

MUSIC - ART - NEWS

★ THE HUB

OF NORTH TEXAS

MARCH 2020

FREE



THE OUTLAW BODY

INSIDE

EVERY NOW AND THEN
ENCORE THE CHRISTMAS STORE
COWBOY TRUE
WFAA 70TH ANNIVERSARY
BOOTS & HEELS
SHANE SMITH
WEIGHTLESS
MICHELLE J. GARCIA
HOBO CAFE
SHEPPARD AFB
FINAL MORROW
MSU CONNECTION



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EVERY NOW AND THEN: *Contact Me Later!!*

Going to the grocery store is a necessity. My first choice is United's Market Street. Clean. Efficient. Friendly. Fresh. Variety. And not a bad place to grab an already prepared meal. I even like the drive to get there-most of the time. It's about eight minutes from my apartment with six lanes that aren't usually very crowded. Along the way there is Home Depot and Lowes, Parker Square with Frank and Joe's, Star Rental (construction equipment), the Social Security office, plenty of medical facilities, and whatever Kell Freeway has to offer.

One complaint I have is the number of people that hog the left lane on either side of Kell, as if there are no other lanes. Why not move over, especially if you're travelling from Brook all the way to Barnett, or even Fairway, for example? Share the road! But I must admit, that complaint pales in comparison to the real depressing offering of the Kell route.

It's the big sign that has public service messages written in large and lit up letters. Sometimes it's highway information or Amber and Silver Alert messages, but so much of the time it delivers the somber highway death totals.

Every year, the total deaths on Texas highways hovers around an average of ten deaths a day. I know it varies day to day, but I find myself imagining ten heartbroken families every day immersed in grief with their loss. I picture children without one or both of their parents, or even worse, parents who have lost a child. Or the loss of grandparents. I also wonder how many of these deaths could have been avoided.

I like to write upbeat articles, but seeing the sign a couple of days ago made me think there might be some good come of all this loss if I helped spread the

word, even if the article is depressing. The sign said there had already been 327 deaths this year in Texas and it suggested we "END THE SPREE".

I did some research and found that there has been at least one death every single day on a Texas highway since 2000. Simply put, for nearly twenty years we haven't had a single day where we were free of this sadness on the Texas highways. But the average is ten daily, so some days must be extremely devastating across our great and beautiful state. Adding to the grief of these numbers are the main causes of these fatalities.

As I feared, most of these deaths could have easily been prevented. How sad to think we hold the key to making each day better for so many of our fellow Texans. The three major causes of highway fatalities are excessive speed, driving under the influence, and distraction, mainly from cell phone use. How easy it could be to make the right decision to slow down, call a cab, or contact your friends and loved ones a little bit later. Simple, yet life-saving decisions.

As you go about your life, be sure to respect the lives of others and give some thought to how you can best share the road with others. Vehicles are heavy, fast, and in need of handling with care. We do care, don't we?

If you have been even a little bit inspired to give much more thought to climbing into the driver's seat and taking on the responsibility to saving lives, call me or text me and share the good news. But please, CONTACT ME LATER!

-Johnny Divine

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Faces And Places



That City Show Final Episode with Nicole Welch, Eric Crosslin, Ben Remmert and Jennica Lambert



Impact 100 Mix and Mingle



Ryan Hager



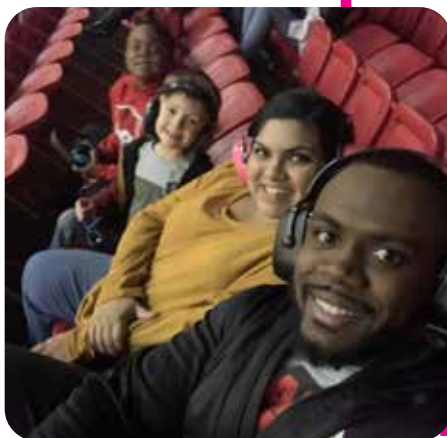
Iron Horse Super Bowl 51 Customer Appreciation Cookout



**Hub Snow man contest winner
Marcella Jimenez**



**Stephanie Medenwaldt and David Kelley
at Dancing for the Stars**



**Marina Muse & Family:
1st place winner of the Hubs
Monster Truck Show Tickets**



**Files Little and The Kept: On set of The Hubs
first music podcast**



**Brenda Ostyb & Family:
2nd place winner of the Hubs
Monster Truck Show Tickets**

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Spring is coming to Encore

Spring is here, or at least it has arrived at Encore the Christmas Store, located at 913 Indiana downtown. Their new Spring items are ripe for the picking. Tulips, bumblebees, and bunnies abound with all kinds of ideas for Spring decor.

“We still have Christmas, but we brought in a lot of wonderful spring items,” Cheryl Beer co-owner of the boutique said. John Beer, her husband and co-owner added, “We are celebrating the season of Spring,”

Cheryl Beer’s name might sound familiar to some. She was in partnership with Nelda Hickman for 31 years with a boutique called The Last Straw. They closed the store, deciding to retire. “After a week, I realized it wasn’t for me. I felt useless, bored. I needed to interact with people. I love Christmas so my husband and I decided we wanted to open a Christmas store. we had a very successful first Christmas downtown,” Cheryl said.

Encore opened in August with Christmas items, as well as fall and Halloween decorations. “Halloween is my second favorite,” Cheryl said with a grin.

“We love what we do. We love old customers and new customers, and it is going well. We



have a lady’s boutique section with clothing, jewelry, and bags,” she added. There is also a men’s section and even a military section. They have a gift for everyone. “We try to have creative gift ideas.”

John shared, “We are a boutique, so if you buy something here you will be one of the few people in Wichita Falls who have the item. We don’t buy hundreds of anything. We want people to come in and find things they can’t find in big box stores. We want to be known as the Christmas boutique store and not a wholesaler,” he said.

Cheryl bragged, “We have ordered a new line of lady’s linen wear that will come in March. We will have an event to bring that in. Also, in April we will have Spring decorating classes.”

One of their spring items is greenery. Their flowers and such are called Real Touch. They feel like real petals, and have a soft velvety

texture. “Our greenery is a little bit better than what you would find in other stores and are more realistic looking. Even I can decorate with them,” John said with a chuckle.

“It may be cliché, but we like to be known as people’s happy place and have been told this by people who come into our store,” Cheryl said.

“We are all about making memories. We want people to come in and see what they see. Hopefully, it brings a memory to their minds, and when they take it home, it makes new memories,” John said.

“Our mantra is we are all about making memories, whether it be Christmas, Easter, Spring or Halloween - or just whatever,” Cheryl said. “That is what life is all about - memories.”

Encore’s hours are 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays through Saturdays. To keep abreast with their latest events, they invite you to like their Facebook page

-Cindy Kahler Thomas



MARCH 2020



2020 COWBOY TRUE

The Ninth Annual Cowboy True takes place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, March 27 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 28 at the Forum on 2120 Speedway. The popular annual celebration of cowboy life through the work of outstanding artists returned in 2019 to the Forum (its birthplace) from the MPEC. The formal dinner starts at 5:30 p.m. Saturday with tickets priced at \$50 each. Earlier events are free to attend.

"We are very pleased with how Cowboy True has developed and grown," said Dan Shores, event founder and longtime cowboy artist. "We still have the same focus and that's to keep cowboy history alive. Cowboys are a dying breed and these artists help keep the cowboy life alive."

"Seventy-five percent of our artists have a direct relationship to ranching," said Kristine Thueson, Wichita Falls Arts Council Programming Coordinator. "They are either ranchers, make items for ranching and rodeo people, grew up on a ranch or they're horse people. They are not just random western artists."

There will be 38 artists and craftsmen who will show at Cowboy True in 2020. They come from around Texas to Utah as well as North Carolina. They show in 13 categories including bits, boots, buckles, cowboy



What: Cowboy True

When: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. March 27 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 28

Where: The Forum, 2120 Speedway Ave

Admission: Free. The Saturday night dinner is \$50 per seat.

Information: (940) 766-3347 or www.artscouncilwf.org/cowboy-true

cartoons, drawing, jewelry, painting, photography, saddles, sculpture, spurs, trappings/gear and woodworking.

Beginning Friday night and then all day Saturday, guests can see the artists' work, talk with them and discover who received 1st 2nd and 3rd place cash awards in each of the categories. The 2nd Annual Kids' poetry, art and photography contest winners will also be announced Friday.

