

Upper East Side of Texas

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MAGAZINE

BLACK COWBOYS

*Dom Flemons Helps
Reframe the Narrative*

BOOGIE WOOGIE

*Asleep at the Wheel
Headlines Concerts*

Cowboy Music & Poetry
Boogie Woogie Highway
Fall Fun Things To Do
Femininity and Forward Facing
Pondering Our Place in the World
Art, Wine, Food, and Texas Sounds

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Dear Readers,

While putting together this issue, I was reminded how we humans often mindlessly view others, relying on our “experience filters” in our brains to form quick opinions of who they are and where they belong. Some react in fear of our differences, while others choose to expand our perspectives and learn from each other or simply move on and live and let live.

Our history books did not depict a multi-racial cowboy culture any better than they showed the important contributions of women. Some of us also missed huge portions of inspiring music and other cultural representation that were excluded from “mainstream” America.

Historians and others are better focused in recent years on sharing the untold stories for a more accurate account of our country's past. It is an important step in the shaping of our society as we move forward that all people can see themselves in our human history.

Our cover feature is inspired by the teachings of “The American Songster” Dom Flemons, a descendant of East Texas musicians who makes his home in Chicago. His performances, workshops, and writings rooted in Old West music often see him returning to Texas where much of that music style was born. He'll be at the Winnsboro Cowboy Music and Poetry Gathering at the end of September.

Flemons shares stories about the multi-racial cowboy trail campfire songs that influenced country, blues, and other music genres. For a very long time, the country lane in particular was reserved for those of European descent. Today, the gates are open and performers from diverse backgrounds are claiming their spotlight on country music stages.

About the same time the cowboy trail campfire music was developing, boogie woogie music and other genres were taking shape in the piney woods and along railroad tracks in East Texas. From ragtime, jazz, and boogie woogie, came rock and roll, country, and other exceptional music from generations of musicians who helped define the cultural heritage of the

area. Marshall, Texas, sits at the hub of that rich history.

Boogie Woogie Marshall music festival takes place the same weekend as Winnsboro Cowboy. A little more than an hour away from each other, music fans can easily enjoy some of both events for a fulfilling cultural weekend.

Also taking place in Marshall soon is the Texas Sounds International Country Music Awards where singers from 16 different nations perform their favorite country tunes at the Municipal City Hall Performance Center. Other shows coming there include Pam Tillis, Georgette Jones, Uptown, and Deana Carter.

From country to symphonies and all styles in between, the magic of music fills the cooling air all over the region this fall.

Organizers in Greenville once again host the Bob Wills Fiddle Festival & Contest on November 1 and 2 and a full fall lineup of shows at the Greenville Municipal Auditorium and other venues.

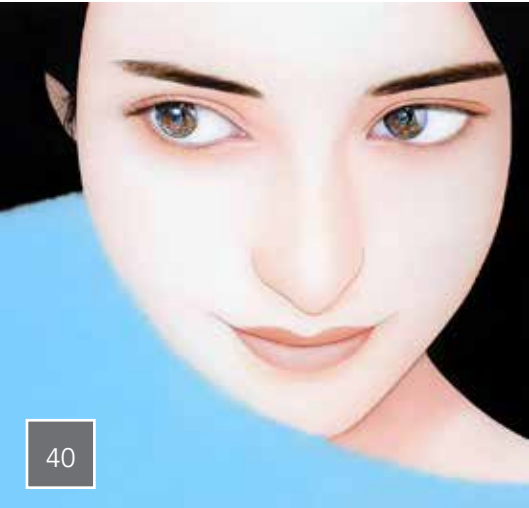
Find the new season lineup for Mount Vernon Music on page 54 and many other performers in this issue, including Ruthie Foster, Lyle Lovett, and Neal McCoy. Visit the festivals and venues in the region for amazing local talent.

Just like we can't put people in boxes, we can't do that to music either. Most music doesn't fit into just one genre. Some songs are more clearly one genre than another, but most are a blending of a variety of influences.

We don't all dance to the same beat — artistic expression only asks that we listen for a moment. If we don't enjoy the sounds of one “campfire,” thankfully, there are many other options and we can respectfully move to one that better resonates with our own inner vibe. More often than not, people of very diverse backgrounds find themselves enjoying the same music and differences melt away. That's the power of a song.

Here's hoping this autumn of 2024 in the Upper East Side of Texas is filled with the harmony we all deserve. — P.A. Geddie

CONTENTS



FEATURES

- 8 Black Cowboys
- 18 Boogie Woogie Highway
- 26 Boogie Woogie Marshall

DEPARTMENTS

- 3 Editor's Note

LIFESTYLE & ENTERTAINMENT

- 30 Fall Fun Things to Do
- 32 Prehistoric Wonder in McKinney
- 34 Historic Terrell Mural Walk

ARTS & CULTURE

- 40 Forward Facing at Tyler Museum
- 41 Blue Dog Exhibit at LMFA
- 42 Winnsboro Art & Wine Festival
- 45 Femininity by Ava Arnold
- 47 Legacy of Gary Bachers

FILM

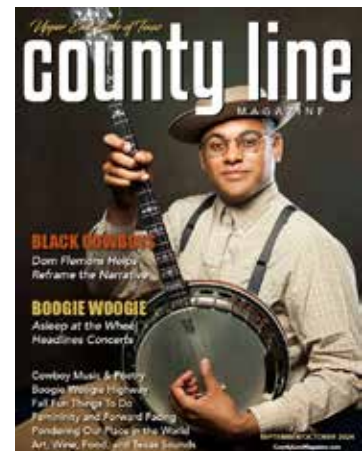
- 48 Joe R. Lansdale's The Thicket

MUSIC

- 50 Greenville Vibe, Miranda Lambert, Lyle Lovett, Ruthie Foster, Texas Sounds Country Music Awards
- 52 Whiskeyfish Reunites for Salt Fest

FOOD & DRINK

- 56 East Texas State Fair, Lufkin Bistro
- 57 Queen Street Grill Wine Pairing
- 58 Sulphur Springs Wine and Music
- 59 Farmers' Markets
- 60 Piney Woods Wine Festival
- 61 Uncorked Festival, Harvest Dinner



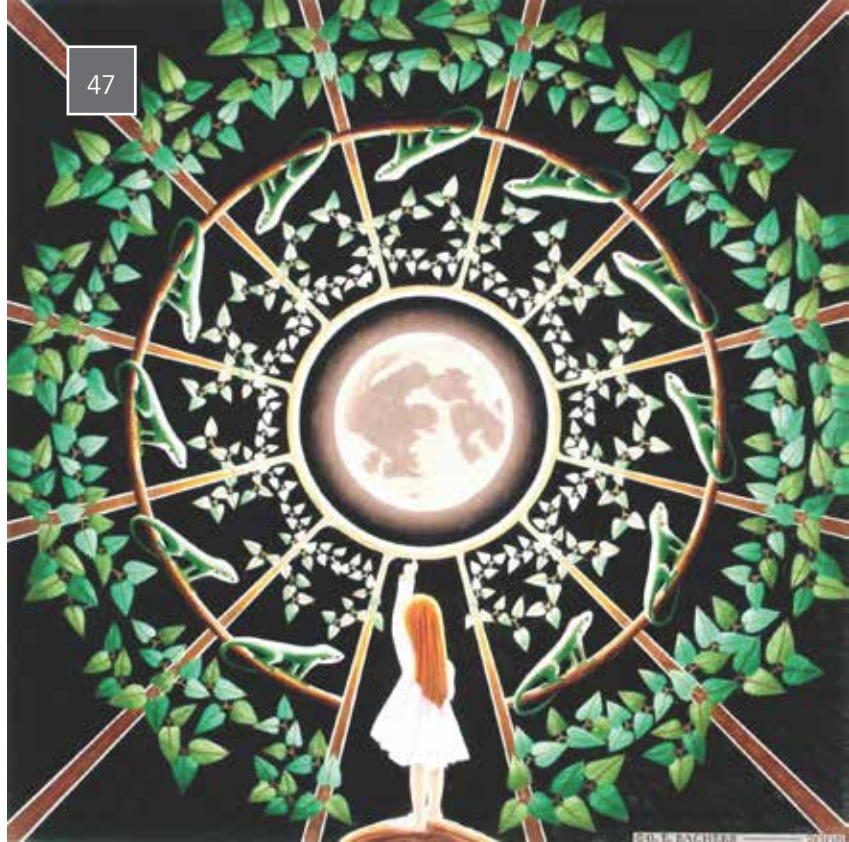
COVER: *The American Songster*, Dom Flemons. PHOTO BY TIMOTHY DUFFY

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45



47



61



59



56

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BLACK COWBOYS

Flemons Helps Reframe the Narratives of the Old West and Music Genres



By P.A. Geddie

*Give me a home, where the buffalo roam,
Where the deer and the antelope play,
Where seldom is heard, a discouraging word,
And the skies are not cloudy all day.*

The iconic lifestyle of the American cowboy is glamorized in books and film often depicting grueling work and intense shootouts between those who don't see eye to eye. Thankfully, at the end of the day, the cowboys get to relax a bit near a tranquil fire and the sounds of a soulful harmonica or guitar player leading a singalong or accompanying a colorful storyteller.

While many of those depictions were based on stories of the developing

American West, like much of the country's history, a huge segment of the human population was left out.

Historians are making a concerted effort to better reflect the real stories where people of all backgrounds can see themselves in the narratives of the past. Looking at the complete picture of the American West, cowboys came from diverse backgrounds, including those of African descent, Native Americans, Mexicans, as well as the European settlers.

As the cowboy culture continued through the decades and the ever-shifting frontier, the roles of men and women of the Texas ranch culture found their way to driving cattle along trails and then to railroad depots. Along with the work

Dom Flemons (above) tells stories of lesser known historical figures, bringing Black contributions to country music and western history to the forefront of popular culture. (Opposite page) "U-Betcha" by artist Burl Washington.

came the traditional campfire singing and storytelling near the "iron horse" railways. From trails to rails to "home on the range," generations later, that cowboy culture found its way into communities along the railways as well as ranches that continue to honor the wide open spaces and stars at night through the music and storytelling that keeps that spirit alive.

One popular musician helping to reframe

continued page 10





BLACK COWBOYS *cont from page 8*

the narrative of cowboy culture is Grammy winner Dom Flemons. He rose to prominence with the string band the Carolina Chocolate Drops and is known as “The American Songster” with his repertoire covering more than 100 years of American roots music including country, folk, bluegrass, Americana, and blues. His work on musical and historical projects is featured in recordings, stage performances, speaker programs, and workshops across the country.

He made his solo debut on the Grand Ole Opry in 2018 and has been on the show going back to 2008.

In 2018, Flemons released an album on Smithsonian Folkways Recordings titled *Dom Flemons Presents Black Cowboys* as part of the African American Legacy Recordings series co-produced with the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.

“When it comes to Black cowboys, to find that close to one in four of these brave men who herded the longhorn steer

were Black, it gives a completely different impression of who helped shape the West into what it is today,” Flemons says.

The album tells the story of lesser known historical figures, bringing Black contributions to country music and western history to the forefront of popular culture. The album and Flemons won many prestigious awards and peaked at #4 and spent more than 55 weeks on the *Billboard* Bluegrass Charts. *Black Cowboys* pays tribute to the music, culture, and the complex history of the golden era of the Wild West. In this single volume of music, the first of its kind, Flemons explores and re-analyzes this important part of American identity. The songs and poems featured on the album take the listener on an illuminating journey from the trails to the rails of the Old West. This century-old story follows the footsteps of the thousands of African American pioneers who helped build the country.

Included with the album is an extensive, informative pamphlet on the history of Black cowboys and their music.

“The legacy of the original Black cowboy

“Telling of Legends” (above), “High Country Encounter,” (opposite top), and “Campfire Vittles” (opposite bottom) are just three of many Western artworks by Burl Washington. The paintings depict historical accounts of multiracial cowboy gatherings during trail rides and along railways as they drove cattle to buyers. Country, blues, and other music genres were influenced by the music that came from cowboy trail campfire songs.

singer continues to live on with the songster tradition,” Flemons says. “These African American folk and blues singers, like Lead Belly and Henry “Ragtime Texas” Thomas (both with deep East Texas roots), provide glimpses into a larger story that connects the past and future of cowboy music.”

Part of Flemons’ mission is to highlight the contributions from those of African descent to cowboy, country, and various other forms of the roots Americana experience that are long part of the fabric of shaping those genres but rarely get the attention they deserve.

“I have found that since the release of my album *Black Cowboys*, the reverberations of

continued page 12





BLACK COWBOYS *cont from page 8*

popular culture have been overwhelming. My hope was to shine a light on the history so that it could eventually be given a stronger platform.”

When pop icon Beyoncé — the most awarded artist in Grammy history — released her smash 2024 country single “Texas Hold ‘Em,” the world reacted, often like it was the first time they’d ever heard someone of African descent in the country music lane. Far from true, besides all the people whose shoulders she stands on in distant history, in more

recent decades, acclaimed Black country music stars include DeFord Bailey, who was the first performer on the Grand Ole Opry; the legendary Charley Pride; Linda Martell, who’s 1970 album *Color Me Country* entered country’s Top 40; honky tonk vocalist Stoney Edwards; The Pointer Sisters, with their 1974 song “Fairytale,” a Top 15 country hit; and former Hootie & the Blowfish frontman Darius Rucker who embarked on a country solo career in the late 2000s. Ray Charles often crossed over the R&B lane into country. Even Tina Turner released an album of country songs, *Tina Turns the Country On*, which earned a Grammy nomination.

