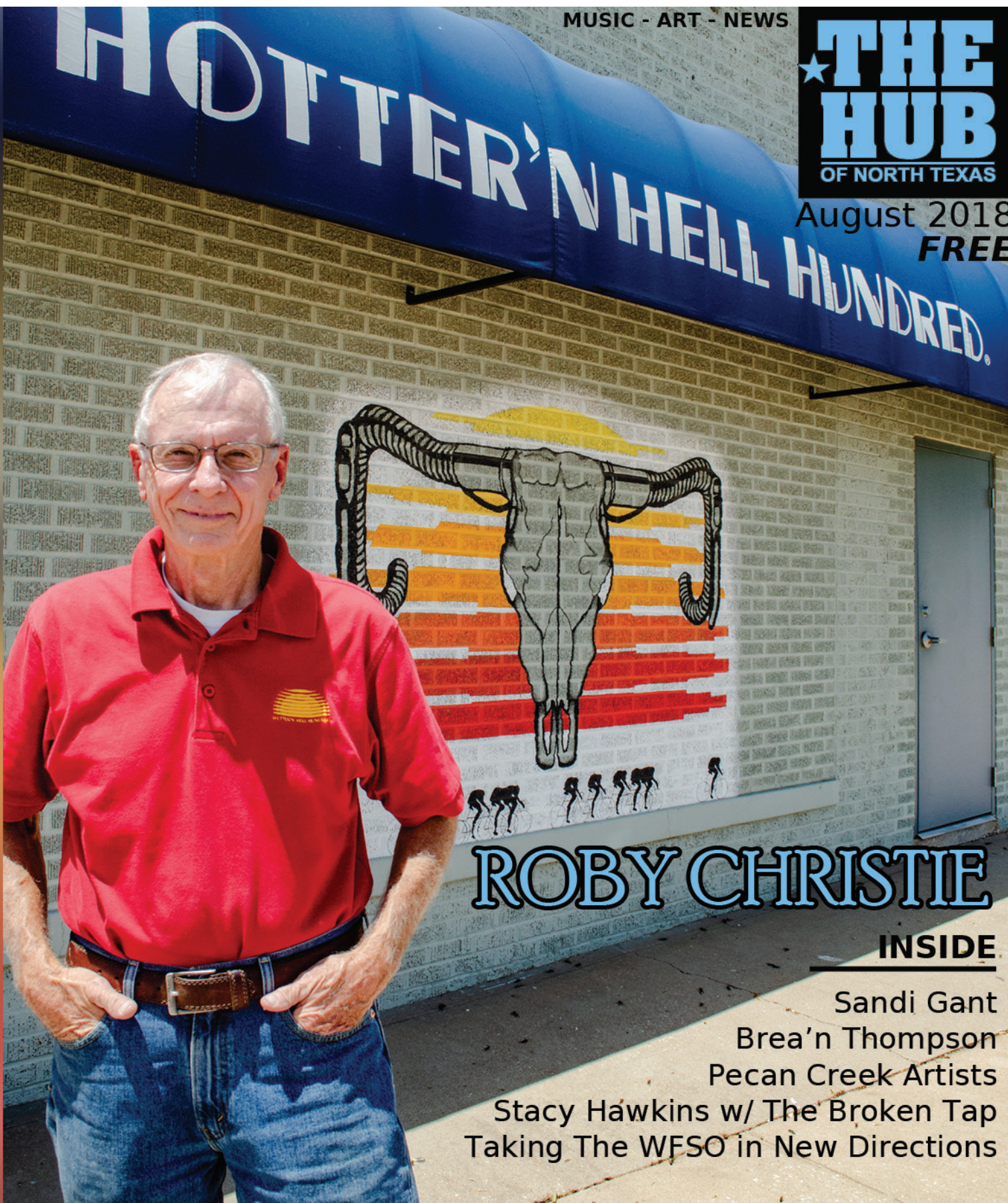


MUSIC - ART - NEWS

**★ THE  
HUB**  
OF NORTH TEXAS

August 2018  
**FREE**



# ROBY CHRISTIE

**INSIDE**

Sandi Gant  
Brea'n Thompson  
Pecan Creek Artists  
Stacy Hawkins w/ The Broken Tap  
Taking The WFSO in New Directions



# THE HUB ★ OF NORTH TEXAS

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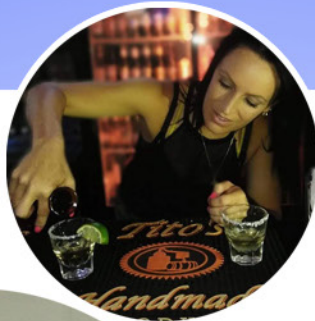


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printable quality resolution (MOST  
phones these days work) and not blurry,  
distorted, or too dark. The winner will be  
chosen by The Hub staff popular oppinion.

1 Corinthians 16:14

Inside



— 4 —  
Stacy Hawkins w/ Broken Tap



— 8 —  
Roby Christie & HHH



— 16 —  
The Pecan Creek Artists



— 17 —  
Sandi Gant



— 18 —  
Brea'n Thompson

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AUGUST 2018



## Broken Tap Turns Four

Earlier this summer, The Broken Tap celebrated their 4 year anniversary. We sat down with Stacy Hawkins for a quick Q & A to catch up.

