I ended up more irritated than entertained.

What bothered me was the portrayal of Texas women in the Civil War era as mealy-mouthed and idiotic. I know this film is entertainment not a documentary, but why were the women characters so out of sync with the era and the plot?

Brothers Mac (Selleck) and Dal (Elliott), having fought for the Union and the Confederacy respectively, return home to find their parents docilely sitting on their porch.

Seems the renegade Confederate Major Ashbury plans to continue the war but needs weapons, so he rounded up all the area females who are tradeable. Among them are Mac and Dal's sisters and Dal's fiancé Kate. Ashbury is transporting the women to the Gulf Coast. There he'll be able to trade them for guns and ammunition to the evil Holiday Hammond. That this didn't upset Mac and Dal's parents the least little bit should have been a clue.

The scene changes to a small group of Confederate soldiers transporting their wagonload of females to the Gulf Coast where Hammond is due to sail in with crates of guns. Not only are the women untied but they all keep their eyes and heads down like sweet little hostages except for a bit of feminine umbrage displayed by heroine Kate.

Supposedly, none of these women ever had to kill a chicken, slaughter a hog, gut a fish, hunt, plant a field, harness a horse, kill a rattler, or wield a gun or knife during all the long years their menfolk were off fighting the Civil War. No tendency for self-preservation, no fight in them at all.

I kept waiting for one of the women to come up with a plan to distract the guards when they stopped. Then, others could sneak out of the wagon, creep up from behind, spook the horses, grab a leg or other body part, unseat them, and grab those rifles. Come on! Not that hard!

They could still end up prisoners, but it would have been a good scene and added some tension. Instead the women placidly walk into a makeshift cage without a word of protest. That really got to me because when in the world has anyone tried to corral a group of Texas women and not heard a word from them? That was the most unbelievable bit in the movie.

Would you believe that once in the makeshift cage, none of these Texas women try to dissemble it? Like they never nailed a board onto a roof after a wind storm or fixed a door blown off its hinges? Instead, they all stand around placidly until Kate (she did escape with the help of men of course) arrives disguised as a nun (it would take me too long to explain that one).

The women are so dimwitted that one of them happily yells out "It's Kate," apparently not understanding that this will alert their captors that their visitor isn't a nun but Kate. It does, and yet it gets worse.

Since Kate's attempt at rescue fails, Mac and Dal must save the women. The brothers arrive and the shooting starts. But all the women are still standing up, perhaps some of them wondering why the nice nun who tried to help them was carted off. One of the men has to yell "get down" because the women are all standing in the line of fire. Hear a gunshot? Hit the dirt! Not a hard concept. Honestly, I was ready to throw my popcorn at my DVD player, followed by my wine glass.

I know part of my irritation is the state of our society and the current upheavals concerning women's place within—but we won't go there. The other part was that this movie reminded me of how much I disliked the portrayal of women as just plain silly in western movies, which I adore as entertainment, even bad ones. It brought back the many times since the 1950's that I watched tv and movie heroes and villains fighting while the hero's sweetheart stands there with her hands over her face.

Even when I was a little girl, I'd think "pick up the frying pan and hit him over the head!" Although I have to admit the one time I remember Dale Evans swinging a chair at the villain punching out Roy Rogers, the villain ducked just in time and Dale knocked out Roy instead.

It's no surprise to most people that a lot of accepted western history is myth, more a product of western novels and Hollywood movies than original source material. Myth is often more fun than reality so for the most part, depiction of women in western novels and films has been only for entertainment.

This silly nonsense in *The Shadow Riders* was not out of the ordinary. It's just that it seems so much more important now that history not be perverted, and that entertainment be recognized as such, not as history. There's a lot of research to be done and new documentaries and films to create. We have a wealth of university collections, state and regional historical associations, and old

newspaper archives to dig through. Film makers and writers take note; there are a lot of true stories waiting to be told about Texas women.

Even when researching from the best possible sources, however, it's important to view the material in context and with a grain of salt. This concept was beautifully portrayed in a classic western, which I hope everyone will watch or watch again. I'm thinking about John Ford's 1962 movie,

The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance, starring Jimmy Stewart (Ransom Stoddard) and John Wayne (Tom Doniphon). For years, the public believed Ransom Stoddard shot the bully Liberty Valance, who terrorized the town of Shinbone. Stoddard was elected senator partially based on that belief. When Senator Stoddard returns to Shinbone years later to attend Doniphon's funeral, he tries to set the record straight while being interviewed. Senator Stoddard tells the newspaperman that Doniphon shot Liberty Valance and he asks him to print the truth. The newspaperman refuses to do so. He does not want to correct the story because the legend has become fact in the public's mind. He prints the legend.

I still recommend *The Shadow Riders* for fun, not the least of which is watching the great Ben Johnson deliver the corniest dialogue in the worst role of his superb career.

