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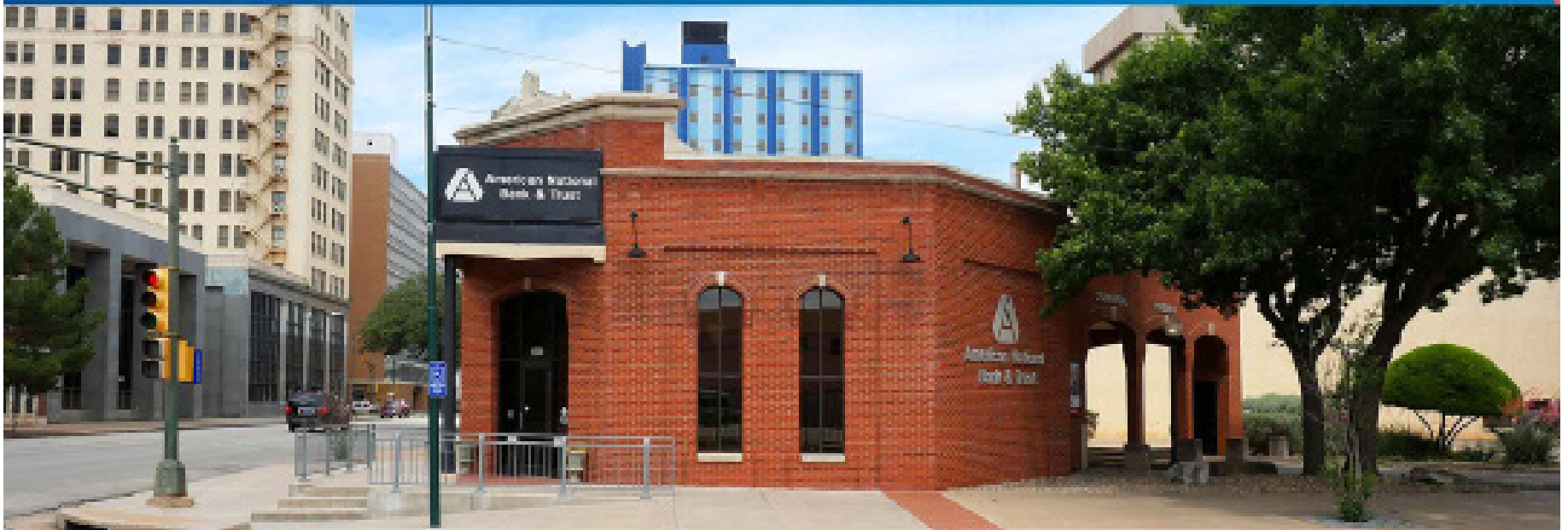
MUSIC - ART - NEWS

MATT SKELTON

INSIDE

Legends of Western Swing
Fashion Garage
The Burn Shop
High Heels For Hot Meals
DBDT and New Arts Six
North Texas Troubadours

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AHA!
AFTER HOURS ARTWALK

St. Patrick's Day
3.16



Cajun Fest
4.27

AN EVENT IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER.



Hotter'N Ale 0.5K
8.24

Art & Soul
10.3



Zombie Crawl
10.26

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MARCH 2019





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TIPS AND TALES FROM OUTBACK

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

On March 15th this year, my dad would have been 98 years old. John James Divine. He died in 1993, but lived a very full life in his 72 years. A recent visit with my brother-in-law brought out one of the lesser discussed stories about my dad's life.

My dad grew up in the middle of the Great Depression. Eastern Oklahoma was poor enough without this financial disaster that was taking place across the USA. Oil and gas had not yet become the money maker that it would evolve into and land around there was often hilly and rocky, so farming and ranching was limited. My dad used to say that during those days you could buy land for 25 cents an acre, but nobody had a quarter!

The first two decades of my dad's life were pretty typical for rural America in those days. Mornings found him up early doing farm chores, going to school, and coming home to more farm chores, with homework being done late into the night with two brothers and a sister sharing one dull lightbulb.

Along came World War II. My dad was drafted into the Army Air Corps and was sent to Sheppard Air Force Base for basic training. Here's where the little discussed story took place.

Dad said he showed up and was presented with a cot to sleep on in one of the barracks. It wasn't private, but it was his own bed. No sharing it with his brothers! The next thing he received was a brand-new pair of boots. This was also a first for him. New. Not hand me downs! Then came the clothing. He had always worn his older brother's old clothes. These were brand new and his. And they fit! Next stop was the most impressive part of all to my father. He was taken to a building where there was enough food (you guessed it) to feed an army. He didn't grow up hungry, but feasts were not on the menu in the 1920's and 30's for families like his. He said it was close to unbelievable to see so much food in one place. I'm sure many people of my generation and younger who are used to all you can eat buffets and super-sized meals will find this surprising, but the Great Depression was just like it was called: The Great Depression.

I must add that there was a price to be paid for all of my father's newfound abundance. Being the tail gunner of a B-25 bomber and being shot at untold times a day while thousands of feet in the air probably brought forth countless prayers and lots of wishes to be back home doing farm chores. But there was a job to be done, and many young Americans took on that job. Dad told me one little detail about his job as a gunner in that bomber that chills me to this day. The gunners had a slogan that didn't particularly paint a very pretty picture, or give you much incentive to go to work every day. That slogan was "Gunner today, goner tomorrow".

But to work he did go. Just like millions of other soldiers, they paid a price that few of us can imagine, but we have been given a life of many freedoms, and I pray we never take it for granted.

Maybe you will give a little thought to my dad and all the other World War II veterans the next time you get a new pair of shoes or chow down on a double meat bacon burger. And hopefully, you will be able to do so without dodging bullets.



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M-F 3pm-2am • Sat Noon-2am

March 1 - Tejas Brothers, CJ Cody

March 2 - Hannah Belle Lecter, Red Brick Trolley

March 8 - Ally Venable, Taylor Newman Band

March 9 - Lo and Behold, Polterguts, Big Find

**March 15 - Brandt Holmes, Brannon Oliver,
Sean Snyder, Dru Gid, Bryson Lawrence,
Martin and Murty from Ireland**

March 16 - ST. PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVAL "INDOORS"
**Mike O'Neill (6 PM),
Martin and Murty from Ireland (8:15 PM),
Hannah Belle Lecter (10 PM)**

March 22 - Chris Shackelford, Braden Southard

**March 23 - Blue Water Highway,
Clint Vines and the Hard Times**

March 29 - Tuatha Dea

March 29 - Tanner Fenoglio

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BIKE SCAVENGER HUNT EVENT

Bicycles are nothing new to Wichita Falls. Being host to the nation's largest single day 100-mile ride, Wichita Falls sees more bikes annually than many cities much larger. Even still, it is not officially considered a "bike friendly community" by the League of American Bicyclists.

