

*Upper East Side of Texas*

# county line

MAGAZINE

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024

[www.CountyLineMagazine.com](http://www.CountyLineMagazine.com)

**RETREAT**  
in the  
**PINES**



COFFEE CULTURE PULPWOOD QUEENS CHEF CASSY  
GREAT ECLIPSE VISIT NACOGDOCHES WINTER FAIRE  
BLIND LEMON CINEMA THERAPY LUCINDA WILLIAMS

# HAPPY NEW YEAR AT WINNSBORO CENTER FOR THE ARTS

**BOWERY STAGE CONCERT**

## **CAROLYN WONDERLAND DUO WITH SHELLEY KING**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27  
7:30 PM



**ART EXHIBITIONS**

## **CHANGING LIGHT**

THROUGH  
JANUARY 20



**BOWERY STAGE CONCERT**

## **MONTE MONTGOMERY**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17  
7:30 PM



**ART EXHIBITIONS**

## **HARMONIOUS HUES**

JANUARY 24  
THROUGH  
MARCH 16



### **CLASSES & PRIVATE LESSONS**

Hands on instruction and fun  
with music, pottery, painting,  
mosaics, and more

### **OPEN MIC NIGHT**

Every second Thursday

### **WORKSHOPS**

Ceramics, snowman sculpting,  
and painting for kids  
and adults

# WCA

WINNSBORO  
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

[WinnsboroCenterForTheArts.com](http://WinnsboroCenterForTheArts.com)



EMBRACE THE SPIRIT OF CREATIVITY



PUBLISHER & MANAGING EDITOR  
P.A. Geddie

CONTRIBUTORS

Rachel Gross  
Lauren Wacaser  
Katie-Rose Watson  
Alan Govenar  
Ine Burke  
Hollis Shaden

ADVERTISING

pa.geddie@countylinemagazine.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS

www.countylinemagazine.com/subscribe

County Line Magazine eEdition is published every other month, six times a year in digital format. Material may not be reproduced without written permission. Opinions expressed in articles or advertising appearing in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher. Mailing address: P.O. Box 705, Winnsboro, Texas, 75494 Phone: (903) 312-9556. E-mail: info@countylinemagazine.com. Website: www.countylinemagazine.com. Advertising space may be purchased by calling (903) 312-9556. We reserve the right to refuse any advertisement we deem incompatible with our mission.



CHECK OUT COUNTY LINE  
DIGITAL PUBLICATIONS

www.CountyLineMagazine.com

## EDITOR'S NOTES

Dear Readers,

Happy New Year! This milestone into 2024 marks the 24th year of *County Line Magazine!* As we meander our way towards our 25th anniversary we are marveling at all the good things that have happened, paying tribute to our rich cultural history, and highlighting the talents of our people who continue to work tirelessly to provide fun and meaningful experiences for visitors and residents alike in the Upper East Side of Texas.

As you can see on our cover, Michelle Erby found her "Happy Place" at Retreat in the Pines near Mineola as have thousands of other women. Celebrating 20 years of providing a peaceful haven for women to rejuvenate, the center is a prime example of an organization that keeps doing good things and gaining national attention. Retreat in the Pines was recently named one of *USA Today's* Top 10 yoga retreats in the country.

Meet Javier and Chere Montera in this

issue and learn about their specialty coffee farm as they blend Costa Rica and Texas traditions.

Celebrity Chef Cassy Jones is bringing her State Fair of Texas famous cooking to a brick and mortar restaurant in Eustace in Henderson County. Her Fried Collard Greens are not only Texas fan favorites but combined with her winning personality she's made appearances on *The Kelly Clarkson Show*, Guy Fieri's *Guy's Grocery Games*, The Cooking Channel's *Carnival Eats*, and A&E's *Deep Fried Dynasty*.

You'll find many more wonderful and welcoming people here in this issue and learn about meaningful things to see and do. As many in our towns and outlying locations prepare to host thousands coming to our neck of the woods for the Great American Eclipse on April 8, we can rest assured that guests will get an authentic, out-of-this-world experience.

— P.A. Geddie

## SUBSCRIBE TO THE DIGITAL MAGAZINE

- Get notified via email each time a new issue is released (6 times per year).
- Allows for flipping the pages
- PDF downloads available for entire issue or individual articles.
- Share the entire issue or individual articles on social media or via email.
- Includes live links to explore more on topics of interest.
- Watch video right on the pages.
- Read from desktop, tablet, or mobile phone.
- Unlimited access to issue archives.
- Some audio articles available.



**county line**  
MAGAZINE

E-EDITION

LIVE. DREAM. EXPLORE.  
*Upper East Side of Texas*

www.countylinemagazine.com

# CONTENTS



## FEATURES

### 8 Retreat in the Pines

Women's getaway resort near Mineola celebrates 20th anniversary.

### 14 Cultures Blend for Coffee

Javier and Chere Montera operate 2 Hats Coffee from their East Texas farm.

### 16 Great American Eclipse

The Upper East Side of Texas is a prime choice for viewing the 2024 eclipse April 8.

## DEPARTMENTS

3 Editor's Note

## LIFESTYLE & ENTERTAINMENT

18 No Rest Here for Winter Weary

21 Winter Fantasy Faire

22 We Have a Nac for That

## ARTS & CULTURE

24 Fun and Meaningful Art Exhibits

26 Blind Lemon & Central Tracks Exhibits

28 Authors and Their Art

30 Big Stages Kick Off Big New Year

## MUSIC

34 Music Unites With Authentic Harmony

36 Lucinda Williams

## FILM

38 Cinema Therapy

38 Lessons in Chemistry

39 A Good Person

## LITERARY

40 Pulpwood Queens Weekend

40 We All Belong

41 Langston Hughes Project

## FOOD + DRINK

44 Chef Cassy Opens Store in Eustace



On the cover: Michelle Erby, Retreat in the Pines

Find MORE for your enjoyment on [www.CountyLineMagazine.com](http://www.CountyLineMagazine.com)







MURALS • SHOPS • MUSEUMS • RESTAURANTS



HISTORIC DOWNTOWN TERRELL  
[WWW.DISCOVERTERRELL.COM](http://WWW.DISCOVERTERRELL.COM)



18TH YEAR OF PROGRAMS

MUSIC AND LOVE

Saturday, January 13  
 7:30 pm

## Loving for Giving

*"No one has ever become poor by giving."*  
 Anne Frank

A whole program of musical gifts with clarinet, piano and strings by John Williams, César Franck, Libby Larsen and more.



Saturday, February 10  
 7:30 pm

## Reflections of Love

*"I've always regarded Nature as the clothing of God."*  
 Alan Hohvaness

Moving, mystical music for strings and horn by American, German, Italian and Uruguayan composers.



John Williams



Libby Larsen



Ivan Petruziello



Alan Hohvaness



Geoffrey Winter

903.563.3780 [WWW.MOUNTVERNONMUSIC.ORG](http://WWW.MOUNTVERNONMUSIC.ORG)

“YOU CAN NEVER GET ENOUGH  
**BOOKS** INTO THE HANDS  
OF ENOUGH  
**CHILDREN**”



*Dolly*



## Inspiring a Love of Reading in the Upper East Side of Texas

### BOWIE COUNTY

United Way of Greater Texarkana  
Contact: Molly Riley, (903) 794-3105  
molly@texarkanaunitedway.org  
214 Spruce St, Texarkana, TX 75501

### GRAYSON COUNTY

United Way of Grayson County  
Contact: Katie Eubank, (903) 893-1920  
literacy@unitedwaygrayson.org  
PO Box 1112, Sherman, TX 75091

### HUNT COUNTY

United Way of Hunt County  
Contact: Natalie Pegg, (903) 217-1694  
info@unitedwayofhuntcounty.org  
PO Box 224, Greenville, TX 75403

### DELTA COUNTY

Friends of the Delta County Public Library  
Contact: Lisa Carter, (903) 395-4575  
deltacountylibrary@gmail.com  
300 W Dallas Ave, Cooper, TX 75432

### GREGG COUNTY

Greater Longview United Way, Inc.  
Contact: Dr. Evan Dolive, (903) 758-0191  
edolive@longviewunitedway.org  
PO Box 411, Longview, TX 75606

### MARION COUNTY

The Rotary Club of Jefferson TX  
Contact: Toni Woods, (903) 407-2231  
tonilwoods@aol.com  
PO Box 5, Jefferson, TX 75657

### MARSHALL

Mission Marshall  
Contact: Misty Scott, (903) 472-4944  
mscott@missionmarshall.org  
2109 S. Washington St., Marshall, TX 75670

### NAVARRO COUNTY

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Contact: April Grant, (903) 874-3781  
imaginationlibraryWPC@gmail.com  
312 N 13th St, Corsicana, TX 75110

### NEW SUMMERFIELD

New Summerfield Education Foundation  
Contact: Peggy Craft, (903) 726-3306  
pcraft@newsommerfieldisd.net  
PO Box 6, New Summerfield, TX 75780

### RED RIVER COUNTY/LAMAR COUNTY

Paris Kiwanis Imagination Library  
Contact: Claudia McKinney, (903) 784-6374  
cmck126@gmail.com  
714 CR 35010, Brookston, TX 75421

### RAINS COUNTY

Rains County Public Library  
Contact: Wendy Byrd, (903) 473-5096  
wendy.byrd@co.rains.tx.us  
PO Box 202, Emory, TX 75440

### RUSK COUNTY

Little Ones Literacy Program  
Contact: Brian Ballard, (903) 521-6435  
brian.ballard49@gmail.com  
PO Box 1762, Henderson, TX 75653

### SULPHUR SPRINGS

Sulphur Springs Independent School District  
Contact: Amanda Ridner, (903) 885-4576  
aridner@ssisd.net  
600 Calvert St, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482

### WOOD COUNTY

Pilot Club of Quitman  
Contact: Susan Ukleja, (903) 243-9384  
quitmanpilot@gmail.com  
PO Box 1265, Quitman, TX 75783

Winnsboro Center for the Arts  
Contact: Tona Blizzard, (817) 247-0607  
dpilwinnsboro@gmail.com  
655 CR 4592, Winnsboro, TX 75494

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a book gifting program that mails free, high-quality books to children from birth to age five, no matter their family's income. The Imagination Library relies on local partners to secure funds to cover the cost of the books and shipping fees.

[www.ImaginationLibrary.com](http://www.ImaginationLibrary.com)

**DONATE**

Contact a participating  
community to contribute  
to this worthy cause.

# Women Find Happy Place in the Pines

*Retreat in the Pines near Mineola Celebrates 20th Anniversary*



By P.A. Geddie

Theresa Polley of Dallas found her piney woods oasis in Wood County north of Mineola, Texas, in 2004. Not one to claim all the good vibes for herself, that same year she created Retreat in the Pines to give women a safe space to “be their authentic selves without apology while finding the healing and renewal they deserve.”

The retreat sanctuary includes a bright and airy yoga studio, a dining space with a community table, shared and private accommodations, multiple outdoor hammocks, and two decks beneath the trees.

Retreat in the Pines celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. What began with Polley teaching yoga classes to local residents and hosting a few retreats each year, has grown into a thriving business with day and weekend retreats held every week. Her all-women team includes a group of yoga instructors, rotating chefs, and a property manager among others.

In April 2023, the newspaper and broadcasting company *USA Today* named Retreat in the Pines one of the 10 Best Yoga Retreats in the U.S.

“That was very exciting,” Polley says. “It was nice to be recognized after all these years.”

Women from all parts of the country find their “happy place” at the retreats. Looking back, Polley says, the journey in helping others find peace, helped her find her own.

“When I came up with the idea of hosting yoga retreats, it was more about bringing yoga to the world,” she recalls. “Yoga became the catalyst that brought guests together to find the true purpose of the retreat: to find connection, community, support and encouragement from each other. I didn’t know it at the time, but I was seeking the same in my life.”

It was important to her that the getaway weekends she created for women be fun

*(Above) Company founder Theresa Polley (left) stands with some of her retreat leaders and chefs on the property of Retreat in the Pines, celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. (Opposite) Women of all ages and backgrounds enjoy the peace they find in the East Texas woods. COURTESY PHOTOS*

and relaxed unlike other retreats she’d been to that had overfull, hurried schedules with no free time, little time for sleep, and highly restricted meals. Her dream was to create experiences where guests could indulge in wine, coffee, chocolate and delicious meals cooked from scratch, as a complement to yoga, meditation, time in nature, and free time to reset and that’s exactly what she did.

The usual routine for a weekend retreat varies by the number of days and activities. Parts of the schedule might include a wine reception, delicious meals, self love workshops, yoga suitable for all levels, nature walks, and aromatherapy.

So many good things stand out as rewarding for Polley from the last 20 years.

*continued page 10*







## RETREAT *continued from page 8*

“Meeting incredible women at the retreat, I’ve been touched by stories of many of the guests over the years.”

She feels especially fulfilled when guests email letting her know that the retreat was life changing for them.

“All of the stories keep me motivated,” she says. “Every time I hear a guest share that she’s grateful that she came and discovered she’s not the only one who struggles with a particular challenge, that is powerful.”

She also takes comfort in the guests who come back multiple times and the difference she sees in them each time.

