

MUSIC - ART - NEWS

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HUB**
OF NORTH TEXAS
JANUARY 2019
FREE

ANTHONY CASTILLO



Honoring
Jimi Divine

INSIDE: Kathy Maloney Richardson
Night To Shine • Shirley King • Dear Heart • SLiP

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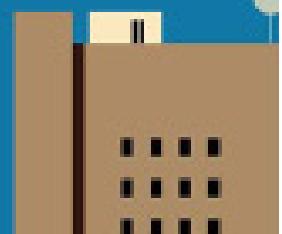
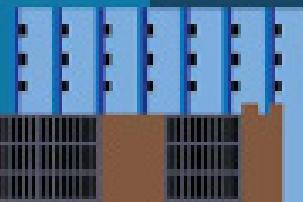


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1 Corinthians 16:14



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ANTHONY CASTILLO



Honoring Jimi Divine 24

Kathy Maloney Richardson 8

Shirley King 10

Night To Shine 13

SLIP 20

Dear Heart 26

DOWNTOWN Farmers Market WICHITA FALLS
EST. 1989

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TIPS AND TALES FROM OUTBACK

with Johnny Divine (Outback Studios 940-613-8436)

I know you will understand my lack of words for this month's TIPS AND TALES. I lost my middle son James this morning (December 26) and it is very difficult to find the right words. I will do an article on him soon and share some of his life and his wonderful humor. I loved him more than words can say.

James Ian Divine
1986-2018



Johnny and Jimi Divine

JANUARY 2019



615 8th St., Wichita Falls • 940-767-9488
M-F 3pm-2am • Sat Noon-2am

Jan 4 - Walkin' Johnny,
Clint Vines and the Hard Times

Jan 5 - It Hurts to be Dead,
From Parts Unknown, City Creeps

Jan 11 - Ross Shifflett

Jan 12 - Kill em' All (Metallica Tribute),
Everything in Between

Jan 17 - City Creeps, Oceanaut

Jan 18 - Leddit Ride

Jan 19 - Raymundo, Cindy Jollatta

Jan 25 - Dirty River Boys,
Giovannie and the Hired Guns

Jan 26 - The Battle for Brandon
Benefit Concert - The Kept,
Big Find, Skeksis, Mouthbreather

Feb 1 - Mike McClure, Richie Bates

Feb 2 - Forever Mac

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THE ORIGINAL
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February 8th



Comedian, Gabriel "Fluffy" Iglesias - February 21
Memorial Auditorium



Paw Patrol Live! March 5, 6th



Peter Pan On Ice February - 25th
Memorial Auditorium



KATHY MALONEY RICHARDSON

Kathy Maloney Richardson, a.k.a. Ricochet Red, grew up on the edge of Wichita Falls. She graduated from Iowa Park High School in 1975, went into nursing school in 1976 and became an LVN, and then achieved her RN in 1988. Kathy moved to Aubrey, Texas and worked at Denton Community Hospital and Baylor Home Care from 1988 to 2000.

I asked Kathy what brought her back to Wichita Falls and she told me, “My dad was the first Concealed Handgun License (CHL) instructor in Wichita County. He was getting on in years, and he asked me if I would take over his shooting range when he is gone. So I got my CHL license, then I got my instructor license, landed a job at the State Hospital and moved back to Wichita Falls in 2000 and taught classes with him for four years until he passed away in 2004. I took over the range and have been teaching CHL and License To Carry (LTC) classes for the past 18 years.”

Not only does she teach handgun classes, but she also gives private handgun lessons and lectures seminars on personal safety specializing in women’s self defense. “Some of the seminars I put on are Refuse To Be A Victim, Personal Protection Inside And Outside The Home, How To Treat A Gunshot Wound, and Situational Awareness as well as



teaching basic handgun classes,” she says. Additionally, Kathy is a representative for Texas Law Shield, a group of attorneys who provide a legal defense program primarily for gun owners, but represent anyone who uses self defense in any form that may need legal representation.

This mother of two daughters and grandmother of four lives on her 8 acre spread at the end of the same rural road that she grew up on in a house that her twin brother Kelly built in 2011, and in 2014 Kathy hand constructed a 60’x 60’ Texas in her front yard that you can see on Google Maps. She has a flock of 52 chickens and sells the eggs, and has two dogs, Benelli and Kimber.

Kathy retired from the State Hospital August 31, and has recently been voted in as a Wichita Falls Chamber of Commerce Gold Coat Ambassador. As a representative of the WFCC she attends ground breaking ceremonies, ribbon cuttings, and grand openings, welcoming new businesses to the community. She is also a substitute teacher for Iowa Park Jr. High and High Schools, and still being an RN she fills in for the nurses when needed.

You can follow Kathy’s Facebook page, Ricochet Red’s Pistol Range, or call her for LTC classes at 940-867-3028.

~Tim Maloney

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DON'T BE SEEN DIRTY DOWNTOWN.