*Interview with owner, Stacy Hawkins*

**When did you start in the bar industry?**

"I got my start bartending 11 years ago."

**Bartending and bar owning are two very different endeavors, what made you want to start "The Tap"?**

"I realized bartending was my niche, and knew I had some great ideas for a bar."

**How did you decide on the name or rather, to be tap-less?**

"Well the name is a play on words obviously, but in the beginning we had an all female staff, and didn't want to deal with lugging around kegs."

**How was downtown's reception of The Broken Tap when you first opened?**

"In all honesty, in the beginning, the city wasn't thrilled about having another bar downtown. Now we have several new businesses in the service industry and downtown is starting to thrive again!"

**What were your biggest issues you had to overcome starting the bar?**

"The hardest part was taking the leap on such a huge investment. But we found a building with the perfect location that had so much charm and opportunity. Renovating an old building is always a lot of work but very rewarding."

**Did you expect the Tap to get as popular as it is today?**

"I never dreamed that The Broken Tap would be as popular as it is today. Between my staff and our customers, it really is a dream come true."

**What was your opinion on prop G?**

"I was a big supporter of prop G. We were sad it didn't pass but we hope it has opened people's eyes to other future possibilities!"

**Did you find it was harder for you to establish your brand as a woman?**

"I wouldn't say being a woman necessarily made it harder, but it did raise doubt in other peoples opinions on whether or not I would succeed. I still occasionally have people ask me to speak with the owner and they're shocked when I respond that I am the owner."

**Do you have any advice for other young female entrepreneurs in North Texas?**

"Starting your own business is intimidating for anyone I would assume. As a woman, we are equally as capable as men. The only extra factor that I've found that adds a

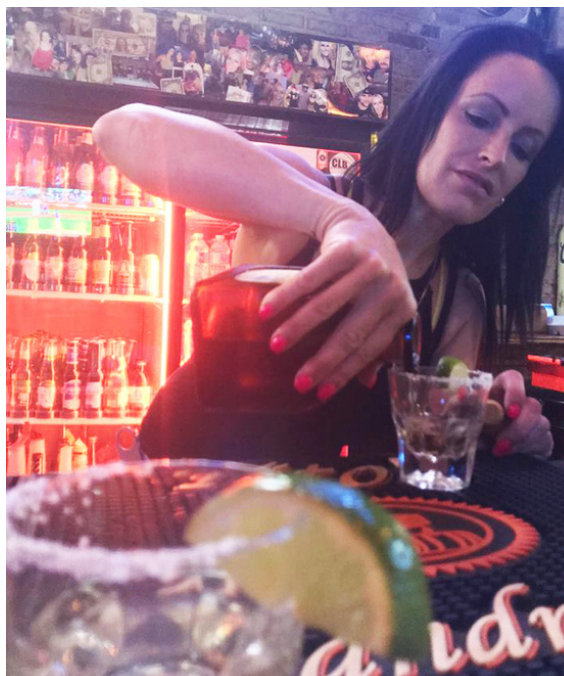


little more stress is balancing being a single parent and running a business. This can be equally challenging for men. There's always a balance to be found with work and family... for anyone. But for any young female entrepreneurs, I would say go for it! You'll never know if you don't try."

**What are your future plans for "The Tap", what's next?**

"I'd love, in the future, to expand a little bit. But as to how we'll expand you will just have to stay tuned! One day my son may even want to take over!"

*-Ryan Thomas*



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# TIPS AND TALES FROM OUTBACK

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

## Joe Bonamassa Speaks Up For Gibson!!

A few issues back I reported on the troubles at the Gibson Guitar Company and shared the legendary status of Gibson guitars in the music world. Fearing little argument, I would say that Gibson and Fender guitars helped shape the world of electric guitars more than any other brands. That being said, here is a follow up on the Chapter 11 filing of bankruptcy from the eyes of guitarist and self-described guitar geek, Joe Bonamassa, who undoubtedly has his finger on the pulse of the guitar world.

In some recent interviews, Joe has tried to calm the nerves of those who fear the loss of their favorite Gibson guitar. Joe was quoted, saying, "I know the people that are taking over Gibson, and they are good guys. They're guitar guys. What a lot of people don't realize about Chapter 11 is people go, 'Oh, Chapter 11. Oh, my

god. There won't be a Les Paul or a Flying V!"