All kinds of women come to the retreats from sisters, friends, book clubs, and other groups, while many come solo.

The current Retreat in the Pines team includes chefs Claudine Boucher, Angelic Gabo, and Mackenzie Karg; massage therapist Jan Hauk; and retreat leaders/ yoga instructors Cecilia Barham, Michelle Brazell, Dayna Henderson, Debbie Jaeger, Jennifer Wu-Ho, Tarka Sullivan, Keitha Spears, and Michelle Erby. Like most of the yoga instructors, Erby was a guest before she became a teacher.

She is from Arlington and looks forward to coming to East Texas as often as possible.

“It’s a mini vacation,” she says, adding she loves being in nature. “It feels like I belong out here — it’s a beautiful place.”

Erby’s next class is “Nurture” on May 10-12, promising to help women “escape your busy reality to find a fresh perspective and savor the rest and relaxation you deserve.”

Other upcoming classes include Mindfulness & Healing on January 12-14, New Year Detox & Yoga on January 19-21, Book Lovers on February 2-4, Love Yourself on February 15-18.

An anniversary celebration at Retreat in the Pines is in the planning stages with a day of yoga, meditation, snacks, chair massages, and more. Polley is also in the process of developing a leadership program specifically for women.

“There are differences in the way women lead versus how men lead,” she says.

Women can sometimes try to lead from their emotions, she said, and it’s better to lead with compassion without being reactive. Helping women become effective leaders in politics, corporations, and

*(Above) The retreat sanctuary includes the main cabin, a bright and airy yoga studio, dining space with a community table, shared and private accommodations, multiple outdoor hammocks, and two decks beneath the trees. (Opposite top) Taking time for genuine conversations is one of the women’s favorite part of the getaway. (Bottom) The second-story yoga studio provides a great space for those at any practice level.*  
COURTESY PHOTOS

even in their personal lives is an important next step for her programs.

“Women often get the short end of the stick,” she says. “They need to be their own advocates and women need to stand up for each other.”

Wherever she goes from here, Polley says, she won’t do it alone.

“The day I realized I couldn’t do it all myself is when my business started to grow. Bringing in talented women who complemented what I do, freed me up to do the things I love — run the business (and my very favorite) visit with guests.

“I always tell people who are looking to change directions in their life to be open. That’s how I got here — being open to the possibilities that come your way is life changing.

To learn more visit [www.retreatinthepines.com](http://www.retreatinthepines.com).



# THE REDLANDS HOTEL

*Palentine,  
Short Trip,  
Big Rewards!*

400 N Queen St, Palestine, Texas  
800.550.5445 903.729.2345



[www.TheRedlandsHotel.com](http://www.TheRedlandsHotel.com)

## Enjoy Your Stay in Winnsboro CARNEGIE COTTAGE

VACATION RENTAL WALKABLE TO DOWNTOWN SHOPPING, ART CENTER, AND RESTAURANTS



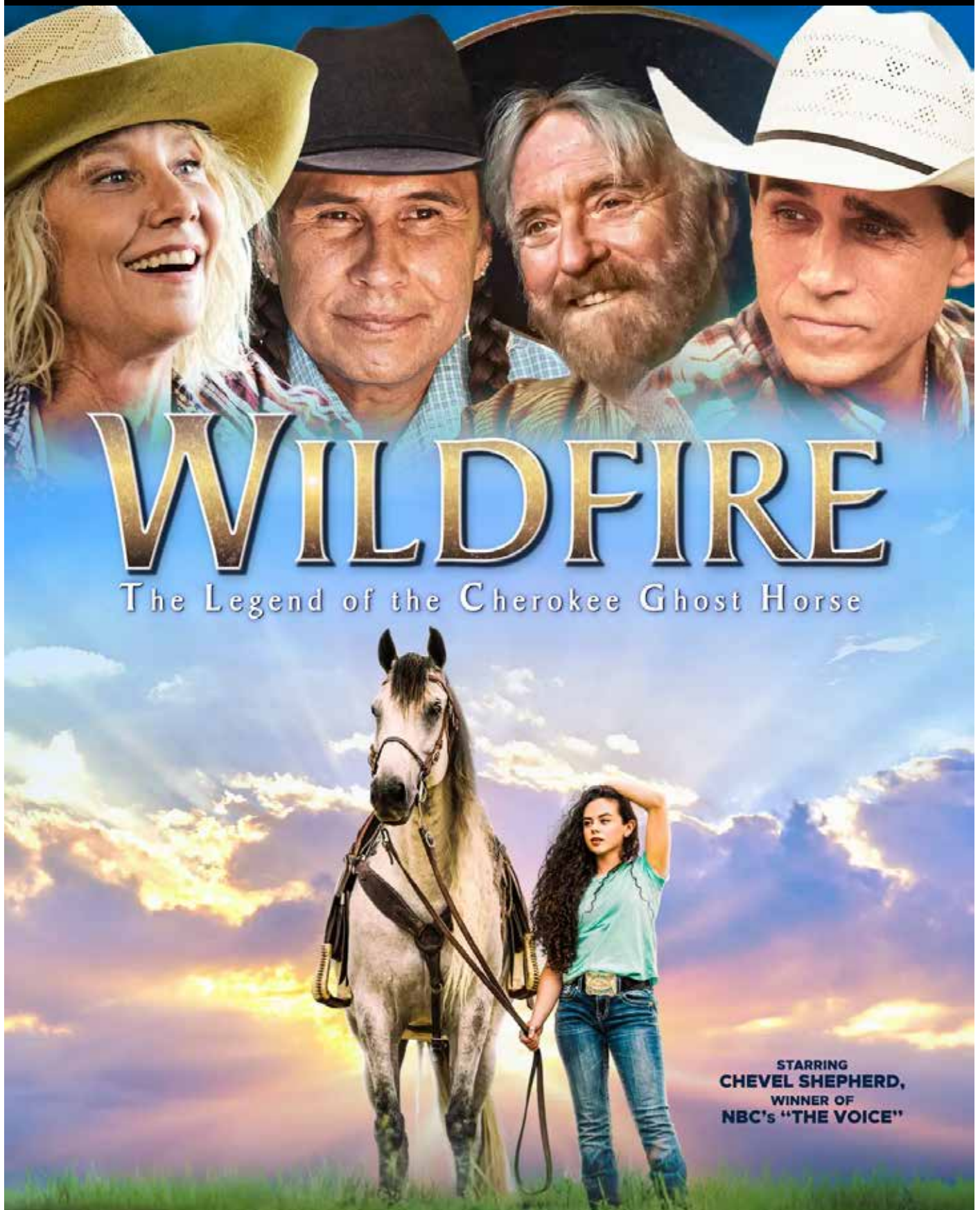
300 E. Carnegie St. • Winnsboro, TX 75494

[www.CarnegieCottageTX.com](http://www.CarnegieCottageTX.com)



# FUND ARTS EDUCATION

**IN THEATERS JANUARY 26**



# WILDFIRE

The Legend of the Cherokee Ghost Horse

STARRING  
**CHEVEL SHEPHERD,**  
WINNER OF  
NBC's "THE VOICE"

# Couple Blends Cultures for Coffee

By P.A. Geddie

A little bit of Costa Rica is alive and well in Edom, Texas. Javier and Chere Montero operate 2 Hats Coffee from their East Texas countryside property. They sell coffee beans that are grown on a single origin fifth generation farm in Costa Rica.

Chere (pronounced like the French *chérie*) is originally from the Fort Worth area. After moving to Costa Rica, she met and married her equine veterinarian, Javier. Together they have six daughters. When the two youngest were 12 and 14 the family moved to Texas “so they could know the other half of their culture.”

Living in Costa Rica for 24 years, the couple grew used to easy access to specialty coffee as a part of their life there. For many families, coffee farms are passed down from generation to generation and coffee is an integral part of Costa Rican culture.

Javier grew up in such a family and has fond memories of running through the coffee fields with his brothers and sisters, and helping his father with the harvest. Javier’s father always kept the best coffee beans of his harvest for personal use, to have a good cup of carefully selected coffee with his family.

“In the afternoon after work my father would eat lunch at home and have a *siesta*,” Javier says. “Then he would go out to our coffee fields and work, taking care of the land and coffee plants. My mother would send me or my brothers to take a *cafecito* (coffee with a snack) to my father. This was a grand moment that my father and I shared coffee in the coffee fields. And this is a wonderful memory that he shared his love for coffee that he carefully grew for his family and friends.”

When Javier retired from working as a veterinarian in 2015, he and Chere decided to move back to her home state of Texas. It didn’t take long for them to realize they could not find coffee that compared to what they were used to in Costa Rica.



Their craving for good coffee led them to filling their suitcases with the “good stuff” every time they traveled to Costa Rica. Then, sharing it with friends and family they would quickly run out. Frustrated, on one trip back to Costa Rica, Javier got together with a childhood friend and they partnered to grow coffee beans there and 2 Hats Coffee was born. Their partnership allows Javier to bring the same quality coffee back to Texas to share with coffee lovers around the country.

“We personally select every harvest,” Javier says. “It is then processed, sent directly by air carrier to Texas, then delivered by ground to our farm in Edom, Texas.”

The name 2 Hats comes from the couple’s two cultures — the cowboy hat represented by Chere’s Texas roots and the Costa Rican farmers hat called “*choneté*” represented by Javier.

Javier roasts the beans weekly on the Edom farm in small batches. Some are

*(Above) Javier and Chere Montero own 2 Hats Coffee. (Opposite, top clockwise) The beans are grown at this in Costa Rica plantation. Beans are gathered to make the trip to Texas. Roasting takes place on the Montero farm in near Edom. COURTESY PHOTOS*

ground in a wide variety of coarsenesses. Then packaging begins.

“The storing, roasting and packaging is all done in what we call our Coffee Barn on the farm,” Javier says.

Customers can get 2 Hats Coffee in a variety of ways.

It is served and available for sale at Honeycomb Bakery in Chandler, CTRanch Farm Store in Emory, Dana’s Herb and Juice Coffee Garage in Athens, 4MS Cattle Company in Brownsboro, and Jump Family Farm in La Rue.

The coffee is also found at farmers markets, REKO rings (Facebook group/delivery), special events and fundraisers, and online at [www.2hatscoffee.com](http://www.2hatscoffee.com).



# The 2024 Great American Eclipse Over the Upper East Side of Texas



The wide open spaces of the Upper East Side of Texas offer prime viewing for the Great American Eclipse on April 8. Many eclipse-watching activities are planned in rural small towns while others are finding their own private locations.

For travelers coming for several days, the region offers rich history, breathtaking scenery, fresh farm-to-table experiences, and an abundance of artistic and cultural interests. This mostly-rural parcel of the planet welcomes visitors to instant relaxation as they ease into a slower pace and meet friendly and nuanced people.

The small towns and cultural districts are the stars of the region. Standing at the center of any of the communities, people get an immediate sense of the beauty that happens when the reverence of the historical past, the welcoming of contemporary culture, and a partnership with nature converge. That good vibration is the underlying current of the entire Upper East Side of Texas.

Visitors find the tapestry of history mixes well with modern amenities. Artifacts and stories of the Caddo Nation, Cherokees, Spaniards, and those of African and European descent, are carefully guarded in museums and celebrated in events. Among those treasures, guests enjoy coffee shops and wineries, boutiques, exceptional cuisine, live music, and theatrical performances in uncrowded spaces. Some dive in to shell peas at a farm-

ers' market, make pure cane syrup with mule power, play donkey basketball, or enter a fire ant calling contest. There is no shortage of authentic fun with a rich calendar of festivals, foliage and flower trails, train rides, farmers' and artisans' markets, and other events and ongoing attractions throughout the year.

Surrounding the communities are acres of land as far as the eye can see, naturally landscaped with enormous trees, prairies, wildflowers, and spectacular sunrises and sunsets. Beautiful vineyards, garden centers, resorts, and wildlife attractions dot the countryside. One is never far from a lakeside shore in this part of Texas, which is fed by the flowing waters of hundreds of rivers and creeks.

Guests are encouraged to make plans to explore the region in the days leading up to and after the eclipse.

Some of the towns and outlying areas in the region with an estimated four minutes or more of totality include Ennis and Waxahachie in Ellis County, Corsicana, numerous locations in Kaufman County including Terrell, Rains County and Lake Tawakoni, Sulphur Springs, Canton, Gun Barrel City and portions of Cedar Creek Lake, Greenville, Rockwall, Mount Vernon, Mount Pleasant, and Paris.

In the three to four minute totality duration are Winnsboro, Mineola and

much of Wood, Henderson, Van Zandt, Upshur, Camp, Titus, Fannin, and Collin Counties.

Many of the towns on the outer edges of totality as well as those not in the path at all are offering special events during the eclipse weekend. They are great places to make home base no matter where visitors and residents alike choose to view the eclipse.

## HELPFUL LINKS

To get ongoing details and updates on activities happening in the region for the eclipse, follow this [ARTICLE](#) link.

To learn more about exploring the region, there's a great pictorial travel [BOOK](#) available on Amazon and at select locations in the region. Find more information on *Upper East Side of Texas Small Towns & Cultural* districts on [www.speckledcrow.com](http://www.speckledcrow.com).

To read more about the region and find a calendar of events, go to the *County Line Magazine* [WEBSITE](#).