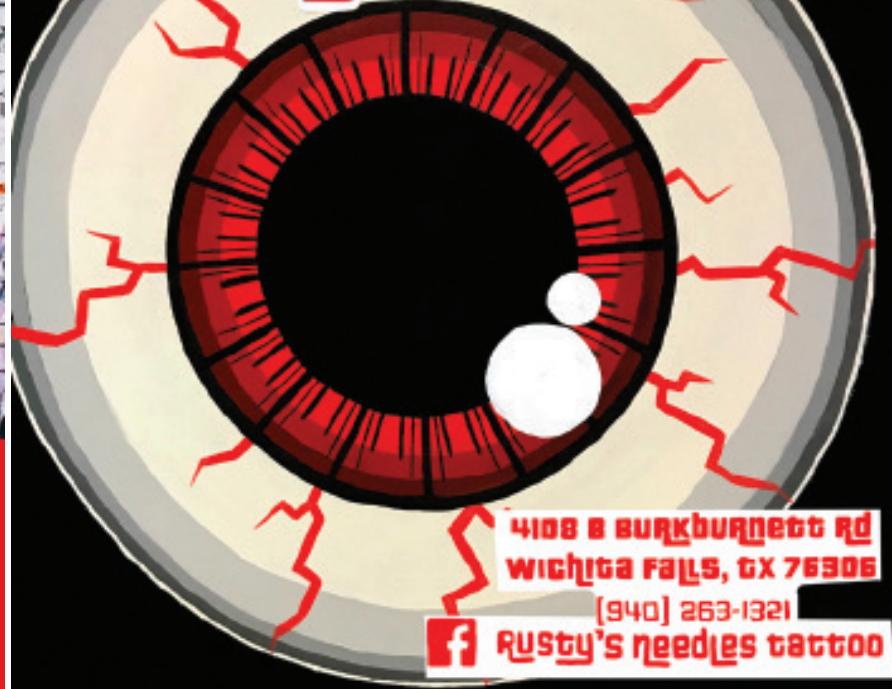


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SHIRLEY KING

One of the celebrated artists in Wichita Falls, Shirley King, started creating art by melting crayons on the side of an incinerator at the tender age of 6 into “awesome designs.” She was raised in a company town in Phillips, Texas where the Phillips Petroleum Company provided its citizens with jobs and all the comforts of home.

They also provided “exceptional schools, that had the best of everything.” Her first day of school was a big step towards being an artist.

“I had never heard of manila paper, but the piece was gigantic and blank; and I got a sheet of my own the very first day of class in the first grade. What fun, all that space to fill! I still remember that feeling each time I start a new painting,” Shirley said in her artist’s statement.

Now she is an accomplished artist focusing on painting realistic scenes with oil paint. “I love history, tradition and the paintings of the masters. I aspire to paint like them, and that’s my goal. I look at the things they did, and I am amazed at what they were able to accomplish mixing their own colors, making their own brushes. They had to go out and find pigments. My ultimate desire is to paint in the style of the old masters before Impressionism,” she shared.

The Impressionistic movement changed the style of painting from realistic with no visible brush strokes to heavy brush strokes that gave the impression of the subject painted, rather than the actual mir-

ror image. “I tried some Impressionistic painting, but I figured out that what I enjoyed most was trying to paint realistically. I adore Impressionism, and I would buy it, but I just don’t like painting in that style,” she explained.

But the truth is that while she enjoys painting now, her career kept her from it for many years even with a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in art. She also had children and life, and her painting was put on the back burner. However,

when she married her husband, Mike Wilson, she quit work and was able to devote herself to her art, she stepped back into the art world with style.

She started by auditing art classes from Midwestern State University and taking classes from Liz Yarosz-Ash. “She was instrumental in helping me get back some of the abilities that I had lost. I got to use the studio at Midwestern, and I took several classes from her. She is an awesome awesome teacher. She has become my friend—I am flattered that she has become my friend,” Shirley said.

Once Shirley came back to her art, she was so glad to be creating again, and she dabbled in many ways to make art. “I did a little bit of everything. In Liz’s classes she really covers a lot of art. I guess I am a little bit of a romanticist. I am attracted to things from another time, a gentler time. I would have enjoyed living then,” she said. Shirley likes to paint marionettes and Santas and figures. For a recent show entitled “Pink” that is a show of 51 women artists that Liz Yarosz-Ash put together, she entered a painting of a lovely woman dressed in the fashion of a man from the 1800’s. She entitled the piece, “Dragons Slain...Every Day” and it “represents every woman committed to conquering her fears, issues problems and frailties.” That show is at the Kemp Center for the Arts and will run to January 13th in the NorthLight Gallery.

She also has had 2 solo
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shows at the Kemp Center in the past, as well as had her art shown in Taos, New Mexico. Now her art can be viewed downtown at Wilson's Office Supply at the "Just Inside The Door Gallery" and at the Wichita Falls Art Association Gallery in the Holt Hotel.

"I love to go into homes and look and see their original art. So many people think that they can not afford original art and are afraid that it is too expensive. They can come down to the Wichita Falls Art Association Gallery and buy affordable original art and stop buying prints that often cost more than the original art cost," she said passionately. And she should know, she has 107 pieces of art in her home that have been created by other artists.

Even with all that she has accomplished, she is her own worst critic. "Even with having brushes

and paint already mixed up, I still cannot get the effect that I want. I usually am not happy with my paintings, and I make changes to them a lot. I don't think I am a perfectionist because I don't think I ever achieve what I am trying to do. I just can't get it the way I want it, and I want to get it just like I want it," she says with a determined look on her face. She paints with a limited pallet of five pigments and paints landscapes and figures. Her primary focus is figurative, whether it happens to be a human figure, Santa Clause or a marionette. Her art is exquisite and enjoyed by many patrons.

