

# ★ THE HUB

OF NORTH TEXAS

APRIL 2019

FREE

MUSIC - ART - NEWS

# ERIC SCOTT



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Sej Miles

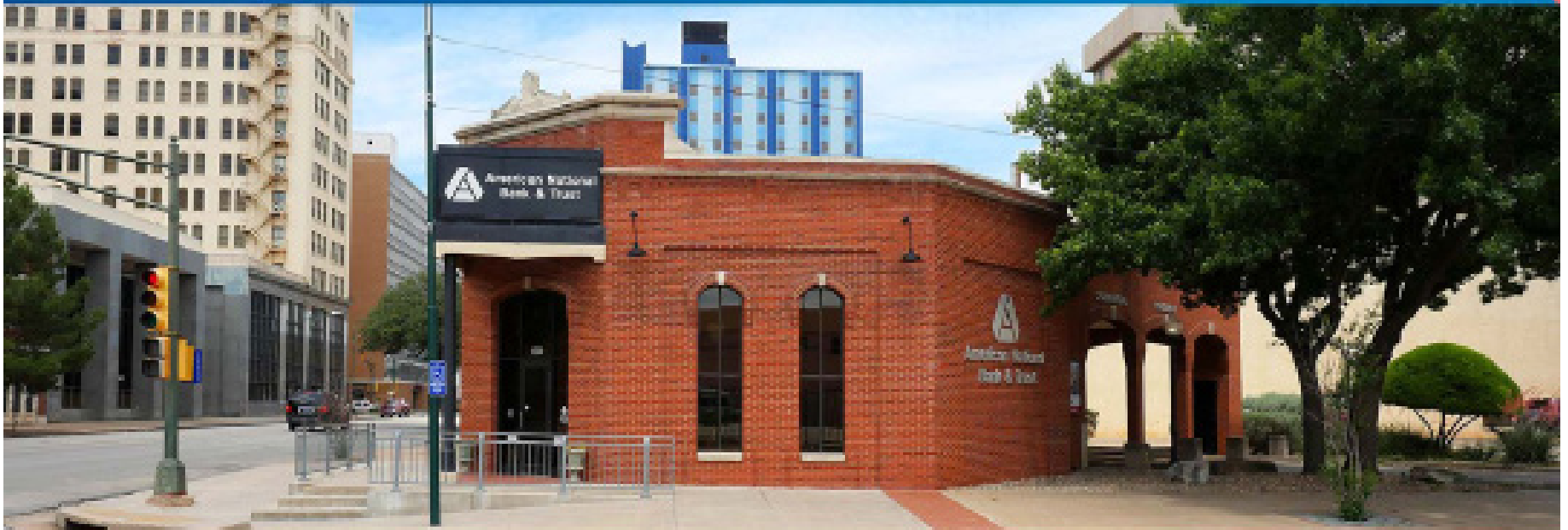
Chuck Rak

The Junk Revival

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We love our Downtown for only one, It's Home and we are Invested in our future.



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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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APRIL 2019



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**APRIL  
HAPPENINGS**

**9<sup>TH</sup>  
ST.**

**STUDIOS**

4.4.19  
Artwalk  
Angry  
Girl  
Art  
Collective  
6-9pm

4.19.19  
Bizarro  
Magic Show  
Ron Wilson  
& AJ Quevy  
6:15-8:30  
16+ show

4.20.19  
Necrollusionist  
Joshua  
Ayala  
6:15-8:30  
16+  
show

4.26.19  
Screening  
Meow Wolf:  
Origin Story  
@WF Public  
Library  
6:00-8:30

**SORROW  
ART OPENING**  
4.27.19  
6-9PM



# TIPS AND TALES FROM OUTBACK

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

North Texas lost one of its finest musicians, Rodney Garrison, just recently and just like his career in music, his personal life remained just under the radar, never seeking the spotlight. Doing a good job whether anyone noticed or not was the way Rodney worked.

Rodney spent years on stage with such Texas music notables as Willie Nelson, Rusty Weir, and B. W. Stevenson. I called one other Texas legend, Gary P. Nunn, and asked if he had any memories he could share about Rodney Garrison. And did he! He even wrote my article for this month!

*Here's what Gary sent me:*



Rodney Garrison

I had the privilege to know Rodney Garrison back in the days when he was still in High School in Iowa Park, Texas. He and my brother Steve Nunn were friends and running buddies, bonded by their mutual interest in music. There was a five or six-year difference in our ages and he always seemed to grant me the respect of his elder. He was very interested in music and as I had several years of music experience and somewhat of a track record, he was always eager to spend time with me, ask questions, and listen and learn.

A couple of years later, he showed up in Austin, a bright, young, eager face and loaded with musical talent! He quickly landed a gig in town as he was a naturally gifted bass player. Fate would have it that we were roommates in a band house sharing a big house with the Lavender Hill Express on 22nd Street just off UT campus and a few blocks east of UT's memorial stadium.

We became separated when I took up with Michael Martin Murphey, and rarely did our paths cross after that, but I always kept up with him after he moved back to north Texas through musician friends, as he was actively involved in the lively music scene in the Wichita Falls area that revolved around Mark Murphey, Mike McAdoo, Luke Robinson, Christie Stone Beauchamp, Mike Franklin, Jeff Ayers, Robin Mikalunas, Mike O'Neill, and Johnny Divine and his recording studio, just to name a few.

I had the good fortune to visit with Rodney a few weeks before his passing. It was as though the many years that have passed were reduced to a few days. We had a lively visit, retelling stories of those days gone by. His voice sounded like it always did, and he broke

in to full belly laughter on several occasions. He knew his days were numbered, but he was still full of good-natured humor.

I will always remember Rodney Garrison as that bright-eyed and bushy-tailed young gentleman who was eager to please, took on tasks with good cheer, and possessed all the fine qualities that would make his mother and father, his wife and his children proud to call their own.

**In loving memory,  
Gary P Nunn**

Those are some touching words from the Designated Official Ambassador (of Texas music) to the World and songwriter extraordinaire. I'd like to thank Gary P. for taking the time to remember Rodney Garrison. His friends and family truly appreciate that.

As for Rodney, we hope you know how much you were loved and appreciated by your friends and family. We love you Rodney. What a blessing you have been.