To use an [INTERACTIVE MAP](#) to explore eclipse information of the region, click on the upper right corner of Texas.

To get more general information on the eclipse, safety precautions, and details of what occurs during an eclipse go to the [GREAT AMERICAN ECLIPSE](#) website.



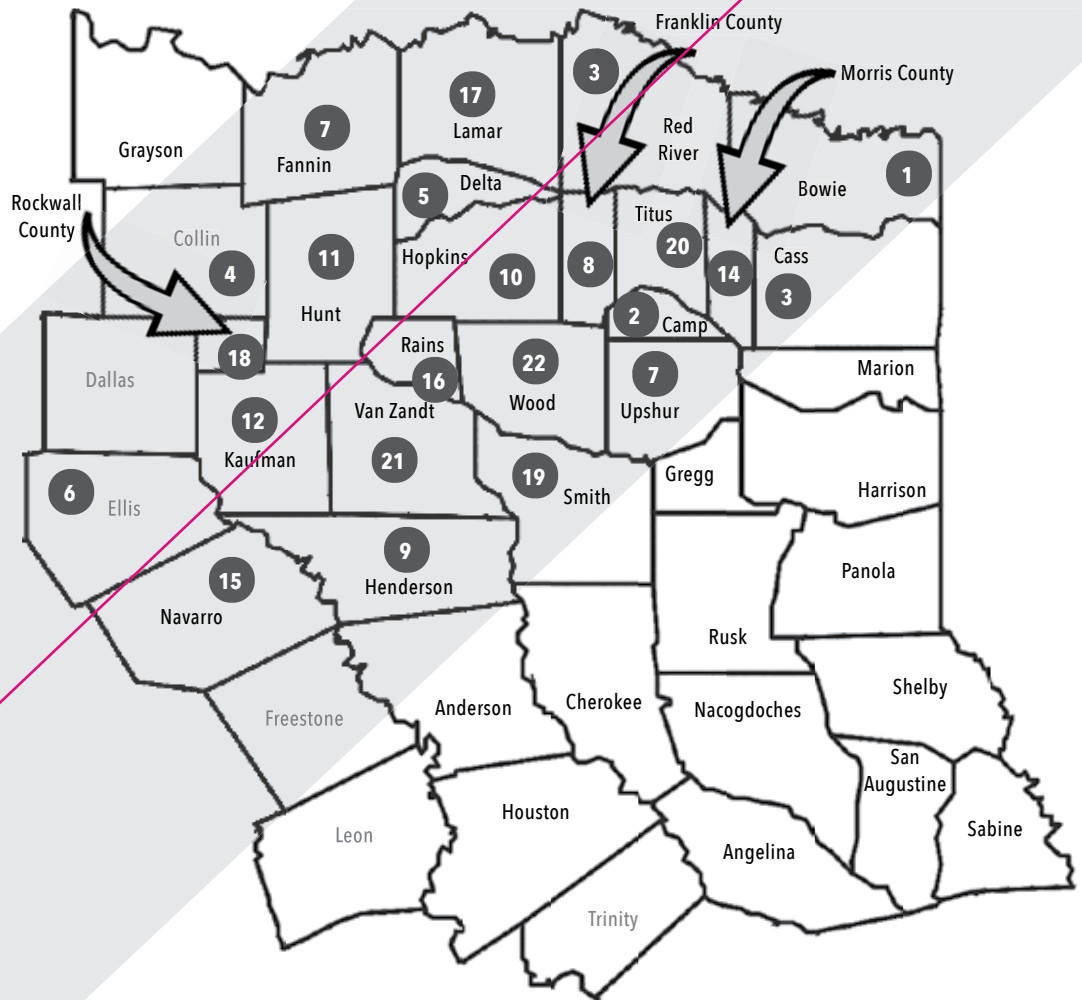


*Upper East Side of Texas*

# ECLIPSE

04.08.2024

1. Bowie
2. Camp
3. Cass
4. Collin
5. Delta
6. Ellis
7. Fannin
8. Franklin
9. Henderson
10. Hopkins
11. Hunt
12. Kaufman
13. Lamar
14. Morris
15. Navarro
16. Rains
17. Red River
18. Rockwall
19. Smith
20. Titus
21. Van Zandt
22. Wood



## No Rest Here for the Winter Weary



PHOTO BY HOLLIS SHADEN

While things slow down a bit in the winter months in the region, there are plenty of lively things to do. From dinosaurs, Mardi Gras, and a “World Famous” flea market, to Freeze Your Fanny, folks get a bit creative with keeping things moving in a good direction. Here are a few quick picks. Find more on the County Line calendar.

**Dinosaurs Live! Life-Size Animatronic Dinosaurs** are at the Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary in McKinney through February 19. The life-size dinosaurs move and roar for visitors along a paved pathway that is wheelchair and stroller-friendly. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. The exhibit is included in general admission and free for Heard Museum

Members. For information visit [www.heardmuseum.org](http://www.heardmuseum.org).

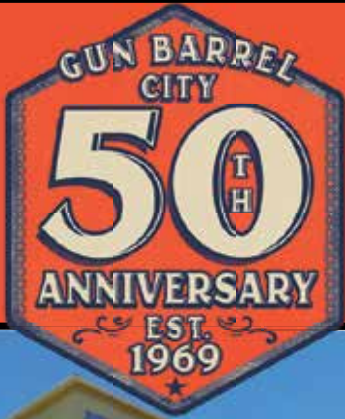
Visit Canton the weekend prior to the first Monday of each month for **First Monday Trade Days** — also known as the World’s Largest Flea Market. The four-day event welcomes vendors from miles around and features antiques, handmade crafts and goods, and home decor from more than 5,000 vendors. Winter dates include December 28-31, February 1-4, and February 29-March 3. For information visit [www.firstmonday-canton.com](http://www.firstmonday-canton.com).

**Freeze Your Fanny** on February 3 is an annual cycling event in Longview benefiting East Texas Lightnin’, an independent team of athletes with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Get more information and sign up [HERE](#).

The 22nd Annual Krewe of Barkus takes place Sunday, February 4 in Dr. Glen Mitchell Park in McKinney. This year’s theme is Barkus Salutes the Lone Star State, celebrating the history, culture, cuisine, and crazy characters of Texas. Get more information [HERE](#).

**Mardi Gras Upriver** takes place February 9-11 in downtown Jefferson. Get details on [www.mardigrasupriver.com](http://www.mardigrasupriver.com).

The **Ennis Czech Music Festival** takes place February 17 with music, dancing, food, and drinks. Dance to four fabulous polka bands including Czech and Then Some, The Ennis Czech Boys, The Jodie Mikula Orchestra, and The Moravians. The Sokol kitchen serves Czech classics all day long, including Klobase and Sauerkraut. Go [HERE](#) for more information.



# VISIT Gun Barrel City

...Shootin' Straight for 50 Years



*Come Stay  
& Play.  
We Aim to  
Please!*



903.887.1087 • [www.gunbarrelcity.net](http://www.gunbarrelcity.net)

# Small town

Stately homes, gorgeous scenic drives, and local cuisine exploding with flavor. Visit Palestine, Texas for a warm welcome and a true Southern experience.

#palestinetx



March - May: Ride the Texas State Railroad



Bloom Watch Scenic Driving Tours



Wiggy Thump Festival



Old Time Music & Dulcimer Festival

visitpalestine.com  
800-659-3484



LIVE. DREAM. EXPLORE.  
*Upper East Side of Texas*



# county line

MAGAZINE

www.countylinemagazine.com  
(903) 312-9556



Let us lure you  
**Emory, TX**  
*"The Land Between the Lakes"*



*Emory-  
a great place  
to shop  
while he goes  
fishing!*



**BENT TREE  
MOTEL**

381 W. Lennon Dr.  
903-473-0061

**BW** Best Western  
**PLUS.**

1026 E. Lennon Dr.  
903-473-2022

www.emorytx.com

# Winter Fantasy Faire Takes Place in Palestine

Faire of Champions is an immersive entertainment and camping experience that promises “a realm where performance art meets fantasy and Renaissance meets Comic-Con in a retreat from the humdrum of everyday life.

The winter fantasy faire runs for six consecutive weekends with vendors, activities, entertainment, and camping.

On January 6 and 7 the theme is Fantasy and Folklore. Guests immerse in a world of elves, dragons, dwarves and more meeting merchants, tavern keeps, fellow adventurers, and entertaining shows. Saturday evening faire attendees with camping passes are invited to Neon Wings: A Fairies’ Rave. Guests enter the realm of the Fae, where enchantment reigns and the night glows with mystical light while they embrace the revelry of dance and merriment at the Viking Hall, nestled amidst the enchanted Woodcock Woodlands.

The weekend of January 13 and 14 is Multiverse, a place for bringing cosplay characters to life. Cosplay is the practice of dressing up as a character from a movie, book, or video game.

January 20 and 21 features Once Upon a Midnight Dreary, a day for Victorian gothic outfits. The evening of the 20th is a special event for campers, Black Rose: A Gothic Masquerade. Guests arrive at the Hall of Thanos in gothic attire, inside Woodcock Woodlands campgrounds for an evening of food, entertainment, and dancing.

A “Viking Invasion” takes place the weekend of January 27 and 28 where guests experience gatherings, feasts, and not-so-barbarish Vikings. Yule Fest takes place that Saturday evening for those with camping passes. A celebra-



tion of the ancient winter festival Yule, it is hosted by the friendly horde of The Traveler’s Hearth and Yarl Olfmir at the Hall of Thanos.

February 3 and 4 features Champions of Good and Evil. Protagonist who uphold justice, morality and a sense of structure and good in the world meet antagonists who create chaos, destruction, and want to destroy the world. Quests are completed to uphold honor, or trick others into going the opposite direction.

The final weekend of February 10 and 11 takes ticket holders on a High Seas Adventure, with pirates, captains and crew, a black market trinket exchange, a krak-

en, and mermaids. That Saturday night event is Shore Leave at Torguga. The pirates take break from their high seas adventuring to partake in a celebration fit for the gentleman or lady of fortune. Guests enjoy a succulent feast served up by the saucy wenches and strapping lads of Tortuga.

The faire grounds are located at 4033 AN County Road 2212 near Palestine, Texas. Daytime activities are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays and the public is welcome. Evening entertainment is reserved for those with camping tickets. Get all tickets on their website, [www.faireofchampions.com](http://www.faireofchampions.com).

**YOU CAN BE ANYTHING**



VIDEO



**Imagine the Possibilities**

**A seven-year-old professor? Veterinarian? Soccer coach? Business professional? Why not? Girls imagine what they may one day become.**

# NACOGDOCHES

*We Have a Nac for That*



In the beginning there was Nacogdoches. It is the oldest city in Texas and its rich history is displayed at every turn. A statue trail commemorates the early settlers and founders of not only the town, but the entire state of Texas. Landmarks include the Old Stone Fort, Old Nacogdoches University Building, Millard's Crossing, and the Sterne-Hoya House. The Historic Town Center serves as a visitor bureau in downtown Nacogdoches. The history and legends of the city are told there and visitors have access to everything they need to start their "Nac" adventure.

Nacogdoches is home to Stephen F. Austin University, which hosts an extensive fine arts program and inspiring events

that trickle their vibe all over town. The Marx Brothers famously launched their comedy career there in 1917 and the fun just keeps on coming. Local community theater and performing arts centers, live music venues, two movie theaters, and several art galleries provide an ongoing selection of arts and entertainment to satisfy a variety of tastes.

Nature lovers enjoy that Nacogdoches is the Garden Capital of Texas with beautiful views at every turn. Pocket parks, native landscapes, flower gardens, and walking trails on the university campus and throughout the city provide ample opportunities for discovery, relaxation, and reflection.

The brick-lined downtown streets help keep the nostalgic feel to Nacogdoches while it provides modern-day amenities in carefully restored historic buildings. Creative colorful murals continue the merger of history and art. A wide variety of dining experiences are found downtown and in the surrounding area. Casual, family friendly restaurants serve Texas barbecue, tacos, Southern-style home cooking, and internationally inspired cuisine, including delicate French pastries. Many locations have full bars and the town boasts several wineries, craft breweries, and artisan craft spirit shops.

Nacogdoches has just the right amount of relaxing, small-town charm, mixed

with plenty of activities for those who enjoy being on the go. There are many locally owned specialty and antique stores and some places that do things the old-fashioned way, like an old-style barber shop. Find art, trendy clothing, jewelry, cigars, and more along the brick streets of the oldest town in Texas.

A full year of special events means there is never a dull moment. Many tourists plan their visits around one or more of them. In the spring, the Azalea Trail is a big hit, the fall foliage trails are popular in the fall, and there are gardens for every season. From festivals, flea markets, and concerts, to wine swirls and wassail fests, Nacogdoches has no shortage of fun.