However, while she is always trying to improve, she knows, "Time marches on, there is much to learn, and there is still space to fill on the manila paper."

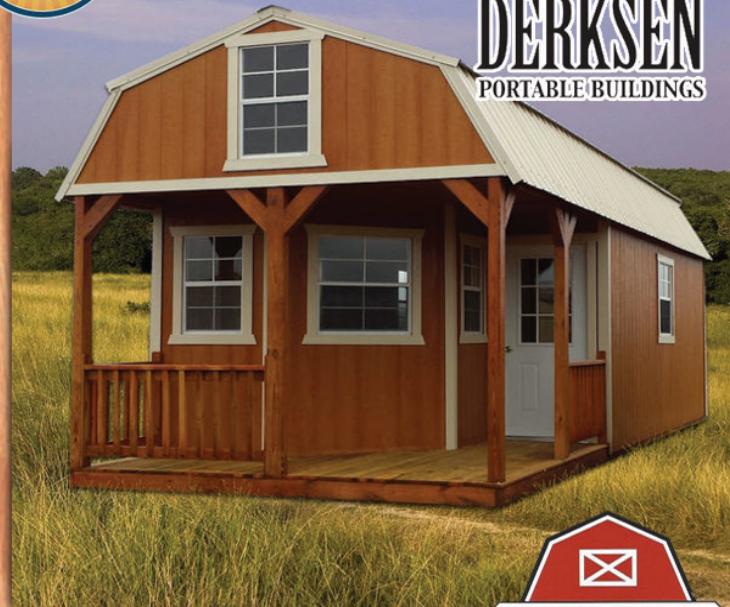
-Cindy Thomas



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NIGHT TO SHINE

January is synonymous with hope and resolution. It's a time when we take a look at where we are in life and seek to make improvements in areas that we feel come up short. Although this can be a useful practice, it often yields fleeting results because the intentions are selfish and short sighted, accountability is absent and when life hits back the resolve crumbles. This is because hope was never meant to be hoarded. Hope is to be shared. Our energies wither when they are squandered on self-satisfaction. But when we look beyond ourselves and seek to improve the circumstances of others an amazing thing hap-

pens. When we see hope shine in the eyes of someone else because of our words or action we feel encouraged, we feel empowered, we feel hope.

On February 8, a local church, Onelife Community Church, will be teaming up with the Tim Tebow Foundation to share hope with local individuals that have special needs through a unique event known as Night to Shine. Night to Shine provides an unforgettable prom night experience for people special needs.

The Tim Tebow Foundation was created in 2010 by dual sport professional athlete, Tim Tebow. Tebow learned about compassion as a teenager while spending time

with his missionary parents in the Philippines. His foundation focuses its attention on helping kids faced with a variety of needs. The Night to Shine, now in its fifth year, is a global event that coordinates hundreds of churches with thousands of volunteers to bring joy and encouragement to the participants, known as Honored Guests.

This is a free event. However, registration is required for Honored Guests as well as volunteers. Online registration and more information can be found at onelifecc.org/night-to-shine. You can also contact them at events@onelifecc.org or call (940)263-1514.



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Photo: Raymundo shot by David Barnard at Iron Horse Pub

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5

6

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7

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- 2** Hook & Ladder
- 3** G & R Premium Cigars
- 4** Gypsy 801
- 5** Gidgets Sandwich Shack
- 6** The Broken Tap
- 7** Museum of North Texas History

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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT DAILY SPECIALS

STICK'S PLACE



JAN 18

- Downtown Royalty
w/ The Forty Thieves

JAN 19

- Ground Floor & Rising

JAN 22

- RIP

TUESDAYS

- Tim and Harvey

THURSDAYS

- Karaoke w RayRay

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**CONCERT
& EVENT
INFO**

MUSIC

January 1

- \$2 Tuesday with Harvey and Tim @ Stick's Place
- Open Jam @ Old Town Saloon

January 2

- Open Jam @ Iron Horse Pub

January 3

- Rissa Watson @ Backporch Draffhouse

January 4

- Walkin' Johnny, Clint Vines and the Hard Times @ Iron Horse Pub
- Open Mic @ 8th Street Coffee House

January 5

- It Hurts To Be Dead, From Parts Unknown, City Creeps @ Iron Horse Pub

- Spit Stain @ The Deep End

- Race Rutledge and the Texas Knights @ Texas Nite Life

January 6

- Mark Forehand Unplugged @ Mustang Bar

January 8

- \$2 Tuesday with Harvey and Tim @ Stick's Place

- Open Jam @ Old Town Saloon

- Open Mic @ Gypsy Uncorked

January 9

- Open Mic @ Iron Horse Pub

January 10

- Cade Roth @ Backporch Draffhouse

January 11

- Ross Shifflett @ Iron Horse Pub

- Song swap with Bryson Lawrence @ Half Pint Taproom

- Open Mic @ 8th Street Coffee House

- Organ Concert by Kiyo & Chiemi @ First United Methodist Church

January 12

- Kill 'Em All, Everything In Between @ Iron Horse Pub

- Race Rutledge and the Texas Knights @ Texas Nite Life

January 13

- Mark Forehand Unplugged @ Mustang Bar

January 15

- \$2 Tuesday with Harvey and Tim @ Stick's Place

- Open Jam @ Old Town Saloon

- Open Mic @ Gypsy Uncorked

January 16

- Open Jam @ Iron Horse Pub

January 17

- City Creeps, Oceanaut @ Iron Horse Pub

January 18

- Downtown Royalty Band, OddFellas, The Forty Thieves @ Stick's Place

- Leddit Ride @ Iron Horse Pub

- Open Mic @ 8th Street Coffee House

- Dueling Pianos @ Half Pint Taproom

- Brandon Rhyder @ Red River Station in Saint Jo

January 19

- Raymundo, Cindy Jollatta, The Ride, Everything In Between, Clint Vines and the Hard Times @ Nocona Beer & Brewery