Gary P. Nunn @ Outback Studios



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April 5 - Blue Light Special

April 6 - Ninety to Nothing, Red Brick Trolley

April 12 - The Kept, It Hurts to be Dead,  
The Fleeting Romance

April 13 - Green Dazed (Tribute to Green Day),  
Hellen Bach

April 19 - Back in Black  
(Tribute to AC / DC)

April 20 - City Creeps

April 26 - Ian Moore, Kyndra Lee

April 27 - Chris Shackelford, Zack Crow Band

May 3 - Queen for a Day (Tribute to Queen),  
Raymundo

March 29 - Tuatha Dea

March 29 - Tanner Fenoglio

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The Wichita Falls Museum of Art has hosted Live at the Lake for 12 years, and this season will be one to beat. Eight bands will perform at the Midwestern State University, at The Ruby and Robert Priddy Pavilion located beside the museum on Eureka Drive.

“Cohn Drennan started it when he was the director of the museum. He had a group that had played music together since college. He wanted to do this because we had the lake, and it was something to do when it was dead,” said Mary Helen Maskill, Community Engagement Manager at the WFMA at MSU. “It just kind of morphed and then it was decided to build the pavilion, which was a no-brainer. We used to have to set up a tent and a stage. It was so labor intensive.”

The bands performing this season start with Cousin Fuzzy on April 25th. Slab Rat will be on May 9th, then Jay Hollis on May 23. In June, on the sixth, Walking Johnny will perform, and on June 20th the Wichita Falls Symphony Orchestra presents the Gimbles. July 18th Rock Paper Scissors will play. Catch Hellen Bach on September 5th. The season will close out with Deep In It on September 19th. All the bands play on Thursdays.

In the past, the concerts have been on the first and third Thursdays through the summer months, but Mary Helen changed it up this year. “The reason we are starting early and staying later in the year is because four of the dates will occur



Walkin' Johnny - Live At The Lake



**WFMA**  
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at MSU Texas  
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2019 Concert Series

**Thursdays: 6:30 - 8:30 pm**

**Priddy Pavilion at the WFMA at MSU by Sikes Lakes**

<b>April 25</b>	<b>Cousin Fuzzy</b>
<b>May 9</b>	<b>Slab Rat</b>
<b>May 23</b>	<b>Jay Hollis Band</b>
<b>June 6</b>	<b>Walkin Johnny Band</b>
<b>June 20</b>	<b>WF Symphony Orchestra</b>
<b>July 18</b>	<b>Rock, Paper, Scissors</b>
<b>Sept. 5</b>	<b>Hellen Bach</b>
<b>Sept. 19</b>	<b>Deep In It</b>

so that students at MSU in the Fall and Spring semesters can attend the event. I wanted to put half of them when the kids can come. They say, “Wow this is cool.” Also, I took off the hot month. We don’t even have one in August,” she explained.

“Each band has their own crowd that comes to listen when they play. Cousin Fuzzy brings out the crowd that listened to them in high school. They have been around for decades. Slab Rat is a group of young musicians led by Ben Prader. Jay Hollis has been here since the beginning. All of his group are musicians from Dallas, but he is from Henrietta, so the Henrietta crowd comes out to hear him play. The Gimbles are a blue grass band and this is their first time here. Rock Paper Scissors are a Jazz Band, Helen Bach is a solid rock band, and Deep In It is a new rock band,” Mary Helen explained. “Mayfield Events does the sound for the bands.” - *Cindy Kahler Thomas*



Looking for something different and tasty? Well then, don't miss the Cajun Fest on April 27th from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Ohio Street between 9th and 10th. There will be fresh crawfish along with several authentic Louisiana Cajun food vendors. There will also be other types of food, just in case you aren't feeling that adventurous.

"This is the 12th Annual Cajun Fest, and it is really centered around food and trying to bring that Louisiana creole Cajun feel to Wichita Falls," said Jana Schmadler, the Executive Director of Downtown Wichita Falls Development, Inc, or as some call it, Downtown Proud. "A lot of our festivals have to do with culture and this one does, too."

There is something for everyone including the kids. Children under 12 are free and the kid's area and game area are free. "We will have different types of amusement rides and bounce houses, and there will also be a Tail Gator Party with all kinds of games like Jumbo Jenga and big checkers. We will also have a game called Trashketball, where people throw a ball around, and all those activities are free," she explained.

Entertainment for the adults will include 4 bands. "The headliner is the Tejas Brothers, and then we will have Deep In It featuring Malford Milligan. He is an internationally known singer, and we are really excited to have him in the lineup. Our next band is Downtown Royalty, and the band that will close out the night is Everything In Between," Jana said. There will also be approximately 12 to 15 specialty vendors, and around 10 food vendors to add to the atmosphere.

"One of the biggest hits returning from last year is the Gumbo Cookoff. That was super popular last year. It is \$75 for an individual team of 4 to en-



ter, and we also will have corporate teams. There will be a People's Choice Award and the team that makes the best gumbo will receive \$250. If a corporate team wins, we will donate the funds to the charity of their choice," she said.

"This is one of our most heavily attended events. Last year we had 7,000 people and are hoping to grow that this year. Traditionally we hold it on Mother's Day weekend and graduation weekend, and it is already hot by mid-May. So, we bumped it up a couple of weeks, and we are no longer competing with graduations and Mother's Day. We are hoping between the weather and just a little bit more free time, it will allow more opportunity for people to come."

"I always tell people that when purchasing your ticket and coming downtown, you are experiencing the festival and getting the food and the entertainment; and all those ticket funds and all those proceeds go right back into downtown. We take all that money and pick projects, like bike racks, benches, cross walks and trash cans to make downtown better. And over time we can eventually build those up and purchase buildings and rehab them, so, when you come down and purchase your ticket you are not only experiencing the day, you are doing your part in revitalization. We take all that money and put it right back

into downtown, so, we always try to make people see the bigger picture which is that their \$7 ticket goes much farther in the long run," Jana stressed.

Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the gate. They can be purchased online at [downtownwf.com](http://downtownwf.com), or at any United Supermarket, Market Street, the Iron Horse Pub, 8th Street Coffee House or on Sheppard Air Force Base.

