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INSIDE : Dru Gid • Art Battle • Selena Mize
Margie's Sweet Shop • Board & Brush • Vet Fest

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TIPS AND TALES FROM OUTBACK

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

If all debuts could go this well!! May 9th, 2019 was a special evening with the gathering of friends, a surrounding of art work, plenty of great food, lots of laughter, and, at the top of the list, well played and wonderful, professional music. This all took place at the 9th Street Studios right here in Wichita Falls.

9th Street Studios was kind enough to host the brainchild of singer/songwriter Mark Sutton, who's kindness and humble approach to the music world disguises the fact that he is a very talented force to be reckoned with. And what is this brainchild? Mark came up with the idea to present original music in an atmosphere unlike noisy bars and cavernous venues. As he called it, a "Listening Room Concert". A place where the music and lyrics can be heard and appreciated at a whole new level. A place where ideas and dreams can be discussed. A place to share a conversation with the audience if they are so inclined. Basically, an evening where all can be involved with original music as a common ground.

Let me share Mark's actual description of his brainchild in his words: Our mission is to promote a warm and friendly venue that provides an informal, intimate, inclusive atmosphere for high-quality singer/songwriters, musicians, and artists performing all original works for the enrichment of our community. To that end, our commitment is to provide a place to relax, take a deep breath, expand musical appreciation, and share an unforgettable experience. Mark's mission was fully realized

the first time out. On this particular Thursday evening, the stage was initially occupied by Mark, a student of local jazz guitarists, the late Tiger Echols, and a student of life and of the world. Mark was joined by Wichita Falls legend, David Holcomb. David first gained attention in our area in the 60's as the lead guitarist of The Mammals, a local rock band whose popularity still carries on today. David's career continued with the Wichita Falls Independent School District as the orchestra director, based out of Old High and traveling to Zundy, Crockett, and Ben Franklin schools. Upon retirement after 35 years, David took his guitar and his alternate instruments, the violin and mandolin, and became a much sought-after side man with musicians from a variety of genres, including Western Swing, country and western, jazz, and cowboy music and occasionally doing shows with The Mammals.

Mark's wonderful choice of adding David's talents to his singing style, his between song stories, and his well-crafted songs covering such diverse subjects as love (whether real or fictional), loss, cantinas, falling stars, growth, hobo camps, days of the speakeasy, change, and many more colorful subjects, allowed for a dynamic opening act. I hesitate to say "opening act" because both acts were crucial to the evening's success, no matter the order.

Next up was the husband and wife team of Steven Jacob and Rog Kundert. Once again, great singing and great songs prevailed. Steven is a published songwriter and

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a popular long-time local artist, with songs covering hundred dollar shoes, million-dollar churches, super model wives, skillet licking, corn bread, Alabama, rays of sunshine, and still leaving room for a love song or two. Rog, also a career music teacher for the WFISD as was David Holcomb, highlights Steve's tunes with harmonica, violin, guitar, and vocal harmony. Throw in a natural sense of humor and talent and you have a winning combination. To top off the show, all four artists joined together to do a couple of last songs to bring the evening to

a crescendo.

Hopefully this story has brought about some curiosity in our community about Mark Sutton's wonderful idea, the Acoustic Parlor. Keep an eye out for the July appearance of the Acoustic Parlor. The guests and the venue are yet to be announced, but with Mark Sutton behind it, expect a wonderful, unique evening music and greatness.

The Acoustic Parlor can be contacted at www.theacousticparlor.com

The 9th Street Studios can be contacted at www.9thstreetstudios.com -Johnny Divine





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M-F 3pm-2am • Sat Noon-2am

- June 1 - AA Bottom, Jaguar
- June 7 - The Kept, Brazos River Outlaws
- June 8 - The Nixons, Brandt Holmes
- June 9 -
Backdoor Theater - Youth Battle of the Bands
- June 14 - Brandon Rhyder,
Clint Vines and the Hard Times
- June 15 - Killdevil, Black River
- June 21 - Wes Jeans, Blank Labels
- June 22 - Lone Star Skynyrd
(Tribute to Lynyrd Skynyrd)
- June 28 - South Austin Moonlighters,
Ninety to Nothing
- June 29 - Deep in it
- July 5 - Bluesbuckers
- July 6 - Miyagi
- July 12 - AA Bottom
- July 13 - Forever Mac (Tribute to Fleetwood Mac.)
- July 19 - Rockafellas
- July 20 - Mike O'neill
- July 26 - Tejas Brothers, Cody Shaw
- July 27 - Deep in it, Blue Light Special

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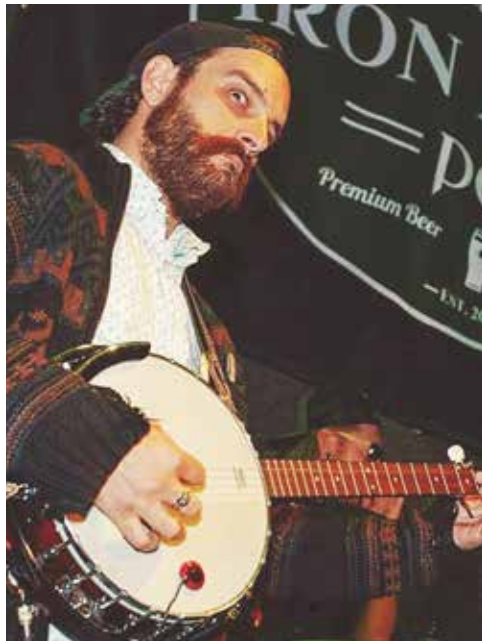
Dru Gid – The Dark Druid With A Heart Of Gold

The Wichita Falls music scene has experienced a renaissance in the past few years. Falls Town has had amazing musicians for decades, but the music community as a whole has not always been healthy. There has not always been cooperation and comradery between bands. That has changed.

The scene in WF is now stronger and healthier than it has ever been. This is not solely based on talent, which is probably better than it has ever been, but also attitude.

Growing up with a drummer for a mom, Dru had no shortage of musical influences, but admits that his interest in playing music didn't really peak until he was a teenager. "I had my first guitar lesson with [local legend] Mike McAdoo when I was 10 years old. I wasn't really in to it at the time and didn't pick up anything," Dru recalled. He was 13 years old when he really got interested in playing music. It was about this time that his family moved from Wichita Falls to Paris, Texas and his musical experiences shifted from adults to kids his own age. This allowed him to experiment and spend time in the garage with friends hashing out Nirvana and Black Flag tunes.

By the age of 14, Dru had tuned up his first band, Color Blind. He explored genres



through his teen years and eventually opened a record store with his mother in Sulphur Springs, Texas. This remains a fond memory for him, but they eventually closed shop and moved back to Wichita Falls in 2012.