Local organizations such as the Bike Friendly Acton Committee, chaired by Becky Raeke and Kathryn Hager, are doing their part to ensure that this changes. "A city must meet certain criteria to get a League of American Bicyclists membership," Raeke informed. That criteria includes accessibility, safe riding conditions, and community outreach. The bike trail that extends around the city is a massive benefit to local bikers. Now Raeke and Hager plan on adding the safety and community outreach into the equation.

On March 3, the Bike Friendly Action Committee is having their first event of 2019 titled Ride & Seek. The family friendly affair will take place at Lake Wichita with the start point being at Murphy's Mountain. There will be an on-bike scavenger hunt (that's the seek part) and riders will get to learn more about the Lake Wichita area. Other activities will include a mini Frisbee gold tournament and a bike rodeo.

Hotter N' Hell 100 representatives and The Endurance House will be on hand to help with safety training and assisting where needed. This is a family friendly event from 10am until noon that is free to anyone that would like to come. Bikes will not be provided, but everyone is encouraged to bring their own.

The Bike Friendly Acton Committee has another event planned for downtown on May3rd. Find them on Facebook for more details about this event.

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Gloria Miers Productions will be producing a show that appeals to many in the 32nd Annual Legends of Western Swing Music Festival from June 20th to the 22nd. The twist on this production is that Gloria Miers, affectionately call the “Grand Dame of Western Swing Music”, will be 93 years old in April and is still going strong just like the music that she loves.

“Western Swing music was originated by Bob Wills in 1938. He played the fiddle, and his grandfather and father played the fiddle, and they all played country music. Bob was a country boy and in the cotton fields when he heard the black workers singing and fell in love with their rhythm and the sound of their music,” Gloria explained. “So, he began to try to put that with what he had been taught, which was country music. But it changed the rhythm and the beat to a different sound, and he called it western swing.”

The first Legends of West-

ern Swing Music Festival started in Canton, Texas and was a huge success. “The people came out in droves,” Gloria said. “Because people like us didn’t want to go to honky-tonks or night clubs anymore and there was no place to dance or enjoy the music. People came from all over the United States. There was a tiny little stage, and they didn’t even have a dressing room for the musicians, and it grew and grew. People were hungry for the music, and that’s how we began.”

The festival was under the trees in June, and the crowd had to deal with rain one year and temperatures at “108 in the shade” another year, so they moved it for a few years around Texas until they discovered Wichita Falls and the MPEC. The tenth year of the show was in our fair city and it has been here ever since.

Gloria and her husband, Dewey, became partners with Chuck Woods in the festival in

1990 and she went “kicking and screaming”. I knew my husband would be sitting on the front row tapping his foot while I did all the work. Which is exactly how it turned out to be,” she said with a laugh. But Gloria’s love of this music didn’t come naturally. In fact, Bob Wills was her father’s favorite, and she was force fed that music as a child. “But I learned that God has a sense of humor because I married a man that put Bob Wills right up there equal to Jesus,” she recalled with a grin. “And I either had to learn to like it or move out. But the first time I heard those live bands in person, it was an immediate change, and I fell in love with it. I sold tickets and took care of the vendors and various things, and I seldom ever got to be on that front row with my husband. I was doing work.”

Gloria’s husband died in 2000, but that didn’t slow her down. She and her business partner didn’t see eye to eye

and one day she suggested that either he take it or she. Gloria was surprised when he said for her to do the job on her own, so she has been the sole proprietor since that day. “There is a lot of work, and I live in Plano, Texas. I have to come to Wichita Falls to do everything. I have to organize it and find sponsors. I always need sponsors. You can’t sell enough tickets to pay for the bands,” she said.

Gloria has had headliners such as Ray Price and Mel Tillis, and this year they will not disappoint with 9 great bands. Three will play on Thursday: Jody Nix, Jake Hooker and the Outsiders, and Shoot Low Sheriff. On Friday, Dave Alexander and His Big Texas Swing Band, Billy Mata and the Texas Tradition, and Coby Carter will take the stage. On Saturday, Bobby Flores and the Yellow Rose Band, and Jason Roberts. That night, Jeff Woolsey and the Dancehall Kings will close out the weekend. There is usually

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a waiting line of bands that want to get on her stage. The bands start playing every day at noon and play until 5:00 p.m. when a catered dinner is served. The bands start back up at 7:00 p.m. and play until 11:00, and the dancers don't stop until the last song has been sung.

"We don't have alcohol, drugs, or smoking. It is held at the MPEC, which is a nice airconditioned building with comfortable seating and two big dance floors. Most of the couples never sit down. They dance the whole time, but it is the best dance music ever," Gloria said. "We are very proud that it is a good, clean, wholesome show. We don't have alcohol simply because we encourage people to bring their children and grandchildren to learn what the western swing music is about. If you come one time, you will fall in love with it. I guarantee."

At one point there is a salute to veterans, in which 20 airmen come to the stage and honor veterans in the audience by holding a salute the entire time that the band plays an appropriate song in dedication to the veterans. Gloria said, "If you come, believe me you will shed a tear. And those airmen all get a chance to dance, too. I have to say that we have people come from as far away as England, Germany, Japan, Australia, and Canada. They travel long distances because they can't hear western swing anywhere else," she said proudly. She wishes that more people from Wichita Falls would come to enjoy the show also. Many of the dancers are older, but Gloria would like for the younger people to learn about the western swing music. However, I have been told that some of the older couples will hobble out to the dance floor, and when the music starts

they take off like teenagers, and that half of the show is watching the dancers.

