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*Upper East Side of Texas*

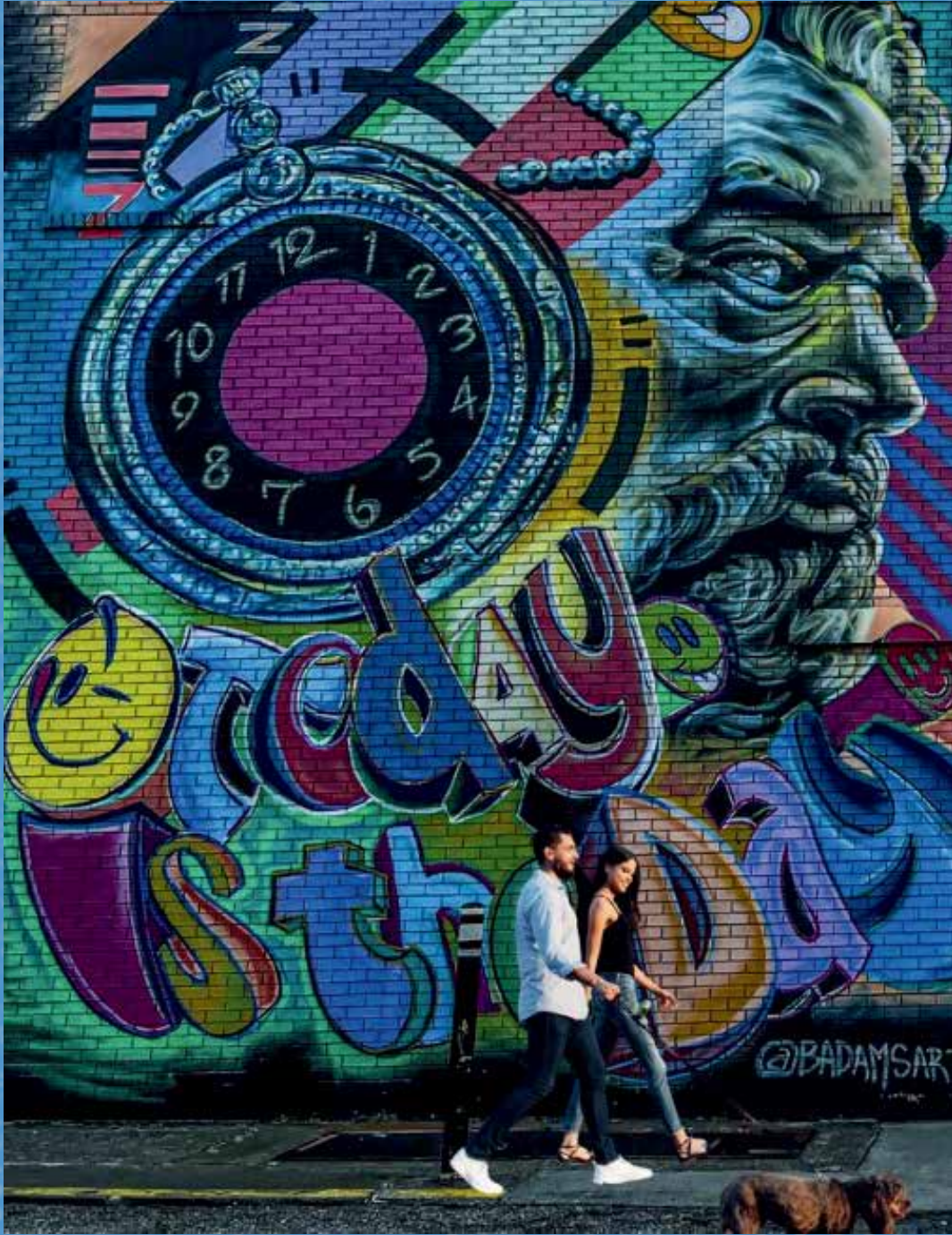
MARCH/APRIL 2025

# county line

MAGAZINE



EXPERIENCE



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## EDITOR'S NOTE

*Dear Readers,*

Welcome to spring in the Upper East Side of Texas! It's looking promising for plenty of fun things to do outdoors and in.

Winnsboro is putting on their third annual BLOOM event that is as multi-layered as the petals on a rose. Businesses and artists join forces to create colorful window displays, there's a floral-inspired art exhibition, music, and much more happening mostly throughout the month of April.

We are fortunate that nature shows up for us this time of year with breathtaking fields of wildflowers, azaleas, daffodils, and budding trees. Find a few recommended self-guided tours in this issue and take a drive through the backroads and biways of the region to enjoy them while they last.

Writer and photographer Randy Mallory contributed numerous works to publications in Texas including a few for *County Line Magazine* over the years. He's gathered up some of his favorite images from his 50-year career and has a book coming out to show them off. See a sampling of them in this issue and be sure to get this book for your coffee table and

add it to your gift list as it captures the essence of so much of Texas.

Many of our small towns are featured in Randy's book and while some of the unique things he captured have come and gone, there's so much more to discover.

This time of year is perfect for pulling up a bench on a town square for a front row seat to see just how much our communities are offering these days. Art, museums, plays, live music, good wines and food, and ongoing entertainment are part of the culture of the region that bring visitors back time after time and have residents feeling grateful to call it home.

Meet a few East Texans in this issue who are making us proud from musicians, to authors, to the Caddo students who are bringing back the long lost art of basketry. See one basket made by a student that is said to be the first Caddo-style basket made by a tribe member in more than 800 years. Watch the new PBS documentary that chronicles the classes and you get a feel of how determined they are to honor their ancestors in this way.

May we all embrace this spring and make it the best one ever. — *P.A. Geddie*

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# CONTENTS



## FEATURES

- 8 BLOOM Winnsboro
- 12 From Earth to Uncertain
- 20 Caddo Basketry

## DEPARTMENTS

- 3 Editor's Note

## LIFESTYLE & ENTERTAINMENT

- 26 Spring Fun
- 32 Ennis Bluebonnet Trails
- 34 Willis Country Cabins
- 36 History Making Opal Lee
- 38 Tyler Tours Pollard District
- 39 Beach Paradise in McKinney

## ARTS & CULTURE

- 42 Visual Arts Galleries
- 44 Pribyl, Ray, and Walker Exhibits
- 46 Performing Arts Fill Area Stages
- 47 WCA Theater Scheduled for 2025
- 48 Greenville Theatre Works
- 49 Cowan Center Shows
- 50 Fiddler on the Roof in Athens

## LITERARY

- 52 Texas Book by Rusty Williams
- 52 Western by Herb Marlow
- 53 East Texas History by Gary Pinkerton
- 54 Poet Lexie Dean Robertson

## FILM

- 56 The Oscar Goes to Who?

## MUSIC

- 60 Harmony Abounds at Music Events
- 62 Ally Venable Releases New Album

## FOOD & DRINK

- 66 Vineyards Come With Scenic Views
- 68 Brunch with the Queen in Palestine



COVER: BLOOM art by Chris Brown

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46



62



68



66

34



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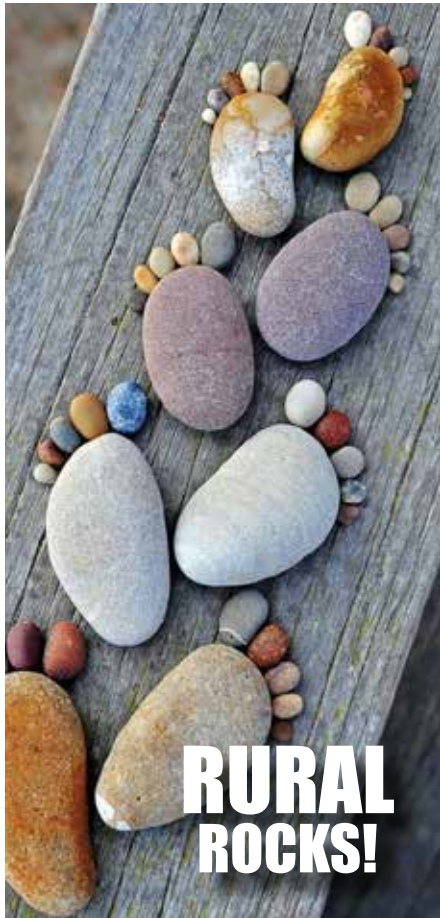




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# BLOOM Unites Art and Nature in Winnsboro

BLOOM returns to Winnsboro for its third year this spring with immersive floral art experiences. Visitors are invited to celebrate the season with art, music, and nature-inspired activities in and around the Bowery Pedestrian Park in historic downtown Winnsboro.

The seasonal event was created by Dallas/Winnsboro artist Chris Brown, an East Texas native recognized as Best Floral Designer by *D Magazine* in 2003. Brown, co-owner of downtown Winnsboro's *Modern Country Living*, an art gallery and boutique, envisioned BLOOM as a way to unite art and nature.

"BLOOM celebrates renewal, creativity and the beauty of the changing seasons," Brown says. "And Winnsboro, with its rolling hills, pine forests and thriving cultural arts district, provides the perfect setting for this artistic awakening."

Downtown Winnsboro is a state designated Texas Cultural District with Winnsboro Center for the Arts (WCA) playing a key role in bringing cultural programming, exhibitions, and entertainment to Winnsboro and East Texas.

"We are proud of our town's reputation as a flourishing arts destination," said Mary White, acting executive director of WCA. "This event is just one of many

offered throughout the year by WCA that brings our community together, celebrates creative expression, and supports Texas artists."

The current schedule of events is as follows:

March 26-May 17

**BLOOM Art Exhibition.** WCA features BLOOM, an art exhibition with floral and spring-themed artwork of approximately 30 artists, including still life paintings, photography, sculptures, and mixed media pieces. WCA gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.

April 5-12

**Tournament of Windows.** A showcase of floral-inspired storefronts transform Winnsboro's downtown streets into an art gallery as local businesses partner with artists to craft displays in shop windows. Voting for favorites is a popular activity. Visitors pick up a Tournament of Windows packet at WCA for just \$5. Each packet includes voting instructions, a map of participating shops and restaurants, a raffle ticket for a BLOOM gift basket, a package of East Texas flower seeds, and exclusive store and restaurant coupons. The storefront art displays continue throughout the month of April.

April 5, 12, and 26

**Live Music & Art Walks.** Guests enjoy street musicians and free curated art walks through downtown cultural spaces on three Saturdays during the month.

Every Saturday Beginning April 5 Winnsboro's award-winning farmers' market is open from 8 a.m. to noon in the market pavilions on Carnegie Street. Find local produce, handmade crafts, and fresh cut flowers.

*continued page 10*



*LEFT* Local businesses show off their eye-catching floral displays throughout BLOOM.

*OPPOSIT PAGE.* Works like this mixed medium painting from artist Chris Brown are exhibited at BLOOM 2025.





## BLOOM *continued from page 8*

April 26

Through the Looking Glass. BLOOM culminates in a special event from 6-8 p.m. at WCA. Through the Looking Glass is an Alice in Wonderland-inspired evening featuring a buffet, cocktails, a wine pull, and a silent art auction featuring exhibited works by local and regional artists. Tickets are \$25.

Other events taking place at WCA this spring include a play, *The Glass Menagerie*, with performances on March 28-30 and April 4-6; a concert by GRAMMY nominated songwriter John Fullbright at 7:30 p.m. April 12; Festival of Books May 2-3, and numerous classes and workshops for all ages.

Restaurants and other eateries are offering limited-time, spring-inspired menu items. Other popular activities in Winnsboro include the American Pop Culture-themed Eagle's Nest Mini Golf and the Winnsboro Murals Walking Tour. Get all the details for more Winnsboro fun on [www.WinnsboroOnlineGuide.com](http://www.WinnsboroOnlineGuide.com) including overnight lodging and a list of restaurants and other dining venues.

For updated schedules, artist announcements, ticket purchases, and additional details on BLOOM and other WCA activities, visit [www.WinnsboroCenter-ForTheArts.com](http://www.WinnsboroCenter-ForTheArts.com).

*Winnsboro Center for the Arts is a 501(c)(3) non-profit multi-disciplinary arts center. WCA is supported in part by grants from the Texas Commission on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Winnsboro's Cultural District is recognized by the Texas Commission on the Arts for its vibrant arts scene. Winnsboro is also recognized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as part of the Texas Main Street Program for its successful downtown revitalization.*

---

*TOP LEFT. Hand-painted floral cards, such as these by artist Nita King from BLOOM 2023, are an example of the unique items and craftsmanship featured during the event.*

*BOTTOM LEFT. BLOOM transforms the entire town of Winnsboro into a springtime exhibition with its Tournament of Windows. Local businesses and artists combine talents to create storefront displays and guests have fun voting on their favorites.*



# CREATIVITY IN BLOOM

WINNSBORO CENTER FOR THE ARTS



ART EXHIBITION

## YAKETY YAK

A "just animals" art  
invitational exhibit.

January 29 - March 22

ART EXHIBITION

## BLOOM: SPRING FEVER

March 26 - May 17



CONCERT

## SUSAN GIBSON ON THE BOWERY STAGE

Saturday, March 8  
7:30 p.m.



CONCERT

## SUMMER SCHEDULE

MAX & HEATHER STALLING  
May 17

ADAM & CHRIS CARROLL  
July 12



THEATER

## THE GLASS MENAGERIE

Written by Tennessee Williams

Directed by Dr. John A. Price

Friday, March 28, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 29, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 30, 2:30 p.m.

Friday, April 4, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 5, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 6, 2:30 p.m.

