

# Downtown Wichita Falls Development



**Plus:** Jerry Hughes    Brendan Bell    Marsha Wright-Reeves  
Maestro Fakhouri    Bill Whitley    Local Legends Music Fest    Gypsy Food Truck

# THE HUB OF NORTH TEXAS

There are so many good things happening in Wichita Falls. Downtown is BOOMING. The art and music scene is better than ever, and local business owners are working together to build a thriving community that supports each other rather than competing and trying to put each other under. This city is wonderful.

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Sometimes life throws twists and turns at us. The Hub does not take any responsibility for information or schedule changes. We want to support local artists and businesses but we suggest that you verify the information before putting something on your calendar.

1 Corinthians 16:14

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Downtown Wichita Falls Development



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

# DOWNTOWN - WHERE MEMORIES ARE MADE.

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## CITY LIGHTS

A DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY FESTIVAL • WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS

Presented by Downtown Wichita Falls Development, Inc.

November 18

PARADE FOOD SANTA

# What's Happening

## October 5

Randy Summers  
@ Silver Dollar Saloon

## October 6

John Clifton Blues Band  
@ Stick's Place

Zach Cornell  
@ Gypsy Uncorked

James Cook Band w/  
Jared Deck Band @ IHP

Texas Boneyard Band  
@ Lonesum Dove

Tuna Blues Band  
@ Silver Dollar Saloon

## October 7

Gray Matters: the colors  
of mental illness @ 9th St  
Studios

Dru Gid  
@ Gypsy Uncorked

Local Legends  
Rock Festival featuring:  
Tracing Tomorrow  
Joback Manwhorse  
Swingblade  
Black River  
Ninety To Nothing  
Armadillo Flatts  
Romeo Whiskey  
Therapy  
Pvt. Wilhelm  
It Hurts To Be Dead  
Leddit Ride  
RIP  
AA Bottom  
@ Stick's Place

Saints And Sinners  
Double Vision @ IHP

Walkin' Johnny  
@ Silver Dollar Saloon

Hell Or High Water  
Hurricane Harvey Benefit  
featuring 9 acts ranging  
from western swing,  
gospel, metal, and surf  
music  
@ Friendship Park Festi-  
val Amphitheatre,  
Burkburnett, TX

Red Dog  
@ Anchors Aweigh

DJ MF Maniac & Kroe  
@ The Deep End

Estilo Tejano  
@ Calle Ocho Festival

Newsboys @ MPEC

## October 11

Open Mic  
@ The Maplewood

## October 12

Dani Carson  
@ Silver Dollar Saloon

David Fowler  
Art Opening  
@ The Maplewood

## October 13

Deep In It w/  
Noise Bleeds Sound  
@ IHP

Jared Putnam  
@ Gypsy Uncorked

Armadillo Flatts  
@ Lonesum Dove

Parker McCollum  
@ The Warehouse

6 Miles Out  
@ Silver Dollar Saloon

The Rocky Horror Show  
opening day  
@ Backdoor Theatre  
runs through Oct 28

James Cook acoustic  
show  
@ Frank & Joe's

## October 14

Vintage Fair @ 1100  
Travis St

Anthony Castillo  
@ Gypsy Uncorked

Def Legend w/ With-  
out Warning @ IHP

Bisketheads  
@ Silver Dollar Saloon

Brazos River Outlaws,  
Big Find, Skeksis, &  
Trigger The Dead  
@ Fat Alberts

Wichita Falls Symphony  
Orchestra  
@ Memorial Auditorium

## October 18

Karaoke  
@ The Maplewood

## October 19

Stories of Frank Kell  
@ Kell House

Randy Summers  
@ Silver Dollar Saloon

## October 20

Tejas Brothers  
w/ Morgan Ashley @ IHP

Zach Cornell  
@ Gypsy Uncorked

Live Music TBA  
@ Silver Dollar Saloon

Vegas Stars from Dallas  
@ Silver Dollar Saloon

Live Music TBA  
@ Iron Horse Pub

## October 21

Cellar Door  
@ Gypsy Uncorked

## October 22

Casey Abba Band  
@ Fubar Saloon, Lawton

## October 26

Tite Wire  
@ Silver Dollar Saloon

Open Mic  
@ The Maplewood

## October 27

Allegheny Drive @ IHP

DJMFManiac  
@ The Maplewood

Ryan Roberts  
@ Gypsy Uncorked

Jake Odin and the  
Marching Band  
@ Stick's Place

Armadillo Flatts  
@ Silver Dollar Saloon

Casey Abbe Band  
@ Red Dirt Reloaded Bar,  
Lawton, OK

## October 28

Los Muertos •  
Celebration of Life  
Festival  
@ 9th St Studios

Romeo Whiskey  
Downtown Royalty Band  
@ Stick's Place

Jared Putnam  
@ Gypsy Uncorked

Hellen Bach  
Annual Halloween Party  
@ Silver Dollar Saloon

Annual Halloween Bash  
Live Music TBA @ IHP

X  
Leddit Ride  
@ IHP

Deep In It  
@ Mustang Bar

## October 30

Olivia Newton-John  
@ Memorial Auditorium

## October 31

RIP  
Halloween Monster Bash  
@ Stick's Place

## November 3

Annual Outlaw 94.9  
Birthday Bash w/ Dirty  
River Boys & Zach Nyt-  
omt Band @ IHP

Texas Boneyard Band  
@ Lonesum Dove

Tuna Blues Band  
@ Silver Dollar Saloon

## November 4

INTXS

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**9-11:00 AM Specials**  
\$1.50 domestic longnecks  
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**Pool Tables & Darts**

Oct 6 - John Clifton Blues Band  
Oct 7 - Local Legends Rock Festival see pg. 17  
Oct 27 - Jake Odin And The Marching Band  
Oct 28 - Romeo Whiskey &  
Downtown Royalty Band  
Oct 31 - Monster Bash w/ RIP

**\$2 Tuesdays**  
\$2 Domestic Longnecks and Wells all night

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Electric Love Temple  
@ Iron Horse Pub

Spit Stain  
@ The Deep End

## Ongoing events:

Geeks Who Drink  
Thursdays @ Gypsy Uncorked

Dru's Open Jam  
Mondays @ Old Town Saloon

Vanity's Open Jam  
Mondays @ 608 Lounge

\$2 Tuesdays with Tim  
Maloney  
@ Stick's Place

Open Jam first Wednesday  
Open mic third Wednesday  
@ Iron Horse Pub

Open Mic, Fridays  
@ 8th St. Coffee House

Live music every Friday  
@ Lonesum Dove

Live music every Friday  
@ Ganache Cupcake Lounge

Live music every Friday  
@ Frank & Joes Coffee House

Live music every Friday  
Race Rutledge every Saturday  
@ Texas Nite Life

Open mic every Sunday  
@ Mustang Bar

Follow The Hub of NTX on Face-  
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TBA.  
Grab a friend and see a show!