Gloria has been such a mover and shaker in the music scene that she has been inducted into three halls of fame in Seattle, Oklahoma, and Texas. "I have been fortunate in receiving a number of awards over the years, but I guess the biggest one was in 2015 in Austin, Texas. They have the Ameripolitan Music award which is very prestigious. (It bills itself as "Music with prominent roots with influences in outlaw, western swing, rockabilly and honky-tonk music). You are nominated by the bands, but there was a lot of good competition. There was a festival in Japan, Los Angeles, and Las Vegas. I knew I had no chance to win, but I wanted to go check it out. It was just like the Oscars. When they said, 'The Legends of Western Swing Music Festival,' I nearly passed out. I don't even remember my acceptance speech. I told them how excited I was, and I got a standing ovation. It was very exciting," she said nostalgically.

She has been a huge contributor in making western swing the official music of Texas, and also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Academy of Western Artists. Gloria now produces with the help of her family. "It is a family affair," she said, but she is quick to point out who is really in charge. "Let me say very emphatically, I could have never done what I have done or succeeded in the way we have succeeded without the Lord helping me. He is the biggest part of my show."

For more information about the Legends of Western Swing Music Festival check out their website at www.thelegendsofwesternswing.com

-Cindy Kahler Thomas





CULTIVATING A COMMUNITY OF SAVVY FASHIONISTAS

Fashion garage is a new resale boutique located at 1115 Lamar St in the historic Gragg Motor Co. building. Owners and operators Connie Bennett and Janet Ehling, say they didn't intend for this building to be what it is today.

Connie said that it was intended to be used as a storage building. While in the process of cleaning and arranging things one day, Janet recalled, "The signs were there that this is what we were supposed to do."

Janet and Connie have been a team for a little over two years, after doing a vintage fashion show together. Both say things just kind of "clicked" after that. Both are very different in their own style and even attitudes, but they come together to make quite the perfect match. With Connie more knowl-

edgeable of vintage jewelry and accessories, and Janet more passionate in vintage clothes and shoes, they make up the Fashion Garage dream team. A team goal orientated into creating a "community of people who love fashion and care about buying seconds," revealed Janet.

Thus, the Fashion Garage came into existence. After the eye-catching sign was finished (done by artist Rodger Whittaker), the doors were open, and they were ready to spread their love and positivity to the community through vintage ensembles. When asked why

vintage specifically, Connie responded, "We want people to see that you can mix both vintage and new clothing. You don't have to look the same and dress like everybody else. We're finding that with a lot

of our young clients, that's what's drawing them in. It's the style." When asked the same question, Janet responded, "Vintage, that's just where my heart has always been. And I'm really excited to see a shift of when I was at the "old Alley Cat" (922 Indiana circa 2012-2014). I would sell a whole lot for Halloween. It used to make me sad that people were buying mostly vintage for Halloween because I knew it was going to get trashed, they were just doing it to be silly, and now I'm happy

because Halloween is a non-thing. Our customers are different; they are these wonderful people who see the value and wonderfulness of wearing vintage every day."

"It is very difficult to find and when you find very good vintage, it's really good quality. There's nothing else like it. I mean, the design the shape of it, the fabrics, everything about it is just great," Connie added. "To me," Janet brought up, "it's about expressing yourself. And to me, you can't express yourself as an individual by going and picking and buying your size on a rack of all the same thing. It doesn't make

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sense to me and never has.”

Their passion for their work is inspirational, helping each and every client fulfill their vintage dreams. They speak of their clients as if they are all friends, and I’m sure it’s because it would be hard to not make friends with Connie and Janet. Their positive attitudes and loving nature create a wonderful shopping atmosphere one would definitely return to.

Their grand opening is still in the process, as they are currently working on expanding the garage to feature a wider men’s selection and more dressing rooms. They plan on having vintage markets coming this spring, so be on the lookout on their Facebook page @ Fashion Garage or Instagram @fashiongaragewf. They are open Tuesday through Saturday 10am-5pm. Happy shopping!

-Charlie Roberts

MARCH 2019

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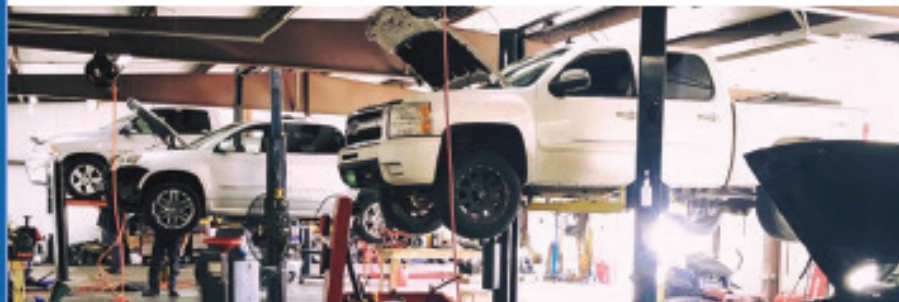
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A large group of people are gathered in a room with pink walls and large windows. In the foreground, a man in a tan blazer is being embraced by a woman in a red floral top. To his right, a man in a light blue shirt is looking towards them. In the background, many other people are standing and talking. A title overlay in the top left corner reads "the Wichita Falls Entertainment Guide".