For laugh out loud reading that will engage your brain at the same time, however, I suggest the book *Texas My Texas*, a collection of works by the marvelous James Ward Lee. Start with his essay "The True History of Texas." Then, please be sure to note what he has to say about Texas women in "The Changing Myth of Texas." We are tough cookies.

Time to come up with another saying besides "Texas is Hell on women and horses." Our true history is that women and horses strengthened Texas. That's fact not legend.



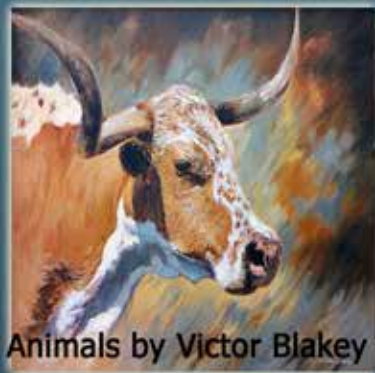


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I grew up with four distinct seasons in Wisconsin. Since then I've lived in areas of the country with two anemic seasons and one place with one monotonous season. Here in the Texas Hill Country we have three seasons, sort of. We haven't had much spring the last few years, but summers are generally hot, winters are generally coldish - even a little snow occasionally - and fall, well it's cooler than summer and warmer than winter. As I write this we're approaching winter. Another Thanksgiving is in the books and Christmas looms large.

This is my favorite time of year and for me it starts with Halloween, marches through Thanksgiving and hunkers down with Christmas, New Year and right on into the ominous sounding "dead of winter".

Every season has its own distinct charm and my charmed season begins when leaves fall. I like the look of bare trees. It's like seeing the backbone of the countryside. There's a grittiness, a sense of will power and strength.

Ok, the ubiquitous "pumpkin spice" scent/flavor of fall does have a rather puny ring to it, but except for diehards we're past that now for another year and moving toward the robust scent of pine and the hearty taste of gingerbread.

Our memories and anticipation of the seasons rely heavily on our senses of smell and taste. I can't remember what I got for Christmas when I was eight, but I remember the gingerbread cookies - the same ones I'll bake and decorate this year as I do every year. The part of Wisconsin in which I grew up is heavily German and stollen, the sweet German Christmas bread, is also a staple with its fragrant aroma of cardamom. Sadly, many of those for whom I used to make a Christmas stollen are gone,

but I memorialized the olden treat in a novella simply titled The Christmas Stollen. I framed my grandmother's recipe and just might spend a nostalgic day making it again. I'm betting I can find some takers.

Moving on into January brings the New Year and with it resolutions, anticipation, optimism and champagne! I adore champagne and those who know me well know I like the cheap stuff. The cheaper the better. I've had really good champagne and noted the trill on the tongue the pricey bubbly produces. I even had a Bouvier des Flanders dog named Moet Chandon. The dog was pricier than the champagne. But when it comes to my own taste buds, I love a good Andre or Roget. No debate and that takes care of my love of January.

February means Valentines Day. Chocolate. That is all. Nothing more to say except maybe more champagne.

February 20 - 23rd, in Bandera also brings the biggest weekend of the year to our little tourist town - Cowboy Mardi Gras. The entire town turns purple, green and gold and the town swells with visitors ready to party! Zydeco music, along with plenty of Texas country style tunes, the most colorful parade outside of New Orleans, and of course, the food! Who doesn't like gumbo? How about the spicy aroma of a crawfish boil? Has your sweet tooth recovered from Christmas overload? There's the tradition of King Cake to entice you back to the dark side of a good old rich dessert. Mardi Gras has something for everyone and Bandera's version with western boots and hats, feathers and beads adds a Cowboy Capital flavor to the party.

Yes, I do love this time of year and all it holds and all it promises. From gingerbread to gumbo, chocolate to champagne, from the scent of pine to a crawfish boil, the fragrances and seasonings of the seasons are etched into our sense memories and beckon us forward.

Jump on into the "dead of winter" with both feet and celebrate all it has to offer. And oh yes, don't forget to welcome back our Winter Texans as they escape the nastier aspects of winter we don't have to deal with here.

Wait - were those snow flurries this morning? Laissez les bon temps rouler!



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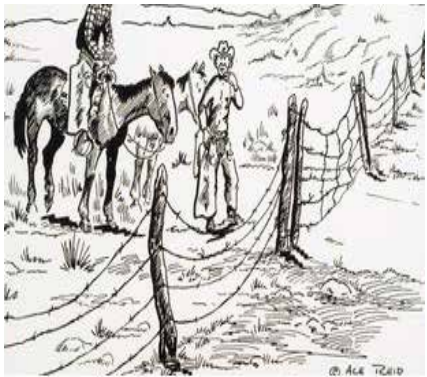
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I am working on oral history 3, Mexican American voices in Texas music. In November I interviewed, finally, Patsy Torres. I have been talking to people, beginning with Max Baca y los Texmaniacs, for 4 years. I met Patsy at a tribute to Hispanic Heritage in Uvalde a few years ago, and I was stunned by her presence as well as her talent.