Dru recalls the lack of cooperation between bands at that time. "Bands didn't want to play together. It was like they were afraid that they would lose their following to another band." He pressed on; he played when and where he could. He was a drummer in popular local band, Dog Waltz, for a while. Having access to their jam pad downtown, he and his cousin Sierra Maag would wander over after drinks at the pub and goof around on the instruments. Sierra wasn't a drummer, but they had a good time. Their late night, intoxicated jam sessions became a regular activity. It turned out, Sierra was a natural!

One night at a party, a conversation struck between Dru, Sierra, and bassist John Farmer. Their common musical interest led to a series of jam sessions that eventually became punk band, City Creeps.

After 6 months of jamming together, and just 7 months since Maag started banging on drums, City Creeps started gigging. City Creeps brought a unique passion and energy to the WF scene and quickly grew in popularity.

It was the positive energy that City Creeps, and Dru Gid, projected on and off stage that attracted other musicians to them. Dru recognized the need for positive interaction among local musicians and decided to start hosting open jams. These jams were a platform for any musician to show up with their instrument and join others of their ilk in a laid back and low-pressure atmosphere to just have a great time playing music together. This, of course, led to new relationships and even birthed a couple of new bands.

Today, the music scene is healthy and thriving. Although there may have been many factors that have played a role in this new attitude toward local music, it is safe to say that open jams played a critical role in this musical evolution.

Dru's positive energy has been contagious. "I just love playing music," he explained, "if people see you having a good time, they will have a good time." Dru has proven this simple concept to be true time and time again. Dru has been a blessing to the Wichita Falls music community, but he is moving on. He will soon be moving to Boise, Idaho. He says that he plans to just keep doing his thing and growing musically.

We wish you all the luck, Dru! Come back and see us soon. We'll have a mic set up for you. -David Fowler



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JELLYSTONE PARK

If you are looking for an "easy on the wallet" campground nearby, then look no further! This is a fun and cozy place, perfect for gatherings and perfect for the family; it is Jellystone Park.

Yogi Bear confirms it, as do many families who have experienced the delights of Jellystone Park. The park continues to grow and offer guests endless options for that perfect family getaway. It is a short and easy drive right outside of Wichita Falls that offers true "Texan" country on the edge of the city. Jellystone Park at Coyote Ranch hosts about 123 beautiful RV sites, 23 cabins, and a Pacific Yurt.

There are many attractions for the family to explore such as two giant jumping pillows, an inflatable obstacle course, mini-golf, three swimming pools, hay rides, and a water park. There is a 6,000 square foot miner's maze gem mining area, paint ball, and laser tag, too. Every weekend there is a theme. You can check it out on the Camper app by typing in "yogiWF"

Jellystone is owned by local businesswoman, Donna Adams. Adams started this park from scratch and has been the owner for over ten years. What started as an RV park is now a place that carries many attractions for the kids and family. Donna is a determined woman, but could not do it alone. Special thanks go to her village of twenty-five staff members that do the impossible every day.

People are drawn to this fun family campground for its endless list of things to do while visiting. Not to mention how well kept and clean the area is. I went to visit this park a few weeks ago and I was very impressed. It was clean and serene. It has a calm atmosphere, and seeing the goats play made me feel at peace. Donna Adams was the highlight of the whole journey. She is such a strong and



hard-working woman and deserves recognition for what she has achieved. The camp grounds are kept clean and so are the bathrooms. A lot of work is put into making this place pristine.

Donna's favorite attraction is diverse livestock on the premises. "I love the animals the most," she quotes. "The campground is filled with geese, ducks, a desert

tortoise, Nigerian goats, sugar gliders, and rabbits." Adams is a big animal lover, and it shows. Adding to the success of the park, Jellystone recently won the "Large Park of The Year" in Texas for 2019 awarded by the Texas Association of Campground Owners. Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park is a network of campgrounds that focuses on providing great family fun for all. But it doesn't stop there! There are new attractions being built. "Three new cabins and a pool are in progress," says Adams. She wants her visitors to stay entertained. With summer coming near, the pool will be the most popular attraction. Time to take a dive and soak up the rays.

Overall, it is a calm, serene and fun place that welcomes everyone. It is also known for its business meetings, weddings, receptions, showers, parties, and family reunions.

For more information check out their website at: <https://www.campjellystone.com/> or their Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/coyoteranchresortwf/>
- Brenna Zellner





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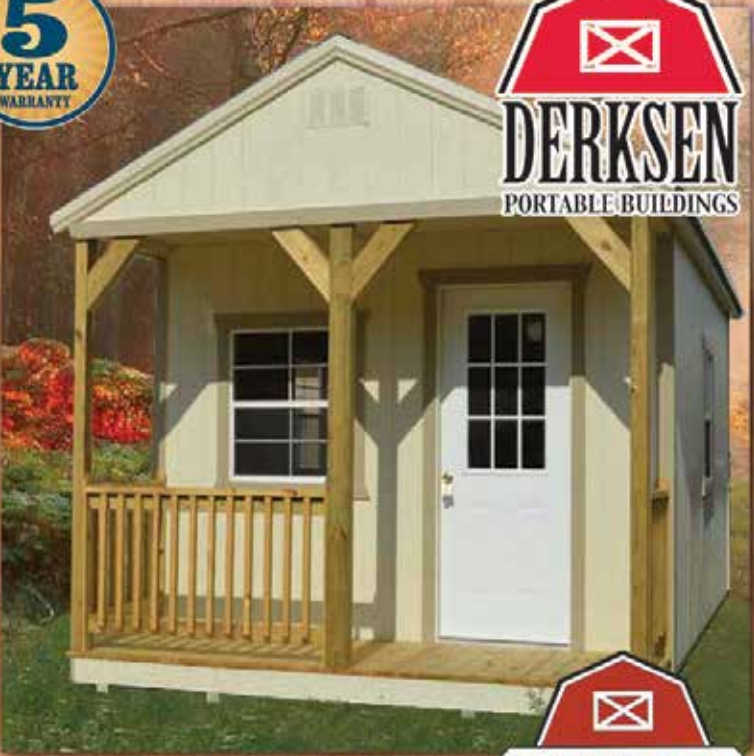
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Ruben's House of Classics

Downtown boasts a plethora of businesses, however, some are totally unique. Ruben's House of Classics falls under that category without a doubt. The building houses vehicles from the teens to late 70s, and each one is a jewel. He restores anything from Jaguars to Alphas to Fords and Chevys. They are all carefully crafted, restored and made into one of a kind treasures, and Ruben Rodriguez has the heart and the soul of an artist when it comes to classic cars. His shop is on the corner of 5th and Indiana.

Ruben grew up in Dallas and lived there with his wife, Debbie, and his children. Ruben started a classic car shop there, but after a year it closed. In the meantime, Debbie was bound and determined to move their family to Wichita Falls where her parents lived.

"I was born and raised in Dallas and lived there all my life. As far as I was concerned, I had no business being in Wichita Falls. After Debbie tried to get me to move here for 3 years, we finally did. I had a vision, and I knew exactly what I was capable of doing, and of all places, Wichita Falls turned out to be the perfect place. Why I love it here, I don't know. Wichita Falls has grown on me, and every time I leave, I can't wait to get back home," Ruben said with a smile.