"Cowboy True is an exhibit and show for everyone," said Thueson. "The artists are really personable and excited to talk to folks, not just about their art but also horses and cows and the cowboy life. They do more than represent their art – they also represent that world."

Friday night visitors can also experience David Holcomb's strolling fiddlers and enjoy beans, cornbread and hors d'oeuvres prepared by Abilene's World Champion Chuckwagon. On Saturday afternoon, guests will be able to watch the same chuckwagon crew prepare the ticketed chicken fried steak dinner.

to do. The artists will be there with their artwork. There will also be Living History reenactors from Ft. Griffin State Park at the event, as well as longhorn from the official Texas State longhorn herd.

Whispers of Hope Horse Farm will have horses in attendance, as Cowboy True begin its partnership with the area Horse Farm. A portion of proceeds from the two-day Cowboy True will go to support the group's PATH (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship) certification process.

Tickets for the Saturday night dinner are \$50, and are limited to 250 diners because of space. In the past, there were still tickets to sell on the day of the dinner. Advance tickets are available by contacting the Forum. The night of the dinner, numbers will be drawn from ticket numbers with winners claiming a number of prizes. The main prize is two tickets to the Rodeo National Finals in Las Vegas. The winner has the option of auctioning the main prize off that night and will receive 90 percent of the final price.

-Richard Carter



To ensure everyone has a chance to bid on the nearly two dozen art and gift package items, Cowboy True will feature a two-day silent auction this year rather than the live auction of the past.

Also, new to the event in 2020, is a Cowboy True-branded concert. The Forum has partnered with Spectra to bring well-known native Texas musician Johnny Rodriguez to play Memorial Auditorium beginning at 8 p.m. Friday.

The Saturday Cowboy True events open at 10 a.m. with lots of free and fun family things





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WICHITA FALLS ART ASSOCIATION

The Wichita Falls Art Association has been a staple in Wichita Falls for over 70 years and is still going strong. To commemorate this achievement, the organization is producing a lovely hardcover book, called Let Me Show You This, about the growth and accomplishments it and Wichita Falls have seen over the years.

There will also be two art shows open to the public as part of the festivity. The first show is called the Let Me Show You This Heritage Art Show, located at the Wichita Falls Museum of Art at Midwestern State University. The Heritage Art



Show opens on the 13th of March and will go to June 27th. However, the opening reception will take place on March 24th. Many of the

pieces for this show have been borrowed from collectors, since the art is from years past, but there will also be pieces that are from more current members. Some of the artists included are Polly Cox, Scotty Parsons, June Holoubeck and Steve Grey.

The new book will be available at the show or can be preordered. The cost is \$35. Monetary donations will also be accepted to assist with printing costs.

“On Thursday, April 16th, three experts will give a panel presentation on collecting art and Texas art, then relate it to the Heritage Art Exhibit,” said Ann Hunter, Chairperson of the book writing committee and one of the authors of the book. “These experts are all members of the Center for the Advancement and Study of Texas Art or CASETA. Dr. Francine Carraro, Dr. Jack Davis and Dr. Victoria Cummings will be the speakers. Dr. Carraro was previously the Director at the WFMA at MSU.”

One of the interesting tidbits found in the book includes a story about the Barwise family moving to Wichita Falls in 1890. They brought a little organ belonging to their daughter in their covered wagon. The organ was put on the porch and when she played it, the cowboys would come up in the yard and



listen to her play. When the First Presbyterian Church was formed, the organ was moved there.

“I put a little bit about the beginnings of music, theater, and operas along with the churches and schools - the very beginning of the birthing of the arts in Wichita Falls. I tried to show the architecture was part of the growth of the town. It illustrated their pride in the place where they lived and the desire to have beautiful things, Ann said. “The earliest mention of the Wichita Falls Art Association was in 1923, but apparently like most things it closed during the latter part of the depression and WWII. In 1948, the members decided to have a sidewalk art sale downtown and realized they needed a constitution and by-laws, which they created and then became established in 1949,” Ann continued. “Apparently my grandmother, Polly Hoffman, WWW.THEHUBNTX.COM

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WFAA WICHITA FALLS ART ASSOCIATION 70 YEARS

had seen a similar sidewalk art show in Greenwich Village in New York City and thought, 'Why don't we do that in Wichita Falls.' The sidewalk sales continued for many years, cementing the relationship of the WFAA with the city of Wichita Falls. Ironically, the Art Association opened one of the first galleries downtown in 2012, and helped to usher in the vibrant art scene which has returned to the downtown area."

The Wichita Falls Art Association Gallery is located at 600 8th Street, where its members show their artwork year-round.

"The book is organized by decades," said Kim Ward, President of the WFAA. "It is interesting because MARCH 2020

we are mixing a little bit about the history of what was going on with the Art Association, what was going on in the city, and what was going on in the world. It makes for a remarkable book. It isn't like a textbook. There are nice size photographs of the current and past members' artwork with beautiful paper. And, the cover has a nice feel to it."

The second art show opening is the Let Me Show You This Members Art Show at the Kemp Center for the Arts. It will take place from August 13th through September 28th, and will feature the current members' art.

-Cindy Kahler Thomas

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specials

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WEDNESDAY
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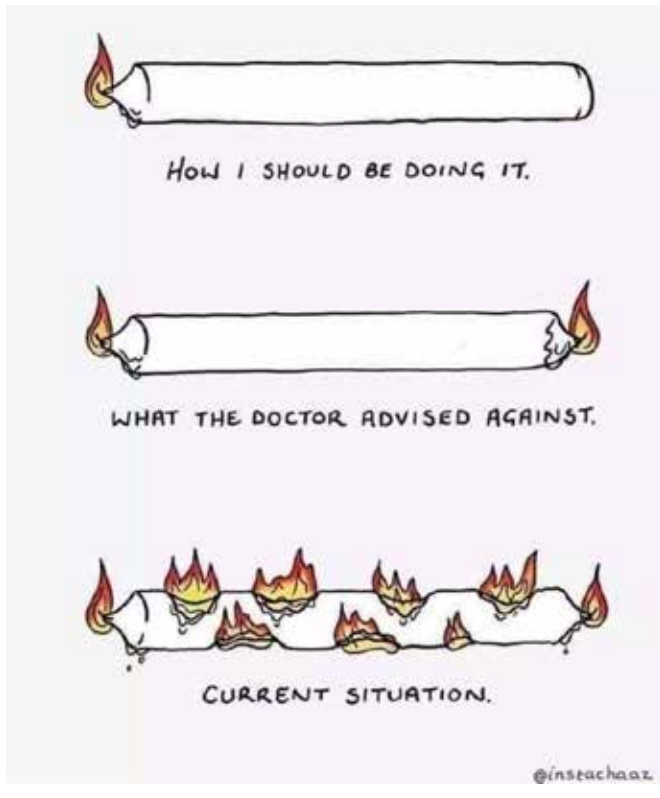
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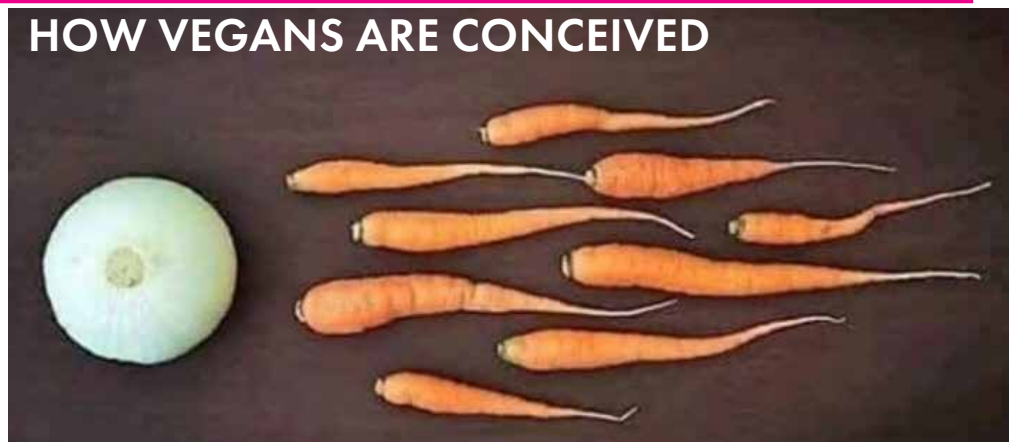
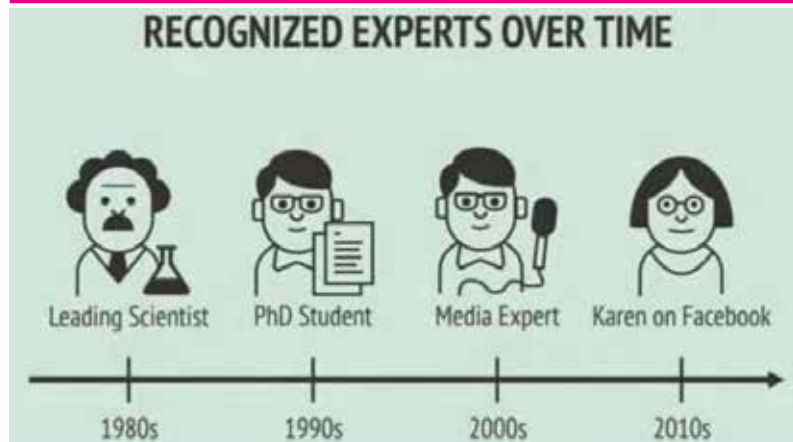
March 2020