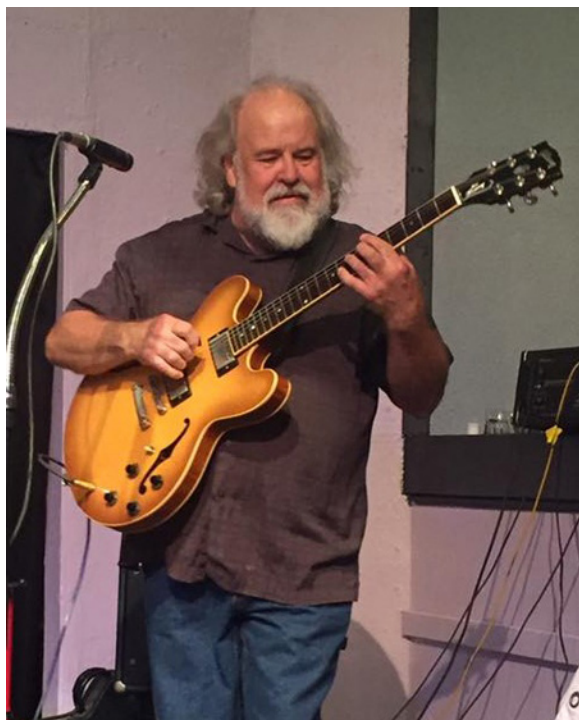
Joe continued, "Chapter 11 is basically designed to keep the wolves at the door at bay and allow a company that's a very good company ultimately, to just have a chance to kind of restructure before they have to pay their light bills and everything else. So, it's gonna be great."

Joe also confronted the rumor that he might buy the Gibson company. He laughingly stated, "How well off do you think I am? I play blues rock for a living. It's like a vow of poverty!"

The estimated debt of Gibson is reported to be in the \$250 million range, so it's hard to imagine any musicians that would be willing to spring for "a great deal" on a struggling guitar company. Maybe Paul McCartney, or Eric Clapton, or Paul Simon-folks in that category of money makers in the music world could consider it. Don't wait up for it! Hopefully, it's enough to have Joe Bonamassa, a guitar legend, give his blessings to the Gibson Guitar Company, and calm the nerves of future Gibson guitar owners. Let's hope so.

In the meantime, I encourage all of you guitar slingers out there to go get yourself a Gibson guitar if you have a few thousand sitting around the house! Seriously, Gibson has made some excellent guitars and hopefully they will continue to do so. Someday I hope you are fortunate enough, as I am, to call yourself a "Gibson owner". By the way, you don't have to buy the whole company!

-Johnny Divine



AUGUST 2018

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**August 3 - Guns 4 Roses  
w/ Walk This Way**

**August 4 - Drew Fish Band  
w/ Ross Shifflett**

**August 9 - A Night In" with  
Eric West ft. Hannah Belle  
Lecter**

**August 11 - Back in Black  
Ninety to Nothing**

**August 15 - Howling Giant,  
Darwin, Big Find**

**August 17 - Sedated, w/  
It Hurts To Be Dead**

**August 18 - Zach Nytomt,  
Clint Vines & the Hard Times**

**August 24 - Ally Venable**

**August 25 - No Limits**

**August 31 - Garth Crooks**

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# Roby Christie & The Hotter'N Hell

100

The Hotter'N Hell Hundred has been an iconic event in Wichita Falls for almost four decades. Many people do not know the history behind this bike race that has been in the record books from the very first year. The "father" of the HHH, Roby Christie, tells of how, back in 1981, the Wichita Falls Board of Commerce and Industry (now today's Wichita Falls Chamber of Commerce) asked for ideas to kick off the celebration for its 1982 centennial. Roby, a 37-year-old assistant postmaster, was a member of a newly formed bicycle club. From this, the suggestion of having a bike race came up. Al Miller, an engineer for PPG, came up with the idea for riding one mile for every year making it a 100-mile race. Mark Davis asked, "When is this gonna be?" After realizing it would be in late August, Davis replied, "Well, it's gonna be Hotter N Hell!" From that statement the name of this

legendary event was born.

From the very first year, the goal was to bring enough bikers to rival the largest bike race at that time, which was held in Colorado with 400 riders. The Hotter'N Hell team trekked out to the southwest United States and met up with other bike clubs and spread the word. That year they prepared for 500 riders. The day of the HHH race they had 1,200 riders! Because there were not enough competitor number tags available, paper plates and safety pins had to be used for the other 700 riders.

With this unexpected and overwhelming success, Dr. Alexander suggested to Roby that they make this an annual event. This year will mark Hotter N Hell's 37th Anniversary. It still holds the title of largest single day bike race in the United States. The economic impact of that first year was estimated to be around \$3 million. Another study was done three

years ago and they estimated that it has grown to \$7.8 million.

So, what happens to that money? The proceeds of the event go back into the community. Some of the charities to which they contribute are the Boy Scouts, United Regional, Volunteer Fire Depts, Midwestern State University, and many others.

The reason for them giving back to the community is because of how the community comes together to help with this event. Every surrounding city and county have had some hand in helping. Roby says that there are approximately 4,000 volunteers that help put this on. These volunteers have been faithful and committed year after year. Roby said the original core members, such as Dr. Alexander, Al Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Davis, Bill Barnes, Ron Barnes, Beverly and Joel Noel with their son, have stayed until they either moved or passed away.

Roby says the event is successful and people come back year after year because it is a grueling race that takes tenacity and grit to finish it. He makes the analogy that the race is representative of the founders of this great city who first came to build it.

Roby may have been born in Dallas, but said Wichita Falls has been his home since he first stepped foot here back in 1966. Interestingly enough, he was 37 years old when he started this journey and this year marks the 37th year of the race making it official that he has spent over half his life dedicated to an event that has brought thousands of people all across the world to our great city.

Thank you, Roby, for all the blood, sweat, and tears you have given, not just to Wichita Falls, but bicycle enthusiast everywhere.





