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From the President/CEO

Dear **INSITE** Readers,

Welcome to fall! We haven't had a good fall in a few years; it's gone straight from summer to winter. Here's hoping this year we get nice, crisp temperatures and pretty fall colors.

Last month we had our company picnic out at Cameron Park Zoo in Waco. It's a time where we can get together away from work, bring family, and enjoy the last big event as summer ends and school begins. We had Tejun Cajun cater for us, which I highly recommend if you are ever in Waco. The food paired perfectly with two beer tickets, and it was a great time walking around the zoo.

This month, the Bridal Association of the Brazos Valley hosts their Fall Bridal Show. We love being able to share the love stories of local brides in our Fall Bridal Issue. Debbie and I got married 28 years ago, and we love to look back on that day and remember what a wonderful time it was. I still remember how nervous I was when I proposed. I had the ring box in my boot and it got stuck, and I had a hard time getting it out. We had a simple wedding with friends and family from both sides. We rented out a big hall where we could dance, mingle, and just celebrate our marriage. Overall, it was just a great, wonderful day, and I have many fond memories.

Weddings today have a lot of the same traditions, but it seems like they are more expensive than when Deb and I got married. You'll find seven weddings featured in this issue of **INSITE**. I hope you can draw inspiration from these beautiful weddings for your own wedding day!

In our 28 years of marriage, I've learned a lot. You go through all kinds of experiences, and it's not all fun and games, but there is a lot of fun and games. What's most important is to learn from each other and work together. The best marriages consist of two people who are willing to work and grow together! — **David Anderton**

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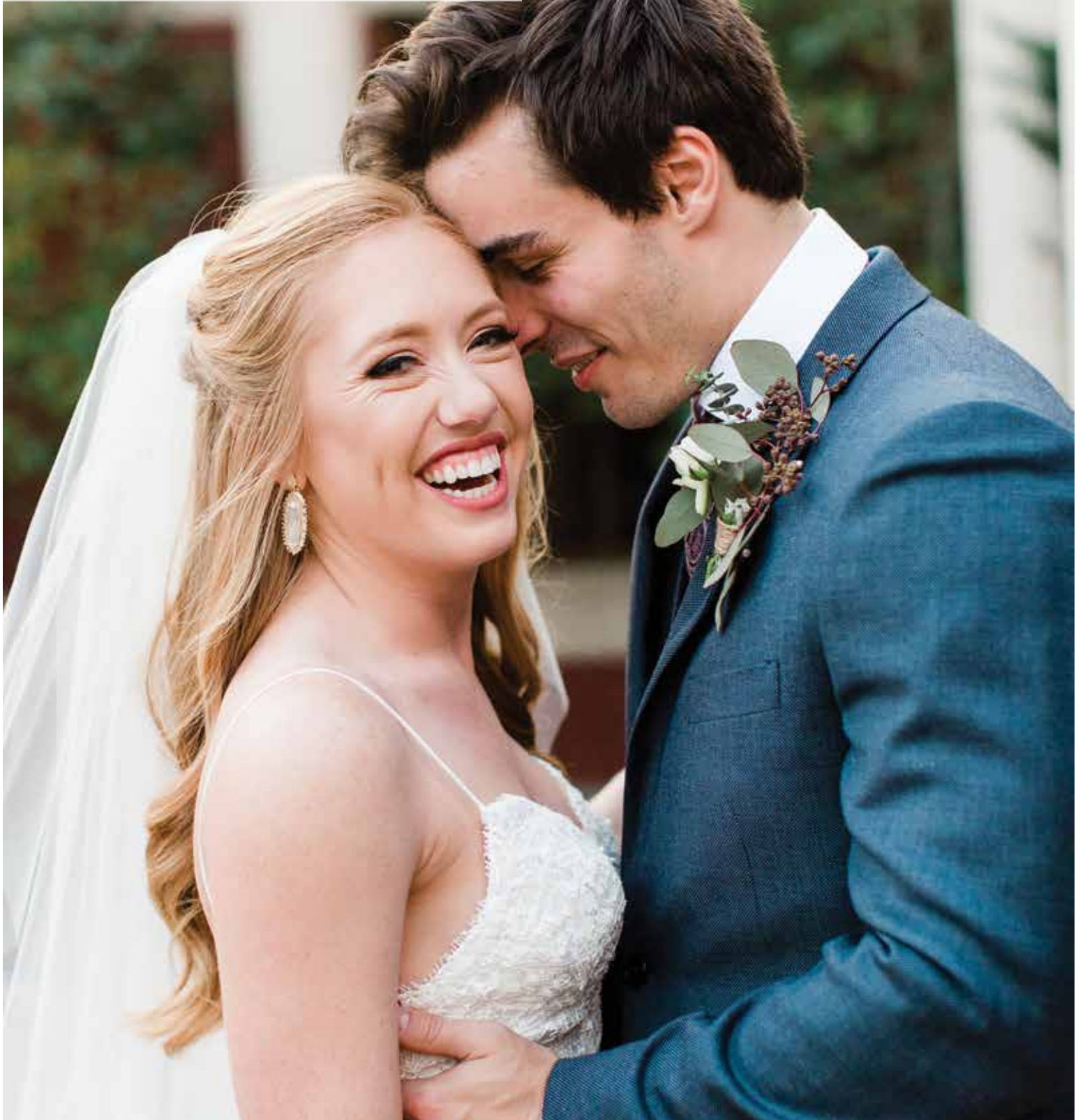
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Stephanie & Jordan Ross