- Kicked To The Curb @ Half Pint Taproom

- Race Rutledge and the Texas Knights @ Texas Nite Life

- UTI Live @ Vernon Parts Sports Bar

January 20

- Mark Forehand Unplugged @ Mustang Bar

January 22

- \$2 Tuesday with Harvey and Tim @ Stick's Place

- Open Jam @ Old Town Saloon

- Open Mic @ Gypsy Uncorked

January 23

- Open Mic @ Iron Horse Pub

January 24

- Danielle Carson @ Backporch Draffhouse

January 25

- Dirty River Boys, Giovannie and the Hired Guns @ Iron Horse Pub

- Open Mic @ 8th Street Coffee House

January 26

- RIP @ Stick's Place

- The Battle For Brandon benefit featuring The Kept, Big Find, Skeksis, Mouthbreather @ Iron Horse Pub

- Wichita Falls Symphony Orchestra Does Hollywood @ WFSO, 1300 Lamar

- Race Rutledge and the Texas Knights @ Texas Nite Life

January 27

- Mark Forehand Unplugged @ Mustang Bar

January 29

- \$2 Tuesday with Harvey and Tim @ Stick's Place

- Open Jam @ Old Town Saloon

- Open Mic @ Gypsy Uncorked

ART

January 3

- Fellowship of the Rings Interactive @ Wichita Falls Public Library

January 4 and 18

- Make and Take Crafts ages 2-6 @ Wichita Falls Public Library

January 12

- FAME (Fulfill Your Assignment Mission Earth) @ Wichita Falls Public Library

Mondays

- Maker Mondays: Hygge Edition @ Wichita Falls Public Library

Tuesdays

- Process Art Experiences @ Wichita Falls Public Library

Wednesdays

- Chess Club @ Wichita Falls Public Library

Saturdays

- Lego Club @ Wichita Falls Public Library

FOR THE KIDS

January 3

- Fellowship of the Rings Interactive @ Wichita Falls Public Library

January 4 and 18

- Make and Take Crafts ages 2-6 @ Wichita Falls Public Library

January 12

- FAME (Fulfill Your Assignment Mission Earth) @ Wichita Falls Public Library

Mondays

- Maker Mondays: Hygge Edition @ Wichita Falls Public Library

Tuesdays

- Process Art Experiences @ Wichita Falls Public Library

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Wednesdays

-Chess Club @ Wichita Falls Public Library

Saturdays

-Lego Club @ Wichita Falls Public Library

EVENTS

January 2, 3, and 4

-First Bank Open Skate @ Kay Yeager Coliseum

January 12

-18th Annual Bridal Market @ MPEC

January 19

-2019 Karnevale | USO: Honoring Our Military

- A 1940's Dance Event @ The Forum

January 20

-WWE LIVE! @ Kay Yeager Coliseum

January 26

-Gun and Knife Show @ MPEC

-WFSO Does Hollywood @ Memorial Auditorium

January 27

-Gun and Knife Show @ MPEC



Jimi Divine

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January 11th
Song Swap w/ Bryson Lawrence



January 18th
Dueling Pianos by Fun Pianos



January 19th
Kicked to the Curb



February 2nd
White Jet Heroes

 /halfpinttaproom



2019
NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP

January 7th

SLiP

The moon, slung fat and low over Lake Wichita's rippling waters, glowed with an unnecessary intensity. Ripe enough you'd have thought one well-efforted tug would drown it in the shallow waters just below. It was that thought that shook me from my daze and caused me to step back from the muddy banks, back on to that soft grass in search of shoes I had cast off some time earlier. After all, I hadn't come for the moon. I had come to capture a glimpse of a rising star. Waiting in the preamble of this Autumnal Equinox had obviously set my mind adrift.

I tried to refocus on something pertinent. Like, where did I leave my shoes? It was at this moment I saw the star I was looking for shooting toward me. Spitting gravel rather, in a hard-charging Mini Van. From behind the wheel in one gargantuan stride, stepped Stephen L. Peters. Better known as SLiP. "Had to drop the kids off at the hospital." He said apologetically. I craned my neck up and said "Let me find my

It's worth repeating that SLiP is a big man. It's also worth noting that his gentleness at the core of this particular giant is just as apparent. You'd never know it by listening to the vast majority of his back catalogue. He doesn't just bark on a track; his hooks have a bite that you tend to feel long after the music has ended. He can be ferociously articulate. There's a heaviness, a certain world-wariness, that punctuates the vast majority of the bars he spits that stands in stark contrast to the hopeful manner in which he speaks when the veil SLiPs to reveal Stephen. He has said that music was often his therapy. In the past it served as a safe place to release his anger and vent his frustrations, personally and societally. It also served as a space to engage the competitive nature of which we are all imbued and stake his rightful claim as a wordsmith. When asked to speak to his earlier work, he comments with the dismissive of an artist who's more interested in progression than he is in discussing the past. "I'm not really a fan of a



shoes" in much the same manner. It was an interesting introduction to say the least. So, it was that we meandered off into the night for a moon-lit conversation on the trails in front of Lake Wichita Falls, and in no time, we eased in to a conversation that spanned three hours of philosophical musings about music, the law of attraction, family, failings, and the future of humanity.