# Interesting facts about Hotter'N Hell Hundred:

Jack Whitley was the very first rider to place last and he wore cowboy boots, jeans, and a dress shirt.

Jasper Hubert in his 90's used to ride his bike from Amarillo to Wichita Falls to ride the HHH.

Michael Eidson invented the Camelbak after competing in the HHH.

Midwestern State University became the 1st college to offer a cycling degree.

Biggest single day ride since the very 1st year (this is the 37th year).

Biggest 100 mile race in the country.

Over 4,000 volunteers.

It is estimated that 11,000 to 12,000 riders will participate this year.





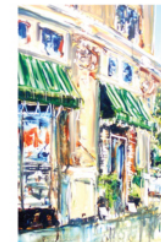
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[www.fallsart.org](http://www.fallsart.org) • Wichita Falls Art Association on FaceBook • WFAA Art Gallery at 600 8th Street in the Historic Holt Hotel



the  
**Wichita Falls**  
Entertainment Guide



Photo: Drake Fisher of BOTB winner, OddFellas shot by David Barnard

Send us your live entertainment photo. See page 2 for details.





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**August 2 - Brad Good & Richard Clift Jr**

**August 3 - Bluesbuckers**

**August 9 - TBA**

**August 10 - TBA**

**August 11 - Richard Clift Jr**

**August 17 - TBA**

**August 24 - AA BOTTOM**

**August 25 - Jerry Audley**

**September 8 - Emergency  
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## MUSIC

### August 1

-Operation Hemingway Benefit Concert ft. Dan Johnson Band, Zach Cornell @ The Yard

### August 2

-Tyler Wilhelm, Read Southall @ Silver Dollar Saloon  
-Brad Good and Richard Clift Jr. Song Swap @ Stick's Place  
-Chance Anderson @ P2

### August 3

-Park After Dark ft. RPS Acoustic Band @ Castaway Cove Water Park  
-Guns 4 Roses, Walk This Way (Guns N' Roses & Aerosmith Tribute Bands) @ The Iron Horse Pub  
-Mike Ryan @ Boulevard Night Club  
-Bisket Heads @ Silver Dollar Saloon  
-Zach Cornell, Mark Forehand @ Half Pint  
-Bluesbuckers Blues @ Stick's Place  
-Sej Miles @ Mustang Bar  
-Anthony Castillo @ Gypsy Uncorked

### August 4

-Drew Fish Band, Ross Shifflett @ The Iron Horse Pub  
-Deep In It @ The Main Street Grill/Vernon, TX  
-Casey Abbe Band @ Silver Dollar Saloon  
-Sej Miles @ Gypsy Uncorked

### August 8

-Harvey and Tim @ Stick's Place

### August 9

-A Night In" with Eric West ft. Hannah Belle Lecter @ The Iron Horse Pub  
-Shane Mercer, Armadillo Flatts @ Silver Dollar Saloon  
-Sounds of Speedway: Uptown Drive @ The Forum  
-Live at the Lake: WFSO presents Gypsy Rustlers @ Priddy Pavilion  
-Hijack Howlwo @ P2

### August 10

-Jon Wolfe @ Boulevard Night Club  
-RIP @ Silver Dollar Saloon  
-Free Concert in the Street @ Vernon Parts Sports Bar and Grill  
-Beats Muzic, Ground Floor and Rising @ The Iron Horse Pub  
-Throwback Acoustic Show with Joel Estes, Michael Hayes, and Mark Forehand @ Mustang Bar

### August 11

-Back in Black (AC/DC Tribute Band), Ninety to Nothing @ The Iron Horse Pub  
-Deep In It @ Silver Dollar Saloon  
-Bryson Lawrence, Brandt Holmes, Dru Gid, Russell Thompson @ Half Pint  
-Armadillo Flatts Band @ Vernon Parts Sports Bar and Grill  
-Hip Hop Night @ The Deep End  
-Richard Clift Jr. @ Stick's Place

### August 15

-Howling Giant, Darwin, Big Find @ The Iron Horse Pub

### August 16

-Barefoot Dixie @ Silver Dollar Saloon  
-James Cook @ P2  
-Shane Mercer, Armadillo Flatts @ The Rack/Bowie, TX

### August 17

-Jackson Tillman @ Silver Dollar Saloon  
-Josh Glenn Experiment @ Gypsy Uncorked  
-Cory Morrow @ P2  
-The Ranch Roundup After Party with Cory Morrow @ The Warehouse  
-Dru Gid @ Mustang Bar  
-Sedated, It Hurts To Be Dead @ The Iron Horse Pub

### August 18

-Hip Hop Hooray @ Silver Dollar Saloon  
-Six Miles Out Band @ Vernon Parts Sports Bar and Grill  
-Brandt Holmes and Brannon Oliver @ Mustang Bar  
-Zach Nytomt, Clint Vines and the Hard Times @ The Iron Horse Pub  
-Bryson Lawrence @ Gypsy Uncorked

### August 23

-Fintastics @ Silver Dollar Saloon

### August 24

-Deep In It @ Mustang Bar  
-Mr. Meaner @ Silver Dollar Saloon  
-Clancy Jones, Storytellers ft. Clint Vines, Brannon Oliver, and Zach Cornell @ Gypsy Uncorked  
-Ally Venable @ The Iron Horse Pub  
-AA Bottom @ Stick's Place