The plan was for Ruben to sell 3 classic cars and use the money to go into business. "I sold a 1948 DeSoto which went to Paris France. I sold a 1951 Chevy Fleetline that went to Argentina, and I sold a 1950 Chevy Pickup that went to New York. I started in the smaller building behind this one. I bought that building and was in it for 7 years. We moved to this one for a year before I bought it too in December," he said. The new building is much bigger and allows Ruben to have a fabrication shop, a mechanics shop, a paint and body shop, a place where they take the cars apart and a place to store some of the cars.

"Right now, 85 percent of our clientele is from all over the country. We've got clientele from Oklahoma, New Mexico, Dallas, California and a few from



Wichita Falls. The fact that people from California want to have their vehicles done here says a lot. California is the hot spot for restoring classic cars," he explained. He also gets great advertisement by showing his own classic car. "I told my wife, if I sell my vehicles and everything works out, I can build another car. I now have a 1948 Chevy Fleetline called Ground Zero. The reason I

call it that is because it lays all the way to the ground. It's for the look. It has air bags, and when I drive it; I drive it at the right height. You can't drive it when it's down, because it will tear it up. That car is very, very difficult to put on the ground. I have put a lot of cars on the ground and that one is the hardest one I have ever done." The car body looks like it is on the pavement, when

it is sitting still with the wheels unseen. "I looked for 2 months trying to find the right color. My wife bought a towel and brought it home, and I knew that was the color. It took me a while to mix it and figure it out and get it on point, and once we did it was the perfect color. It is a greenish gray PPG custom mix. It is very original and one of a kind. Not only that but we added pearls to it and shimmer pearls which made that color totally different," he said with pride. He said that it can take months to paint a custom car and if he got a scratch, he would have to repaint half of the car to match the paint. It is his pride and joy, and he uses it on his signage. He has won many awards and contests with Ground Zero and been featured on the cover of Hotrod Magazine and Bombs Magazine.

But Ruben doesn't do it all by himself. He has a top-notch crew of four employees that includes his brother, Homer Rodriguez who does a lot of the paint work and does it well. Additionally, his wife Debbie, does the books, and his father-in-law, David Acosta, travels with him. Ruben takes his Fleetline to many car shows and picks up vehicles that need work and delivers the finished products. His wife Debbie is his "rock and backbone" and has "supported him 100 percent through it all." Although he admits he "sometimes gives her headaches."

"It is like a family affair," he said. And he is going to bring 2 of his sons into the business. Both Chris Guevara and Victor Rodriguez will be joining the team in late summer. What Ruben does is a lost art that is disappearing, and he is eager to pass that knowledge to his sons. "Hopefully everything will work out and one day they will be running the business," Ruben said.

Ruben is self-taught out of necessity. When he was a teenager, he started working on cars because he couldn't afford to take them to the shop to get worked on. And in the next couple years is hoping to start teaching his craft to teenagers. "I would like to do something for the kids and help them out. When I was young, I went

into a shop and they didn't want to teach me anything. So, I know how it is, I have struggled; and now I am in a position to do something for somebody else. I have been thinking about that a lot. If I could do that, it would be a plus. It would also be a plus for the kids, and who knows maybe they might open up their own lowrider shop, hotrod shop or classic shop, or even possibly work here. In the past I when into a shop, and they threw me off like I was nothing. I don't want to be that kind of a person," he shared.

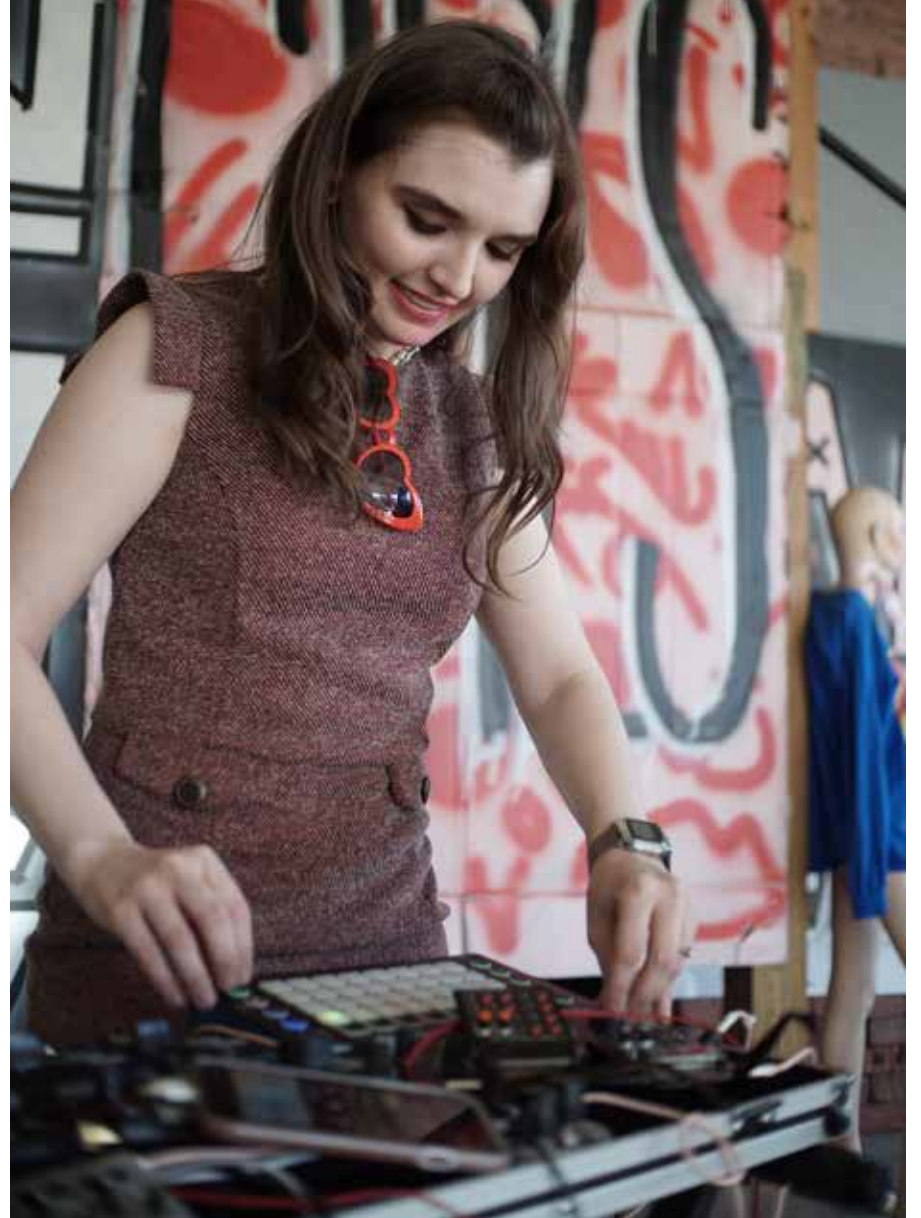
"One thing about me, is that I won't change. I am the same guy I have always been. You won't catch me in an Italian suit," he said with a chuckle. And his success hasn't fazed him. He still doesn't ask any of his employees to do what he doesn't do. He cleans and takes out trash just like any other employee. "Never in my wildest dreams would I have thought my shop was going to be this big, important and successful. I still just see that parts need to be found and jobs need to be done. I guess one of these days the fact that I am successful will hit me, but it's not hitting me now," he admitted. His shop is full of gorgeous cars. He likes to give tours of the shop but expect him to be wearing his jeans and T-shirt—no suits needed.