Others who ventured into the country genre from time to time include Aaron Neville, Frankie Staton, Howdy Glenn, Cleve Francis, and Cowboy Troy, to name a few.

Making history in the genre today, Mickey Guyton was the first Black woman nominated for a solo Grammy in a country music category in 2021 for her song “Black Like Me.” Just this summer Guyton released a new single, “My Side of the Country,” exclaiming “We wear Levi’s, take slow rides on Sundays too.” The song is on her album, *House on Fire*, releasing September 27.

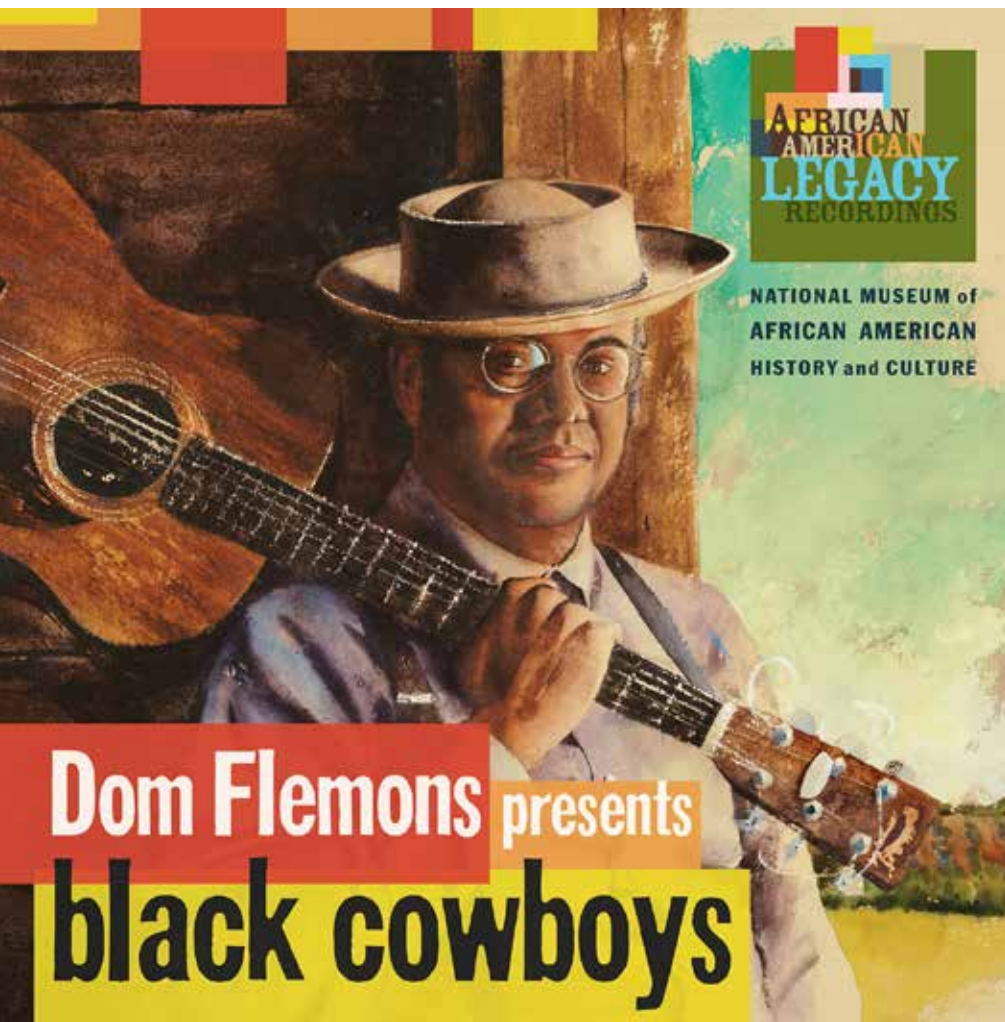
Other up and comers and modern influencers making their mark on country, folk, and Americana music today include Jake Blount, Rhiannon Giddens, Kane Brown, The War and Treaty, Breland, Brittney Spencer, Lil Nas X, Allison Russell, Amythyst Kiah, Blanco Brown, Chapel Hart, Julie Williams, Reyna Roberts, Valerie June, Adia Victoria, Willie Jones, and Miko Marks.

Country singer-songwriter Rissi Palmer does an Apple Music Country radio show, *Color Me Country Radio*, spotlighting Black, Indigenous, and Latinx artists in country music.

Also notable is Alice Randall, a renowned songwriter, best-selling author, and university professor who’s written No. 1 hits for Trisha Yearwood and Reba McEntire and is the author of *My Black Country: A Journey Through Country Music’s Black Past, Present, and Future*.

No doubt more contributions by Black artists would have made it into the country and western lanes of the past had they been welcomed. Today, the genre is beginning to reflect a more inclusive narrative.

“I believe the current state of Black roots music is very exciting,” Flemons says.





Top l-r: Some of today's country music "cowboys" include Chapel Hart, Rissi Palmer, Rhiannon Giddens, Alice Randall, Mickey Guyton, Jake Blount, Beyonce, and Darius Rucker.

"People are being activated by the work that has been done by the pioneers of the past 100 years. They are reinterpreting, reinventing, and showcasing music that is becoming a viable part of the mainstream music industry. They come with a variety of sounds, instruments, and songs that will shift the template of American culture, as Black roots music always has and always will."

See Chicago-based Dom Flemons talk about the songs and poetry of Black roots music at 1:30 p.m. Friday, September 27, at the Winnsboro Center for the Arts in East Texas. Part of the annual Winnsboro Cowboy Music & Poetry Gathering, Flemons is joined by songster Andy Hedges for Cowboy Culture Conversations where they take listeners on an illuminating journey of the Old West and follow the footsteps of Black cowboys who helped build America.

Flemons is also scheduled to perform at 7 p.m. Saturday, September 28, as part of the Carnegie Hall Cowboys show on the Bowery Stage at the art center, along with Hedges and Pipp Gillette.

"To be able to share the story of Black cowboys and pioneers of the West with the crowd in Winnsboro is a moment that I can only describe as full circle," Flemons says. "One of the songs I feature in my show is a number called "Charmin' Betsy" which I first heard from an East Texas songster by the name of Henry 'Ragtime Texas' Thomas, who made records in the late 1920s. He played guitar and used a special panpipe called the 'quills' that gave him a distinctive sound that inspired me to dig deeper."

Flemons says the music of East Texas is distinctive because of its proximity to Louisiana and Arkansas, which created a rich musical mix unlike any other place.

"I have always enjoyed the blues music to come out of this region, including the songs of Lightnin' Hopkins, Mance Lipscomb, Bongo Joe, and Lil Son Jackson," he says. "The music is downhome, raw and right to the roots."

Although he lives in Chicago, Flemons' own roots are embedded in East Texas with his grandfather, great grandparents, and many relatives from his father's side living there for many generations.

"My great grandfather Charles Flemons was a fiddler who played in square dances throughout the region and my uncle was a guitar player who played alongside him too."

To learn more about Dom Flemons, visit theamericansongster.com and hear him live on WSM Home of the Grand Ole Opry, American Songster Radio, now in its fifth season.

See the full schedule, fees, and more information about the Winnsboro Cowboy Music & Poetry Gathering on winnsborocenterforthearts.com or call (903) 342-0686.

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on The Bowery Stage

Andy Hedges, Dom Flemons, Pipp Gillette
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Boogie Woogie Highway

Explore this Texas region that inspired a music revolution



By P.A. Geddie

In the late 1800s, trains filled the air with melodic background noise for the families of railway laborers living among the piney woods of the Upper East Side of Texas. The rhythm of the Texas and Pacific Railroad steam engine trains — running parallel to Highway 59 between Marshall and Texarkana — made its way into a genre of music called boogie woogie. Two other influences were ragtime — made famous by composer and pianist Scott Joplin who was born and raised in the region — and jazz, which entered the area via steamboats bringing people and goods to Jefferson from New Orleans.

From ragtime, jazz, and boogie woogie, came rock and roll, country, and other exceptional music from generations of

Dr. John Tennison (above) is scheduled to perform with Yogoman Burning Band at the 2024 Boogie Woogie Marshall on September 27. Tennison is the musicologist whose research led to the designation of Marshall as “The Birthplace of Boogie Woogie” and identifying a 280-mile stretch of US 59 between Houston and Texarkana as the “Boogie Woogie Highway.” PHOTO BY ROBIN HOOD BRIANS. Vintage train cars (opposite right) add to the nostalgic ambience at the Marshall Texas & Pacific Railway Depot and Museum. PHOTO BY LINDSAY STEELE

musicians who helped define the cultural heritage of the area, including the Eagles’ Don Henley, folk singer Huddie “Leadbelly” Ledbetter, gospel musician Stuart Hamblen, blues legends Aaron T-Bone Walker, Omar Sharriff, Floyd Dixon, and many others.

Highway 59 from Marshall — the official hub of boogie woogie — goes south down to Panola County and meanders north through Jefferson and several other small towns before arriving in Texarkana. Gone are the rowdy makeshift juke joints where the music was born, but today the region carries the spirit of that era through its

well-preserved history and a continued appreciation for the sound of music.

A striking, beautifully restored red-brick building at the end of Washington Street in Marshall is home to the Texas & Pacific Railway Museum, which preserves the area’s railroad history. There is a picnic area next to vintage train cars, a popular location for nostalgia and photography. The building is also an active Amtrak stop for passengers.

Across the tracks is the three-story red-brick historic Ginocchio Hotel building

continued page 20





BOOGIE WOOGIE *cont from page 18*

originally constructed in 1896 next to the railway station. Today, it is home to The Ginocchio, where diners enjoy plates of steak and seafood and sip on glasses of house-brewed Boogie Woogie Golden Ale while watching the trains pass.

Venturing out along State Highway 154 northwest of Marshall, visitors find the Bear Creek Smokehouse General Store, filled with premium smoked meats, gift items, apparel, cookbooks, sweets, and jarred goods.

Continuing out that direction through beautiful rolling hills are two destination vineyards and wineries: Enoch's Stomp and Walkers Mill Vineyard & Winery. They have tasting rooms, provide tours and winemaking classes, host live music, and serve gourmet dishes that pair well with the wines.

South of Marshall, along Highway 59, is Panola County with the town of

Carthage as its county seat. The Texas Country Music Hall of Fame in Carthage honors those born in Texas who made outstanding contributions to country music. Within the 13,000-square-foot building are exhibitions and fun artifacts that immerse visitors into a bygone era, jukebox and all.

An exhibit dedicated to Panola County-born Tex Ritter takes up about a quarter of the building space. It depicts the story of his life from farm boy to popular music icon and includes many collections of his cowboy tunes and his work on Broadway, radio, and in film.

Fellow Panola County famous son Jim Reeves is also honored at the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame. On a one-acre, tree-covered plot of ground three miles east of Carthage on U.S. Highway 79, visitors find a life-size sculpture marking the grave of the late singer with the velvety voice.

“Cherokee Cowboy” Ray Price of the region is remembered at the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame as well.

Headed northeast toward the Louisiana state line, drivers find a Texas State Tourism Center at Waskom that offers travel ideas in the area. From there, a trip over to an unincorporated spot in the road called Jonesville takes travelers a step back in time at the T.C. Lindsey & Co General Store. In operation since 1847, the 3,000-square foot store with a creaky screen door holds museum-quality old-fashioned items as well as modern-day merchandise. Shoppers find a collection of children’s shoes in original boxes, brand-new blue jean overalls, and replicas of women’s bonnets in the clothing section. Popular sections in the store include the front facade of an old post office window, old candy machines, the slice-your-own cheese wheel, and a fireplace with an inviting rocking chair nearby.



The Marshall Texas & Pacific Railway Depot and Museum preserves the area's railroad and music history. There is a picnic area next to vintage train cars, a popular location for nostalgia and photography. The building is also an active Amtrak stop for passengers. COURTESY PHOTO

North of Jonesville is the mystical 25,000-acre Caddo Lake, draped with Spanish moss from towering bald cypress trees among a maze of bayous. Some of the cypress trees in the swamp are more than 400 years old. Activities like fishing, kayaking, canoeing, camping, hiking, and boat tours are available from Caddo Lake State Park and in the unique marinas in the tiny towns of Uncertain and Karnack. The Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge is also in the area and welcomes visitors on hiking and horseback riding trails and to wildlife observation areas.