### August 25

-Mullet Boyz @ Silver Dollar Saloon  
-Crued & Tattooed (The Motley Crue Tribute Band) @ Half Pint  
-Allen Biffle Band @ Vernon Parts Sports Bar and Grill  
-No Limits @ The Iron Horse Pub  
-Jerry Audley @ Stick's Place  
-Clint Vines and The Hard Times, March Divide @ Mustang Bar

### August 30

-Randy Summers @ Silver Dollar Saloon

### August 31

-Crosswinds @ Silver Dollar Saloon  
-Heaven and Hayes @ Mustang Bar  
-Garth Crooks @ The Iron Horse Pub  
-Ground Floor and Rising @ Gypsy Uncorked  
\*Sundays Mark Forehand Unplugged @ Mustang Bar  
\*Tuesdays Harvey and Tim @ Stick's Place (excluding August 7)  
-Open Jam @ Old Town Saloon

**\*Wednesday Aug. 1, Aug. 8, and Aug. 22  
Open Jam @ The Iron Horse Pub**



Friday, and Saturday Night Karaoke @ Krank It Karaoke

\*Thursdays Karaoke with Tom Brillhart @ Mustang Bar

-Open Mic @ Gypsy Uncorked

\*Fridays Open Mic Night @ 8th Street Coffee House

\*Saturdays Race Rutledge and the Texas Nights @ Texas Nite Life

-Looney Tunes Karaoke @ Lonesum Dove

## ART

August 2  
-After Hours Art Walk @ Downtown Wichita Falls  
-Sculpture Garden After Dark @ The Kemp Center for the Arts

August 3-August 25  
-A Tale of Two Cities @ Wichita Theatre

August 24-September 8  
-2 Across @ Backdoor Theatre

August 25  
-Comedy Night @ The Deep End

## FOR THE KIDS

\*Harry Potter Mondays @ Wichita Falls Public Library

\*Tuesdays Preschool Storytime, Process Art Experiences @ Wichita Falls Public Library

\*Wednesdays Toddler Time @ Wichita Falls Public Library

\*Saturdays LEGO Club @ Wichita Falls Public Library

## EVENTS

August 4  
-Project Back to School @ Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall  
-History Harvest and Texas Film Round-Up @ Wichita Falls Public Library

August 4 & August 18  
-Latin Night @ Jefe's Mexican Restaurant

August 11  
-Back to School Bash @ Pueblo Boxing  
-Nostalgic Cruise Night @ Vernon, TX

August 17-18  
-Texas Ranch Roundup @ Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall & Kay Yeager Coliseum

August 18  
-Salsa Day @ Farmers Market

August 23-26  
-Hotter'N Hell Hundred 2018 @ Downtown Wichita Falls  
AUGUST 2018

August 25  
-Hotter'N Ale 0.5K & Block Party @ Downtown Wichita Falls

August 30  
-NTR & Stick's 1st Annual Offroad Biker Bash @ Stick's Place

\*Wednesdays Trivia Night @ Wichita Falls Brewing Company

\*Thursdays  
-Trivia Night @ Stone Oven

-Trivia Night @ Gypsy Uncorked



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August 3rd  
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August 11th  
Acoustic Show



August 25th  
Crued & Tattooed



August 25th  
Hotter'n Ale



# Boulevard

nightclub

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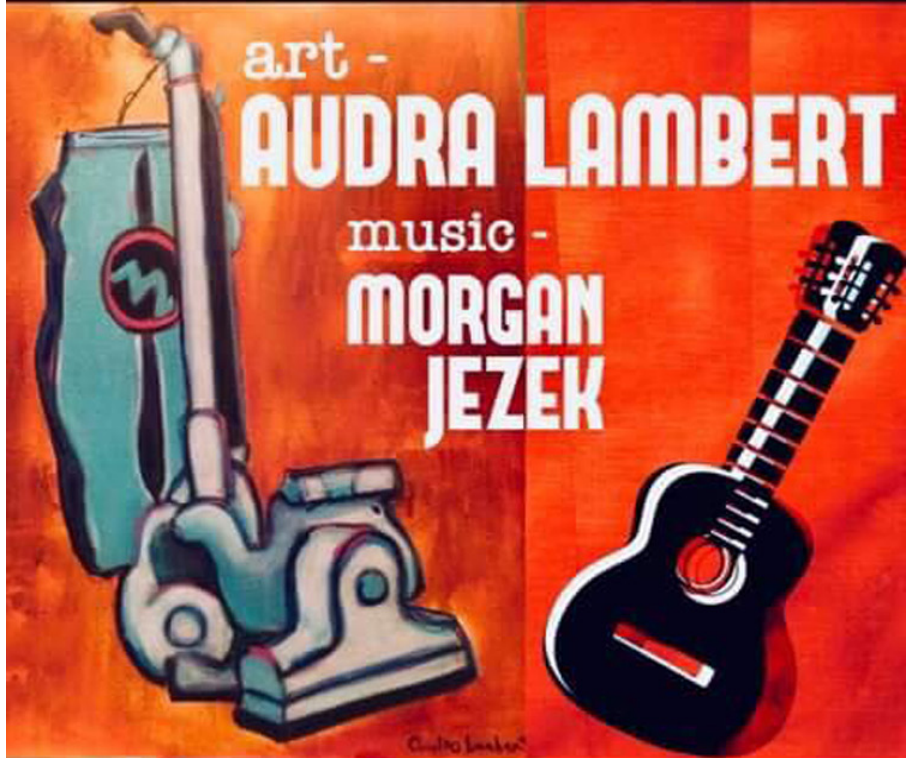