- Cindy Kahler Thomas





Everything in Between-Photo: David Barnard



Polly Pocket-Photo: Simon Welch



Clint Vines-Photo: Simon Welch



The Kept-Photo: Simon Welch



Photo: Patrick Street and Bryce Falnes of Leddit Ride shot by David Barnard.

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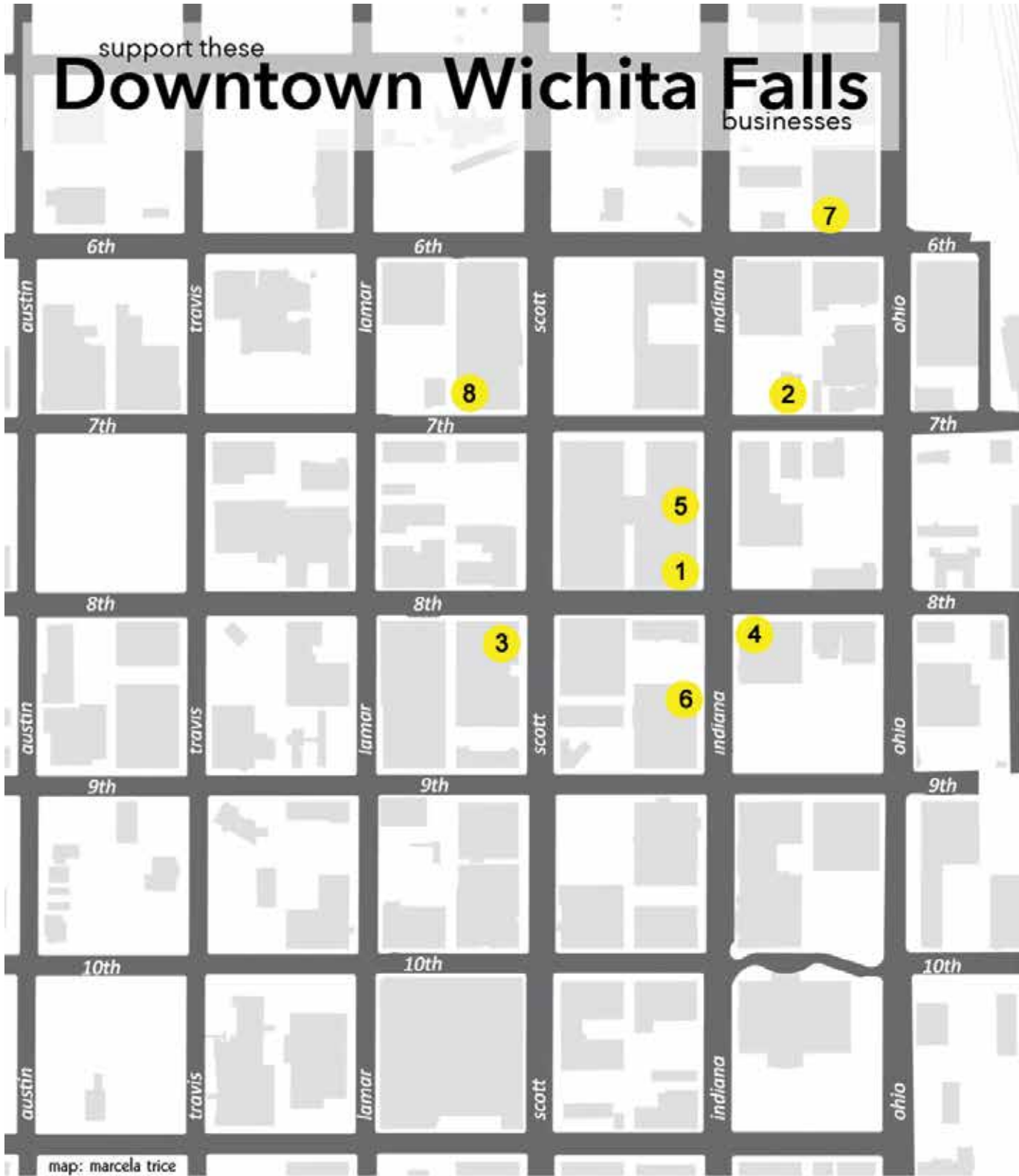
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June 7
Comedy Night w/ William Lee Martin



June 15th
Deep In It, EIB, Downtown Royalty, Clint Vines



June 28th
Dueling Pianos



July 6th
White Jet Heroes/Downtown Royalty

MUSIC

June 1

- AA Bottom, Jaguar @ The Iron Horse Pub
- The Casey Abbe Band @ Vernon Parts Sports Bar & Grill
- Motley the Crue Tribute @ Fat Alberts
- Race Rutledge and The Texas Knights @ Texas Nite Life

June 4

- Parks & Recreation Summer Outdoor Concert Series with Downtown Royalty @ Bud Daniel Park
- Open Mic @ Gypsy Uncorked

June 5

- Weird Ass Wednesday with Harvey & Tim @ Stick's Place

June 6

- David Johnson @ BackPorch DraftHouse
- Karaoke with Tom Brillhart @ The Maplewood
- Open Blues Jam with Blue Cheese @ Stick's Place
- David Adam Byrnes @ P2-The Deuce
- Live at the Lake with Walkin Johnny Band @ Wichita Falls Museum of Art at MSU

June 7

- The Kept, Brazos River Outlaws @ The Iron Horse Pub
- William Lee Martin aka "Cowboy Bill" Comedy @ Half Pint Taproom
- James Cook Band @ Vernon Parts Sports Bar & Grill

June 8

- The Nixons, Brandt Holmes @ The Iron Horse Pub
- Ben Shaw and Hillbilly Beat @ Silver Dollar Saloon
- Race Rutledge and The Texas Knights @ Texas Nite Life

June 9

- Backdoor Theater - Youth Battle of the Bands @ The Iron Horse Pub

June 11

- Open Mic @ Gypsy Uncorked

June 12

- Weird Ass Wednesday with Harvey & Tim @ Stick's Place

June 13

- Sounds of Speedway: Malford Milligan @ The Forum
- Karaoke with Tom Brillhart @ The Maplewood
- Open Blues Jam with Blue Cheese @ Stick's Place