# LOS MUERTOS

## A Celebration of Life

**Oct 27 6-9PM** LOS MUERTOS OCCULTOS ART SHOW OPENING

**Oct 28 4-9PM** FAMILY FESTIVAL NIGHT!

**DATE NIGHT** FOR THE ADULTS FOOD, DRINKS, & MUSIC

**ART OPENING** FEATURING ART INSPIRED BY DIA DE LOS MUERTOS JEFF BRAME

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**Oct. 6** - James Cook Band, Jared Deck Band

**Oct. 7** - Saints and Sinners "Whitesnake Tribute" with Double Vision "Foreigner Tribute"

**Oct. 13** - Deep In It, Noise Bleeds Sound

**Oct. 14** - Def Legend "Def Leppard Tribute", Without Warning "Dokken Tribute Band"

**Oct. 20** - Tejas Brothers, Morgan Ashley

**Oct. 21** - TBA

**Oct. 27** - Allegheny Drive

**Oct. 28** - Halloween Bash

**Nov. 3** - Annual Outlaw 94.9 Birthday Bash with Dirty River Boys, Zach Nytomt Band

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# Wichita Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau — Responds To Hurricane Harvey —

Wichita Falls is known for its hospitality, and after the hurricane and subsequent floods in Houston, our town was an oasis for some of the evacuees. “It is our job to welcome visitors to Wichita Falls, whether they are here for a meeting, an event, or even for a situation like that,” said Lindsay Barker, Director of Conventions and Visitors Bureau (CVB), referring to the flooding.

The staff of the CVB brainstormed ways to help the evacuees. “We made up a list of local businesses, restaurants, and contacts that we could each call that we felt like would meet the immediate needs of the evacuees,” Barker said. “We got several donations from restaurants, and English Pharmacy donated basic toiletry items and over the counter medicine like Tylenol. Star Bright Cleaners donated gift cards. We had several of the local attractions and museums, as well as the Backdoor Theatre and The Wichita Theater, donate passes and tickets for their entertainment.”

Wichita Falls Independent School District donated tickets for the Friday night football games, and Arrowhead Roofing donated their roofing services. “Then the word got out, and we had churches and individuals donate diapers, formula and gift cards from Wal-Mart and

other places like that,” she said.

The CVB were in communication with hotels and the RV Park and Lake Arrowhead state park to see how many evacuees were at the different locations. The whole state of Texas waved reservation fees and Lake Arrowhead followed suit. “We put together packets and delivered them to the evacuees,” Barker explained. “From there, the different entities have kept us updated if they have ongoing needs that we could help with.” Barker said that at this time all of the Houston visitors have gone home except for one group at one hotel. “We just wanted to help where we could, however we could, and we were overwhelmed with the response from the local community and their desire to help. I think everyone we asked for any help immediately said yes, and we couldn’t have done it without those partners,” she said.

“Wichita Falls is a great place to live and visit. We were so appreciative, and I think it says that our town and community are willing to help without hesitation. We want to welcome visitors to Wichita Falls no matter the circumstances,” Barker said with a smile. “People wanted a way to help and we just provided an avenue for it.”

- cindy kahler thomas

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Geeks Who Drink Trivia Thursdays  
(starting Sept. 14th)



# The MAPLE WOOD

Wednesday, October 4th  
Karaoke Night

Wednesday, October 11th  
Painting Party  
w/ Vickie Milam



Thursday, October 19th  
Painting Party  
w/ Vickie Milam

Thursday, October 26th  
Open Mic Night

Friday, October 27th  
DJ Marcus



Wednesday, October 11th  
Open Mic Night

Thursday, October 12th  
David Fowler  
Art Opening

Wednesday, October 18th  
Karaoke Night



## The Mane Event Back In The Saddle

In 2007 Leadership Wichita Falls (LWF), a group of young business leaders, began a public arts project where over 50 fiberglass horses were painted by local artists, and have since been displayed across town. Now, ten years later, this group is revisiting the project for round two.

Local artists are being commissioned to paint horses and foals at the direction of a business owner that will first purchase the statue for a set price. Once the horses are painted they will be displayed at the purchaser's place of business. This project will



not only beautify the area with art covered horses, but the funds raised by this project will also be used to overhaul outdated parks.

The parks that will benefit from this project include Bud Daniels Park located downtown. Some ideas for the space include an art and music haven and possible splash park as well as a memorial wall

to honor fallen police officers. Other parks include two local elementary schools that need updated and safer play equipment as well as wheelchair accessible play areas.

This project ties together nicely the community with the arts in a way that will benefit all ages and our city as a whole.

For more information about this project or how to get involved you can go to [TheManeEvent.org](http://TheManeEvent.org) or call (940) 773-1108



2611 Plaza Pkwy, Ste 301 A

(940) 689-0404

# Jerry Hughes - One Of North Texas' Finest

Recent hurricanes have battered the south eastern portion of the United States. We have seen the images, many of us know someone that has been effected, and some of us have donated food, money, or blood to do what we can to lend a hand. A few local heroes went all out and travelled into the disaster first hand to save people from imminent danger. Among these individuals is Jerry Hughes.

Jerry started his week just like he does every Monday. As the owner and trainer at Hughes Training & Nutrition, Jerry starts hits the gym early. On the Monday morning following the landfall of Hurricane Harvey, while at the gym, Jerry kept feeling a nudge that he attributes to God telling him to go to Houston. Jerry called his fiancée

and told her of his plans to head toward Houston. Wasting no time, they went to Academy Sports for a water raft.