March 10, 2018

Story by **RACHEL KNIGHT**

Photos by **KRISTINA ROSS PHOTOGRAPHY**





Some love stories start slow, others kick off with a bang. The day Stephanie Sechrist and Jordan Ross met, sparks were flying, literally. While at a mutual friend’s Fourth of July lake party, Stephanie asked Jordan for a sip of his drink. The two spent the remainder of the evening together as their love story set sail.

Neither can pinpoint exactly when they knew the other was “the one,” but after two years of dating, Jordan surprised Stephanie and popped the question. Surprising Stephanie was a challenge that required a little help from her mom. “My diamond is actually an heirloom diamond,” Stephanie explains.

After getting a new ring for Stephanie’s mom, her dad had the diamond from her mom’s original ring made into a necklace. Her mom wore the diamond necklace before Stephanie got engaged, and Stephanie admits to looking for the necklace around her mother’s neck frequently to gauge when Jordan might propose. Knowing this, Stephanie’s mom told Jordan to have a fake diamond put into the necklace to pull off a surprise proposal.

“I remember asking the jeweler, ‘Would it offend you if I ask if you have fake diamonds laying around?’” Jordan recalls. “He was like, ‘Why?’ so I explained it to him and he was like, ‘Oh yeah. I can do that. Five minutes.’”

Five days before Jordan got down on one knee, the couple met with both sets of their parents for dinner. Jordan and Stephanie were taking a trip to Stephanie’s favorite place, her family’s land in Quihi, that weekend. She suspected Jordan would pop the question during the trip. Knowing there was not enough time to have the diamond set into a new ring before they left, Stephanie anxiously waited to see if her mom wore the necklace to dinner. “I showed up and she was wearing the stupid necklace,” Stephanie remembers. When they went for a walk in Quihi that weekend, Stephanie was genuinely surprised to see Jordan holding a ring asking for her hand in marriage.

After a seven-month engagement, Stephanie and Jordan were ready to tie the knot. Leading up to the wedding, the couple says they tried to stay organized. They both agreed their most important wedding day preparation was pre-marital counseling with their pastor. “The wedding is super fun, but you’re starting a marriage,” Stephanie says.

Other wedding day preparations incorporated the couple’s entire family. Stephanie wanted to use wine bottles in their centerpieces, so the couple asked their Aggie families to save some from their tailgates. “We were probably expecting it to



take four or five months,” Jordan says. “By the next football game we announced we had them all,” Stephanie adds. “It was fun because then everybody came to the wedding, like, ‘Is that my wine bottle?’”

While their families enjoyed looking for wine bottles they contributed, Stephanie and Jordan shared excitement in seeing each other as Stephanie came down the aisle.

“She looked gorgeous,” Jordan explains. “That’s a moment you anticipate and it’s a moment that’s better than you think it would be. ... I saw her and immediately started tearing up.”

On the other end of the aisle, Stephanie was walking hurriedly in her custom Nikes with her dad. “Me and my dad were around the corner when the music started playing and I don’t know why, but I felt like we were super late but we weren’t,” she explains. “I felt kind of rushed coming in the doors, so when we were done laughing about it, because my dad was like, ‘Stop freaking out,’ I turned and I saw [Jordan] and was like, ‘Oh my gosh!’ I just have this image of him being so happy to see me and crying.”

