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OF NORTH TEXAS

MAY 2019

FREE

MUSIC - ART - NEWS



INSIDE

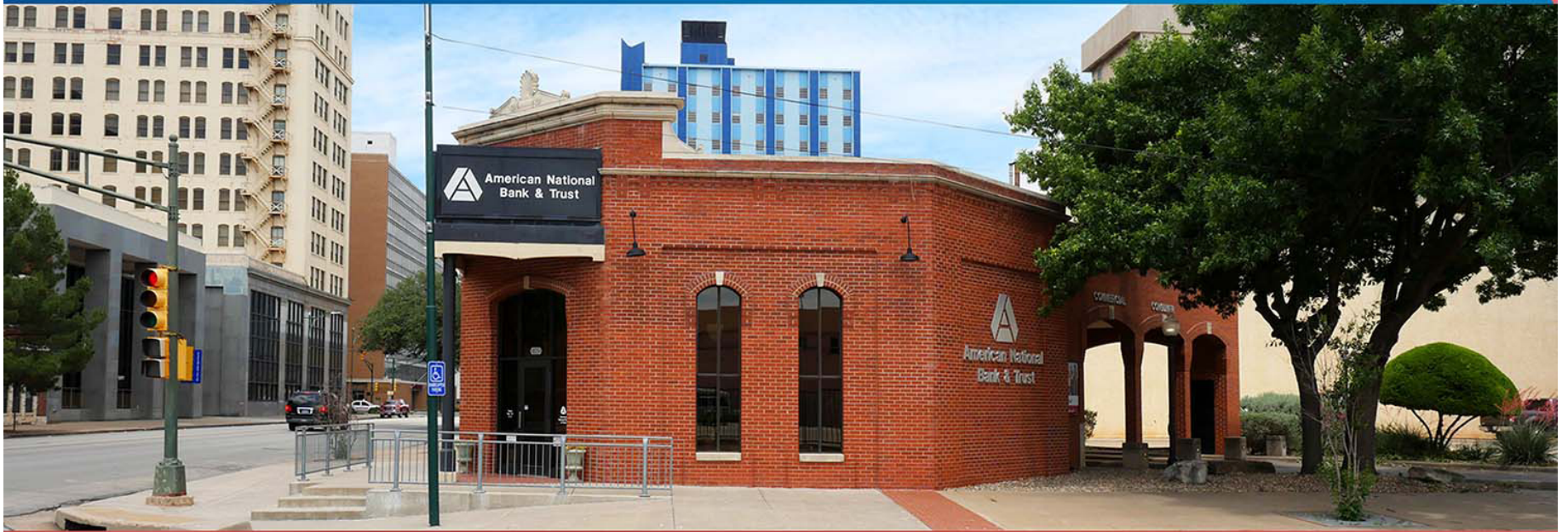
Darion Ryan Roberts
Sister Act at Wichita Theatre

Will Kelty
Ben Jacobi

Disaster Helping Hands
Surprise with Granger Smith

Dexter Learning
John Cook

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TIPS AND TALES FROM OUTBACK

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

Sometime around the late 1990's, a young man from Holliday, Texas came into my recording studio on a regular basis to learn some recording skills and to work on his songwriting. This particular young man was not only extremely talented at writing songs and playing some excellent guitar, but he was a gentleman and had a good head on his shoulders.

So many of my customers had Nashville, Tennessee in their dreams and schemes. Nashville was a dream for Clint Chandler as well, but my gut feeling was that Clint could actually make a go of it. It's not that other customers weren't talented, it just seemed obvious that Clint had the magical combination of music sense, the lack of a career destroying ego, and an aversion to making a party out of everything musical. He was, simply put, serious, yet full of feeling, about the whole thing.

Our time working together eventually ended and Clint headed to Nashville to meet his dreams head on. I recently asked Clint to update me on his Nashville experience and not long after, I received an email from him stating, "I wrote you a book! Hope you can use some of it!" Well, it was a 1600 word email! I'm limited to about 500 words for this column every month, and as much as I would love to share all of the details, I will try hard to relate Clint's wonderful story about a "local boy done good" in fewer words.

Clint hit Nashville in 1998 and spent four years playing "regular gigs" around town before

landing his first job with a signed artist. That artist was Josh Turner of "Long Black Train" fame. Clint said his time with Josh included a lot of firsts in the business, yet a yearning for more guitar, more energy, and more of a rock and roll attitude! I thought I had stressed that to him before he left town...

His next job was with Brian McComas who had some chart success with "99.9% Sure" and a couple of other songs. The music was less traditional country and had a raw edge to it, but for all of the fun Clint was having, Brian's career became a roller coaster ride and he lost his record deal. This resulted in changing the type of gigs they played all the way down to the mode of their transportation to and from gigs.

To fill in down time, Clint started doing a fair amount of "sub work" for artists like Tanya Tucker, Andy Griggs, Billy Currington, Ty Herndon, John Michael Montgomery, Kellie Pickler, and a few others. Eventually, in fact on his birthday in 2006, Clint received a call that he had officially become a member of Sara Evans' band, riding the wave with hits like "A Little Bit Stronger" and "Born To Fly".

In 2006, Clint gave his notice to Sara so he could spend some time off the road to care for his expectant wife and the arrival of twin boys. Gigs were hard to find at times when you were looking for guitar playing gigs in a town full of guitar players, but Clint persevered and worked steady and worked even harder to find time to spend many nights in

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the hospital after the twins were born on August 27, 2009. Eventually, the twins hit a goal of five pounds each and went home and Clint was off to the races again.

Clint received a call for another “sub gig”, this time for Lady Antebellum. They had signed a record deal and ended up really taking off in 2009 and 2010, dominating the charts. The song “Need You Now” became an international hit. Unfortunately, Clint was only subbing for them at the time, but in a strange turn of events, Clint was asked if he played slide guitar because the Lady Antebellum guitarist didn’t play much slide. Clint said he wasn’t much of slide player at all, but he spent an enormous amount of time learning the slide guitar part on “Need You Now”. Clint said he must have made a good showing, because he impressed Lady Antebellum and ended up joining them in many of their television appearances and bigger concerts when they would perform that particular song, turning the “subbing gig” into a closer relationship.

Along came the hit “American Hon-

ey”, which featured a dominate mandolin part. When asked if he played mandolin, Clint, of course, said yes! Off to the woodshed he went, learning all he could about playing mandolin.


This led to the early 2010 invitation to join Lady Antebellum as a regular member. That led to shows around the world, including the Grand Ole Opry, Australia’s Sydney Opera House, and even the Grammys. Clint has spent nearly ten years with them and due to the three principal members of Lady Antebellum starting families and wanting to spend more time with family, the gigs have been cut back to about eighty shows a year, and Clint has also gained some much-deserved family time for himself.

Clint told me he feels successful, but it’s not the success he imagined at 22 years old. He feels he has had his share of musical success, but having a family and being happy are a success he never imagined. I could have told him that twenty years ago, too!