Jerry got wind that several people were launching their water crafts in Dickinson Texas, so he headed that way with his jet ski, raft, and whatever last-minute tool he could grab. They hit heavy rain about College Station and ventured down highway 490 until they hit a wall of parked cars. "It was about 30 miles north of Houston", Jerry said. "We didn't want to waste a lot of time trying to backtrack and find other routes so we put the jet ski in the water thinking we might find people in that area we could help". Jerry was right. Just about 300 yards in, they came to a 16 foot overpass that was barely peeking

from the water and immediately saw a problem. Maybe 15 feet from the overpass, three men clung to a tree, in danger from the fast flowing water below. "The overpass created a vortex and the water was sucking things under", Jerry explained. He later found out that one of the gentlemen in the tree brought his boat from Stephenville to help rescue people and lost his boat to the sucking overpass that was now trying to consume them. The boat was found

days later, mangled and resting upside down in the mud.

There were people trying to rescue the men. A video online shows a crew of firefighters trying to extend an aluminum ladder above the rushing water toward the tree,

to the men in order to free them. The current was too strong to risk the jet ski, so he took his raft and teamed up with some guys on a railway bridge that seemed to be floating on the 16 feet deep water. Tying a rope around his waist, Jer-



but no attempt proved to be less dangerous than what the men were already experiencing. "

Hughes scanned the surroundings to find a way to gain access

ry entered the water and instructed the men on the tracks to do their best to anchor him while he made his way with the raft down current to the tree. He knew that



panic would be the biggest threat so, upon reaching the tree, he kept the raft between himself and the victims.

Minutes before Jerry had arrived, one of the guys clinging to the tree trunk looked to the other men and requested “Call my wife and tell her I love her. I can’t hold on much longer”. He was a big man that had thrown his back out in the incident. When Jerry arrived at the tree everyone agreed that he go first. Keeping the raft as a buffer, Jerry instructed the victim step by step, keeping him calm and cooperative, until they were pulled back to the tracks.

Using the same technique, Jerry returned to the tree to retrieve the second man. The first words out of his mouth was “Please don’t let me die. I have four kids”. The men were exhausted and terrified. Jerry said, “The most jarring part of it was that I had never seen someone feeling like they were on the brink of death and had planned out their end with such emotion”.

After two successful trips, the last man in the tree felt confident when his turn came. This was the

man from Stephenville that lost his boat. With his retrieval complete, all the men stood on the tracks relieved and thanking God for their lives. “This all happened within 15 minutes of us getting there and putting the jet ski in the water”, says Hughes. To Jerry, the timing was evidence that it was God nudging him to go and be there in time to save these men that were about to give up hope.

In the five days that they were in the south Texas area, they made several other rescues, but these three men seemed unique in Jerry’s mind due to the urgency and timeliness. They made their way around the area doing what they could. With the Zello app (walkie talkie), they could hear people calling out for help and said it was heart breaking. People would call out their address requesting and begging for assistance. “We heard some sad things. There was one guy stuck in a horse trailer and he would say it’s up to his waist, it’s up to his chest, it’s up to his neck. He would beg people to get to his address. We tried to get to there and drove through water deeper than

we should have, but we couldn’t make it.”

Some areas were closed to rescues due to body recoveries. Elderly were calling out because they were in wheel chairs. The need was great. Jerry said that they didn’t get much sleep but adrenaline kept them going. “I never understood when rescue teams would say ‘we can’t get to them’. How is that possible?”, Jerry wondered. Now, because he has first-hand knowledge of rescue efforts, he knows today, “Everything becomes an island and everything is disconnected. Sure, you can use your boat or jet ski, but then you run into land and you can’t get around it and you can’t carry it over. Everywhere you go you run into a dead end.”

Jerry said that the scene was terrible, but he found hope and

encouragement in the unity and compassion that was on display. “Nobody cared who was poor, rich, black, or white. Nobody cared at all. You’re getting in the water and looking for any human being that you can possibly get to.” They met people all the way from Oklahoma who were there to help. Jerry ended with “That is the world that we live in. The picture that the media is always painting is not where we live.”

Jerry remains in contact with the man from Stephenville and they plan on meeting for dinner soon. This world can be an ugly place, but humanity shines bright when our neighbors are in danger. Thank you, Jerry, and all the other compassionate souls, for risking your lives and property to save others.

Jerry on far left



OCTOBER 2017

**14**  
October  
7:30 PM

WFAA THE ALLIANCE

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# BRENDAN BELL



“When I was 11 years old, my granddad bought me a guitar and said he would pay for my lessons.” That was where it started for Brendan Bell; he was hooked. Brendan took lessons from the late Leon Gibbs. Leon and his brothers, Sam and Nat Gibbs, made up the popular western swing band, The Miller Brothers (MB Corral founders). Bell says that Leon taught him “note by note and fret by fret” which made the way for reading sheet music. These early skills helped him branch out to other instruments including dobro, mandolin, and banjo. “I went out and bought a banjo after the first Mumford and Sons album came out”, explained Brendan. “I’m sure suspenders and banjo sales went up nationwide.” Brendan also trained under performer and teacher, Bruce Canafax.

In high school Brendan and some friends started a band, Cinco Gringos, that continued into college. Once the Gringos dissolved, Bell, now living in Austin, decided to join another friend in starting a 90’s cover band and call it OJ and the Broncos. The two guys chose an unconventional way of form-

ing the group. “The entire band was put together from Craigslist ads”, Brendan said.

Brendan reluctantly moved back to Wichita Falls in 2013 after spending 12 years in Austin. He said that it didn’t take him too long to realize that this wasn’t the same place that he left over a decade earlier. Several people questioned his decision to leave Austin and return to his home town saying things like “there’s nothing for you here, this is as good as this town is ever going to get. I don’t believe that. Good things are happening right now”, Brendan told me. “This city is great. It’s all about attitude. If you can’t be happy living here then you wouldn’t be happy in Austin or Paris, France. You make your own happiness.”