June 14

- Brandon Rhyder, Clint Vines and the Hard Times @ The Iron Horse Pub
- Crosswind Band @ Vernon Parts Sports Bar & Grill

June 15

- Killdevil, Black River @ The Iron Horse Pub
- Deep in It, EIB, Downtown Royalty, and Clint Vines @ Half Pint Taproom
- Gravel Road Band @ Vernon Parts Sports Bar & Grill
- John Clifton Blues Band @ Stick's Place
- Race Rutledge and The Texas Knights @ Texas Nite Life

June 18

- Parks & Recreation Summer Outdoor Concert Series with Deep In It @ Bud Daniel Park
- Open Mic @ Gypsy Uncorked
- Outdoor Western Swing Music Concert @ Museum of North Texas History

June 19

- Weird Ass Wednesday with Harvey & Tim @ Stick's Place

June 20

- Zack Crow @ BackPorch DraftHouse
- Karaoke with Tom Brillhart @ The Maplewood
- Open Blues Jam with Blue Cheese @ Stick's Place
- Live at the Lake with WFSO presenting The Gimbles @ Wichita Falls Museum of Art at MSU

June 21

- Wes Jeans, Blank Labels @ The Iron Horse Pub

June 22

- Lone Star Skynyrd (Tribute to Lynyrd Skynyrd) @ The Iron Horse Pub
- Chris Shackelford Band @ Vernon Parts Sports Bar & Grill
- Kristin Briggs Benefit with James Nelms, Broken Chains, Dirt Road, Mr. Meaner, Joe Base, Therapy @ Stick's Place
- Race Rutledge and The Texas Knights @ Texas Nite Life

June 25

- Open Mic @ Gypsy Uncorked

June 26

- Weird Ass Wednesday with Harvey & Tim @ Stick's Place

June 27

- Karaoke with Tom Brillhart @ The Maplewood
- Open Blues Jam with Blue Cheese @ Stick's Place

June 28

- South Austin Moonlighters, Ninety to Nothing @ The Iron Horse Pub
- Dueling Pianos by Fun Pianos! @ Half Pint Taproom

- Bart Crow @ Silver Dollar Saloon

June 29

- Deep in it @ The Iron Horse Pub
- Hope For Pope Benefit & Fun Run for Sommer Walsh with Armadillo Flatts, Mr. Meaner, Blue Rock @ Stick's Place
- Race Rutledge and The Texas Knights @ Texas Nite Life

ART

June 1-15

- Latin and Lace: Paintings by Sharon Gibson @ The Kemp

June 3-28

- Annual Juried Student Exhibition and Senior Exhibition @ Fain Fine Arts Bldg, MSU

June 6

- Art Walk @ Downtown Wichita Falls, TX

June 21-August 11

- Youth ArtZeum - Small Wonders: Insects and Art @ The Kemp

June 22

- Art Battle Wichita Falls @ The Warehouse

FOR THE KIDS & FAMILY

June 5

- Storyteller Margaret Clauder @ Wichita Falls Public Library

June 10-14

- Camp River Bend: Dinosaurs Rock @ River Bend Nature Center

June 12

- The Magical Balloon Show @ Wichita Falls Public Library

June 19

- REPCO Wildlife Encounters @ Wichita Falls Public Library

June 24-28

- Camp River Bend: Animal Adventures @ River Bend Nature Center

June 26

- Secret Agent Magic Show @ Wichita Falls Public Library

Wichita Falls Public Library:

- Mondays** - Maker Monday: Summer Edition
- Tuesdays** - Preschool Storytime, Drawing Basics for Teens, Teen Photography Camp
- Wednesdays** - Toddler Time, Whatever Wednesdays, Teen Photography Camp
- Thursdays** - Tales for Tails, Space Crafts

EVENTS

June 1

- Ink Masters Tattoo EXPO @ Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall

- Relay for Life of Greater Texoma @ J.S. Bridwell Ag Center

- FC Wichita Falls VS FC Amarillo @ Kay Yeager Coliseum

June 2

- Ink Masters Tattoo EXPO @ Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall

June 5

- Live Trivia Night @ Wichita Falls Brewing Company

June 12

- Live Trivia Night @ Wichita Falls Brewing Company

June 19

- Live Trivia Night @ Wichita Falls Brewing Company

June 20

- Legends of Western Swing Music Festival @ Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall

June 21

-Legends of Western Swing Music Festival @ Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall

June 22

-Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Tournament @ The Deep End

-Legends of Western Swing Music Festival @ Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall

June 25

-The 55 Advantage @ Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall

June 26

-Live Trivia Night @ Wichita Falls Brewing Company

June 28

-Rodney Carrington LIVE @ Memorial Auditorium

June 29

-FC Wichita Falls VS FC Lubbock @ Kay Yeager Coliseum

THEATER

June 1

-The Texasville Opry: The Legends of Country Show @ Royal Theater in Archer City, TX

June 6, 7 and 8

-Mamma Mia! @ Backdoor Theatre

June 14

-Gary P. Nunn Farewell Tour @ Royal Theater in Archer City, TX

June 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 and 29

-Kalamazoo @ Backdoor Theatre

June 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 21 and 22

-Disney's Frozen Jr. @ Wichita Theatre

June 28

-Hard Luck Diner Series @ Wichita Theatre

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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT DAILY SPECIALS



**POOL TABLES
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DARTS**

JUNE 15TH

■ John Clifton-"Middle of Nowhere"
Tour 8PM

Masonic Fun Run & Dinner benefitting
Hospice of WF

Registration 8 a.m. at Masonic Lodge 635,
3388 Barnett Rd

\$20 single \$30 double
KSU- 9 a.m

JUNE 21ST

■ A Special Case (from Pampa, TX) and guests

JUNE 22ND

■ Benefit for Kristen Briggs

Fun Run registration- 9 a.m. KSU 10 a.m.

auction, raffle, bbq plate \$10; Kid Friendly til 7 p.m.

Live Music: James Nelms, Broken Chains, Dirt Road,
Mr Meaner, Joe Base, and Therapy

JUNE 28TH

■ Lunch with Tim noon to 1:00
Free pizza & live music



JUNE 29TH

■ Summer Walsh Benefit-
See our Facebook page for details!

TUESDAYS

■ Clint Vines open mic 7 to 10

WEDNESDAYS

■ Harvey and Tim's
Shameless Plugs at 7

Live music from 8 to 11PM

SUNDAYS

■ Mark Forehand Song Swap 4 p.m.
Free pool with Military ID



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- *Tuesday - \$2 Tequila Shot
- *Wednesday - \$2 Whiskey Shot
- *Thursday - Happy Hour All Day
- *Friday - \$2 TX Fuzzy Cocktail
- *Saturday - \$2 House Margarita

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ART BATTLE!! ART BATTLE?? WHAT IS AN ART BATTLE?!?