I’m way over my word limit, but hopefully the readers will have enjoyed reading about one really fine young man, a musician’s musician, and a wonderful dad. Not bad for a young man from Holliday Texas. Bravo, Clint! *-Johnny Divine*




Clint Chandler



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- MAY 10 - Prophets and Outlaws
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Teen Battle of the bands**
- MAY 21 - Backdoor Theatre Presents:
MAMA MIA**
- MAY 24 - 40 oz to Freedom
(Tribute to Sublime)**
- MAY 25 - Big Find
Mouthbreather**
- MAY 31 - Ben Miller Band
Cody Shaw Trio**

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EDITOR
simon welch
david fowler

OPERATIONS
samuel pak

CONTRIBUTORS
cindy kahler thomas
johnny divine
charlie roberts
tim maloney
brenna zellner

PHOTOGRAPHY
william schultz
david barnard

SALES
tim maloney
pamela hughes

DISTRIBUTION
stephen taylor

COMMUNITY LIASON
gabby rodriguez

The Hub of NTX
P.O. Box 9224
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DARION RYAN ROBERTS

June 2017 The Hub of NTX threw the first Battle of The Bands that Wichita Falls had seen in some time. It was a refreshing experience, not only to see all the amazing talent that Wichita Falls has to offer, but the way that all of the musicians stuck around and supported each other. It seemed to be the dawning of a new era in our local music scene. It was at this event that I met Darion Ryan Roberts. Darion had just moved back home here in WF after spending about three years living and playing music in Austin. He ended up winning first prize in the solo act category in the battle.

Austin just kind of fell into place for Roberts. A friend in the area offered him a place to live. “I just needed to get out (of Wichita Falls) and make a change”, Darion shared. The Austin music scene opened his eyes to a whole new level of music. “All the different people I met and the genres that I was introduced to opened my mind to new music”, he continued, “What grew me the most is working with different musicians and being around other people that were head and shoulders above me.”

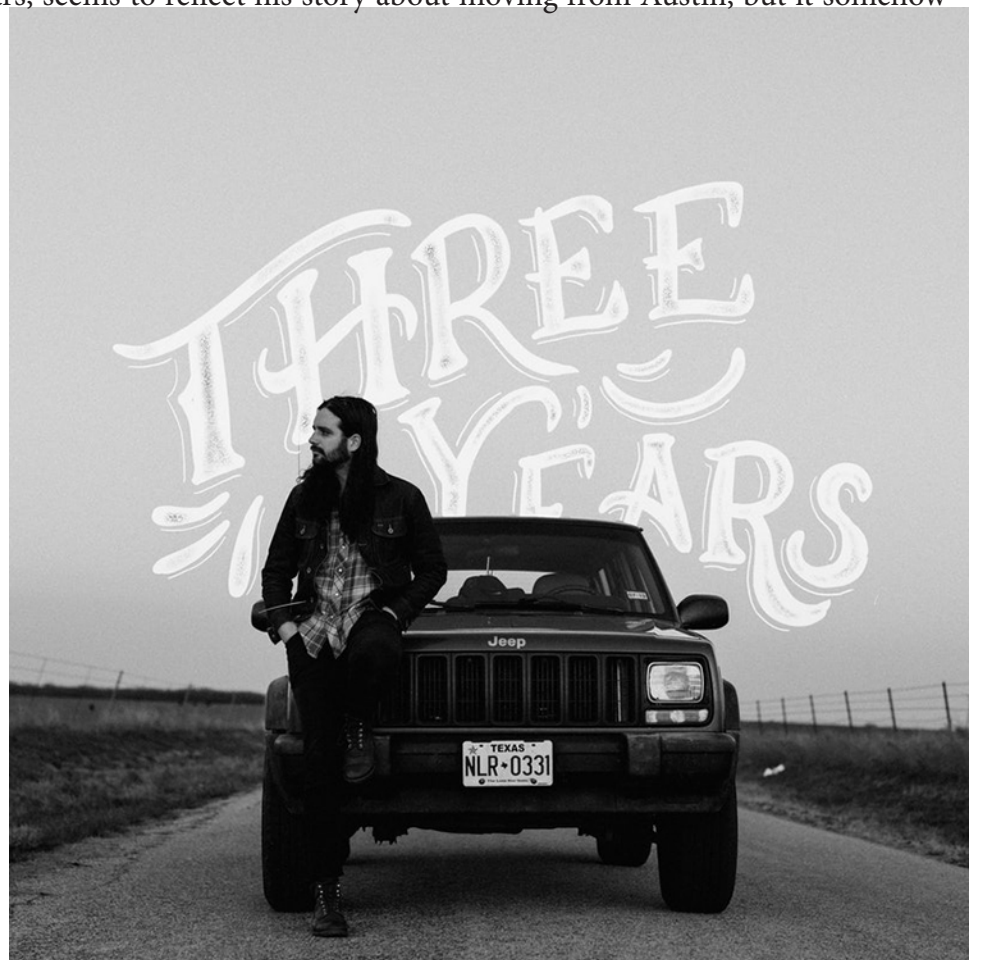
Roberts spent 3 years in Austin and just felt it was time to come home. In December 2015 he made the move back to Wichita Falls. “When you grow up here you feel like you just got to get out, but there was just a draw to come back home. We felt an excitement about Wichita Falls that can’t be explained. When I was growing up here there was nothing cool to do and nowhere to go. Now it’s cool to be a part of building something here that is new.”

Darion has been busy writing original material and has just released an EP entitled ‘Since I Left Austin’ that tells the story of his journey. The track, Three Years, seems to reflect his story about moving from Austin, but it somehow finds away to provoke person nostalgia in the listener. In fact, the entire project manages to have an easy familiarity to it.

Heartfelt and hauntingly nostalgic, that’s how I describe recently released EP, ‘Since I Left Austin’, by Darion Ryan Roberts. The drums and percussion nest nicely in the tracks, allowing the listener room to contemplate, not just the message of the lyric, but the emotions that are stirred by the smooth melodies and conviction in Darion’s voice. Each song finds a way to become personal to the listener. The guitar tone was perfectly selected to push the emotion even further. The songs selected for the recording blend well together without a single track seeming out of place.

The project is well worth a listen. Search for Darion online. You can find him on Spotify, Facebook, and YouTube. Keep an eye out for his live performances as well.

-David Fowler





The Wichita Theatre has a long and wonderful history of bringing plays to life, and Sister Act is a favorite. The invitation only preview party got the crowd excited about the upcoming play. After enjoying refreshments, the attendees got a sneak peak of the production.

Without giving too much away, the story revolves around a Las Vegas nightclub singer that knows information about a crime king pin. Federal agents decide to hide the singer, Deloris van Cartier, in a convent. She spices up the choir and brings publicity to the church risking her life in the process, but mayhem ensues when the nuns decide to help her.

The first number performed was when the main character, Deloris, met the nuns for the first time. Mineasa Nesbit did a fabulous job portraying Deloris as she started working her magic with the nuns and their voices. It was great seeing her coax a quiet nun into using her voice to its full potential.

Then came the villains of the show.

Jim Hall, aka Curtis, and his henchmen then sang a hilarious song that started out like a love song entitled When I Find My Baby. The tone quickly changed to find her and kill her. Deloris knew about some dirt on Curtis, and he wanted to make sure that she couldn't cooperate with the "feds". Chance Harmon, the artistic director of the theatre urged the audience to come back to see the entire play and hear the other song that Curtis and cohorts sing. "It's a doozy," he said.