Not long after moving back Brendan began attending Onelife Community Church at The Wichita Theatre where he heard Katy Draper sing and, without knowing her, went up and told her they needed to start a band together. Katy wasn’t too sure what to think about his approach, but they started that band, calling it Wichita Red and the Songbird and have since played venues such as The Maplewood, Sounds Of Speedway, Live At The Lake, Red River Beer And Wine Festival, and Top Of Texas Market.

Brendan keeps himself busy these days. Between the band and working at Schaaf and Clark Commer-



cial Real Estate, he still manages to make time for his community and giving back to society. Brendan recently announced his decision to run for City Counselor at Large. He said that some friends suggested he run and after talking about it for about an hour he realized, “This is everything I’m already doing. I’m a huge advocate for downtown and represent buyers of commercial real estate, so I’m always selling the greatness of this place”. If Brendan wins on

November 7th Wichita Falls will have the youngest City Council it has ever had with everyone being under the age of 40, with a mayor of 41. Many are optimistic about this in the hopes that the new council will be more creative and progressive.

Bell is compassionate and community minded. In 2014 he went with a church group to help after the tornado struck Moore, Oklahoma. Following that experience, he told himself that if the op-

**94.9 The Outlaw brings you 24 hours of the greatest in Red Dirt/Texas music with local DJs devoted to the scene 7 days a week. Make sure to listen for The Way Too Early Show with James Cook and catch Big Jim Russell on your way home, as they bring you the best country with a Texas attitude.**





portunity ever presented itself to help in a similar capacity again, he would do it. That opportunity did present itself in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Brendan felt the need to contribute his time and effort to help where he could, so he teamed up with his Austin friends and went to Houston to help clean up. The area they found themselves in was a neighborhood that sat in 6 feet of water for two weeks. Brendan described

the scene. "There was mold up to the ceilings and the smell was so strong I could barely stand it". They cleared out 5 houses in 3 days down to the studs. Brendan said that the people were grateful and optimistic. Some houses that were on hills and didn't flood even set up tents and ice chests, offering food, beer, and water to anyone needing a break. It was a great community setting. "I'm all about community", said Brendan.



OCTOBER 2017

# SILVER DOLLAR SALOON

**Never a cover for live music!**

- Oct 5 - Randy Summers
- Oct 6 - Tuna Blues Band
- Oct 7 - Walkin' Johnny
- Oct 12 - Dannie Carson
- Oct 13 - 6 Miles Out
- Oct 14 - Bisketheads
- Oct 19 - Randy Summers
- Oct 20 - Lucky Southern
- Oct 21 - Vegas Stars (from Dallas)
- Oct 26 - Tite Wire
- Oct 27 - Armadillo Flatts
- Oct 28 - Helen Bach - Annual Halloween Party

**November 3rd  
Hip Hop Hooray**

*Karaoke ever Wed-Thurs-Fri-Sat @ 9pm*

**Never a cover charge for live music  
at Silver Dollar Saloon**

**Monday** - \$5 Jager Bombs, \$3 Pickle Shots open-close

**Twisted Tuesday** - \$1 domestics, \$4 Red Bullritas and any Jack or Jim from 5-10pm

**Wednesday** - \$5 Patron & Vegas Bombs open-close

**Thirsty Thursdays** - \$1 domestics, \$4 Red Bullritas and Crown 5-10pm

**Fireball Fridays**- \$3 Fireball, \$3 Pickle Shots open-close

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# DOWNTOWN WICHITA FALLS DEVELOPMENT

It's impossible to ignore the progress, and ever-growing buzz of activity, in the downtown Wichita Falls area. No one person, or even group of people, can be given credit for this growth. It is no doubt, though, that the Iron Horse Pub has played a role by being an anchor in the core of downtown for 17 years.

Without a doubt, one of the big players in turning downtown back into a Wichita Falls hot spot is the Downtown Wichita Falls Development organization. There is a board that helps to guide this organization, but the driving force and day to day operators of DWFD are Cynthia Laney and Jeanette Charos. These two deal with the logistics, public relations, and headaches that come with such a large task.

Events such as the St. Paddy's Day Festival, Cajun Fest, Watermelon Fest, Art & Soul, and City Lights are all produced by the Downtown Development team. It is revenue from these events that help fund the downtown beautification projects. These events also bring both Wichita Falls residents and out of towners to the downtown area. The largest of these events is the City Lights Parade, which brings in 12

15-20k people to kick off the holiday season. This year's city lights event will take place on



November 18 and will be themed "A Story Book Christmas". There will be approximately 100 floats in the parade.

Their largest beautification project to date is the three year renovation of the Zales building at 8th & Ohio which returned it to its 1920's facade to help entice buyers. It was DeBores Pawn Shop when purchased, and was



boarded up and abandoned. The purchase was made with funds raised through events, mem-

berships, and funding, raising opportunities such as Texoma gives. The plan worked and the building was recently purchased

by Amber Schacter (Ganache Cupcake Lounge, The Yard). Amber plans on relocating Ganche from its Parker Square location, and re-inventing the venue to include a fine dining area and downtown

delivery.

With the Zales building gone, the Downtown Wichita Falls Development team is looking for another building to renovate. Indiana and Scott street seem to be evolving on their own, so much of DWFD's focus has been on Ohio Avenue. Most likely their next renovation project will be on Ohio as well.

Although renovating massive, historic buildings is exciting and captures the attention of a large audience, "the devil is in the details". It takes so much more than some paint and plaster to revitalize a community. It takes a culture shift. To help gain and maintain momentum in this downtown culture shift, DWFD steadily makes improvements in smaller ways to beautify downtown and help make it more functional. One of the ways they have done this recently is by installing new trash and recycling bins in the area, which they bought and maintain. Currently DWFD is working on installing benches in key locations around the downtown area, says Charos. Phase one will see the installation of about 6 benches with the end goal being close to twenty. Streetscaping and bicycle racks are on the horizon for down-



1920's - Original Zales business



Purchased as abandoned pawn shop



Post facade renovation

town beautification as well.

The future is bright for downtown. The events and renovation projects that Downtown Wichita Falls Development produce are, without a doubt, a major factor in new life blossoming in the heart

of Wichita Falls. Their hard work has drawn much attention and has encouraged others to join in. 8th Street Coffee House, who has been pushing downtown progress years before it was popular, is currently undergoing a mas-

sive expansion. There are twenty-eight residential apartments under construction above the coffee house, a sculpture garden is being planned, blue prints are drawn up for a beer garden, and art is exploding everywhere. There's also

been interest in making downtown a wifi hotspot by installing transmitters on light poles.