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# SILVER DOLLAR SALOON

Read Southall Band Thursday, Aug 2



Hip Hop Hooray Saturday Aug 18



Mullet Boyz Saturday, Aug 25



# SILVER DOLLAR SALOON

Tickets are available on Facebook

- August 2 - Read Southall Band  
w/ Tyler Wilhelm
- August 3 - Biskit Head
- August 4 - Casey Abbe Band
- August 9 - Shane Mercer
- August 10 - RIP
- August 11 - Deep In It
- August 16 - Barefoot Dixie
- August 17 - Jackson Tillman
- August 18 - Hip Hop Hooray
- August 23 - Fintastics
- August 24 - Mr Meaner
- August 25 - Mullet Boyz
- August 30 - Randy Summers
- August 31 - Crosswinds

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# The Pecan Creek Artists

The Pecan Creek Artists are a group of ladies that have met once a week to paint since 2007. They now have a studio/gallery downtown at 913 Indiana. It is aptly called The Pecan Creek Artists Studio and Gallery. There are seven ladies that are currently using the space; Lysle Huddleston, Lynn Connolly, Kitty Thompson, Becky Isabell, Mary Kimbell, Sandy Hay and Betsy Edwards.

Jane Spears Carnes was the founder of the group and they used to meet at her residence. However, when she married and sold her house, the ladies began to look for another place to create art. Jane also took a hiatus to write a novel. "We contemplated coming downtown," said Betsy. "This building was the old First Step Thrift Shop, but we looked at this spot and it was meant to be. We love seeing what is going on downtown and we love being part of downtown. Now we are part of the After-Hours Art Walks."

The area is now painted a bright white with massive original beams running down the center of the room. The lighting is plentiful and perfect for painting. Sandy added, "The way it was set up it looked like a studio and gallery. We took possession in mid-February but officially opened the first of March."

The ladies stressed that there is new art up every month for the AHA, and that the gallery is rehung every month to highlight that art. Betsy said that every time someone comes in there will be something new to see, and prices for the art start at \$100.

Currently they are open Thursdays from 10-3 and, of course, during the art walks. However, to see the studio/gallery any other hours, you must have an appointment. "For most of us this is the first time to move from just painting as a group to showing as a group fulltime. In the past we had an annual show at Jane's house and we prepared for it all year.

Having this building has all been so new to us even though we have been together so long," Betsy explained.

The ladies strive to keep learning new things about their craft. They regularly take workshops taught by other artists and have guest artists visit. They also have regular meetings to critique each other's work. Sandy added that they learn so much from group critiques. They are learning from each other with generosity. "We have seven distinct styles, and seeing each one paint is inspiring," Sandy said. "It is mesmerizing watching each other painting. It's like going to a workshop where you learn from your peers. We all have a healthy respect for each other's talent."

Betsy said that the artists distinct styles go anywhere from mixed media, abstract, contemporary, landscapes, still-life, realism and portraits. They also do commission pieces to suit anyone's style.

Sandy started painting about 9 years ago after taking classes in acrylic and oil painting from Liz Yarosz Ash at Midwestern State University. Betsy had painted all her life because of having a mother that painted. But when Betsy lost her mother to Alzheimer's disease, she "dove in" and started painting professionally full time. She is the only artist in the studio that paints for a living. The group not only has mutual respect, but they have good chemistry and make all the decisions concerning their space as a group. Their talent and comradery show promise for their venture and their enthusiasm is contagious, which bodes well for their new business. They invite art lovers to come and enjoy the fruits of their labor. *-Cindy Thomas*



# SANDI GANT

Sandi Gant's first introduction to creating art was not a positive experience, considering her high school art teacher was not interested in teaching art to girls; however, that didn't stop her. She traces her interest in art to high school, but not in art class.

"My inspiration came from artwork on album covers. I knew I wanted to be part of that kind of creativity," she reminisced. "After pursuing an undergraduate degree in art, I found my skill set to be a hinderance. An art instructor encouraged me to use photography to get around my inability to draw well. Then I branched out into silk screen printing and pottery."

While she was pursuing her interests in photography, she had some success. She went on to graduate with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Tulsa. She and some other talented artists were chosen by then Oklahoma governor, George Nigh, to exhibit their photos in the Oklahoma State Capital building.

The artist's life was temporarily put on hold when Sandi married and had a daughter. "Being a mom and a wife and raising a family, I didn't have time for myself or my art. But when my daughter went off to college in 2005, I had so much time on my hands. I went to Midwestern State University and took some classes in sculpting," she recalled. "Some of the processes scared me in my first year."