Deloris and the nuns then sang together. They sang Sister Act in which they cherished their friendships and their ties to each other. But the best song in my opinion was the Sunday Morning Fever. Everyone in the crowd was laughing and during the highlight of the performance one of the nuns did a church version of the 1970's hit song Rappers Delight while wearing hip hop sunglasses. Another funny line was "shake it like your Mary Magdalene." With such wonderful performances, Sister Act promises to be a show that everyone will enjoy.

- Cindy Kahler Thomas



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BEN JACOBI

Ben Jacobi wears different hats, but they all lead back to one thing—photography. Ben is a storm chaser, a blog writer, a teacher, an artist and the floor manager at Metro Photo. He shoots images of storms, writes about his adventures on his blog, teaches classes on how to use cameras, and makes prints that he sells at Metro Photo, the Finishing Touch, on his website, and at various art shows. He is a virtual Renaissance man when it comes to photography.

“I categorize my work into 4 different groups: nature, weather, landscapes, and night photography. My website has got what I think is my best work. I’ve got images of my hiking adventures, images of my storm chasing, and images of old rundown buildings and ruins with the Milky Way shining behind them,” Ben said.

He also makes calendars showcasing his photography, yet he jokes about getting into photography at the age of 14 and feeling that he has only been good at it for 2 years. He is humble and his own worst critic, not unlike many artists. However, his images are ethereal and some of his most coveted images are of lightening and majestic storms.

Ben is self-taught with no formal training, learning from books, magazines and internet articles. “I’ve just been passionate about it ever since I was a teenager, and I never thought it was anything I would pursue. Kids always say that they want to be an astronaut or a cowboy of something like that,” he explained. “I think it is really cool that I get to do this.”

Ben wanted a darkroom with a fancy development station at his house as a teenager, but his parents had 3 other children and pets and “they didn’t want dangerous chemicals around there. So, they bought me this really cheap digital camera which I quickly outgrew. I moved on to a higher quality camera and I outgrew that. Most teenagers when they turn 16 buy a car, I bought a camera,” he said with a laugh. “And I pretty much have been shooting ever since.”

Ben started shooting weather photos long before he became a storm chaser. He had always been fascinated by storms. “I actually started shooting lightening pictures when I was a teenager. Storms would roll through about 4:00 in the morning and I would get up and walk to a restaurant near my house. I would sit under the awning and I would shoot the lightening as it was going off to the north and west of us,” he said nostalgically.

He got his big break into weather chas-



ing while working at Metro Photo. “There was a guy who came in looking for a camera, and, of course, I asked him what he was going to do with it. He said that he would use it while storm chasing. I said, ‘Man I would love to do that,’ and he kind of shrugged it off like ‘yeah whatever.’ I sold him the camera, and he called me up about two weeks later and he said, ‘I can’t figure out how to work this camera, and I’ll make you a deal. If you show me how to work this camera, I’ll take you along on my storm chasing and show you how to do it.’ And I said ‘YES, absolutely! I’m sold!’” Ben shared enthusiastically.

This man became Ben’s mentor and they chased storms for 2 years

before his friend died. “He was a super cool guy, and I have been chasing in his honor and continuing his legacy ever since.” Ben said that storm chasing isn’t like what you see in the movie *Twister*. “It’s a lot of long hours in the car, and long hours outside waiting for the storm to do what it is going to do. I tell people it is 98 percent frustration, aggravation and depression, and it is 2 percent adrenalin and insanity. But it is in that little margin where it makes all of it worth it. You see some of the most incredible displays of nature that are available on our planet,” he shared.

“I don’t do it for the TV stations, I do it for myself. I will help out whenever I see a tornado on the ground that hasn’t been reported, I will call the National Weather Service and relay the information. I mostly storm chase because I am enamored with the severe weather and nature on display.” He drives hundreds of miles usually in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico occasionally.

“It’s a passion, I’d say more of an obsession—a disease I guess,” he chuckled. “I think I have a responsibility to record the world as I see it. I think that is kind of my charge to share these experiences of creation with people in a way that hopefully makes them think something differently about where we are and what’s out there. I don’t think a lot of people realize that there is actually some beauty to the area that we are in, and that’s what I think I am drawn towards. I love getting my stuff out there and sharing my passion.”

He loves to hike and is in the Wichita Mountains every weekend until April and May. “I stop then because of the snakes and the ticks,” Ben said. “I like hiking in the mountains because you can go anywhere in that public area and find very unique things. I have found a giant rock formation that looks like a Native American Chief’s head and a thousand-year-old cedar tree.”

He has a presence on social media such as [facebook.com/bdjphoto](https://www.facebook.com/bdjphoto), on Instagram as [bdjphoto](https://www.instagram.com/bdjphoto) and he has a website which is bdjphoto.com. And he is adding a YouTube page to his repertoire that features films about his adventures and the technical details on how he achieved the desired effect while capturing his images. And you guessed it! The name he will use on YouTube is [bdjphoto](https://www.youtube.com/bdjphoto).

“I want people to know that if you know artists or have friends or family that are artists you should absolutely support their work and be sure to show them your support,” Ben stressed.

- Cindy Kahler Thomas



WILL KELTY

The big blue skyscraper in downtown Wichita Falls started out its life as a bank. At one time this was a bustling part of downtown, but through the years, downtown lost its bustle. Stores closed and empty buildings occupied the streets. The area became sketchy with a real criminal element. However, there is a renewed effort to revitalize downtown and now it is safe and entertaining. Part of that is breathing new life into Big Blue, and entrepreneur Will Kelty has tasked himself with that responsibility.

Will purchased the building 5 years ago and it has undergone a major revitalization of its own. “When we turned the water on in the building, we had over 200 water leaks and a waterfall in the lobby. I had no idea how much work it was going to be to get it up and running,” he shared. But he forged ahead. “The elevators didn’t work so we fixed them and realized that they were unreliable, so we started modernizing them,” he continued. The first modernized elevator is now installed in the building and progress is being made with the others. Also, the lobby got a new face lift. It is now an open concept space, with all the walls taken down that had the lobby segmented for use as a bank. This lobby is being used for various events including the After Hours Art Walks. The Art Walks occur on the first Thursday of the month from April through October. Visual artists fill the space along with musicians and draw in



the people by the droves.

Will said that when he arrived in Wichita Falls, he stood in the middle of 8th Street and Scott

and couldn’t see a single soul. The only movement was a fox running down the street. However, downtown is now coming alive with

coffee shops, bars, art galleries, antique stores, and restaurants, just to name a few of the businesses clamoring to be a part of downtown now.

“My two passions, other than my wife Annette, have been real estate and software, so many years ago I started a software company with a colleague. We build it into a business and ended up selling that to Canadian firm,” he said.