FESTIVAL

## BLOOM TOURNAMENT OF WINDOWS

APRIL 5-26, 2025

Window Voting Dates  
April 5-12



## BLOOM: THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

A Garden Party  
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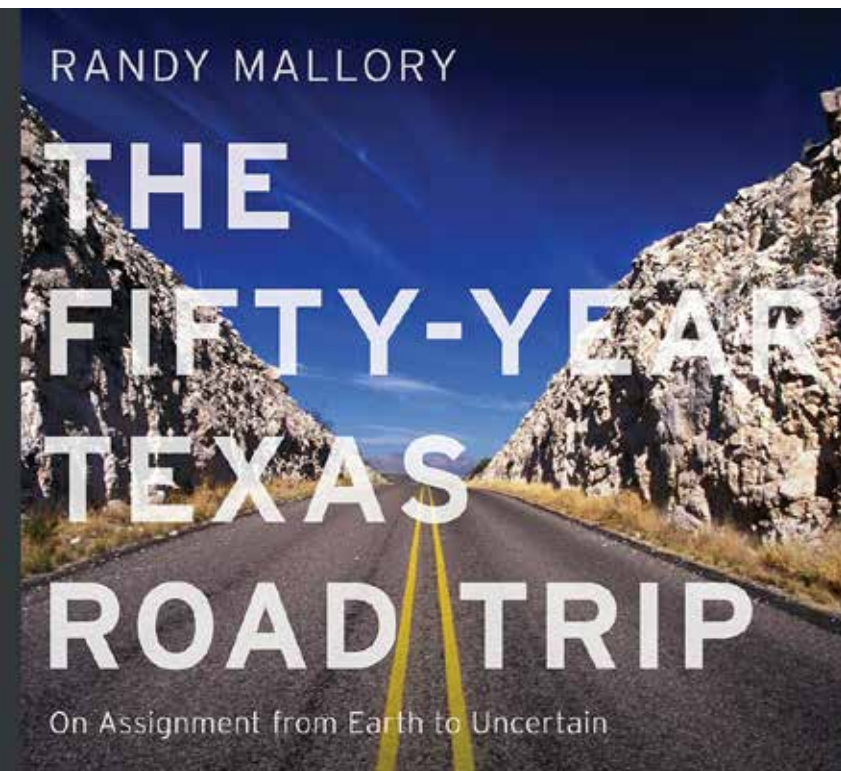
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EMBRACE THE SPIRIT OF CREATIVITY

# Road Trip With Randy Mallory

## From Earth to Uncertain



By P.A. Geddie

Well known for his talented photography and writings about the Upper East Side and all of Texas, Tyler native Randy Mallory is releasing his first book with a collection of his work. Produced by the University of North Texas Press, *The Fifty-Year Texas Road Trip: On Assignment from Earth to Uncertain* releases this April.

UNT Press says, “At the turn of every page — just like the rounding of every bend — there are delightful and surprising places: a thunderhead billowing behind a spinning Ferris wheel, a Volkswagen Beetle hung from a giant oak, a steam-powered riverboat gliding through mossy swamps, and yard art of a pregnant woman playing electric guitar. Meet the proud and diverse people he encountered: an organic farmer with a UFO museum, rural church members at a foot-washing ceremony, an adventurer riding the highway in a wind-powered sail trike, and five US presidents sharing the same stage.”

The book is drawn from thousands of images contained in the Randy Mallory Collection at the University of North Texas. The collection and this book serve as a colorful and telling record of one photographer’s attempt to capture Texas’s sense of place during an important and ever-changing half century. The breadth of his career (1972–2022) allows the book to showcase many aspects of Texas history and culture that are gone or are rapidly fading away.

A foreword by Dan K. Utley, former chief historian for the Texas Historical Commission, places Mallory’s photography in perspective as a valuable resource in the necessary work of chronicling history as it evolves around us every day.

“By the luck of the draw, Randy and I were assigned to the same van in a caravan that spent much of each day motoring along the blue highways and backroads of a particular region while the occupants talked about history, personal and otherwise. By the end of that first day, Randy and I were buddies for life, drawn together by humor, Longhorn loyalties, shared world interests and experiences, and the fact we both spoke fluent East Texan, albeit

*continued page 16*



*Randy Mallory. Photo by Sallie Evans*

*All photos on the next five pages are part of the Randy Mallory Collection.*

*Porch pickers at Grapeland Bluegrass Festival, Grapeland, 2009*





*Water witcher at the author's Piney Woods place, Jacksonville, 1982*

*Sam Rayburn's 1947 Cadillac Fleetwood at Rayburn home, Sam Rayburn House State Historic Site, Bonham, 2012*

*Supplies store across from Tyler State Park, State Highway 14, Tyler, 1980s*

*Steampunk tea duel, Winnboro, 2012*







## MALLORY *continued from page 12*

with different dialects — his by way of Tyler, to the north, and mine more central, like around Lufkin.”

Utley continues, “While this is primarily the work of a superb photo documentarian, the prose is equally noteworthy. Randy is a gifted wordsmith, and his framework of memories is a fitting complement to the images. Both text and photos are comfortable, accessible, thought-provoking, and memorable, and both draw you back again and again.”

Mallory is a fourth-generation Texan who spent 50 years as a travel writer and photographer covering diverse Texas topics. A journalism graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, he contributed hundreds of photos and articles to statewide publications such as *Texas Highways*, *Texas Co-Op Power*, *Texas Journey*, *Texas Monthly*, the *Dallas Morning News* and more than a few were featured in *County Line Magazine*. Mallory also wrote and photographed projects for agencies such as the Texas Historical Commission and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. He donated his photography archive to UNT Special Collections in 2021.

Mallory says, “I hope the book’s community of photos — accompanied by short reflective essays — will help you see what I’ve long sought to see. ... a sense of Texas and of Texans, of how the land shaped the people and how the people shaped the land. More importantly I hope to entice you — native or newbie — to explore this uniquely fascinating place by looking and seeing Texas in your own way.”

Get more information and order details on the [UNT Press](#) site.



---

*Eyeing the pastry case at Edom Bakery & Grill,  
Edom, 2011*

*Bettie White Smith, the author’s grandmother,  
at a foot washing service  
in the Primitive Baptist Church, Van, 1980s*

*Lloyd Sumner on his wind-powered tricycle,  
US 69, Lindale, 1980s*

*Downtown bakery shop, Greenville, 2004*







Mar 8. Linda Davis  
With Bill Whyte & Lang Scott



Mar 27. Taste of Ireland

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# Reviving the Ancient Art of Caddo Basketry



By P.A. Geddie

Through a large cultural preservation grant from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and support from The Friends of Caddo Mounds, the ancient art of Caddo traditional rivercane basketry is being revived in partnership with the Caddo Mounds State Historic Site in Alto near Nacogdoches. The project is several years in the making and a PBS documentary was recently released about what's taken place so far. *Caddo Voices: A Basketry Revival* is available for streaming through the PBS app and website.

According to TxDOT, once plentiful along East Texas rivers and streams, rivercane is now a rare plant. It prevents erosion and provides places for fish and

animals to live. Native American tribes that call East Texas home consider it an important material. Rivercane is woven into their cultural traditions: it is used to make baskets and mats, shooting darts, and fishing rods. As rivercane disappeared, these art forms were nearly lost.

For this project, TxDOT partnered with the Caddo Mounds State Historic Site in Alto to bring rivercane back. Caddo Nation members learned how to identify, harvest, process, and weave rivercane into baskets. The students made the first hand harvested Caddo rivercane baskets in more than 800 years. Caddo Mounds planted new rivercane along a creek for future Caddo basket makers.

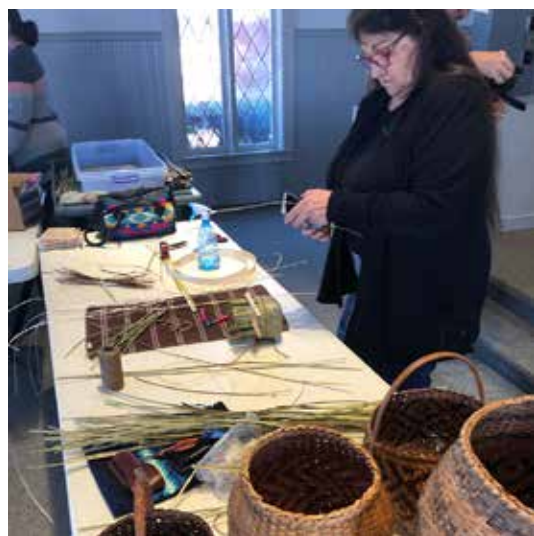
Caddo Mounds State Historic Site is where there was once a Caddo village

*ABOVE: The first traditional Caddo river cane basket made in more than 800 years by Jackie Bullard. Bullard plans to continue reviving traditional Caddo rivercane basketry through sources she now has with prehistoric knowledge of Caddo culture weaving patterns and with land management resources for several canebrakes in the Alto area.*

*OPPOSITE PAGE. Finished basket made by Yonavea Hawkins, Caddo Beadwork Artist, who participated in Caddo river cane basketry classes. Other photos show students at work during the classes.*

and ceremonial center. In the mid-1800's, the Hasinai Caddo were forcibly removed from their East Texas Homeland. Today, three earthen mounds, still considered sacred to Caddo people, are there and a visitor center that teaches how the Caddo lived on the land through

*continued page 22*



**CADDO** *continued from page 20*

exhibits and programs. Prehistoric sites like the Caddo Mounds are a reminder that long before European contact, society existed in the Americas.

Upon receiving the grant funding, Caddo Nation artist and historian Chase Kahwinhut Earles put a plan together for a river cane basketry class series and Sue Fish served as instructor with six Caddo students including Yonavea Hawkins, Jackie Bullard, Katelyn De Anne Polly, Jay Hawkins, Kay O'Neal, and Kristi Dane. The first classes were held in the Museum of East Texas in Lufkin while the Caddo Mounds new museum was under construction for repairs needed after an EF-3 tornado hit the complex on Caddo Culture Day in 2019.

"I was able to fulfill a wish of mine of helping to bring back to the Caddo the ancient art of traditional rivercane basketry by creating a class series that brought prominent and experienced Native basket weavers together with Caddo students to revive this art form that lied

dormant within our tribe," Earles says.

In January 2023, Earles announced the completion of the class series.

"Our Caddo students learned how to use the rivercane that we had all harvested and processed to weave into baskets," he said.

In the documentary, basket maker Katey Polly says, "I think a lot of people don't realize how much these arts and our foods and our culture really is contributing to the mental health and the overall wellness of various tribes. All the tribes. Getting back to those things is such a big healing process for communities to have access to ourselves.

"It's literally one of the hardest things I've ever done," she says. "It could be one of the most rewarding things too though. Difficulty does not equate to not enjoying it. It's absolutely amazing — the appreciation that I've gained for artists who spend their life doing this work.

"I didn't have any expectations coming into doing it," Polly continues. "I knew I wanted to find a creative outlet that con-

nected me to my culture. I hope I can carry on with it in one format or another, and all the different ways of connecting to the earth are really valuable to me."

Earles says he realizes the process is not easy but is happy the Caddo ancestors are honored through reviving the tradition.

"It's not like you just go to the store and buy the material," he says. "You really have to work hard to find the material, to process it to do this more traditional work. I really feel strongly we have some people that will be able to take this and pass it on and teach it to Caddos so we can keep the basketry alive."

The Caddo Mounds site reopened in May 2024 and that same month Jackie Bullard presented a webinar continuing the conversation about rivercane, natural processes, and basketry among other Caddo crafts.

Learn more about [Caddo Mounds State Historic Site](#) and future rivercane basketry projects on their website. See [Caddo Voices: A Basketry Revival](#) documentary on PBS.

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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](http://MountVernonMusic.org) for latest information about upcoming events, to purchase tickets, become a member, or make a donation.*

*Mount Vernon Music Association is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to providing outstanding performances of live music to communities, primarily in Northeast Texas. They present concerts of traditional chamber music, jazz and other styles as well as educational and family concerts, and programs for nursing homes, encouraging interaction of the performing and visual arts. Check their website for their performance schedule and make plans to see one of the region's best treasures in 2025.*

## Spring Fun in the Upper East Side of Texas



The small towns and cultural districts in the Upper East Side of Texas get a little bit livelier as the weather begins to warm and people look for creative ways to get out and enjoy themselves. Residents and visitors alike gather in small cafes and elegant dining rooms, on downtown squares and food truck courts, and enjoy the area's attractions and special events, including nature's magnificent showing of wild flowers and scenic views along the backroads and beautiful gardens.

Here are just a few ideas for fun ways to make good memories this spring of 2025.

### Greenville

Greenville has several options for arts and entertainment, restaurants, an award-winning winery, shopping, and attractions. Check out the beautiful murals and other outdoor art in a self-

guided Downtown Art Walk. There's also a Downtown Historic Walking Tour mapped out for visitors with stunning architecture and historic information and places.

The Audie Murphy American Cotton Museum pays tribute to its namesake World War II hero and Hollywood movie star as well as Greenville and Hunt County's colorful history. Exhibits include The Hall of Heroes, Cotton Production, Hunt County Gallery, Ende-Gillard House, and the Hunt County War Memorial. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday at 600 Interstate 30 East. Guided tours are available for groups of 10 or more by appointment. A picnic area is on the grounds.

Special events this spring include March 15 is LitCon from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on

*Motorized Bar Stool Races take place on March 15 in Ben Wheeler. The popular event began in Dallas in 1978 and moved to Ben Wheeler in 2015. The main attraction is the souped up motorized carts racing down Highway 279. Other festivities include artist vendors, street food, green beer, Irish tacos, leprechaun egg rolls, and live music all day.* PHOTO BY INE BURKE

March 15 at the Fletcher Warren Civic Center, 5501 US-69S. The event celebrates literature and pop culture including comics, manga, anime, games, and good old-fashioned books. Costumes are welcomed, but not required. The Hunt County Fair and Livestock Show is April 18-27. The Hunt County Festival of the Arts is May 10.

Get details on these events and others on [www.TravelGreenvilleTX.com](http://www.TravelGreenvilleTX.com).