ACROSS

- 2 _____ and Ladder has original wine and coffee made from recipes created by the owners
- 7 The cover story band will open for Bowling for Soup
- 8 What company is celebrating 60 years?
- 9 _____ Smith will be performing at the St. Patrick's Day Festival

DOWN

- 1 Fitness center focused on bungee workouts
- 2 Red River _____ Davidson
- 3 _____ Cafe is a new coffee shop in Wichita Falls
- 4 Boots and Heels for Hot Meals benefits Meals on
- 5 _____ Wichita Falls _____ Association is celebrating its 70th anniversary
- 6 _____ Oven Pizza is located on 7th Street near the courthouse



BOOTS AND HEELS FOR HOT MEALS

Boots, sneakers, sandals, heels – it takes all kinds of shoes to help Meals on Wheels.

The fundraiser High Heels for Hot Meals, benefitting THE Kitchen's Meals on Wheels program, is celebrating this year with a name change. The 6th Annual event is now Boots and Heels for Hot Meals.

THE Kitchen's largest fundraiser for Meals on Wheels will take place Thursday, April 2nd, at The Forum. If heels are not your thing, give boots a try. Tickets are \$75. Each ticket provides 15 meals to the seniors, disabled, and homebound served through the Wichita Falls Meals on Wheels program. 100% of funds raised will stay in the community.

Meals on Wheels has been feeding the hungry in Wichita Falls for more than 50 years. Over 300 volunteers deliver 800 meals a day throughout our community. Hot, nutritious meals are provided Monday through Friday and shelf stable meals are delivered for the weekends. In 2019, exactly 255,805 meals were prepared for those in the program.

Meals on Wheels is also known for more than just a meal. Volunteers and staff do wellness checks when they deliver. Approximately 35% of clients live in total isolation. With no friends or family nearby, the Meals on Wheels volunteers are the only human contact they receive.

"Our visits are as important as our meals. If a client doesn't answer the door to receive their meal, we know why before 5:00pm that day," says Jackie Hamm, CEO of THE Kitchen. "We call them and if we receive no answer, we call their emergency contacts, sometimes the police, and go visit them ourselves. On many occasions we have found they have fallen and were unable to reach a phone."

THE Kitchen says they are a "family of five programs" because their clients feel like family. The Red Door Senior Center, Green Door Senior Center, Meals on Wheels, Kid's Meals



Program and the new AniMEALS program are all under the umbrella of THE Kitchen. AniMEALS was launched in July 2019, to provide food for dogs and cats of Meals on Wheels clients.

"We learned an alarming number of our elderly and disabled were not eating all of their nutritious meal, but actually sharing it with their pets. This is a real problem for clients who live on a very low income and desperately



need the full nutritional benefits of our meals, not to mention the fact our meals are not always healthy for pets," Lisa Williams, Director of Special Programs explained. "Now, clients who have difficulty adequately feeding their cat or dog receive supplemental pet food at no charge through the AniMEALS Program."

Meals on Wheels is always seeking volunteers and donations to sustain the program. Boots and Heels offers an opportunity for businesses and donors to assist in this ever-growing need. According to statistics in 2019, 63% of Meals on Wheels clients live below the poverty level which is \$12,400 a year. Many survive on close to \$8,000 a year. A majority say their meal from Meals on Wheels is the only food they eat in a day.

Betty, a client of Meals on Wheels who is 82, shared, "I can't stand very long and have to use a walker. I am on oxygen 24 hours a day. I don't know what I would do without Meals on Wheels. The volunteers are so sweet. I appreciate them very much."

Marj, another recipient of Meals on Wheels said, "I am so thankful for my meals and for the volunteers who check on me. Since my leg was amputated, I have difficulty doing things using my walker. Most of the time, I make sandwiches so I don't have to stand. A hot meal means more than I can say."

These are only two of hundreds who depend on Meals on Wheels to survive - hundreds who will benefit from the funds raised at Boots and Heels for Hot Meals 2020.

Boot and Heels will be unique this year, modifying the tried and true Shoe Garden to have both boots and high heels sponsored by local businesses. Each participant decorates a shoe and a bidding war takes place, with guest donating towards their favorite shoe to receive the People's Choice Award. This year, a Judge's Choice Award will also be given. A barbecue buffet, catered by JBW BBQ, will be served to

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FEEDS THE HUNGRY IN WICHITA FALLS

fill even the hardest of appetites. Entertainment will include Greg Gibbs and the Red Door Band playing country swing along with music from the infamous DJ Marcus (MF Maniac).

Raffle tickets will be available to win a package valued at \$1,000.

There will also be casino tables, a live shoe cam, as well as and a live and silent auction.

A new spin to the event will be a Shoe Tree. It is much like an Angel Tree, except it is decorated with boots and heel ornaments representing clients of the Meals on Wheels program. Attendees can purchase an ornament for the cost of \$25, which will provide weekend meals for one month to the client listed on their shoe.

Pam Hughes Pak, Director of Marketing and Development for THE Kitchen and committee member for Boots and Heels, summed up the heart of the event. "Those who attend Boots and

High Heels enjoy the celebration but are really there to make a difference for the hungry in our community. Many of those who attend are faithful donors and volunteers. They know firsthand the impact the program makes," Pam said.

Again, tickets are \$75 and can be purchased by going to thekitchenwf.org and clicking on the Boots and Heels for Hot Meals icon. Tickets are also available at Karat Bar & Bistro, THE Kitchen office at 1000 Burnett, and United Supermarkets.

For more information, search for Boots and Heels for Hot Meals on Facebook, call (940)322-6232 or email phughes@thekitchenwf.org. To learn more about THE Kitchen, visit their website at www.thekitchenwf.org