Eventually, she had success with her sculpting. Her first sale was to the then President of MSU, Dr. Jesse Rodgers. The sculpture was a dragonfly. One of her wood sculptures is also now part of a permanent display

at Red Bull Gallery in Houston.

And as far as drawing went, she just didn't understand it. "I had a friend explain it to me much later. I enjoy drawing now. I sketch what I am going to paint or sculpt," Sandi said.

Sandi added painting to that skill set. Her paintings are lovely, often with playful characters living life. She has one with girls playing, and another with a grandfather and grandson. She also has a painting of a man deep in thought called "Contemplation". That painting is now in Breckridge, Texas. It has been accepted into the 27th Annual Juried Art Show Competition and Sale. It is quite an honor to have art accepted in this show.

Sandi's mom passed away 4 years ago and as a way to work through it, Sandi painted this painting one night during the grieving process. She describes it as a "Very emotional painting. I work through my emotions through my art. My art is reflective of how I feel about the subject or what is affecting me. It is about me."

Sandi started painting after taking art lessons from Judy Braddy at the Kemp Center for the Arts. Judy was teaching painting with acrylic paints. Sandi wanted to try her hand at painting with oil paints, so she began taking lessons from Kay Miller. Sandi took those lessons for 2 years. She quit taking lessons from Kay, but "still needed some coaching" and is now taking lessons from Janelle Michonski at the Seventh Street Studio.

-Cindy Thomas





# BREA'N THOMPSON

Brea'n Thompson is a lovely woman with pastel braids in her hair, and her art is as striking as she is. She is new to Wichita Falls, but her art has people talking. She is currently showing her art at the Wichita Falls Art Association Gallery to the delight of visitors. Even though being an artist comes naturally, her true goal in life is to make the world a better place.

When she was 13 she used to impress her friends with drawings of celebrities. At 14 she found her niche—murals. She painted a mural at her mother's house and fell in love with the process and the gratification of a job well done. "I started painting professionally a year ago with oil paints," Brea'n said, "But I have always painted. I switched to making this a fulltime job when we moved here. My husband is in the military. It is so hard to get and hold down a job since we move so often. And this is what I want to do, but I kept talking myself out of it."

She did a lot of talking to herself to come to this decision. In fact, she didn't show her paintings until last year. "I started posting my art, and my friends were like, 'When did you start painting?'"

She has shown her art twice in Dallas at the Conception Art Fair and won 2nd place at her first show. According to Brea'n, they have several fairs across the United States and Australia. She will be showing her art again with them in Los Angeles in September.

Brea'n paints not only for pleasure and the drive that artists must show their hearts on canvas, but it is also therapeutic for her. She has a form of autism called synesthesia that is very rare. "Synesthesia is where you can hear color and see sound. What my art means to me has a lot to do with my mental health, so I put on music and paint. A lot of the faces in my portraits are crazy swirls of colors, beautiful, but I find peace in my surroundings. I paint every day and I waste a lot of paint," Brea'n said with a smile.

Most of her oil paintings are in shades of blue and purple, and like any artist she doesn't like every piece of art that she creates. Artists often doubt the validity of their work, and she is no different.

Her favorite type of art is painting murals. She has painted a few murals in the Texoma area. One at Heritage Antiques, and the subject is a colorful sunset in the background with windmill and a water tank that says Heritage Antiques. Another one is at the Burk Village Preschool. It has three teddy bears, each seven and a half feet tall, with paintings inside the outlines of the bears. Each bear represents different things about Wichita Falls. For instance, one has the "falls" in it, one is about a village raising a child, and the third one has paintings depicting Midwestern State University,



SAFB and the Hotter N' Hell Bike Race. What she loves most about painting murals is taking someone's idea and arranging it in a way they don't expect. Her most recent public piece is at 8th Street Coffee House. She will also be participating in the upcoming downtown crosswalk art project where she will be one of 6 artists that will be permanently painting 6 intersections.

She and her husband, Mathew, have a gifted son who is 5 years old named Miles. Miles is already showing promise as a photographer. Her husband is a guitarist, so talent runs in the family.

As far as changing the world, Brea'n donates 10 percent of her sales to the Veteran's Relief Fund here in Wichita Falls. She is excited about the project that consists of building tiny houses for homeless veterans. She also donates another 10 percent to Stamp Out Hunger in Wichita Falls.



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# Learning to Lead

I've thought about the most impactful leaders in my life. Most didn't have crazy job positions. They didn't have high status, tons of money in their bank account, nor did they have the most massive following. So who were these leaders that impacted me the most and why? My grandfather owned Flower's Conoco, a service station out by the base. He hired men who had gone to prison when no one else would. He gave people a chance, when others would so easily overlook them. He searched for the good in people and spoke it into existence. He was just a poor kid without a father who grew up being the very father, friend, boss, and leader, he himself never had.

He was the kind of man who lived a message of "no man left behind" and would give you the shirt off his back. He took all of the neighborhood kids on vacations when their own parents were working, or couldn't afford it, or simply weren't present in their lives. He opened his home to tons of airmen and gave them a place to stay when they had nowhere else to go. I share this because true leadership goes outside the confines of upbringing and present status and goes beyond experience and immediate recognition. People assume leaders are always in front, but I've learned that true leaders are right there with you. They walk with you right where you're at. And many times, they're the ones in the very back, in order to make sure no one else falls behind. There's this quote that says "those who are first will be last and those who are last will be first." I believe this exemplifies true leadership.