- Cindy Kahler Thomas





# MANACOS MANACOS





The ribbon cutting ceremony for one of downtown's newest attractions, Maniac's Mansion, was held on March 29th at 710 8th St.

Marcus McGee, a.k.a. DJ MF Maniac, has opened up a free-play arcade/cereal bar/modern toy museum in the old section of the 8th Street Coffee House. I asked him what this place is, and he replied, "It is basically my home. It's all my personal stuff that I have been collecting all my life. I used to not throw anything away- lunch boxes, cool cereal boxes, replicas from movies like Robo Cop's gun, the Infinity Gauntlet from The Avengers, and anything from Back To The Future that I can get my hands on." And he has some nice glass display

cases to show them off.

Marcus currently has 18 arcade games set up in the mansion, including some arcade one ups, which are mini versions of classic arcade games such as Asteroids, Centipede, Galaga, Rampage, etc. He says that he put these one ups in basically for the kids, but he was surprised to see how many older people (65+) would sit at them for hours. Additionally he has some modern gaming systems set up like xbox1 and PS4 with virtual reality games. On one wall of the gaming room is a locked door, what Marcus calls the 'secret room', which will have a different mystery arcade video game each month and will only be open on the weekends. And he has cartoons playing continu-

ously on a big screen TV.

Another attraction in the mansion is Mrs. Nesbitt's Cereal Bar. Why? Because who doesn't remember getting up on a Saturday morning with a big bowl of cereal and playing your video games? He likes to keep some rare and off-the-wall cereals on hand for people to try, like Sour Patch Kids or chicken waffle cereal. And he stocks some retro drinks like Surge and Crush, and boasts that he is the only place in town to find Homer Simpson's favorite Duff Beer, which is actually an energy drink.

Marcus has also come across some interesting books written for children with titles like Die Hard and Back To The Future, so story time might soon be added

to the Mansion's features.

Maniac's Mansion is a family friendly venue and Marcus tells me that, "I don't charge people to come into my home. Anyone can come right in and look at all the stuff here, but if you want to play the games it is \$7 for unlimited play all day. I want to make it so that if you come downtown you will have a home to come to."

So consider this article as a personal invitation from DJ MF Maniac himself to visit Maniac's Mansion weekdays from 2 to 8:30, and weekends 2 to 10:30.

710 8th St., adjacent to 8th Street Coffee House.

~Tim Maloney





# SEJ MILES: REMEMBERING THE REALNESS

Sej Miles is a life-long local musician and songwriter, having started performing in a church choir when she was only three years old. She started piano lessons when she was five, after being inspired by her father, who was a professional utility musician. Sej's passion for music is apparent. When asked about how she finds inspiration, she responded, "A lot of time the music will come to me, and it won't be a particular thing I'm looking for necessarily. It comes to me, I

don't go to it." She reflected a moment and then admitted, "Music is just something that I've always intrinsically understood, I don't even know how. It's just something that's always moved me."

Sej has recently been offered incredible and rewarding opportunities abroad, and decided to take advantage and spread her wings to travel. I sat down with her to discuss her time in Wichita Falls, and she had quite a positive perspective.

"I was born here, and I think that in life, we have growing pains with the place that we're raised. You're working yourself out in a place with buildings and places that you've been, and everyone knows everyone, especially if you've been in Wichita Falls as long as I have (over 30 years). So, finding yourself in what feels like a fishbowl, you start to fight the environment. I would say for a long time I couldn't find myself so I didn't find the outlet to perform here, and I

didn't find it anywhere else either. I did perform for the church and do music ministry for a season in my life, but coming back here and reckoning with myself brought me to what I like to call 'falling in a crack in the city'. I thought Wichita Falls was this one way, and reckoning with myself brought me to the arts community, which was like a whole different world.

"I would say that I associate Wichita Falls with being real. It's made me real, it's made my music real, and it's given me an appreciation for the other musicians here. I don't know if it's like this anywhere else because I've never performed anywhere else. But for the most part, everyone supports everyone, and everyone is trying to work towards the same goal and they're aware of that. There is limited competition in my opinion. Competition is not really a thing so much as the danger of comparison. I think being here has taught me to be myself, even if I'm still learning what that is. Just being who ever I am in the moment. It's been all love. This place has really made me love the journey that I'm on and love wherever it is I end up, but this is definitely where I started. I have a lot of good feelings about starting my beginnings here."

We wish Sej the best on her travels, and know that wherever she is, she will be spreading her love, positivity, and heavenly tunes to anyone lucky enough to be listening.