I want to share a few highlights that will appear in her chapter in my book. First, her Ph.D. is an arresting credential. She did not start off with plans for a career in music; she did have a dream to be a "doctor" like her grandfather. That put her on the science trail in school, but she accidentally became the front singer for a band that garnered lots of attention with any marketing or publicity.

Suddenly the attention was on her voice even though she started as one voice also holding a trumpet. Fascinating journey she has taken to become the award-winning performer who created an educational program using her own life story as a learning tool. And she was innately shy, never knowing why she was asked to sing or speak.

HEB became a sponsor of a tour she put together called "Positive Force," thus allowing her to include a band and staged performance for schools and

educational program. Her strong faith is at the center of all aspects of her life, and she shares that faith in many ways. In 2018 she put out a Christian album, containing some of her original writing, and she is working on a Christmas album now, November 2018. She takes advantage of the many ways to offer songs, including CD, album download, or song download. All are available on her website, www.patsytorres.com

Dr. Patsy, with 2 degrees in education, remembers what her grandfather told her as she reported her struggle with her success in the music business: "You have a God-given gift. You are doing preventative medicine, medicine of the soul." She realized that she was not "giving up" a career in medicine as a doctor, she was expanding into her own calling. What an uplifting story to share with young people. Yes, follow your dreams and pay attention to what is calling you.

Young Marisa Rose Mejia, just turned 13, is also following her dream to perform as she balances that with her school. Lesly Reynaga from Monterey, Mexico, just became an American citizen and is blossoming in the fertile fields of Austin, Texas, and Dr. Patsy suggested I also talk with Vicki Carr, another woman dedicated to education and music.

Once time, years ago, I was standing in the Angela Peralta theatre in San Miguel de Allende and noticed a plaque honoring Vicki Carr as the entertainer who performed at a reopening of this theater on the corner across from Tia Luca's steakhouse. It was around the corner from #18 Hidalgo where I housed Schreiner students for years. Yes, everything connects, and my research on this book is one way I can weave together the threads of my own life.

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This issue recipes will be a blend of old and new...just like starting out the new year! I went to my October book club, and the hostess had made a cold meat pie and I absolutely loved her crust! Thanks Phyllis! She shared the recipe, which I will now share with you! Thus, my NEW recipe. And I was sorting through my Mother's basket of recipes looking for an OLD Thanksgiving family recipe and found one for an easy chicken pot pie. That is what I first made using this pie crust. This recipe is one of those "life changing" recipes because store bought crusts will never hold up from now on.



EASY CHICKEN POT PIE

INGREDIENTS

- 3 cups cooked diced chicken (or turkey)
- 1 package (10 oz) mixed vegetables
- 1 can Cream of celery soup (I used cream of chicken)
- 1 cup chicken broth
- Salt and Pepper lightly

DIRECTIONS

Make your crust and put in a 9 inch pie plate. Add this mixture and then put the second crust on top and pinch them together. Use a fork and make some vent holes on top. Bake 45-50 minutes until golden brown.

SUGAR CREAM PIE

In a bowl mix the following:
 1 ¼ cup sugar
 5 heaping Tablespoons flour
 ½ tsp salt

In a saucepan bring 3 cups of milk to a boil and pour over the sugar mixture. Add 1 beaten egg yolk, 2 TBSP butter and 1 tsp vanilla. Return this mixture back into the saucepan. Bake 10 mins on 450 then reduce to 350 and bake another 40 mins. Pour into crust. Knife inserted should come out clean.



PERFECT PIE CRUST (FOR 2 SINGLE CRUST PIES OR ONE DOUBLE)

INGREDIENTS

- 3 cups all purpose flour
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 ½ stick cold butter
- ¾ cup vegetable shortening
- 1 egg
- 5 TBSP cold water
- 1 TBSP distilled vinegar

DIRECTIONS

Combine flour and salt in a large bowl. I grated the stick of butter into it and then added the shortening. Using a pastry cutter or fork gradually work the butter and shortening into the flour mixture until it resembles tiny pebbles. Next, add the water and vinegar. Stir until mixture is just combined. Divide in half. Now you have to use some flour on your surface (I use a big cookie sheet) and roll out the crust but it is worth it!

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

The Menu Board

By Karyn Lyn
Where to eat in the Texas Hill Country



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Big City Bistro, Bandera, Tx

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Our Great Texas Hill Country

by Colleen Brooks



It's a fabulous time to be visiting Hill Country! There's plenty to see and experience while most of the country is hibernating from the cold. Here are a few spots you don't want to miss!