That's exactly what Bob Barrow and his wife, Debbie, drove to Dallas to find out. What they found was an exciting international painting event and competition. By the end of the night they agreed – Wichita Falls would be a great place for an Art Battle. They brought it home and it's happening! And the organization to sponsor this fun and exciting event is the Wichita Falls Art Association (WFAA).

So, what can you expect at an Art Battle? It is a three round competition between 12 artists. In the first round, six artists have twenty minutes to paint whatever they choose; the audience members vote and select the top two winners. In round two another group of six artists do the same. The four winners from the first two rounds move to the third round where they have thirty minutes to paint their final painting. Again, people in attendance choose the winner. To add to the fun, all of the paintings are sold through a silent auction.

So when does this happen you ask? The first event will be June 22 at The Warehouse, 1401 Lamar in downtown Wichita Falls. The doors open at 5:00 p.m. with the Battles beginning at 6:00 p.m. Food at the event is available from Stone Oven Pizza and a cash bar will also be available.

A second Art Battle Wichita Falls is scheduled for August 17 and the final event for the year will be November 9, when we will bring back the two advancing artists from June and August to compete against ten more artists. From this final round we will crown our city winner and send them off to Dallas in January of 2020 to participate in the regional tournament. The advancing artist from the regional tournament will advance to Nationals with the possibility of advancing to the Art Battle International competition.

Artists – Enter for a battle! There is

no cost for entering and, if selected, all paintings will be in a silent auction and each artist will receive 50% of the auctioned price of his piece. All canvases for the event will be provided by Fredrix Canvas and all paint (acrylic) will be provided by Art Battle. Plus, all artists are entered into a database that will make them eligible to be invited to any other Art Battle. To enter, go to



Artbattle.com.

Everyone Else – Come and join us! This will be a fun, festive event with great music, lights by Mayfield Events, food, and drink, all while advancing art awareness. Buy your tickets today on Eventbrite. The Early bird price is \$15 through June 16. After that, tickets will be \$20. This event is for people aged 16 and up.

WFAA is proud to be able to put our city on the Art Battle map where Wichita Falls will be seen on various social media throughout the US and internationally. This is an exciting time for Wichita Falls development and for the artistic community.

And to think, it all started 70 years ago with a small group of artists at the Women's Forum. For more information, contact Bob Barrow, REB76302@aol.com
- Bob Barrow



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Margie's Sweet Shop

Margie's Sweet Shop is known throughout the Texoma area for their delicious treats, cakes and pies, but what most people don't know is that it has been family owned for almost fifty years. The location hasn't changed, in fact, the painted sign on the window is even still the same.

"My grandparents, Margaret and Walter Hohfeld, opened it in 1970. In the late 60s it had been Marie's Bakery, and to save money they shortened it and added a few letters to make it say Margie's," Michael Gerstner, the current owner said, "They had been living with family and saved and saved," but changing the window painting was an expense that they couldn't afford; and since Margie's can be short for Margaret, it stuck and is still there.

That is not the only thing that hasn't changed. Margaret's signature recipes are still used. "She started with the Lemon Pudding Bundt Cake, which was the most popular item. We still make it and haven't stopped, and it is funny because we have come full circle and Bundt cakes are back in fashion," he said. Many of his customers have remarked that he makes Bundt cakes just like they do in Dallas, since they have become so popular again. He just smiles and assures them that they always have made them that way.

Bundt cakes are such a favorite that Michael makes Bundt wedding cakes. He makes them in different flavors and sizes and rents beautiful tiered cake holders to go with them. Bundt cakes, pastries and cookies have always been our signature dessert. Margie's Sweet Shop bakes their own breads, croissants, sweet breads, cinnamon rolls, pastries, cookies, cakes and pies. The bakery also has a deli open for sandwiches and baked potatoes, and the chicken salad and egg salad are Margaret's recipes also. She used to say, "You do what you do best and don't worry about

the other guys. You concentrate on yourself." She was a smart lady. She had more information in her little pinky, than I do in my whole body," Michael said with a chuckle.

Margaret passed in 2005, but Walter is going strong, getting ready to celebrate his 94th birth-



day this year. Michael's uncle, Michael Hohfeld took ownership after Margaret and Walter sold it to him, but he passed in 1994, and that is when the family approached Michael to see if he wanted to buy the bakery. He was only 23 years old, newly married and had been taking paramedic classes and planned on joining the Wichita Falls Fire Department. Michael had been working at the bakery since he was 16 in 1986 and had been putting in back breaking hours at Margie's Sweet Shop trying to help his family, because his Aunt Tina [Hohfeld] was too depressed and couldn't come in.

He was planning on quitting because of the workload and had even turned down his chance to be in the Fire Department Academy to help out; but he and his wife Kathleen decided to buy it and run it themselves. They have been running the business for 33 years, longer than any family member has.

Michael's brother, Mathew Gerstner, is his master baker and his "right-arm, while his father, Gene Gerstner, makes all the cookie doughs. Kathleen worked at Michael's side until about 5 years ago when she had health problems that prohibited that type of work. "It was hard when my wife couldn't work here, it was like a divorce. We had been together every day for years, and I missed her," he said. Now there are 7 people on his staff, and during the holidays they bring on 2 more. "Last Christmas we had to take the phones off the hook for two weeks, because we couldn't take any more orders—we were booked up. We make our own crusts and we sold over a thousand pies."

In the past it wasn't unusual for Michael and Kathleen to work late into the night only to start again at 4:00 a.m. But 3 years ago, BROTHER had a heart attack, and Michael knew it was time to make some changes. "I realized that we couldn't keep going that way. When my brother got back, I told him that we had to change things, because if one of us dropped, the business is over. We needed to run our business to suit the customer and to suit us," he explained.

"We were making 225 products in here 3 years ago, and we took off 75 products. It is mainly just keeping the recipes that do stand the test of time. We made 52 different cookie doughs, and now we are making 15. We quit doing all the intricate designs on the cookies, because they took

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hours and people would order 8 or 10 dozen for the next day. We also took off intricate layer cakes. We do sheet cakes and Bundt cakes now. A wedding cake can take up to 8 hours to decorate. We have steered away from that,” Michael said.

“That is where I was torn with the customers, and people were like, ‘Oh I know Michael. He will do it.’ and that has been hard. I had to stop that, and it has been so tough, because I always want to do everything for everybody. Some people didn’t like it, but it was really a time balance thing. People don’t know what you put in, but I love it and I knew I had to make some changes

so that I could get some of my time back. I do like that the stress level is down. I wanted to change the business model so that it is easier for the next generation. I’m not sure who that will be, but we changed our business plan to stay relevant. We did do the changes in phases, so that it wouldn’t be too much of a change for our customers,” he said.

Michael’s son, Hayden has been trying to get him to make these changes for a long time. Hayden, while he doesn’t have plans to work or own the bakery, is in marketing and has been trying help his dad facilitate the changes. Hayden stressed that if Michael would



streamline his products then sales would increase and there would be less waste. Michael jokingly says now, “I tell my son that I can’t take anything else off the menu because I am too busy now.” Hayden also does all the computer work for the business. He runs menu programs and mans the Facebook account. Michael and Kathleen also have a daughter, Brealynn, who works at the bakery. He says that she has a knack for it, but her husband, Steven Morrow Jr., is in the military and they won’t be staying in Wichita Falls.