-Charlie Roberts





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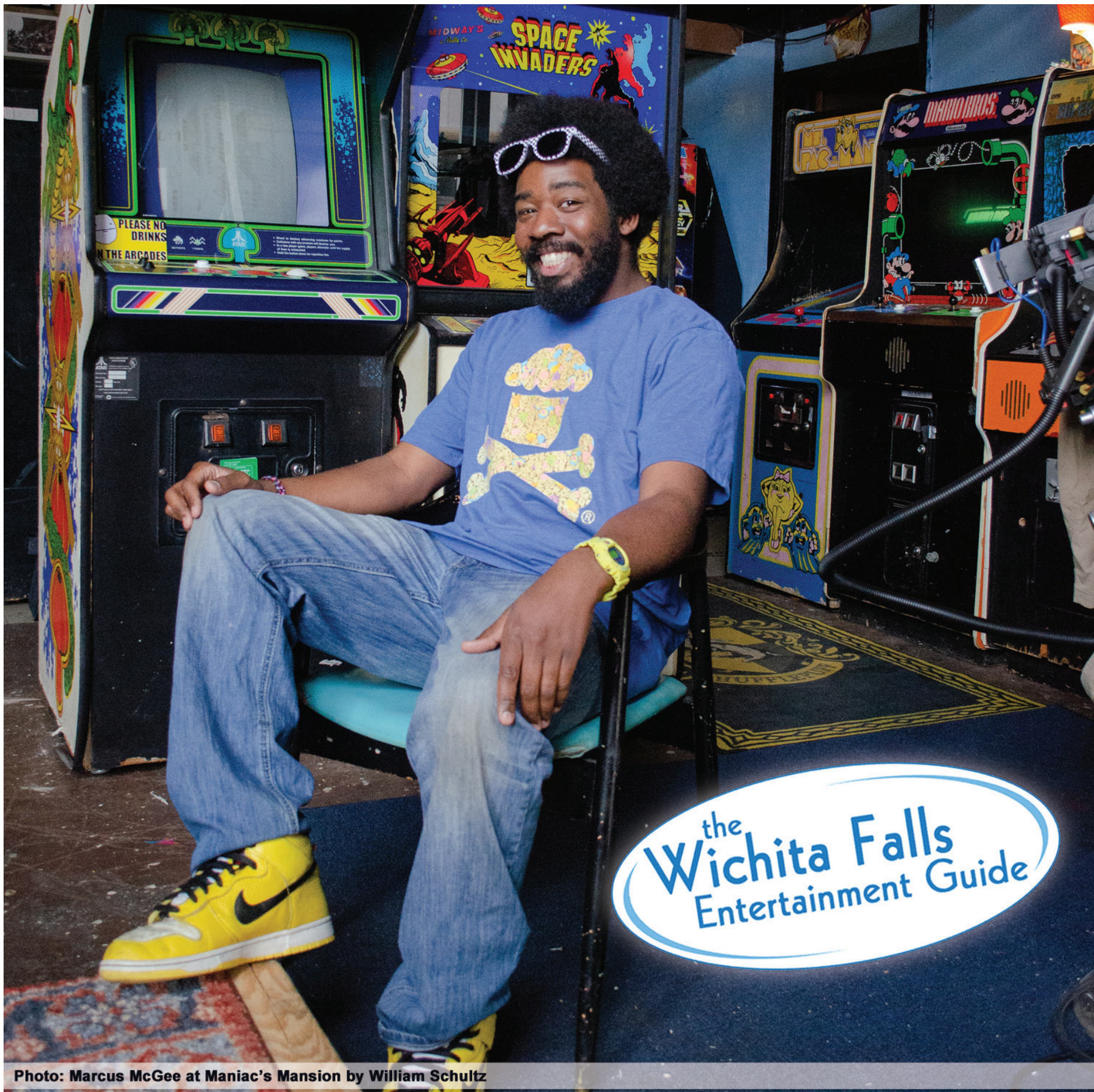


Photo: Marcus McGee at Maniac's Mansion by William Schultz



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**4**

**5**

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**COMEDY**  
NIGHT

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## MUSIC

### April 2

- Open Mic with Clint Vines @ Stick's Place
- Tacos and Tunes @ Old Town Saloon
- Open Mic @ Gypsy Uncorked
- Tuba Fools Day, low brass concert @ MSU - Akin Auditorium

### April 3

- Harvey and Tim's Weird-ass Wednesday @ Stick's Place
- Open Jam @ Iron Horse Pub

### April 4

- Midwestern Singers Concert @ MSU - Akin Auditorium
- Curtis Grimes @ P2
- Leisa Fudge @ P3
- Cinco De Mayo festival with Casey Abbe, East Cache Creek @ Fubar Saloon, Lawton, OK

### April 5

- Blue Light Special @ Iron Horse Pub
- Open Mic @ 8th St. Coffee House
- Acoustic song swap @ Silver Dollar Saloon

### April 6

- 1st Annual WLC Delivery Service Spring Car Show @ Fre-Mar Valley
- Black River @ Stick's Place
- Ninety to Nothing, Red Brick Trolley @ IHP
- Cody Shaw & The Rhuthm Boys @ Silver Dollar Saloon
- Casey Abbe Band @ Vernon Parts Sports Bar
- Matt Ferrel @ Fubar Saloon, Lawton, OK

### April 7

- Mark Forehand Song Swap @ Stick's Place

### April 9

- Brass Day @ MSU - Akin Auditorium
- Tacos and Tunes @ Old Town Saloon
- Open Mic @ Gypsy Uncorked

### April 10

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

### April 11

- Richard Clift Jr. @ Silver Dollar Saloon
- Ryan Kirkland @ P3
- Holly Tucker acoustic @ P2
- For King and Country @ Kay Yeager Coliseum

### April 12

- The Kept, It Hurts To Be Dead, The Fleeting Romance @ Iron Horse Pub
- Armadillo Flatts @ Vernon Parts Sports Bar
- Open Mic @ 8th. St Coffee House
- Jazz Ensemble Concert @ MSU - Akin Auditorium
- Acoustic show @ Silver Dollar Saloon
- Cody Jinks, Red Shahan @ Kay Yeager Coliseum
- Granger Smith @ Boulevard Nightclub
- Brazos River Outlaws, Otis the Axe and Hybrid Sun @ Railhead Saloon, Lawton, OK

### April 13

- Mr. Meaner @ Fat Alberts
- Green Dazed, Hellen Bach @ Iron Horse Pub
- Everything In Between @ Vernon Parts Sports Bar
- Western Flyers, Don Diego Trio @ Royal Theatre, Archer City, TX

### April 14

- Mark Forehand Song Swap @ Stick's Place
- Symphonic Band Concert @ MSU - Akin Auditorium

### April 15

- Percussion Ensemble @ MSU - Akin Auditorium

### April 16

- Open Mic with Clint Vines @ Stick's Place
- Tacos and Tunes @ Old Town Saloon

- Open Mic @ Gypsy Uncorked
- Woodwinds Day @ MSU - Akin Auditorium

### April 17

- Harvey and Tim's Weird-ass Wednesday @ Stick's Place
- Open Jam @ Iron Horse Pub

### April 18

- Zack Crow acoustic show @ Silver Dollar Saloon
- Hawkeye, Monty Henson @ P3
- Ashmore @ P2

### April 19

- Back In Black @ Iron Horse Pub
- Open Mic @ 8th St. Coffee House
- Sarah and the Dreamers @ Vernon Parts Sports Bar, Vernon, TX
- Giovanni and the Hired Guns @ CW Scooters, Lawton, OK

### April 20

- Singles Mixer and 4/20 show with Therapy, Everything In Between, James Cook, Downtown Royalty @ Stick's Place