### Longview

Spring in the View includes shopping,



Wildflower season in the Upper East Side of Texas typically lasts from March through May, with some special surprises like azaleas and other spring flowers popping up usually mid-March through mid-April. Along many of the highways and backroads of the region, visitors enjoy fields of beautiful flowers and nature at its best. It's always best to call organizers to confirm how Mother Nature is behaving at any given time. The thousands of daffodils at [Mrs. Lee's Daffodil Garden](#) near Gladewater may stick around until mid-March. Check out the [Azalea & Spring Flower Trail](#) in Tyler March 21 through April 6 and more azaleas in [Nacogdoches](#). The dogwoods may blossom about the same time — keep up with the latest from the official [Dogwood Trails Capital of Texas](#) in Palestine. Enjoy the [Ennis Bluebonnet Trails](#) April 1-30. The [Wildflower Trails of Texas](#) in and around Avinger, Hughes Springs, and Linden is April 25-26. PHOTO BY LISA HILBERS, LAKE FORK DAM

the arts and cultural district, good restaurants, and outdoor fun in parks and at the lovely [Longview Arboretum](#). The [Longview Museum of Fine Arts](#) has ongoing art exhibitions and a music series and visitors enjoy the murals and sculptures throughout the Arts!Longview Cultural District.

Some enjoy taking a day trip train through East Texas from Longview to Mineola and back. Others go for adventures with mini golf, bowling, indoor golfing, escape rooms, laser tag, arcades, and go carts.

St. Patty's Block Party is from 4-9 p.m. March 15 with food trucks, games, live music, and green beer at [Oil Horse Brewing Co.](#)

ArtWalk Longview takes place on April 3. It is a free, self-guided tour of downtown business venues exhibiting and selling art. Guests enjoy the museums, restaurants, food trucks, street musicians, and many talented artists.

[Dalton Days](#) is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 5 at the Gregg County Historical Museum. Inspired by the true story of a bank robbery in Longview in 1894, this annual event features Wild West shows, blacksmith demonstrations, children's activities, live music, concessions, and the famous Dalton Gang bank robbery reenactment.

Downtown Live is back from 5 to 8 p.m. every Friday night in April and May with free live music, drinks, and food trucks on and around Heritage Plaza.

Get a feel for fun in Longview with this [VIDEO](#) and go to [www.VisitLongview-Texas.com](http://www.VisitLongview-Texas.com) for itineraries and details to plan a day or overnight trip.

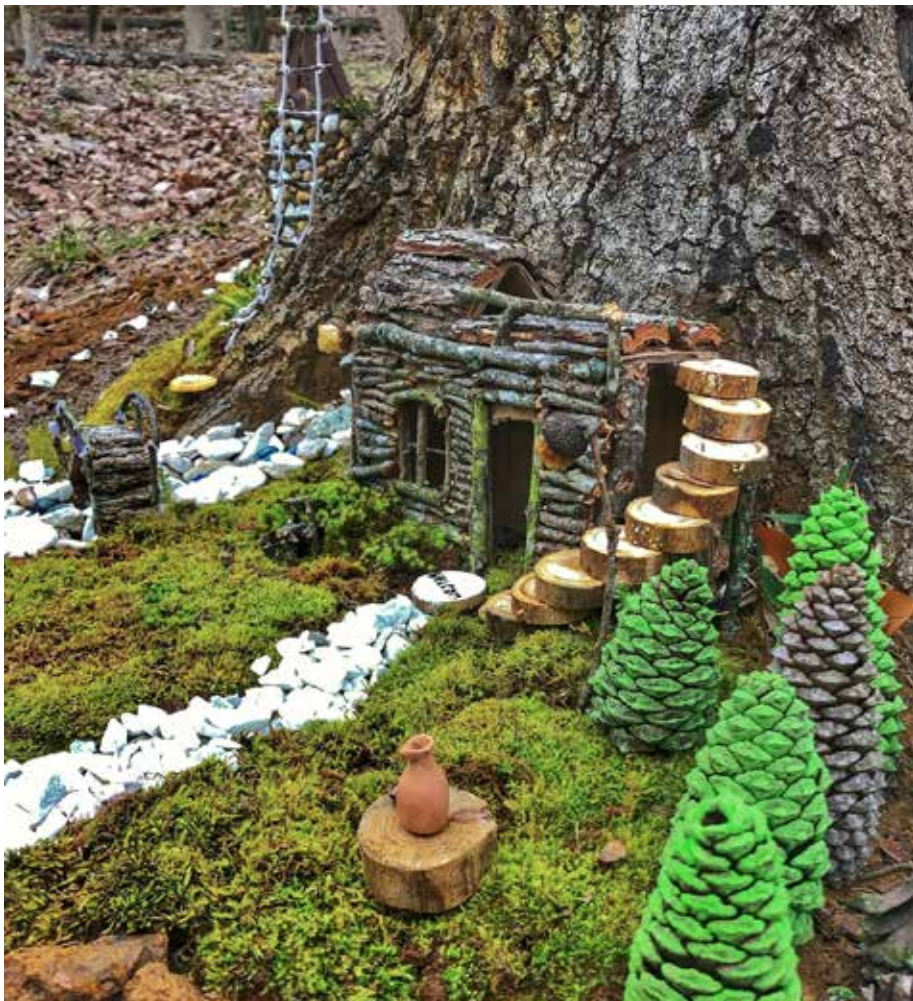
*continued page 28*



*Audie Murphy American Cotton Museum, Greenville*



*ABOVE: Downtown Sulphur Springs' Celebration Plaza is an inviting park-like area where visitors and residents alike enjoy hanging out and ongoing special events. PHOTO BY LOGAN VAUGHAN. LEFT: Palestine Fairy Garden*



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## **SPRING FUN** *continued from page 27*

### **McKinney**

McKinney's lovely downtown and surrounding area offers something for everyone for a day trip or overnight stay. Strolling around the downtown square, guests find unique shopping, good eats, arts, and more. Activities in and around town include live music, comedies, magic, and other entertainment, St Patrick's Day fun, garden shows, and a weekly farmers' market.

See Bugs LIVE at the Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary that starts March 15 and runs through June 29. Visitors explore larger-than-life animatronic insects and arachnids, strategically positioned along the nature trails of the Heard.

The McKinney Asian Festival takes place on April 5 at Dr Glenn Mitchell Park. Guests explore the rich tapestry of Asian culture with authentic street food, dance,

music, lion and dragon performances, shopping, and children's activities.

The annual Arts in Bloom Festival is from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. April 11-13 in historic downtown McKinney. Featuring more than 120 juried artists and renowned Texas wineries. Downtown McKinney.

Empty Bowls McKinney is from 6-8 p.m. April 24 at the McKinney Performing Arts Center. Enjoy samples of gourmet soups prepared by local restaurant chefs and choose from hundreds of event bowls made by local artists. Proceeds go to local charities that provide food to those in need.

Check out [www.visitmckinney.com](http://www.visitmckinney.com) for details on places to stay, restaurants, and more things to do.

## Palestine

The quaint town of Palestine, Texas, is in full bloom each spring as they celebrate the beautiful dogwood season. This year's Dogwood Trails Celebration takes place March 21 through April 6. Visitors enjoy the delicate beauty of the dogwood trees in Davey Dogwood Park and the surrounding area. Activities are scheduled each weekend to including special excursion train rides at the Texas State Railroad, the Farm & Flower Market, and a play at the historic Texas Theatre. Fairy Garden Trails take place from dawn to dusk March 22 to April 30 in Davey Dogwood Park. The park has five and a half miles of driving trails and those who walk onto the trails find hidden fairy gardens. Go to [www.VisitPalestine.com](http://www.VisitPalestine.com) for a full list of spring adventures.

Texas State Railroad opens its 2025 season on March 7 with regular journeys through the picturesque East Texas landscape on the enchanting Piney Woods Train Excursion. For more details and to check the full schedule, visit [www.texas-staterailroad.net](http://www.texas-staterailroad.net).

The Dogwood Arts Council is hosting a VIP Art Event on March 21. The evening celebrates art, community, and culture takes place at the Farmers Market Pavilion. A carefully curated selection of artwork from talented local and regional artists is showcased in an elegant and inviting atmosphere. Guests indulge in

*continued page 30*



*Downtown McKinney*



*San Augustine Heritage Festival takes place April 11-12 celebrating the rich history of the town that began in 1836. Activities include street vendors, sidewalk sales, pancake breakfast, arts and crafts, food trucks, car show, children's activities, petting zoo, art show, quilt show, live entertainment, and local tours. Attractions include the renovated 1919 jail with the Law Enforcement Museum and the historic Stripling Building with an indoor water well. For more information call (935) 201-4307 and go to [www.visitsanaugustinetx.org](http://www.visitsanaugustinetx.org). Pictured are Sherry Lockley, Evelyn and Ken Miller celebrating San Augustine's rich history at a past Heritage Festival.*

**SPRING** *continued from page 29*

delicious appetizers and drinks from local restaurants and distributors while enjoying music and interactive fundraising activities. Casual networking and opportunities to engage with artists is encouraged. On Saturday, March 22, the Dogwood Arts Council hosts a free art show at Farmers Market Pavilion.

The 1836 is April 11-13 with wagon races, rodeos, trail rides, live music, and more. For a complete schedule of events, visit [www.The1836.com](http://www.The1836.com).

Go to [www.VisitPalestine.com](http://www.VisitPalestine.com) for a full list of spring adventures.

**Rockwall**

Rockwall's charming downtown has shopping, dining, and entertainment options throughout the year. A [map of Downtown Rockwall](#) shows almost 200 businesses with apparel, beauty and wellness products and services, home furnishings, gifts, and numerous restaurants.

The [Harbors](#) just down the road another delightful destination next to Lake Ray Hubbard. Sailing cruises begin in May.

Upcoming events include [Spring Fling](#) on March 27 with downtown merchants offering shopping specials and fun. The San Jacinto Plaza Music series and Farmers' Market starts in May.



*Flipepout! Extreme Trampoline Shows, Terrell Jubilee*

*Outdoor dining next to Lake Ray Hubbard, The Harbor, Rockwall*



## Sulphur Springs

The award-winning Romanesque Revival courthouse in downtown Sulphur Springs is the showpiece and inspiration for the lively Celebration Plaza at the heart of the community. Visitors wander about the inviting, park-like grounds, play giant checkers and chess games, enjoy the laughter of children, experience the inspiring veterans memorial, and line up to use the amusing see-through bathrooms. After a chilly winter, spring around Celebration Plaza finds residents and visitors alike enjoying themselves on the plaza and in the shops and restaurants that surround it.

Several other parks in Sulphur Springs are inviting and popular attractions include the [Heritage Park & Museum](#), the Music Box Museum located in the [Sulphur Springs Public Library](#), and the [Southwest Dairy Museum and Education Center](#).

Special events this spring included the Carden International Circus on March 4 at the Hopkins County Civic Center with animal rides, face painting, inflatables, and circus stars. Spring Market on Main takes place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 12 and Claws for a Cause Crawfish Boil is April 26.

Go to [www.VisitSulphurSpringsTX.org](http://www.VisitSulphurSpringsTX.org) to learn more.

## Terrell

Terrell has a couple of big events happening this spring. On March 29 is Happy Days in Terrell America that gives visitors a “step back in time” with live music, a car show, special sales reflective of decades past, and giveaways. The event promises a day of nostalgia, fun, and community spirit as locals and visitors come together to celebrate Terrell’s charm and history.

The highlight of the event is the Happy Days Car Show, featuring an impressive lineup of classic cars that line the streets, offering a display of automotive history. Car enthusiasts and families alike have the chance to admire beautifully restored vehicles while enjoying the lively atmosphere of downtown Terrell.

In addition to the car show, downtown merchants and restaurants are rolling



*Scarborough Renaissance Festival is April 5 through May 26 in Waxahachie. Since 1980, this Renaissance themed festival set in a re-created 16th Century English village celebrates the visit of King Henry VIII, his Royal Court and other dignitaries. Entertainment includes full combat armored jousts, Birds of Prey exhibitions, the Mermaid Lagoon and unique, interactive Renaissance entertainment on 20+ stages. There is also a 100+ member performing company that brings Scarborough to life through their portrayals of the royal court, dignitaries, villagers and peasants alike. One-of-a-kind handmade crafts are found in 200 village shoppes. Find artist demonstrations, food, and pubs with wine and beer. [srfestival.com](http://srfestival.com)*

out special promotions and discounts throughout the day including unique gifts, stylish apparel, and dining.

Then on April 24-27 the annual Terrell Jubilee Returns with a weekend of fun activities at Ben Gill Park. This four-day festival includes a mix of live entertainment, attractions, carnival rides, food, and family-friendly fun. Highlights include a 5K run and fun walk, pig races, a car show, tug of war tournament, and new this year is the Flippenout Extreme Trampoline Show with high-energy aerial stunts.

Admission to the Terrell Jubilee is free,

with carnival ride tickets available for purchase on-site.

For event schedules, or vendor details, visit [www.TerrellJubilee.com](http://www.TerrellJubilee.com).

For more information on events and more things to do in Terrell, go to [www.DiscoverTerrell.com](http://www.DiscoverTerrell.com).

Other notable events this spring include Avalon Faire on weekends April 12-27 near Kilgore; East Texas Gusher Days on April 18-19 in Gladewater; Derrick Days on April 23-26 in Corsicana; and Texas Hot Links Festival on April 26 in Pittsburg.



## Ennis Bluebonnet Trails Celebrates 73 Years

Celebrate the bluebonnet spirit in Ennis during April with a the month-long celebration of the Texas state flower and annual rite of spring. Activities include 40 miles of wildflowers and a festival that brings in visitors from around the world.

Ennis was designated by the 1997 State Legislature as the home of the Official Texas Bluebonnet Trail and was designated the Official Bluebonnet City of Texas.

The 73rd annual Ennis Bluebonnet Trails Festival, presented by the Ennis Garden Club, is hosted in the heart of Historic Downtown Ennis. The three-day festival kicks off at 10 a.m. Friday, April 11 and runs through Sunday. Throughout the weekend, there are unique shopping vendors and live entertainment.

Visitors also enjoy tasty food, fun kids' activities, relaxing in the beer garden, and sampling Texas wines at the Ennis Education Foundation Wine Wander.