Individuals who want to support downtown can become DWFD members by registering at [www.downtownproud.com](http://www.downtownproud.com).

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**EVERYTHING IS MADE LOCALLY!**

# Marsha Wright-Reeves

Ironically, artist Marsha Wright-Reeves was unable to take art classes until high school because her mother wanted her to be in the school band. But playing the flute didn't exercise her creative muscles and she insisted on taking art in her freshman year at Burkburnett High School.

And it was Barbra Bean that opened her eyes and propelled her to seek art as a career. Painting the faces on magazines, which she did when she was small, didn't prepare her for the joys that she found in art class. The next year, she took another art class taught by Lavern Easter that was more advanced and Marsha was hooked.

Life got in the way of college, and she didn't attend Midwestern State University until she was 27. "I focused on an art major from 1988



**Resident Artists:** J. Bradford M. Karyl Barbosa  
Mary Jane Roberts Judy Braddy Jackie Phillips Sharon Norton  
Ronda Morgan Kim Ward Arianna Kirk Marion Helmick  
Sharon McCluskey

Featured Artist: Ronda Morgan



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Ronda Morgan joined the Seventh St. Studio one year ago. Self taught, she works in oil and water colors. Drop in and see her beautiful works!



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until 1992, specializing in painting. During that time, I was taught by Elizabeth Yarosz- Ash, and I learned so much from her,” Marsha said. “And I loved being around other artists.” After Marsha got out of school, she went through a period in her life when she was raising children, but still found time to sell her pastel portraits of the children and pets of “soccer moms”. She even taught art twice a week at Hardin Elementary School in Burkburnett.

Marsha and her family moved to Wichita Falls in 2006, and she joined the Wichita Falls Art Association in 2007. Within a couple months, she became vice president of the association, and in 2008 she became president. “I was really excited to be around other artists again,” she said, “Seeing other people’s art and being in shows again, inspired my creativity that had been dormant for years.”

The WFAA had been around since the 40’s, but was still a bit “old school”, so Marsha implemented some changes. Under her lead, the association developed a webpage and obtained an email address. “I saw a need and I wanted to awaken the association the same way my art and creativity had been awakened in me,” she explained. But Marsha didn’t stop there. With the help of her Vice President, she managed to open a gallery where the members could show their art all of the time, and not just a couple of times a year, which had been the norm. Marsha still shows her art downtown at the Wichita Falls Art Association Gallery in the historic Holt Hotel. She also sells her art from her Facebook page, ‘Marsha Wright-Reeves is Virtually Red’. She is also expanding her art to the Dallas, Fort Worth area.

Marsha paints portraits and is

known for her Art Deco style paintings. She paints with watercolor, acrylic, and oil paints, and does sculptures and stained glass, too. “I also restore antique frames, which is an art form in its self.” Marsha added.

Currently she is painting flowers, and they are exquisite. One of Marsha’s neighbors has a beautiful garden full of extraordinary flowers that have become the subjects of

many of her paintings. “All the colors and different blooms are very inspiring, and that is exactly what I needed to paint for a while. I was at a stagnant place in my art journey,” Marsha shared.

Marsha teaches private lessons to children from the ages of 10 to 18. Marsha added, “That is something I truly love to do. It is wonderful to bring art to the next generation”.

- cindy kahler thomas



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# WFAA

## WICHITA FALLS ART ASSOCIATION

Fostering the Vibrant Artistic Spirits in North Central Texas since 1949

The Wichita Falls Art Association meets at noon on the third Wednesday of the month at the Kemp Center for the Arts located at 1300 Lamar Street.

We have presentations by regional artists in all visual arts media. Come join us for lively discussions, meet our local artists and learn about the arts and crafts community of North Central Texas!

[www.fallsart.org](http://www.fallsart.org) • Wichita Falls Art Association on FaceBook • WFAA Art Gallery at 600 8th Street in the Historic Holt Hotel

# Dr. Fouad Fakhouri - WFSO New Maestro

The 2017-2018 Wichita Falls Symphony Orchestra season opens on October 14th under the baton of Dr. Fouad Fakhouri, who takes the podium for the first time as the WFSO's new Music Director-Conductor following Dr. Candler Schaffer's dedicated twenty year tenure with the orchestra.

If you did not have the opportunity to see Maestro Fakhouri when he was in town as one of the WFSO's three conductor finalists, you will want to be sure to welcome him for the season opener. Last year, he led the WFSO in music by Saint-Saens and Strauss. The highlight his concert was Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2, which was performed with guest soloist (and Cliburn Crystal Award winner) Sean Chen.

The October 14th concert, at Maestro Fakhouri's suggestion, features not a soloist, but the talented members of the WFSO themselves. Made up of over seventy professional musicians from Wichita Falls and the Metroplex, the WFSO has established itself over its seventy year history as one of the top regional orchestras on the Southern Plains, which is precisely why Fakhouri wants to feature them at his first the season opener in Wichita Falls.

The concert will begin with a favorite of many listeners, Mozart's overture to the opera *The Marriage of Figaro*. The second work on the program is Mexican composer Arturo Marquez's *Danzon No. 2*. Though it might be unfamiliar at first hearing, it is sure to become a favorite in the hearts and minds of everyone in the auditorium due to its exciting Cuban and Mexican dance rhythms. *Danzon No. 2* has become one of the most frequently performed contem-

porary Mexican compositions since it premiered in Mexico City in 1994.

Maestro Fakhouri will also lead the orchestra in Ivor Stravinsky's famous *Firebird Suite*, which was composed in 1919 on the heels of World War I. The incidental music from *The*

to bring it together in the suite form that Texomans will hear at Memorial Auditorium on the 14th.

If there is a work on the October program that will highlight the grandeur, mastery, and subtlety of our fine orchestra, it is the Sym-

Beethoven, the forty-three year old Brahms took fourteen years to complete his first symphony, which premiered in 1876. It's not surprising, because this Late Romantic era composer was still very attached to the earlier symphonic style laid out by his Classical predecessors such as Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven.