Karnack is the childhood home of Lady Bird Johnson. A State Historical Marker in her honor stands on TJ Taylor Avenue

in Karnack. TJ Taylor is Thomas Jefferson Taylor, Lady Bird's father. Born Claudia Alta Taylor in 1912, Lady Bird was First Lady of the United States from 1963 to 1969 during the presidency of her husband, Lyndon B. Johnson. She was notably well educated for a woman of her era and known as a shrewd manager and investor. Lady Bird bought a radio station, followed by a TV station, which generated revenues that made them millionaires. As First Lady, she interacted directly with Congress, something that was not done before, even employing her own press secretary. She attributed her love of the outdoors to growing up shy and often alone in the piney woods. A fan of wildflowers and a lifelong advocate for city and highway beautification projects, she promoted the Highway Beautification Act informally known as "Lady Bird's Bill." She also pushed her husband to support the Head Start Program to help low-income children. Before her death on July 11, 2007, Lady

Bird received America's two highest civilian honors: the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal.

It is a short drive from Caddo Lake along the Big Cypress Bayou to Jefferson in Marion County. The city welcomes visitors as they cross the Howe Truss train trestle, which puts on a light show every evening from dusk to dawn. With reported sightings of the elusive Bigfoot in the area, guests find signs and statues for photo opportunities. The Excelsior House Hotel is located downtown, the oldest hotel in continuous operation in Texas. Since its opening in 1858, famous guests who stayed there include Ulysses S. Grant, Oscar Wilde, Rutherford B. Hayes, Lady Bird Johnson, and Steven Spielberg. A New Orleans-style fountain courtyard is a favorite spot for special events or as a relaxing place to sit and enjoy the serenity.

continued page 22



BOOGIE WOOGIE *cont from page 21*

Across the street is the historic Jefferson Hotel, with a massive collection of antique furnishings and an abundance of ghost stories.

While Amtrak's passenger train doesn't stop in Jefferson, city leaders carefully preserved the mid-1800s railway era feel in several locations. At The Excelsior House Hotel is The Atalanta, once a private parlor car for railroad developer Jay Gould. It has a luxurious interior with four staterooms, a lounge, dining room, kitchen, butler's pantry, and ballroom.

Visitors enjoy an hour-long ride on the Historic Jefferson Railway. A vintage train goes through several miles along the shores of the Big Cypress Bayou and through dense forests. From the train, visitors view an old sawmill and blast furnace, natural beauty, and occasional wildlife sightings.

South of Jefferson is the Port Jefferson History & Nature Center with walking trails along the Big Cypress Bayou. There are several art installations for viewing and a honeybee hive and other exhibits.

Several bike routes are popular with

those looking for day excursions from the historic downtown area.

The rich and diverse history of Jefferson is told through numerous factual and romantic accounts, including those that describe its dramatic rise to prosperity during the mid-1800s as the states' largest and most significant riverport. Jefferson erupted into a boomtown with the help of a genteel, graceful society of successful families, a host of nefarious opportunists, and a rich assortment of eclectic individuals looking for a new life.

Early settlers buried in the historic Oakwood Cemetery include Diamond Bessie, outlaws Jesse Robinson and Bill Rose, and German immigrant Kate Woods who first owned the Excelsior Hotel.

In nearby New Prospect Cemetery is the grave of a woman called the "Angel of Bataan." Born in Jefferson on April 4, 1916, Hattie Brantley was a lieutenant and nurse in the U.S. Army at the start of America's involvement in World War II and was stationed in the Philippine Islands when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Taken hostage, she looked after prisoners at the University of Santo

The three-story Ginocchio building across from the train station in Marshall first served as a hotel and is now a fine dining restaurant. The Ginocchio invites diners to enjoy plates of steak and seafood and sip on glasses of house-brewed Boogie Woogie Golden Ale while watching the trains pass. COURTESY PHOTO. (Opposite page) Outside the Jefferson Hotel in historic downtown Jefferson. PHOTO BY RON MUNDEN

Tomas, including survivors of the Bataan Death March, until early 1945. When she retired in 1969 as a lieutenant colonel after nearly 30 years of service, she was the last Army prisoner-of-war nurse from World War II in uniform.

Two miles north of Jefferson, on Highway 59, sits a beautiful piece of land that is home to more than 80 animals at Lonesome Dove Drive-Thru Safari & Petting Zoo. Alpaca, bison, and red deer graze alongside donkeys, camels, and wildebeests on sixty-five acres of terrain amid picturesque pines.

North of Lonesome Dove is Busy B Ranch Wildlife Park, featuring more than 50 species of native wildlife and exotic animals from all across the world. Boasting one of the highest points in Marion County, the ranch provides picturesque views of the terrain.

continued page 24



BOOGIE WOOGIE *cont from page 22*

Headed west from Jefferson, travelers find the beautiful Lake O' the Pines on Big Cypress Bayou with 144 miles of shoreline. Visitors enjoy renting boats, dining at area restaurants, fishing, swimming, hiking, and camping.

On the west side of the lake, guests arrive at Thomas Falls Outdoor Adventures just outside of Ore City, which features floating barrels, a broken bridge, wall climbing, a ropes cross challenge, waterfall slide, Tom Sawyer raft race, and zip-line water plunge.

North of Lake O' the Pines is Morris County with Daingerfield as its county seat. The town offers a seasonal farmers' market, local parks, a movie theater, several restaurants, main street shops, and places to stay. Daingerfield State Park, known for its colorful trees in the fall, hiking trails, birdwatching, picnic areas, swimming, boating, fishing, and camping, is a favorite vacation choice for many. West of Daingerfield is Greer Farm, an authentic rustic destination getaway. Using sustainable agriculture techniques, the owners produce meats, berries, jams, sauces, and syrups. Log cabins provide lodging for overnight stays and the on-site chef gives farm-to-fork cooking classes by appointment.

Other notable towns in Morris County are Naples and Omaha. Established by railroad tracks in the 1880s, Naples offers visitors several places to shop and eat on one side of the tracks and to taste

local wine from Red Road Vineyard and Winery on the other side. The quiet drive to Naples on U.S. Highway 67 features beautiful backroads scenery.

In Omaha, visitors find area history at a museum and enjoy local shops and eateries.

Entering Cass County, travelers come to the tiny town of Avinger, lined with quaint antique stores perfect for a short stroll before dining at the award-winning Five D Cattle Company Steakhouse. The restaurant has a full bar, bands that play regularly, and a dance floor.

Heading east back to the Boogie Woogie Highway, travelers find the town of Linden, the county seat of Cass County. Built in 1859, the three-story Classical Revival-style courthouse there is the oldest one in continuous operation in Texas. Linden is home to Music City Texas Theater, which presents quality entertainment throughout the year.

Eagles' legend Don Henley grew up in Linden and in 2015 released a solo album called Cass County to honor the region that nurtured him during his formative years. Linden, with neighboring towns Avinger and Hughes Springs, has hosted the Wildflower Trails of Texas festival for more than 50 years. Every spring, the communities celebrate wildflowers with an art show, concerts, and food.

The Pleasant Hill Quilters of Linden offer a glimpse into a classified American past. Clad in colorful handmade bonnets and aprons, this group of women works

to decode and preserve a cryptic fragment of history, explaining how multitudes of people escaped slavery. Quilt codes during the slavery era were hand-stitched images that sent messages to help slaves seeking their freedom. The quilters perform and present their art in Linden and across Texas and surrounding states.

North of Linden is Atlanta. The Atlanta Historical Museum captures the area's history, including an exhibit for Bessie Coleman, who was born there and became the first woman of African and Native American descent to earn a pilot's license. Known for performing aerobatics, her nickname was "Brave Bessie" and she encouraged women and minorities to reach for their dreams. Her story continues to inspire people around the world.

Susanna Clark is another celebrity with ties to Atlanta. The wife of singer-songwriter Guy Clark, and an artist in her own right, she is best known as the muse to him and others, including legendary songwriter Townes Van Zandt. After her death, her family scattered some of her ashes in a field where she played as a child near her beloved home in Atlanta.

One more famous connection is comedian and talk-show host Ellen DeGeneres. While her time in Atlanta was brief —

Murals depict the region's music-heavy influences. (Below) "Welcome, Music City Texas" by artist Brad Attaway greets people to Linden. (Opposite page) A tribute to ragtime genius and Pulitzer Prize winner Scott Joplin in Texarkana. COURTESY PHOTOS





she arrived as a teen and graduated high school there before moving on to fame — she often mentions those years as being the time she discovered the value of making people laugh.

Right next to Atlanta is Queen City and between there and Texarkana is Wright Patman Lake. It is a popular location for outdoor fun and wildlife viewing, including wintering bald eagles, pelicans, and various migratory ducks.

There is no shortage of fun for outdoor enthusiasts visiting the Texarkana area. Peaceful lakes, golf courses, dog parks, walking trails, a water park, and a multi-purpose playground for kids are a few of the options available. There is also a discovery museum with interactive exhibits for all ages and a popular antique car museum.

The Lindsey Railroad Museum has art displays that cover Texarkana's one hundred thirty-eight-year history, which includes the city's foundation by the Texas & Pacific Railroad. The museum includes stories about the railroads, memorabilia, and a hands-on section for kids.

Texarkana's rich history in the arts and entertainment are alive in renovated historic buildings. Silvermoon on Broad features an 1885 Art Deco parlor, an outdoor courtyard with stage, a great hall, and the Silvermoon Theatre

presents performances throughout the year. Silvermoon Children's Theatre has three main productions every year and other arts opportunities for kids.

The AR Municipal Auditorium is adorned with Tiffany glass windows and noted for many historic star performances, including Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Conway Twitty, Fats Domino, and Jerry Lee Lewis.

The historic Perot Theater was built in 1924. Originally known as the Saenger Theatre, it was renamed after native son Ross Perot stepped in to restore it in Italian Renaissance style. The one-time movie house has a storied history of live performers, including Will Rogers and Annie Oakley. Today it continues to host concerts, musicals, and other productions, and is the home venue for the Texarkana Symphony Orchestra.

The Museum of Regional History is the oldest brick building in Texarkana. It showcases agriculture, civil rights, Caddo pottery, and the area's rich music history. It is one of four structures in the Texarkana Museums System. The others are Discovery Place Interactive Museum, the Ace of Clubs House, and the P.J. Ahern Home. The Museum of Regional

History also houses Texarkana's visitor center; a good first stop for people exploring the region.

Organized in 1916, the historic, inviting Bankhead Highway enters Texas at Texarkana. Known as the Broadway of America as the country began paving highways, the Bankhead Highway was the first all-weather transcontinental highway in the U.S. running from Washington D.C. to San Diego. The portion that ran through Northeast Texas was once a major roadway that roughly corresponds to today's U.S. Highways 67 and 80. It forever altered the development and cultural heritage of the region. After leaving Texarkana, it passes through Mount Pleasant, Mount Vernon, Sulphur Springs, Greenville, Royse City, Rockwall, and other small towns across the Upper East Side of Texas.

Many locations are in the National Register of Historic Places and the trail is worthy of an adventurous drive. Several old gas stations still stand and demonstrate the variety of architectural styles seen in diners, cafes, motels, and museums. Other areas highlight old bridges, culverts, roadside parks, and other parts of the roadway that made travel easier. The Texas Historical Commission has a mobile tour and maps available for travelers to enjoy the sites online from home or on a road trip.

Excerpts from the book Upper East Side of Texas as Small Towns & Cultural Districts available on Amazon and in select shops in the region.

Boogie Woogie Marshall 2024 Scheduled



Boogie Woogie Marshall 2024 takes place September 27-29 celebrating the influences of the music that got its start in the piney woods and railroad towns of East Texas.

Scheduled are live performances by Asleep at the Wheel, Daryl Davis, Wes Jeans, Sarah Hobbs, Yogoman Burning Band with Dr. John Tennison, Dona Oxford, Deke Dickerson, and The Peterson Brothers.

Ray Benson and Asleep at the Wheel are appearing in Marshall as part of their “Happy Trails” farewell tour after more than 50 years together.

A long list of dedicated people worked tirelessly for years to explore the history and origin of Boogie Woogie music that led to the state of Texas officially designating Marshall “The Birthplace of Boogie Woogie” in 2010. In 2018, organizers and historians accomplished getting a Texas Historical Commission plaque erected. Written by Jack Canson based on many years of research by musicologist Dr. John Tennison, it reads:

“According to oral tradition and documented evidence, the Boogie Woogie musical genre, with its driving, iconic left-hand rhythm, originated in the area of Marshall, Harrison County, in the early 1870s. During that decade,

Marshall became the headquarters of the Texas & Pacific Railway Company and a hub for railroad transportation of cotton, timber, and passengers, creating employment for recently emancipated African American laborers. Many African Americans worked in logging camps cutting trees and loading logs for locomotives to haul to sawmills, and most logging camps had a piano in the barrel house to keep the workers entertained in the camps at night.

“It was in these barrel houses of East Texas logging camps where the first Boogie Woogies were played as largely untrained piano players developed techniques to entertain working-class audiences under loud, chaotic, and often dangerous conditions. The driving left-hand bass patterns that are uniquely characteristic of Boogie Woogie piano, so highly suggestive of a steam locomotive chugging over iron rails, clearly are inspired and influenced by the sounds of the logging camp and the rail yard.

“Itinerant piano players rode the rails, often performing in exchange for free rides, and the music traveled with them, first to red-light districts of Texarkana and Shreveport, followed by Houston and New Orleans, then gradually reaching African-American neighborhoods in St. Louis, Kansas

Boogie Woogie Marshall’s official ambassador, Daryl Davis (above left), returns to kick off this year’s event at 6 p.m. Friday, September 27 with Wes Jeans. COURTESY PHOTO, 2023 BOOGIE WOOGIE MARSHALL.