In addition to the festival, visitors to En-

nis experience the beautiful nature of the 40 miles of mapped bluebonnet driving trails the entire month of April. Along the route visitors enjoy tree lined country roads, longhorn cows, horses, and many wildflowers. Sugar Ridge Winery, located along the North trail, is a great spot to stop and enjoy a glass of wine on their outdoor patio.

Visitors are encouraged to make their first stop at the Ennis Welcome Center in historic downtown Ennis-201 NW Main Street for a map, to learn all about the best spots on the trail, and get local recommendations on where to shop and dine. The welcome center is features a Spring Into Art exhibition each year. This year's show is Marred by Dust, a tooled leather showcase by Kyle Keever. It opens at 6 p.m. March 29 with a reception and remains open through the end of April.

The latest trail map is also available online at [www.bluebonnettrail.org](http://www.bluebonnettrail.org). An interactive map that includes specific direc-

tions to points of interest is available by downloading the free Ennis Y'all app.

While in Ennis visitors are encouraged to attend the locally popular Downtown Ennis Bluebonnet Market. The market features fresh produce, baked goods, hand spun pottery, jewelry, clothing and more. It is open from 8 a.m. to noon every Saturday April through October. Free live entertainment including music, magic shows, bubbles, and dancing take place at 10 a.m.

The Ennis Welcome Center is open seven days a week in April. For more information, call (972) 878-4748 and go to [www.visitennistexas.com](http://www.visitennistexas.com). Visitors are encouraged to call, email, or keep in touch via the app and social links before driving long distances for the latest status of the bluebonnets. Visitors are encouraged to call, email, or explore the website before driving long distances for the latest status of the bluebonnets. Status updates for the best viewing times are available also online at [www.bluebonnettrail.org](http://www.bluebonnettrail.org).





# Willis Country Cabins Welcomes Guests for Getaways and Gatherings



Lila and Daniel Willis turned their love for the East Texas countryside into a welcoming retreat for families and friends.

“Our dream began with a vision to create a serene space for gatherings, celebrations, or simply unwinding,” Lila says. “We built this haven from the ground up and we’re thrilled to share it.”

They host tranquil getaways and provide a gathering place for their guests to experience special moments in life like family reunions, weddings, and other events. Their luxury resort ac-

commodates larger groups while offering a home-like atmosphere.

The Willis’ six children embrace their lifestyle, enriched by gardening and caring for their farm animals. Their 16-year-old daughter, Kate, offers pony parties and a miniature petting zoo for guests.

The cabins are nestled in well with nature and range from a cozy cabin for two to a spacious house for a whole family or group. The exclusive four-cabin private resort features a lake and beach with lounge chairs, umbrellas, and a volleyball net, along

with two fire pit areas for cozy gatherings under the stars, as well as a pavilion with outdoor grill.

Among the cabin amenities are several bed sizes, showers, tubs, equipped kitchens, dishwashers, washing machines, central heat and air, large flatscreen TVs, and wireless internet. Pets are not allowed on the property.

Get more details and book a memorable experience at Willis Country Cabins by calling (903) 474-3624 and visiting [www.WillisCountryCabins.com](http://www.WillisCountryCabins.com).



# Opal Lee Receiving History Making Award



By P.A. Geddie

Among this year's honorees at the National Women's History Museum's (NWHM) Women Making History Awards on March 20 at The Anthem in Washington, D.C. is Dr. Opal Lee, the "Grandmother of Juneteenth." Lee was born in Marshall, Texas, and moved to Fort Worth with her family as a child. Not long after, on June 19, 1939, an angry mob destroyed their home.

A seed was planted in young Opal Lee that day. A growing determination took her through raising her children, earning her educational degrees back in Marshall at Wiley College, and eventually finding her place in the world of activism, with a special focus on the meaning of June-

teenth that commemorates freedom for enslaved people.

Her determination resulted in helping to get June 19 officially designated as a federal holiday in 2021. Dr. Lee is the oldest living board member of the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation (NJOF) started by the late Dr. Ronald Myers to have Juneteenth declared a National Holiday. At 90 years of age, she started her walking campaign, and in 2019, she launched an online petition campaign that garnered over 1.6 million signatures to continue the crusade for holiday observance.

Dr. Lee currently serves on the board of Unity Unlimited, Inc. and is a board member and honorary chair of the Na-

tional Juneteenth Museum. She has received eight honorary doctorates, was named 2021 Texan of the Year by the *Dallas Morning News* editorial board, the 2021 Unsung Hero of the Pandemic, Fort Worth Inc.'s 2022 Person of the Year, is a Nobel Peace Prize nominee, and a Presidential Medal of Freedom Recipient. She is the second American of African descent to have her portrait hung in the Texas State Senate.

The other powerful women being honored with Dr. Lee are Sara Blakely, inventor, entrepreneur, and philanthropist; and Shirley Welsh Ryan, advocate for transformative research and education. In addition, Mattel will receive NWHM's inaugural Evelyn Y. Davis Corporate Changemaker Award for the societal impact of its brands — like Barbie — on generations of girls, and its purpose to empower all to explore the wonder of childhood and reach their full potential. Lisa McKnight, Mattel's executive vice president and chief brand officer, will accept the award on the company's behalf. Award-winning actress and icon Meryl Streep serves as the honorary chair of the evening, and the program will be hosted by CBS News award-winning journalist Norah O'Donnell.

"We are incredibly proud to be celebrating this incomparable group of honorees at our gala. They have each made indelible contributions to society that will endure for generations to come," said Susan D. Whiting, chair of the NWHM Board of Directors. "We are looking forward to commemorating the remarkable achievements of Sara, Opal, Shirley, and Mattel at what promises to be an inspiring and unforgettable night."

Since its debut in 2012, the Women Making History Awards has honored distinguished figures across various fields, including literary giant Dr. Maya Angelou, acclaimed actresses Viola Davis and Rita Moreno, NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson, SpaceX President Gwynne Shotwell, and civil rights icon Dolores Huerta.

Founded in 1996, the National Women



# MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER!

*Women Educating & Inspiring Generations*

IN SOLIDARITY

**NWHA**  
NATIONAL WOMEN'S  
HISTORY ALLIANCE

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

en's History Museum is an innovative virtual-first museum dedicated to uncovering, interpreting, and celebrating women's diverse contributions to society. A renowned leader in women's history education, the museum brings to life the countless untold stories of

women throughout history, and serves as a space for all to inspire, experience, collaborate, and amplify women's impact — past, present, and future. They strive to fundamentally change the way women and girls see their potential and power.

Additional information and tickets for the

gala are available on [www.WomensHistory.org](http://www.WomensHistory.org).

Read more about Opal Lee in the *County Line* archives including the articles *Opal Lee Walks Juneteenth to Victory* and *Ceremony Brings Juneteenth Grandmother Home*.

# Tyler Tour Explores Pollard Historic District



The 2025 Historic Tyler on Tour features five homes showcasing Mid-Century designs as the Pollard Residential Historic District is in the final stages of the nomination process to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

On July 5, 2023, Historic Tyler submitted to the Texas Historical Commission (THC) the application for the proposed Pollard Residential Historic District to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The district is approximately bounded by Hudson Street to the north, Paluxy Drive to the east, Southeast Loop 323 to the south, and New Copeland Road and Bateman Avenue to the west. These boundaries include more than 1,200 structures dating

from the 1940s-1973 and reflect the Post World-War II era housing and population boom. The district showcases a variety of architectural styles, including Minimal Traditional, Styled-Ranches, and Modern residential designs.

On May 18, 2024 the State Board of Review approved the Pollard application to be submitted by the THC to the National Park Service (NPS) in Washington, D.C. for final review. A final determination of eligibility is expected from the NPS in 2025. If approved, the Pollard Residential Historic District becomes the 8th (and largest) historic district within the city limits of Tyler.

A Candelight Garden Party kicks off the annual tour from 7 to 10 p.m. Fri-

day, March 28. Hosted by Suzanne and Brad Curtis at 3117 Dinah Lane in the Pollard neighborhood, the evening includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, live music, a photo booth, and a tour of their 1955 International Ranch style home. Tickets are \$125 to \$150 and this is a 21+ event. Ticket price includes a weekend tour ticket.

The tours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 29 and 1-5 p.m. Sunday, March 30. Tickets are \$15-25 and available at [www.HistoricTyler.org](http://www.HistoricTyler.org). Some of the homes are residential designs by architects E. Davis Wilcox and Carl Gregory. Ages 12+. Note: Some properties feature sloped landscapes, stairs to enter the home, and multi-level interiors.



## Destination Beach Paradise is Coming to McKinney

Cannon Beach, a \$200 million multi-use development set to redefine recreation, tourism, and economic innovation in North Texas is coming to McKinney. Anticipated to break ground this year at the northeast corner of Stacy Road and S.H. 121, this 35-acre project will feature a four-acre surf lagoon, a full-service resort-style hotel, and dining, entertainment, and business spaces.

At the heart of the development is a resort-style hotel with a rooftop pool, offering an elevated experience complete with event and wedding spaces, nestled alongside a pristine sandy beach. The resort will feature lounge areas and cabanas with food service and will connect to the surf lagoon and a host of water-focused attrac-

tions, including cliff diving and a stationary surf wave. The vision is to surround these attractions with uses like a skateboard park, movie theater, bowling alley, health club, indoor recreation facilities, and more.

“This project is truly transformative, answering our community’s call for more family-focused activities while positioning McKinney as a premier destination for one-of-a-kind recreational experiences,” Mayor George Fuller said. “Cannon Beach perfectly reflects our city’s unique spirit, seamlessly combining innovative attractions with purposeful urban planning to drive economic growth.”

The development is a collaboration between the City of McKinney, the McKinney Economic Development

Corporation, and the McKinney Community Development Corporation. The first phase is projected to open as early as 2026.

The project is expected to provide more than 700 local jobs, generate more than \$2 billion in economic impact over the next 20 years, and welcome 300,000 visitors annually.

“In addition to the tourism component of this project, Cannon Beach plans to deliver 100,000 square feet of state-of-the-art office space, positioning itself as a hub for top talent and innovation, from global corporations to ambitious startups,” Fuller said.

To stay informed on the McKinney site, visit [www.cannonbeachtx.com](http://www.cannonbeachtx.com).

IN A

WORLD

WHERE YOU CAN

BE ANYTHING

BE

KIND





# Enjoy the View.

## LONGVIEW

### Longview

TEXAS

*Welcome to Longview!* We are the East Texas regional hub for fun. We are blue skies and fish fries. We love The Great Texas Balloon Race and Downtown Live concerts. We are outdoor adventure, big trees, parks, trails, biking and birding. We are Art Walks, Wine Swirls and Arboretum strolls. We love our symphony, museums and live theatre. We are Longview, Texas.

*Come enjoy the View, we have lots to do.*

VisitLongviewTexas.com | 903.753.3281 | 109 West Tyler Street | Longview, Texas 75601

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VIDEO

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# Willis Country Cabins

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www.WillisCountryCabins.com

**BOOK NOW**

## Find Visual Arts at Galleries and Museums



Galleries and museums in the Upper East Side of Texas offer a colorful and eclectic display of visual art.

Pictured above is a piece by Ann Glaess, representative of the *Yakety Yak* exhibit (just animals) at [Winnsboro Center for the Arts](#) through March 22. From March 26-May 17, WCA features BLOOM, an art exhibition featuring floral and spring-themed artwork of approximately 30 artists, including still life paintings, photography, sculptures, and mixed media pieces. WCA gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.

Every Saturday from 1-4 p.m. through

March 29 the Renaissance Art Collective Presents *HerStory & Beyond: Moving Forward Together Celebrating Women Through Art and Legacy* at the [Spellman Museum of Forney History](#).

Exhibiting at [Longview Museum of Fine Arts](#) is *George Rodrigue: Painting for Myself* through May 24 and *Six Degrees of Separation* through December 20. From March 6 through May 10 they are showcasing the works of high school students in the *65th Student Invitational*.

The [Dogwood Arts Council](#) is presenting a VIP Art Event on March 21, followed by an Art Show on March 22 at the Farmers Market Pavilion.

*My Own Backyard*, photographs by Earlie Hudnall, Jr. is on exhibit through March 9 at the [Tyler Museum of Art](#) and *New to Town*, an exhibition highlighting works acquired in the past few years. Call (903) 595-1001 to find out what else is showing at TMA this spring.

Several arts-focused events take place this spring include the [Hunt County Festival of the Arts](#) in Greenville on May 10 and [North Texas Arts Festival](#) in Denison on May 17.

Find a comprehensive list of galleries and museums and other arts-related links on the [County Line website](#).



FEB 1ST -  
MAR 29TH  
EVERY  
SATURDAY  
1:00 PM  
TO 4:00 PM

RENAISSANCE ART COLLECTIVE PRESENTS

# "HerSTORY"

"HerStory & Beyond: Moving Forward Together Celebrating Women Through Art and Legacy" (Featuring Art About Women, Created By Women and Men to Honor The Achievements of Women)."

LOCATION:  
SPELLMAN MUSEUM  
OF FORNEY HISTORY  
200 S BOIS D ARC ST. FORNEY, TX 75126

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[renaissanceartcollective@gmail.com](mailto:renaissanceartcollective@gmail.com)

Share with PositivityWash.com

# Craighead Green Presents Pribyl, Ray, and Walker



Craighead Green Gallery presents the artworks of Tom Pribyl, Marty Ray, and Katie Walker through March 29.

*Tom Pribyl's Ultimate Sh\*tshow* invites people to reflect on the meaning of home and the ways in which they make their mark on the spaces they occupy.

"I hope my paintings challenge the viewer to see the beauty in the mundane and the profound in the everyday," Pribyl says. "I try to create visually compelling paintings of home interiors. I present images of living rooms, unmade beds, empty bathrooms, and half-eaten meals that are devoid of human figures. My work focuses on the artifacts of daily human activity, revealing intimate and personal details of people's everyday lives. The paintings also suggest a narrative, prompting the viewer to imagine the people who inhabit these spaces and the stories they might tell."