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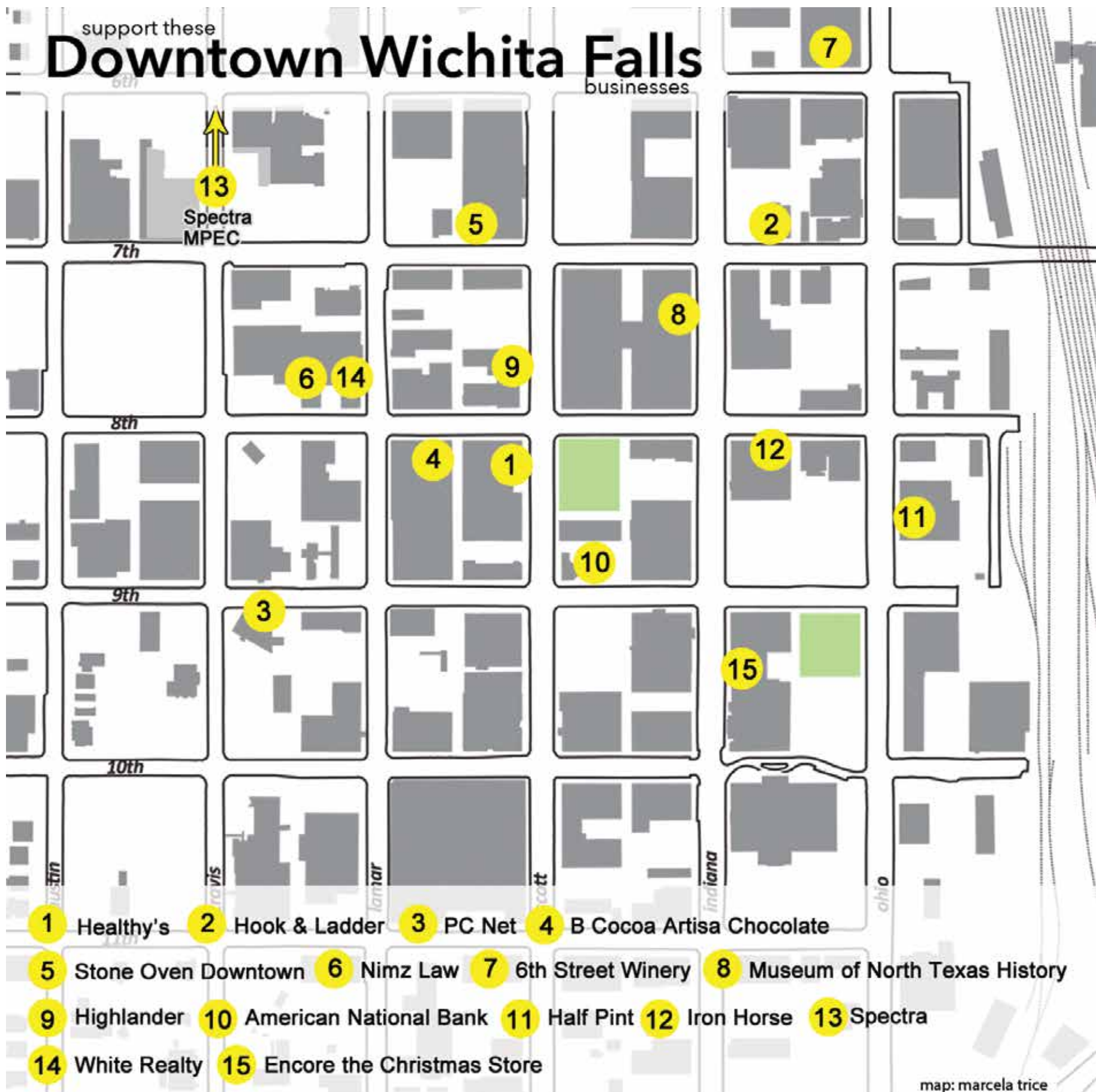
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FEBRUARY EVENTS CALENDAR

MUSIC

March 1

-Sunday Funday with Mark Forehand @ Stick's Place

March 2

-Karaoke @ The Broken Tap

March 3

-Open Mic with Clint Vines @ Stick's Place

March 4

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

-Wine Down Wednesdays @ The Maplewood

March 5

-Karaoke Night with Tom Brillhart @ The Maplewood

-Donice Morace @ Silver Dollar Saloon

March 6

-James Cook and Friends @ The Iron Horse Pub

-Open Mic Fridays @ Texas Nite Life

-Open Mic Night @ 8th St. Coffee House

-Kansas @ Memorial Auditorium

March 7

-Race Rutledge and The Texas Knights @ Texas Nite Life

-Retro Night @ The Maplewood

-Tanner Fenoglio and Jarrod Morris @ The Iron Horse Pub

-Justin David Band @ Silver Dollar Saloon

March 8

-Sunday Funday with Mark Forehand @ Stick's Place

March 9

-Karaoke @ The Broken Tap

March 10

-Open Mic with Clint Vines @ Stick's Place

March 11

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

-Wine Down Wednesdays & Painting Class with Vickie

Miliam-Milligan @ The Maplewood

March 12

-The Acoustic Parlor ft. Don Chance and Andrew Toole @
9th Street Studios

March 13

-Everhymn, Trigger The Dead, and Gypsy Railhead with
special guests Better Strangers @ Stick's Place

-Open Mic Fridays @ Texas Nite Life

-Open Mic with Nick Dan @ The Maplewood

-Martin Byrnes with special guests TBA @ The Iron Horse
Pub

-Open Mic Night @ 8th St. Coffee House

March 14

-Race Rutledge and The Texas Knights @ Texas Nite Life

-Retro Night @ The Maplewood

-St. Patrick's Day Bash with Wyatt Zane @ BackPorch
DraftHouse

-St. Patrick's Day Festival: Outside Stage – Martin Byrnes,
Hannah Belle Lecter, Erick Willis, and Shane Smith &
The Saints / Inside Stage – Martin Byrnes, Mike O'Neill &
Friends, and Downtown Royalty @ The Iron Horse Pub

-Cashroh @ Silver Dollar Saloon

March 15

-Sunday Funday with Mark Forehand @ Stick's Place

March 16

-Karaoke @ The Broken Tap

March 17

-Open Mic with Clint Vines @ Stick's Place

-St. Patties Day Jam with Gannon Fremin and CCREV &
The Casey Abbe Band @ Silver Dollar Saloon

March 18

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

-Wine Down Wednesdays @ The Maplewood

March 19

-Karaoke Night with Tom Brillhart @ The Maplewood

March 20

-Open Mic Fridays @ Texas Nite Life

-R.I.P. with special guests TBA @ The Iron Horse Pub

-Open Mic Night @ 8th St. Coffee House

March 21

-Race Rutledge and The Texas Knights @ Texas Nite Life

-Retro Night @ The Maplewood

-Desperado (Eagles Tribute Band from Dallas, TX) with
Brandt Holmes @ The Iron Horse Pub

-LaDezz @ Silver Dollar Saloon

-Cade Roth and The BlackSheep @ Wichita Falls Brewing
Company

-The Derailers @ The Royal Theater in Archer City, TX

March 22

-Sunday Funday with Mark Forehand @ Stick's Place

March 23

-Karaoke @ The Broken Tap

March 24

-Open Mic with Clint Vines @ Stick's Place

March 25

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

-Wine Down Wednesdays & Painting Class with Vickie
Miliam-Milligan @ The Maplewood

March 27

-Open Mic Fridays @ Texas Nite Life

-Open Mic with Nick Dan @ The Maplewood

-Forever Mac (Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band from DFW) @
The Iron Horse Pub

-Open Mic Night @ 8th St. Coffee House

-Cowboy True presents Johnny Rodriguez @ Memorial
Auditorium

March 28

-Metal Fest @ Stick's Place

-Six Miles Out @ Vernon Parts Sports Bar and Grill in
Vernon, TX

-Bruce Lyons Sidewalk Jam/Concert @ Bruce Lyons
Computers and Guitars

-Race Rutledge and The Texas Knights @ Texas Nite Life

-Retro Night @ The Maplewood

-Throttlebody and Jet Black Sleeper @ The Iron Horse Pub

March 29

-Sunday Funday with Mark Forehand @ Stick's Place

March 30

-Karaoke @ The Broken Tap

March 31

-Open Mic with Clint Vines @ Stick's Place

ART

March 21

-InnerSpace: The Rabbit Hole of Technology and Scale @
9th Street Studios

Exhibits @ Wichita Falls Museum of Art at MSU Texas

-Let Me Show You This! Organized by the Wichita Falls Art
Association: March 13 – June 27

-Words and Pictures: Vernon Fisher: March 21 – May 30
Exhibits @ The Kemp

-Michele J. Garcia: Idiosyncratic: Jan. 17 – March 22

-Sierra Archer: Jan. 31 – April 5

-Ginger Boller: Feb. 7 – April 19

-Red River Photography Club: March 27 – May 31

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Exhibits @ The Forum
 -Rachel Liles: Jan. 10 – March 13
 -Sandra Dunn: March 20 – May 22

EVENTS

March 2

-The Bachelor Watch Party @ Half Pint Taproom & Restoration Hall

March 5

-Trivia Night @ The Deep End

March 6

-Beer & Bingo benefitting Wichita Adult Literacy Council @ Whiskeyta Club
 -Kansas @ Memorial Auditorium

March 7

-Downtown Wichita Falls Farmers Market @ 713 Ohio Ave
 -8th Annual Yellow Rose Sertoma Chili Cook Off @ Stick's Place
 -Dinosaur Adventure @ Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall

-National Cereal Day 2020 @ TAG'S Maniac's Mansion

-Falls Town Flyers vs. New Mexico Runners @ Kay Yeager Coliseum

-Illusion Show Night @ Club Candy

March 8

-Dinosaur Adventure @ Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall

-Falls Town Flyers vs. Bombers @ Kay Yeager Coliseum

March 9

-The Bachelor Watch Party @ Half Pint Taproom & Restoration Hall

March 11
 -Wichita Falls Ranch, Farm, and Hemp Expo @ J.S. Bridwell Ag Center

March 12

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

-Trivia Night @ The Deep End

March 14

-Stitch Meet-Up @ Wichita Falls Public Library

-Micro Wrestling @ Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall

-Illusion Show Night @ Club Candy

March 19

-Trivia Night @ The Deep End

March 20

-Improv Night @ Backdoor Theatre

March 21

-Downtown Wichita Falls Farmers Market @ 713 Ohio Ave

-Falls Town Flyers vs. Wings @ Kay Yeager Coliseum

-Illusion Show Night @ Club Candy

March 26

-Trivia Night @ The Deep End

March 27

-Cowboy True presents Johnny Rodriguez @ Memorial Auditorium

-Cowboy True @ The Forum

March 28

-Balance at the Brewery @ Wichita Falls Brewing Company

-Cowboy True @ The Forum

-Steve Quezada Comedy @ Half Pint Taproom & Restoration Hall

MARCH 2020

-Red River Wine and Beer Festival @ J.S. Bridwell Ag Center
 -Xtreme International Motorcycle Ice Racing @ Kay Yeager Coliseum
 -Illusion Show Night @ Club Candy

THEATRE

March 1, 6, 7, 13 and 14

-Disney's The Lion King Jr. followed by Jungle Safari After Party @ Wichita Theatre

March 5, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14

-Oliver @ Backdoor Theatre

FOR THE KIDS & FAMILY

Every Tuesday

-Storytime @ Wichita Falls Public Library

Every Wednesday

-Toddler Time @ Wichita Falls Public Library

Every Thursday

-Nature Program @ River Bend Nature Center

March 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12 and 13

-Negro Leagues Beisbol exhibition @ The Museum of North Texas History

March 7

-Recycled Magazine Art @ Wichita Falls Public Library

March 9

-Teen STEAM @ Wichita Falls Public Library

March 14

-Nature Tots @ River Bend Nature Center

-Science Saturday @ River Bend Nature Center

March 16 – 19

-The Art of Spring Break @ Wichita Falls Public Library

March 16 – 20

-Spring Break STEAM Camp @ River Bend Nature Center

March 25

-Whatever Wednesday @ Wichita Falls Public Library

March 28

-Nature Tots @ River Bend Nature Center

-Science Saturday @ River Bend Nature Center

-Disaster Preparedness @ Wichita Falls Public Library

Have something to add to next month's calendar?

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-Early Bird 5P-6P
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THRATTLEBODY

What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas. But when two area guitarists, making their annual trip to Sin City, started talking about forming a band, they ended up creating great rock and roll music enjoyable for anything from fun car trips to listening in clubs.

Throttlebody got its start less than

a year ago when Ryan Hager and Jeff Catlin finally made due on their annual car trip to Las Vegas talks about forming a rock and roll band. Throttlebody has a distinctive 90's rock sound with a lot of 70's rock in there too, Hager said. "The music really comes from a love of classic rock and

roll."

Hager and Catlin asked drummer Mike Hardison to join, "who we knew would drive it in the right direction," and he signed on. Originally, Rusty Holcomb (of Black Metal band Lycergus) joined on bass, until a new job made it impossible to play. The band then enlisted long-time friend Aaron Epp, and they were ready to kick out the jams.

"I had a catalogue of songs finished and ready, and I brought them to the guys. We composed them to be more rock and roll," Hager said. "When I write them, they start out more country-ish, but I knew with a just a little bit of drive to them, they would be rock and roll."

Catlin also writes songs, and

both songwriters present their material to the group. They will compose and arrange the songs from there. "Mike and Aaron really help steer the songs to make them as good as they can be," he said.

Hager writes the lyrics and sings, while Catlin sings harmonies. "Everyone has a microphone to sing gang vocals."

The resulting music, he said, is fun and "like windshield-time rock and roll - whatever you would put on when you're taking a trip. The songs are pretty straight-forward, and a number of them could serve as anthems. Back when we (all the members except Catlin) played with James Cook in Dempsey, he was a huge proponent of me understanding what makes a





good song, focusing on writing something that will be accepted by more people than just my close circle of friends,” Hager said with a laugh.

The band played its first show on a summertime Thursday Art Walk at the Brewery and had a great crowd. They have since played a number of area shows, and their first headlining show at the Iron Horse Pub will be an EP release party on March 28th, with Jet Black Sleeper opening.

Rather than wait to record an album, the band chose four originals last fall to demo in an area studio with Catlin engineering. They then shopped studios to record and went with Bart Rose at Fort Worth Sound. Throttlebody sent those recorded songs to three producers, “because we wanted them to be as good as they could possibly be,” Hager said. “We got a MARCH 2020

really good response (from former Wichitan) Jaret Reddick (Bowling for Soup) who said he would love to help us.”

“I get sent a lot of music,” said Reddick, “but when I heard ‘Wasted on the Young,’ I was instantly in. I really think they are onto something, and wouldn’t be surprised to see them all over the place in a year or two!”

The band did preproduction with Reddick at Bowling for Soup’s rehearsal space and recorded four instrumental originals and one cover (Merle Haggard’s “Mama Tried”) in four days, and Hager then did vocal tracks with Jaret in his home studio.

“Working with Throttlebody has been a rare treat,” Reddick said. “They are all great musicians, anxious to make something great. Oh, and holy crap, Ryan’s voice is CRA CRA!”

Throttlebody will release the four song CD EP, with “Wasted on the Young” and “Steel Machine” at the Pub show for a mere \$5. The Haggard song will be online.

Later this spring, on May 16th, the band travels to Dallas to open for Bowling for Soup, where they will play Dallas Maverick’s owner Mark Cuban’s new club, HiFi, on its opening weekend.

“We’re self-conscious enough to know we’re not going to be rock stars,” Hager said, “but we also

have our stuff together so we can play shows when we want and when opportunities come up. Anything we can and want to do, we’ll do it.”

By the way, Hager said with a laugh, the name Throttlebody came from Holcomb. “It’s actually an alter ego of his, and said it was ours to use.”

Throttlebodyband.com

for merchandise and news

- Richard Carter

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Shane Smith, the singer and songwriter of high energy road warrior Americana act Shane Smith and the Saints, absolutely loves playing festival shows.

"Festivals are what I get most excited about," Smith said. "Already our emphasis is to have a high energy show, right? But in a festival setting you already got a lot of people there and an hour or so set of just bangers. You go out there and just kind of hammer at the most high energy show you can, and it's a blast."

Smith and his band will play the main stage of St. Patrick's Day Downtown Street Festival starting at 8:30 p.m. Sat., March 14th, across from the Iron Horse Pub. Speaking to Smith's love of playing festivals, St. Pat's in Wichita Falls is the city's largest and most energetic street festival.

Shane Smith and the Saints features a fiddle player, lead guitarist, a stout rhythm section and four-part harmonies. They play up to 200 shows on the Red Dirt/Texas Country circuit, but they are just as at home at quieter, listening theatres generally more in tune with singer songwriters.

Smith originally got into music in high school, after his brother brought a guitar home from college. The high schooler picked it up, learned some chords and liked playing. "But it was something about the songwriting part of it that I really got into," Smith said.

He began listening to Texas favorites like Adam Carroll, Ray Wylie Hubbard and Hayes Carll, even Guy Clark and Bob Dylan – lots of different types of songwriters. After two years playing tennis at a junior college in Tyler, he transferred to St. Ed's in Austin to be nearer his girlfriend (now his wife) and the 'live music capitol of the world' scene.

"Austin gives you the opportunity, whether you want it or not, to get thrown to the wolves. It's like Nashville or Broadway. A lot of the bar owners kind of encouraged the original stuff, at times. It wasn't just all covers. It helped me get comfortable before audiences, as a performer and with a band."

Smith moved with several musician friends and got a house in South Austin with a soundproof room (owned by a guy who managed hip hop bands). "We could play all night and no one could hear it. It was so awesome for guys who were 20 or 21 years old playing music and jamming."

The band's sound eventually came together, largely, he said, through playing out. "The more

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Shane Smith, Photo: David Wells

audiences you play before, the more festivals you play, the more bands you perform with, the broader your ear gets. Your taste in music evolves. Our sound has changed pretty drastically since the very beginning to now."