Wimberley has a little something for everyone. Spend an afternoon visiting the shops and art galleries on the square and at night, catch a live theater performance at The EmilyAnn Theatre and Gardens, or at The Wimberley Players. A big destination for visitors is Wimberley Glass Works, where you can catch a live glass-blowing demonstration.

Adventure seekers will enjoy soaring above the Wimberley Valley by reserving a zip lining tour with Wimberley Zip Line Company. Those wanting a similar but more docile experience can climb Mount Baldy's 218 steps to enjoy a panoramic view of the Wimberley Valley. You can find some of your favorite comfort foods at The Back Porch, The Leaning Pear (ask to dine in their "treehouse"), and Linda's Fine Foods. Also, check out I'noz, where they often have nightly live music on their deck overlooking Cypress Creek.

New Braunfels also has a lot to offer. Children will enjoy the interactive displays at The McKenna Children's Museum, and the wildlife at the Animal World Snake Farm Zoo. Natural Bridge Caverns and Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch also offer a unique family experience that is not to be missed.

When hunger hits, check out The Downtowner for a casual and swanky, yet rustic dining experience. The Faust Brewing Company (located in the Faust Hotel) offers a beautiful assortment of hot sandwiches that are sure to satisfy any meat

lover, along with my husband's favorite, jalapeno-cheddar cheese potato stuffed pierogies. If you're a seafood lover, McAdoo's Seafood Company has you covered – just don't overlook their lobster bisque!

Last but certainly not least, Krause's Café and Biergarten offers all the seasonal favorites like homemade beef stew, fried chicken, and authentic German fare, with over 60 beers on tap. Krause's Café is open all day with an extensive menu for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Finally, Gruene is simply magical this time of year! Stroll around the shops and indulge in a wine tasting at The Grapevine, or Winery on the Gruene. Then, head on over to The Gruene Olive for an olive oil tasting. Both the Gristmill and Gruene River Grill offer all the best comfort foods along with fantastic outdoor views of the Guadalupe River. To work off all your indulgences, mosey on over to Texas' oldest dance hall, Gruene Hall. It's been a cherished landmark for live music and two-steppin' since 1878.

It's just about impossible to fit everything in, so have no fear! Use whatever is left on your list as your starting point for your next visit. You will come back, won't you?



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Greg Wall
Intrigued
Produced by Greg Wall
Independent Release
Review by Greg Forest

Greg Wall is known as a writer that specializes in ethereal and innovative guitar work combining traditional great picking with eclectic and electric flavoring.

Intrigued is Greg's new release containing seven original songs with Greg playing 6-string, 12-string and baritone guitars. No smoke, no mirrors, just Greg picking at his best.

"*The Decision*" kicks off the CD opening the door to Greg's sonic landscape and sets the stage for what is to follow "*Nono*" is up next and is one of my personal favorite having seen Greg perform the song live on a number of occasions.

If life is giving you a hard ride, chill out, grab a cold one and fire up *Intrigued*.

Greg is playing all over the Hill Country and you can pick up the CD at any of his gigs or you can get a copy on iTunes and Google Play.

Also check out gregwall.net.



Nautical Nation
Golden Seas
Produced by Jake Asbury
Independent Release
Review by Greg Forest

James Keith (Jake) Asbury has a great musical heritage to hold up and he delivers on this 5-song CD. His "Nation" team is in great form with James playing guitars, Ben Petree on drums and the phenomenal Caleb Hans Polashek on violin and there are a number of guest recording artists on the release.

Asbury wrote or co-wrote all the songs on the CD and his writing skills are growing in leaps and bounds.

The sonic journey begins with "*Golden Seas*," a moderate tempo reflection on what's going on in Jake's mind followed by "*Fallin*" which features Caleb stretching out on the violin. "*Jenny*" the next one up is a straight up rocker with a lush "wall of sound" arrangement and a screaming solo by Tommy Spurlock.

My personal favorite is the last song on the CD, "*Bird in a Cage*" which is a frantic fast-tempo rocker that pins your ears back.

You can grab your copy of *Golden Seas* on iTunes - just search for "Nautical Nation"

HOLIDAY STOCKING-STUFFERS FROM THE HILL COUNTRY

This year we are focusing on Holiday stocking stuffers from quality local vendors. It's not as though Amazon and Walmart need any help from Heart Beat. The money spent is better spent here than in China. There is only one rule - the gift had to cost \$100 or less. So take a gander at what some of our local merchants are offering up.