Marty Ray's show *Pots of Whimsey* includes her pottery with her husband Richard's drawings on them.

"His freely drawn figures and imagination lead to happy pots even if a subject is serious," Ray says. "My work is always created for fun and for pleasure. If this work brings smiles and a bit of joy to others, its primary function is a success."

Katie Walker's *Sense of Space* reveals her process of mixing, pouring, layering and building with acrylic paints.

"Planes, edges and marks are all shifting in this body of work," she says. "Peripheral mark-making is front and center while some of my familiar imagery is taking a backstage. I am excited about the unpredictable, thoughts and associations that my finished works might evoke among viewers."

Craighead Green Gallery, at 167 Parkhouse Street in Dallas, is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Their next exhibition features Heather Gotham, Pamela Nelson, and Chris Mason from April 5-May 10. For more information call (214) 855-0779 and visit [www.CraigheadGreen.com](http://www.CraigheadGreen.com).





# Performing Arts Fill Area Stages



Performing arts in the region in the next couple of months include numerous shows at the [LeTourneau University Belcher Center](#) in Longview. Scheduled are *Barricade Boys — Broadway Party*, March 1; *Kilgore Hi-Steppers*, March 29; *Big Daddy Weave*, April 4; Longview Symphony Orchestra: *Out of This World—A Sci-Fi Spectacular*, April 26, and *Celtic Woman*, May 3.

In Sulphur Springs, the Community Players present *Chess Knight's Rapunzel Uncut*, a one act play by Mariah Everman, March 7-9; *The Brothers Grimm* on March 21-23; and *Antichrist Cometh* on April 25-27 at Main St. Theatre. Visit their [website](#) for more information.

ArtsView Children's Theatre in Longview presents *Anne of Green Gables* on

March 6-9. This heartwarming dramatization of L.M. Montgomery's beloved classic, follows the spirited orphan Anne Shirley as she navigates life at Green Gables, from her first meeting with her strict guardian to her achievements at Queen's Academy. This adaptation brings Anne's most unforgettable moments to life — her cherished friendship with Diana, humorous mishaps with a mistaken wine bottle and a cake disaster, and her touching bond with Matthew. Tickets are \$15 and will be found on the [website](#).

See *The Sound of Music* on March 28-30 and April 4-6 at the Historic Texas Theatre in Palestine. This family-friendly production tells the heartwarming story of a lively governess who brings joy and music into a naval captain's home. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for stu-

*ABOVE: Tara McNeill is a violinist, singer and harpist from Antrim, Ireland, who is one of four members of the Irish group Celtic Woman who perform at Belcher Center in Longview on May 3. She is the second violinist to join the artists and she is also the first multi-instrumentalist as she brings her harp and voice to the group.*

dents (4-18). For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.pctboxoffice.com](http://www.pctboxoffice.com).

A comedy show by [Duck, Duck, Moose!](#) is from 7-9 p.m. April 12 at the Longview Community Center. The audience is invited to be part of a game show experience including the Price is Wheel or No Deal Feud.

Find more performing arts through venue links in the [County Line website](#).

# WCA Theater Scheduled for 2025

Winnsboro Center for the Arts (WCA) is presenting four plays for their 2025 season. Each play has six shows at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday evenings and 2:30 p.m. Sunday matinees.

*The Glass Menagerie* is March 28-30 and April 4-6. It is directed by Dr. John A. Price. Written by Tennessee Williams, the play follows the lives of a family of three (mother Amanda and two adult children, Laura and Tom) as they struggle to deal with a changing world in which they do not fit in. The main themes in *The Glass Menagerie* include gender roles, avoiding unpleasant situations, family responsibilities, and unfulfilled desire.

Neil Simon's *Barefoot in the Park* shows are June 20-22 and 27-29. It is guest directed by Nelson Bond. In a case of opposites attract, blissful young newlyweds Paul, a conservative lawyer, and vivacious Corie, see their highly passionate relationship descend into

comical discord as they struggle to get along in their Manhattan fixer-upper apartment. *Barefoot in the Park* is among the top 10 longest-running non-musical plays in Broadway history, and it was turned into a blockbuster movie.

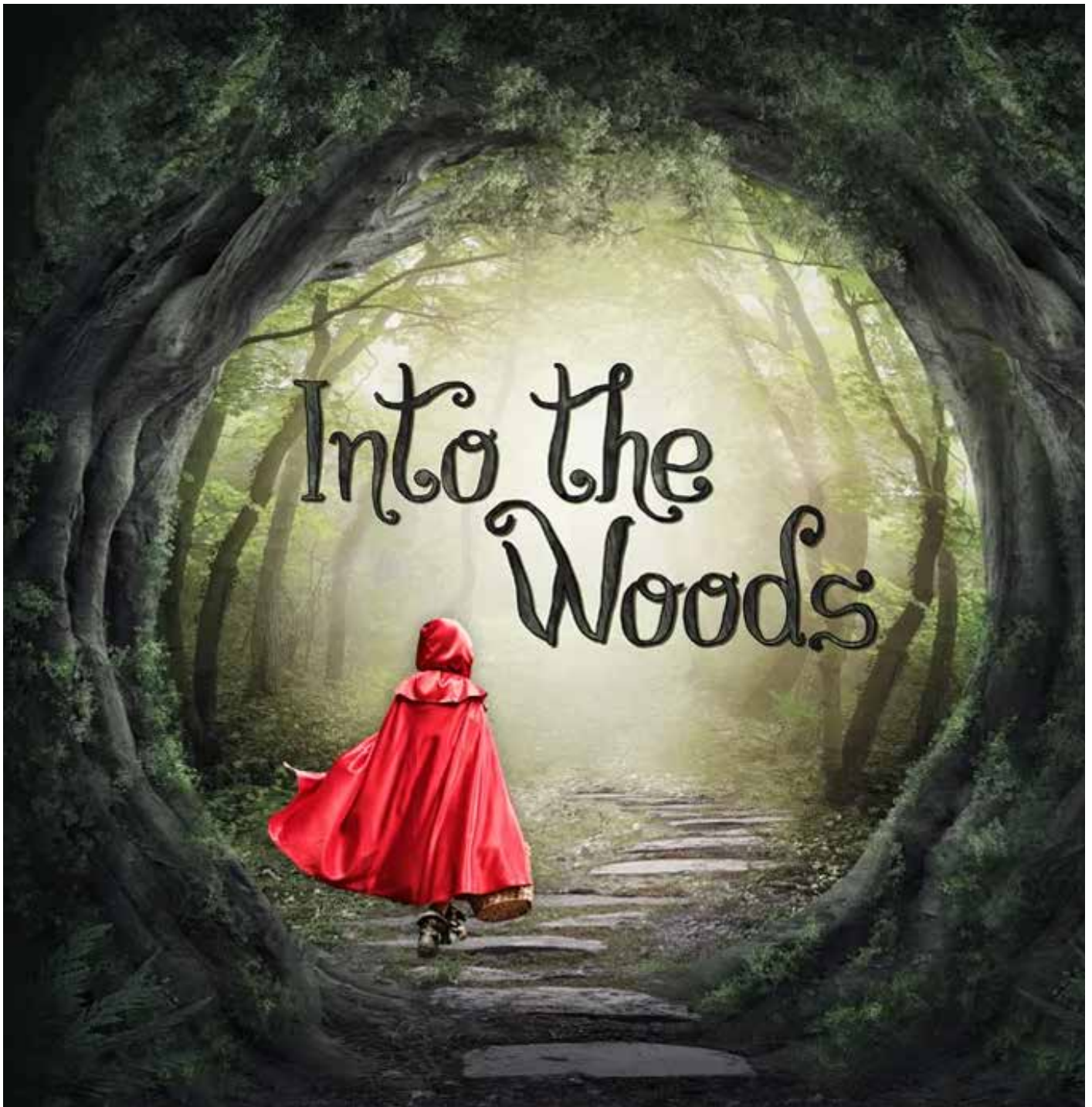
Dr. Price returns to direct *Romeo and Juliet* August 15-17 and 22-24. Written by William Shakespeare, Price will add his own spin to the story that begins with an age-old vendetta between two powerful families. A group of masked Montagues gatecrash a Capulet party. A young lovesick Romeo Montague falls instantly in love with Juliet Capulet, who is due to marry her father's choice, the County Paris. With the help of Juliet's nurse, the women arrange for the couple to marry the next day, but Romeo's attempt to halt a street fight leads to the death of Juliet's own cousin, for which Romeo is banished. In a desperate attempt to be reunited with

Romeo, Juliet follows the Friar's plot and fakes her own death. The message fails to reach Romeo, and believing Juliet dead, he takes his life in her tomb. Juliet wakes to find Romeo's corpse beside her and kills herself. The grieving families agree to end their feud.

The final play of the year is *A Christmas Carol*, with guest director Sheila Brown. The shows are on December 12-14 and 19-21. Written by Charles Dickens, it recounts the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, an elderly miser who is visited by the ghost of his former business partner Jacob Marley and the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come. In the process, Scrooge is transformed into a kinder, gentler man.

Go to [www.winnsborocenterforthearts.com](http://www.winnsborocenterforthearts.com) for tickets and more information or call (903) 342-0686.





## Greenville Theatre Works Goes Into the Woods

Greenville Theatre Works presents *Into the Woods* on April 25-27 and May 2-4 at the Fletcher Warren Civic Center. James Lapine and Stephen Sondheim take storybook characters and bring them together for a timeless, yet relevant, piece and a rare modern classic. The Tony Award-winning book and score are both enchanting and touching.

The story follows a baker and his wife, who wish to have a child; Cinderella, who wishes to attend the King's Festival; and Jack, who wishes his cow would give milk. When the Baker and his wife learn that they cannot have a child because of a witch's curse, the two set off on a journey to break the curse. Everyone's wish is granted, but the consequences of their

actions return to haunt them later with disastrous results.

This play is directed by Micah McBay with assistant directors Heather McBay and Avery Arnold and choreographer Ariel Ross.

Get tickets on the theatre's [website](#).



# Cowan Center Presents Three Final Shows of Their Season



Several events take place at the Cowan Center in Tyler soon. *MOMIX Presents Alice* ([VIDEO](#)) at 7:30. p.m. Tuesday, March 4. Blending illusion, acrobatics, magic, and whimsy, MOMIX sends audiences “down the rabbit hole” in Moses Pendleton’s newest creation, *ALICE*, inspired by Lewis Carroll’s classic *Alice in Wonderland*. Join this dazzling company on a mind-bending adventure, as Alice encounters time-honored characters including the undulating Caterpillar, a lobster quadrille, frenzied White Rabbits, a mad Queen of Hearts, and a variety of other surprises in visual and creative movement.

Broadway’s *Pretty Woman The Musical* ([VIDEO](#)) is at 7:30. p.m. Wednesday March 12 and *The Cher Show* is at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 5.

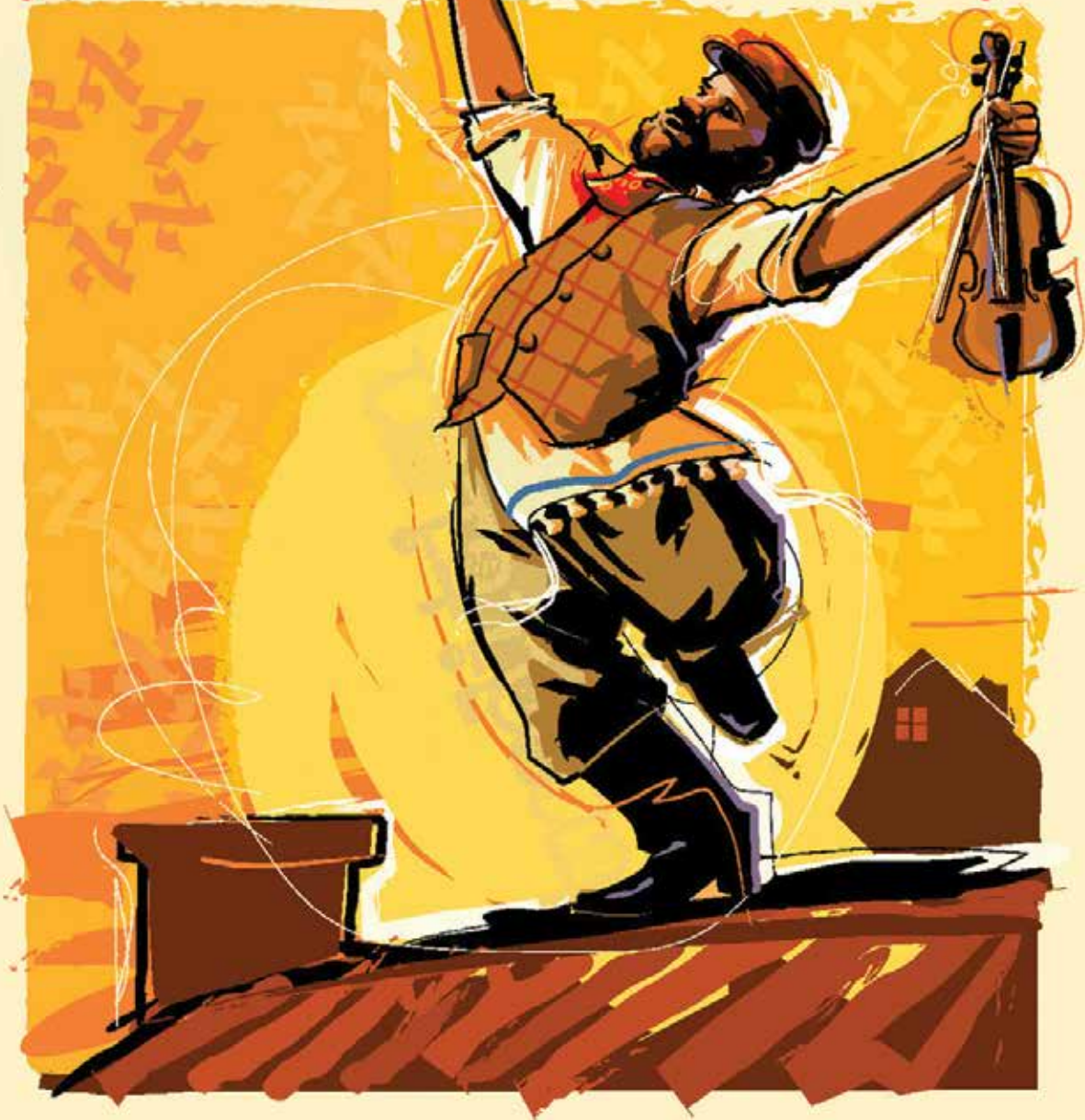
Get tickets and more information on [www.CowanCenter.org](http://www.CowanCenter.org).