lot of my earlier stuff, I hear it and it sounds angry, and that's just not me. But people like it, so... I'm just looking forward to what's next"

This father of three was born in England, spent time in Germany, and first developed a passion for music in Delaware thanks to a toy piano he was gifted as a child by his Mom, a Proud United States Air Force veteran. In an effort to recall the name of "the song" that first

lit him up, and tuned him in to the possibility of becoming an artist, we both broke into an impromptu harmony, serenading a family of 4 and their 2 puppies in passing. Was it K-ci and Jo-Jo, quality? Not quite. It was a little grittier, there were no white gloves necessary. Regardless, it's another memory I'll carry with me "All My life."

His mom's transfer to Shepard Air force base was how Stephen landed in Wichita Falls, where, as good fortune would have it, he met his best friend, Devin Ledezma, in the 5th grade while enrolled at Washington Jackson. He met Devin's brother, Ryan, soon after, at a birthday party. Fast forward to the present, and those friendships seeded in youth would be the impetus for Stephen's return to WF and the continuation of a lifelong friendship and return to music. This brotherhood



only got stronger with the addition of Matthew Kroe Bridges, another Air force progeny with ties to Sheppard Air Force base, who churns beats and rhymes out at a dizzying rate. with the additions of the T-lo Verde, and Monsta... The Spit Stain Squad was official.

But wait, isn't this writeup about SLiP, you might be asking yourself? Well, yeah it was supposed to be. But this consummate family man insisted on spreading the love across his entire musical family. "What goes around, comes around. If I eat, we all eat! That's just how I feel, that's how we roll." A good friend of mine once said stars are born in clusters.

Well, Wichita Falls, let me introduce you to your newest constellation.

- Bryan Atkins

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ANTHONY

Art has the ability to shape culture and define regions. We romanticize cities and moments in history based on the paintings created, buildings erected, or songs composed. We visualize Rome based on its structures more than the empire that carved them. We associate Los Angeles with movies and Nashville or Memphis with music. We do this because of the artists that shaped that culture before there was a Hollywood Walk of Fame or Music Row. Although Wichita Falls has always had amazing musicians, I believe that there is currently an art and music renaissance taking place.

Over the past few years a refreshing sense of comradery has developed among local musicians. What once seemed like a realm of competitive business where musicians would undermine each other in order to get a “gig” has become an inclusive community of musical artists that encourage and promote one another. Many even share the stage and creative process just out of their common love for music. One person that stands out among the pack of Wichita Falls music innovators is Anthony Castillo.

Anthony Castillo shines when he has the freedom to express himself. Whether it be through his songwriting, performing, or providing background support to others, he brings passion and creativity to every musical scenario.

Castillo was exposed to music

growing up with piano playing sister and a dad that played accordion and trumpet. This variety treated him

well, allowing him to experiment. He says that he didn’t have interest in “mastering” an instrument early

in life. “I don’t think my attention span allotted me to stick to one thing and learn it well,” he admits. “I was just always trying to learn something new.”

Anthony didn’t grow up easy and chose his escape route immediately after high school through the U.S. Army where he found the much need structure and discipline that was missing from his life. He picked up guitar at the age of 18 while serving in the Army. Aside from that he recalls sitting on the steps of the Army barracks playing his trumpet.

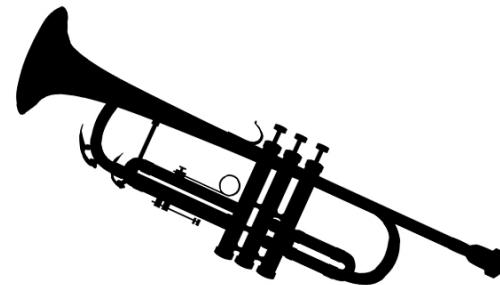
Following his stint in the military he returned to Fort Worth where he landed a job in sales but found that the position lacked the prestige that he experienced in uniform. “People treat you different when you’re in uniform,” he shared. It also became clear to him that there was now a disconnect between him and his peers. He continues, “In the civilian world someone always has a second play and is always out for something. There’s always a side angle that erodes trust”. When asked what main lesson he learned from his military days he replied, “if we all have the same goal, we can do anything”.

From Fort Worth, Anthony moved to Houston, via Austin, and found himself slipping back into some old habits which was leading him toward the old troubled life that he left after high school. He noticed this pattern and chose to redirect, “I’m going to make sure that never happens again”.

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CASTILLO



The adjustment from military to civilian life boiled down to just setting his mind in a healthy direction and finding his purpose. “Getting over myself was a really big obstacle for me,” he shared. “Once I finally woke up to what it would take to be successful, I got motivated to get through school”.