RIVER'S EDGE GALLERY OBJECTS D'ART

Don't think it's possible to acquire fine art for under \$100? Think again. River's Edge Gallery has prints, jewelry on hand for the perfect Holiday gift. The gallery also features framing by Debbie Wilson - a premier framer in this or any market. There is a great deal of both Texas and modern art to choose from.
River's Edge Gallery | 830 Water St | Kerrville (830) 895-5184

COWPOKES 2019 CALENDAR

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THE MELODY CORNER String 'Em Up & Pick 'Em



Stan Morris at The Melody Corner has just about all his musical inventory on sale for the holidays. No doubt, \$100 will buy a lot of guitar strings and picks. Depending on the budget you're working with \$100 might buy enough to last until next Christmas.
604 Junction Hwy | Kerrville | (830) 896-8933

Speaking of Music - Luckenbach, Texas is the Leader

Not only are a lot of great concerts coming up this Holiday Season that are affordable and feature the best of Texas Music but Luckenbach has a huge inventory of shwag. T-shirts, koozies, and ball caps are just a few of the gift items that have the unique taste of Texas. For those few souls left in the world that haven't visited Luckenbach, here is a chance to share the magic vicariously.



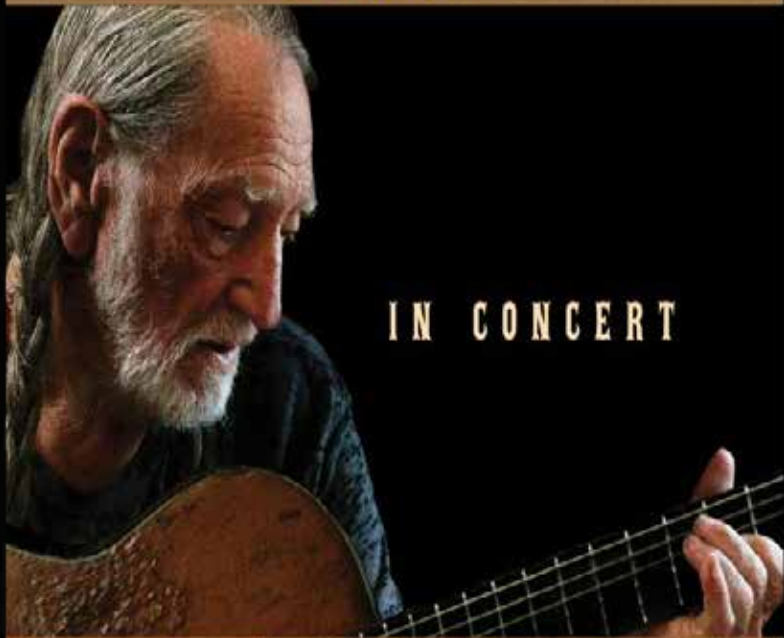
Bandera Ale Project - Not Just Great Beer



I never met a beer drinker that didn't mind a few brews for Christmas but you don't have to be an aficionado of beer to get a great gift for those in your life who are. Beer Growlers and glasses to fill with their hand-crafted brews (Prices range from \$10-\$30). Of course a Ukeg of brew would be welcome in the Man Cave.
Bandera Ale Project | 3540 TX-16 | Bandera, TX

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Sports from the Women's POV by Carlotta Schmittgen

I love this time of the year -- Holidays and College Football! All the craziness of the fall games come to an end with the Playoff Committee sorting out records, justifying the upsets and strength of schedules to build the college bowl schedules and the National Championship semi-final games. Oh what fun it has been getting to this point! Every Saturday I have been known to camp out at our TV starting at 8AM for College Game Day and remaining into the wee hours of Sunday watching the west coast teams play.



This fall, I actually got to experience College Game Day when my husband's Ohio State Buckeyes were in Ft. Worth playing TCU. What I didn't realize when I first hatched the brainstorm of attending, was what a crowd the Saturday live show would attract and how early one had to be there for the show's early start. Rumor has it college kids always sleep in on the weekends when there are no classes, but not when College Game Day is in town!

When we arrived at the TCU campus a little after 7AM, we found the last parking place right across from the Campus Commons where it was being held. Before the car came to a complete stop, my seatbelt was whizzing into the holder and my hand on the door handle. "Hang on Harriet!" my husband advised, but quickly changed his tune after he spotted the cheerleaders of both TCU and Ohio State at the Commons entrance.

Over the crosswalk we both flew. Rick, who hates posing for pictures, made an exception when the Buckeyes mascot Brutus clamped his hand around Rick's.

Next was clearing security. Men never carry anything so my husband was waved through. I, however, had my pom-poms and purse

shaken and my purse, which the size of a postage stamp, severely scrutinized, it was time to proceed through the portal into the Commons area. By then, we could see the sea of people already gathered and the ESPN stage way down the Commons. The bands were playing – time to make our entrance.

There are times it pays to be shorter than the majority and I played that trump card, getting us second row, second section back from the stage. We could see the backs of Lee Corso, Kirk Herbstreit, Desmond Howard and Rece Davis. My life was complete – we were the backdrop of College Game Day!