*Excerpt from the book Upper East Side of Texas, Small Towns & Cultural Districts available at select locations in the region and on Amazon. Go to [www.speckledcrow.com](http://www.speckledcrow.com) for more information.*



*(Opposite page) Downtown Nacogdoches. COURTESY PHOTO; (Top) Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden. PHOTO BY INE BURKE.; (Bottom) Coca-Cola mural on the General Mercantile building in Downtown Nacogdoches. COURTESY PHOTO*

## Find Fun and Meaningful Art Throughout the Region



Finding visual art in the Upper East Side of Texas when *County Line Magazine* began almost 25 years ago was a challenge. Today, there are more than a hundred galleries sprinkled throughout the region that share the beauty of art with visitors and residents alike. Here are a few exhibitions to note this first quarter of 2024. Explore the region's gift shops and galleries to find beautiful art by local and other artists.

Artist Stephanie Nickel's work is featured in *Lean In* at Gallery Main Street in downtown Tyler from January 13 through March 6.

211 Gallery in downtown Athens features *Peace in the Storm* through February 24 and *Vintage* starting March 23.

See *Jammin'* through March 2 at Longview Museum of Fine Arts. The exhibit explores the world of Jamin Shepherd. Longview native, former singer-songwriter and currently a mixed media artist, Shepherd creates colorful textile sculptures and puzzling ceramics. Connections, ideas, associations, and narratives do manifest in the work but at the intersection of the boundless territory of mystery and imagination and the confines of language and structure.

Totally unrelated, see *Jamin Carter* through January 20 at Texarkana Regional Arts Center and the 31st Annual Student Exhibition starts there April 20.

Through January 20 is *Changing Light* at Winnsboro Center for the Arts featuring

the works of Nancy Beauchamp, Katherine Zymbroy, and Robert Haydon. *Harmonious Hues* starts January 24 and runs through March 16.

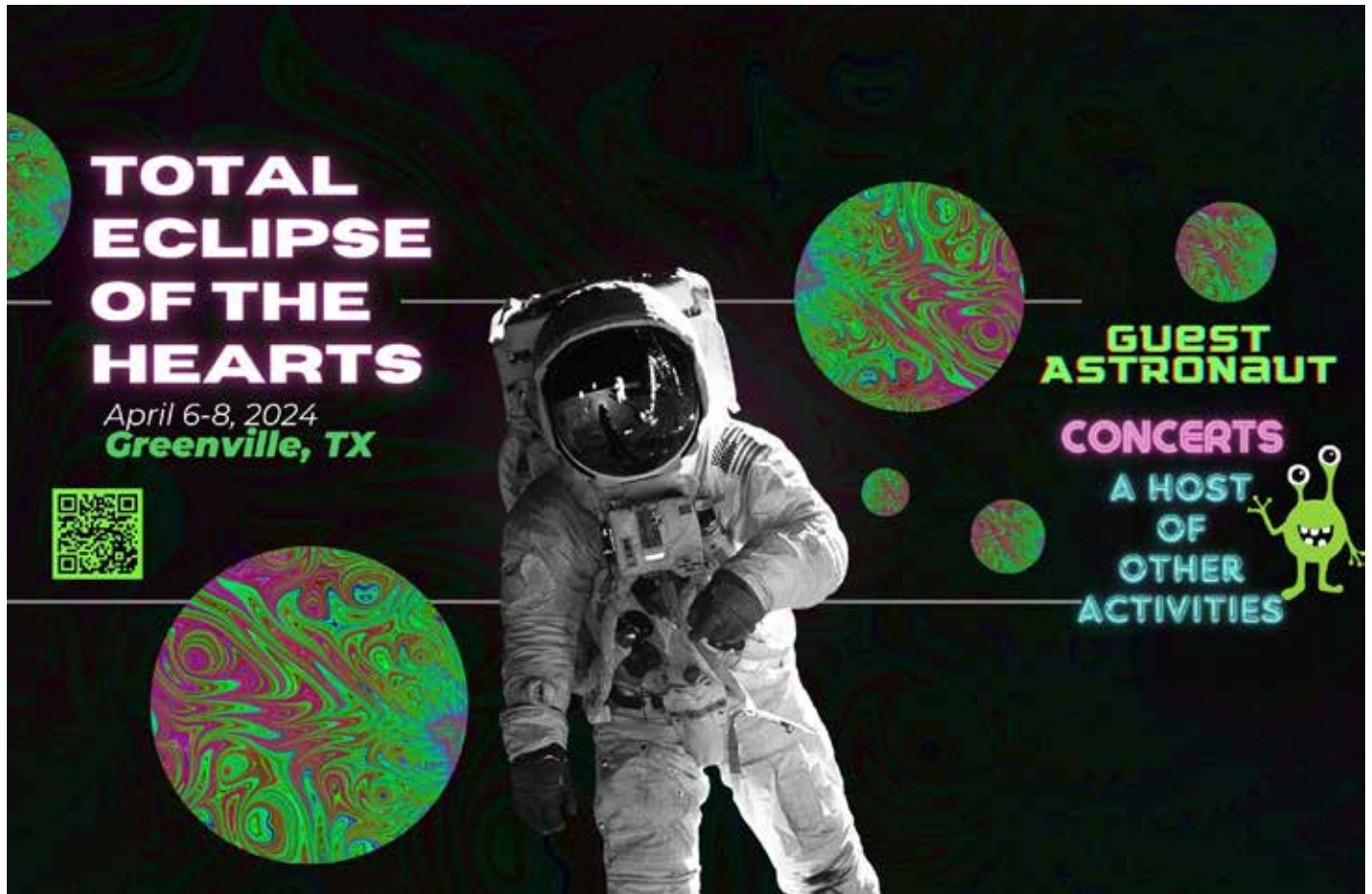
*The Way I See It: Works by Cindi Holt and Susie Phillips* is on exhibition at Tyler Museum of Art through March 10. The image above is "Fly" by Cindi Holt.

Focusing on the beauty of everyday spaces and objects, both artists offer their unique perspectives on the world around us through the use of flattened planes and bold patterning. Their diverse subjects are created across a variety of media including collages, drawings, embroideries and paintings.




# TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE HEARTS

April 6-8, 2024  
Greenville, TX



**GUEST ASTRONAUT**

**CONCERTS**  
A HOST OF OTHER ACTIVITIES



## The Way I See It

---

Works by  
Cindi Holt  
and  
Susie Phillips

on view through  
March 10, 2024

Tyler Museum of Art  
1300 South Mahon Avenue • Tyler, TX  
[www.tylermuseum.org](http://www.tylermuseum.org)



Enjoy the View.  
LONGVIEW

U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championship  
June 10-16, 2024,  
Great Texas Balloon Race  
June 14-16, 2024



**U.S. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

# Central Track and Blind Lemon Highlighted in Exhibits

The African American Museum at Fair Park in Dallas is showing two exhibitions in conjunction with Deep Ellum's 150th anniversary. The shows commemorate the enduring significance of the Central Track district which connected to Deep Ellum and was once a thriving African American community whose roots date back to the Civil War. Central Track was demolished in the 1940s to make way for North Central Expressway and the I-35 overpass.

*Central Track: Crossroads of Deep Ellum* focuses primarily on the 1920s and 1930s and features newspaper clippings, archival photographs, posters, and recordings of blues, jazz, and popular music of the period. *Seeing a World Blind Lemon Never Saw* presents a photographic series made by Alan Govenar from 2021-2023, exploring rural East Texas and little-known places in Dallas, locations Blind Lemon visited or alluded to in his songs.

*Central Track: Crossroads of Deep Ellum* unravels the growth and demise of North Central Avenue, in the area known as Central Track or Stringtown, which connects Deep Ellum to what was called Freedman Town after the Civil War. The area was later renamed Short North Dallas then Old North Dallas before being identified as Uptown.

Central Track and Deep Ellum were places where day laborers were picked up and dropped off, often for work in the cotton fields. The expanding railroads brought commercial and industrial development and a thriving entertainment sector.

The neighborhoods surrounding Central Avenue boasted vibrant African American communities and an array of Black-owned businesses, from shoeshine stands and street vendors to variety shows and movie theaters to music shops, drug stores, cafés, and most notably, the landmark building at 2551 Elm Street (the headquarters of the Colored Knights of Pythias). Opened in 1916, the building, designed by William Sidney Pittman—the first African American architect to practice in Texas—was a center of community activity, which provided offices



(Above) Mural in Deep Ellum by renowned artist Chris Bingham featuring famous blues artists Freddy King, Blind Lemon Jefferson, and T Bone Walker. Jefferson was born blind and became known as the Father of Texas Blues. He was among the inaugural class of blues musicians inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame in 1980. T Bone Walker initially was Jefferson's protégé and would guide him around Dallas for his gigs. COURTESY PHOTO

(Opposite Page Top) Part of the Central Track exhibit is "Barbershop in the Pythian Temple," ca. 1920s. COURTESY LOUIS A. BEDFORD, JR. (Bottom) Part of the *Seeing a World Blind Lemon Never Saw* exhibit is "Houston and Texas Central Railway crossing," Calvert, August 10, 2020. According to Mrs. Earl Turner Livingston, a woman from Bryan named Rohemia, also known as Parthens, "bought Lemon a guitar and his first suit of clothes and got him to go around playing for tenant farmers there at Calvert settlement." PHOTOGRAPH BY ALAN GOVENAR.

for doctors, dentists, lawyers and other Black professionals.

The exhibition raises questions about cultural identity difficult to reconcile, juxtaposing the harsh realities of racism to the vitality of a community that struggled to survive. While few photos have been found, numerous newspaper accounts bring to life a world little known and often overlooked that was destroyed.

The newspaper clippings about Central Track and Deep Ellum in this exhibition appeared in Caucasian and Black newspapers around the U.S., most notably

*The Dallas Morning News*, *Dallas Express* and *Indianapolis Freeman*. Many conveying racist stereotypes, the clippings establish the cultural context in which they were written and illustrated. In contrast to the racist content are advertisements and notices published in the same newspapers that reveal the enduring resilience of the African American community.

*Seeing a World Blind Lemon Never Saw* features the photography of Alan Govenar. The 34 large images of rural East Texas and early Dallas neighborhoods interrogate the landscapes of the legendary

blues singer Blind Lemon Jefferson, lyricizing the environment and experiences where Jefferson was born and lived. Govenar's compelling photographs of Jefferson's environment are characterized with chromatic elegance and depth. The images encapsulate the spectrum of human experience. The photographs' clear tonal contrast of light and shadow evokes a timeless quality that transcends the boundaries of time and gives Govenar's photographs universal appeal.

Govenar is an award-winning writer, poet, playwright, photographer and filmmaker. He is director of Documentary Arts, a non-profit organization he founded to advance essential perspectives on historical issues and diverse cultures. Govenar is a Guggenheim Fellow and author of more than 35 books.

Govenar recently released a book (along with Kip Cornell) called "See That My Grave is Kept Clean," a new biography on Jefferson. The name comes from one of his hit songs that's been covered by Bob Dylan, B.B. King, the Grateful Dead, and many others.

Jefferson was born blind in a sharecropper's cabin on September 24, 1893, near Couchman, a settlement that no longer exists, west of Wortham in northern Freestone County. At a young age he began playing guitar and singing for coins on street corners and juke joints around Mexia. By the time he was 19 years old, Jefferson was hanging out in Dallas' Deep Ellum neighborhood with the then-24-year-old Huddie "Leadbelly" Ledbetter. Jefferson's favorite corner was at Elm Street and Central Avenue (now Central Expressway).

Jefferson gained a national audience after he was discovered by Paramount Records. Over the next three years, until his death in 1929, Jefferson recorded 110 tracks and released 43 records. The songs ranged from gospel tunes to bawdy barroom songs. Even on the poor-quality recordings of the day, his intricate guitar licks stand out.

Mystery surrounds Jefferson's death in a snowstorm in Chicago on December 19, 1929. The record company paid for the return of his body to Wortham. In 2007, the name of the graveyard where he was buried was changed to Blind Lemon Jef-



erson Memorial Cemetery. A local committee and visiting music fans keep his grave clean.

The African American Museum, Dallas was founded in 1974 as a part of Bishop College. The museum has operated independently since 1979. The African American Museum incorporates a wide variety of visual art forms and historical documents that portray the African American experience in the United States, Southwest, and Dallas. The mu-

seum has a small, but rich collection of African art, African American fine art and one of the largest African American folk-art collections in the United States.

Free and open to the public, the exhibitions run through May 30. The African American Museum is open Tuesdays through Fridays from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free self-parking is available in nearby lots. For more information, go to [www.aamdallas.org](http://www.aamdallas.org) or call 214-565-9026.

# PDNB Gallery Presents Authors and Their Art

Current exhibitions at PDNB Gallery in Dallas include *Keith Carter: Ghostlight* and *Michael Kenna: Trees* on display through February 10. In addition to their intriguing photography, both artists recently released books.

## KEITH CARTER

Keith Carter is known for his regional images of Texas, especially around his home town of Beaumont, and throughout East Texas. Although he has traveled the world to create poetic images of interesting people, animals, and nature, he spent several years before and during the pandemic, walking through the nearby swamp land and forest of the Big Thicket in Texas. The exhibition, as well as his new book *Ghostlight*, features photographs taken in that area.

The book is an extraordinary compilation of images and text that immerse the viewer in this hauntingly beautiful landscape.

Publicity excerpts state, “Southern wetlands, with their moss-draped trees and dark water obscuring mysteries below, are eerily beautiful places, home to ghost stories and haunting, ethereal light. *Ghostlight* captures the otherworldly spirits of swamps, marshes, bogs, baygalls, bayous, and fens in more than a hundred photographs.