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*ABOVE: Lorenzo Pugliese as Sonny, Catherine Ariale as Lady, and the cast of The Cher Show. PHOTO BY MEREDITH MASHBURN PHOTOGRAPHY. RIGHT: Alice and Lewis in MOMIX Alice.*



# FIDDLER ON THE ROOF



## Fiddler on the Roof is in Athens

Henderson County Performing Arts Center (HCPAC) and PJ Ericson present the Broadway musical *Fiddler on the Roof* April 24-May 3. The popular music is by Jerry Bock with lyrics by Sheldon Harnick and the show was created from a book by Joseph Stein.

The HCPAC productions under the direction of Pat Jousan Williams. The story is about life among the Jewish community of a pre-revolutionary Russian village. In 1905, Tevye, a Jewish milkman in the Russian village of Anatevka, in-

troduces the importance of tradition in their precarious lives. When the matchmaker suggests a wealthy butcher, Lazar Wolf, as a husband for Tevye's eldest daughter, Tzeitel, Tevye agrees, but Tzeitel secretly loves Motel, a poor tailor. Tevye ultimately supports their union after concocting a dream to convince his wife, Golde.

Meanwhile, Tevye's second daughter, Hodel, falls in love with Perchik, a radical student, and leaves to join him after he's imprisoned. Tevye's third daughter,

Chava, marries a non-Jewish villager against Tevye's wishes and is disowned.

Soon after, the Jewish villagers are forced to leave Anatevka due to Russian persecution. As they depart, the fiddler plays, symbolizing their resilience.

With iconic songs like "Sunrise, Sunset," "If I Were a Rich Man," and "Matchmaker, Matchmaker," this production explores themes of love, tradition, and change. Get tickets and more information on <https://hcpac.org> or call (903) 675-3908.

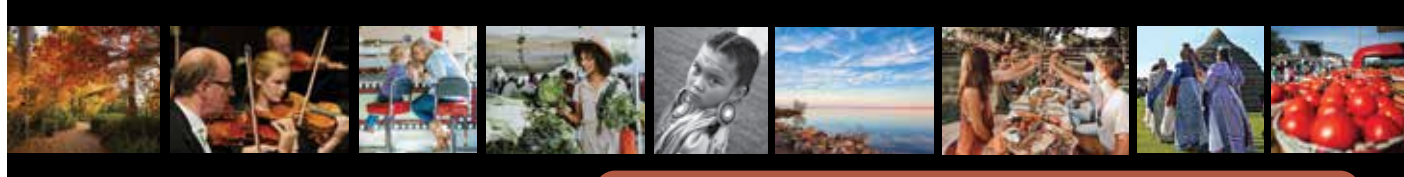
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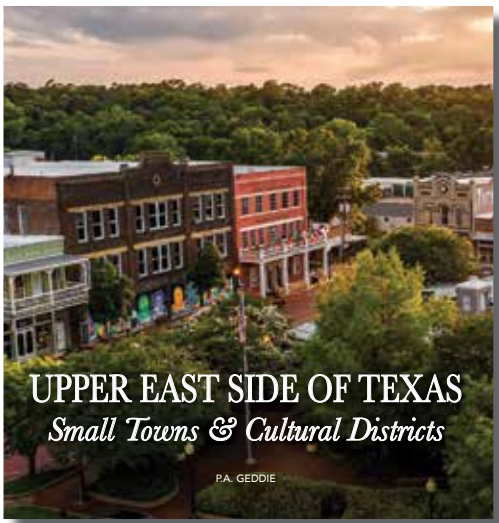
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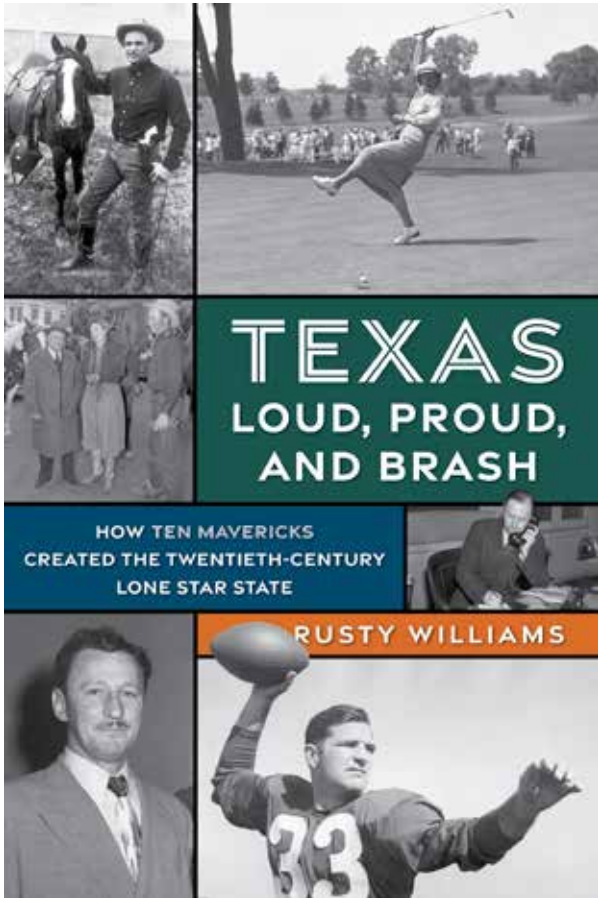


[www.SpeckledCrow.com](http://www.SpeckledCrow.com)

HARDCOVER & EBOOK VERSIONS



# Author Rusty Williams Talks Texas in Greenville



Dallas author Rusty Williams is speaking on May 6 at the Audie Murphy American Cotton Museum in Greenville. He'll talk about "how Texans gained a reputation for being oversized, cocky, self-promotional, sports-crazy, and too rich for their own damn good."

From his book recently released by Roman & Littlefield, *Texas Loud, Proud, and Brash — How Ten Mavericks Created the Twentieth-Century Lone Star State* he introduces 10 unique Texans — Greenville-born Audie Murphy among them — he credits with changing the state's reputation beginning in the 1920s.

"In 1925, most non-Texans wrote off the state as little more than cactus, cattle, and cowboys," Williams says. "By 1950, *Life Magazine* (among others) was dedicating multi-page spreads to Texas sports teams, Texas women, Texas oil millionaires, and the locals who bragged about everything Texan."

His 10 unique Texans include Boyce House, Tom Hickman, Mildred "Babe" Didrikson, Bob Thornton, Amon Carter, Sam Baugh, Stanley Marcus, Enid Justin, Audie Murphy, and Glenn McCarthy.

"Through their accomplishments, actions, and words (they) gained national attention between 1925 and 1950. These individuals painted an indelible picture of the Lone Star State that continues to percolate throughout the nation's popular culture today."

The book promises fascinating stories of these mavericks and how they branded the Lone Star State with its lasting reputation for being loud, proud, and brash.

The museum luncheon lecture event is free. Contact the museum at (903) 450-4502 for details and visit [www.CottonMuseum.com](http://www.CottonMuseum.com).

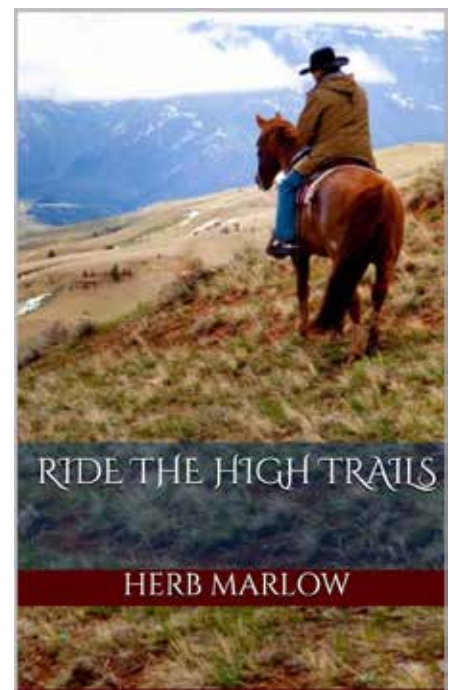
# Ride the High Trails with Marlow

Herb Marlow has written another Western, all about a young man — a veteran of the Civil war on the Confederate side — who befriends a young girl and her father and tries to shield them from a town of haters. In *Ride the High Trails*, Solomon Peters finds himself a man on a mission to protect and help a former Yankee soldier and his daughter, while trying to stay alive. He's down from the high trails in cold Colorado to the hot weather of Texas cattle country.

A book excerpt reads, "The horse was tired in a way that told of long trails in high places, and as his rider I was in no better shape, slouching in the saddle as

tired as the horse, seemingly unaware of my surroundings. I was shabby, torn clothes dirty from long use, and lank dark hair under a sweat-stained and faded gray hat. The sweat was old, for it was a chilly early morning in April, not quite spring, and my collar was turned up, the ragged collar of a ragged black coat."

His first book release of 2025, *Ride the High Trails* is now available in ebook and paperback. It is his 82nd book published with 52 of them currently available on Amazon. He's in the process of writing several more with the next one likely to be "Combat Chaplain."



# Pinkerton Writes About East Texas History

Since he first learned that a rut across his family land was the route of a historic road to early Texas, Pinkerton's passion for research and writing about the history of East Texas has resulted in the publication of two works of history published in 2016 and 2017, with another out last year and a new one this year.

Pinkerton has a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree from the University of Houston and a bachelor's degree in social work and psychology from East Texas A&M University. As an independent researcher he contributes to diverse projects, and is a web designer focusing on non-profit organizations. He is a member of the board of directors and a fellow of the East Texas Historical Association. His work also appears in the online *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, the online *Handbook of Texas*, *The Texas Historic Sites Atlas* of the Texas Historical Commission, and *The Portal to Texas History*. He has published book reviews for both the *East Texas Historical Journal*, and the *Southwest Historical Quarterly*.

His first book, *Trammel's Trace—The First Road to Texas from the North* was published

in 2016. It tells the history of a 200-year-old road and its role in early smuggling and migration into Texas beginning in the early 1800s. Read more from Pinkerton on Trammel's Trace in this *County Line Magazine* archive article, [Ancient Road Leaves Modern Tracks](#).

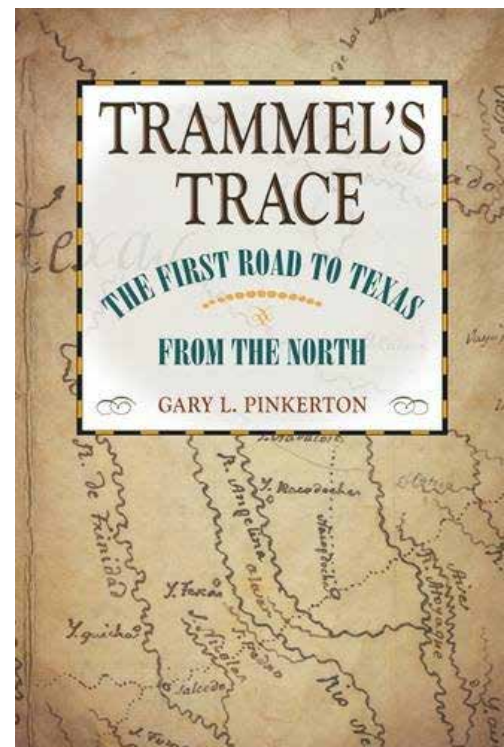
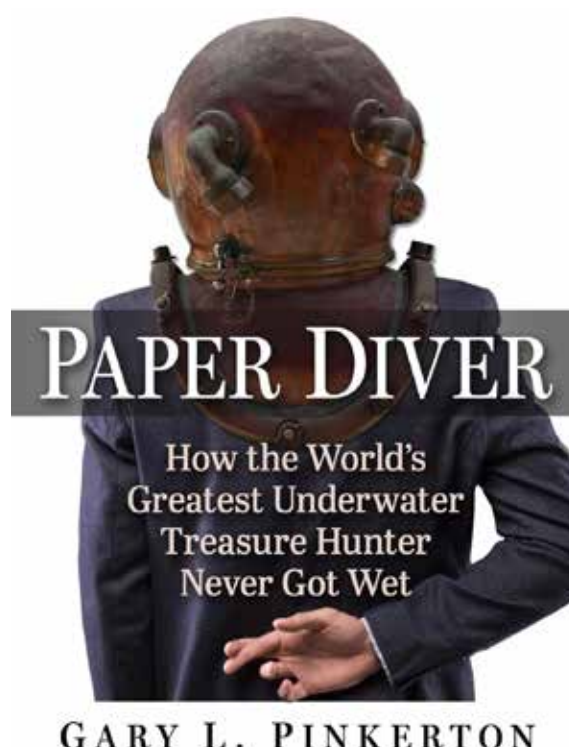
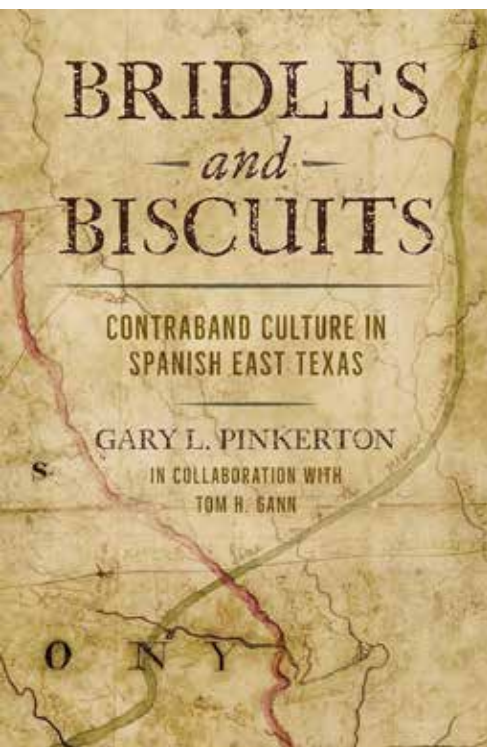
His second book, *True Believers — Treasure Hunters at Hendricks Lake*, is the story of people who believed a Texas treasure legend enough to search for it. Houston oilmen, a Carthage TV repairman, some tough Texas lawmen, and an MIT-educated electrical engineer are just some of the men who believed the treasure legend of Hendricks Lake in East Texas enough to search for silver there.