Thirty minutes later, the director came out and reviewed the rules for the show as well as his signal for noise. This group already had the noise part down. Eight o'clock finally came and the roar was deafening especially when the TV camera mounted on a cable above us zoomed by.

It turned out to be a fun morning mingling with fans not only of TCU and Ohio State, but colleges all over the country. I had DVR'd the show and even found us – a speck in the foreground – good thing for those red pom-poms!

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FULL HOUSE



MAGNOLIA PEARL: FOUND EXPERIENCE

There I was, immersed in what I call a “found experience.” Hovering in breezy shade, buoyed by fellow music travelers. Ten feet away, Max Baca of Los Texmaniacs plucked his bajo sexto. Accordion legend Flaco Jimenez added lilting counterpoint. Asleep At The Wheel guitarist Johnny Nichol filled in with tasteful guitar riffs.

It was 7 p.m. On a Monday. In The Texas Hill Country. That’s the point, according to John Gray.



“What you witnessed was people coming together over music,” said Gray, who with Robin Brown, is owner of the fashion company Magnolia Pearl. “It was a celebration of life.”

This scenario unfolded at the soft opening of the Magnolia Pearl Theater Silo, a new music/theater/art venue, tucked among the trees behind their distinctive rustic three-story store/national headquarters on Hwy 290 five miles east of Fredericksburg.

“Robin and I have both been music lovers all of our lives,” Gray said. “We always wanted to create an intimate but very professional venue for music.”

So they spent the last couple of years building it. The distinctive steel and wood silo is a fully realized performance area, with green room, living room, sleeping quarters, full kitchen, and a covered stage

looking out on a commons area facing the retail store. The main building itself exudes the Magnolia Pearl brand—a white-washed three-story “German grain barn-style” structure fashioned of reclaimed 100-year-old hand-hewed wood columns and beams.

It’s all part of Magnolia Pearl, a 17-year-old company that creates clothing in a distinct style.

“Robin builds clothing for style and fashion first, but for comfort and lifestyle as well,” Gray said. “We embrace the individuality and beauty of women of all shapes and sizes and ages.”

Music and fashion go hand in hand, according to Gray, who makes it clear that Magnolia Pearl is more than a fashion line.

“Magnolia Pearl is a lifestyle,” he said. “Music is a part of that lifestyle. Theater is a part of that lifestyle. Music touches deeply in us.”

While Magnolia Pearl is an international company, with 120 stores around the world, it began in Bandera, and Fredericksburg has become their headquarters.

“We love and have a huge passion for Fredericksburg,” Gray said. “We love the city, we love the architecture, we love that big red rock. Plus the cleanliness, the aura, the feel, the altitude, the natural gravity that drew us here.”



The aura on the grounds is a palpable thing. Seeing folks I hadn’t seen in awhile, and folks I might never see again, coming together to hear uplifting music.

“Robin thinks of it as ‘coming home,’” Gray said. “Everything we do, we try to create a big family. This brings old and young together, and allows us to set aside differences and just be in a peaceful, joyful, safe place. It’s a very positive thing.”

At this point, no regular schedule of music performances has been announced. Gray enjoys a strong relationship to the Texas music scene, and hints he might feature folk, fiddle, and country music, but also reggae, rock and roll, even yodeling. His goal is to encourage “great and aspiring music” for performers who typically don’t have access to an audience.



Back outside, the magic and music continued with Donavon Frankenreiter, the Spotify surf/soft rock phenomenon from Hawaii, who also serves as international ambassador for the Magnolia Pearl clothing line.



As I sipped Hye Cider and burished old acquaintances, it reminded me of why people come to the Texas Hill Country in the first place, and why many stay. On any given day, you can stumble upon “found experiences” in unlikely places—a combo playing German dance hall tunes at a shooting fest, a local band

rolling down Main on a parade float, or a concert by a world-class entertainer in someone’s backyard. There is a pickers circle every night, somewhere.

The Magnolia Pearl Theater Silo is now one of those experiences—the kind you never knew you missed until it was created.

Phil Houseal is a writer and owner of Full House PR.

Check him out on his web site: FullHousePR.com.
Contact: phil@fullhouseproductions.net.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



BANDERA ALE PROJECT

Nestled just outside the Cowboy Capital of the World, Bandera Ale Project is the first craft brewery in Bandera, TX. Family owned and operated, we are a community focused, and artisanal operation that brews on site locally, focusing on traditional styles while leaving room for experimenting with unique flavors, ingredients, additions, and techniques. Our spacious taproom is a comfortable industrial-rustic atmosphere that features live local musicians on the weekends, and on many days and nights you can enjoy our handmade beers while watching the brewers scuttle about the kettles and fermenters, brewing the next batches. We also feature an expansive beer garden, and we are kid and dog friendly. Food trucks are also available most days we're open.