From southern swamplands, this new work seeks to reveal ‘the secretive and mysterious’ of this often-overlooked landscape: wisps of fog drifting between tree branches; faceless figures contemplating a bog; infinite paths leading to unknown parts. Similarly, spectral images are evoked in the original short story that opens this book.”

Best-selling author Bret Anthony Johnston writes that *Ghostlight*, “hovers, darts, disappears. It can be as mean as a cottonmouth, as mischievous as a child. The closer you get, the farther the light recedes.”

Carter’s photographs can be found in many major museum collections including the Amon Carter Museum, the Dallas Museum of Art, J. Paul Getty Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, George Eastman House, Art Institute of Chicago, and the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Special collections include Elton John, Michelle & Barack Obama, Diane Keaton, and Horton Foote, who wrote a forward in Carter’s first book.

See Carter’s art in the exhibition [HERE](#) and learn more about him on his [WEBSITE](#) and in the [County Line ARCHIVES](#).

## MICHAEL KENNA

Michael Kenna is from Lancashire, England, and is featured for the fifth time in a solo show at PDNB Gallery. His show coincides with the release of his book, *Trees*, published by Éditions Skira, Paris and another stunningly beautiful new book, *Photographs and Stories*, published by Nazraeli Press.

Kenna’s book reminded PDNB Gallery Co-Director Missy Finger about a novel she read a couple of years ago by Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Powers. *The Overstory* shares individual



Swamp Moon, 2016, Keith Carter

stories with characters that find common connection with trees. One of the main characters is a woman who is a botanist that believes trees talk to one another.

“The biochemical behavior of individual trees may make sense only when we see them as members of a community,” Powers says.

This storytelling was quite compelling, and the botanist character helped define the importance of trees. She speaks of forests as an ecosystem that cannot be separated, cleaned out, but must remain intact, the dead with the living.

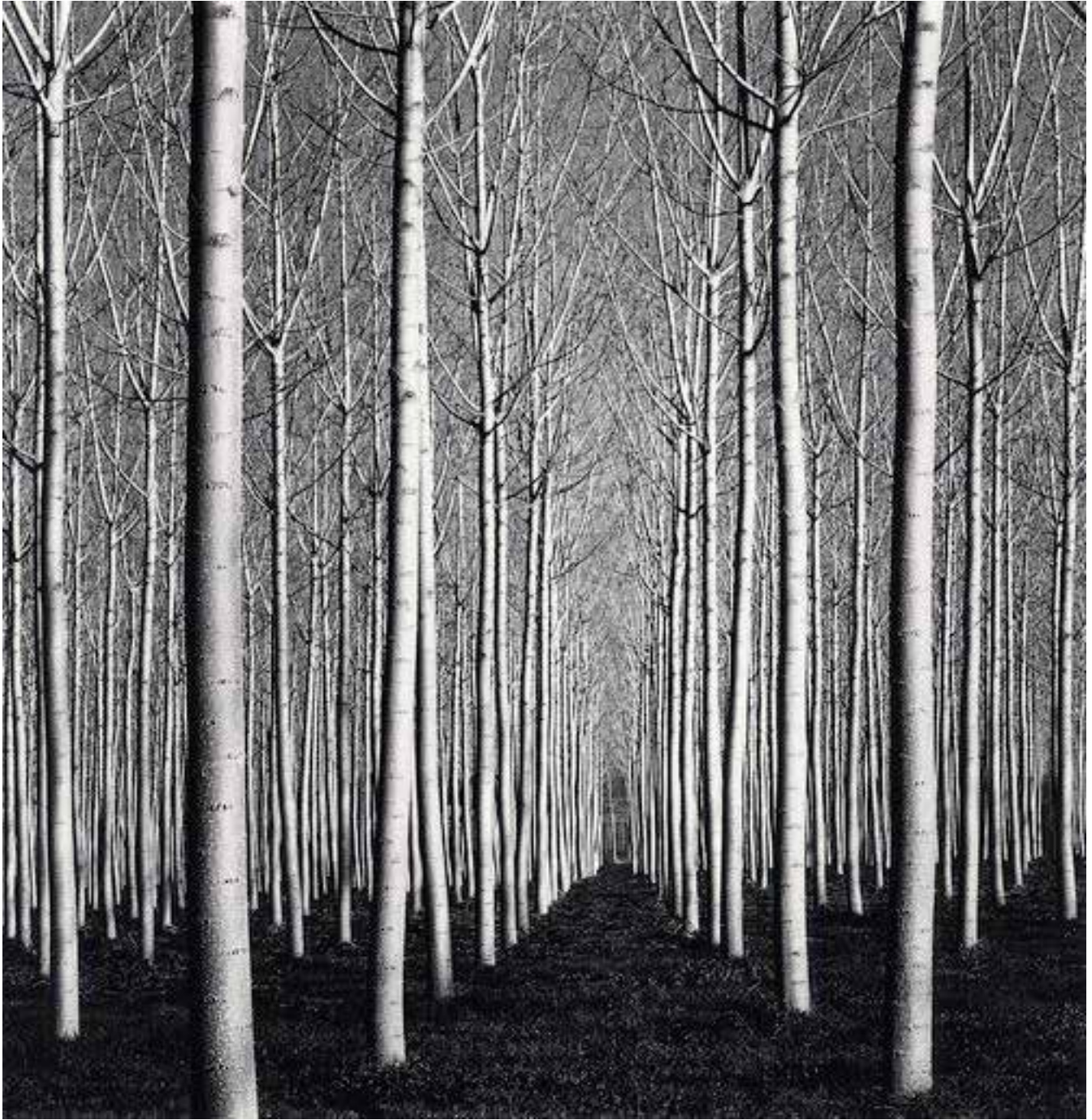
“There are no individuals in a forest, no separable events. The bird and the branch it sits on are a joint thing. A third or more of the food a big tree makes may go to feed other organisms. Even different kinds of trees form partnerships. Cut down a birch, and a nearby Douglas-fir may suffer.”

At the end of reading this novel, one can hopefully appreciate the tree in a different light.

When Michael Kenna’s book came out it made so much sense to elevate the tree, which is embedded in the crises of our time, climate change.

Kenna is a master at documenting beauty in nature and industrial design. His photographs of French gardens brought him recognition in the Western world. Then the industrial design of the River Rouge Plant in Detroit and the Brooklyn Bridge in

*Spring Poplar Trees, Pavia, Italy, 2019, Michael Kenna*



New York gained his respect and off he went to photograph the world, using the perfect light, long exposures and tremendous reverence for his subject.

Kenna found perhaps his favorite landscapes in Japan. The perfect match of subject matter and artist methodology. Kenna's work has always had a quiet, piercing simplicity that is often found in Asian art and design. His Japan images, especially from Hokkaido, are some of his masterpieces.

This exhibition and book include images from his 50-year career that highlight trees that have introduced themselves to his lens. We can pay homage to their

awesomeness through the beauty of Kenna's photographs.

In the botanist's book that she is writing in the novel, the end quote is from Buddha.

"A tree is a wondrous thing that shelters, feeds, and protects all living things. It even offers shade to the axmen who destroy it."

Michael Kenna's photographs are found in many museum collections, including the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas; Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois; Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, France; Museum of Modern Art, New York, New

York; National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; Victoria and Albert Museum, London, England; National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea; National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China; and the Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan.

See Kenna's exhibition art [HERE](#) and learn more about him on this [WEBSITE](#).

PDNB Gallery is located at 150 Manufacturing Street, Suite 203, Dallas. Admission is free. They are open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Get more information on their [WEBSITE](#) about the exhibitions and books or call (214) 969-1852.

# The Big Stages Kick Off Big New Year

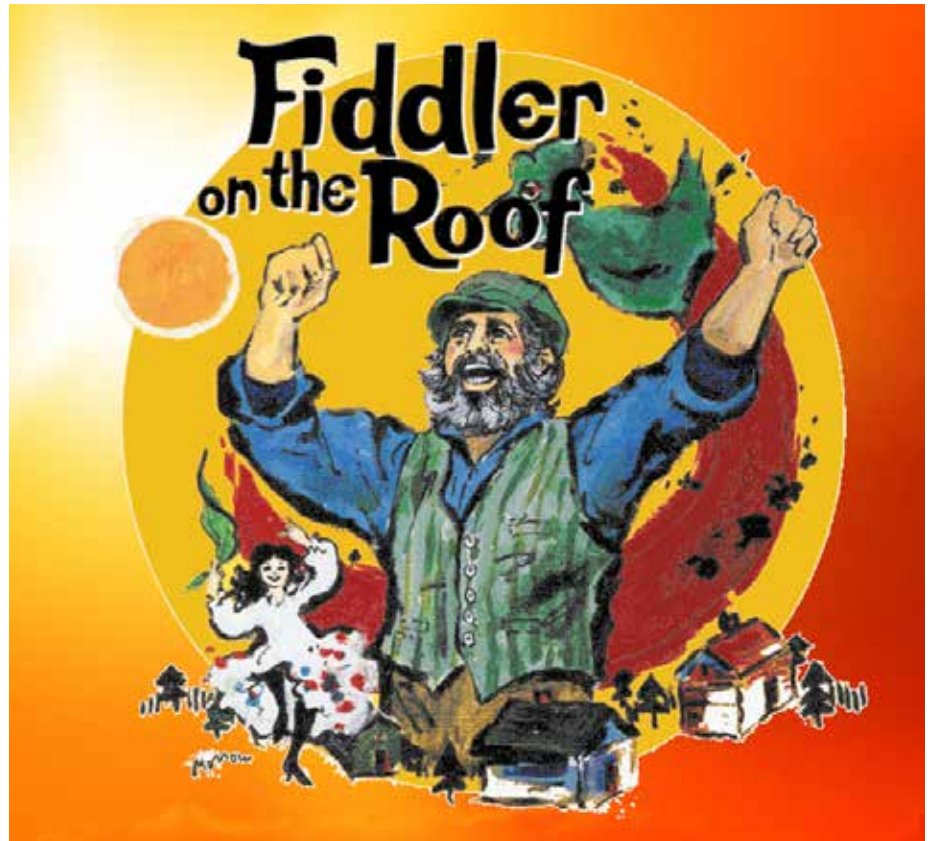
The number of quality shows in the Upper East Side of Texas in the dead of winter 2024 is incredible. Take a look at this roundup of a variety of theater, music, comedy, and more taking place on the larger stages of the region.

## GREENVILLE

Greenville Theatre Works presents *Fiddler on the Roof* March 8-10 and 15-17 at the Greenville Municipal Auditorium. *Fiddler on the Roof* is the brainchild of Broadway legends Jerome Robbins and Harold Prince; songwriters, Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick; and book writer, Joseph Stein. Touching audiences worldwide with its humor, warmth and honesty, this universal show is a staple of the musical theatre canon.

Set in the little village of Anatevka, the story centers on Tevye, a poor milkman, and his five daughters. With the help of a colorful and tight-knit Jewish community, Tevye tries to protect his daughters and instill them with traditional values in the face of changing social mores and the growing anti-Semitism of Czarist Russia. Rich in historical and ethnic detail, *Fiddler on the Roof's* universal theme of tradition cuts across barriers of race, class, nationality and religion, leaving audiences crying tears of laughter, joy and sadness.

Friday and Saturday shows start at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 3 p.m. Tickets are available GTWLive.



Other shows by Greenville Theatre Works planned for 2024 include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in June, *Jake's Women* in September, and *Arsenic & Old Lace* in November.

Theatre is not the only entertainment that takes place at Greenville Municipal Auditorium (GMA). See the Dallas Symphony Orchestra perform on January 14 and again on March 31, both at 3 p.m.

(Above) Greenville Theatre Works presents *Fiddler on the Roof* March 8-10 and 15-17 at the Greenville Municipal Auditorium. (Below) Little Shop of Horrors on April 5-7 and 12-14 at Main Street Theatre in Sulphur Springs.

See Forever Simon & Garfunkel tribute duet on Saturday, January 27. Lorri Morgan performs on Saturday, February 17.

On February 24 see The Floyd Cramer Story featuring Jason Floyd Coleman the grandson of the legend Floyd Cramer. With his talented roots, the Nashville pianist, finds the connections between music and memories, piano and family are inseparable.

Radney Foster performs on March 22 and The Haggards are at GMA on April 6 along with guests Kelly Willis and Brennen Leigh.

See Vicki Lawrence & Mama: A Two Woman Show on April 26, Vocal Majority on April 27, and The Righteous Brothers on June 7.





A young woman pays a big price to defy an unjust law in *Antigone* Now showing at Whatley Center for Performing Arts near Mount Pleasant on the Northeast Texas Community College campus.

Get tickets and more information on [www.showtimeatthegma.com](http://www.showtimeatthegma.com).

At Texan Theater in Greenville is Brad Davis Trio & The Kerosene Drifters on January 12, Ryder Grimes, January 13, and the Glenn Miller Orchestra on February 9. The legendary Glenn Miller was one of the most successful of all dance bandleaders back in the Swing Era of the 1930's and 40's.