the Wichita Falls Entertainment Guide

Photo: High Heels For Hot Meals benefit for Meals On Wheels

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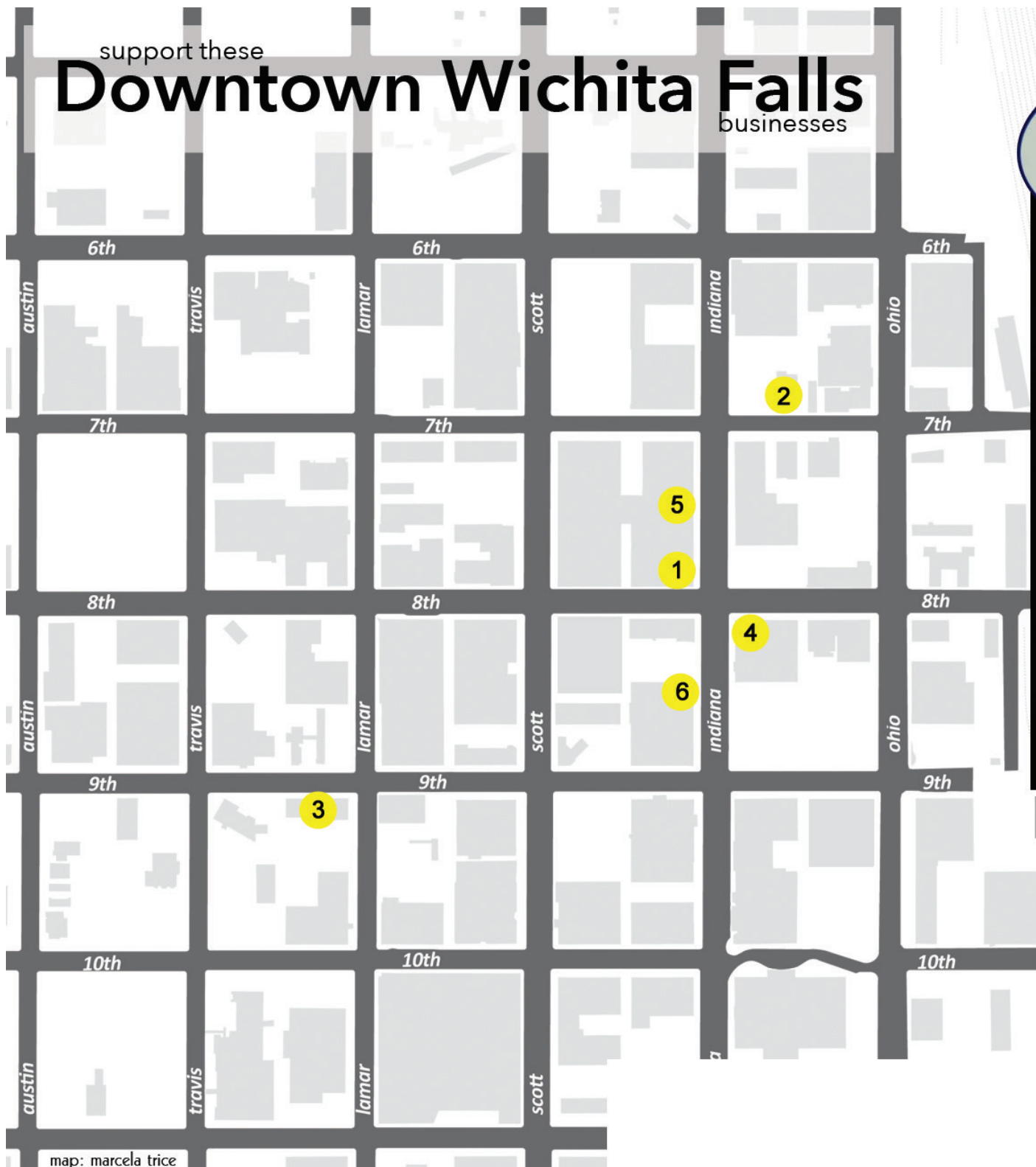
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- 4** Gypsy 801
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MUSIC

March 1

- Tejas Brothers @ Iron Horse Pub
- Open Mic @ 8th St. Coffee House
- A Special Case, Leddit Ride @ The Railhead Saloon, Lawton, OK

March 2

- Hannah Belle Lecter, Red Brick Trolley @ Iron Horse Pub
- 10 bands at World Class Tattoo Grand Opening @ 3205 Kemp Street
- Race Rutledge and the Texas Knights @ Texas Nite Life

March 4

- Harvey and Tim's \$2 Tuesday @ Stick's Place
- Spit Stain @ The Deep End
- Open Jam @ Old Town Saloon
- Open Mic @ Gypsy Uncorked

March 6

- Open Jam @ Iron Horse Pub

March 7

- Clint Vines and the Hard Times: Outdoor Concert Series @ South Weeks Park

March 8

- Ally Venable, Taylor Newman Band @ Iron Horse Pub

- Open Mic @ 8th St. Coffee House

March 9

- Lo and Behold, Polterguts, Big Find @ Iron Horse Pub
- Race Rutledge and the Texas Knights @ Texas Nite Life
- Hip Hop Night @ The Deep End

March 13

- Open Mic @ Iron Horse Pub

March 15

- Brandt Holmes, Brannon Oliver, Sean Snyder, Dru Gid, Bryson Lawrence, and Martin and Murty from Ireland @ Iron Horse Pub
- Open Mic @ 8th St. Coffee House

March 15, 16, and 17

- Parkstomp Bluegrass Festival @ Medicine Park, OK

March 16

- Race Rutledge and the Texas Knights @ Texas Nite Life
- Zane Williams @ Red River Station, Saint Jo, TX
- Mike O'Neill, Martin and Murty, Hannah Belle Lecter @ Iron Horse Pub

March 20

- Open Jam @ Iron Horse Pub

March 22

- Braden Southard, Chris Shackleford Band @ Iron Horse Pub
- Open Mic @ 8th St. Coffee House
- Storytellers @ Gypsy Uncorked
- Shooter Jennings @ Bowie Community Center, Bowie, TX

March 23

- Bruce Lyons Sidewalk Jam and Concert @ Bruce Lyons Guitar Shop, 3100 Seymour Hwy
- Gypsy Railhead @ Fat Alberts
- Blue Water Highway Band, Clint Vines and the Hard Times @ Iron Horse Pub
- Race Rutledge and the Texas Knights @ Texas Nite Life

March 27

- Open Mic @ Iron Horse Pub

March 29

- Tuatha Dea, The Gibbonses @ Iron Horse Pub
- Open Mic @ 8th St. Coffee House
- Mike Ryan @ Boulevard Nightclub
- The March Divide @ Gypsy Uncorked

March 30

- RIP @ Old Town Saloon
- Dueling Pianos @ Half Pint Taproom
- Robert Rodriguez and Friends 1st Annual Benefit Concert @ Memorial Auditorium
- Race Rutledge and the Texas Knights @ Texas Nite Life
- Tanner Fenoglio @ Iron Horse Pub

ART

March 1

- Kaye Franklin Painting Workshop @ The Kemp

March 2

- Adult Art Class @ Wichita Falls Public Library

March 9

- Cold Wax Medium & Oil: Landscape Abstractions Workshop @ The Kemp
- Stitch Meet Up! @ WF Public Library
- Teen Photography @ WF Public Library

March 12-16

- Shootapalooza Photo Collective Workshop & Exhibit @ Wichita Falls Museum of Art at MSU

March 16

- Studio Saturday: All About Artists @ The Kemp

Mondays

- Youth Drawing @ The Kemp

Tuesdays

- Memories in the Making @ The Forum
- Elementary Art @ The Kemp
- Beginning Anime @ The Kemp
- A Taste for Music: Classical Music Appreciation for Kids (K - Grade 2) & (Grade 3 - Grade 5) @ The Forum