In 2024, he released *Paper Diver: How the World's Greatest Underwater Treasure Hunter Never Got Wet*. It's a biography of Harry E. Riesberg who made claims of being attacked by a giant octopus while recovering sunken treasure, defending himself from an attack by a 15-foot shark with only a diving knife, and surviving a hurricane and a severely broken leg while at sea. These were captivating tales for audiences in the 1940s and 1950s he claimed

as fact but where actually fantasy. Despite the often-obvious facts of his fabrication, his books influenced a generation of legitimate divers and underwater archaeologists like Sir Robert Marx and Robert Stenuit. Thoroughly researched, this book uses sources including his personal records and letters to his agents to provide deep insight into the nature of his life and the way he created a false persona for popular consumption.

His latest, *Bridles & Biscuits: The Contraband Culture of Spanish East Texas*, focuses on the "last act of the Spanish drama in East Texas," and the culture of contraband trade that avoided all attempts to control it. The years of control of that trade around Nacogdoches by Antonio Gil Ibarvo (Ybarbo) ultimately led to his removal, but failed to abate the trade in items of personal importance to the residents.

Find out more about Pinkerton's books and how to order on [www.garylpinkerton.com](http://www.garylpinkerton.com). He's also presenting a program at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 13, at the Jefferson Carnegie Library, 301 W. Lafayette Street in downtown Jefferson. Call (903) 665-8911 for more information.



# Lexie Dean Robertson

## First Native-Born Texas Poet Laureate



### Absent

I am weary of being surrounded by things:  
Books in their neat rows,  
Magazines scattered about,  
Even my kitchen with its shelves of cheerful yellow bowls  
Does not stir me.  
I wander about my little house  
Like the wraith of a happy yesterday  
Hunting lost joys.  
I have no right to miss you so ... in my little house.  
But once you sat with me before my fireside,  
And now the flames blaze at my heart,  
Mocking me with the emptiness of my house.

Lexie Dean Robertson was a teacher and poet. She was born in Lindale, Texas, on July 25, 1893, the daughter of Alexander Green and Lena (Ansley) Dean. Her parents were both teachers.

She grew up in Canton and married J. F. Robertson on August 16, 1911, while both were students at North Texas State Normal College (now the University of North Texas).

The Robertsons taught in Texas and Oklahoma for the remainder of the decade, and Lexie took additional courses at the universities of Oklahoma and Chicago.

In 1920 they settled in Rising Star in Eastland County, Texas, where Lexie spent five years as a school principal.

She earned a B.A. degree from Howard Payne College in 1925 and left teaching to devote herself to full-time writing.

Her poems appeared in various newspapers, anthologies, and magazines, including *Kaleidograph*, *Southwest Review*, *Holland's Magazine*, *Country Gentleman*, *Good Housekeeping*, and *Ladies' Home Journal*.

Much of her poetry was of the "homespun" type, and many of her early poems were concerned with the effect of the oil industry on West Texas communities.

Her first collection, *Red Heels*, went through ten editions, and *I Keep a Rainbow* won the 1932 book award of the Poetry Society of Texas. Lexie was poet laureate of Texas from 1939 to 1941, the first native-born Texan to hold the title. She was a member of the Poetry Society of America, a charter member of the Texas Institute of Letters, and president of the institute in 1944. She was also an active clubwoman and poet laureate of the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs. She served as vice president of the Poetry Society of Texas, and during her writing career she won every prize the society offered.

After her death the society established the Lexie Dean Robertson Award in her honor. Robertson published four volumes of verse: *Red Heels* (1928), *I Keep a Rainbow* (1932), *Acorn on the Roof* (1939), and *Answer in the Night* (1948). She died in Abilene on February 16, 1954, and was buried in Rising Star.

Source: *Texas State Historical Association*

## Serenade

There is a singing in my heart  
Like whispering of waves  
That echo tunes where mermaids sing  
Deep in their turquoise caves.

A singing like far temple bells  
Swung in a golden arc  
To build a bridge of melody  
From saffron dusk to dark.

Like shining splash of purple oars  
In some smooth moon-drenched pool  
Where willows dip their scented fronds,  
And little winds blow cool.

A singing sweet as any sound  
That beauty ever heard,  
And this is strange ... because your name  
Is my song's only word.

A Chant of my Beloved  
By Lexie dean roberts  
My beloved  
Is the altar  
Upon which is lit the incense  
Of a woman's dreams.

My beloved is darkly beautiful.  
The shadow of his profile  
Is as an effigy upon a Grecian vase,  
A curving tender smile to pierce the soul.

My beloved  
Has the quick grace of a stag in flight.  
The slim pines of the forest  
Bend not more easily  
to the south wind's swift caress  
Than my beloved sways  
in mazy rhythms of the dance.

The voice of my beloved  
Is as the music of a thousand muted lutes  
Whispering through primrose twilight.

The kiss of my beloved  
Is as warm honey on the mouth.

The eyes of my beloved  
Are as a violet flame, searingly beautiful.

The arms of my beloved  
Are as the purple hills where cedars stand  
Fragrant and indomitable through centuries.

The love of my beloved  
Is all a woman asks  
Of earth or heaven.

## Gossip

Before I knew how cruel  
Just common talk can be,  
I thought that words were singing things  
With colors like the sea.

But since I've felt their caustic lash  
And know how they can sting,  
I hold my breath when words go by  
For fear they will not sing.

## A Romany Lad Passed By

I KNOW a gypsy boy  
With dreams in his eyes,  
And tears in his laughter,  
For life's made him wise.

He carries quaint charms  
In his pack to sell,  
Good for the casting  
Of any dark spell.

One is for harvests,  
And one is for gold,  
And one is for warm hearths  
When you are old.

I bought a charm once  
With no coin to pay,  
But I've been a daft girl  
Since that day.

Once was a brown boy  
Taught me to sing,  
Took of my kisses  
But gave me no ring.

My song was a gay lilt,  
Silver as the moon,  
But now I can only croak  
A harsh dark tune.

There is a gypsy lad  
Who flings coins away.  
Gold, he says, is heavy  
To carry at play.

I was his partner once  
To dance and to sing,  
But I stopped to gather up  
The coins he would fling.

Gold is a heavy load  
Just as he said,  
But now I must carry it  
Till I am dead.

## Aunt Gilly

Aunt Gilly was a Texas belle  
When she was fair and twenty,  
The cowboys for a hundred miles  
Came courting her a-plenty.  
Her father said he couldn't stir,  
For leather boot and silver spur.

At Texas dances long ago  
Folk thought her conduct shocking,  
When she swirled ruffled petticoats  
And showed a silken stocking.  
But Gilly swirled again with laughter,  
And kicked a toe at the dusty rafter.

Her father was a sober man,  
Her mother was a prude,  
They barred their hearts when she left home  
And married some strange dude.  
But he owned a smile and a red guitar,  
And the road he offered led sweet and far.

Aunt Gilly lost her smiling man  
In a gambling house affray,  
When he was second at the draw  
In a San Antone cafe.  
A screech owl warned of the news before  
They laid him dead at her kitchen door.

She'll need a tidy sum, they said,  
To keep her from the cold,  
So they passed around a gallon hat  
And filled it full of gold.  
In thanking them her lips were brave,  
Gold could not pay for that new grave.

She bought herself a cattle ranch,  
Just off the Chisholm Trail,  
And settled down to raising steers  
As well as any male.  
She rode the range in skirts, of course,  
But she was a demon on a horse.

My great aunt Gilly lived alone  
For threescore years and seven,  
The preacher at her funeral  
Said she went to heaven.  
But my Aunt Gilly rides a star  
With a mustached dude and a new guitar.

# The Oscar Goes to Who?

By P.A. Geddie

The 97th Academy Awards takes place March 2 at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. The ceremony is televised on ABC and streamed on Hulu.

Last year I was totally in to following the Oscars for recommended movies and chasing down where to watch them in today's ever-evolving streaming world. I saw about half of last year's nominees before the Oscars and vowed to see some of the rest of them during the year. There were some good ones for me, and I'm a picky film aficionado, although a devoted one. I enjoyed *Killers of Flower Moon*, *Past Lives*, *Oppenheimer*, *Nyad*, and *Anatomy of a Fall* and still hope to see a couple of the others.

I look for interesting stories, something different than the ho-hum, all too often cookie-cutter stuff where you know what's going to happen before it does. Predictable equals boring if it's going to hold my full attention. I don't like movies that rely too heavily on sex or violence to try to carry their stories either. Somewhere in the middle of those extremes is where we find good stories.

I still haven't been able to watch *Barbie* although I'm told by the toughest of feminists that it has a good message for women. But all that PINK I see in the trailer is still a little too nauseating for me to dive in just yet.

This year I have not watched a single one of the nominees. I haven't even heard of most of them. I don't know if I've completely lost touch or if the Oscars have.

The one I HAVE heard about and am eager to see is the Bob Dylan story, *A Complete Unknown*. It's coming soon to

one of my streaming stations and I'll be sure to get the popcorn and know I will enjoy it from what I've seen and read so far.

Here's a rundown of all the nominees for Best Picture and a few other categories.

*Anora* follows the beleaguered marriage between sex worker Anora and Vanya, the son of a Russian oligarch. This film features Yura Borisov who is nominated for Best Actor in a Supporting Role, and Mikey Madison is nominated for Best Actress in a Leading Role.

*The Brutalist* is the story of a Hungarian-Jewish Holocaust survivor emigrating to the United States and struggling to achieve the "American Dream" until a wealthy client changes his life. Besides Best Picture, Adrien Brody is up for Best Actor in a Leading Role, Guy Pearce is nominated for Best Actor in a Supporting Role, and Felicity Jones for Actress in a Supporting Role.

*A Complete Unknown* is nominated for Best Picture with producers Fred Berger, James Mangold and Alex Heineman. Timothee Chalamet is nominated for Best Actor in a Leading Role, Edward Norton is nominated for Best Actor in a Supporting Role, and Monica Barbaro for Actress in a Supporting Role.

*Conclave* is a political thriller where the pope dies of a heart attack and a cardinal organizes a conclave to elect the next pope and finds himself investigating secrets and scandals about the major candidates. Ralph Fiennes is nominated for Best Actor in a Leading Role and Isabella Rossellini for Actress in a Supporting Role.

*Dune: Part Two* is a space opera. Yuck.

A Spanish-language French musical crime film, *Emilia Perez* follows a Mexican cartel leader who enlists a lawyer to help them disappear and transition into a woman. Karla Sofia Gascon is nominated for Best Actress in a Leading Role and Zoe Saldana for Actress in a Supporting Role.

*I'm Still Here* is a Portuguese-language political biographical drama about a mother and activist coping with the forced disappearance of her dissident politician husband during a military dictatorship in Brazil. Fernanda Torres is nominated for Best Actress in a Leading Role.

*Nickel Boys* is an American historical drama following two boys of African descent who are sent to an abusive reform school in 1960s Florida.

*The Substance* is a horror film with grotesque, hyper realistic imagery that follows a fading celebrity who, after being fired by her producer due to her age, uses a black market drug that creates a younger version of herself with unexpected side effects. Demi Moore is nominated for Best Actress in a Leading Role.

*Wicked* is an American musical fantasy and reimagining of *The Wizard of Oz*. Cynthia Erivo is nominated for Best Actress in a Leading Role and Ariana Grande for Actress in a Supporting Role.

With the exception of *A Complete Unknown* none of these films are my cup of tea. The casts include amazing actors that I enjoy seeing perform so maybe I'll try one or two. But for the most part, I'm hoping by next year's Academy Awards there are much better choices for good film entertainment.

## YOU CAN BE ANYTHING

VIDEO



## Imagine the Possibilities

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



VIDEO



HE DEFIED EVERYONE  
TO CHANGE EVERYTHING.

**A** A FILM BY JAMES MANGOLD  
**COMPLETE  
UNKNOWN**

TIMOTHÉE CHALAMET  
as BOB DYLAN  
EDWARD NORTON  
ELLE FANNING  
MONICA BARBARO  
BOYD HOLBROOK

SCREENPLAY BY JAMES MANGOLD AND JAY COCKS DIRECTED BY JAMES MANGOLD

# WHY THE ARTS MATTER IN TEXAS



## NATIONAL ARTS FACTS

### 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.](#)

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## 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



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## Harmony Abounds at Music Events Across the Region



As the winter seeds begin to bloom with life across the region, the energy shifts with more music in the air as well. Here are a few highlights of shows and places to hear the beat from Mozart to country fiddlers to Americana singer songwriters.

The annual Townes Van Zandt Tribute takes place March 2 at The Forge Bar and Grill in Ben Wheeler. It features singer-songwriters performing and paying tribute to the late Townes Van Zandt, one of the most influential singer-songwriters of the 20th century.

Memorial City Hall Performance Center presents An Evening in the Round with Linda Davis on March 8; A Taste of Ireland, March 27; Already Gone, April 5, and Girls Raised in Texas, May 8.