### LONGVIEW

At the Belcher Center on February 3 is the former teenage idol Frankie Avalon. There on February 10 is *Puppy Pals Live* as seen on America's Got Talent. This comedic stunt dog show features mostly rescued dogs performing stunts and feats such as climbing a ladder, jumping rope, and doing backflips. On March 1 at Belcher Center is RaeLynn, a two-time Academy of Country Music "New Female Vocalist" nominee who continues to carve her unique lane in country music. Zach Williams performs at Belcher on March 22 and the Longview Symphony Orchestra on April 27.

Theatre Longview presents the improve comedy group Duck Duck Moose on January 27 and the play *Harvey* on February 22-25.

### MARSHALL

Over at Memorial City Hall in Marshall, comic, magician, and ventriloquist Andy Gross performs January 20. On February 3, MCH presents Lee Rocker of the Stray Cats, and Pure Prairie League performs on March 22. Those who can't make *Puppy Pals Live* in Longview can see the show in Marshall on February 11. Go to [www.memorialcityhall.com](http://www.memorialcityhall.com) for tickets and more information.

### MOUNT PLEASANT

At the Whatley Center for Performing Arts near Mount Pleasant on the Northeast Texas Community College (NTCC) campus see Voices of Classic Soul on January 19, Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Bluegrass Band on February 9, Jimmy Smith Jr's contemporary gospel show February 18; a benefit piano concert by NTCC president Dr. Ron Clinton on March 3,

*continued page 28*



ON DISPLAY UNTIL MARCH 2, 2024

**JAMMIN'**  
WITH  
**JAMIN SHEPHERD**



ON DISPLAY UNTIL FEB. 22, 2024

**TEN TEXAS TORNADOS**  
AND OTHER STORIES

ROBERT LANGHAM III  
GUGGENHEIM RECIPIENT

**LMFA**

LONGVIEW MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS



LMFA.org  
903.753.8103  
Admission is FREE  
to ALL. Visit the website  
for exhibit details.



**STAGE** *continued from page 27*

Celtic Angles Ireland on March 19, and Mount Pleasant Chamber Orchestra on April 13.

A theatre presentation of *Antigone Now* takes place April 25-27. In the mist of a bombed-out city still feeling the aftershocks of war, the rebellious and intense Antigone defies her uncle to bury her

disgraced brother. This contemporary response to the myth of Antigone brings powerful, modern prose to an ancient and universal story. Visit [www.whatley-center.com](http://www.whatley-center.com) for more information.

**PALESTINE**

*Sister Act* is performed at The Texas Theater in Palestine on April 5-7 and 12-14. Get more information on [www.thetexas-theater.com](http://www.thetexas-theater.com).

*(Above) Play Wheel of Fortune in the beautiful Perot Theatre in Texarkana on February 17. (Below) See The Starlets perform in Terrell on April 25. (Opposit) See Sister Act performed at The Texas Theater in Palestine on April 5-7 and 12-14.*

**SULPHUR SPRINGS**

Comedy Weekend presents Dani Bee on January 19 and Kevin Hollingsworth on January 20 at Main Street Theatre, followed by *Little Shop of Horrors* on April 5-7 and 12-14. Go to [www.communityplayersinc.com](http://www.communityplayersinc.com) for more information.

**TERRELL**

At the Jaime Foxx Performing Arts Center in Terrell find Kraig Parker Elvis Tribute on January 11; *The Suits* on February 14; Ireland's Greatest Showman David Shannon on March 12, and *The Starlets* on April 25.

*The Suits* are comprised of four dynamic gentlemen performing four genres of hit music across four decades. Their repertoire features hits like "Oh What a Night," "My Girl," and "Signed, Sealed, Delivered."

*The Starlets* are a powerhouse female vocal trio performing the sounds of pop, doo wop, R&B, and Motown. They perform familiar hits like "My Boyfriend's Back," "These Boots Are Made For Walking," and "Stop! In The Name Of Love." Get more information on [www.discoverterrell.com](http://www.discoverterrell.com).

**TEXARKANA**

The historic Perot Theatre in Texarkana



VIDEO





features The Temptations on January 19; the Texarkana Symphony Orchestra on February 3, March 9, and April 6; *Puppy Pals Live* on February 9; and *Wheel of Fortune Live* on February 17. *Wheel of Fortune Live* adapts the game show into a stage show giving the audience chances to win the game. Guests are randomly selected to go on stage for the chance to call consonants, buy vowels, and maybe even solve puzzles to win prizes, including trips to destinations like Paris and Hawaii or up to \$10,000 in cash.

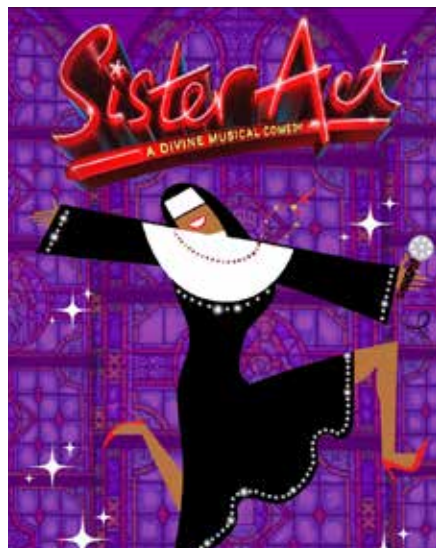
Go to [www.perottheatre.org](http://www.perottheatre.org) for tickets and more information for all shows at Perot Theatre.

**TYLER**

In Tyler, UT Cowan Center features *On Your Feet: the Story of Emilio and Gloria Estefan* on January 23; *Illuminate* on April 2; *Voctave* on April 18; *Dog Man the Musical* on May 23; and *Come From Away* on June 27.

Broadway's *Come From Away* takes the audience into the heart of the remarkable true story of 7,000 stranded passengers and the small town in Newfoundland that welcomed them. Cultures clashed and nerves ran high, but uneasiness turned into trust, music soared into the night, and gratitude grew into enduring friendships. Find other entertainment at the Cowan Center on [www.cowancenter.org](http://www.cowancenter.org).

In the TJC Cultural Arts District, see stage performances of *Moby Dick* on February 28 through March 2 and *Summer and Smoke* April 24-27 at Jan Browne Theater.




**Jan 20. Andy Gross**




**Feb 3. Lee Rocker**



**Feb 11. Puppy Pals**



**Mar 22. Pure Prairie League**



**MEMORIAL CITY HALL PERFORMANCE CENTER  
MARSHALL TEXAS**  
[www.MemorialCityHall.com](http://www.MemorialCityHall.com) 903-934-7992

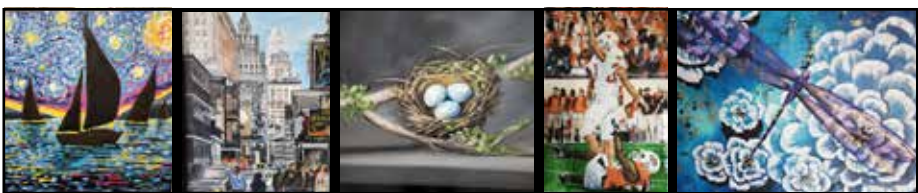
**C. MILLER DRILLING**  
**Water Wells Done Right**

Deep Well Drilling & Service  
Residential • Agricultural • Commercial • Pump Service, Pulling & Sales  
Ask About Our Sand-Free Water Guarantee  
Every Deep Well Pressure Cemented  
[www.cmillerdriilling.com](http://www.cmillerdriilling.com)  
Serving North East Texas Since 1983  
Master Texas License 2464 • 7355 East Hwy 154 • Winnsboro

**800-594-2187 • 903-725-6524**  
NORTH EAST TEXAS AREA • WOOD COUNTY



LET US INSTALL YOUR WELL RIGHT



**Discover the Treasures of 211 Gallery**

DISPLAY GALLERY. EXHIBITS. CLASSES. ART SHOWS.



211 North Palestine Street, Athens, TX  
[ArtGallery211.net](http://ArtGallery211.net) • (903)292-1746

## Live Music Unites the Region With Authentic Harmony

Live music is an important piece of the soul of the Upper East Side of Texas. At any given performance, the audience is filled with people from all walks of life who find their commonalities in the harmony of good music.

Some of the sweetest experiences come with talented local talent playing in music venues and restaurants every week. Be sure to check out Foster's Place, Pickton; The Barrel House, Winnsboro; The Tattler at Speakeasy Coffee Shop in Quitman; The Forge, Ben Wheeler; Big Sandy Music Hall; Los Pinos Ranch Vineyards, Pittsburg; The Chophouse, Mount Vernon; Stanley's Famous Pit BBQ, Rick's on the Square, True Vine and ETX Brewing, The Grove, and FRESH by Brookshires in Tyler.

Find a few good scheduled shows noted below and even more in the County Line Calendar.

See Loving for Giving on January 13 at Mount Vernon Music Hall featuring John Williams' beautiful Air and Simple Gifts, The Last Jew in Hamadan by Richard Danielpour, virtuoso fireworks for the clarinet, a boogie-woogie celebration by Libby Larsen, and César Franck's



intensely passionate piano quintet. Performing are Evan Mitchell, piano; Ivan Petruzzello, clarinet; Mark Miller and Marina Dichenko, violins; Ute Miller, viola; Laura Ospina, cello; and Jack Unzicker, double bass.

At Mount Vernon Music Hall on February 10, see beautifully moving, mystical music from Alan Hovhaness. Performing are Geoffrey Winter, horn; Mark Miller and Andres Bravo, violins; Ute Miller and Aleksandra Holowka, violas; Laura Ospina, cello; and Jack Unzicker, bass.

(Above) Kilgore's Ally Venable joins Kenny Wayne Shepherd at the Cowan Center in Tyler on February 14. (Below) Grace Pettis performs at Longview Museum of Fine Arts on February 10. COURTESY PHOTOS

Greenville Municipal Auditorium presents the Dallas Symphony Orchestra on January 14 and again on March 31; Forever Simon & Garfunkel, January 27; Lorri Morgan February 17; Jason Floyd Coleman, February 24; Radney Foster; March 22; The Haggards, April 6 along with guests Kelly Willis and Brennen Leigh; Vocal Majority, April 27; and The Righteous Brothers, June 7.

At Texan Theater in Greenville is Brad Davis Trio & The Kerosene Drifters, January 12; Ryder Grimes, January 13, and the Glenn Miller Orchestra on February 9.

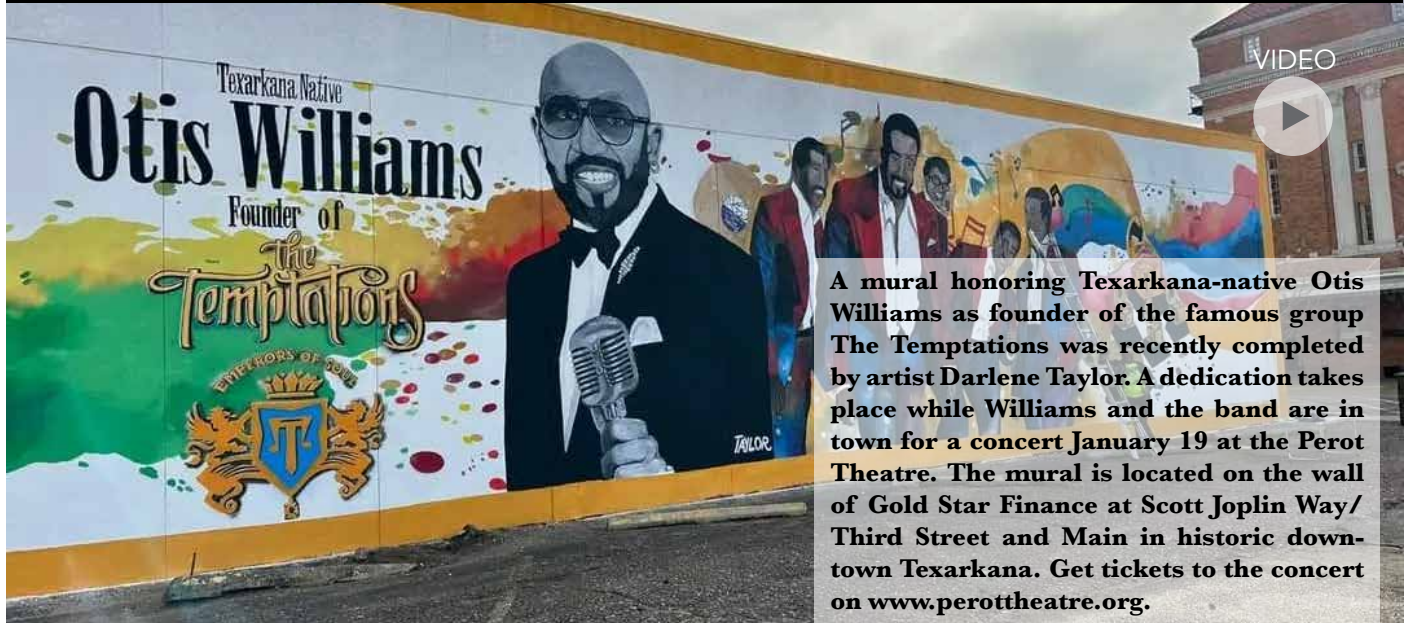
Featured at The Old Firehouse Listening Room in Edom are McLeod Nine Duo on January 13, Rupert Wates on January 27.