Wednesdays

- Advanced Anime & Manga @ The Kemp

Thursdays

- Advanced Youth Art @ The Kemp
- How To Think Like Leonardo da Vinci @ The Forum

FOR THE KIDS

March 1

- Make and Take Crafts @ WF Public Library

March 2

- History Trunk Show: Celebrating Texas Independence Day @ Wichita Falls Public Library

March 4

- Maker Monday @ Wichita Falls Public Library

March 5

- Preschool Storytime @ Wichita Falls Public Library
- Process Art Experiences @ WF Public Library

March 6

- Toddler Time @ Wichita Falls Public Library
- Chess Club @ Wichita Falls Public Library

March 9

- Nature Tots @ River Bend Nature Center
- Science Saturday @ River Bend Nature Center
- Chemistry Saturday @ WF Public Library

March 11

- Maker Monday @ Wichita Falls Public Library

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March 12

- Preschool Storytime @ WF Public Library
- Process Art Experiences @ WF Public Library
- Jose Luis Orozco @ WF Public Library

March 13

- Chess Club @ Wichita Falls Public Library

March 15

- Make and Take Crafts @ WF Public Library

March 16

- Lego Club @ Wichita Falls Public Library
- Family Storytime: St. Patrick's Day @ Wichita Falls Public Library

March 18-22

- STEAM Spring Break Camp 2019 @ River Bend Nature Center

March 20

- Toddler Time @ Wichita Falls Public Library

March 25

- Maker Monday @ Wichita Falls Public Library

March 26

- Process Art Experiences @ WF Public Library

March 27

- Chess Club @ Wichita Falls Public Library

March 29

- Make and Take Crafts @ WF Public Library

March 30

- Nature Tots @ River Bend Nature Center
- Science Saturday @ River Bend Nature Center
- Lego Club @ Wichita Falls Public Library

EVENTS

March 5 - 6

- PAW Patrol Live! "The Great Pirate Adventure" @ Kay Yeager Coliseum

March 13 - 14

- Wichita Falls Ranch and Farm Expo @ J.S. Bridwell Ag Center

March 16

- Champagne & Cowgirls Style Show @ The Forum
- Downtown Dash 5K @ Downtown Wichita Falls
- St. Patrick's Day Street Festival @ Downtown Wichita Falls

March 26

- The 55 Advantage @ Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall

March 29

- 8th Annual Cowboy True @ The Forum

March 30

- Top of Texas Market @ Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall
- Robert Rodriguez 1st Annual Virginia Rodriguez Ryle Fundraiser Benefit Concert @ Memorial Auditorium

- 8th Annual Cowboy True @ The Forum

March 31

- Top of Texas Market @ Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall

THEATER

March 1-2

- Newsies @ Wichita Theatre
- Mystiq: Mental ft. Grant Price @ Wichita Theatre

March 8

- Newsies @ Wichita Theatre

March 9

- Newsies @ Wichita Theatre

March 22 - 23

- Cry It Out @ Backdoor Theatre

March 28 - 30

- Cry It Out @ Backdoor Theatre



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MARCH 9

- **Killdevil**

MARCH 16 & 17

- **Cajun Saint Patrick's Weekend**
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MARCH 17

- **Jake Odin and the Marching Band**
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SAT. MARCH 9TH GYPSY RAILHEAD
SAT. MARCH 16TH BEN ATKINS AND TONTO
SAT. MARCH 23RD TBA
SAT. MARCH 30TH RIP

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- *Wednesday - \$2 Whiskey Shot
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- *Friday - \$2 TX Fuzzy Cocktail
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“If I wasn’t at work, I was at home with head phones on just drawing”. Matt Skelton has always loved creating art. He was mostly inspired by comic books and enjoyed drawing comic characters. Then one day it donned on him that someone actually gets paid to draw those comics. That realization set him on a course that

tattoo shop offering him a much better deal. This was in the late 1990’s, and Matt describes the tattoo scene much different than it is today. “Back then there were only 3 shops in town, with 3 artists in each shop. There were less than a dozen artists in town from about 1998 to 2008. We were all busy, all day, every day,” he recalls.

It was about that time when more shops and artists began popping up around town. Don Eaker and his son, Kerry, split ways at A Different Drummer and Kerry opened Altered Images. Matt says he always enjoyed working with the Eakers, and when that split happened, he went with Kerry to work at Altered Images for about

four years. “The Eakers always took good care of their artists and I feel like I shared some of the same values as they did,” Matt explains.

In recent years, Skelton has worked from Human Canvas and Firme Copias. And this month Matt is beginning a new venture. A new shop is opening at 3205

MATT SKELTON



would change his life.

In his earlier adult years, he would hustle any commercial freelance work that he could find, such as billboards and advertisements, “whatever paid the bills”. That is, until he and his wife at the time found out that a baby was on the way and the bills would soon increase. He had never considered tattooing as a viable option for him until one day, as he passed Southern Star Tattoo on Kemp, he saw the nice vehicles parked outside. He wondered to himself, “how do they afford those cars?” He had a friend that was a piercer for the shop that suggested Matt show the owner his drawing portfolio. It was an expansive display of work, and more than enough to land Skelton a new career.

Matt spent the next two years tattooing at Southern Star. His stay at the Star ended when he received a call from A Different Drummer



Kemp and Matt will be managing it. World Class Tattoo celebrated its grand opening on March 1st and aims to create an atmosphere that provides a more pleasant tattoo experience for patrons.

In step with his visual art, Matt has created music since his youth. He has donned the bass guitar for 30 years. Although he has always put his art career first, he has made a hard run with his music. Along with James Nelms, Barry Faulkner, John Ray Jr., and Jack Teague, Matt and his band Bishop’s Window played regular gigs all over north Texas in the mid 90’s and captured the attention of Sony records. Things were looking good for the group, but nature called. Lead singer Jack Teague found out that his wife was pregnant and decided to set music aside and focus on his family. The band was unable to find a suitable replacement and Sony lost interest.