The remainder of the ceremony was a celebration of the couple’s love and the role Christ’s love plays in their marriage.

Stephanie’s uncle sang two gospel songs, scriptures were read, and the two became one spiritually.

After the ceremony, the couple celebrated the start of their marriage with a reception at Traditions Club. Stephanie describes their décor as winery with a hint of rustic. Students in the floral design program at the high school where Stephanie works did their floral arrangements — which added a more personal touch to the day.

As a dance coach and a personal trainer, respectively, Stephanie and Jordan wanted a lot of dancing at their reception. They credit their DJ to helping achieve that goal. The couple shared a first dance; sang the Aggie War Hymn with their Aggie guests, then followed it with a special dance from Stephanie and her friends on the Aggie Dance Team; had an impromptu limbo line using glow stick necklaces; and incorporated a choreographed dance from Stephanie and her dad.

After dancing the night away, the couple headed out to start their journey as a married couple. They say married life is even better than expected. “Honestly, it just feels really natural,” Stephanie shares. “Married life is awesome.” *i*

Ross Vendors

Rehearsal Dinner Cafe Eccell

Ceremony Christ United Methodist Church

Reception, Food & Alcohol The Traditions Club

Cakes Cakes by Blondie

DJ Downtown Event Services

Dress Wtoo Gwendolyn by Watters

Hair and Makeup Blush n Glow Co.

Photography Kristina Ross Photography

Coordinators Tara and Haley at Traditions

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Hailey & Clayton Halliburton

May 28, 2018

Story by **SKYE LOVELADY**

Photos by **ASHLEY MEDRANO PHOTOGRAPHY**



Hailey Noble attended a casual dinner party with her Texas A&M University organization, Aggie Angels, thinking it was a night like any other. Little did she know it would end with an engagement to the love of her life, Clayton Halliburton.

Hailey and Clayton both worked at Central Baptist Church and often saw each other around the church. Hailey was an intern in the Family Activities Ministry and coached a boys' basketball team through the Central Sports program.

Clayton worked with the Facilities Crew, and would cross paths with her work, but he had never really spoken to her, Clayton says. He finally found the courage to introduce himself properly and ask her on a date. He asked Hailey to get coffee with him, thinking all girls liked coffee, but surprisingly Hailey didn't. "I had to get really creative," Clayton says. He resorted to plan B, which was Chick-fil-A, and planned a night picnic for Dec. 14, 2016.

About eight months after their first date, Hailey made evening plans to attend

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an Aggie Angels dinner party at Napa Flats Wood-Fired Kitchen. After dinner, she was blindfolded by the vice president of the organization and was told there was another surprise for all the girls. Unbeknownst to Hailey, she was the only girl blindfolded and was taken by car to a new location, Hailey says.

Once at the new location, her blindfold was removed and by this point she knew this had something to do with Clayton, Hailey says. A video slideshow prepared by Clayton played and then she was led out to the fountain in the front of the church where Clayton stood in a circle of lights.

"I'm terrible at surprises, but I had to make sure that at least the proposal was a surprise," Clayton says. Hailey was indeed surprised and she enthusiastically said yes.

Hailey and Clayton decided since they were both Aggies, they would use maroon and navy for their wedding colors. Unlike many couples, they only visited one wedding venue and signed the contract during their visit, Hailey explains. They fell in love with Brownstone Reserve and chose the only day available, May 28 — Memorial Day. Hailey and Clayton both knew most people would be off work anyways due to the holiday.

Hailey and Clayton hired Wonderfully Wed as a day-of wedding planner to help alleviate stress.

"I was originally against the idea of a day-of coordinator, not for any particular reason, I just didn't think it was necessary," Clayton says. "After having done it, I wouldn't change a thing now, because it was nice having our family just



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be able to attend our wedding and then go home after. That was my favorite thing. Everyone who was there, including our family, could just relax, have a good time, celebrate with us, and not have to be stressed where things go.”

While the couple still had the traditional bride and groom’s cakes, they also decided to include a donut bar. The day of the wedding, Clayton was nervous and to distract himself he arranged the donut bar entirely by himself, he says. Hailey tried to help the morning of as well but she was sent away to get ready.