- Killdevil @ Fat Alberts

- City Creeps @ Iron Horse Pub

- Hip Hop Hooray @ Silver Dollar Saloon

- Hip Hop Showcase @ The Deep End

- Nine Mile Hill @ Vernon Parts Sports Bar

### April 21

- Mark Forehand Song Swap @ Stick's Place

### April 23

- Tacos and Tunes @ Old Town Saloon

- Open Mic @ Gypsy Uncorked

### April 24

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

- Open Mic @ Iron Horse Pub

### April 25

- Cousin Fuzzy @ Wichita Falls Museum of Art

- Chance Anderson @ P2

- Chris Shackelford @ P3

- Acoustic show @ Silver Dollar Saloon

- Sounds of Speedway: Walkin' The Line: Johnny Cash Tribute @ The Forum

### April 26

- Lunch with Tim, free pizza @ Stick's Place

- Ian Moore, Kyndra Lee @ Iron Horse Pub

- Open Mic @ 8th. St Coffee House

- Josh Burnett Band @ Vernon Parts Sports Bar

- "Love Is In The Air" Spring Musical Revue with MSU theatre students @ The Forum

### April 27

- Bruce Lyons Sidewalk Jam and Concert @ Bruce Lyons Guitars, Fre-Mar Valley

- RIP @ Old Town Saloon

- Zack Crow, Chris Shackelford Band @ Iron Horse Pub

- Everything In Between, Downtown Royalty Band @ Cajun Fest, Downtown Wichita Falls

- Jack Worthington @ Silver Dollar Saloon

- '86 Ball - Old High, Rider, Hirschi, Burk class reunion @ Stick's Place

- Under The Influence @ Vernon Parts Sports Bar

- Harvey and Tim @ Blue Ostrich Winery,

- Ray Wylie Hubbard, Flatland Cavalry @ Germanfest, Muenster, TX

### April 28

- Mark Forehand Song Swap @ Stick's Place

- University Choirs Concert @ MSU - Akin Auditorium

### April 29

- Faculty Recital: Amanda Hernandez on violin @ MSU - Akin Auditorium

### April 30



- Open Mic with Clint Vines @ Stick's Place
- Tacos and Tunes @ Old Town Saloon
- Open Mic @ Gypsy Uncorked

## ART

April 4

-Downtown Artwalk

**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

## FOR THE KIDS

April 13

-Nature Tots @ River Bend Nature Center

-Science Saturday @ River Bend Nature Center

-Chemistry Saturday with the MSU American Chemical Society @ Wichita Falls Public Library

April 27

-Nature Tots @ River Bend Nature Center

-Science Saturday @ River Bend Nature Center

**Wichita Falls Public Library:**

**Mondays - Maker Monday**

**Tuesdays - Process Art Experiences**

**Wednesdays - Toddler Time, Whatever Wed.**

**Fridays - Make and Take Crafts**

**Saturdays - LEGO Club**

## EVENTS

April 5, 6, 7

-JBF Wichita Falls HUGE Pop-Up Kids' Resale Event @ MPEC

April 6

-Red River Wine & Beer Festival

@ J.S. Bridwell Ag Center

-Texoma's Hellacious Obstacle Run @ Lucy Park

-Easter Egg Hunt @ Lucy Park

April 11

-For King & Country @ Kay Yeager Coliseum

-High Heels for Hot Meals @ The Forum

April 13

-Henrietta 2019 Downtown Festival

-The Junk Revival @ Alley Cat Vintage Mercantile

-Color Run & Walk 2019 @ Downtown Wichita Falls Farmers Market

April 26 and 27

-Wichita Falls PRCA Rodeo @ Kay Yeager Coliseum

April 27

-Cajun Fest 2019 @ Downtown Wichita Falls, TX

-Circle Trail Tour @ Lucy Park

## THEATER

April 4, 5, 6, 11, 12 and 13

-Cry It Out @ Backdoor Theatre

April 5, 6, 12, 13, 19 and 20

-Sister Act @ Wichita Theatre

April 14 and 15

-Disney's "Freaky Friday" auditions @ Backdoor Theatre

April 19

-Stand-up Comedy Night @ Half Pint Taproom

April 26

-Improv Night @ Backdoor Theatre



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APRIL 2019

## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT DAILY SPECIALS



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■ Black River

APRIL 20

■ 4 for 4/20 show

Therapy - James Cook

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APRIL 26

■ Lunch With Tim

FREE PIZZA noon to 1

APRIL 27

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CONCERT  
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INFO



# CHUCK RAK

## CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Chuck Rak is an unassuming man with a great sense of humor and an amazing talent. He is a caricature artist. Chuck lives in Austin, but has traveled “all fifty states many times over” and has visited many countries around the world. He travels with his easel and the implements of his trade and delights people where ever he goes. Lately he has been filling the walls of the Iron Horse Pub with caricatures of the “locals and the movers and shakers of Wichita Falls”. This was his second trip to the Falls and the pub in a year, and he has become quite popular.

Chuck came from an “academic family” but due to a learning disorder, dyslexia, he never excelled at academics. However, his talent and love of art have “served him well”. Chuck went to college at the University of Arizona and went on to the Massachusetts College of Art where he honed his craft. Chuck’s

skills don’t just stop at caricatures. He paints, uses pastels, and sketches as well.

“From early childhood, I was

kids loved them. I was popular with the kids, but the teachers didn’t appreciate it, although one of them did encourage me. I remember that



doing art. In the seventh grade I used to sketch my teachers from sitting in the back of the room, just getting better and better at it. I never paid attention in class. I just wasn’t interested, but I was doing some really comical and insulting caricatures,” he said with a sly grin. “The

man still. He kept encouraging me because I was getting good at it.”

Chuck’s parents recognized his talent and put him in art classes at the age of 7. “I just kept improving, and I took art classes in high school and kept up with it. I was addicted to drawing better and better. As I

said, I was closed off to academics; so, it appealed to me,” he said.