Richard Strauss created his radiant

*Metamorphosen* in 1945 to process his grief after what he called “the most terrible period of mankind.” Mount Vernon Music musicians — along with MVM scholarship award winners — present this gorgeous music together with an arrangement of the beloved *Pastoral Symphony* by Beethoven’s contemporary, Michael Gotthard Fischer at St. Marks Anglican Parish in Arlington on Saturday March 22 and in their Mount Vernon venue on Sunday, March 23. Also in Mount Vernon from 11 a.m. to noon on April 26 the musicians present a family concert. *The Tortoise and the Hare*, *Camille Saint-Saëns’ Carnival of the Animals*, and *Rumpelstiltskin* get a musical update with help from Mozart.

Texas Music City Grill & Smokehouse in Lindale is Tyler Brandon, March 1;

Winnboro Center for the Arts presents Susan Gibson (pictured) March 8 and John Fullbright on April 12.

Rick Dudley, March 7; Kirk Harper, March 22; Jeff Canada, March 28; Brandon Bamburg, March 29, Byron Haynie, April 5; Mayson Garner, April 12, Kirk Harper, April 18, and Chris Cunningham, April 25. Several of these musicians also perform at the Tyler TXM location.

As the people of Palestine roll out the welcome wagon for dogwood flowers each spring, the musicians get in on the act as well. Dogwood Jamboree 2025 helps kick off the season at 7 p.m. on March 15 with a Branson-style country music and variety show filled with classic country hits, comedy, and family-friendly

entertainment. Featuring top-notch artists and lively performances, the show delivers a one-of-a-kind experience for all ages at the Palestine High School auditorium.

The Old Time Music & Dulcimer Festival is March 27-29 at First Baptist Church. The festival kicks off with a Thursday evening concert, followed by morning workshops and afternoon jamming sessions each day on Friday and Saturday. Visitors can explore rooms

with various musical styles, from auto-harps to beginner dulcimer jams. Go to [www.VisitPalestine.com](http://www.VisitPalestine.com) for details.

At nearby Salmon Lake Park the annual Bluegrass Fun Pick takes place April 11-13. This unique event is all about jamming together in a laid-back, family-friendly atmosphere. Seasoned pickers and music lovers enjoy this camping getaway with tent and RV sites and a few cabins. For more information, visit [www.slpbluegrass.com](http://www.slpbluegrass.com)

Guests dining at [Nuna's Cajun](#) restaurant in Palestine can enjoy the band Red Dirt Ritas from 7 to 10 p.m. on April 19. Red Dirt Ritas is a dynamic five-piece band from East Texas that performs popular tunes. BYOB.

Go to [www.VisitPalestine.com](http://www.VisitPalestine.com) for more information.

Find links to more music venues on [County Line Magazine website](#).



*Longview Museum of Fine Arts (LMFA) features a music series throughout the year. LMFA concerts scheduled so far include Cole Allen on March 1, Reed Foehl on March 15, and Rebecca Loebe on April 26. Tickets are \$30, available on [www.lmfa.org](http://www.lmfa.org) or call (903) 753-8103. The Band of Heathens (pictured) are performing September 13 at the museum for \$45. The Band of Heathens is an Americana rock band known for their rich harmonies, soulful storytelling, and dynamic live perfor-*

*mances. Formed in Austin, Texas, the group blends rock, country, blues, and folk influences, creating a sound that is both timeless and modern. Over the years, they have released several critically acclaimed albums, including Duende and Stranger, showcasing their versatility and depth as songwriters. With a reputation for electrifying shows and heartfelt lyrics, the Band of Heathens continues to captivate audiences across the country.*

# ALLY VENABLE MONEY & POWER

VIDEO



## Ally Venable Releases New Album in April

Texas blues-rock singer/songwriter and exceptional guitarist Ally Venable has a new album coming out in April and makes an appearance in her hometown of Kilgore amid her national 2025 tour.

A Kilgore native, Venable began singing at church at four and picked up the guitar at age 12. By 13, she started her own band and through her early influence of Stevie Ray Vaughan captured the passion and yearning for more in the blues genre. Early releases *No Glass Shoes* (2016) and *Puppet Show* (2018) started her fanbase, charting radio play, and several East Texas Music Awards.

It was 2019's #2 Billboard Blues charting *Texas Honey* and rocking sets on Ruf's European Blues Caravan tour that propelled her internationally. She released another Blues Billboard charting album, *Heart of Fire* in 2021, which challenged her to write not only about love but the unguarded honesty of feeling pain.

"On this album, I really wanted to create a tone of overcoming your struggles and persevering through them," she explains.

In 2022, *Guitar World Magazine* named Ally #2 on the top 15 *Young Guns Making the Gibson Les Paul Cool Again*, and she received the *Road Warrior* award from the Independent Blues Music Awards.

Along with Ally's own tour domestically and in Europe, her band has supported Buddy Guy and Kenny Wayne Shepherd throughout the US, as well as Colin James in Canada. She has performed as a featured artist on the *Experience Hendrix Show* at the ACL Live at Moody Theater in Austin. Venable's recent spring 2023 release produced by Grammy award winning producer, Tom Hambridge, includes a duet with the iconic Buddy Guy and a song featuring powerhouse guitarist Joe Bonamassa debuted at #1 on the Billboard Blues Charts & has remained in the top 100 since the release date.

Her new album, *Money & Power*, releases April 18.

A website statement on the album says, "Rules are there to be broken. Expectations are there to be defied. Glass ceilings are there to be shattered. Having spent the past decade carving out her own unique space in the male-dominated world of blues-rock, Ally Venable's combative sixth album, *Money & Power*, demands more of both — for herself, for women around the world, and for anyone else who thought they weren't worthy of a seat at the table.

"*Money & Power* is such a strong statement, especially for women," Venable says of her Nashville-recorded new release. "All the songs on this album showcase the theme of what it truly means to be a force to be reckoned with. I want this record to wake people up.

"Making this album felt very therapeutic,

as well as a milestone in my musical journey,” she says of the 11 originals (plus a hard-driving cover of Janet Jackson’s “Black Cat”). “I hope these songs allow people to see into my life in a vulnerable way and hold a strong perspective that empowers women and breaks the glass ceiling.”

That attitude is palpable on opener “Brown Liquor,” with a guest guitar solo from Christone ‘Kingfish’ Ingram. “Maybe Someday” is a blissful moment of redemptive soul, carried along by horns and barbed lyrics aimed at an old flame (“You want to make up for the times you did me wrong/You think a woman’s love can just be turned back on”).

Next up is the title track, with Venable’s guitar set to a seething message.

“‘Money & Power’ shouts to the masses,” she explains, “that women are not to be doubted in their ability to thrive in the world.”

The album’s mid-section is just as vital, flowing from the stormy alt-rock of “Do You Cry” (“It speaks on a lost love that once was,” she says) to the up-for-a-fight roadhouse rocker “Heal Me,” with its squalls of blues harp and slide guitar. Stopper “Back Popper” shifts gears again, with Venable hollering at the barman over glassy funk-soul chording. “Legends” is a reminder that nothing in life worth having ever came easy (“The bigger the dream/the bigger the fight”).

Pitched somewhere between wistful and hopeful, “Keep Me In Mind” is another gem.

Vital right to the end, Money & Power plays out with “Stepping Stone’s” earthy roar of empowerment, the shuddering, spooky, tremolo-soaked groove of “Feel That Sting,” and the dust blown rocker “Unbreakable,” where Venable goes toe-to-toe with New York powerhouse Shemekia Copeland.

“That song spreads a message of women that have been oppressed,” she says, “to rise to the occasion and break above it all.”

Read more about Ally Venable in the [County Line archives](#). She’ll be in Dallas on April 12 and in Kilgore on April 19. Get details and tickets on [www.allyvenable.com](http://www.allyvenable.com).



*The EB Stewart Family will be onstage Friday on the Henderson County Courthouse Square as part of the [94th Annual Athens Old Fiddlers Reunion](#) on April 18 -19 in downtown Athens. A Friday street dance features Jody Nix and The Texas Cowboys and Saturday street dance features Craig Howell Band. The longest running fiddle contest in Texas it also features a classic car show, kiddie carnival, and a variety of fun foods. Guests are invited to bring quilts or lawn chairs to enjoy the music.*



*The [Red Dirt BBQ & Music Festival](#) takes place on May 10 at The Park of East Texas, 204 Patton Lane, in Tyler. Music line up is Treaty Oak Revival (pictured), Braxton Keith, Ty Myers, Jason Poland & The Stragglers, and Cory Morrow. Barbecue joints include All Smoke No Mirrors, Paris, Texas; Bar B Que Bandidas, New Braunfels; BBQ and a Prayer, Canton; Brisket Love BBQ & Icehouse, Lindale; Casey’s BBQ, Athens; Chopp’d Beef Boys, Dallas; East TX Rust BBQ, Gilmer; Poppy’s Qu, Elgin; Q& Brew, Canton; Slaughter’s BBQ, Sulphur Springs; Smoak House No. 587, Palestine; Stanley’s Famous Pit BBQ, Tyler, and Sunbird Barbecue, Longview.*



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# Rural Vineyards Offer Good Wines and Scenic Views



The rich soil, weather conditions, abundance of land and water, and beautiful countryside make the development of an Upper East Side of Texas wine industry ideal. Some of the vineyards and wineries in the region started a couple of decades ago and have won international awards for their wines, while others are up and coming. Be sure to call ahead before visiting to verify open hours and offerings.

Several wine-focused events take place this spring. [Paris Wine Fest](#) is on April 12.

The Spring Piney Woods Wine Festival takes place May 9-10 at Picker's Pavilion at Blackberry Square, in Lindale. It features wines from members of the [Piney Woods Wine Trail](#), live music, food trucks, and artisan shopping opportunities. Tickets range from \$15 to \$120 and are available on [Eventbrite](#) and at the gate.

[Enoch's Stomp Wine Run 5k](#) starts at 10:30. a.m. April 5. This annual event takes place among the scenic views of

Enoch's Stomp Vineyard and Winery in Harleton (pictured). The property sports 12 acres of grape vines including the varieties, Black Spanish (a.k.a. Lenoir), Blanc DuBois, Norton (a.k.a. Cynthiana), Villard Blanc, Champanel, and Chambourcin. The premium wines fashioned from these varietals provide a unique tasting opportunity.

Find links for numerous lovely wineries and vineyards in the region on [County Line Magazine website](#).



*Nacogdoches has several food and drink related events this spring including Wine Swirl from 5-9 p.m. April 12 featuring Texas wines, food trucks, and specials from local restaurants and downtown merchants. Brew Fest takes place the same day with tastings of*

*home brewed beer, wine, and mead. Do Dat BBQ is April 26 with cook teams and barbecue fans coming together to enjoy samples, live entertainment, and beverages. Find details for these and more on [www.VisitNacogdoches.org](http://www.VisitNacogdoches.org)*

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# Brunch With the Queen in Palestine



Queen St Grille at the historic Redlands Hotel in downtown Palestine offers casual fine dining seven days a week. Long known for their lunch and dinner menus, they recently expanded their offerings to include brunch from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday with an al carte menu and libations.

Brunch options include a Meat & Cheese Board with selections of cured meats, local cheeses, nuts, jams, and grilled baguette; Cuban Egg Rolls stuffed with smoked pork, ham, Swiss cheese served with spicy mustard and tangy BBQ;

Fresh jumbo lump Crab Cakes pan seared and oven roasted served with spice orange marmalade; Queen Street Salad with fresh baby mixed greens, Fuji apples, spicy candied pecans, red onions, cherry tomatoes, with poppyseed dressing; Breakfast Plate with two eggs, bacon or sausage, roasted potatoes, and toast; Three Egg Omelet, Breakfast Tacos, Honey Butter Chicken Biscuits with eggs and roasted potatoes; Chicken Fried Chicken and Eggs with sausage gravy; Biscuits and Gravy, Chocolate Chip Banana Pancakes, Breakfast Sandwich, Brunch Burger, and Brunch Burrito.

Drink specials include Bloody Mary, Mimosa, wines, cocktails, beer, coffee and milk.

The Redlands Hotel offers luxury suites and a beautiful lobby area with a gift shop, art gallery, meeting space, and a bar. They are conveniently located to all of Palestine's attractions. Call (903) 723-2404 for Queen St Grille reservations and visit [www.queenstgrille.com](http://www.queenstgrille.com) to learn more.

To explore Palestine, call (800) 235-5712 for help in planning a trip and learn more on [www.visitpalestine.com](http://www.visitpalestine.com).



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Downtown Dining District



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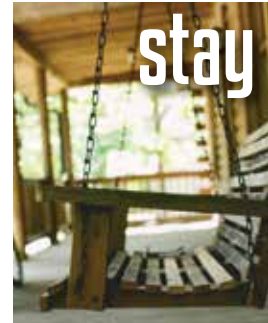
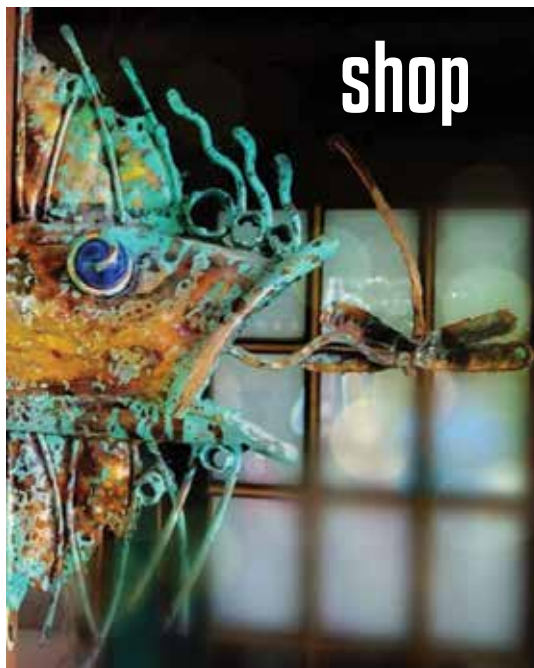


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