“I was like a princess locked in a tower basically, kept away,” Hailey says. “It was nice. It was one of those things I’m never going to have the chance to do that again and it was cool that I got to do that.”

A bit untraditionally, Hailey and Clayton decided to use Clayton’s brother Corey, to marry them. Hailey explains they wanted to choose someone they both knew, and Corey was the perfect fit. “He’s not a minister or anything, he’s just an awesome guy,” Clayton says. “We asked if he would marry us, and he was ordained online and performed our wedding. He did a fantastic job too.”

The proposal may have begun as a journey to an unknown location, but it transitioned into a journey of a lifetime. Life is not about looking towards the destination, but focusing on the journey, and for both Hailey and Clayton, their journey has just begun. *i*



Halliburton Vendors

Venue Brownstone Reserve

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Day-of Coordinator
Wonderfully Wed

Photographer
Ashley Medrano Photography

Florist Petal Patch Florist

Cakes Cakes by Blondie

Donuts Daylight Donuts

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Tia & Joshua Stelzer

December 16, 2017

Story by **FARRIN VELASCO**

Photos by **FOX & FLORALS MEDIA**



Tia and Joshua Stelzer's love story started as a forbidden romance. Tia was a counselor in FORME, a Texas A&M University freshman leadership organization, and Joshua was one of her freshmen she was in charge of leading.

"We weren't allowed to date during that because I was his counselor," recalls Tia. Once they were both out of the organization they began to date.

While they were dating, Joshua took Tia on a 10-day camping trip.

"I didn't really know where we were going exactly, but we started in Big Bend and then went all the way to New Mexico and ended in the Grand Canyon on the last night," says Tia. "Every day he had a little gift and handwritten letter for me that had some significance, so I kind of knew [a proposal] was coming."

On the second to last night of their trip, just as the sun was setting, Joshua took Tia to the edge of the Grand Canyon and proposed.

When it came time to plan the wedding, Tia says she knew she didn't want a typical, rustic Texas wedding.



"I knew I wanted it to be more formal and I knew that I wanted it to be a Christmas wedding, so that kind of set the tone for all the flowers and decorations," Tia says. "All the party favors were little ornaments and we had lots of Christmas trees and Christmas music."

On the day of the wedding, everything went very smoothly until it almost didn't. Tia credits her maid-of-honor with saving the day. The best man was supposed to have the ring and as everyone was lining up to go down the aisle, the maid-of-honor thought it best to double check and make sure he had it.

"Utter panic came over his face and he just started booking it across the church all the way to this room on the other side for the ring and he literally came back with it out-of-breath, right before he was supposed to walk down," says Tia. "That provided a little comedic relief."





Tia and Joshua were married on Dec. 16, 2017, at A&M United Methodist Church and had their reception at Astin Mansion. Tia says that while she was very stressed throughout the planning process, everything ended up all working out really well.

“I feel like for me the wedding planning time leading up was so stressful, so I had it in my mind that I wasn’t really going to enjoy the wedding,” says Tia. “I was honestly so surprised by the end of the night, I was like, ‘This is like the best day of my life and I can’t believe it because everything leading up to this was really, really stressful.’”

For most couples, it can be hard to find some alone time during the reception when everyone is surrounding them, but Tia and Joshua made a point to do so.

“At the end before people lined up with sparklers, they ushered everyone away to get them ready and then me and Joshua got to have a last dance together on the dance floor, just us two with no one around,” Tia says. “It was really special to look back on the whole night and have that moment to reflect on what’s happened and what’s going to happen and the rest of our lives together. It was just kind of like a deep breath before moving on with the rest of our lives.” *i*



Stelzer Vendors

Reception Astin Mansion

Ceremony A&M United Methodist Church

Rehearsal Dinner Murphy’s Law

Limousine Aggieland Limousines

Bridal Tea Martha’s Bloomers, Navasota

Bridal Party Housing Historic Holle House

Caterer Hinze’s Barbeque & Catering, Sealy

Bridal Gown MLD Limited, Houston

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Photo Booth Texas Best Selfie

Video Smart Video; John Fletcher, Huntsville

Tent Details Party Rental

China Party Time Rentals

Flowers Carriage House Floral; Christopher Dodgen

Photographer Fox & Floral Media, Austin

Cakes Cakes by Blondie

Soloist Ave Maria; A&M United Methodist Church; Alix Neeley

String Quartet Brazos Valley String Quartet

Tuxedos Men’s Warehouse

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Audra & Jordan Haddock

May 10, 2018

Story by **UNIQUEA WILLAIMS**

Ceremony Photos by **CENTURY TREE PRODUCTIONS**

Bridal Portraits by **L'AMOUR DE PARIS**



At Texas A&M University when you walk underneath The Century Tree with a significant other, it is believed you will spend the rest of your lives together. Audra Smith, took this tradition a step further when she married Jordan Haddock under this very tree on May 10.