“I’m from California, but along the way we ended up locating the business in San Antonio, so I was flying out to San Antonio quite a bit. At some point in this process, I decided that I wanted to invest in some real estate. I had redone some single-family homes in California. I did a 1914 craftsman under the Hollywood sign. I also did a 1933 Spanish style house in the Hollywood Hills, but I wanted to do something different,” he explained. “I found a fifty-seven-unit apartment building in San Antonio and I struggled and had all kinds of problems with it, and I learned all the ins and outs of what it takes to run an apartment building. During that time period, we turned around and sold the software business to a Canadian firm. My business partner was just lounging while I was struggling with that apartment building and I said, ‘Hey, will you come help me with this apartment building and keep an eye on it because you live in Texas, and it is a lot easier for you to

drop by and keep an eye on it? He helped me out with that property and said, 'I kind of like this.' So, we bought a 44-unit apartment building there. They have all been properties that have been kind of trashed. For instance, in that 44-unit apartment building, there was a scary side of it. We were doing our due diligence and going into the units. We would find someone living there and have to kick them out."

He and his friend partnered on another property in in San Antonio that was trashed and turned it around. "Then I got another bug, and I decided that I wanted to expand outside of San Antonio. I thought I should diversify a little bit, so I took a look at Houston. I decided to branch out on my own, so I bought a property in Houston. It was 240 units".

With all that experience to lean on, Will began looking for a property in Dallas; and that is where he heard about Big Blue. He chose to invest in the downtown area and has since purchased 2 more buildings. The building where 8th Street Coffee House is located on the corner of

8th and Scott which has 40 apartments that will be available soon, and according to Will, they are all spoken for. He also bought the old hotel in which the Highlander Public House is located right across the street from Big Blue. He plans to redo it into apartments to possibly be used for Midwestern State University students housing.

He said that for a city this size, we should have 1,000 units available for housing downtown, and with his investments, Wichita Falls is moving in that direction. He is proud of the diversity in Big Blue. The building is beautiful again. The tenants include lawyers, artists, and Dexter Learning, which is pioneering a whole new education platform on the second floor for children and adults. For Wichita Falls to grow, he said that we need a strong downtown and downtown is coming back with a second wind. Because of the "good bones" in Wichita Falls, he and others have chosen to invest their time and money into making downtown shine again. Things are really looking up for Wichita Falls.

- Cindy Kahler Thomas



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BY EDDIE MANDELA



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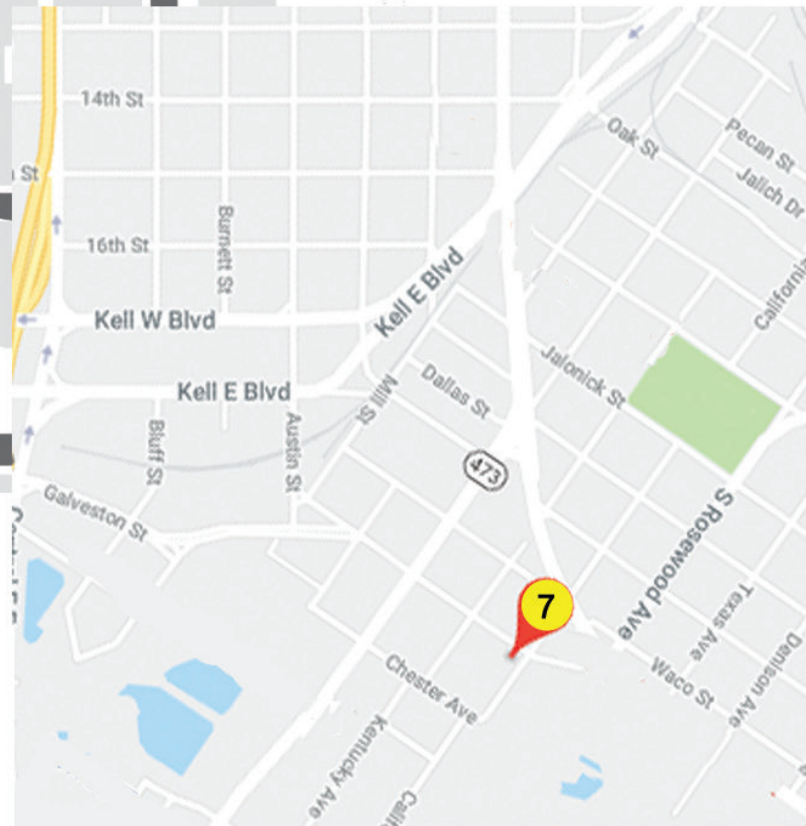
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FRIDAY, JUNE 7



MUSIC

May 1

- Harvey and Tim's Weird Ass Wednesday @ Stick's Place
- Open Jam @ Iron Horse Pub
- REO Speedwagon @ Kay Yeager Coliseum

May 2

- Liesa Fudge @ P3
- "Rodeo Kid" Chris Thomas @ Silver Dollar Saloon
- Karaoke with Macy Sharp @ Stick's Place

May 3

- Queen For A Day, Raymundo @ Iron Horse Pub
- Casey Abbe Band @ Silver Dollar Saloon
- Throwback Acoustic Show: Two Year Anniversary @ Gypsy Uncorked
- Open Mic @ 8th Street Coffee House
- Saint Monroe, Oddfellas @ Railhead Saloon, Lawton, OK

May 4

- BluesBuckers @ Iron Horse Pub
- Spit Stain @ The Deep End
- Riders Ford @ Silver Dollar Saloon
- Cheyenne Pitts @ Back Porch Draft House
- Race Rutledge and the Texas Knights @ Texas Nite Life
- Cassette Live @ Main Street Grill, Vernon, TX
- Jomo & The Possum Posse @ Royal Theater, Archer City

May 5

- Song Swap with Mark Forehand @ Stick's Place
- Cade Roth @ Back Porch Draft House
- Youth Symphony Orchestra Spring Concert @ Akin Auditorium
- Cinco De Mayo @ Silver Dollar Saloon

May 7

- Tacos and Tunes @ Old Town Saloon
- Clint Vines and the Hard Times: Parks & Recreation Outdoor Concert Series @ South Weeks Park
- Shaun Outen @ Silver Dollar Saloon
- Open Mic @ Gypsy Uncorked

May 8

- Harvey and Tim's Weird Ass Wednesday @ Stick's Place
- Open Mic @ Iron Horse Pub

May 9

- Shasta Shaw and the Ranch Rockers Open Jam @ Stick's Place
- Tony Byers @ Silver Dollar Saloon
- Larry Lange @ P3
- Kim Hunter and Jose Romero @ Silver Dollar Saloon
- Prophets and Outlaws with special guest Johnny Cooper @ Iron Horse Pub
- Dueling Pianos @ Half Pint Taproom
- Open Mic @ 8th Street Coffee House
- Aaron Watson @ Boulevard Nightclub
- Chris Shackelford @ Vernon Parts Sports Bar

May 11

- Killdevil @ Stick's Place
- It Hurts To Be Dead, The Lash Outs, Blank Labels @ Iron Horse Pub

May 12

- Simon Flory @ P3
- Tito Lindsey Band, Ryan Lingle @ Silver Dollar Saloon
- Race Rutledge and the Texas Knights @ Texas Nite Life
- Tito Lindsey Band @ Silver Dollar Saloon
- The Fabulous Deerays @ Vernon Parts Sports Bar
- Armadillo Flatts @ VFW, Bowie, TX
- Beers and Gears Car Show @ Wichita Falls Brewing Company