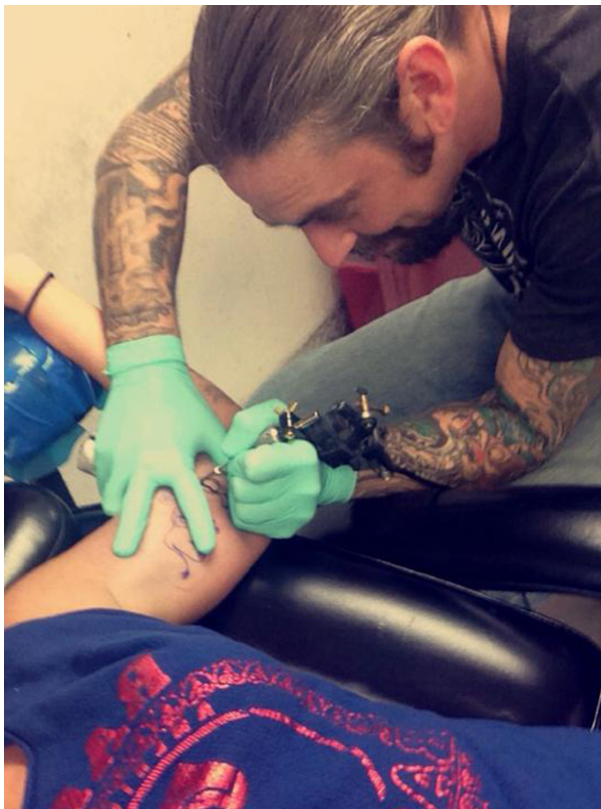
Matt hung up his guitar and
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buried himself in his tattooing career. For well over a decade he kept his music behind closed doors while he built a solid tattoo clientele. Once he felt comfortable with his artistic career, he began playing music again. It started out just strumming at home until the opportunity came along to team up with PVT Wilhelm.

PVT Wilhelm is a hard rock five piece that has been spending much of the last year building their set list. They have been strategic in their planning and will be hitting north Texas stages with new intensity and aggression throughout 2019.

Matt's rig consists primarily of a 5 string ESP, Hartke 4x10" cabinet on top of a 15" bottom cabinet with an 1100 watt head. He is taking his music serious again, but still keeping his art first. March marks the opening of World Class Tattoo and PVT Wilhelm will headline an all day, 10 band show to celebrate.

Follow the band and the tattoo shop on Facebook to stay abreast with all the great things happening with Matt in 2019.





THE BURN SHOP



A local business has found a way to give back by using their talents and skills to bless a nonprofit. The Burn Shop is a custom metal fabrication shop that can do just about anything with metal. The owners, Ivonne and Keith Wineinger, are becoming quite well known in Wichita Falls for their inventive approach to sign making. One lucky nonprofit will be able to win one of their custom-made signs with the application process starting March 1st.

Some of the signs they have produced in Wichita Falls include Highlander Public House, Patsy's House, Crash-Works STEAM Studio & Makerspace, Park Place Event Center, and Wichita Falls Brewing Company. They are also known for the sheet metal bikes that are popping up around town. There is a Downtown Proud Bike, and a Midwestern State University Bike. "We are going to be revealing a different bike each month," said Ivonne.

The idea to give away one of their signs came up when they joined the Chamber of Commerce recently. "We joined the chamber and are taking little steps to get to be known around here, but what comes with entrepreneurship is the commitment to be involved in the community and be a part of what is happen-

ing in our city, so we want to get behind a nonprofit," Ivonne explained. "We have a passion for our community. As a gesture of our gratitude to the people of North Texas, we have decided to give back a portion of the sup-

metal sign to a local nonprofit to help with their branding and community awareness efforts. Applications for the giveaway will be accepted from March 1 through March 15, 2019. Any nonprofit can apply, and the ap-

plication is available at <http://theburnshopwf.com/giveaway/>. We encourage everyone to share it with their favorite nonprofit. It will be based on need, what they already have in place, do they really need a sign, and do they have a location. Every nonprofit will have a chance to turn in their application. The Final 3 will be highlighted on all Burn Shop social media and the winner will be selected through online voting. The top 3 finalist that will be announced on March 25.

The Wineingers have a lot of experience with an online presence. "We have created a great media presence through Instagram and Facebook, and now we want to create a presence in Wichita Falls. We have really gained a strong following in the barbecue community. The way we grew on social media is by giving things away. We would create some kind of a giveaway, and people would come and 'like' it and we would pick a winner to receive the product from the Burn Shop; and that created a little exposure," Ivonne said. One of the top sellers for the business is custom grates for grills. They can put any picture or logo or initial, as long as it doesn't have a copywrite. They sent some grill grates to some of the well-known grillers in the barbecue community. "We didn't expect much in return, but if they loved their product, we wanted them to rave about it—and they did! So little

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port that has been given to us. The Burn Shop is giving away one custom designed large-scale

plication is available at <http://theburnshopwf.com/giveaway/>. We encourage everyone to share

by little we gained 7,000 followers on Instagram and 8,000 on Facebook.”

“That has been our strategy in terms of marketing, so now it is time to do it in Wichita Falls, and what better way than with a nonprofit. The idea came from Henry [Florsheim] at the chamber. He gave us a few ideas, and the one for a nonprofit pulled at my heart,” Ivonne said.

“The way the business got started was that I had two passions. One being playing with metal and the other one outdoor cooking. What better

way to blend the two? To play with metal and make outdoor cooking accessories,” Keith said smiling. For that to happen they needed an expensive plasma cutter table. “There was a lot of fear when Keith first approached me about buying this table, I was like ‘NO’, but I knew in my head that if anyone is going to make this business work it would be him. So, I had to be with him—I’ve got to be. He is the risk taker and I am not. That’s how we balance each other,” Ivonne said.

They have been in business for 3 years and have shipped



MARCH 2019

their products all over the world and to every state except Hawaii. “It is a matter of getting people to find out about us. I promise there is something I can make for any person that will make them say, “WOW! This is really neat, this is cool,” Keith stressed.

Last year for the IDEAWF contest for entrepreneurs they won in the expansion category which netted them a cash prize and in-kind services for lawyers, accounting, web design and advertising. One of the criteria was how much outside business they were already doing. “We were shipping worldwide so that made a big influence on their decision. We want 2019 to be the year that

we are known within Wichita Falls. This is just one of our ways to give back, and at the same time it is going to create some buzz about the Burn Shop, so I see it as being a great thing for us and the community,” Keith said.