We've been making a variety of ales since opening our doors in November, 2017, from blondes to porters, ipa's to browns, saisons to stouts. We're abundantly grateful to our patrons, especially our loyal regulars, for helping us grow from a tap lineup of four to our current fourteen. Among the favorites are blonde ale, American kolsch, honey brown, west coast and east coast ipa's, and our pink peppercorn and black peppercorn saisons. The last we brew with Belgian-style yeast, which we is so delicious we've introduced it in nontraditional ways, creating Belgian pale, blonde, and amber ales. With the changing seasons and different holidays

and celebrations between now and spring, you can expect seasonal brews flaunting special seasonal ingredients.

Speaking of holidays, the Project also has great gifts for beer drinkers, including glass growlers, beautiful pressurized metal growlers from uKeg from Portland, Oregon, metal drinking cups, and etched pint glasses, all with the Bandera Ale Project logo.



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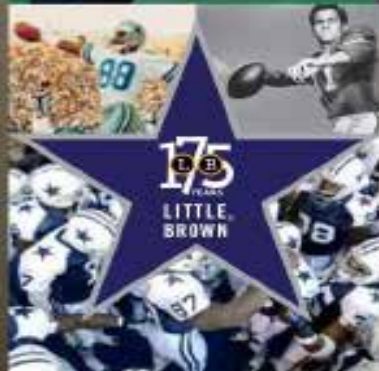
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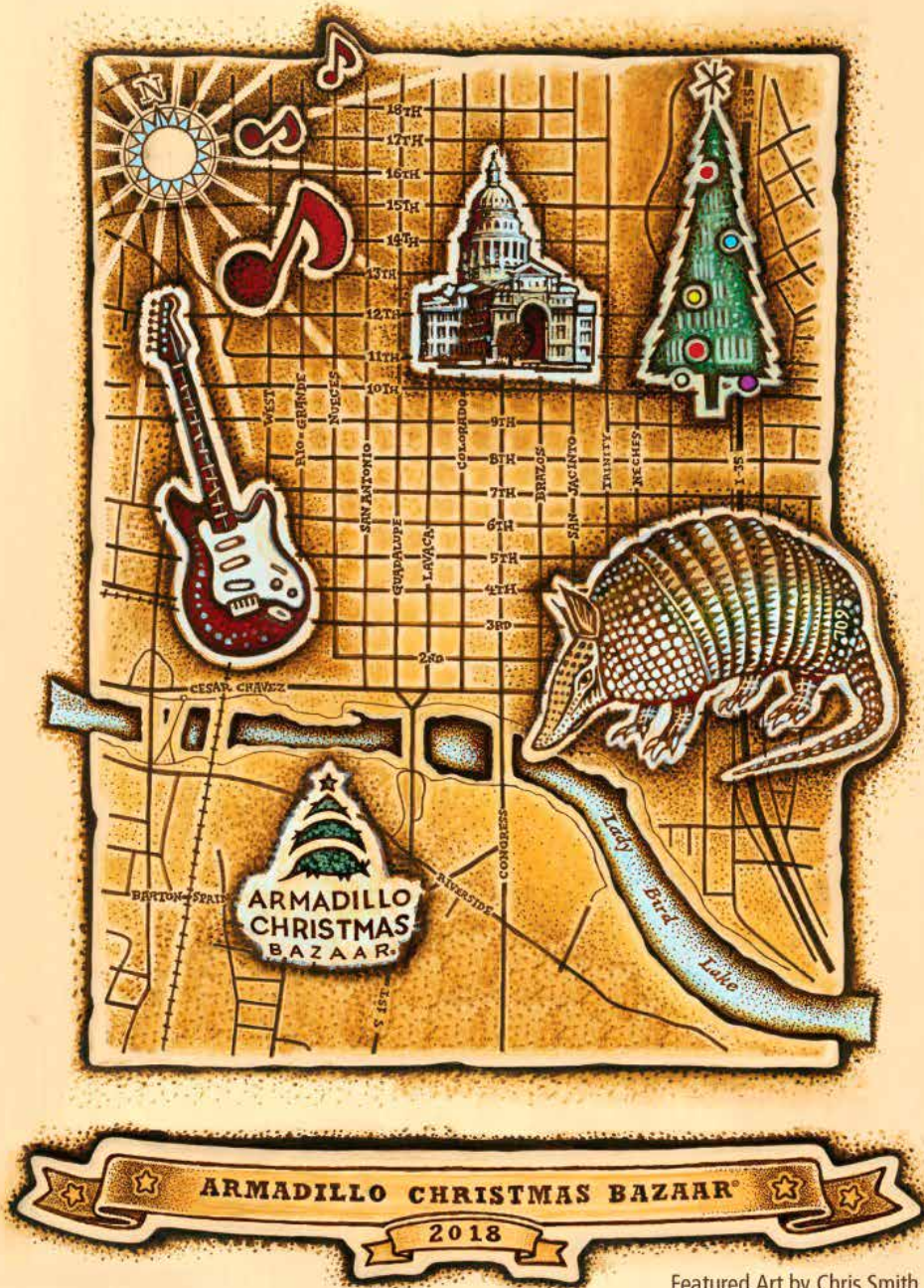