May 14

- Song Swap with Mark Forehand @ Stick's Place
- Cheyenne Pitts @ Silver Dollar Saloon
- Open Mic with Clint Vines @ Stick's Place
- Tacos and Tunes with Dean Faulkner and Jason Brown @ Old Town Saloon
- Open Mic @ Gypsy Uncorked

May 15

- Harvey and Tim's Weird Ass Wednesday @ Stick's Place

- Open Jam @ Iron Horse Pub

May 16

- Karaoke with Macy Sharp @ Stick's Place
- Brothers Sharp @ P3
- Cade Roth @ Silver Dollar Saloon
- Sounds of Speedway: Maylee Thomas Band @ The Forum

May 17

- Armadillo Flatts @ Silver Dollar Saloon
- Seth James, Under The Influence @ Iron Horse Pub
- Open Mic @ 8th Street Coffee House
- Tanner Sparks @ Silver Dollar Saloon
- Jimmy Lee Jordan @ Vernon Parts Sports Bar

May 18

- RIP @ Stick's Place
- Oddfellas, Leddit Ride @ Iron Horse Pub
- Race Rutledge and the Texas Knights @ Texas Nite Life
- Vegas Stars @ Silver Dollar Saloon
- Deep In It @ Vernon Parts Sports Bar

May 19

- Song Swap with Mark Forehand @ Stick's Place

May 21

- Tacos and Tunes with @ Old Town Saloon
- Open Mic @ Gypsy Uncorked

May 22

- Harvey and Tim's Weird Ass Wednesday @ Stick's Place

- Open Mic @ Iron Horse Pub

May 23

- Shasta Shaw and the Ranch Rockers Open Jam @ Stick's Place

- Mando Molina @ Silver Dollar Saloon

- Liesa Fudge @ P3

- Michael Jackson Tribute Concert @ The Stone Palace, 1211 Indiana

May 24

- Lunch With Tim @ Stick's Place
- 40 Oz to Freedom @ Iron Horse Pub
- Open Mic @ 8th Street Coffee House
- Kicked To The Curb @ Silver Dollar Saloon
- Armadillo Flatts @ CC's Oasis, Electra, TX
- 9 Miles High @ Vernon Parts Sports Bar

May 24, 25 and 26

- The Roots Ball featuring Cade Roth, Opal Agafia and the Sweet Nothings, The Tejas Brothers @ Medicine Park, OK

May 25

- Bruce Lyons' Sidewalk Jam and Concert @ Fre-Mar Valley

- It Hurts To Be Dead @ Iron Horse Pub

- Race Rutledge and the Texas Knights @ Texas Nite Life

- Matt Wayne @ Silver Dollar Saloon

- Black River @ Vernon Parts Sports Bar

May 26

- Song Swap with Mark Forehand @ Stick's Place

May 28

- Open Mic with Clint Vines @ Stick's Place
- Tacos and Tunes with Dean Faulkner and Jason Brown @ Old Town Saloon
- Gannon Fremin and Kerry Hartman @ Silver Dollar Saloon
- Open Mic @ Gypsy Uncorked

May 29

- Harvey and Tim's Weird Ass Wednesday @ Stick's Place

- Open Jam @ Iron Horse Pub

May 30

- RIP @ Silver Dollar Saloon

- Karaoke with Macy Sharp @ Stick's Place

May 31

- Ben Miller Band @ Iron Horse Pub

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-Nikki & Ryan @ Silver Dollar Saloon
 -Trauma Queens @ Gypsy Uncorked
 -Eli Young Band @ Boulevard Nightclub
 -Garagemaholics @ Vernon Parts Sports Bar
June 1
 -Jaguar @ Iron Horse Pub
 -Motley the Crue Tribute @ Fat Alberts
 -Casey Abbe Band @ Vernon Parts Sports Bar

-Drummer Mark Shelton @ Wichita Falls Public Library
Wichita Falls Public Library:
Mondays – Maker Monday
Tuesdays – Preschool Storytime, Process Art Experiences
Wednesdays – Toddler Time, Whatever Wednesdays
Fridays – Make and Take Crafts

ART

May 2
 -After Hours Artwalk @ Downtown Wichita Falls
May 11
 -Sculpture Garden Opening Reception @ The Kemp
May 18
 -Studio Saturday: All About Artists @ The Kemp
Mondays
 -Youth Drawing @ The Kemp
Tuesdays
 -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

EVENTS

May 3
 -The Western Ballet @ Memorial Auditorium
 -Spring Fling @ Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall
May 4
 -Spring Fling @ Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall
 -Gun and Knife Show @ MPEC
 -FC Wichita Falls Season Kick-Off @ Kay Yeager Coliseum
May 5
 -Gun and Knife Show @ MPEC
May 11
 -MSU Texas Graduation @ Kay Yeager Coliseum
May 18
 -FC Wichita Falls VS FC Amarillo @ Kay Yeager Coliseum
May 31, June 1 and 2
 -Ink Masters Tattoo Expo @ Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall

THEATER

May 4 and 11
 -Seussical Kids @ Wichita Theatre
May 10, 11, 16, 18, 23, 24 and 25, June 6, 7 and 8
 -Mamma Mia! @ Backdoor Theatre
May 17
 -Improv Workshop @ Backdoor Theatre

FOR THE KIDS

May 4
 -Star Wars Day @ Wichita Falls Public Library
May 14-16
 -The Dallas Zoo Animal Adventures @ River Bend Nature Center

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT DAILY SPECIALS



May 8th and 23RD

■ Shasta Shaw and the Ranch Rockers
 Open Jam

MAY 11

■ Killdevil

MAY 14th and 28th

■ Open Mic with Clint Vines

MAY 18

■ RIP

May 24

■ Lunch with Tim 12-1PM

TUESDAYS

■ Karaoke
 with Macy Sharp

WEDNESDAYS

■ Harvey and Tim's
 Shameless Plugs at 7
 Live music
 from 8 to 11PM

SUNDAYS

■ Mark Forehand

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

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Local Boy Get The Surprise Of A Lifetime

What started out as a school assignment has become a dream come true for 11 year old Coy Emanuel.

During the STAAR exam last year, Coy was assigned to write a letter about “who you would like to meet”. He wrote about his favorite country singer, and if he were to meet anyone it would be Granger Smith. Coy listed a few of his favorite songs by Granger in the letter and how much he liked his onstage personality.

When Coy’s mom heard that Granger Smith was going to perform at Boulevard Nightclub on April 12 she sent a message to Abbey Wuthrich, owner of the venue, and asked if there was a way for Coy to meet Granger. Abbey contacted Granger’s team and set up the surprise meeting.

Coy and his family showed up at the nightclub the afternoon of Granger’s show, and Coy didn’t have a clue to what was about to happen. I told him I was a reporter and was doing a story, and asked him if he could help me out. He agreed, so I started asking him a few questions, and suddenly Granger Smith walks up behind me, and the look on Coy’s face when he saw him was absolutely priceless.