While in Houston, Anthony attended community college and spent his evenings working at a restaurant where he applied the work ethic he picked up in the Army. It was during this time that a co-worker caught his eye and he realized that he needed to “step up if I was going to have a chance at winning her.” Determined to accomplish what he sets his mind to, Castillo kept his nose clean and worked hard fulfilling his responsibilities. He ended up capturing the heart of his lady, who was also going to college, and when Danielle Malagarie graduated and scored a position at Newschannel 6 in Wichita Falls the next chapter in his life opened up.

Once in Wichita Falls, Anthony enrolled at MSU to continue his education, and he wasted no time delving into the local music scene. Castillo’s charisma hitched to his unbridled talent and ability to capture his audience quickly promoted him through the ranks in the local music scene.

Anthony claims to be a student of music, always picking up new things from his surroundings. However, it’s safe to say that he is also a teacher. I have personally witnessed the atmosphere of a room change because of his musical contribution. He has often been known to finish up his own gig and proceed to a different venue and join in with another group, unplanned but always welcomed, the

Wichita Falls community of musicians has viewed the accompaniment of Castillo as a pleasure. This is the case because he is a seasoned musician that knows how to add to an arrangement and fill in where needed. He may just sit back and smoothly insert some trumpet, some guitar, backing vocals, or at times even come in with some unrehearsed and in the moment free style lyrics. Although his vocal offerings are usually soulful and jazzy, he has no problem transitioning into a set of thought-provoking rhyme. “I’m a big fan of underground hip hop and the ‘real’ that it carries,” he admits.

The Wichita Falls music scene has been impacted by the talent and passion of Castillo. He has encouraged others to pour themselves into their music. He has rallied the troops and raised the bar. But the time has come to turn the page and close this chapter. He has graduated from MSU with a degree in geoscience and has his sights set on the next great challenge. Danielle has accepted a new position and it’s in the one place that suits Anthony best, New Orleans. “When it comes to music, I like playing on the corner with no electricity”, he shared. “I want people to feel what I feel.”

“Art needs turmoil and angst to make you want to get up and do something about it. I feel New Orleans is in the forefront of that. Pain and joy. It’s real. It doesn’t try to hide” There is an optimism and excitement in Anthony’s voice as he talks about the upcoming venture. And it’s easy to be excited for him. Although he will be missed in Wichita Falls, it just seems right for him to pour his soul out over the streets of New Orleans.

REMEMBERING JIMI DIVINE

w/ Elaina Kay and Tim Maloney



w/ Douglas Boyd



w/ Kim Hunter



w/ Mary Ann Boulware



Jimi Divine was a friend of mine. We played in several groups together, a few of which are Daddy J and the Living Blues, The Texas Alligators, and Elaina Kay. We played a lot of shows with a lot of different musicians, and nobody can dispute that Jimi could play the blues like no one else. I heard of his passing on December 26, 2018. He will be missed dearly in the Wichita Falls' music scene. -Tim Maloney



He was a great musician, made you feel welcome, and an all around kind hearted person. Truly going to miss his music and sense of humor. - Leslee Conditt

The Wichita Falls music community lost a legend. - Drew Charles Bartlett

Jimi Divine didn't have any enemies. He was welcome on any stage. Everything he did, he did genuinely. -John Cameron

Such a tender soul with a smile to warm hearts. - Robin Jacobson



Jimi played lead licks different than anyone I have ever seen. He would do this weird sweeping thing with his hand as he bent the note up and it gave it this really unusual sound! No one played like Jimi! I can't believe you're gone my friend. I'm still in shock.

- Douglas Boyd

Jimi was a great musician and a wonderful person that lifted the spirits of those around him. There are so many great photos of him with the people that loved him. Here are just a few, along with some sentiments. Jimi, you are loved and missed.

DEAR HEART

SPEAK TRUTH SHINE BRIGHT

Nichole Kirk is a local business owner with a story of love and triumph. Below is her story that she shared with us. --

I am a living testimony that God doesn't call the equipped. He equips the called. I was that girl who didn't wear jewelry or know how to do her makeup. I was in love with sports and nerdy books. If you would have told me I'd be the owner of a jewelry company in my 20s, I would have thought you were crazy. I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life, but I knew I wanted to help people in some way. I've always had this deep empathy for others, so deep that it makes my heart hurt when I see somebody with pain in their eyes, being judged for a mistake they've made. I literally put myself in their shoes and I want to take all their pain away. I always thought if I had the ability, I could change the world. Later I would discover that...I did! I did have something that could change their life, that could not only ease their pain, but also give them HOPE. I had something that could bring light into their darkness...bring joy into their sadness. And that thing, that wonderful, amazing thing... is Jesus.

Dear Heart began in March of 2013 when I was still working full

time in property management. I spent late hours at night with coffee, dance parties and hammering letters into metal jewelry. I was bringing in a small amount of income that allowed my husband and I to go on an extra date here and there, but not close to enough to leave my full-time job. I began receiving messages from different people wanting me to put words on their jewelry, words that made my stomach drop a little, things to do with different gods or words I'd be embarrassed to stamp into metal. I was conflicted because we could really use the money.

I finally decided to say no. And in that moment, I decided my entire brand was going to be faith-based. I wasn't going to let the world tell me what to design or influence me into doing things I wasn't comfortable doing. I was determined to create something that was a beacon of light in this world of dark.