He grew up outside of Boston, and after college he showed his work at art shows. “I started with mall shows in the Cleveland (Ohio) area, which was a very far off and exotic place to me at that time,” he said. “And then I kept on exploring the country and other countries. I was 29-years-old when I completed my tour of all fifty states. I sketched at county fairs

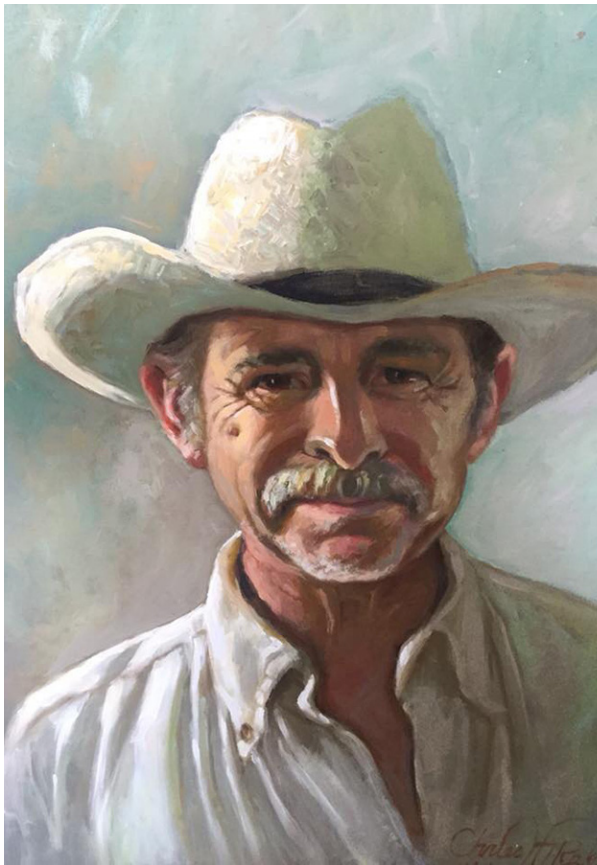
and bars and any place that seemed appropriate where I could work. I just did the best I could. I was never in to speed or fast drawing. I was very intrigued with doing quality work and to get it to look like that person.”

He has always been good at reading people due to his father being a psychiatrist, and that helps him to make each drawing personal to the subject. “I like to draw people that are a little older,”

he explained. “I don’t like to do bars where there are too many young people. They are distracted by the “meat market”. I like to go where the middle-aged movers and shakers go. They are a little better behaved, and they have more character, so, it works out well. I also like it when

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they are a little misbehaved. You can see more character, and they are irreverent—which is good for my business.”

“I am very good at what I do. Every caricature artist isn’t the same. I am one of the better ones. John Dickenson (one of the owners of Iron Horse Pub) is someone that appreciates quality, and that is the kind of people that I want to work with. I would love to come back here. This is a very friendly community,” Chuck said, but he doesn’t want to come during tornado season he stressed.

“Doing caricatures is very intense work. It takes a lot of concentration and little else. It is just a way of translating what I am observing with pattern recognition and character traits into a graphic piece,” he said modestly. “I also have written a

book about my travels. It is called Bahaca, which means tent in Portuguese. I spent a lot of time in Brazil and learned that language through total immersion.”

He has a gypsy soul and travels all summer doing fairs and festivals. “I really enjoy traveling around, and everything depends on how a person is and how they treat each other; and that’s why I like the Iron Horse Pub. They are so welcoming, and they’re considerate. I think it pays to treat people well no matter what kind of business you’re in, and it creates a better situation for all those concerned,” Chuck said.

And that sense of humor came out when asked if there was anything else he wanted to share. He replied, “There are other things, but I have been advised to not share them,” he said smiling.

- Cindy Kahler Thomas

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It's time to put on your shopping shoes! The Lamar Street Gang will be hosting a Junk Revival on April 13th. It is an indoor/outdoor multi store flea market and celebration starting at 10:00 a.m. The Alley Cat Vintage Mercantile, Down the Rabbit Hole, Heritage Antiques and the Fashion Garage are all collaborating for this event.

"It's quite literally a revival of junk," said Julie Ressel, owner of the Alley Cat Vintage Mercantile. "It's like bringing new life to old things on the most basic level, I would say. It is going to be an outdoor flea market in the parking lot for Down the Rabbit Hole and Heritage Antiques and, of course, the Alley Cat. There will also be another outdoor flea market at 12th and Lamar at the Fashion Garage, a welcome new part of our gang."

"We are going to have a real revival tent, which vendors will set up under. We are going for that revival feel, but it will be junk. We think it is going to be a fun time," said Tim Cunningham, owner and operator of Heritage Antiques. "We are going to have a professional auctioneer come in, and whatever

*LAMAR STREET GANG PRESENTS*

# THE JUNK REVIVAL

*APRIL 13TH*

*INDOOR/OUTDOOR MULTI STORE  
FLEA MARKET AND CELEBRATION  
- STARTING AT 10AM -*

*ALLEY CAT - 1505 LAMAR ST  
FASHION GARAGE - 1115 LAMAR ST  
HERITAGE ANTIQUES - 1503 LAMAR ST  
DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE - 1509 LAMAR ST*

doesn't sell we are auctioning off at 4:00. For the people that have wondered about going to an auction, you can get out and maybe feel moved to bid on something." The tent will be erected in the parking lot between 1505 Lamar and 1509 Lamar.

"The Junk Revival is literally junk, not bad stuff, but

things that people might restore or use for some kind of recycled art," said Phyllis McBride, owner and operator of Down the Rabbit Hole. "It is an outlet for our vendors to sell some things. Maybe they bought some items that they were going to redo and their plans changed. It's a way to sell some of their things and

find people who want to try their hand at our type of business and find an inexpensive piece of furniture to buy and try to make it resalable or something for them to work into their décor at home," Tim added.

"We will definitely have project furniture, project junk, and I think it will give people a true sense of what it is like to buy something fresh off the back of a truck; which is really exciting. They can take it home and clean it off and give it new life. I think it will be a fun day of firsts for many," Julie said with a grin.

At the Fashion Garage at 1115 Lamar they will also be selling items and will celebrate their Grand Opening. If weather permits, they will also have a vintage fashion show. Both Julie and Tim will have some of their vendors under

the tent. With Phyllis, the majority of what she will be selling will be her own items. "We all bring our own little unique taste to the Junk Revival, but we really want to focus on the old stuff. We want to get them sold or auctioned off, making things not so pricey, and available for other people to do





Connie Bennett and Janet Ehling of Fashion Garage



Julie Ressel of The Alley Cat



Phyllis McBride of Down The Rabbit Hole

craft projects with and maybe we will inspire someone else to get into it. That's what I did. I painted some furniture, and I took an art class, and that set me rolling," Phyllis said with a smile.