Granger was extremely gracious, and says that these types of fans keep him grounded and reminds him of what’s

important. And to show his appreciation to his #1 fan, Granger brought out the whole band and performed Coy’s favorite song, “If The Boot Fits”, gave him some merchandise to take home with him, and autographed the letter that Coy wrote for his assignment.

Thanks to Granger Smith and his band and road team for making one boy’s dream come true! ~ *Tim Maloney*

Written by Coy Emanuel:

"If I could meet anyone in the world it would be Granger Smith. If you dont know who that is. Then what are you doing with your life! He is a very famous country singer. Everytime he sings "if the boot fits" he throws his boots to the crowd. Not all country singers do that! His nickname for some songs is Earl dribbles jr. Like the songs "murica", "city boy slick", "country boy love", and "the country boy song". The best song he made and I like is "5 more min". The best think I like about him is he likes to farm and I like to farm. He is the best singer I know. He's the singer i know. He has a really smooth voice when he sings. That is the person i would meet in the entire world."



Coy Emanuel gets a private concert from Granger Smith

When I first heard a new pro team was coming into Wichita Falls, I, like most people, felt a little cautious. We have had at least a couple of semi-pro hockey teams come and go. We also had an arena football team that lasted 2 seasons. I actually enjoyed watching arena football, but the fans kept some distance. Now we have a new pro soccer team.

The new team is called FC Wichita Falls Flyers. Looking back at the patterns of the last few teams we had at Kay Yeager Coliseum, I really feel different about this new adventure. With the hockey players, they were constantly rotating players and the roster would change almost every game, and let us be honest, not a lot of people grew up playing hockey in Texas. In Texas we like football. So surely an arena football team would be a gold mine. The Nighthawks games were very exciting, but again, I don't think the fans really connected to the players.

The new pro-soccer team is made up of our local legends. These guys have played for our high schools and for our own Midwestern State University—right here in our hometown. Soccer is BIG in Wichita Falls. If you ever go to Memorial Stadium on a Saturday during soccer season it is a packed and parking is a mad house. Soccer is a sport anyone can play. You don't need expensive pads or ice skates. All you need is a ball and people. I think at one point almost everyone has kicked a soccer ball around. There is a reason it's the world's most popular sport. The tickets to the games are as low as \$6, so it's cheaper than watching a movie.

The difference between those other teams we had in the past is that we know these players. I would almost bet there is probably 1 degree of separation for almost anyone in Wichita Falls to at least one of the players. I still remember watching SportsCenter and feeling so proud that Josh Peloquin made it on ESPN's top plays when he nailed the 35-yard volley in the final seconds to upset Denton High 3-2 back in 2015.

That is why I think this will work. We know these guys and they are the best of us. They represent us! Wichita Falls! It is not just a name on their shirts, but it is because they are our colleagues, sons, neighbors and friends.

So, without further ado, meet your team, the Falls Town Flyers!

-Samuel Pak



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Head Coach Brandon Swartzendruber started playing soccer when he was five years old, and started playing competitively when he was 11. He played college soccer at MSU, and after that he played for various teams around the country as well as in Canada. He was an assistant coach at the collegiate level for three years and was the head coach of a semi-professional team in Colorado.

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Name	Jersey #	Age	Hometown	Position	Soccer Experience (college, professional, etc.)
Ralph Annam	23	24	Cape Coast, Ghana	Defender	Was a captain for Queens Hall Soccer team and Santos in Dallas
Ivan Castañeda	8	22	Wichita Falls, TX	Midfield	high school in Mexico
Nathan Clark	5	23	Dallas, TX	Defender	Midwestern State University
Alex Garcia	33	25	Dallas, TX	Goal keeper	Ranger Jr. College
Carlos Gonzalez	13	21	Elkhart, Indiana	Goal Keeper	Forward at WFHS. Joined the Marine Corps and currently serving as a reservist in the Marine Corps
Flavio Guzman	10	26	Oakcliff, TX	Midfield	Richland Jr. College, All American at MSU Texas
Kristian Martinez	2	21	Houston, TX	Defender	Played at Indiana, Purdue, and Midwestern State University making all conference team in 2018
Christopher Mendez	7	23	Dallas, TX	Midfield	Northeastern State (honorable mention) MSU Texas
Christian Okeke	9	23	Wichita Falls, TX	Forward	Rider HS (District MVP, All State, All American), Bradley University (MVC freshman of the year), MSU Texas (Offensive POTY and All American) Played in US cup last year.
Josh Peloquin	11	21	Wichita Falls, TX	Forward	3 years high school soccer (Rider), FC Dallas U18 Academy 1 year, Richland Junior College 2 years, Southwest Baptist 1 semester
Alex Ramirez	12	19	Wichita Falls, TX	Midfield	Played at WFHS and Paris Jr. College 2017-2019
Pedro Reza	22	23	Delicias, Chihuahua	Midfield	Played 3 years of college soccer
Robert Swann	16	32	Sunderland, England	Defender	Semi Pro in England. Bethel University and Midwestern University

Disaster Helping Hands

Disaster Helping Hands is a nonprofit dedicated to helping families and communities following disasters such as fires, floods, hurricanes and tornados. They supply household items, when their inventory permits, like appliances and furniture to those in need that have lost their possessions due to a disaster. The founder and director, Leon Green, fundraises tirelessly, and can be found no matter what the weather is outside gathering donations from cars passing by on the intersection of Central Freeway and Airport Drive. Leon is a 77-year-old veteran and his devotion to the nonprofit never wavers.

The nonprofit owns a 9,000 square foot warehouse full of all types of items. It took eight and a half years to raise the funds to buy the land and build the warehouse. "In 2014 we got the land. In 2015 the building was completed so that we could begin to use it. However, we aren't finished, we would like to extend it another 300 feet which would take us up to 18,000 square feet," he said, "Nine thousand sounds like a big space, but we need more floor space. So, in the meantime, we are going vertical like at the big box stores. That's why our ceilings are so

high. We can accomplish basically the same thing by going upward that we can accomplish lengthwise. To do this we will need a fork lift and numerous rows of racks to multiply the floor space. We can do that for about \$90,000, so it is a tradeoff. In the future we may still go lengthwise, but I guess you can see it is a matter of the best use of resources," Leon explained. The nonprofit has an annual mailout to garner monetary donations for which they are always grateful.

And of course, they accept working appliances, furniture and other household items. "I get many of my donations when a wife says, 'Honey I want a stainless-steel kitchen,'" he said with a laugh. "There is nothing wrong with the old appliances they just want to update. So, they call me, and I'll say that we will take them. We can't take anything that needs major repairs, but minor things we can fix. We don't have the money to make major repairs. When people want to donate furniture, we bring it to the warehouse too and store it; and when something happens, we can help people." Many of the people that have been helped by the nonprofit also donate in one way or another, and people who are downsizing often call

Leon and donate furniture. Even estate sales sometimes donate their gently used items.

"I try my best to get things that I wouldn't mind in my house and with that in mind, we pass it down to the individuals. We can definitely use inventory that is good quality. We don't sell anything for any reason and have never done so. We also give people a paper that they can use for tax purposes because we are a 501 C-3 nonprofit.