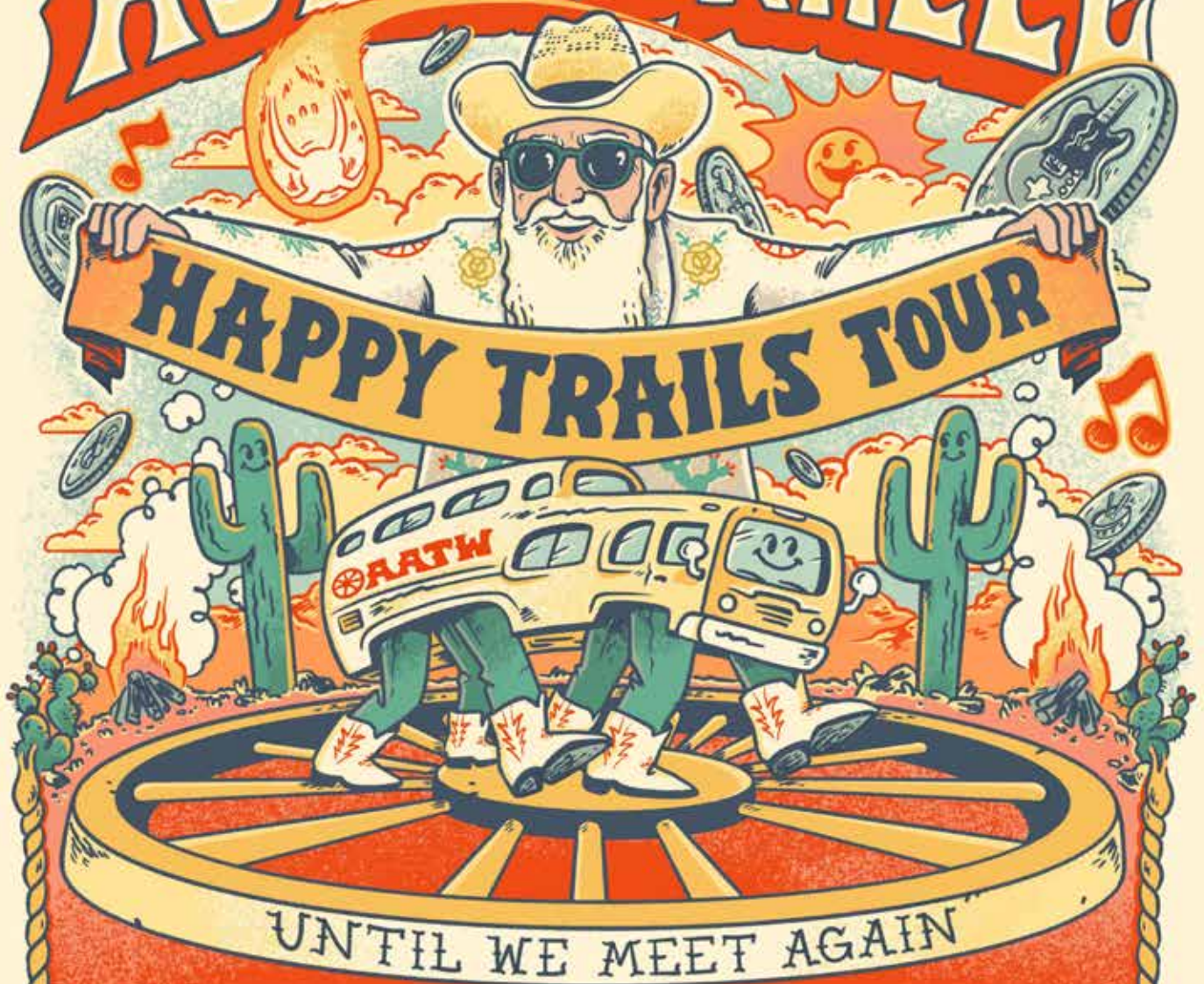
City and Chicago. Brothers George and Hersal Thomas were among the first to publish sheet music for Boogie Woogie which they said they first heard in East Texas. Boogie Woogie masters Huddle ‘Lead Belly’ Ledbetter, Floyd Dixon, and Dave Alexander (Omar Sharriff) grew up in the Marshall area. An East Texas original, Boogie Woogie may still be found in many genres of music today.”

The marker is located in the Ginocchio Historic District on North Washington Avenue within viewing distance of the historic Texas and Pacific Railway Depot.

Inside the depot is the Boogie Woogie Museum, believed to be the first permanent exhibition dedicated to the music genre.

The concerts are at Coca Cola Bottling Factory, 511 North Washington Avenue near downtown Marshall. Doors open at 5 p.m. on Friday, 2 p.m. on Saturday, and 1 p.m. Sunday. Tickets range from \$25 to \$125 for a weekend pass. Ages 12 and under get in free. For more information, visit boogiewoogie.org or call (903) 578-2066.

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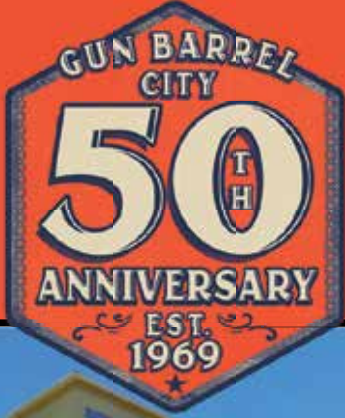
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Fall Fun in the Upper East Side of Texas

East Texans know how to take full advantage of celebrating rural living when the weather starts to cool and people want to get out and soak up the area's natural beauty and talents. A few highlights are noted here and elsewhere in this publication and find more details in the *County Line eMagazine* Annual Events and Calendar listings. Also, check the Partners Page with direct links to each community.

September 6-14

Gregg County Fair. Longview. greggcountyfair.com.

September 12-14

Tyler Film Fest. Liberty Hall. tylerfilmfest.com

September 13-14

Paris Balloon and Music Festival. Hot air balloons, live music, marketplace, food trucks, and more. Lamar County Fairgrounds. parisballoonandmusicfestival.com

September 13-14

Old Town Rig Down. Nacogdoches. Big Rig Truck Show featuring the biggest, baddest rigs in the country lined up on the brick streets of Nacogdoches. Also

brings food, games, live auction, and live music. visitnacogdoches.org

September 19-21

Black-Eyed Pea Jamboree. Athens. Music, food, and contests. Uncle Fletch Hamburger Cook-off. visitathenstexas.com

September 21

Cotton Patch Challenge Bicycle Rally. Greenville. Bike routes range from 12 to 75 miles with stops, scenic views. cottonpatchchallenge.com

September 27-October 20

State Fair of Texas. Dallas. The oldest state fair in America, featuring food, carnival rides, livestock shows, concerts, and more. The Art Deco buildings were built in 1936, housing exhibits, museums, and entertainment. bigtex.com

September 20-29

East Texas State Fair. Tyler. Attractions, food, entertainment, and livestock. The Park of East Texas. etstatefair.com

October 4-November 3

Great Harvest Farm's Pumpkin Patch and Fall Festival. Montalba. Open Friday-Sunday, this transformed 1800s farm offers an array of activities for all ages including a two and a half-acre hay maze, a corn pit, pumpkin painting station, potato gun, and hay slide. visitpalestine.com

October 5

Indian Summer Days and Dutch Oven Cook-Off. Sulphur Springs. Native American dancers, music, candle making, quilt show, butter curing, soap making, blacksmithing and gristmill operation. Dutch oven cooking contest. Heritage Park. hopkinscountymuseum.org

October 5

Rib Rub Run & Roll. Rockwall. Barbecue cooking competition with live music, 5K run, and more. Harry Myers Park. rockwall.com/parks

October 5

Great Pumpkin Roll. Longview. Participants of all ages roll pumpkins down a hill to win up to \$500 in prizes. The cost is \$2 per roll and a limited supply of pumpkins are available for purchase. In past years pumpkins have rolled up to two city blocks. The festival also features a maze, outdoor games, and vendors, food trucks, and a pumpkin pie eating contest. visitlongviewtexas.com/pumpkin

October 5-27

Autumn Trails. Winnsboro. A full month of scheduled activities take place with self-guided driving tours of the beautiful fall foliage surrounding Winnsboro. Events include car parades; horse and wagon trails; contests for pets, beards, pies, cakes, chili, and hot pepper eating; beauty pageant, live music, trade days, arts and crafts, and mule rodeo. winnsboroautumntrails.com

October 9-26

Hopkins County Fall Festival. Sulphur Springs. Parade, crafts show, kids zone, carnival, exhibits, and hay bale contest. Hopkins County Regional Civic Center. visitsulphurspringstx.org

October 11-13 and 18-20

The 39 Steps. Palestine. A twist on Alfred Hitchcock's 1935 film takes the original story and cranks up the humor. thetexas theater.com

October 12

FireAnt Festival. Marshall. One of America's most unusual festivals, entertainment includes a Diaper Derby, Chicken Chunking contest, FireAnt Calling contest, as well as Tour De FireAnt bike ride, scavenger hunt and dozens of vendors. marshalltexas.com/fireant-festival

October 16-19

East Texas Yamboree. Gilmer. Queen's coronation, carnival, parades, live music,



Texas Rose Festival takes place October 17-20 in Tyler. Since 1933, the town celebrates its rose-growing industry with a queen and her court in elaborate, museum-quality gowns, a Queen's Tea, and the Rose Parade amidst a backdrop of thousands of vibrant roses. texasrosefestival.org PHOTO BY JAMES FRENCH

barn dance, car show, fiddler's contest, exhibits, livestock show and sale, arts and crafts. yamboree.com

October 19

Hot Pepper Festival. Palestine. Features a parade, food and merchandise vendors, and a hot pepper eating contest. Downtown Palestine. visitpalestine.com

October 19

Harvest Cotton Festival. Corsicana. visitcorsicana.com

October 19

Tobacodoches Cigar Festival. Nacogdoches. Featuring pipe vendor and nine renowned cigar vendors, live music, food and drinks. Nacogdoches Cigar Co. visitnacogdoches.com

October 19

The Reserve at Montalba Music Festival. Features performances by Riley Thompson, the Shelby Ballenger Band, Hotel Drifters Band, Luke LaPrade Band, and Curtis Grimes. Food vendors on site. Small coolers welcome and lawn chairs. Tickets \$50. visitpalestine.com

October 22-26

Sweet Potato Festival. Golden. Celebrating the sweet potato harvest in the Sweet Potato Capital of the World with activities benefiting local charities. goldensweetpotatofestival.org

October 25-26

Fall Feral Hog Festival. Ben Wheeler. The official Wild Hog Capital of Texas with a hog queen's pageant, parade, live music, cook-off, kids zone, pig races, hog calling contest, and more. FB/FallFeralHogFestival

October 26

World Champion Hopkins County Stew Contest. Sulphur Springs. Teams compete in a campsite atmosphere with gingham, denim, and calico-clad men and women stirring simmering pots and stoking glowing campfires. Buford Park. sulphursprings-tx.com

October 26

Totally Unleashed Masquerade Gala. Tyler. Live and silent auctions, music, dinner, drinks, and games. Benefits Therapet, which promotes health, hope, and healing through their pet programs. W.T. Brookshire Conference Center. therapet.org/unleashed

October 26

Crossroads of Texas Country Festival. Waxahachie. Longtime host of *Texas Country Reporter* Bob Phillips along with his wife Kelli, host this annual festival spotlighting ordinary people doing extraordinary things in Texas. texascountryfestival.com



During the month of October, visitors enjoy the pumpkin patch and giant hay maze in downtown Ennis open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays noon to 7 p.m. Designed and engineered by MESA, an award-winning landscape architecture and urban design firm. This year's theme is "Season of the Harvest" with photo ops, scenery, a pumpkin house, and harvest tractor. On October 25 it becomes part of the 22nd Annual Ennis Autumn Daze Festival with live music, carnival rides, and more. visitennistexas.com COURTESY PHOTO



The German heritage of many in the Upper East Side of Texas calls for big celebrations each year for Oktoberfest with authentic German food, beer, live music, and family activities. Pictured is a past festival in McKinney where they have held Oktoberfest since 2007. This year the McKinney Oktoberfest is September 27-29. visitmckinney.com. Kilgore celebrates the culture on October 12. visitkilgore.com. COURTESY PHOTO



Experience Prehistoric Wonder in McKinney

Dinosaurs Live is now on exhibition at The Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary in McKinney through February 17, 2025. In its 19th year, it promises to captivate visitors of all ages with life-size animatronic dinosaurs and a prehistoric experience.

Dinosaurs Live transports guests back to the age of the dinosaurs, featuring a thrilling display of life-sized, moving, and roaring dinosaur models. Highlights of this year's exhibit include the towering Tyrannosaurus rex, the ceratopsian Chasosaurus, and the formidable Suchomimus. These representations, complete with realistic movements and sounds, offer a fascinating glimpse into the prehistoric world.

The exhibit not only showcases impressive dinosaur models but also includes interactive elements and educational

opportunities. Visitors can explore a fossil dig site, engage with informative displays, and participate in hands-on activities designed to spark curiosity and wonder. Educational programs and guided tours led by knowledgeable staff are also available by reservation to enhance the learning experience for school groups, families, dinosaur enthusiasts, and more.