The future plans for the Burn Shop include a store front with a barbecue store and barbecue classes. “The next step for us is to move and expand, and we are looking for that perfect place to move to,” Ivonne said. The Wineingers also received the Chamber of Commerce New Business of the Year Award on February 12th.

-Cindy Kahler Thomas



HIGH HEELS FOR HOT MEALS HELPS FEED THE HUNGRY

This is THE Kitchen's largest fundraiser for Meals on Wheels, taking place every other year in the spring. Fifteen meals are provided with every ticket sold feeding the seniors, disabled, and homebound served through the Meals on Wheels program.

THE Kitchen's Meals on Wheels program has been feeding the hungry in our community for more than 50 years. Over 300 volunteers deliver between 800-850 meals, seven days a week, every week of the year, on 57 routes throughout Wichita Falls. Hot delicious, and nutritious meals are provided Monday through Friday and shelf stable meals are delivered for the weekends. In 2018 exactly 251,548 meals were prepared to those in need.

Meals on Wheels is also known for more than just a meal. Volunteers and staff do wellness checks when they deliver. Approximately 44% of clients live in total isolation, seeing absolutely no one else for seven days of the week.

"For almost half of those we serve, we are the only human contact they receive in a day. Our visits are as important as our meals. If a client doesn't answer the door to receive their meal, we know why before 5:00 pm that day," says Jackie Hamm CEO of THE Kitchen. "We call them and if we receive no answer, we call their emergency contacts, sometimes the police, and go visit them ourselves. On many occasions we have found them injured and unable to seek help."

THE Kitchen says they are a "fam-

ily of four programs" because their clients feel like family. The Red Door Senior Center, Green Door Senior Center, Meals on Wheels and the Kid's Meals Program are all under the umbrella of THE Kitchen.

Meals on Wheels has the highest number of clients and is always seeking volunteers and donations to sustain the program.

According to statistics in 2018, 60% of Meals on Wheels clients live below the poverty level which is \$12,400 a year. Many survive on close to \$8,000 a year. As a result, many have to choose between buying medicine and food. A majority say their meal from Meals on Wheels is the only food they eat in a day.

Ruth, one of those served through Meals on Wheels shared her story.

"Meals on Wheels has helped me so much! I am 71 and have heart failure. They provide wonderful meals for us. If Meals on Wheels was not available, I would not eat. We seniors depend on daily meals to sustain us."

Lee, another longtime client of the program shared, "Meals on Wheels has been a lifesaver for me. Due to disabilities, I am not able to cook anymore. I can't lift pots and pans or stand and stir. I found myself not eating for days... Meals on Wheels provides me with a well-balanced hot meal."

These are only two of the hundreds who depend of services to survive - hundreds who will benefit from the funds raised at HIGH HEELS FOR HOT MEALS 2019.

HIGH HEELS is celebrating its 5th year, always having the tried
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and true Shoe Garden sponsored by local businesses and hosted by The Shoe Closet. Each participant decorates a shoe and a bidding war takes place, with guest donating towards their favorite shoe throughout the night. A food buffet and beverages will be served along with entertainment provided by DJ Marcus (MF Maniac). Signature drinks created by Karat Bistro will be available with the purchase of a raffle ticket to win either a man's Luminox watch or a woman's Michelle sports watch, both valued at approximately \$1,000. There will also be casino tables, a live shoe cam, and a live auction. Some of the auction items this year include a one-week

trip to Hawaii, a vacation to Los Angeles to see The Voice, and a few more surprises. "Our favorite auction items this year will be One Year's Worth of Meals for one of our Meals on Wheels clients and equipment for the kitchen. Each day, we prepare around 2,000 meals for all of our programs, so some of our equipment needs to be replaced," says Pam Hughes, Director of Marketing and Development. "Those who attend HIGH HEELS FOR HOT MEALS enjoy the celebration but are really there to make a difference for the hungry in our community. When they bid, it really isn't for the vacation. It's to help our clients. Many of those who attend HIGH HEELS FOR HOT MEALS also deliver meals and know firsthand the impact the

program makes. This is just another way for them to help. THE Kitchen has been truly blessed by our community of supporters," says Hughes. Tickets are \$75 and can be purchased by going to thekitchenwf.org and clicking on the HIGH HEELS FOR HOT MEALS icon. Tickets are also available at The Shoe Closet, Karat Bistro, and The Kitchen office at 1000 Burnett.

For more information, go to The Kitchen Wichita Falls High Heels or Hot Meals on Facebook, call (940)322-6232 or email phughes@thekitchenwf.org.



Dallas Black Dance Theatre and New Arts Six Perform In Wichita Falls

In March, the Wichita Falls Ballet Theatre (WFBT) presented in its Signature Series the Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT). The WFBT in the first act shined in the 3 dances that opened the show. The dance, entitled "Momentum," was especially beautiful with 23 dancers floating across the stage. The costumes were exquisite, and the lovely dancers were very well received by the audience. The Artistic Director of DBDT, Melissa Young spoke before the show, and jokingly said that polite clapping was unacceptable that if the audience enjoyed the DBDT's performance to react to it. The audience boisterously clapped at the end of the dance, and they hooted and hollered, and gave the performers a standing ovation.

"I think Melissa invited the audience into the show very beautifully, and you got the impression that she cared about the audiences experience, as much as she cared about the excellent work that her dancers were going to perform for us," said Margie Reese, the Executive Director of the Wichita Falls Alliance for Arts and Culture, who was the driving force behind partnering with the DBDT.

In the second act the troupe of dancers debuted parts of "Odetta," which is a performance highlighted by audio files of Odetta F. Gordon speaking and singing, along with other singers. Deemed the queen of American folk music by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Odetta Gordon was a coloratura soprano. She was an activist for civil rights and sang with orchestras and operas all over the world before her death in 2008.

All of Act II was devoted to songs she made famous, and the dancers told the story with their bodies and their passion as they portrayed the emotion of Odetta's songs, which was not lost on the audience who responded with a passion of their own.

"The next thing we are bringing into the community is a focus on Women's History Month which is the month of March. So, to kick off the month we are bringing in an ensemble of six vocalist. The name of the organization is New Arts Six whom will be performing traditional African-American spirituals," said Margie.