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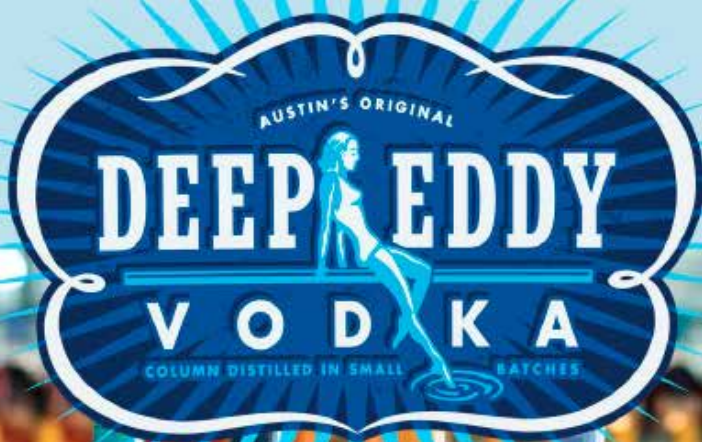
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(830) 755-5202

Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9-6 * Saturday 9-5 * Sunday & Monday Out Riding.



TRY THESE HOLIDAY RECIPES *with*

PLEASE DAY DRINK RESPONSIBLY



"Ed" Nog

- 1 part Deep Eddy Sweet Tea Vodka
- 2 parts eggnog
- Nutmeg garnish



Naugh-Tea Cider

- 1 part Deep Eddy Sweet Tea Vodka
- 3 parts hot apple cider
- 2 whole cloves
- Cinnamon stick or nutmeg garnish



Southern Spice

- 2 parts Deep Eddy Sweet Tea Vodka
- 1 part Kahlua Cinnamon Spice
- Splash of coffee
- Cinnamon stick for garnish



MADE IN AUSTIN

EMAIL thegirl@deepeddyvodka.com TO FIND A DEEP EDDY LIQUOR RETAIL STORE NEAR YOU.

512-994-3534 - deepeddyvodka.com 2250 E Hwy 290, Dripping Springs, TX 78620

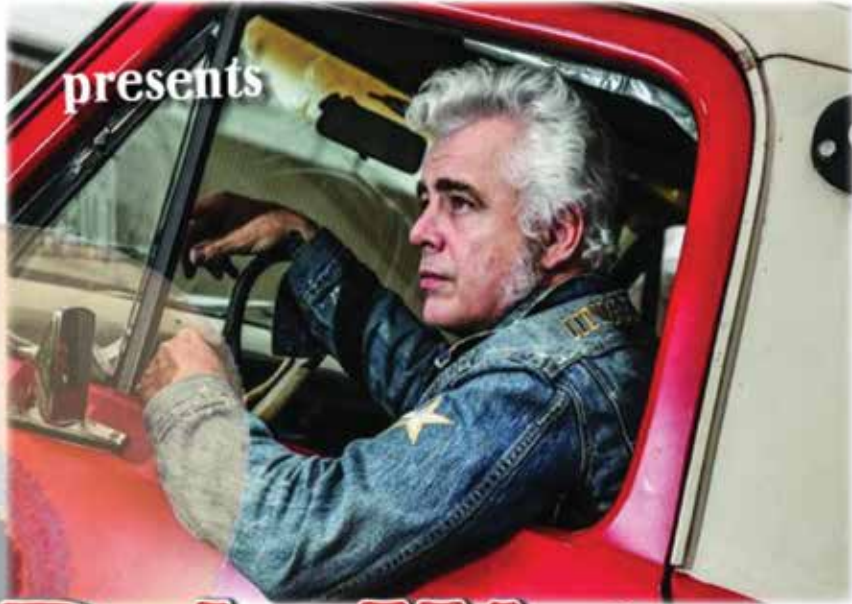


INFO & TICKETS

WWW.LUCKENBACHTEXAS.COM

Susanna's Kitchen Coffee House Concert Series

presents



Dale Watson

Thursday, December 20

Pie, Pizza & Tamales

Doors Open at 7 pm

ALL ARE WELCOME

Adults \$20 • Students under 18 - \$5

Wimberley United Methodist Church

Corner of RR 12 & CR 1492 • 512-847-3109



Don't Miss Del Castillo Trio

January 17 • \$20 Admission

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Operation Good Shepherd, Bamabas Connection &
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