God breathed life into my story and confirmed I was on the right path May 6th, 2013. My friend was struggling to get the last of the funds needed for her mission trip. I thought the only way I could help was to make some jewelry that I had been dabbling in and have 100% of the proceeds going to her. My busi-

ness was small, but my hope was big. My goal was to sell at least ten bracelets to help her pay for supplies and make a tiny dent in her mission goal. What happened next absolutely blew me away. My little business sold over \$1,000 in bracelets! Guys - \$1,197 to a newly graduated college student who maybe had \$100 in the bank was a LOT of money. I honestly thought she had a lot of people who really loved her and wanted to support her by buying my bracelets. I couldn't imagine any other reason.

The next day I drove to meet up with her to give her the check. Handing over such a large sum of money was such an amazing and terrifying experience, but I had this unexplainable peace and joy inside. I drove home with the biggest smile on my face. After I got home, my husband and I went on a walk to get some fresh air and reflect on what had just happened. We were discussing how crazy and amazing it was to be a part of such a blessing when my phone dinged. Back then, the website I was selling on would make this "chaching" sound and show you what amount you sold.

I looked down at my phone and couldn't believe it. I had a single sale for \$1,197 from a random woman in

Florida with no connection to my friend or to me. What? Did they buy out my entire store? Well yes, basically. There was no denying it then guys. God's hand was in this all the way. He was writing the beginning of the amazing adventure I was about to embark on. And ever since then, I've been stepping out in faith and listening so closely for His whispers.

As my jewelry evolved into delicate handmade pieces, my relationship with Jesus Christ developed into a deeper love and intimate fellowship. My intention behind Dear Heart was to open doors for meaningful conversation. Growing up, I always had a love for words. I knew I wanted my jewelry to incorporate words that evoked inspiration and emotion. I wanted women to put on my pieces and be able to share their story while creating opportunities to witness to others and to feel bold, brave and empowered.

Fast forward to 2016, I was sitting in a chair waiting my turn to pitch my business idea to a panel of five judges for IDEA WF. I had been preparing for this moment for a long time. I was sitting there, leg bouncing and my stomach in knots. A guy sitting beside me turned and said, "I am getting close to graduating and like

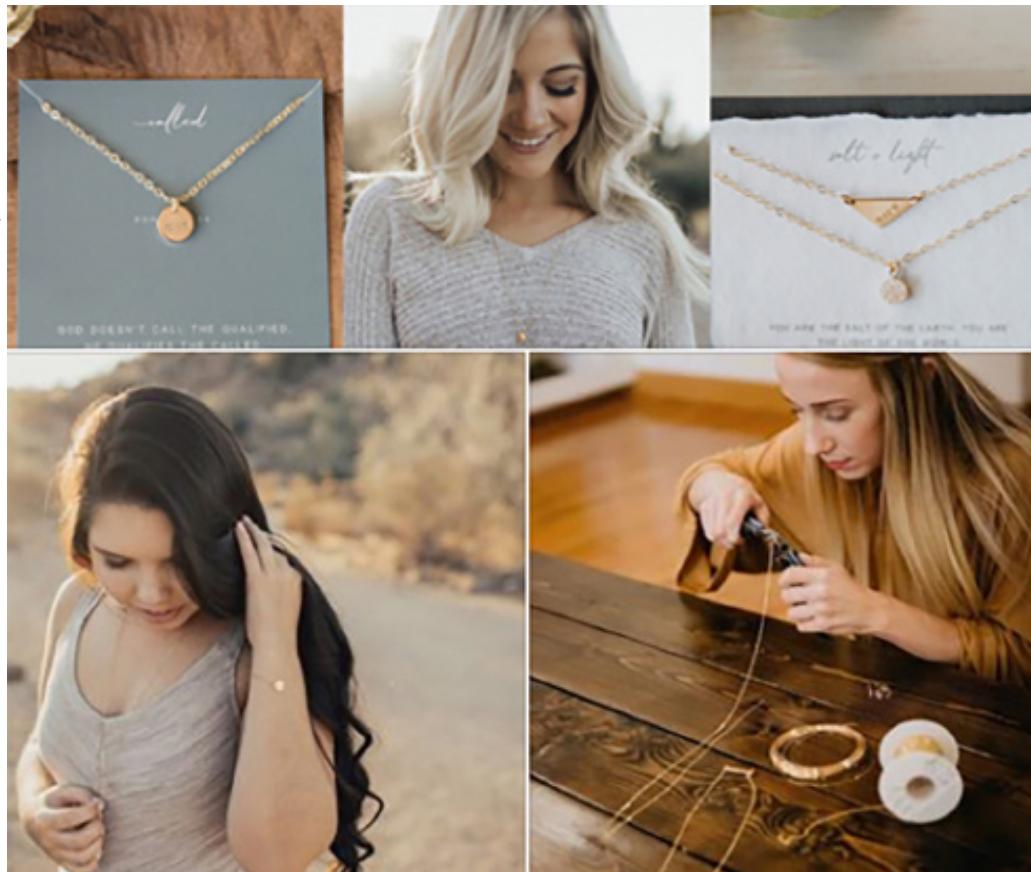


to speak with entrepreneurs about how they got to where they are and what advice they have for me. So, tell me, how did you come up with your business idea?"