"We help people on two levels. The first level for example is if someone has a house fire. They are asked if they have insurance or the means to replace the items. If they do have insurance or can replace them, we don't help them. Otherwise it would be a case of double dipping. If the same person is involved in a major disaster, those rules go out the window. We will help everyone until our resources are liquidated. In the case of a tornado or massive flooding, we treat everybody the same. The intent is to try and help people get back on their feet with minimal problems. The idea is that everyone is hurting, so, we do our best to get them back on their feet. We have given away over 300 tons of furniture," he said.

And those goods don't just stay in Wichita Falls. For example, Marble Falls, Texas and the Highland Lakes area have recently experienced a massive flood. Leon and his team of volunteer drivers took 8 U-Haul trucks full of items to Marble Falls which helped over 100 families get back on their feet.

"When someone's home has been burnt or flooded, and they think, 'God how am I going to get the money to redo the new location?' We are the answer because it is free. Free from us to them, but it is not from me; it's from the people of the community. I only had the idea to try to put together an organization that would help the needs of people following a disaster. The people in the area seemed to adopt that idea and that's how we have gotten to this point. This is their project and their property. I am nothing but the person who facilitates it. I just really enjoy what I am doing. I am at a point in my life where I can say that and still help people in the process," he said smiling.

If you would like to make a donation, Leon Green can be reached at 940-704-9258

- Cindy Kahler Thomas



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Big Blue, downtown at 709 Scott Avenue, is still a living and breathing member of the downtown Wichita Falls area and it now holds on the second floor a surprising new addition of advanced learning for members of our community. Dexter Technology Park is a high-tech learning space for children from kindergarten through twelfth grade, and for adults. “Kids are coming here to both compliment and replace their traditional schooling,” said CEO Michael Olaya. “There is no age segregation, no mandatory attendance, and there are no formal lectures, so it is all self-guided and self-paced, and these kids and adults are building up personal responsibilities.”

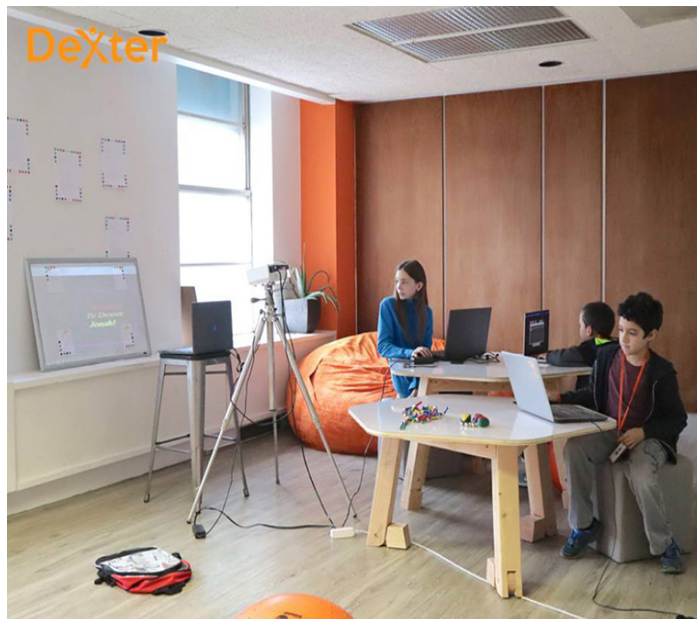
“It all runs on our awesome software platform. Curriculum is a full-time job and creating the world’s best curriculum is a key aspect of what we are doing. To create these truly transformational experiences, we are constantly testing and modifying our curriculum. It is a digital living curriculum, and it keeps getting better and better,” he said confidently. “It’s intersectional and cross disciplinary by design. Towards the goal of digital literacy, members engage in curriculum at the intersection of subjects like mathematics, art, and coding. Skills like computer programming and mathematics aren’t individual subjects, but instead fluencies used to explore all areas of human knowledge. Students use mathematics and logic to understand complex systems. Traditional subjects that are often regarded as boring by many students, come alive with simulations and project-based learning. We are creating a culture of geniuses.”

“It guides students like a video game. When you have completed your lessons, you level up, and you earn your points. So, it is kind of like a mini-economy we have created. Our goal here is that we create a culture of excellence where there are expectations, and we invest these students in a rich learning environment,” Olaya explained. “We have had tremendous outcomes with our students because we have such high expectations. The curriculum we train is very participatory.

Dexter

You don’t just passively listen to someone. They are actively engaged and are applying knowledge, which becomes meaningful and relevant. They far exceed what you think they are capable of.”

“It is like a Chucky Cheese for learning,” Michael



said with a grin! “They love coming here because of the environment. They have great access to mentors and community. We have had tremendous outcomes with our students because we have such high expectations. The Dexter curriculum is designed to prepare learners for the digital age. Learners don’t memorize facts or cram for exams, instead they develop intuition and understanding through a process-based curriculum.”

Dexter has the goal of digital literacy for their students. “We are going to prepare these kids for the future, for this digital age where you have things like artificial intelligence, 3D printers, robotics and automations. These things have progressed so quickly, and our educational system has not caught up with it. We are creating a new literacy, so we use computer programming as the new literacy. We use computer programming to explore all topics, which is really powerful because it creates this process based on understanding,” he said.

“This is a whole new way of thinking, that the promise of education is not about memorizing facts. Humans aren’t just receptacles that you fill with knowledge and push down the assembly line. Humans are more like a flame that you spark, and all the things that we are teaching our students are like lenses to look at reality. What this does do for the student is like giving them a different pair of glasses to see through. We are creating this high-tech community full of geniuses that can really have a pretty awesome impact on the future,” Michael said. “Our mission is to raise the level of global intelligence.”

Community is also one of the core values at Dexter. They provide scholarships to approximately one third of their members to foster an inclusive environment regardless of socioeconomic backgrounds.

The Dexter team has also partnered with Fain Elementary School to create an integrated learning environment, a maker space that is used daily by the students. Fain is a Project Based Learning campus filled with passionate educators willing to innovate.

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Dexter created custom adjustable height tables, brought in giant bean bags, and an internet connected smart flat screened TV, artificial turf, and powered it with Dexter curriculum.

Students at Dexter Technology Park write programs that they can print on the 3D printer that is available. There is also a laser printer on site. Their hours of business are 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Students can participate on a 3-tier level. Two hours per week, six hours per week or unlimited access for a fee.

To Michael, Dexter isn't just a job, it is a revolutionary concept. Those students with just a traditional education may not be prepared for the reality of the world when they graduate. "You want to know that if you put a kid through the system, that you are going to get the intended output, but some slip through the cracks of the system." Michael wants to remove that chance that your child is not prepared for the digital age. He and his team want to have an impact and meaning on our community one child at a time. - *Cindy Kahler Thomas*

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JOHN COOK ~ MOSAIC ARTIST

What some call a hobby can turn into art, and that was how it happened with local artist John Cook. He wanted a hobby, but the drive to create soon took him past that stage. John's choice of media is ceramic tiles, and his mosaics are very diverse. "Whatever the challenge is I will do it," he said with determination. "I just like doing different things."