The band's third album, "Hail Mary," was released last summer. It was described by one music critic as crossing "the gritty, blue-collar storytelling of Bruce Springsteen with the singsong hooks of Mumford & Sons." Smith is pretty pleased with the direction they are going.

Smith said their music is like folk rock. "Some of it is rock and some of it is folk/country style and some of it is singer songwriter. We try to be as upbeat as we can and as high energy as we can. It's hard to put it in a genre."

Playing to basically red dirt crowds has really been a godsend for him. "It's really a unique thing that there is a scene of music lovers that are lovers of independent music and indie songwriting and just so supportive of those indie bands, like this whole Red Dirt thing has."

"We are definitely an oddball sound within the scene. But everybody's been so supportive of us regardless. People like to call it a lot of different genres but to me it's this huge infrastructure of people who support independent music and that's the coolest thing ever."

Smith said they try to appeal to a wide range of audiences: rock, country, bluegrass and Americana fans. Shane Smith and the Saints has played the Pub several times, most recently in December, and really likes the enthusiasm of Wichita Falls crowds.

"I'm excited to be playing St. Patrick's. I've heard the town really comes alive for it, and I'm excited to see it first-hand."

Admission: \$12 adults, \$10 for military and students, and free for children 12 and under. See the Downtown Wichita Falls Development Facebook for more information.

- Richard Carter





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WEIGHTLESS

Tiffany Humpert Brillhart, daughter of a well-known area entrepreneur, opened her Weightless fitness studio in the Defining Moments dance studio last year, on November 11th. The studio has done so well, that she is moving and expanding her business downtown to 1110 8th Street, and expects to have her grand opening no later than March 11th.

"We needed more bungees and more space," she said of her former digs where they had six bungees and offered bungee fitness, aerial fitness and rebounding/trampoline fitness. They will now have eight bungees. She and her five bungee certified instructors will add a third level to their two levels of bungee classes, as well as bungee yoga.

"Nobody has offered bungee yoga yet in the United States," Brillhart said, "and we are actually creating it. We have a yoga instructor who works at Balance who just got bungee certified on February 1st. She's combining her yoga skills with the bungee."

Brillhart said they currently have over 100 clients and will expand 22



their base once they move to the new location. "We will start offering unlimited memberships and people will be able to schedule as many classes as they wish each week."

They currently teach six days a week, and their 50-minute classes are scheduled online at www.weightlesswf.com. "You can sign up, pay online and book your group classes," she said.

Bungee is really up-and-coming, she said. "It started in Taiwan and a girl from Arizona brought it to the US in 2009 or 2010. It's really come on in the past several years," she said.

Brillhart described bungee fitness "as a low impact, high intensity workout. It is a lot easier on your joints, knees, ankles and hips. It's really good for a lot of older people in their 60's and '70s,

for people with degenerative arthritis, or for others who suffer from pain for whatever reason." With bungee fitness, she said, people can work around their injuries and things that are painful for them. It's very low impact, but it's definitely a workout. "I have one woman who can't use her hand, so when she does a burpee, she can do it without hands, and the bungee holds her off the ground." The bungee is actually hung from the ceiling and is attached to a carabiner that is then attached to a harness made specifically for bungee fitness. It has two layers in case one fails, she said, like during a burpee when the other would catch it. A burpee is when someone squats, then shoot their legs back, then squats and stands up.

Brillhart got into fitness certification four years ago after she appeared on Season 5 of "Extreme Weight Loss" on ABC. "I wanted to help people who were overweight to be healthy and to inspire and encourage people. When I found out I had cancer in 2017, I realized I had
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to find a new way to inspire and encourage people, and this is the way we did it.

“The hormone treatments hurt my joints so much that I couldn’t do traditional fitness anymore, so I started coaching trampoline fitness. I wanted to do aerial silks, aerial hammock fitness, and then I found bungee fitness.”

She researched bungee fitness facilities online and became certified to teach bungee fitness through Sling Bungee Fitness in Edmond, Oklahoma in July 2019. Tiffany was born and raised in Wichita Falls, and her father Kenny has a national business with his Kenny’s Seasonings.

- Richard Carter



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MICHELLE J. GARCIA

Michelle J. Garcia is a digital artist, and her art is currently in the North Light Gallery at the Kemp Center for the Arts at 1300 Lamar. Her work is not what most would call traditional but is visually stimulating, featuring the landscape of downtown Wichita Falls. She calls them Visual Distortions of Reality, and they number 1 through 44.

“My art is not to highlight what we see with our eyes. My art is my taking license and

saying it can be anything. It can take a person, a place, a thing, and anything I imagine can presented visually,” Michelle explains. “I have a vision. I have a thought. I have something inside I am trying to show, or a feeling I am trying to express.”

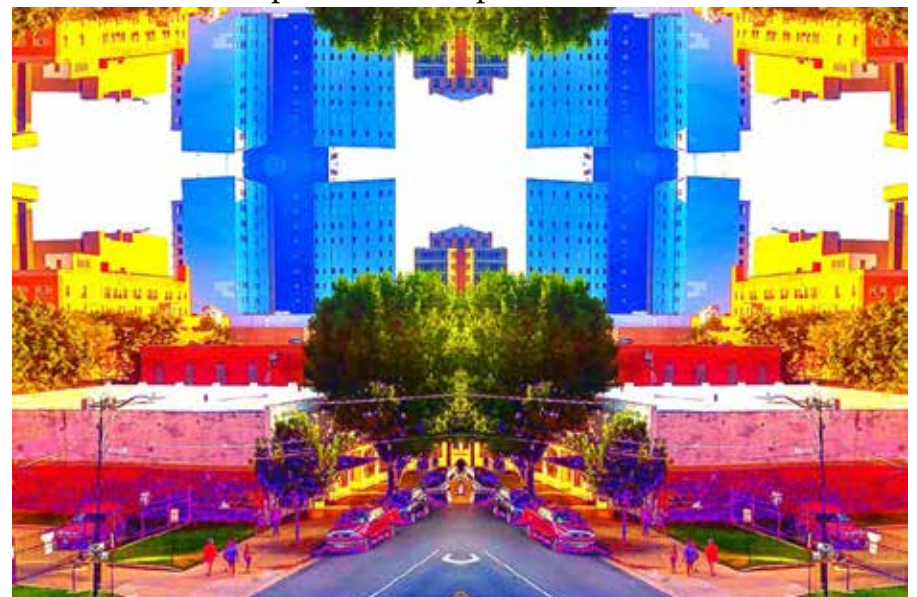
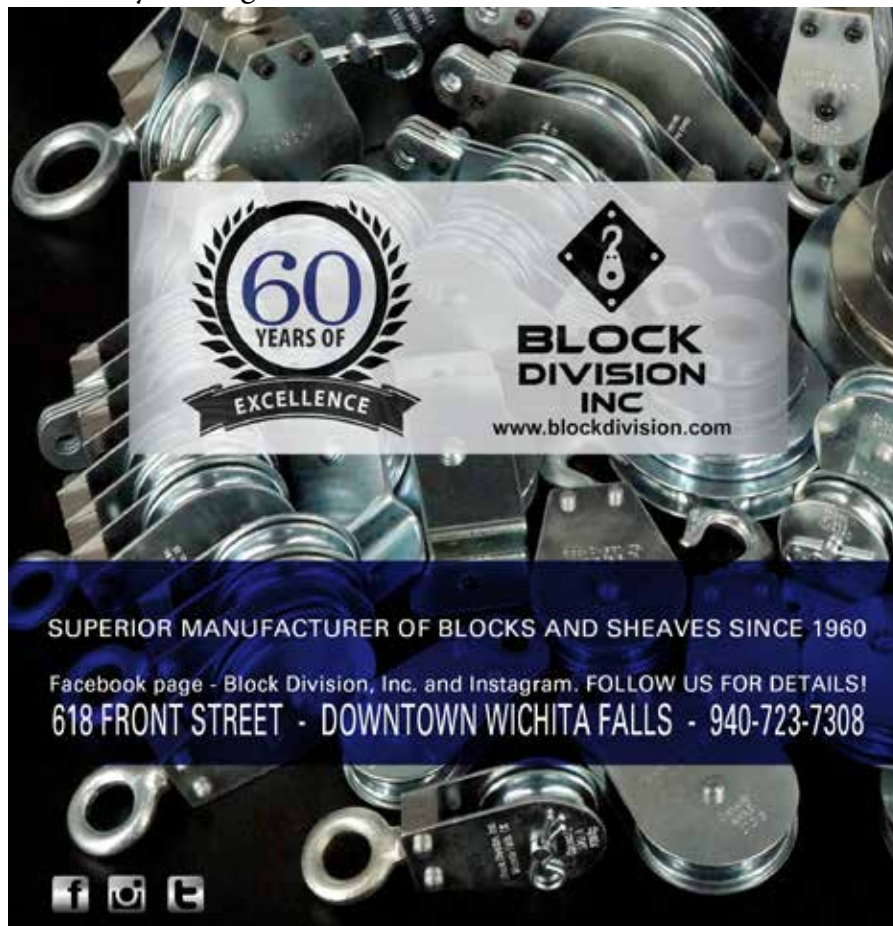
However, there is one piece of art that seems different than the others. It is a lovely photo of Michelle’s late grandmother, Mary Garcia. Michelle dedicated her show to “Nana.” “The reason I wanted to