The exhibit is set amidst the beautiful, natural surroundings of the Heard Wildlife Sanctuary, offering a unique blend of outdoor exploration and scientific discovery. The sanctuary's scenic trails and wildlife habitats provide a serene backdrop for a day of fun and learning.

The Heard has a number of fun events planned around the *Dinosaurs Live*.

Jurassic Night Out takes place September 7 with an adults-only evening under

the stars featuring a showing of the original 90s blockbuster *Jurassic Park* in their outdoor amphitheater. Guests are surrounded by the life-size animatronic dinosaurs along the nature trail. The event also includes food vendors and a cash bar with a selection of beverages.

Halloween at the Heard is October 12. This family-friendly event offers the trick-or-treating along the eerie *Dinosaurs Live* exhibit trail. Families enjoy an evening full of fun activities, including a presentation of a movie on the Heard's outdoor amphitheater stage.

Holidays at the Heard takes place December 6 and 7, with holiday lights and décor accentuating a lovely half-mile nature trail and guests get a glimpse of the *Dinosaurs Live* exhibit along the trail.

Tickets for *Dinosaurs Live* are available on heardmuseum.org/dinosaurs-live.

**SATURDAY,
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Friday, September 13, 2024

- 11:30AM - 6:30PM: Exhibitor registration & set-up - Austin St.
- 4:00PM Three-mile ride through Historic Jefferson
Antique Tractors, Trucks and Model-Ts - Come join the fun!
- 5:00PM Pizza Party at Tony's for registered exhibitors & immediate family

Saturday, September 14, 2024

- 7-10AM: Exhibitor registration and set-up on Austin Street
- 10AM-2PM: Tractor, Truck & Model-T Show, Exhibits, Swap Meet
- 11AM: Tractor & Model-T Slow Race
- 1PM: Tractor, Truck and Model-T Parade on Austin St.
- 1:45PM: Awards Presentation - vacant lot at Austin & Walnut (by General Store)

Exhibitors: Let us know you are coming via text, call, or email so we can plan accordingly.



For information about Jefferson, visit Jefferson Tourism Department at visitjeffersontexas.com.

Contact event organizers:

Francene and Don Rainey • info@DiamondDon.com
Text or call 903-445-9796

Visit Facebook often for more information:

www.facebook.com/JeffersonAntiqueTractorShow



Event Sponsor

www.DiamondDonEmpire.com/jefferson-antique-tractor-show



Take a Mural Walk in Historic Terrell

The annual Terrell Mural walk takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. October 5 in historic downtown Terrell. This year's event celebrates the 125th anniversary of the first automobile drive in Texas. On October 5, 1899, Colonel Green took his new horseless carriage from Terrell to the State Fair of Texas in Dallas, marking a significant milestone in automotive history.

Participants are invited to enjoy a variety of activities, including the creation of a paint-by-number mural, an art show at the Lyric Art Cafe and Venue, and an antique car show.

The day is filled with entertainment, featuring a DJ and the Dave Washburn jazz band headlining at 2 p.m. Attendees begin their experience at the Lyric building, located at 115 W. Moore Ave, where they receive a mural passport. They have the opportunity to explore local art, interact with community members, and participate in various activities.

"This year's event is set to be an exciting celebration of Terrell's rich history and community," said Chamber Tourism Director Sharon Harper. "We're thrilled to offer a range of activities that highlight our town's unique heritage and bring people together for a day of fun and creativity."

Local merchants are also participating, offering special sales and promotions throughout the event. Additionally, signage throughout the historic downtown area guides visitors to various attractions, including a directory of downtown businesses, the Discover Terrell website, a visitor's guide, and the Discover Terrell GeoTour site.

"The City of Terrell and Chamber of Commerce are eager to host this year's celebration," Harper added. "We look forward to welcoming both our local residents and visitors who are interested in exploring the rich history and vibrant culture of our city."

To learn more about Terrell's events and activities, visit discoverterrell.com.





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FOR-PROFIT & NON-PROFIT ARTS & CULTURE SECTORS REPRESENT

4.31% Nation's GDP **5.2 M** Jobs

\$1.102 TRILLION Arts & Culture

\$920.5 B Transportation

\$438.2 B Utilities

The national arts and culture sector was a **\$1.102 trillion industry** in 2022 (4.31% of the nation's GDP), representing **5.2 million jobs** (3.28% of nation's workforce), and total compensation of **\$540.9 billion**.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis & National Endowment for the Arts (2024). Data collected for 2022.

TEXAS ARTS FACTS

FOR-PROFIT & NON-PROFIT ARTS & CULTURE SECTORS REPRESENT

2.47% State's GDP **383,066** Jobs

\$59.3 BILLION Arts & Culture

\$93.6 B Transportation

\$41.4 B Utilities

The Texas arts and culture sector was a **\$59.3 billion industry** in 2022 (2.47% of the state's GDP), representing **383,066 jobs** (2.76% of Texas' workforce), and total compensation of **\$30.2 billion**.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis & National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (2024). Data collected for 2022.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NON-PROFIT ARTS & CULTURE INDUSTRY AND AUDIENCES

National

\$151.7 B Economic activity annually

2.6 M Jobs supported by economic activity

In 2022, the impact of this economic activity generated **\$29.1 billion** in total tax revenue to federal, state, and local governments.

88.5% of audiences agreed with the statement "This arts activity/venue is inspiring a sense of pride in this neighborhood or community"

87% of audiences agreed with the statement "My attendance is my way of ensuring that this activity/venue is preserved for future generations"

Source: Americans for the Arts, 2023. Arts & Economic Prosperity 6.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NON-PROFIT ARTS & CULTURE INDUSTRY AND AUDIENCES

Regional Snapshot: Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington MSA, TX

\$1.5 B Economic activity annually

25,174 Jobs supported by economic activity

In 2022, the impact of this economic activity generated **\$313.5 million** in total tax revenue to federal, state, and local governments.

89.4% of audiences agreed with the statement "This arts activity/venue is inspiring a sense of pride in this neighborhood or community"

87.3% of audiences agreed with the statement "My attendance is my way of ensuring that this activity/venue is preserved for future generations"

Source: Americans for the Arts (2023). Arts & Economic Prosperity 6. 2022 data collected for the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington MSA, TX.

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

Federal Appropriation FY24 **\$207 Million**

Congress allocated **\$207 million** to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in **FY24**. This amounts to just **62 cents per capita**. Ideally, Congress should index \$1 per capita funding to the NEA.

Source: Americans for the Arts Action Fund, 2024.

PUBLIC FUNDING RECEIVED FOR TEXAS ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR

State Appropriation FY24 **\$14,309,718**

NEA State Grant FY24 **\$1,372,000**

119 NEA Direct Grants FY23 **\$4,443,250**

Source: Texas Commission on the Arts & NEA, 2024

3/6/2024

TEXAS ARTS HIGHLIGHTS

IN THE LONESTAR STATE, THE ARTS UNITE US



The **Texas Touring Arts Program** serves the nation's largest rural population with outstanding Texas-based companies and artists in their own communities.

TEXAS COMMISSION ON THE ARTS

was established by the Texas Legislature in 1965 to advance the state economically and culturally by investing in a creative Texas. By providing resources to enhance economic development, arts education, cultural tourism, and artist sustainability initiatives, the Texas Commission on the Arts supports a diverse and innovative arts community statewide.

Executive Director: Gary Gibbs

Chair: Dale Brock



[Learn more here.](#)

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT

Arts and Culture Texas is a state-wide magazine focused on the contemporary visual and performing arts across Texas.

- Texans for the Arts**
- Texas Cultural Trust**
- Texas Music Educators Association**
- Texas Folklife**
- Texas Association for Symphony Orchestras**
- Art Spark Texas**
- Texas Hotel & Lodging Association**
- Texas Dance Educators Association**
- Texas Educational Theatre Association**
- Texas Downtown Association**
- Texas Association of Museums**
- Humanities Texas**
- Theatre Network of Texas**
- Texas Creative Placemaking Initiative**

TEXANS FOR THE ARTS is a highly effective, non-partisan statewide arts advocacy organization whose mission is to secure, protect and grow the public investment in the arts and to advocate for the development and implementation of public policy that supports a strong and vibrant arts and cultural industry.

Executive Director: Ann S. Graham
Chair: Fiona Bond



TEXANS FOR THE ARTS

[Learn more here.](#)
[Join here.](#)

THE ARTS ARE EVERYWHERE

Designated TCA Cultural Districts

Texarkana, Winnsboro, Longview, Denison, Sherman, McKinney, Plano, Garland, Dallas Fair Park, Dallas Deep Ellum, Dallas Arts District

Music Friendly Communities

Corsicana, Denison, Dallas, Lindale, Linden, Lufkin, Nacogdoches, McKinney, Waxahachie, Frisco, Tyler, and Chandler. In process are Carthage, Texarkana, Sherman, Rockwall, Crockett, and Kilgore.

Programs for Rural Communities

Texas has the nation's largest rural population, with more than 3.8 million rural residents. Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) recognizes that arts and cultural activity is thriving all across the state. They also know there are challenges in getting their services to rural communities. TCA has opportunities designed to serve these communities and are interested in ways to better serve rural Texans.

Texas Touring Roster

The Texas Commission on the Arts has accepted and is promoting 139 Texas artists and arts companies for the TCA Texas Touring Roster for 2024-2026. The Texas Touring Roster features some of the state's best artistic talent and is designed to ensure that all Texans may enjoy events and performances by these artists in their local communities. They represent artistic disciplines including music, visual art, dance, theater, storytelling, literary art and folk art.

As of 2/6/2023



JOIN THE ARTS ACTION FUND FOR FREE TODAY!

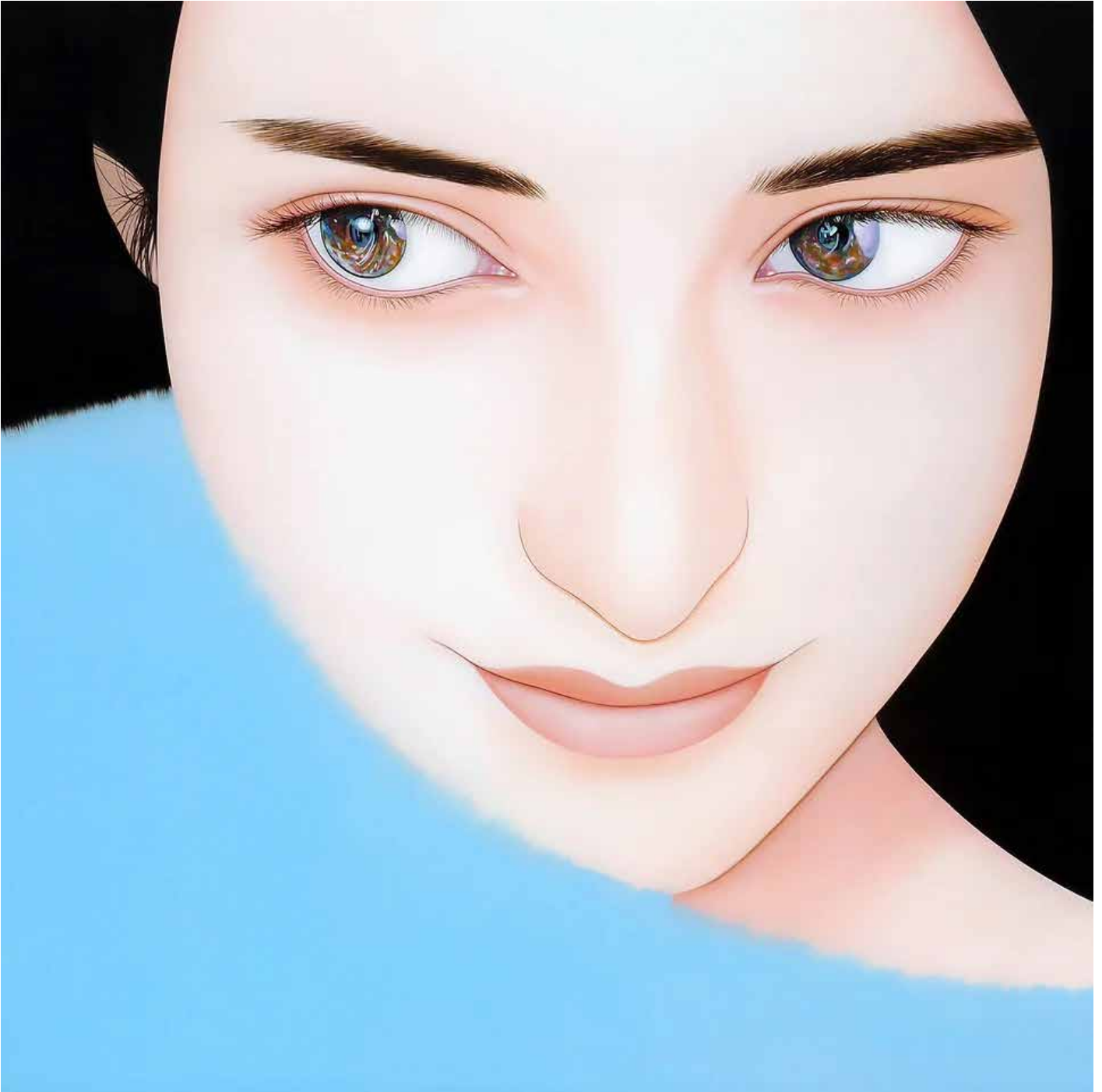
E-MAIL US: ArtsActionFund@artsusa.org

VISIT US: ArtsActionFund.org

FOLLOW US:



See Forward Facing Exhibition at Tyler Museum



Pictured is “Jazmin” by Yasuyo Maruyama. See her work and three other Texas-based artists, Raul Rene Gonzalez, Guadalupe Hernandez, and Delita Martín, in *Forward Facing — A Look at Contemporary Portraiture* at Tyler Museum of Art through December 1.