Some of his subject matter ends up on tables, like a big red electric guitar on a coffee table, or a vase of sunflowers on a side table. He also creates pieces that hang on the wall. His latest is a motorcycle and he is also working on a trout. He is proficient at animals, florals, and even landscapes. His first artistic influence was a tile mosaic that his mother bought when he was 13 years old. It depicted a man and a woman pouring water into a vase. "I loved it," he said nostalgically. "No one else in the house liked it but me."

"I graduated college with the highest honors and originally was planning on being in management, but realized that wasn't what I wanted to do. So, I studied to be an accountant, but I realized that I would be stuck behind a partition counting numbers and looking at a computer screen and there was no way I was going to do that. So, I decided to go into finance. It was a little bit livelier, but I didn't want to be a stock broker. I graduated with a finance management major, and I went into sales. I like being out and about," he said with a smile.

He went about the business of living, eventually moving from Arlington to Wichita Falls for a job. He is in sales and has a very large route, "but", he added, "I love my route. I love doing route sales because I get to interact with a lot of people. After I retire, I want to do volunteer work." And he has a giving heart as his adopted daughter knows well. "I adopted her when she was 3 years old. I feel like it was something that God wanted me to do. That is one thing that I know I did well. She just graduated from college with a major in communications," he said with pride.

John's relationship with God is a huge part of his art. "My inspiration is from God. I don't even think it is me. I am planning on doing three Christian themed pieces of art. One with a crown, one with fish and loaves of bread, and the other one I haven't worked out yet," John shared.

John's first creations were building tables. "I was making some tables, which was excellent because it gave me some training. I didn't sell any of that. I gave it away because I was still learning. When I decided to sell one, I put it on the corner of a busy street and I know someone liked it because



they stole it," he said with a chuckle. "It did leave me with the idea that there was a market for it."

John's art hasn't always been mosaics though. "I started painting on my own, and I did a whole lot of paintings. But it just didn't feel as good, and I like doing the tile. I like the way it comes together when you grout it. It looks a little disjointed, but the grout pulls it all together and gives it a finished look," he explained.

His mosaics have movement, and "aren't perfect little squares." He uses tile clippers to give some of them an almost scalloped look. It makes the edges uneven and contributes to the flow of the mosaic. He enjoys the fact that mosaics have been an art form for centuries. "I love it when I see where archeologists find a new area of mosaic art work on a floor in Istanbul, and they saved it—I just want to go YEAH!"

"I just want people to know that it is an art form that is connected to our past, but we can adapt it to now. That's why I do some of the newer looks because I am just free forming my own ideas. I'm trying to do things that are relatable. I'm thinking about doing a space ship with a Texas flag on it," John said with a grin. He has a studio in his garage, and he likes to open both doors to feel the breeze and listen to classic rock and country music. "It keeps me from yelling at the kids for walking on my lawn," he joked.

"I would also say that the Wichita Falls Art Association Gallery is the best. It was a great move for me to join the association because they have encouraged me continually. They have been very kind and supportive. I don't have any art training, but I was told that my art comes from the heart. I'm not alone on my journey of weird stuff because there are a lot of other weird artists out there. That is kind of my tribe. They do their own thing and are happy with it. I think artists build each other up. All artists inspire me because they are all willing to put it on paper and put it out there and present it to the world. When I first did, it was kind of scary to put it out there. Now I don't even care if you like it. Some people get it, and some don't. I like it and that's why I do it. I was never encouraged to do art, but I found the drive to create. This has been a great opportunity to be able to show my work and visit with other artists that I wouldn't have had if we didn't have this gallery," John said gratefully.

John's art can be viewed and purchased through Blue Moon Mosaics on Facebook, the Wichita Falls Art Association Gallery, and at the After Hours Art Walks. - Cindy Kahler Thomas

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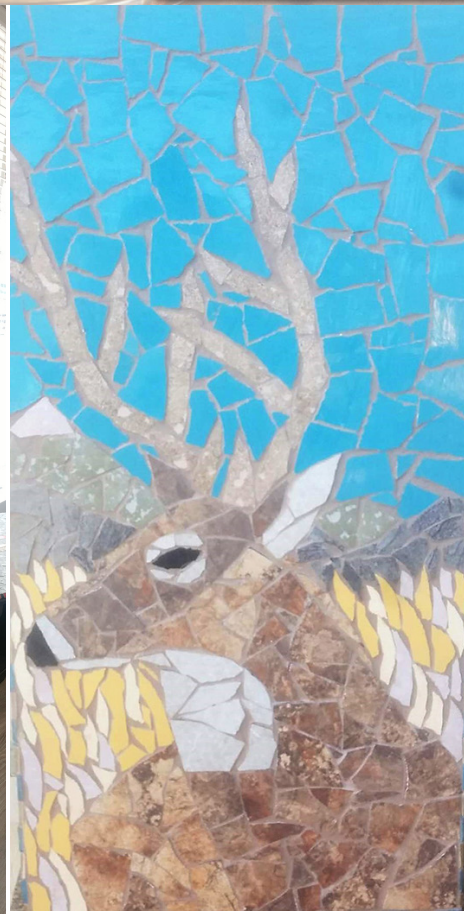
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John Cook with his art
MAY 2019



JAMES COOK

Best On Air Personality



If you've ever listened to The Outlaw early in the morning (The Way To Early Show w/ James Cook) then you already know that James is great on the air. He's quick, witty and entertaining. Well, that on air charm was recently recognized at the Texas Regional Radio Awards where Cook won Best On Air Personality for Large Market in Texas.

Well deserved, James Cook!
Keep up the great work!



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You will get through this

It's 2007 and I am dating a guy that I think I will spend the rest of my life with. Flash forward 3 years. I don't know who I am or what I deserve and I wonder if the industry that daily makes me question if any good men still exist, if it will forever define me.

My eyes had seen too much. My mind had listened to too many voices. And my heart, what was left of it, was daily cracked by the places my feet would land until that guy, the one I loved more than anything else, shattered it into a million pieces. I was talking to my mentor last night. She saw me with that fire in my eyes, she saw me when I looked in the mirror and didn't recognize who I was, and she is here now. "It might take you years to get over this."

Our lives are like shelves. We place things on them and I have always liked mine to be nice and neat. So it took time to sift through the hurt on that shelf. To dust off old dreams and let go of things that didn't belong there. To realize that even if something was there for a season, it didn't mean it had to be there forever.

I talked to my mentor yesterday. "Update me on your life," she says. I pause. I gently close my eyes and they burn. They burn because tears are just beneath them. I swallow because I don't want her to hear the crack in my voice. There is something on my shelf that I need to sift through again. My shelf is messy and part of me is ashamed that it's not immaculate as it was just 6 months ago.

Part of me forgot why I wanted to share this. Maybe it's because I want you to know that your shelf will always get messy. That there will be seasons when we have to sift through the junk. Maybe it's because you need to know that you're never too old to get your heart broken or that there is no shame in it once you do. Maybe it's because you just need to be reminded that you're not alone in your mess or perhaps it's to encourage you to not give up on love.

You will make it through this. These are words I whisper to my 23 year old self. These are words I whisper to me now. These are words I whisper to you. You will get through this. Repeat after me. I will get through this. -Aubray Scott



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