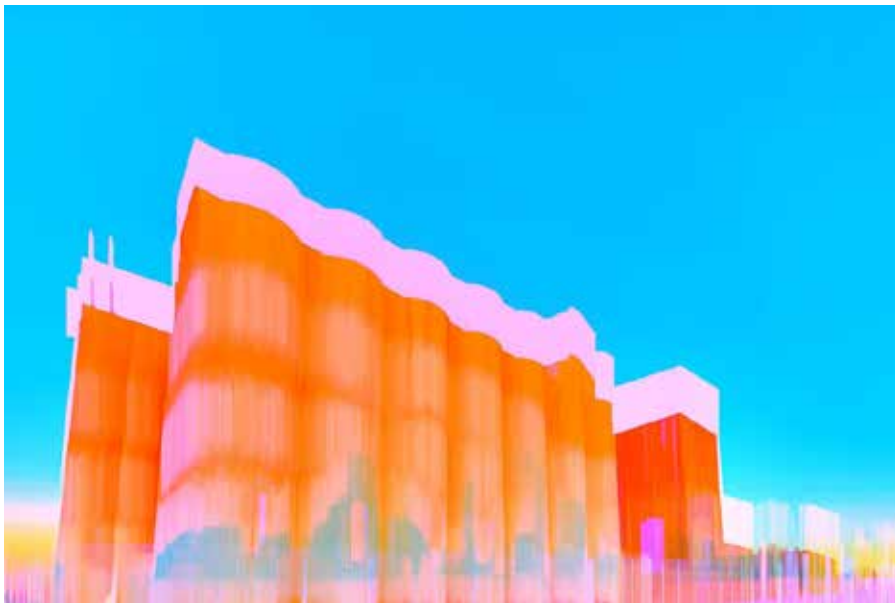
dedicate the show to her is because none of this would have happened without her in my life. The picture is here because I wanted everyone to see her. This shot was taken on her front porch in Quanah, and you can see me in the reflection in her glasses. This is her loving me. She passed in 2018.”

Michelle had a very different idea in mind for the pieces in her art exhibit. “I was working on something else for this show, and I was struggling. So, I started playing around on my phone. You know how people paint and draw and do automatic drawings? Well, I do my own version, and that is how it happened,” she recalled. The first piece of the series, # 1, started with a photo taken

from a friend’s apartment in the LaSalle building one night during the art walk. “I didn’t think anything about it. I take a million pictures, but when I started struggling with what I was working on, I thought, ‘Let’s play a little bit.’ And it just flowed. I was still trying to work on two other series, but then I just jumped in with this,” Michelle said with a smile. “These birthed all the pieces in my show.”

“I did over 400 in some way, shape or form. Any time I do a new process like this, part of it is teaching myself how to do it. I can sync it over to my phone, and these all bounce between the computer and the phone. There are different apps on my phone, and I use one to start





with the mirrors.” Digital Distortion of Reality #15 is a perfect example. The image is mirrored horizontally and vertically so there are 4 images of the same building, with the trees in front of the building, meeting in the center. “Then it all goes back to Photoshop, so I can clean it up and make sure nothing is wonky,” she shared. “I want to talk about color. This one is a good one for color (#44). Every single color I have used in all my pieces, I have seen downtown with my own eyes on the building or if the sun is setting. I love downtown. I came to downtown even when I was a kid,” Michelle said. “I have just looked at them and it sunk in, so I went for it. People told me, when I moved to town, how ugly the Atterbury is and how it is an eyesore.”

Atterbury is the abandoned grain elevator downtown many in the art community would like to see a large-scale mural painted on. “I always thought

Atterbury was so cool. So, in #44, I wanted people to see it for what you could imagine it to be. I am so happy about this. I am going to do more in this style because it makes me think about popsicles and summer.” Reality #44 has orange, pink, blue and purple flowing down it, not unlike a popsicle. It is a beautiful whimsical piece of art. “I didn’t truly realize the amount of work this show would take. Normally, I have a small group of friends who give me some input when I call, but this time I didn’t do that. I just did what my Nana said - I jumped in with two feet. She said to trust yourself sometimes. I am thinking maybe my instincts are really starting to develop as an artist. Maybe I can listen to myself a little more and put stock in what I think. My art is my heart,” Michelle revealed.

“I want to encourage people to go out and take chances. Be creative. Fail, fail, fail. Keep doing and failing. Keep doing



and trying. Every time I fail, I learn something from it, Michelle said passionately. “What can I learn from this and leave the rest behind? Just get out there and jump in with two

feet.”

Michelle’s show will be at the Kemp Center for the Arts through March 22, and it is a must-see.

-Cindy Kahler Thomas



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Hobo Coffee & Ice Co.

When you pull up in the Hobo Coffee & Ice Co. parking lot at 3202 Seymour Highway, you know you are someplace special. The building is a stylishly refurbished packing crate. The inside walls are covered with signs letting you know not to take yourself so seriously to complimenting their big windows. The patio has bright covered tables, chairs and benches with an area for live music. The atmosphere is fun and carefree, with a homey yet trendy feel to it. Mary Beth Cook and her partner, Kenneth Sheffler, have worked hard to create a family-friendly ambiance. There are tetherball poles that will also hold a projector screen so movies can be played in the spring. "It is very laid back, very eclectic, and the first movie of the year will be Jaws. Kenneth brought everything to life from my vision," Mary Beth said. "Hobo is bringing families together, and it is bringing people together."

"We started out as a snow cone stand in 2017 on Southwest Parkway, but we knew we were going to do coffee. In fact, the plan started with coffee. The idea came quickly that summer, and we started planning. We opened this January after jumping through a lot of hoops," Mary Beth explained. "We still have the snow cone stand and call it Baby Hobo."

Mary Beth approached this endeavor with a certain amount of trepidation because she had always been a stay at home wife and mother. When that changed, she



had decisions to make. "This is a labor of love, and this is for my daughters. I wanted them to be proud of me. I want to carry this from generation to generation and my hope is to one day franchise," she said. Mary Beth has two daughters, Tailor Barnes and Carleigh Cook. Carleigh works at the coffee shop and Tailor "pops in as needed."

"When you come here you aren't going to feel uncomfortable. You are not going to feel out of place. You are going to feel like you are home. The first day we opened, people were lined up out the door, and I was scared to open. But we did it and people just kept saying, 'We feel like we are at home.' That afternoon I realized we are more than coffee, we ARE home," Mary Beth shared. "When you come here you can be laidback. I have had girls come to study, wrapped up in blankets. I had a group of mothers ask me one day, 'Can we just drop our kids off at school and come in our pajamas?' I said yes, and the next morning they came running out of their cars in their cute pajamas."

The shop carries a variety of goodies to please any palate. "We will serve snow cones in the spring. We serve Lotus energy drinks, all plant-based and fruit-based with no chemicals. We do all types of coffee drinks including Frappuccino and even Affogato, which is espresso and ice cream. We carry Coke products and CBD drinks in 3 flavors. They are really good about taking headaches away and reducing

anxiety," Mary Beth said.

The pastries are delectable. There are homemade cakes, pies, cake pops and cookies.

Mary Beth's biggest challenge is being short-handed because the business has been so successful. "We are trying to get acclimated to find out what days are busier than other days and what times are busiest, but we are working on it," she stressed.