Winnsboro Center for the Arts features Carolyn Wonderland and Shelley King on January 27, Monte Montgomery on February 17, and Garrett Owen performs March 9 with special guest Kevin Tinney.

The Back Porch in Kilgore has Kate Watson on January 20, Charlotte's Web on January 27 and Sunny Sweeney on February 3.



# Mural Honors Otis Williams of The Temptations



A mural honoring Texarkana-native Otis Williams as founder of the famous group The Temptations was recently completed by artist Darlene Taylor. A dedication takes place while Williams and the band are in town for a concert January 19 at the Perot Theatre. The mural is located on the wall of Gold Star Finance at Scott Joplin Way/Third Street and Main in historic downtown Texarkana. Get tickets to the concert on [www.perottheatre.org](http://www.perottheatre.org).

Longview Symphony presents Candlelight Chamber Concert on January 26 at the Longview Community Center. Experience the music of Aaron Copland's Appalachian Spring in an intimate, breathtaking setting. Illuminated by candlelight premiere orchestra players and Maestro Greg Grabowski perform.

Grace Pettis makes an appearance at Longview Museum of Fine Arts on February 10.

At the Belcher Center in Longview is Frankie Avalon, February 3 and Rae-Lynn, March 1.

Over at Memorial City Hall in Marshall, is Lee Rocker, February 3. Rocker also performs February 2 at the Crockett Civic Center.

Rocker made his mark singing, playing, standing on, spinning and rocking his giant upright bass as a founding member (along with Brian Setzer and Slim Jim Phantom), of the Grammy nominated music group The Stray Cats, who sold over 10 million albums, garnered 23 gold and platinum certified records, and were music video pioneers of the MTV. The Stray Cat's worldwide mega hits "Stray Cat Strut," "Sexy and Seventeen," and "Rock this Town" are part of the fabric of rock and roll. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame includes "Rock this Town" as one of the 500 most important songs in rock.

Also at Crockett Civic Center is Collin Ray on January 27 and Eagles tribute band Hotel California on February 16.

Kenny Wayne Shepherd performs at the Cowan Center in Tyler with special guest, Kilgore's own, Ally Venable on February 14. Read more about Ally in this County Line ARTICLE.

Amy Grant performs at The Palace Theatre in Corsicana on March 8.

At WinStar World Casino just across the Texas border in Thackerville, Oklahoma, find concerts by Boyz II Men, January 13; Lyle Lovett, January 19; Brad Paisley, January 27; Rod Stewart, February 8; and Lainey Wilson on March 8.



**Pure Prairie League** performs at Memorial City Hall in Marshall on March 22 and at Crockett Civic Center on March 23. From their beginnings in mid-sixties Ohio as a group of friends playing cover tunes to the present-day unit featuring founding member/

pedal-steel innovator John David Call, veteran bassist Mike Reilly, propulsive drummer Scott Thompson and guitar ace Donnie Clark, Pure Prairie League continues to embellish the rich 43-year history of one of country-rock's pioneering forces. COURTESY PHOTO

# Lucinda Williams Continues Honing Her Craft on Her Decades Long Musical Journey

Lucinda Williams fans have enjoyed her unique voice and storytelling through award-winning music for decades. She is credited with helping to popularize a new style of Americana music in the mid-1990s that blended elements of country, folk, rock, bluegrass, and blues, resulting in a distinctive roots-oriented sound, none more unmistakable than hers.

Born in Lake Charles, Louisiana, she became part of the Austin and Houston, Texas, music scenes early in her career then moved around a bit before finally settling in Nashville.

The Recording Academy started recognizing her outstanding achievements in multiple categories including country, folk, and rock. She won Best Country Song for “Passionate Kisses” in 1994. Her album *Car Wheels on a Gravel Road* won Best Contemporary Folk Album in 1999 and “Get Right With God” won Best Female Rock Vocal Performance in 2002. Once the Academy added an Americana category all her nominations found a home there.

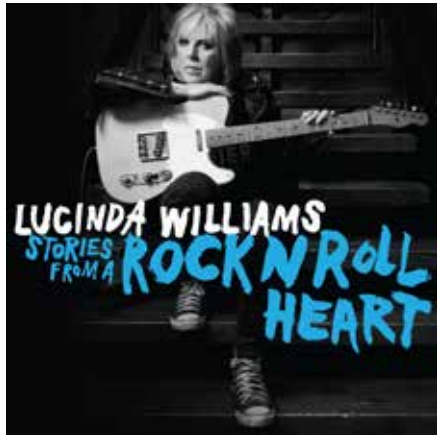
The Americana Music Association began awards in 2002 and Williams is one of the most nominated artists in the awards history.

She continued to perform in concerts and produce new music maintaining a devoted and ever-growing fan base.

On November 17, 2020, Williams had a stroke at age 67. She spent a week in intensive care, followed by a month in rehab before returning home. A blood clot on the right side of her brain impaired the left side of her body’s motor skills, forcing her to relearn some of the most

basic of activities, like walking.

In July 2021, she played her first gig, opening for Jason Isbell at Red Rocks Park & Amphitheatre near Denver. She began seated in a wheelchair, but soon she was upright.



“Just the energy of the audiences being so welcoming and warm and the band playing so great and being so supportive gave me so much strength,” Williams relates. “I figured, ‘Hell, all I have to do is stand up there and sing. How hard can that be?’”

Although Williams can no longer play her beloved guitar — a constant companion since age 12 — her distinctive vocals sound better than ever and in June of this year she released her 15th studio album, *Stories from a Rock n’ Roll Heart* (Highway 20 Records/Thirty Tigers), which received high praise from the press. She was featured on *CBS Sunday Morning* and the subject of major publications. The Associated Press refers to the album as “another important chapter to one of the most important musical journeys of the last half century.”

Earlier this year Williams released her long-awaited memoir, *Don’t Tell Anybody The Secrets I Told You* (Crown, a division of Penguin Random House LLC), to wide critical acclaim. The memoir debuted at #5 on the New York Times Bestsellers and Williams was

featured on the cover of the New York Times Sunday Styles.

In support of her new album and book, Williams began a “Don’t Tell Anybody the Secrets: The Story of a Life in Songs” tour this year that included major venues across the country.

“The Orpheum was filled with the warmth of her storytelling, and the audience was spellbound by every note.” — *Glide Magazine (Boston)*

“She took the crowd on a patient and winding drive through her past, steered by her wit and still-inimitable voice.” — *Exclaim! (Toronto)*

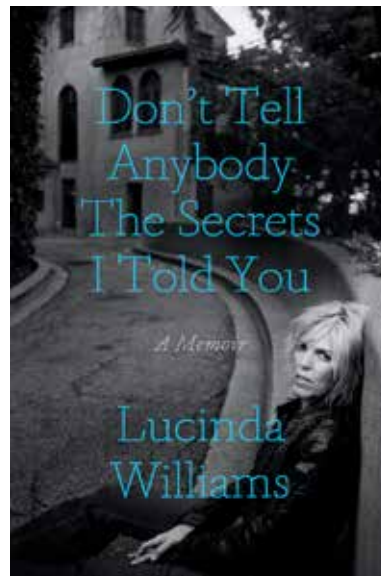
“Williams’ life is a bittersweet measure of divination and experience, simultaneously irreverent and spiritual.” — *The Tennessean (Nashville)*

Continuing the tour into next year, she performs January 18 at the Longhorn Ballroom in Dallas. Visit [LucindaWilliams.com](http://LucindaWilliams.com) for ticket information and music purchases.

With a career spanning more than 40 years, Williams’ credits her success to working at her own pace and always keep learning.

“If you come into success too soon, you’ll burn out and be finished before you know it,” she says. “If you let the maturation process happen naturally, you’ll be happier with yourself in the end.

“It’s just the more you do it the better you get, or at least that’s how I feel in my case. I think it’s a combination of confidence and just having done it this long and just learning. I’m always learning. I’m still honing my craft.”





VIDEO



# Cinema Therapy

By P.A. Geddie

I did not completely avoid the end-of-year bombardment of sappy Hallmark movies but aside from a couple that were perfect background noise while I got in some cooking and jigsaw puzzle time, I managed to survive the holidays without them.

At the other end of the spectrum of movie choices in theaters and on streaming channels are all the violence movies that I avoid even more. I eliminate a good 80 percent of what's available because of the aggression, blood, and gore or other overly portrayed aspects that leave little room for a good plot.

I've read that people who enjoy movies with scenes of violence find meaning in confronting some violent aspects of real life whether their own or what they see around them.

Some, those same surveys\* say, suggest that others may not necessarily be attracted to violence per se, but seem drawn to violent content because they anticipate other benefits such as thrill and suspense.

And a third reason given is that some violent portrayals seem to attract audiences because they promise to satisfy "truth-seeking motivations" by offering meaningful insights into some aspect of the human condition.

While I steer clear of violent movies I have to admit I fit that last category a bit as I enjoy a good *Dateline* murder story or other "who done it?"

Those shows usually downplay the actual scenes of violence and focus on the story. I like figuring out who did the dirty deed and why.

Human behavior and the conditions under which they occur are fascinating. Sitting on the couch in the comfort of my home it's easy to wonder how in the world they think their actions were a good idea.

You'd think those humans would learn from others' who found themselves in similar situations that they aren't likely to get away with it and their life is pretty much over from then on.

Aside from the occasional visually understated murder mystery, I prefer movies that portray good human spirit over evil and look for thought-provoking, surprising new plots that tell good stories instead of aiming to keep me on a thrill-seeking roller coaster through violence and shock appeal or nodding off to predictable, unrealistic Hallmark Land.

They are few and far between but I manage to find rewarding gems occasionally that provide just the self-inflicted movie therapy I need. Linked here are notes on ones I've seen recently, *A Good Person* and *Lessons in Chemistry*, and I'm looking forward to seeing *Wildfire: The Legend of the Cherokee Ghost Horse* premiering this month. With a soundtrack of Michael Martin Murphey's song "Wildfire," it's bound to be a feel good, healing story.

\*Source: International Communication Association



Brie Larson plays Elizabeth Zott, a chemist who gently maneuvers around gender roadblocks, in the Apple TV+ series, *Lessons in Chemistry*. COURTESY PHOTO

## Lessons in Chemistry

I've had Bonnie Garmus' book *Lessons in Chemistry* for about six months. I've started it — it's an easy and intriguing read, but spending as much time as I do reading and writing daily with my own articles and publications, I often turn to film instead for good storytelling in my off time. So I was really happy to learn that her book was adapted into a 12-hour, eight-part Apple TV+ series.

*Lessons in Chemistry* is a funny, fearlessly feminist historical novel about chemist Elizabeth Zott, a woman who is thoroughly unmoved by the repressive standards of her time. In the 1950s, a woman's dream of being a scientist is challenged by a society that says women belong only in the domestic sphere. She accepts a job on a TV cooking show and sets out to teach a nation of overlooked housewives way more than recipes.

The character of Elizabeth is loosely based off another famous chemist, Rosalind Franklin, for her early years. Like Franklin, Elizabeth strug-

gled with sexism and not being taken seriously, and ultimately, having her research into DNA stolen with the thieves taking all the credit.

Brie Larson plays Elizabeth believably well as a genius with little use for social conventions or niceties and is charmingly authentic. I find it disappointing that some readers/reviewers speculate that Elizabeth is on the autism spectrum. Not that there's anything wrong with that as I know a few great people on the spectrum, but it hits a nerve that's been hit way too many times that people — male and female — look for "explanations" for a woman's intelligence.

I loved the multi-leveled characters in the film and eventually getting to know some backstories—Elizabeth's childhood added unexpected depth.

Several situations in the series were left dangling and I found myself wanting to know more and to stay in Elizabeth's world a while longer. Luckily I've still got the book to read.

# Broken People Find Unlikely Friendships and Forgiveness



Daniel, played by Morgan Freeman, is brought together with Allison, played by Florence Pugh, in the movie, *A Good Person*. COURTESY PHOTO

Directed by Zach Braff, *A Good Person* is “a haunting slice of real life that will make you think, feel, and maybe even want to reach out to your loved ones.” (*Los Angeles Times*)

Allison (Florence Pugh) is a promising young woman with a thriving career, a loving fiancé, and a close-knit circle of family and friends. But her life takes a sudden turn for the worse when she experiences a harrowing tragedy that leaves her battling an addiction to opiates and grappling with unresolved sorrow.

Despite the challenges that lie ahead, she finds solace and strength in an unexpected relationship with her would-be father-in-law, Daniel (Morgan Freeman), who becomes her unlikely ally in the journey towards healing and recovery.

Woven throughout the story is Daniel’s model train town where he moves minia-

ture figurines around to depict some real, some fiction scenarios.

In one scene for instance, a soldier is returning home from the war and being greeted by a loving father at the train station to pick him up. While it’s true that Daniel was a soldier and arrived home from Vietnam, it is not true that his father was there to meet him.

An undercurrent message throughout the film is that people who are hurt deeply by important people or situations, often continue that behavior by hurting themselves and others.

At the end of the movie, Daniel explains in a letter to Allison that in the miniature version of a city, everything is always so positive and without problems, but real life isn’t as neat and tidy.