True leaders are willing to scrub the toilets, serve behind the scenes, give you the shirt off their backs, and be last whether it is in status, power, or recognition. They are willing to get messy WITH people regardless of the outcome. So if you always feel like you're last in line,



you might actually be first. The craziest thing is, sometimes you don't know you are leading until years later. You might not have realized what an impact you made on the lives of those around you until one day, someone comes to you and thanks you for who you were. That is what a true leader is. It's not necessarily what they did so much as who they are when they were doing it. Being a leader requires tons of sacrifice, selflessness, and humility. It is a constant dying to yourself in order to help others truly be alive in their living. Sometimes leadership will cost you your reputation, your title, and your popularity; but it will also gain the respect of those who are quietly waiting for you to lead.

- Aubray Scott

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## Taking the WFSO in New Directions

The Wichita Falls Symphony Orchestra kicks off its 71st anniversary with their season opener on September 22nd under the baton of Fouad Fakhouri. Last season, Fakhouri's first with the WFSO, proved to be one of the best seasons in recent memory with guest artists Wilford Brimley, Martin Camacho, Canadian Brass, and Pixar in Concert.

This season continues moving the WFSO in new directions and promises to be equally as engaging. There's a big difference this year, though. The WFSO has added a sixth concert to the 2018-2019 season. Not only is there an extra concert on the schedule, two of the six concerts will be performed at Akin Auditorium on the campus of MSU-Texas. Alicia Deges, Assistant Executive Director, says, "We are anticipating that this new direction for the WFSO will make concert-going better for our patrons. Not only is the new venue more accessible physically, but the addition of an additional performance time will make a perfect afternoon activity for young families and students!"

The two Akin concerts are really four, in that each Saturday evening performance will be repeated during a Sunday matinee at 3:00 pm. Akin is known for its excellent acoustics. It's smaller than Memorial Auditorium—smaller and more intimate, which will give Fakhouri the opportunity to present music that is itself a little more intimate, like American composer Charles Ives' "The Unanswered Question" and Felix Mendelssohn's "Italian" symphony. According to the Maestro, "The new Akin series expands our traditional concert offering, allowing us to explore repertoire that is better suited

for a more intimate venue. The fact that Akin has superior acoustics is a great plus for our musicians, guest artists and our audiences."

Also new this season are four thematic concerts—"Symphonie Fantastique" to celebrate the arrival of fall in early November, the "WFSO does Hollywood" in January, "Dance Mix" in February, and, of course, the annual WFSO "Holiday Celebration" in December.

The orchestra will be joined by three young world-class soloists this season. Pianist Lewis Warren, Jr. will be performing Mozart's "Piano Concerto No. 21 in C Major" on Sept. 22nd at Akin. Warren, a native of Wichita Falls, has studied at both SMU's Meadows School of the Arts and the New England Conservatory in Boston. Another young pianist, Shai Vosner, will perform Schumann's "Piano Concerto in A Minor" on Nov. 3rd. Originally from Israel, Vosner has studied with several well-known teachers in America, including Emanuel Ax at the Juilliard School. The season finale will feature violinist William Hagen, who was recently hailed in "The Dallas Morning News" as a "brilliant virtuoso." "I am very excited about next season's guest artists," says Fakhouri. "They are brilliant soloists who bring great virtuosity and artistry to the concert hall. I am particularly looking forward to working, once again, with my friend Shai Vosner."

For more information on what is sure to be an exciting season, call 940-723-6202 or visit [wfsso.org](http://wfsso.org) or Facebook (Wichita Falls Symphony).

-Dr. Todd Giles

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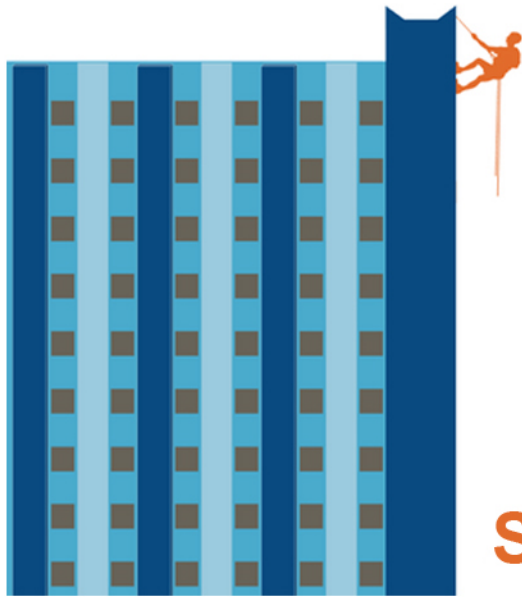
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There is \$25.00 registration fee which goes toward your overall fundraising goal. This is considered a donation to RBNC and is tax-deductible. After you register you will receive all the tools you need in order to go Over The Edge! All donations raised by rappellers are tax-deductible and will go to furthering the educational mission of River Bend Nature Center.  
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[www.riverbendnaturecenter.org/goovertheedge](http://www.riverbendnaturecenter.org/goovertheedge)





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