I knew the moment he asked, God was there. A feeling of calm washed over me, and I was no longer thinking about reciting my pitch perfectly in front of the judges or answering all of their questions with ease. I smiled to myself knowing He was comforting my spirit and giving me a new focus other than the one I was so anxious about. There I was about to witness to someone, my favorite thing to do. I only had about three minutes before they were going to call me in, so I looked him in the eye and grinned, "If you would have told me that I would be a jewelry designer while I was in college, I would have laughed at you." I said to him. "Every bit of this business is God's work, He is just using my hands. He has a plan for each of us, if we will just listen to Him." "So, you think that it is all written?" he asked. "Yes, yes I do." I replied as I got up, gathering my things. "My grandmother used to say that, that it was all written. Maybe it is time that I start finding that faith too." He said. I nodded at him with a smile and waved goodbye, walking into a room surrounded by peace and calmness. (P.S.... I won!)

In 2017, I was looking to move Dear Heart out of our house. I wanted to be able to separate work from home and besides that- we had definitely outgrown my extra bedroom! I began looking in windows of empty buildings on the square in Henrietta. My husband coached here, and it would be nice to have something close to home. I found a real gem one day looking into one. It had cement floors and exposed brick walls. I was told don't even bother with asking the man who owned it because he didn't live in town and the buildings had sat va-

cant for so long. I was determined to make it happen. I finally got his number from a local company and called him. This kind and soft-hearted man named Don answered the phone. He immediately began to discourage me from the store. He said it didn't have any electricity or air conditioning and would be very costly to renovate. He asked me if I had looked at the old Boot Barn next door? He offered to rent it to me for a very reasonable price. When my husband and I went to look at it, the awning was coming down in front of the building and everything inside was orange, but



I saw my vision unfolding. I wasn't sure how much he wanted, and I was fearful I wouldn't be able to afford the rent and feed my family. I called him back and told him what I could afford. And I guess the rest they say is history.

You see, I'm not the brains behind this brand or what keeps it afloat. I am definitely a far second. God's hand is woven throughout Dear

Heart's entire existence and it's His vision that I chase and His approval that I seek. His words are written all over the wood under the paint in our store and His presence can be felt when you enter this space. People tell me all the time they feel Him here and that there is no denying it. He's always nudging me to do uncomfortable things. Always whispering plans in my ear. And I listen because I know He's got a reason behind every little thing, even if I can't see it yet. When we built our Henrietta store, we invited people to come in and write prayers on the walls. I remem-

crazy nudge to open a second retail location, this time in Wichita Falls, Texas. It terrified me. I fought with it for weeks- especially after seeing commercial rent prices and all the articles about how retail is dying. But he didn't stop nudging. Wichita Falls didn't need another store- they were right. But it DID need a place that was more than that. A place that gave back and brought people together. A place that when you walked in you would feel surrounded by peace and could have a cup of coffee and hang out at the community table. The products in it would just sustain it.

So I did it. I signed the lease on a 3000 square foot space right off of Kemp Blvd and I am so amazed at our journey so far in just a month of being open. Our core products are of course those of Dear Heart jewelry and apparel, but we have curated brands around it that give back and are not found other places.

We created a free event called "He Calls Her Beautiful" and were amazed when 125 women showed up for it mid-September. It was an incredible night of community and self-love. We knew then we would need to have tickets for the next one in October just to control crowd numbers and we sold out of 100 tickets in 48 hours! We do a Flower Friday where we give away 10-15 free bouquets every Friday and all people have to do is tell us who it's for and why (You can see the sweet posts all over our social media). I can't wait to see what is next.

So now that you've heard a piece of my story, I want to ask something of you. When you feel that nudge on your heart to do something uncomfortable, or maybe even a little crazy, will you act on it? Will you let your guard down and step out and do the scary thing? Because sister, I can tell you right now, there isn't anything too big or too scary for our God. He's writing your story- just let Him take the lead.

In 2018, God gave me another

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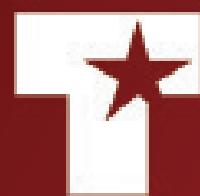
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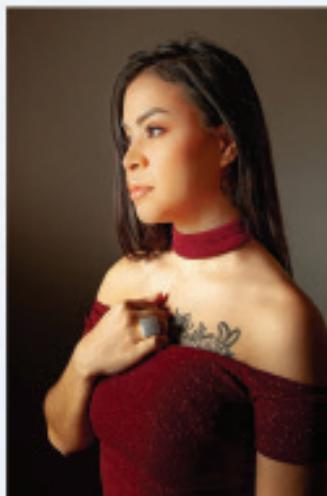


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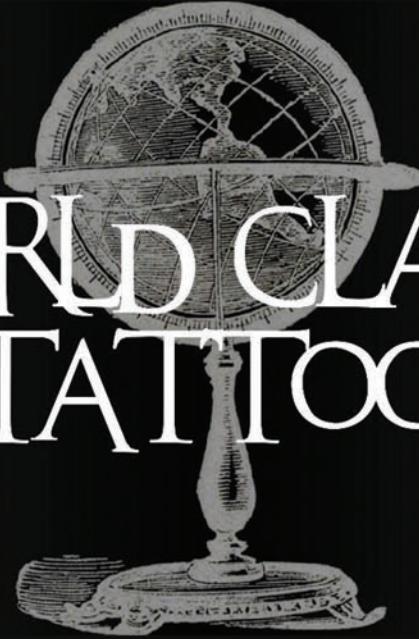
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