This celebration is partly due to the popularity of the antique dealers downtown. "This is a time when consumerism is rampant in this throwaway culture, and I think young people especially are rejecting that. I feel that they are looking to buy old things that are not mass produced, that have more of a "one of a kind" quality, and are probably made in America; and we are saving it from a landfill. This is a green industry, and I think it resonates to a lot of people. These things are almost alive. They have a history. The things in my

shop and these other shops, they have a soul. When you purchase something like this, and you take it home, you realize that it has already lived a life and is now having a new life with you. It has a heart, and I think that is one of the reasons it is so popular; and we are just going to celebrate that," Julie said passionately.

And if the bug bites you, Heritage Antique Mall, the Alley Cat Vintage Mercantile and Down the Rabbit Hole all have booths available for rent to sell your own creations. The Junk Revival will be a wonderful celebration of junk, and don't forget all the goodies that will be in the stores available for browsing and buying until 5:00 p.m.

- Cindy Kahler Thomas



Tim Cunningham of Heritage Antiques



# ERIK SCOTT: CREATIVE CULINARY

Erik Scott is a North Texas native who has been working in kitchens since he was 15 years old. Having grown up in Dallas, he says, “North Texas is in his blood.” He originally planned on being a lawyer but, he says, “by the second class of pre law I was like, no, I’m going to go back to kitchens. It’s just something I was very good at and enjoyed doing.” He ended up deciding to go to the Culinary Institute of America in 1994. Before ever deciding to open a restaurant, Scott has had many professions. He explained, “I went to culinary school and it was just a roller coaster ride after that; hospitality industry, hotels, restaurants, high end restaurants, I owned a hot dog cart, I’ve done concessions, I’ve don’t catering, I’ve done just about everything.” After gathering experience, he admitted to “selling out a little bit” to corporations, and was the first chef that Wal-Mart ever hired to do special projects and design food for their, at that point, 3,800 stores. “That was interesting,” Scott exclaimed. “Here I am, a chef designing food for national distribution. Now they have a whole team of people that do it.”

After Wal-Mart, Scott took the director of culinary development for a company called Lyons Magnus. “You have tasted their stuff if you have had a pumpkin anything at Starbucks. They make the pumpkin flavoring. They do fudge and fruits and flavorings and pie filling and stuff like that,” he explained. Through this job, he even designed the limited time offer table tents for IHOP for three years. “I have literally done just about anything in the culinary world,” Scott humbly proclaimed. Right before opening Highlander, Scott was the Category Director for

beef at Cisco, a food distribution company in Houston. This means that he designed beef products for the company to market to the public. Scott explained, “They went through some tough times and were laying people off, and I was over it. I volunteered to take the package because I was not



happy.” Without a job, and wanting to leave Houston, Scott recalled, “I just talked to my wife about it, and my in-laws had moved to Wichita Falls. I left to go to school in upstate New York and I’ve worked all around the country, but I always come back home. My daughter was born, and we didn’t want to raise her in Houston. We took a look around the city and just ended up buying a building about a block

down the street from Highlander,” he explains, “we were going to put a restaurant in there, and from there we just had a lot of trouble with the city. As we were trying to make that work, Will Kelty who owns Big Blue and the 8th St Coffee House Building and City Center, bought this building (The Pe-

troleum Building). We had met him before and I had talked to him about the restaurant business and he said, ‘I have a restaurant spot! Since you’re having trouble over there, do you want to take this spot?’ and I was like, sure! I have to do something; we’ve been here for almost two years doing nothing. So, I said, “Okay, well, let’s do that.” And just like that, the Highlander Public House was born, and

Scott himself started renovations. He said, “The ink on the contract wasn’t even dry and I was already tearing stuff up.”

“We signed the lease on the 21st of December in 2016, and we opened St Patrick’s Day 2017. St Patty’s day was the day I wanted to use. It was the day my wife and I met, so it was the day for me,” Scott lovingly admitted. “That was a lot of work in three months that we accomplished. I don’t like to sit on my hands. There were no lights, there was no nothing, and it was a big project. It was built really nicely, but it really just had been beat all to hell. Meaning every piece of copper was missing from the un-paying tenants were not very nice to the place. It had a little Astro-Turf and yellow walls and blue ceilings. We removed all of the drop-ceilings because it was bad. It was really bad. We are really proud of this little spot we have.”

When asked if being located downtown has influenced his business, Scott responded, “Downtown has been a little bit of a struggle because you can’t forecast it, but it’s getting better. The way I like to tell the story is; when we first opened, the traffic lights would blink red at eight pm on weekdays, and on Sundays they would blink all day. Now, they don’t blink at all. So, things are getting better, and I don’t want to say that I’m responsible for that, but you know, I brought a large restaurant and large casual dining area to the downtown area. We love the kids; kids eat free on Tuesdays. Stuff like that. We want to be family friendly. People enjoy it down here, and it’s getting a lot better with all of the new businesses opening up.”

Highlander is in the works of expanding, and is currently working



on a “tavern” in the original lobby area of the hotel. They plan on having two pool tables, three dartboards, and a few arcade games from Scott’s personal collection. They also plan on adding a roof to the patio along with greenery and another bar area, and calling it “the beer garden”.

Highlander features an array of amazing drink specials offered every day of the week, along with creative menus at reasonable prices for the large portion size. They even offer a lunch punch card, where the 10th lunch is free. Their menus change often, adding new and exciting food that is sure to expand your culinary experience. The food and atmosphere can best be described as “Celtic-American fusion”, although they claim no nation affiliation. Highlander brings a fine dining experience to downtown without breaking the bank, while making everything from scratch. If you’ve never visited Highlander, treat yourself to the best dining downtown has to offer. - *Charlie Roberts*



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# Spring Fling

Spring Fling is a new two-day event hosted by KFDX and Texoma's FOX that will have lots of shopping, music, art, and fun for the entire family. The inaugural event will take place on Friday, May 3rd from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 4th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

"Our goal with this event is to take the best of a lot of successful events around town and put them all in one event," Meredith Crowe, Account Executive for KFDX, said, "And kind of redeem the old Spring Fling from the past days when it took place at the Wichita Falls Museum of Art, bringing back all the good parts and doing an artists' showcase. Home and Garden does a good job with that too, maybe taking a little bit from that show as well with the artists. We will have food trucks and bands not unlike Hotter N' Hell

Hundred. We want it to be a retail event like Christmas Magic, probably on a smaller scale, but a spring shopping event where we will have a lot of retail booths. The artists will have tables and the retailers will have 10X10 booths. And then outside will be very family friendly as well. We will have live music. We will have food trucks, a beer garden, and inflatables for the kids," she explained, "We are going to take what has worked for other events and combine them into a fun spring weekend."