“One of the biggest changes for me is that I got back in church

and got my faith back. For the last 23 years I have been here. I feel like I got my life back when before the bakery was my life. I had to work seven days a week and do prep on Sundays. Being back in my church has been the biggest blessing for me. I overworked. That is the biggest takeaway—don’t let what you do engulf you.

Margie’s Sweet Shop is located at 4029 Call Field Road. The business hours are Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 a.m. and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There is also a boutique in the dining room where unique items can be purchased.

- Cindy Kahler Thomas

Board & Brush Creative Studio

Pinterest is a great way to kill some time and look for a project or two to attempt, but for Casey Hrnčirik, a search led to a whole new business unlike anything else in Wichita Falls. That business is Board & Brush Creative Studio, and Casey and her husband Bryce, are riding the wave of progress and innovation towards success.

Board & Brush Creative studio is a business in Century City where workshops are held to create personalized home décor items. As the name suggests, they are created on boards and are custom wood signs for every need. Everything is provided for the client, and there over 200 designs to choose from.

“I have a lot of crafts at home and I was on Pinterest looking for a project to do,” Casey said, “I wanted to do a board, and that is how I came across Board & Brush. I saw their monogram signs, and I started looking into it. It just kind of went from there.”

Board & Brush Creative Studio is a franchise started by Julie Selby. What started out as a “Girl’s Night Out” with wine and crafts in her basement turned into a business idea. There are now over 240 studios nationwide. Casey and Bryce saw the business sense of opening one in Wichita Falls, and it is paying off. The company provides custom graphics with the latest trends. In order to take the workshop, clients sign up online and choose their stencils ahead of time.

When they arrive at the studio, their choice is laid out before them. They are taught how to age the wood with meat mallets and screws hammered into the wood. Hammers are also used to give the wood a weathered look. Each person chooses a stain color and a paint color for their own creation. There are over 70 colors of paint. The supplies even include gloves for staining and ear plugs used while “aging” or distressing the wood.

“One of our Facebook slogans is, ‘You want to distress when you de-stress,’” Casey said with a smile. Taking out your aggression on a piece of wood, really cuts down on the stress factor. “That is part of the fun of our workshops. People look at us like, ‘We are really



allowed to do this?’ and we say, ‘Yes.’ With the music and the hammering, it can get pretty wild, but it is so much fun.”

“Everyone that comes in gets to do a different design, so it is whatever fits your needs at the time. We can also do personalization like your last name or important dates. So, it is something that hits close to home for you and is something that you want to put in your home or give as a present,” she explained.

The studio has several hand-built wooden tables, in fact, all the furniture is hand-built by Bryce with the exception of the stools. “It looks like a workshop with nothing girly about it, although we do have a lot of women that like to come,” Casey said. The great thing about it is that you don’t have to go to the art supply store or to the building supply store. All the items needed are at the studio, and, of course the mess stays there too.

“The signs have an authentic and interesting look to them,” she shared, “We want it to look antique and have a farmhouse look.” The walls of the business are covered in signs of every sort. Everywhere you look around in the studio, you see something different. “There are so many different options I feel like when people leave, they automatically go get online and pick what they want to do next time,” Casey said with a smile, “The company comes out with new designs every month, like this month was home designs. There are always fresh ideas. It keeps the flow going and gives everybody new options.”

And business is booming. Workshops fill up fast and are scheduled Friday and Saturday in the evenings except on every other Saturday during the day. Casey said that it is easy and fun, but that you will

work, and each workshop last from two to three hours. “It is a great time to hang out with your friends and have some ‘me’ time. Whenever you get done with your project, you will be so proud. I remember when I did my first project, I just kept walking by it in the house and looking at it—I made it. It looks like something you could buy, but you made it,” she said.

Casey has a staff of 11 people that help teach the classes. Board & Brush has private parties during the week. At the workshops and parties, the adults use large boards and have the option of making a board or a clock. It takes 10 clients to “have a party,” and they also have private event mini boards for team building and for large groups. There is even a 16X24 board for children or it can be cut into three pieces for three times the fun.

And Casey and Bryce are really going through some wood. Their first wood order was supposed to last 3 months, but it didn’t, and they had to reorder. “But now we are going more local and getting our wood in-town. We are building the frames ourselves now and doing a lot of the work, but it helps with costs. When you own a business, every penny counts.

Bryce has building trades experience and Casey describes him as “awesome.” He not only built the furniture but renovated their home and back porch. Casey said that he is more creative than she is; however, Casey has had 2 years at an interior design school in Dallas, so they are both well suited to the business.

While they love their location in Century City, Casey said that they originally wanted to open in the downtown area. “Either the buildings were renovated and too expensive or they needed too much work; but we do see ourselves there in the future,” she said. In the meantime, their current location’s space and rent was “perfect.”

“I would love everyone to come in,” Casey said, “I know everyone’s lives are so busy, but the board you take home will have so much meaning.”

- Cindy Kahler Thomas





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Vet Fest

For all of you music lovers, or those that just want to have fun, Vet Fest 2019 is going to be a music festival the whole family can enjoy. It takes place on June 8th starting at noon and ending at midnight at the Broken Trail Event Center at 7567 Seymour Highway. The event is hosted by the North Texas Veterans Relief Fund. There will be an opening ceremony involving one of the huge American flags that Patterson Auto Group is loaning the festival. There will be 10 bands playing with real life veterans sharing their stories between the bands.

“This is our first year for the event, and the NTVRF plans on making it an annual event. All proceeds will go to Base Camp Lindsey,” said Jimmy Force, one of the organizers of the festival and a member of the band Bull in the Woods. Base Camp Lindsey is a tiny home community that is scheduled to be built on Windthorst Road.

“The Mission of Base Camp Lindsey is to treat each Veteran with compassion and respect, in gratitude for their service to our Nation. Our Vision is the elimination of Veteran Homelessness in the North Texas communities that we serve. For our veterans, we need long term solutions. Our vision of this solution is a Tiny Home Village for the veterans that are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Base Camp Lindsey would provide a safe roof over their head as we work to find them a more permanent housing solution and ensure that their needs—whether financial, medical, or occupational---will be met in the long term. Base Camp Lindsey will include a food pantry, community center, gardens and 65 individual housing units. The community center will be the location of all offices and a variety of services to include access to computers for training and job search, support groups, chapel, and learning opportunities. There will be a community garden to assist with food supply and what we call ‘dirt therapy’. Veterans will be able to participate in the growing and harvesting of their food. This helps them learn new skills and stay busy, as well as giving them a measure of dignity as they work to provide for themselves and the other veterans,” said Chris De La Garza. Chris is the Board Vice Chair and Fundraising Committee Chair of the NTVRF.