Tyler Museum of Art is an educational and cultural center to enrich the lives of East Texas citizens and visitors through the

collection, preservation, study, exhibition, interpretation, and celebration of the visual arts.

The museum is located at 1300 South Mahon Avenue and is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and 1-5 p.m. on Sunday. General admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors, and free for children under 12. Visit tylERMuseum.org for more information or call (903) 595-1001.



LMFA Presents Blue Dog Exhibit in New Building

Longview Museum of Fine Arts (LMFA) is opening a new exhibition this fall, *George Rodrigue: Painting for Myself*. The show is the first in the former Longview National Bank building, now under renovations and operated by LMFA. Located at the corner of Fredonia and Methvin streets, the new space will be the largest fine arts museum in East Texas once completed.

The exhibition runs from November 2, 2024, through May 3, 2025. It features the private collection of Wendy and George Rodrigue. George, who passed away in December 2013, originally became famous for his paintings of Cajun people

but reached worldwide fame for his portrayal of the “Blue Dog.” Wendy will make appearances in Longview for special talks and tours to the public.

After ending the *Blue Dog* show, the new building will close down to complete renovations that could take a year or so.

Exhibitions and activities continue in LMFA’s main location on Tyler Street, including *My Peoples & My Partners*, and *Give & Take Collaborations*, both running until September 14. *Cultural Connections* is on exhibition through December.

Longview Museum of Fine Arts was established in 1958. It has been in several locations, arriving at the Tyler Street site in 1998. There, they have a permanent collection of more than 1,200 pieces and feature traveling exhibitions in adjoining galleries. The new building increases LMFA’s space from 16,500 square feet to 50,000 square feet, giving them plenty of room to grow into an even stronger cultural hub for East Texas.

Learn more about each of the exhibitions and other activities on lmfa.org or call (903) 753-8103.

Winnsboro Art & Wine Fest Set for Early November



PHOTO BY P.A. GEDDIE

The 2024 Winnsboro Art and Wine Festival is a weekend celebration of artistic expression, regional wines, culinary treats, and live Texas music. With free admittance, the festival is open from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, November 1 and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, November 2 in and around the Bowery Pedestrian Park in downtown Winnsboro.

This year's show features art — paintings, sculptures, woodwork, jewelry, glasswork, photography, textiles and more — from professional artists locally and around the country. Regional wineries are on hand offering tastings while food trucks and vendors bring an

array of East Texas cuisine and specialty treats. Texas singe-songwriters provide the soundtrack to the event.

Guests enjoy leisurely meandering through Winnsboro's Cultural Arts District, taking in its unique mix of shops, galleries and eateries, all while enjoying a diverse array of art and wine.

Produced by Winnsboro Center for the Arts, the nonprofit organization is dedicated to offering educational programming, cultural experiences, and entertainment to the residents of Winnsboro and the wider East Texas community. The center is a dynamic venue that hosts live music performances,

theater productions, art exhibits, classes, workshops and literary events.

“Our annual art and wine festival is a testament to our community's dedication to the arts and our commitment to bringing people together to celebrate our unique cultural landscape,” says Cyndie Ewert, event chair. “It's the ideal way to enjoy a fall weekend — fine art, fine wines and live music, all set against a backdrop of cooler temps, picturesque piney woods, serene lakes and rolling hills.”

For more information about the event, visit winnsboroartandwinefestival.com.

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 GYPSUM AND THE TRAVELERS 2:00-3:30 | RAMOTH GILHEAD THE REALLY BAD 4:00-5:30
 SPONSORS | GREEN CAT CONSULTING | TYLER ART LIFT

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SEPTEMBER 14TH
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM



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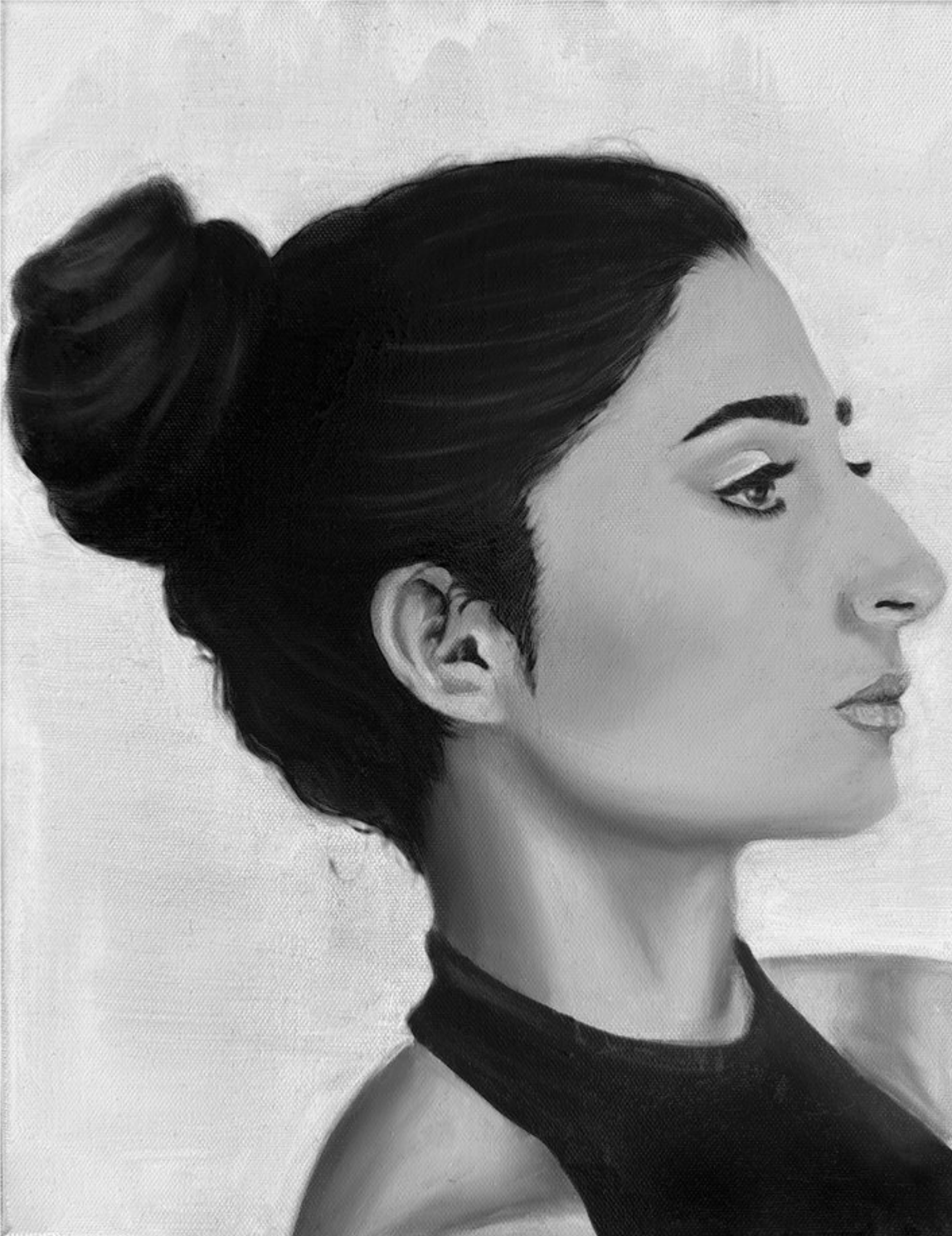
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Ava Arnold



FEMININITY

Ava Arnold of Longview comes from a long line of creative family members. Relatively new at finding her own passion, she's already known for her captivating acrylic and oil portraits, lively abstracts, landscapes, and murals.

She sells her pieces online from her website, avaarnold.art, and in galleries and art shows and does commissioned work as well.

See her work at the Women in the Arts Exhibition at Winnsboro Center for the Arts from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturdays through September 21. She is also showing at the Jefferson Art Walk from 2-6 p.m. September 7.

She recently completed an eight-piece portrait series on the subject of femininity. At right is "Charming" (top) and "Sensitive" (bottom). Opposite page is "Devoted."

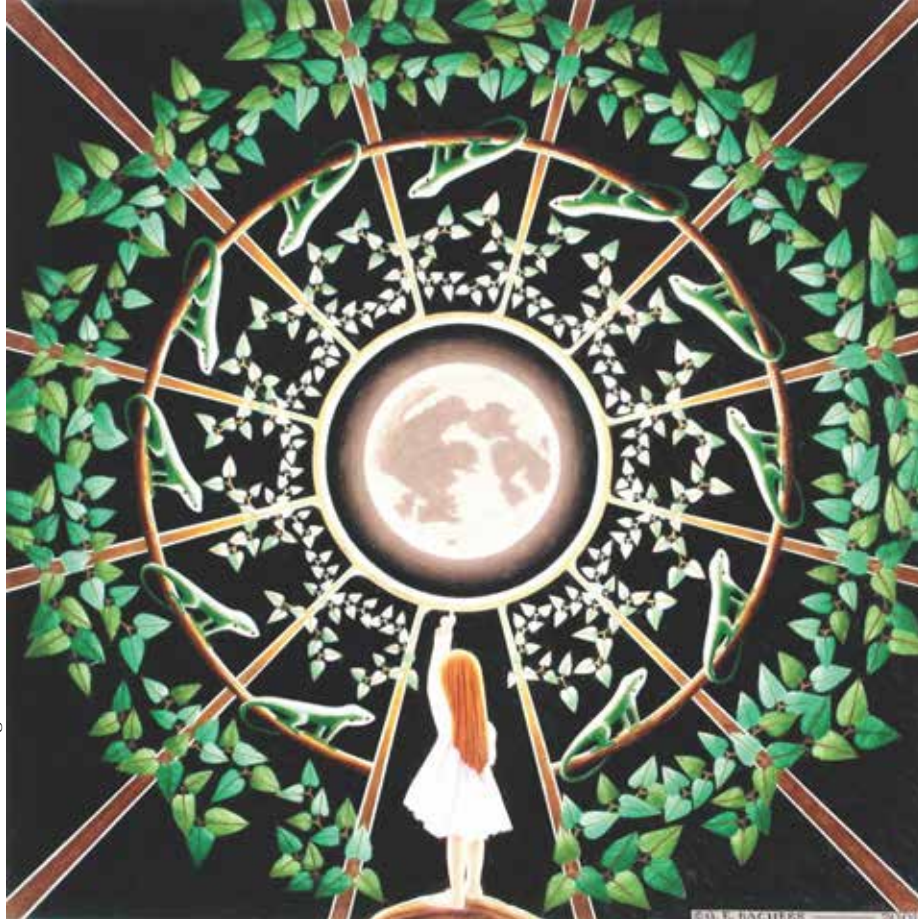
SPEAK SILENCE WITH THY GLIMMERING

EYES, AND WASH THE DUSK WITH SILVER.

“LET THY WEST WIND SLEEP ON THE LAKE;



Pondering Our Place



Late Artists' Legacy Continues at Shows this Fall

By P.A. Geddie

The colorful hand-drawn images of artist Gary Bachers were a staple at art festivals around the country and none appreciated them more than the collectors at Texas shows, including Edom Art Festival and Cottonwood Art Festival that take place each October. Bachers passed away in August 2023 but attendees at the Edom and Richardson festivals this year will be happy to find his artwork once again among the sea of artists' tents.

His wife and business partner Gabrielle — a talented fiber artist — continues to show his art and has worked diligently this past year organizing and preparing his life's work for exhibitions to continue sharing his inspiring story.

Gary and Gabrielle moved to New Boston, Texas, west of Texarkana, after he graduated from medical school at the University of Manitoba in his hometown of Winnipeg, Canada. For 10 years, he served the rural community as a family practice physician. His career was cut short when at the age of 38 he suffered a debilitating stroke, leaving

him with right-sided paralysis and global expressive aphasia, which prevented him from speaking or writing.

As part of his stroke-recovery therapy, Gary had to learn to hold a pencil in his left hand. Frustratingly, he could not form words with the pencil, but he started sketching flowers from Gabrielle's garden. With colored pencils, he began perfecting his compositions of lilies, peonies, irises, and birds of paradise. He developed his own language of design as his art evolved from simple monotone sketches to meticulous and brilliantly colorful composition. Mandalas, human figures, insects, and architecture feature in many of his works, but the full moon is the most pervasive element in his artistic lexicon, as if to mark not only the brief moment of spectacular beauty but also each composition's place in the cosmos.