"All of this will take place at the MPEC. We have room for 80 booths and probably 20 to 30 artists. The artists will have tables placed against the walls all around the room with the vendors in the center. The application can be obtained from Jonelle Davis, the KFDX Sales Manager by calling or emailing her at [jonelle@KFDX.com](mailto:jonelle@KFDX.com), and although it says that April 19th is the last day to put in that application, we will continue to take vendors and artists until we fill

up," Meredith said.

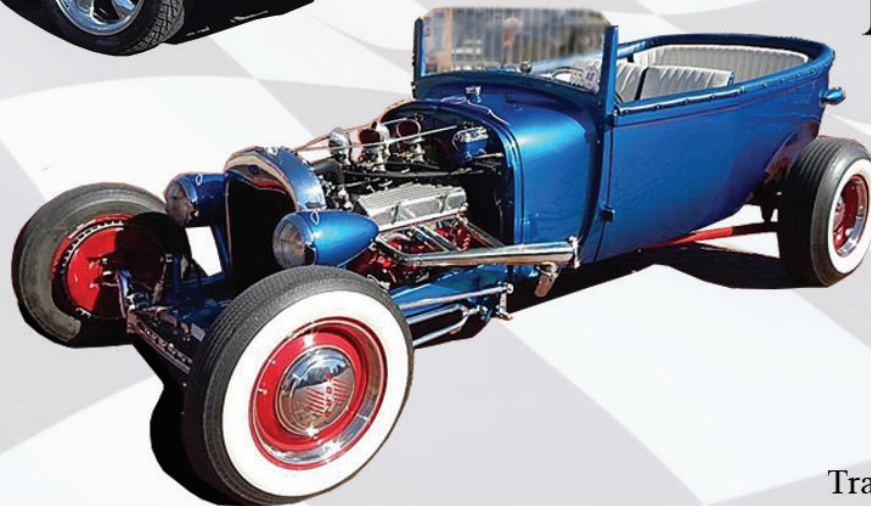
Usually KFDX hosts 4 events a year: The Bridal Market in January, the Women's Expo in February, the Kids' Fest in May, and the Senior Focus in September. "Despite all our efforts, we were not able to gear one of those towards retail. Two of them are informative, and the other two were for kids and brides. So, we decided to create a new shopping event. This will replace Kids' Fest for us. I want people to know, that this is re-

ally going to be different than our past KFDX events; it is not an informational show. We really want this to become a community wide fun event and maybe fill in the gap of what Falls Fest use to do, we need to get a little bit of all that back," she said. This is all about fun. Bring the kids and the husbands because there are things to keep everyone happy. And as an added benefit, Pediatric Associates is a sponsor for the event and will be giving free physicals to children in a separate room, and they will even be providing carnival games.

- Cindy Kahler Thomas







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# BACKDOOR THEATRE

**IMPROV  
NIGHT:  
RACY ADULT  
HUMOUR**

I attended the March 15th Improv Night performance with no idea what to expect, only knowing it was 18 and up and that there could be crude and or inappropriate language. The crowd was greeted with a hilarious host who immediately took to taking down hecklers in the audience with quick-witted passion. She then introduced the comedian cast to come onto the stage, each walking out separately to their own personal entrance song. They then started performing various impromptu skits, with random topics sometimes chosen from audience members. Subjects included politics, current events, incest, death, bestiality, and sex, all in a light-hearted manner.

If you ever enjoyed watching “Who’s Line Is It Anyway?” on television years ago, you would thoroughly enjoy the upcoming Improv Night performances. Starting around two years ago as a fundraiser for Backdoor Theatre, the Improv Nights have created a troupe of anywhere from 15 to 20 local comedians from all genders, ages, races and backgrounds. All of the performers are volunteers, making the show all the more impressive. Every show is completely different, rotating out hosts, comedians, and skits. Performances are fully directed by the host, who in addition to fulfilling the role of host, writes the jokes and organizes the skits.

I asked recent host, Jessica Wood, about her experiences with the

troupe. “The cast has no idea what games they’re going to play, they just know the rules of the games. It’s literally all on the spot.” Jessica conveyed.



She continued, “The whole point of improv is that it’s not about you, it’s about making your partner look good, because in turn that makes you look good, and the troupe look good. Connection is a huge thing for a troupe to have; it’s like one big team. It’s so important to have that teamwork. Improv is more than just phallic jokes, it teaches you a lot of concepts. The biggest one that I get is the fear of failure, and how it’s okay to go up there and mess up, and then

you just keep on going. That’s probably been the biggest thing, because whenever we do our workshops we talk about ‘yes, and’, which is an im-

prov concept. And you can take that into life, rather than saying no to everything, just say yes and see what happens.” Recalling her performances, Jessica said, “There have been times during shows that I went up to say something I thought was funny, and it either didn’t work or I messed up when I said it. Sometimes when you mess up that’s funnier than anything else because it shows you’re human.”

If you are interested in attending one of these gut-wrenchingly funny performances, future show times will be April 26, 2019 at 7:00 PM, September 13, 2019 at 7:00 PM, November 8, 2019 at 7:00 PM, and December 20, 2019 at 7:00 PM. Tickets are selling out fast, so be sure to get yours ahead of time through the Backdoor Theatre website or in person during business hours.

- Charlie Roberts

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Private Events & Parties

Happy Hour Menu



Mention this add  
and receive  
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For full menu & event information:

Facebook page - Highlander Public House and at [www.thehighlanderpublichouse.com](http://www.thehighlanderpublichouse.com)

726 SCOTT STREET - DOWNTOWN WICHITA FALLS - 940-247-2508



# Your Local News Authority



## KFDX NEWS at 5pm, 6pm & 10pm

with Darrell Franklin, Melanie Townsend, Tobin McDuff & Kevin Selle

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