The rest of the 2017-2018 season will be just as exciting. On November 11th, Wichita Falls will be treated to a visit by actor and former serviceman Wilford Brimley, who will narrate one of the works on the Veteran's Day salute concert. The world-famous Canadian Brass will return to Memorial Auditorium on December 16th for the WFSO's annual Christmas concert, and on February 24th, the orchestra will be joined by MSU professor and Dean of the Lamar D. Fain College of Fine Arts, Dr. Martin Camacho, who will perform Grieg's *Piano Concerto in A Minor*. The season closes on April 14th with a multi-media concert that is sure to be talked about for many years to come—*Pixar in Concert*. Free tickets are available for this community outreach concert through the WFSO office beginning February 5th.

Readers who have never attended a WFSO concert are encouraged to give it a try this season as the organization celebrates not only its seventieth anniversary, but also the hiring of its new conductor, Fouad Fakhouri. Tickets are available at a variety of prices. To learn more about the WFSO and the current season, check out [wfsso.org](http://wfsso.org) or follow the WFSO on Facebook (Wichita Falls Symphony), Twitter (@WFSO), Instagram (wf\_so), or Snapchat (wfsymphony).

-Dr. Todd Giles

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*Firebird*, an opera Stravinsky originally completed in 1910, was so well liked by audiences that he decided

*phony No. 1* by Johannes Brahms. Known as one of the "Three B's" of classical music alongside Bach and

# WESTERN BILL WHITLEY



Western artist Bill Whitley is well known in this area for his skills as an artist and has won many awards, and it all started with a pencil and a comic book. “I started drawing when I was about 5 years old,” Bill reminisced. “You know how all kids do. They look at comic books and start drawing.”

Bill is the son of a rancher, which provided plenty of subject matter for his later life. “I have drawn nearly all my inspiration from ranches from the time I was old enough to go out with my dad when I was about 6.” Bill said. “As you get older your skills become a little more refined. You get proportion and perspective, and you are exposed to magazines and such,” Bill said. “Teachers help, but so much of art is trial and error—so much of art is just doing it,” he explained. “I wasn’t really serious about it when I became an adult, but in the last 6 years I have had more time to really become more serious about it,” he said.

Bill grew up to follow in his father’s footsteps, and still has a “handful of cows” that he takes care of, and his art was an “on and off thing.” “I worked on ranches for years, and then I got a chance to lease some country, and for the last 20 years I have been self-employed,” he explained. Now he is semi-retired, and thankfully has the time to devote to his craft. “Ranching didn’t leave much time for art, and there is also the matter of really having that much interest to sit down and pursue it; to have enough time to dedicate to the practice. Drawing is something that you need to do every day,” Bill said. “You have it in you and you have to get it out for your own pleasure. Now I have a lot more time to work on my art, and I have a good space to work in that is dedicated to sculpting, painting and drawing. I have been at this [sculpting] for I guess about 4 years. My first attempt was a set of bookends that I did with bakeable clay,” he said with a smile.

Bill’s love of horses started when he began riding at 5 years old, so it only stands to reason that his next sculpture was a horse and rider. He decided to do it with the Sculpty brand of clay that is commonly used for children’s art. “That proved to be quite a challenge,” Bill said. “The Sculpty would test the patience of a saint. I took it to the foundry, and they were able to cast it. The foundry guy told me that they make plasticine (another type of clay) that works a lot better. It comes in different degrees of density, and it holds its shape more and is easier to carve.”



Bill knew he wanted to do sculpture when he saw one created by George Phippen called Arizona Rock Hopper. “It is something that you aspire to. It has everything, emotion and movement, and such detail of everything, it pulls you into the experience,” he said. “What I like about the type of art I do is that it tells a story with a beginning, middle and an end, and each person’s story is different. It is like some short stories where the endings are there, but it is kind of open for interpretation. It has to appeal to you, and all art is subjective, but you should like it all. There is a certain something to be learned from any and all artwork.”

Bill shows his artwork at the Wichita Falls Art Association Gallery and other local venues.

- cindy kahler thomas

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# TIPS AND TALES FROM OUTBACK

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

Last month I had to leave you hanging right in the middle of a Hurricane Harvey story concerning the fate of friends of us all, Mike O'Neill and his sweetheart Julie. Mike and Julie moved to Rockport, Texas a couple of years ago to enjoy retirement on the coast. As you all know, Rockport was right at the epicenter of Hurricane Harvey.

Originally, Harvey was not the most menacing of hurricanes, so Mike thought they might ride out the storm for the adventure. Harvey quickly became a very menacing hurricane, so they changed their minds and grabbed what they could and headed to Mike's brother's home in San Antonio. This decision proved to be a good one because Mike and Julie were safe and sound while Rockport was being hit by one of the most devastating hurricanes in the history of the United States!

At the same time Hurricane Harvey was moving on to shore, it was also the deadline for stories to be turned in, so all I could report on was what I just repeated in the two paragraphs above. Mike and Julie were safe, but they had to turn around a few days later and see if they had anything left of their home and belongings.



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We are all aware of the damage that was done on our coastline, as well as quite far inland, and Mike and Julie saw it first-hand. Miles and miles of destruction and heartbreak and the understanding that it would take years to rebuild lives and structures. All around the neighborhood, homes were destroyed or damaged severely, trees were down, boats were destroyed and sunk, power lines were all over the ground, and grief was abundant. Miraculously, when Mike and Julie reached their property, they were very much surprised at how well their little piece of the Redneck Riviera had been spared.

Their RV was standing and dry, the deck still in one piece, their shed intact, and their boat parked where they had left it. Besides trees in their yard being down, the only damage was a dent in the cowl of the boat's motor. Yes, there was a mess to clean up, but that was something Mike and Julie were happy to tackle.

Their neighbors, as I mentioned, didn't have it so good. In fact, Mike said he felt somewhat guilty that their place had withstood what many other places couldn't withstand. Mike and Julie jumped right into helping those very neighbors, being so thankful they were able to do so.

From all of us here in North Texas and around the world that love you guys so much, we are also thankful that you two came through such a terrifying storm so well.