This summer the first posthumous retrospective exhibition of Gary's work appeared alongside their son Christopher's in *Lines & Layers: The Art of Gary Bachers & Christopher Bachers* at the South Arkansas Arts Center in El Dorado,

Arkansas. It closes September 5.

It's the first posthumous retrospective exhibition of Gary Bachers' work since he passed away. Gathering Gary's body of work for this first exhibition through the grief was hard, Gabrielle says, but with the tears, there was joy, and especially heartwarming that it is a father and son exhibition.

"This exhibit is partly a retrospective of his work. It's also the first time that collections of Christopher and Gary were exhibited together, something Gary had so looked forward to.

"Putting this show together was bitter sweet. He left an incredible gift of art behind and it is sad to accept that there will be no more. I am so privileged to have walked this journey by his side. He inspired so many people along the way and I want to continue that by sharing his work."

Find Gabrielle at Cottonwood Art Festival on October 5-6 and in Edom on October 12-13. Check garybachers.com for more upcoming shows.

'The Thicket' Comes to Theaters September 6



By P.A. Geddie

A movie based on a novel by East Texas Joe R. Lansdale is releasing in theaters on September 6. A Western thriller, *The Thicket* is about fierce bounty hunter Reginald Jones (Peter Dinklage) who is recruited by a desperate man to track down a ruthless killer known only as Cutthroat Bill (Juliette Lewis). He rallies a band of unlikely heroes, including a grave-digging ex-slave and a street-smart woman-for-hire. Together they embark on a perilous quest to track down Cutthroat Bill that leads them into the deadly “no-man’s-land” known as The Thicket.

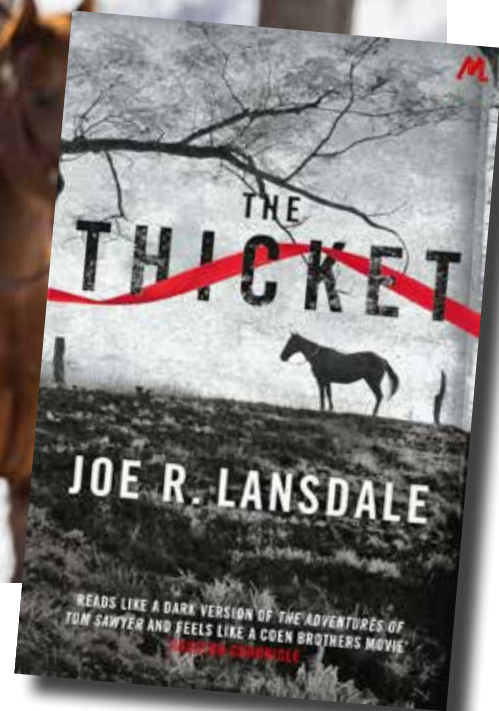
Lansdale released the novel with Mulholland Books in September of

2013. The book is set at the dark dawn of the East Texas oil boom. The movie was filmed in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

The Thicket is not his first entry into the world of film.

Bubba Ho-Tep is a short comedy/fantasy/horror mix that released in 2002 and 2023 and won numerous awards at film festivals. It tells the “true” story of what really did become of Elvis Presley. We find Elvis (Bruce Campbell) as an elderly resident in an East Texas rest home, who switched identities with an Elvis impersonator years before his “death,” then missed his chance to switch back.

Elvis teams up with Jack (Ossie Davis), a



Juliette Lewis (above) plays ruthless killer Cutthroat Bill who’s being tracked through the deadline no-man’s land known as The Thicket. (Opposite top) Joe Lansdale is the author of the book that is now a movie coming out in theaters on September 6.

fellow nursing home resident who thinks that he is actually President John F. Kennedy, and the two valiant old codgers sally forth to battle an evil Egyptian entity who has chosen their long-term care facility as his happy hunting grounds.

Cold in July released in January of 2014

based on Lansdale's 1989 crime/thriller novel of the same name. A terrified man Richard (Michael Hall) accidentally shoots a burglar inside his house. He is assured by the cop (Nick Damici) that it was purely self defense and the burglar was a wanted felon. Richard, shaken by the experience and not proud of the incident, visits the cemetery on the burglar's burial day and gets confronted by Ben, a paroled convict and the dead burglar's dad. Ben indirectly threatens and praises Richard's family photo, which he saw in the newspaper. The cops can't arrest Ben as he hasn't done anything and can't give Richard official police protection. In a cameo appearance, Lansdale plays the priest at the graveside.



The *Hap and Leonard* TV series that ran from 2016 to 2018 is based on Lansdale's book *Savage Season*, which was first published in 1990. Down on his luck after losing his job, '60s activist/ex-con Hap Collins can't help but listen when his seductive former wife Trudy, for whom he still pines, resurfaces with promises of finding a sunken treasure in the Deep South. Joining the adventure is Hap's unlikely buddy Leonard Pine, an openly gay-Black Vietnam War vet with a bad temper and little use for Trudy's feminine wiles. Soon enough, the simple get-rich-quick scheme snowballs into bloody mayhem.

Lansdale was born in Gladewater, Texas, and lives with his wife Karen in Nacogdoches. They are the parents of actress, musician, and publisher Kasey Lansdale, and reporter and screenwriter Keith Lansdale.

He's written close to 50 novels, including *Rusty Puppy*, the Edgar-award winning *The Bottoms*, *Sunset and Sawdust*, and *Leather Maiden*. He has received nine Bram Stoker Awards, the American Mystery Award, the British Fantasy Award, and the Grinzane Cavour Prize for Literature.

His most recent book release is *Sugar on the Bones*, his first novel in five years featuring his characters Hap and Leonard.

Find the movie in theaters throughout the country and learn more about Joe Lansdale on joerlansdale.com.



Catch Greenville's Good Vibrations This Fall



7 Bridges: The Ultimate Eagles Experience is a tribute to the music of the Eagles performing in Greenville on September 27. Using no backing tracks or harmonizers, the band presents a blend of songs for Eagles devotees.

Greenville, Texas, has long been associated with providing good entertainment for its citizens and visitors. The lineup for this 2024 autumn season has something for everyone.

Showtime at the Greenville Municipal Auditorium features John Conlee, September 7; The Magic of Motown, September 13; Live Dead & Brothers, September 19; 7 Bridges: The Ultimate

Eagles Experience, September 27; William Lee Martin, October 12; Feelin' Good: The Ultimate Michael Buble Experience, October 19; The Oak Ridge Boys: Farewell Tour, October 25; and Gene Watson, October 26.

Concerts in conjunction with the Bob Wills Fiddle Festival take place on November 2 with Gary P. Nunn, Bob Wills Texas Playboys, and Pauline Reese.

Get more information on GMA shows and tickets on showtimeatthegma.com.

On Friday, September 20, the City of Greenville presents the Lee Street Jamboree downtown. The Tejas Brothers take the stage at 6:30 p.m. followed by country music artist Jamie Richards at 8 p.m. ci.greenville.tx.us

At the Texan Theater Zach Maberry performs, September 4; Guthrie Kennard, September 13; Randy Morrison, September 18; Rick Babb, September 25; and The Boxmasters, October 28. Visit texantheatergreenville.com.



Belcher Center
Longview, Texas

Lyle Lloevett & His Large Band take the stage October 17 at the Belcher Center in Longview. Other fall shows at the venue include Mathew West on September 18, Neal McCoy on September 28, Longview Symphony Orchestra on October 12, Chonda Pierce on October 27, and Sara Evans on November 9. Visit belchercenter.com.

Lambert Releases 'Postcards from Texas'



Miranda Lambert has a new album, *Postcards from Texas*, coming out September 13. The 14-track album is self-produced by Lambert along with frequent collaborator and fellow Texan Jon Randall; she co-wrote 10 of the tracks, although the album-closer is reserved for a David Allen Coe classic, *Living on the Run*, from the country outlaw hero's 1976 album "Longhaired Redneck."

Lambert's tour schedule includes a show on December 28 at WinStar World Casino & Resort just north of the Red River that joins Texas and Oklahoma. Learn more on mirandalambert.com.

Ruthie Foster in Texas



See Ruthie Foster in *Crockett* on September 13 and at the *Longhorn Ballroom* in Dallas on October 26. ruthiefoster.com



Tanna Ramponi of Buenos Aires, Argentina, is one of 24 acts from 16 different nations performing Texas country music at the 2024 Texas Sounds International Country Music Awards.

Making Music at Marshall Performance Center

Texas Sounds International Country Music Awards Festival takes place on October 3-5 at Memorial City Hall Performance Center (MCH) in Marshall. The three-day event brings leading celebrity artists from around the world to perform and compete. Each evening, an entirely new lineup of singers, duos, and full bands take the stage in hopes of winning a Texas Sounds International CMA award. There are artists from 14 different nations and four continents, with five to seven different acts each night.

Other performers at Memorial City Hall Performance Center (MCH) this fall include Pam Tillis on September 12 and

Georgette Jones on September 14, the only daughter of country music royalty George Jones and Tammy Wynette.

On October 19 see the group Uptown with a Bruno-Mars-caliber stage presence including top-tier vocals and wall-to-wall choreography. Uptown combines the smooth stylings of R&B, Motown, and the fresh hits of today in a unique and modern show that gets the crowd on their feet.

Jimmy Fortune (Statler Brothers) is on stage on October 25 followed by award-winning, platinum-selling country music star Deana Carter on November 2.

Visit memorialcityhall.com for tickets and more information.

Whiskeyfish Reunites for Salt Festival 50th Anniversary



By P.A. Geddie

It's been more than 20 years since brothers J.P. and Matt Fisher rose up out of the salt dome city of Grand Saline, Texas, to share their talented harmonizing voices, musicianship, and songwriting skills with fans in Van Zandt County and the surrounding region. Before long, they fronted the popular alt-country band, Whiskeyfish with Jacob Phillips, also of Grand Saline, and Jonathan Wilson from Canton. Daniel Young joined the group later, adding rhythm guitar and vocals to the brother's harmonies.

In 2007, the band released their album, *Sushi*, with 10 songs that fans demanded at each performance along with numerous covers. Influenced by a variety of alternative country rock legends, from Merle Haggard to Pearl Jam, they called their style "MerleJam."

In a review for *County Line Magazine* that year, writer Tom Geddie said,

"Whiskeyfish is a good young band. An early, burned version of the long-awaited CD fits squarely into the Texas alt-country scene with influences including Willie, Waylon, and Merle. And Robert Earl Keen, Billy Joe Shaver, Ryan Adams, Pat Green, and Randy Rogers. And, less obvious, Adam Carroll, Hayes Carll, Slaid Cleaves, and Chris Knight, which is probably where some of the darker songs come from. And Stevie Ray Vaughan and Pearl Jam, which is where much of the rock influence comes from.

"*Sushi's* songs are about love and leavin' and neon lights and temptation. The CD rocks out a little less than the jam-band-style live shows I've seen, which is okay; live audiences are more compelling than studio walls, and there's a certain amount of on-stage attitude that fits the sub genre and their ages."

J.P. said at the time that the band invested their own money and wanted to get it

Brothers Matt (left) and J.P. Fisher started the band Whiskeyfish more than 20 years ago. They disbanded in 2010 and are reuniting for a special performance in their hometown for the 50th anniversary of the Grand Saline Salt Festival. PHOTO BY BAILEY ENGSTROM

right, so it took a while, but he was happy with the outcome.

"Our music comes straight from our gut," he said. "It's not all good-times music. Some of our stuff is pretty deep; there's nothing wrong with that. A few people ask why we write such dark material. We write some happy tunes, too; half the world is having a good time, and half the world is crying."

The album still resonates with fans, a testament to their enduring sound. Find *Sushi* on Apple Music, iTunes, Spotify, and wherever good music is sold.

Starting families and other obligations led to the group disbanding in 2010. J.P. is an engineer with Union Pacific Railroad.

Matt has continued to perform solo at private parties and occasional club gigs. Jonathan Wilson is an app and software developer and Jacob Phillips works for Community Coffee. Daniel Young passed away in 2022 in an automobile accident.

With the Salt Festival in their hometown celebrating its 50th anniversary, event organizers did a little arm twisting and after 14 years, Whiskeyfish is reuniting for a performance on Friday, September 27 in downtown Grand Saline. Their set list will include their songs from *Sushi*, a few others they've written, and popular covers.

"Reuniting is a big deal," J.P. says. "It's a challenge with us being spread out and our schedules being crazy, but it's also been real fun getting to see the guys again."

Matt agrees.

"(This is) a chance to reconnect with the reason we started playing music in the first place," Matt added. "Fun."

Opening for Whiskeyfish is Billie Jo Jones and her full band. The Friday night concert is \$20 per person at the gate.

The Salt Festival kicks off on Thursday, September 26 with a parade at 5:30 p.m., followed by a baking contest, and gospel music.

On Friday, before the concert — which includes room for street dancing — there's an old fashioned southern luncheon; art, floral, and canning contest displays; and community bingo.

Saturday, September 28 activities start at 9 a.m. with street vendors, a car show, selfie station, pumpkin pageant, game tournaments, kids' games, quilt show, and a large selection of contents that include best beard, Weiner dog derby, salsa, tamale, tacos, and jalapeño eating.