“Each home will be 12 x 20 feet in size. They will include an efficiency kitchen, a bathroom with shower, and a stacking washer and dryer. Each home will be equipped with a solar panel system for electrical power and a ductless heating and cooling system. The homes will be furnished with basic necessities such as a bed, couch and clothes storage. The goal is for the Village

to be as self-sustaining as possible with a minimum of operating costs. The majority of the homes will be transitional housing as the vets are helped to get on their feet and become capable of once again functioning independently. We know that there will always be some who will never be capable of moving into more traditional housing so there will be some houses designated as permanent for the lifetime of that vet.”

“It is a little community to get a place to stay and get some help. If there is any drug dependency or alcoholism or psychological issues, there will be counseling on site at the community center. This is a way for them to



seek help, learn a trade, or go back to school. It's a great project,” Jimmy explained.

Jimmy's wife Connie is also an organizer of the event. “Connie and other volunteers have worked tirelessly to get food trucks, vendors and sponsors for Vet Fest 2019, and everything needed to get this going,” Jimmy explained. “The problem with Base Camp Lindsey is that it is so expensive to get it started because of the infrastructure, and we have to show community support and raise a certain amount of money to get government grants or anything to get it going and keep it going.”

The bands that will play after the opening ceremonies at the festival include James Nelms who plays “relevant retro” music and is a solo act. “I caught a couple of his videos on Facebook and YouTube and he does a wonderful solo version of the Allman Brothers' song, ‘Melissa.’ The next band will be Bull in the Woods, which is the band I am in. I have been a musi-



cian all my life. I picked up a guitar when I was 8 and haven't put it down,” Jimmy said with a smile. “We are a blues band and play covers by Stevie Ray Vaughn and Eric Clapton, and we have a few originals. Covers are the songs we hear on the radio.”

“Next band up will be Hunter-Romero, who play original country songs. They are really good and I like Kim's voice. Rusty Dillard is usually a solo act, but he and his daughter will also perform original country music for us. CJ Cody is up next. He plays Texas country music. He is a solo act and he is climbing the charts for some of his original music. He is definitely a contender,” Jimmy shared.

“Clint Vines and the Hard Times have a unique sound—a Red Dirt sound, and I like what they play. Deep In It will be the next band. They were voted 2018 Texoma's Best Live Music. Lee Ewell is donating his sound system for the event and Kenny Gregory from the Iron Horse Pub is coming out to do the sound for us,” he said. The Mullet Boyz will be the headliner and they will be playing mullet era music. At midnight





there will be a closing ceremony.

“The call for bands was overwhelming. I had no idea so many musical groups in the area were willing to donate their time to this cause. I think we can all agree our vets deserve more for their service than just a thank you. This event will help raise much needed funds to help build the Base Camp Lindsey tiny home community. We would like to raise \$10,000 at this event. I want to thank all bands who sent their request to be a part of this first annual event. Although I couldn't fit everybody in, I think I have put together a well-rounded selection of entertainment to please almost everybody. A big thank you to all who are performing and who are devoting their time and energy to make this happen,” Chris said passionately.

But this isn't just for adults. There will be children's games, vendors, food trucks, beer and wine vendors and great music to keep everyone in the family happy. Some of the food trucks that will be serving up delicious goodies are Cool Arrows Tacos 2 Die For, Tikiz Shaved Ice, Mac Daddy's Grill and Red River Roadhouse. Vendors will be from Paparazzi, Gigi's Closet along with some local artists and craftsmen to name a few.

The main sponsors are Postel Credit Union, Bar S Lawton Plant, Best Western and the Results Company. Tickets can be purchased at Postel Credit Union between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. They can be purchased 24/7 at the NTVRF.com under the events tag. They can also be purchased at Eventbrite online. Ticket costs are \$20 per person or \$35 for two people.

If you would like to donate to this cause, the NTVRF has a GoFundMe page on their Facebook page and a PayPal link on their website. They also have an account at Union Square Federal Credit Union that will accept donations also.

“We need to give our veterans more than what they are getting now,” Jimmy stressed. “They have been through some hard times. This is a good cause, and we need to be able to help our veterans.”

- Cindy Kahler Thomas
JUNE 2019

SELENA MIZE IS A-MIZE-ING

Selena Mize is a passionate individual when it comes to art and is completing a downtown mural at the end of May. She is a part of a group doing the Eastside Mural Project put together by the Wichita Falls Alliance for Art and Culture. Ralph Stearns completed the first of four murals called "I love you" which is off of Flood Street on the aide of the Felix Lister Elks Lodge. Selena Mize is doing the second mural for this project. The mural will be called "Imaginative Minds."

The building is located on 802 Harding Street- on the busy intersection of Rosewood and Harding. It is known as "Fly's Gas Station." There are two other murals to follow after this project.

"This location is a place where individuals of all ages, especially kids, walk by throughout the day. It is a busy intersection as it is. I wanted to design something that made these kids smile. My mural will wrap around all four sides of Fly's gas station. I can't really say much about it since it will be a surprise - but it will be vibrant and colorful. And my subject matter is in fact, children. I wanted to fill them with wonder and send them the message to never stop dreaming and to always use their imagination. It's important to never lose that creativity as you grow up. I want them to be excited for what is to come," quotes Ms. Mize.

She was referred by Audra Lambert and Margie Reese of the WFAAC.

"Audra called me about a "potential project" and told me to "think big," but I would have never thought it would be this! I just could not believe it. I was a huge ball of energy and I could not wait to get started."

It was a no brainer for Mize to take on this project. She specializes in oil on canvas. She was more than excited to have a building as a bigger canvas.

With the help of Brea'n Thompson and



From Left to Right: Bre'an Thompson, Selena Mize and Aaron Campbell

Aaron Campbell, nothing will seize Selena's imagination and "going big" for the town of Wichita Falls. These lovely ladies are determined to show their art. Mize carries a lot of support and inspiration. She enjoys contemporary artist such as Kehinde Wiley, Erik Jones, Fintan Magee, and Alpay Efe. Each and every one of these artists have amazing use of color

and their portraits are just as stunning. Aside from these artists, Mize is inspired by her family and friends.

"Emotionally speaking, I would say that all of my inspiration and my drive to create art derived from my loved ones. My family and friends told me to never give up on my dreams and to do what I love.

Both mom and dad's side have always been hardworking, driven, and crafty so that pushed me to have an imagination at such a young age. My sister and my cousins have always been my #1 fans - from when we were younger to now. These wonderful and beautiful individuals are the best part about me."

- Brenna Zellner

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Music by Clint Vines & The Hard Times with headliner, FORTE!
There will be vendors and a designated kid's area complete with inflatables.

Fireworks will begin at approximately 9:30PM.



June 28 - Rodney Carrington - Memorial Auditorium



Kay Yeager Coliseum - July 3 - Show Times are 4:30 & 7:30 PM - Tickets at WFMPEC.COM

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