"It is funny people don't get on their cell phones much here. They make friends. I have had people sitting in different booths who get to know each other and end up in the same booth. It is all about family, bringing life back to what it was before the cell phone, before the busyness. Just bring your family here and spend a couple of hours. You will be back," Mary Beth bragged.

They are open Monday to Thursday 5:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 5:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., and Sunday 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

-Cindy Kahler Thomas



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UNIFORMS AND RANKS OF SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE

Have you ever been curious to know about Sheppard's uniforms and the meanings of their patches? Not everyone knows the details and meanings of the different uniforms worn, not even if you have a close association with Sheppard over a long time.

To begin with, a bluish camouflage



uniform with stripes on it is the ABU, the "Airman Battle Uniform." On the ABU, officers have their rank on their collar and their hat, while enlisted Air Force members have their rank about halfway down the sleeve of their arm. This identifies an officer much easier. Knowing the enlisted/officer division is important, which is why uniforms make it clear.

If you see someone walking around with no rank on sleeves, or collar, or hat, that person has the rank of "Airman Basic," a.k.a. E-1, who is participating in their very first military training beyond Basic at Sheppard. "AiT" (Airman in Training) is used to refer to USAF members working on their first military training at their "tech school."

Beyond Airman Basic, all enlisted ranks have stripes on the sleeves. The first stripes given are turned upward, like little wings. The more stripes, the higher the rank. When you see stripes going both up and down, you are looking at an Air



Force enlisted person with a higher level of responsibility.

The USAF is in the process of changing their camouflage uniform. Starting in October of 2018, they authorized a greener uniform also being used by the Army, called the OCP uniform ("Operational Camouflage Pattern"). The last day the USAF will be allowed to use the ABU uniform will be in April of 2021. In the meantime, you will see both the OCP and the ABU will be worn on and off Sheppard.

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On the OCP uniform, everyone wears their rank in the center of their chest. Officers, in addition, have their rank on their hats. On the OCP, the stripes for enlisted USAF members are brown and all the officer ranks are brown as well, except for the ranks of First Lieutenant and Lieutenant Colonel. Their uniform's rank is in black.

Unlike enlisted rank, officer ranks in the US military are not additive until you reach the level of general. Each rank has its own symbol (though the captain rank does

look like two lieutenant ranks):

In addition to the ranks I mentioned above, there is a type of ranking system used among those Airman in AiT status at Sheppard, similar to cadet ranks. It is a system of ropes (or "cords"), technically "Aiguillettes." They go over the left shoulder. Green is for AiT leaders at the "entry level." Yellow is the next step up. A red aiguillette indicates the highest AiT student leader rank.

- Travis Perry



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FINAL MORROW

In preparation for a May recording of five piano pieces for a CD album focusing on human rights issues, Midwestern State University piano professor Dr. Ruth Morrow will perform the pieces at a recital at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 31 in Akin Auditorium. The concert is free and everyone is welcome to attend.

Morrow was recently chosen as the 2020 winner of the second annual Jane Spears Carnes Fellowship in Creative Endeavors, allowing her to take the Spring 2020 semester away from teaching to focus on her human rights related project.

Morrow will play Mary Kouyoumdjian's "Aghavni" (Doves), a three-movement piece based on Brenda Najimian Magarity's poem "Carpet Weavers," about the early 20th Century Armenian Genocide. "Each movement of 'Aghavni' corresponds to a part from the triptych (which means three placed together side by side)," Morrow explained. They are "1910 (all is well and the girls are laughing and learning to weave); 1915 (Armenians are driven from their lands, across deserts, and into the sea); and 1986 (the year in which the poem was written, representing the present looking back and the angels waiting for those who call themselves Armenians)."

She will perform Karl Amadeus Hartmann's "Sonata 27 April 1945" regarding the composer's witnessing the death march from Dachau. Written in 1945, and partially revised in 1948, the piece's four movements depict the trauma of witnessing this horrific event.

Morrow will also play Margaret Bond's "Troubled Water", a piano fantasy based on the spiritual "Wade in the Water" about the Underground Railroad, as well as

composer Louis W. Ballard's "The Cherokee Variation" about the Trail of Tears from his ballet "The Four Moons" commissioned by the State of Oklahoma for the 60th Anniversary of its statehood.

Finally, the pianist will perform Barbara York's "Seeking Refuge" about the American-Mexican border, a piece Morrow commissioned in 2018. Morrow asked York to write "Seeking Refuge" about a mother and child at the southern border of the United States. Morrow world premiered "Seeking Refuge" at MSU in April 2019, as part of the "Women Shall be Heard" concert with the composer in attendance.

"The piece, 'Seeking refuge,' is still evolving," she said, as the pianist continues to explore the work. "Can I shape this even more effectively? I don't think we are ever fully done with a piece."

Morrow will play a house concert in Plano, Texas and possibly another in Cincinnati to help her "season" the music for the recording she will make in May, in Akin Auditorium. She will then travel to a studio in Buffalo, New York, to work on editing the recorded pieces in late July. The finale enhanced CD will also include program notes and art. Morrow is at present not sure yet when the final project will be released.

"Some of the pieces have been recorded before," she said. "But, as far as I know no one has made a recording that was geared specifically on solo piano music for human rights." It is a subject she feels very strongly about.

"The works (with the exception of Hartmann) speak, in certain way, of truly seeking refuge, of trying to find a safe haven," Morrow



said. "Whether it's coming across our southern border, and being separated; whether it's escaping slavery. The Trail of Tears ties in with the Holocaust as with the Armenian piece."

"I guess we all have to make our choices as to what we will open our eyes to, and what we will open our heart to."

Morrow said she began focusing on piano music and human rights in 2015 when she played "Troubled Water" by Margaret Bonds, along

with pieces representing native America and South America, for a conference on Decolonizing Music by the Council of Music of the Three Americas.

Morrow regularly performs solo recitals in addition to chamber music and orchestral work, and has presented an MSU Faculty Forum and related lecture performance concerts on her current research stream: solo piano music for human rights.

-Richard Carter

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MSU TEXAS EXPLORES MEMBERSHIP WITH TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

MSU Texas announced Friday February 14th to its campus community that the University has received a formal invitation to consider becoming the fifth member of the Texas Tech University System. In response to the invitation, the Board of Regents has asked President Suzanne Shipley to collect input from its shared communities.

“At the February Board of Regents meeting, I was asked to engage in dialogue with our campus and our community regarding an invitation to consider joining the Texas Tech University System. The Board has asked that I host a series of campus conversations, followed by community conversations, to assess interest, answer questions, and address concerns regarding a response to this invitation,” said President Shipley.

Board Chair Caven Crosnoe said that through the years, the University’s strong academic standing has attracted interest from leading systems across the state. The Board believes now is the right time to consider this invitation and the advantages such membership could potentially provide to better serve the students, faculty and staff at MSU Texas, especially given the changing landscape of higher education.

“Many may ask why we as a strong and financially robust institution might wish to exchange our status as one of four independent universities to become one of five in a single system,” said President Shipley. “That is exactly the question the Board is exploring and has asked us to consider in the next two months—is this the right time for us to become part of



a system and do we align well with the Texas Tech University System?”

Questions and Answers:
What do we gain by joining the Texas Tech University (TTU) system?

We know that the larger the institution, the more it can invest in its students because the administrative to instructional cost ratios decrease with an increase in size.

- Politically, MSU would have increased representation and outreach
- Reduction in cost of debt because we can borrow under TTU systems higher credit rating
- TTU has expert staff that could save in fees (legal, audit etc)
- Group Purchasing

What are the drawbacks?
Perceived and/or real reduction in local control. For example, some of the limits we now place on naming programs or buildings would likely be reviewed and adjusted to match the TTU System policies.

Are there any non-negotiables?
Our non-negotiables at



this time include retaining the Midwestern State University name and the MSU Texas brand; our mission and designation as a public liberal arts university

and member of COPLAC; our ability to guarantee existing faculty and staff unchanged continuity in their positions; continued progress for our two new doctoral programs; no change in the MSU mascot or athletic affiliation; commitment to working with the Governor to ensure the appointment of a Wichita Falls area resident or MSU alum to serve on the TTU System Board of Regents; and inclusion of a regional presidential advisory board for a period of transition. Some additional factors could emerge in the period of discussion. For more information please contact us at (940) 397-4352

-Julie Gaynor

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