Both badly wounded characters struggle

to find a way forward after devastating failures with tragic consequences. Until they look past their own pain and denial, forgiveness and atonement are not in reach, and they keep repeating patterns of hurting themselves and others. Redemption and taking accountability for one’s actions, no matter how hurtful they might be, are key in their stories for living more fulfilling lives.

This movie drives home how important it is to look at life-altering situations and access your own part in it and suggests that once you forgive yourself and make amends as needed you begin to heal and perhaps forgive others for the role they played (such as the highway construction crew) in creating the tragedy as well.

And a big lesson that can’t be stressed enough in today’s phone-addicted society, “don’t take your eyes off the road when driving.”

# Pulpwood Queens Convention Set for January

The 2024 International Pulpwood Queens and Timber Guys Book Club Convention takes place via Zoom online January 12-14. Known simply as “Girlfriend Weekend,” this year’s theme is Barbie Land.

It all started in January 2000 when Kathy L. Murphy opened Beauty and the Book, a hair salon and book store combo in Jefferson, Texas. From that homebase she started the Pulpwood Queens Book Club that has grown to chapters around the world.

An Author Meet and Greet is scheduled for Friday and attendees are asked to dress as their favorite Barbie and Ken as in Book Club Barbie, Author Ken, Pulpwood Queen Barbie, or other book look.

Saturday comes with keynote authors and panels. There will also be a tiara contest where guests are encouraged to use their imaginations and get “wild” with tiaras and crowns.

Saturday night features the Great Big Ball of Hair Ball. This year’s costume ball theme is “Girls Just Wanna Have Fun,” with some Cyndi Lauper-esque looks bound to make an appearance.

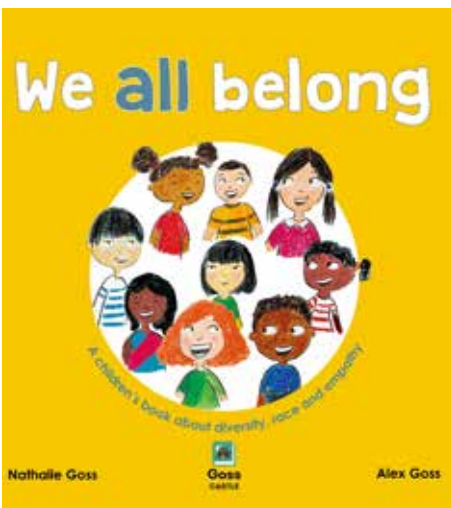


*Pulpwood Queens founder Kathy Murphy gathered a few Barbie and Ken dolls for a practice run of her costume changes for the Barbie Land themed Girlfriend Weekend taking place January 12-14. COURTESY PHOTO*

Sunday features more keynote authors and panels and that evening guests are asked to dress up in “what Barbie and Ken would wear to the Oscars.”

To get more details including a list of authors attending, full schedule, and to purchase tickets, go to [www.thepulpwoodqueens.com](http://www.thepulpwoodqueens.com).

## We All Belong: A Children’s Book about Diversity, Race and Empathy



We All Belong, by Nathalie Goss, with illustrations by Alex Goss, recognizes and celebrates the diversity in a caring group of children.

It is set in a flowing, rhyming poem about respect for different cultures and skin colors. Multicultural representation include characters from Black, African, Caribbean, Asian, Caucasian, Biracial, Mixed Race and Indian heritage sharing feelings on how they are different and how they are the same.

*We all Belong* gives young readers a safe space to see themselves and others

through a diverse group of characters. There’s a closeness between the children, a proximity, that encourages empathy, not racism, to grow.

Nathalie Goss is a Black French Caribbean illustrator and author, with a bilingual, mixed race family. There is an authenticity to this piece of poetry, written with and edited by Alex Goss.

The book is a gentle way to introduce conversations about race with children of all ages, from preschoolers, toddlers through to grade 3 and primary school.



# The Langston Hughes Project Pays Tribute to Iconic Jazz Poet, Novelist



Experience the soulful and rhythmic journey of the Langston Hughes Project at 7 p.m. February 15 at The Pines Theater in Lufkin. A member of the Grammy Foundation and music professor at the University of Southern California, Ron McCurdy takes guests on a musical extravaganza through the iconic poet's life and works, with jazz music, poetry readings, and live performances. Learn more and get tickets [HERE](#).

I, Too  
I, too, sing America.

I am the darker brother.  
They send me to eat in the kitchen  
When company comes,  
But I laugh,  
And eat well,  
And grow strong.

Tomorrow,  
I'll be at the table  
When company comes.  
Nobody'll dare  
Say to me,  
"Eat in the kitchen,"  
Then.

Besides,  
They'll see how beautiful I am  
And be ashamed—

I, too, am America.  
*Langston Hughes*

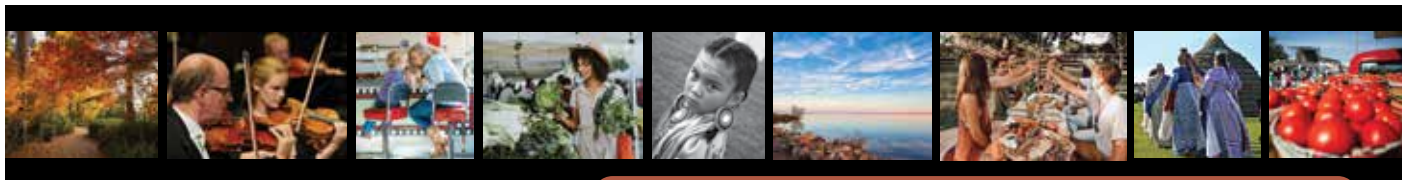
**READ A GOOD  
BOOK LATELY?**

**WROTE  
A POEM?**

**WATCHED A  
GOOD MOVIE?**

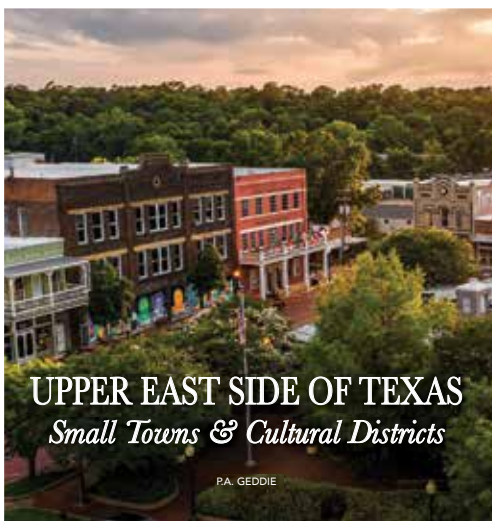
**Book and film reviews  
and original poetry  
submissions  
welcome.**

**Submit for possible  
inclusion in a future  
County Line Magazine to  
[info@countylinemagazine.com](mailto:info@countylinemagazine.com).**



**GET THE BOOK!**

AVAILABLE ON AMAZON  
AND IN VISITOR CENTERS, GIFT SHOPS,  
AND BOOKSTORES IN THE REGION



[www.SpeckledCrow.com](http://www.SpeckledCrow.com)

HARDCOVER & eBook VERSIONS



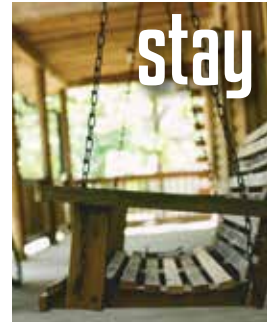
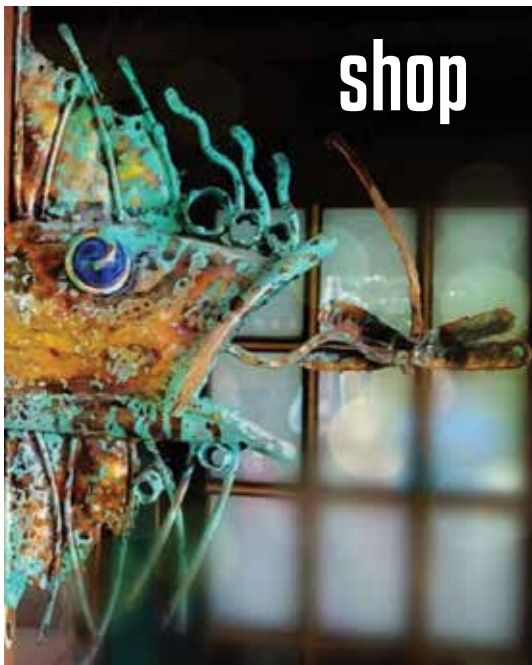


# county line MAGAZINE weekly

GOOD NEWS for the Upper East Side of Texas

## SUBSCRIBE FOR FREE

to receive good news in your inbox every Sunday morning.



Between County Line eEditions, read more about the people, places, and things that make the Upper East Side of Texas the best place to live, dream, and explore.

Includes events, attractions, articles, food, drinks, arts, culture, lifestyle, entertainment, people profiles, and more.

Go to [www.CountyLineMagazine.com](http://www.CountyLineMagazine.com) and click on SUBSCRIBE to find the WEEKLY or email your address to [info@countylinemagazine.com](mailto:info@countylinemagazine.com) with WEEKLY in the subject line.

For assistance, call (903) 312-9556.

Just play. Have fun. Celebrate!

Downtown Dining District



# Sulphur Springs TEXAS



[www.VisitSulphurSpringsTX.org](http://www.VisitSulphurSpringsTX.org)



An East Texas Tradition

Burgers, Premium Hand-Dipped Ice Cream,  
Breakfast Anytime, and more

Open 24/7 at  
I-20 & Hwy 19 in Canton, TX

903-567-6551 • [dairypalace.com](http://dairypalace.com)



Read the latest recipes and more  
**FOOD + DRINK**  
County Line eMagazine



Tuesday & Wednesday  
**DINNER SPECIAL**

MIXED GREEN SALAD

Choice of FRESH FISH OF THE DAY,  
RIBEYE STEAK, or FILET MIGNON

Served with WHIPPED POTATOES  
and GREEN BEANS \$34.00



Top 100  
American Steakhouses

Best Steakhouse

COUNTY LINE MAGAZINE HALL OF FAME

Located in a beautiful lakeside  
lodge at 21191 FM 47 in  
Wills Point, one block north of  
Interstate 20, Exit 516

Open Tuesday - Saturday  
5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Available for Special Events

**MAKE A RESERVATION**

**903.873.2225**

[www.fourwindssteakhouse.com](http://www.fourwindssteakhouse.com)

# Chef Cassy Opens Restaurant in Eustace

Celebrity Chef Cassy Jones is opening her first brick and mortar restaurant this month. Cassy's Grill is at 304 U.S. Highway 175 in Eustace, Texas.

Jones chose Eustace because her mother was born and raised there and her parents live there now. She bought land in Eustace about 15 years ago and moved next to her parents a couple of years ago. She is excited about bringing new dining opportunities and her brand of cuisine to the region.

Located between Athens and Cedar Creek Lake in Henderson County, Jones says customers can expect to see favorites including brisket, mac 'n cheese, loaded baked potatoes (plain and brisket), honey pecan-glazed wings, buffalo wings, and her famous fried collard greens.

Jones creates traditional Southern dishes with a modern twist, blending her country roots with urban influences. When she applied to be part of the State Fair of Texas in 2013, she managed to skip the infamous wait list and landed a booth on the Midway the same year she applied, due in part to her Fried Collard Greens recipe. Ten years later, fans still flock to her stand to sample this savory soul food bite.

Outside of the State Fair of Texas, Jones runs a successful catering business providing her mouth-watering cuisine for private parties, family reunions, corporate retreats, and all sorts of events big and small. She also works as a private chef from time to time. Former Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Amari Cooper and current Seattle Seahawks player Tyler Lockett are among some of her celebrity clientele.

Jones recently appeared on the A&E show *Deep Fried Dynasty*, showing the big personalities behind the mouth-watering food at the State Fair of Texas. The series was an inside look at how these imaginative foods come to life and the millions of dollars on the line for these family-run



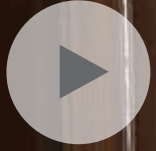
(Top) Chef Cassy's Fried Collard Greens are a favorite of visitors to the State Fair of Texas. Now they can find them year round at her restaurant in Eustace as well as her Pecan Glazed Wings. (Bottom) COURTESY PHOTOS

small businesses. *Deep Fried Dynasty* can currently be viewed on Hulu.

Jones' infectious laugh and Southern charm also landed her on *The Kelly Clarkson Show*, in an episode of Guy Fieri's grocery store-themed game show *Guy's Grocery Games* on the Food Network, and she has appeared on The Cooking Channel's *Carnival Eats* hosted by Noah Cappe.

Until the building doors are open she's serving up her Southern treats from a food truck in the parking lot at the same address. Normal operating hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. She's closed on Monday and Tuesday. Learn more on [www.chefcassy.com](http://www.chefcassy.com).

VIDEO





We specialize in creating strategic communication plans that work through a multi-channel approach including eEditions, newsletters, websites, blogs, guides, email, and social sites. Let us help you choose the most cost-effective, results-oriented promotion campaigns for the success of your business.

CALL TODAY. (903) 312-9556. PA.Geddie@COUNTYLINEMAGAZINE.COM