Gates open at 6 p.m. for another street dance and concert featuring Glen Templeton opening for T.G. Sheppard, T. Graham Brown, and Moe Bandy. Tickets are \$35-\$45 and available on stubwire.com.

Get more information on the Grand Saline Salt Festival Heritage Association's Facebook page.

Sep 14. Georgette Jones

Oct 19. Uptown

Nov 2. Deana Carter

Dec 6. Dallas String Quartet

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Oct. 4 The Jazz Connection **Oct. 11 Rick Brown & The Lonestar Bootleggers**
Oct. 18 RokDox **Oct. 25 Jenn Ford & The Wide Eyed Devils**

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Sunday, September 1, 2024, 2:30 pm, Mount Vernon Music Hall

Her vocal and keyboard skills are equally likely to transport you to a sidewalk café in Paris as the plains of West Texas.

SMILES INCLUDED

Saturday, November 23, 2024, 7:30 pm

St. Rita Catholic Church, 12521 Inwood Rd., Dallas
AND

Sunday, November 24, 2024 at 2:30 pm, Mount Vernon Music Hall

Enjoy music from the lighter side, with string quartets by Joseph Haydn, Florence Price, Paul Hindemith and more. Featuring Mark Miller and Andres Bravo, violins; Ute Miller, viola; and Laura Ospina, cello.

UNEXPECTED TREASURES

Saturday, January 11, 2025 at 7:30 pm, Mount Vernon Music Hall

AND

Sunday, January 12, 2025 at 2:30 pm

Steinway Piano Gallery of Fort Worth

Includes piano quartets by Joaquín Turina and Louise Adolpha Le Beau, Arnold Bax's Quintet for oboe and strings, and "Calvary" by Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson. With pianist Evan Mitchell and oboist Sharon Lacey.

PIANO SUPERLATIVES

Saturday, February 15, 2025, 7:30 pm

Steinway Piano Gallery of Plano

AND

Sunday, February 16, 2025, 2:30 pm, Mount Vernon Music Hall

Saluting Johannes Brahms and Edvard Grieg. With Evan Mitchell, piano. Edward Grieg Piano Concerto, and Johannes Brahms Piano Quintet.

ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

Saturday, March 22, 2025, 7:30 pm

St. Mark's Anglican Church, Arlington

AND

Sunday, March 23, 2025, 2:30 pm, Mount Vernon Music Hall

Richard Strauss' creation of Metamorphosen with an arrangement of the beloved Pastoral Symphony by Beethoven's contemporary Michael Gotthard Fischer. Featuring Mark Miller and Andres Bravo, violins; Ute Miller and Matt Sinno, viola; Marie-Thais Oliver and Noemie Golubovic, cello; Jack Unzicker, bass. With MVM Scholarship Award winners.

FAMILY CONCERT

Saturday, April 26, 2025 at 11:00 am, Mount Vernon Music Hall

The Tortoise and the Hare, Camille Saint-Saëns' Carnival of the Animals, and Rumpelstiltskin gets a musical update from Mozart.

With MVM Scholarship Award winners.

FROM SORROW TO JOY: MUSICAL MESSAGES

Saturday, May 24, 2025, 6:30 pm

Daphne Prairie, 4020 FM 1896, Mount Vernon

AND

Sunday, May 25, 2025, 2:30 pm

The Old Frankford Church, 17400 Muirfield Dr., Dallas

Composers include Sally Beamish, Jesse Montgomery, Svante Henryson and more. With MVM Scholarship Award winners.

Events are subject to change. Visit MountVernonMusic.org for latest information about upcoming events, to purchase tickets, become a member, or make a donation.

FOOD & DRINK

Food Row at East Texas State Fair Offers Variety of Favorites



During the East Texas State Fair taking place in Tyler September 20-29, guests find colorful candied apples, pretzel bites, pizza, ice cream, tacos, egg rolls, gator on a stick, nachos, boudin balls, burgers, chicken waffles, and a big selection of fried foods including brownies, pickles, green beans, poppers, peach tacos, and chocolate covered fried bacon to name a few. COURTESY PHOTO.



Lufkin Bistro Lufkin, Texas

This annual tasting event taking place from 6-10 p.m. October 5 offers an elegant, entertaining evening on the downtown streets as Lufkin's finest chefs showcase their tastiest cuisine paired with wines and craft beers from across the globe. Dance the night away to live music and get in some late-night shopping with downtown merchants. Go to visitlufkin.com for tickets and more information.



Queen Street Grille Presents Wine Pairing Dinner

Phil Williams of Phinisse Vineyards in Sulphur Springs is teaming up with Chef Marshall Lamb to produce a five-course wine pairing dinner on September 21 at Queen St. Grille in Palestine.

The first course of the Queen St Grille Wine Dinner pairs Phinisse Angelic Pearl with a stew of red fish, grilled baguette, and roasted red pepper romesco sauce. Angelic Pearl is a crispy white blend with citrus aromas and flavors.

The second course is charbroiled Mediterranean shrimp with oven-dried tomatoes, grilled lemon, Fresno chiles, and garlic brown butter paired with Phinisse Naughty & Nice, a spicy and sweet moscato blended with jalapeño.

On the menu for the third course is dijon herb crusted roasted pork loin, summer lentils, and grilled green onion purée, paired with Noblianti, a rustic, earthy red blend of Phinisse's cabernet Sauvignon, merlot, Sangiovese, and noble grapes.

Course four is a prosciutto-wrapped filet stuffed with asparagus and local blue cheese, wild mushrooms, and red wine demi glaze paired with Phinisse Sangiovese, a dark berry red wine.

The final course is a Fireball Whiskey poached pear with cinnamon pecan brittle and homemade vanilla bean ice cream served with Phinisse Sweet JoJo, a Gold medal winner that is a sweet and fruity sangria-styled red blend.

Along with bringing his wines, Williams is giving a presentation of the winemaking process, something he's been doing on his 35-acre farm since 2009. "From Dirt to Glass" takes guests through all phases of soil preparation, growing, harvesting, crushing, pressing, fermentation, clarification, bottling, and aging.

Queen St. Grille is located in the Redlands Hotel, 400 North Queen Street. For overnight stays, visit theredlandshotel.com.

The wine pairing dinner experience is \$99 per person. Reservations are required by calling (903) 243-1734. Learn more about the restaurant on queenstgrille.com.

Sulphur Springs Celebrates Wine and Music



Main Street Uncorked Wine & Music Festival takes place from 1 to 7 p.m. October 12 at Celebration Plaza in downtown Sulphur Springs.

Featured wineries include Cedar Hollow Winery, Decadent Saint, Huntsman Wine and Spirits, Los Pinos Ranch Vineyards, Red Road Wines, Texas Southwind Vineyards and Winery, Valle della Pace Vineyards and Winery, and Walkers Mill Vineyard and Winery.

Music entertainment is Cody Cresswell from 1 to 3 p.m. and Mac Hankins and the Moonlighters from 4 to 7 p.m.

Proceeds benefit SAFE-T Crisis Center.

Tickets are available on Eventbrite and at the door for \$15. Get more information on mainstreetuncorkedss.com.

For more fun things to do in Sulphur Springs, go to visitsulphurspringstx.org.

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Farmers' Markets Continue Through Fall and Beyond

Find ingredients for tasty meals, local wines, breads, preserves, and more this fall at markets throughout the Upper East Side of Texas. Most are open each week through October and some go year round.

Those who base their meal planning around what they can find seasonally at the markets not only get healthier products but there's no better taste than fresh, locally grown food. Buyers can ask growers about their process, ensure organic practices, and get helpful tips for storage, preparation, and cooking. Artisan bakers can answer questions about the ingredi-

ents used in their products which helps shoppers avoid allergens.

Whether shopping local or while on a fun getaway, social interactions at farmers' markets are meaningful. Making a weekend out of it is a fun way to explore other offerings in rural communities including restaurants, museums, art galleries, and boutiques.

Find the best markets in the region in Ennis, Greenville, Longview, Palestine, Paris, Rockwall, and Sulphur Springs. Click on the town name to go directly to their website to get all the details.



Piney Woods Wine Trail Holds Fall Festival



The climate and soil in the Upper East Side of Texas, paired with talented chefs and winemakers, led to it becoming a prime wine lovers destination. Over the last couple of decades, as the grapes at each vineyard matured, the wines keep getting better and better and many of the winemakers have won national and international awards.

One group of wineries within the state designated “piney woods” region of north Texas got together many years ago to form the Piney Woods Wine Trail. About 20 locations participate, each with their own unique offerings throughout the countryside. Go to pineywoodswinetrail.com to explore each of them.

Twice a year in the spring and fall, the wineries hold the Piney Woods Wine

Festival where wine lovers can visit the winemakers in one convenient location. The next one takes place from 1 to 8 p.m. October 18 and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. October 19 in downtown Lindale.

Wine tastings are available from a variety of award-winning wines as well as live music, food, and shopping with local artisan vendors.

The event takes place in and around Picker’s Pavilion at Blackberry Square, 205 Cannery Row.

Lindale is the hometown of country music star Miranda Lambert and her family-owned and operated Red 55 Winery. Visitors enjoy the Hemingway Tasting Room and shopping in her boutique, The Pink Pistol. The Lamberts

also opened Ponderosa Pour House serving True Vine draft beer.

Throughout The Cannery surrounding the festival are restaurants and retail and there’s a hotel on site as well as air bnb rooms. Texas Music City Grill & Smokehouse often has live music scheduled.

Within the town of Lindale are many other restaurants and fun things to do, including the Lindale Candy Co., Darden Harvest Park, Faulkner Park, the Lindale Veterans Memorial, and Old Mill Pond Museum.

Go to visitlindale.com to make plans to attend the Piney Woods Wine Festival and surrounding area.



Enjoy Uncorked Food & Wine Festival and Harvest Dinner in Mt. Pleasant

The annual Uncorked Food & Wine Festival takes place October 26 at Caldwell Park in Mount Pleasant. The event features Texas wineries, local restaurants, boutique shopping, fun family activities, and live music.

For the first time, there's also a Harvest Dinner the night before, Friday, October 25, also in Caldwell Park.

Guests are treated to a five-course meal, each dish thoughtfully curated and perfectly paired with flavor enhancing wines.

Tickets are limited. The dinner is \$150 per person and includes a free wine tasting wristband for the wine festival the next day.

The Harvest Dinner begins with cocktails at 6 p.m. followed by the first course at 6:30 p.m.

MENU

1st Course: Passed Hors d'oeuvres. Shrimp Fritter, Texas Fig Crostini, Pork Belly, Spinach Artichoke

2nd Course: Fall Harvest Salad. Comeback Creek Farm field greens, Brussel sprouts, candied pecans, river whey blue, apple, maple dijon

3rd Course: Roasted Pumpkin & Crab Bisque. Tempura Crab Claw, Toasted Pepitas, Texas lardons, creme fraiche

4th Course: 44 Farms Beef Short Rib & Red Wine Demi, Smoked Duck Breast & Pomegranate Gastrique. Fondant potatoes, glazed root vegetables

5th Course: Dessert. Texas pecan pie, chocolate mousse, pumpkin cheesecake.

Visit mtpleasanttx.com or call (903) 572-8567 for more information and tickets.

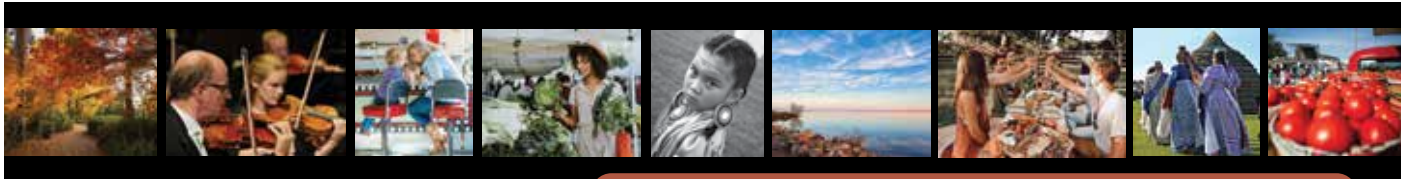


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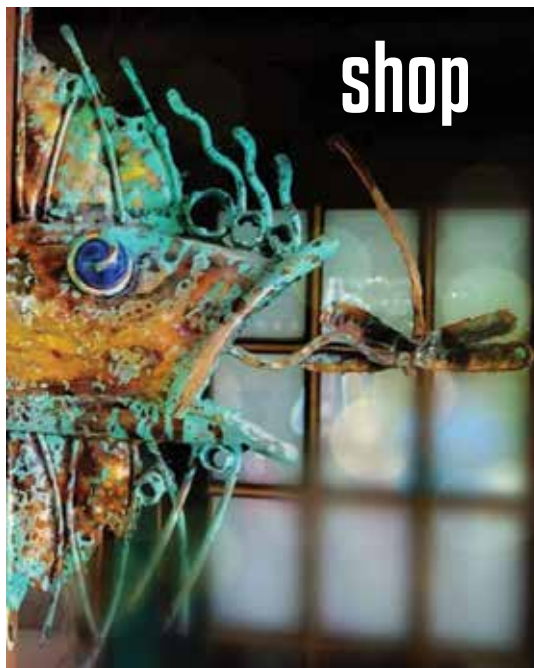


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