According to their website newartssix.org, they "are classically trained artists devoted to the preservation of African-American music, poetry and literature. These unique performances of Negro Spirituals, interwoven with dramatic dialogue and lively poetry serve as a present-day testament to the preservation of ethnic folk tradition inherent in African-American life and culture. They are operatic trained so with their skilled voices, you hear the soulful sound of mostly religious songs, but they add some jazz music in it too. You know that you are hearing excellent artists," Margie explained, "When people say they didn't know what to expect from the Dallas Black Dance Theatre, then they don't know what to expect with New Arts Six either. When we say traditional Negro Spirituals, people may have some idea of what that will sound like, but when they hear these women, I think they will also be surprised of the outcome," Margie said.

The performance will be on March 8th at the First Presbyterian Church on Taft Boulevard. "There is plenty of parking in the church parking lot. There is another reason you live in a town like Wichita Falls, because you can see people's joy when they are helping to share creativity, and so I am really excited that we will be at the church. The arts happen everywhere," she said with a smile.
- Cindy Kahler Thomas



NORTH TEXAS TROUBADOURS: MUSICIANS WITH A SENSE OF HUMOR

If you have never been to a North Texas Troubadour show, it's difficult to explain. It could be best described as musical sketch comedy with a little bit of Texas style tenderness mixed in. Creator Richie Bates has been putting together these spectacles since January of 2018, having orchestrated seven shows that have been held at The Backdoor Theatre, The Museum of North Texas History, and most recently the Iron Horse Pub.

So, what exactly is a troubadour? According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, troubadour is a French word meaning a singer, especially of folk songs.

When I asked Richie Bates this question he had two words, "singing poet". Richie revealed that local artist Ross Gohlke called him "The North Texas Troubadour"

one day after Richie had been playing shows all around North Texas. Richie said he "took the name and ran with it". The first show in January of 2018 was held at the Backdoor Theatre, with featured performer Ben Atkins. Other featured performers include Ray Hillner and Ward Roberts of Raymundo, Eb Steward, Allie Holder, Kelly Lee and Richie Bates himself.

I asked Richie why he wanted to start putting together shows here in Wichita Falls, and his responses were interesting. "I've played in bars here, I've played venues here, I've played events here, and it wasn't doing it for me," Richie responded. "No one knew who I was, no one knows who I am anyway, it wasn't about the attention I was going to

be getting, it was about, how little can I matter? ... It's about, how invisible can I be as just a guy with a guitar? Because that's all it really is." Richie revealed. "I realized that that idea, the north Texas troubadour not only applies to me as an individual, but I'm not the only north Texas troubadour, there's a ton of north Texas troubadours, it's been going on a long time, and getting more people involved in it and finding songwriters in town is important because there's a lot of really good writers."

And Richie does have a way of getting people together. Performances have included (some more than once) sing-alongs, advertisements for fake local businesses, appearances by puppets and people in costume, educational lectures about music history, artist lec-

tures, and even a tarot card reading. All of this sprinkled with local songwriters displaying their soul for anyone who is listening. Richie reflected, "I think original music is where it's at, and just because its maybe not mainstream right now, it doesn't mean it's not growing. It's like a boiling pot of water. People are writing songs like crazy, and writing really, really good songs. New songs are being written here by people that are awesome. I think some of the coolest stuff I've ever heard is being written right now."

North Texas Troubadours can be seen the first Tuesday of every month at the Iron Horse Pub at 7pm. Future featured performers will include Clint Vines (March 5th) and Steven Jacob (April 2nd). -Charlie Roberts



THE HIGHLANDER PUBLIC HOUSE



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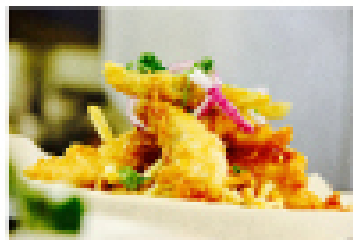
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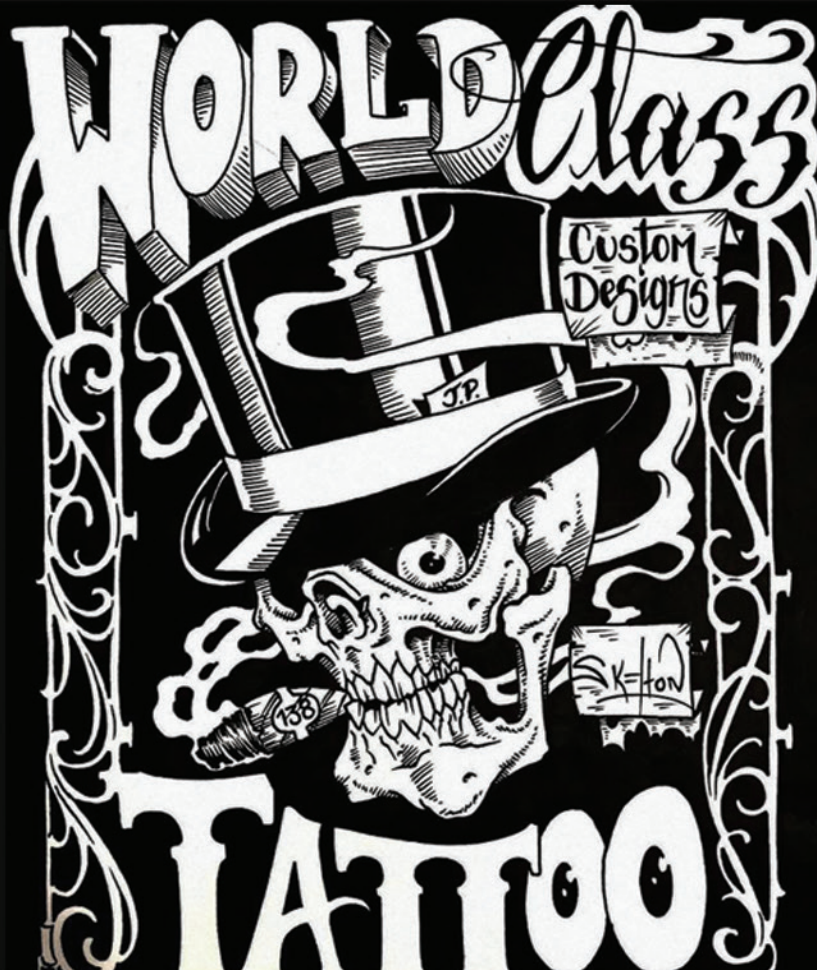
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