P. S. In last month's article, I also mentioned that Mike was expecting a vintage guitar amplifier on the evening before Harvey hit. Those of us that know Mike know very well of the importance of this delivery. I'm happy to announce that he finally received that amplifier, so now he can get back to playing guitar like no one else!

*-Johnny Divine*



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# Local Legends Music Festival

By now you must have heard that Stick's Place has taken over the old MB Corral on Sheppard Access Road, with the dive bar section having opened up on September 1. The next phase is the opening of the ballroom, and the Local Legends Music Festival and Fun Run on October 7 will be one of the first events to be held here, and one of the biggest shows featuring an all local lineup that Wichita Falls has seen in a while. This concert and fun run will be a benefit for an organization known as CASA of Red River.



Thirteen local bands will be performing from noon until 2:00 a.m. featuring Tracing Tomorrow, Joback Manwhorse, Swingblade, Black River, Ninety To Nothing, Armadillo Flatts, Romeo Whiskey, Therapy, Pvt. Wilhelm, It Hurts To Be Dead, Leddit Ride, RIP, and a very special appearance by AA Bottom. There will also be a Local Legends Jam at the end of the evening. And it is all for charity.

First of all, the fun run will be

\$15 single or \$20 double, and will begin taking registrations at 10:00 a.m., kickstands up at noon. The concert event will be \$10 at the door. All the proceeds from this event will be donated to CASA of Red River. CASA is Court Appointed Special Advocates for children. When a child enters the foster care system because his or her home is no longer safe, a judge may appoint a committed volunteer to help them. That volunteer is called a court appointed special advocate. CASA volunteers are screened and highly trained to

represent and advocate for a child's best interest in the child protection system. CASA volunteers serve as the eyes and ears for the judge in child welfare cases. CASA of Red River serves children in the counties of Archer, Clay, Montague, and Wichita. And this event will bring a much needed awareness to this organization. There will be event tee shirts available

for purchase that were produced by donations from the sponsors 8th St Coffee House, Redhawk Air Conditioning, Jefe's Mexican Restaurant, Steel & Alloy Specialties, Rafter J BBQ, BOSS Poultry, Hayley's Music, Digital Deviance, and Justin Andrew Bowers. Free airtime advertising has been provided by 1047 THE BEAR.

Kimberly and Eric Stevens, owners of Stick's Place, and David Falnes, the person organizing the

concert, are planning to make this an annual event.

David says that this show is a throwback from the Local Heroes



Banquets that were held here in town back in the mid to late 80's. He can remember the one that was held at the Stardust, and Mad Joe Martin was in the bathroom handing out his "I'm mad too, Joe!" bumper stickers. "We haven't had a show like that here in a long time," he says. "After Falls Fest ended, the closest thing I can think of is the Battle Of The Bands." But at that event the bands were limited to three songs to perform. For this show they will get to play a whole set. "I think this will be the largest collection of local music acts we have had in years."

Kimberly adds, "And it will be a variety of musical genres, which I'm excited about. There will be people coming from San Antonio, Oklahoma, Dallas, and other places to see this show."

Reese Fields came up with the idea for this event and asked David if he would help organize it. David agreed and took the task to heart. He was looking for a park or venue in which to hold it when

he learned that Kimberly and Eric were moving Stick's Place from 311 E. Scott St. to the historic MB Corral. He asked them what could be a better place to showcase newer local talent than this place with its heritage and legacy? "So many young musicians back in the 50's who were just starting out, almost nobodies, are now legends," David said. He feels that some of the young local musicians of today will be legends. "And Kimberly has shown so much love for local musicians and has a passion for the local scene here, and goes out of her way to showcase that talent. And she is putting this venue back on the map." Kimberly continues, "Not only the music, but the fellowship the musicians and bands have here." She is truly the number one supporter of live local music.

But both Kimberly and David point out that at the end of the day the people who will benefit the most from this event will be the kids that CASA of Red River helps.

October 7 will be a big day for a lot of people. Some may say legendary.

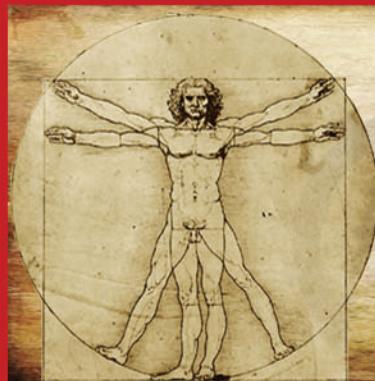
~Tim Maloney



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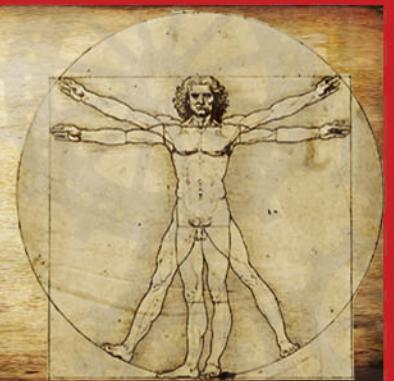
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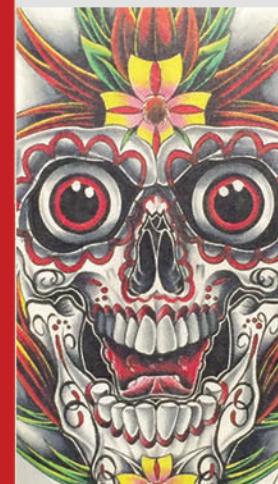
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- Hardin Building: Bell Tower and Liberty Bell
- Juanita Harvey Art Gallery
- Nolan A. Moore III Heritage of Print Collection in Moffett Library
- Sikes Lake and Trail
- Wichita Falls Museum of Art

### University Wind Ensemble and University Orchestra

7:30 p.m. October 5 Akin Auditorium  
Free admission

### MSU Theatre: *Luna Gale*

7:30 p.m. October 5-7 Fain Fine Arts Center  
2:30 p.m. October 8 Fain Fine Arts Center  
General Admission: \$10  
Reduced Admission: \$8  
For more information or for season ticket  
or group ticket information,  
call the box office at 940-397-4393.

A veteran social worker thinks she has a typical case on her hands when she meets Peter and Karlie, two teenage drug addicts accused of neglecting their baby, Luna Gale. But when she places the baby in the care of Karlie's mother, she sparks a family conflict that exposes a shadowy, secretive past – and forces her to make a risky decision with potentially disastrous consequences.

### Opening Reception: *Landscapes from Maui* by Catherine Prose

4 p.m. October 6 Moffett Library

Professor of Art Catherine Prose spent two weeks in Maui as beneficiary of the Maui Bice Sabbatical, a scholarship provided by Dr. Paul Bice that allows a faculty member from the Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences or the Lamar D. Fain College of Fine Arts to spend up to two weeks at his Maui home with provisions. Prose created 19 landscapes during her time in Hawaii. They will be on display through December 1.

### Opening Reception Conceptual Artist Hasan Elahi

6 p.m. October 20 Juanita Harvey  
Art Gallery

Hasan Elahi is associate professor of art at the University of Maryland. Elahi was investigated and cleared by the FBI after September 11, but from that experience, he began tracking

himself and posting his location and photos on the website [elahi.umd.edu/track/](http://elahi.umd.edu/track/). His work examines issues of surveillance, citizenship, and transport, and has been covered by *The New York Times* and *Wired*. He is a recent recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and an Alpert/MacDowell Fellowship

### Music Series at Akin Featuring the Escher Quartet

7:30 p.m. October 24 Akin Auditorium  
General Admission: \$23-25  
[msufineartstickets.com](http://msufineartstickets.com)



The quartet of Adam Barnett-Hart, violin; Danbi Um, violin; Pierre Lapointe, viola; and Brook Speltz, cello; is known for its wide stylistic interests. Members have collaborated with jazz saxophonist Joshua Redman, vocalist Kurt Elling, legendary Latin artist Paquito D'Rivera, and tour regularly with Grammy Award-winning guitarist Jason Vieaux. In 2013, they became one of the few chamber ensembles to be awarded the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant.

### Faculty Recital: Dr. Andrew Allen on clarinet and saxophone

7:30 p.m. October 26 Akin Auditorium  
Free Admission

### Oratorio Chorus

3 p.m. October 29 Akin Auditorium  
Free Admission

### OcTuba Fest

7:30 p.m. October 30 Akin Auditorium  
Free Admission

# GYPHY KIT FOOD TRUCK SEEKS IT'S THIRD CHAMPIONSHIP

When it comes to opening a new business in Wichita Falls, some ventures are pioneering in their field. A brewery, for example, has recently opened here, Wichita Falls' first. The food truck industry may not be a new concept in Houston, Austin, or DFW, but it is still relatively young here. Tagan and Chris Couch have gone through the process of bringing it to our city.

Both being corporate chefs for more than 15 years each, they were looking to start a business for themselves. But without a ton of money to start a brick and mortar restaurant they pondered the idea of traveling around to festivals and large events running a concession stand, and started noticing the food trucks showing up and serving the attendees, and soon decided to try that.

When Chris got deployed to Afghanistan with the National Guard it gave Tagan the opportunity to work on their new plan. So in 2012 they bought an old trailer and fixed it up as best they could, and thus began their new venture. They operated it in Austin for about a year, and Tagan, a Rider High School graduate, wanted to bring the food truck idea back home. But it was not as easy as hitching up the trailer and off we go. They quickly learned that in order to run a food truck legally in Wichita Falls you must have a brick and mortar kitchen to base the business out of. So they opened up the Gypsy Kit Café downtown to comply. Not expecting to do a booming business in the café, they just needed it to be able to operate the truck. They figured maybe 30 customers a day could keep it open, and they would run the truck in the evenings. But much to their surprise they served 150 customers the very first day, and for the first year they

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barely took the truck out.

As the business grew they obtained a great staff of people to run the café, which freed them up to take the truck out more, and they began looking for a place to park the truck in between large events. They found a cute little house at 3115 Kemp Blvd and Chris remodeled it. In January of 2016 they opened up what is now Gypsy Uncorked.

In addition to festivals and concerts, they have had the Gypsy Kit Food Truck entered into food truck competitions. They won top honors at the Graham Food Truck Challenge in 2015, and when they were invited to the same event earlier this year, Chris says that he was just expecting to be there as a representative of past challenge winners. But when they started announcing winners (out of

the 43 trucks entered) it was a huge surprise to find out they were the grand prize winners again. Food was just one category of judging, and others include topics like best social media plan, best truck theme, best truck spirit.

Last year Wichita Falls held its first food truck challenge. While Gypsy Kit Food Truck didn't take home the grand prize, they did win top honors in best Mexican dish. Which, to Chris, was a bit of a surprise because some of it is not really Mexican food. For example, their tacos will be made with chicken fried steak.

In Austin, they did a couple of events where ten food trucks line up and serve about 5000 people, and the turnaround time from payment to order ready was 60 seconds or less. They continue to meet this goal to-

day. "We shoot for 60 seconds. We don't want people to have to wait longer than that," Tagan says. "It is more beneficial to the events, to the Truck, and to the people because they won't be spending time waiting in line. People will come back if they know that their wait time will be short." Chris notes that there is a lobster specialty truck in Houston that may have an hour to an hour and a half wait to get your order. Tagan does say, however, that the wait may be a bit longer at a food truck challenge, but that would only be two to three minutes.

Both Tagan and Chris are quick to point out that their staff on the truck and in their kitchens, are what has helped them make the Gypsy restaurants succeed. Chef Robert Rodriguez has been working with them since nearly day one. With no previous food truck experience, in the past four years he has become one of their most valued employees. As is with Lily Nunez Infante, the manager of Gypsy Uncorked for about four years. With a low turnover rate totaling 14 employees, Chris says, "We have the best employees in Wichita Falls."

The Gypsy Kit Food Truck is parked at Gypsy Uncorked at 3115 Kemp Blvd. It remains parked there unless it is out at an event. And if you may be driving by and the truck is gone, you may still stop in to eat. As long as the truck is gone they offer free food, like a taco bar. But don't be looking for it there on October 14 because it will be downtown at Wichita Falls' second Food Truck Challenge.

So be sure to make your way downtown and get you some fine food from a two-time grand champion winner, the Gypsy Kit Food Truck.

~Tim Maloney



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