Audra and Jordan met three years ago at Hurricane Harry's on Northgate.

"I was actually on another date with a guy who was really excited about buying 'cowboy things' like boots, a hat, things like that," says Audra. "I told him some places he could find good boots and all things western, but I told him, 'Whatever you do, don't buy a sparkly belt like that guy,' and motioned to Jordan."

Little did Audra know, this same sparkly belt guy would one day become her other half. Audra says Jordan is her mirror image.

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"I call him my missing puzzle piece," says Audra. Not only do they enjoy a lot of the same things, but they also share the same sense of humor. "Our humor is totally in sync to the point of laughing 'til we cry and making the same joke at the same time."

Audra says she really knew Jordan was the one when he finally met her son, Peyton.

"They were best buddies, and I saw just how much he loved him like his own, without reservation," says Audra. Jordan's relationship with Audra's son made saying yes to his proposal that much easier. Jordan proposed at a New Year's Eve party in 2017 at the stroke of midnight. "We were counting down and when I turned around to give him a New Year's kiss he was down on one knee."

It wasn't long before the couple began planning for their wedding. Audra says since Bryan is her hometown and she's



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a third generation Aggie and Jordan also attended Texas A&M, it was fitting to have her wedding at a place that was familiar to both of them.

“We decided we wanted a small ceremony, with just family, so we could have a bigger honeymoon — nothing fancy and no stress of planning a huge wedding,” says Audra. “The Century Tree just seemed like a no-brainer. It’s such a beautiful tradition and we wanted to be a part of it.”

The wedding date was also a no-brainer. Jordan graduated and got his Aggie ring on May 10, so it made sense to have the wedding on the same day. “Since his family had to fly in [for graduation], we decided to pack it all in to one amazing day,” Audra says. “He’ll never have an excuse to forget our anniversary now.”

Audra says she wanted her dress to be simple, since she wanted to take her wedding photos in Paris during their honeymoon. For the wedding ceremony Audra wore a blue dress purchased from Charli in College Station.

“It’s a beautiful, floor-length navy gown, very timeless, but not something you’d typically see a bride wearing on her wedding day,” says Audra. “I wanted to do something totally different from the typical white gown, since I was planning to save my beautiful, white and cream wedding gown for our honeymoon in Paris, France, where we planned to take our wedding portraits.”

Keeping the wedding simple (like hand-making the bouquet to keep costs lower) allowed Jordan and Audra to have their dream honeymoon in Europe.

“We spent two weeks in Europe where we visited Paris, Prague, and Budapest,” says Audra. “It was definitely a once in a lifetime trip.”

What made the honeymoon even more special was taking their wedding portraits in the early morning light while all the Parisians slept. “It was as if we had Paris all to ourselves.” *i*

Haddock Vendors

Ceremony Photographer
Century Tree Productions

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Becca & Brett O'Donnell

May 26, 2018

Story by **FARRIN VELASCO**

Photos by **DREAMY ELK PHOTOGRAPHY**



Becca Langley and Brett O'Donnell's love story began a little differently than most; that's because when they met, Becca was dating someone else. Brett says by the time he found that out he was already hooked.

Brett and Becca met in a class at Texas A&M University just after Brett had switched to a new, fairly small major. "I was fairly socially awkward so I wanted to practice talking to people," Brett

explains. "So, I sat in the front row one seat over from the lefty desk because I figured it forced a left-handed person to sit next to me."

Becca ended up being that person. Brett says he saw her out of the corner of his eye and thought she was way too attractive, and that he wasn't ready to talk to her yet. Finally, after a few more classes together Brett worked up the courage to talk to Becca.



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DOWNTOWN CALDWELL EVENTS:

SCARE ON THE SQUARE — OCTOBER 27 —

This popular family friendly event draws thousands of people to the downtown area for Halloween fun. Events include: trick-or-treating, trunk-or-treating, 'Boo-House', vendor booths, downtown shopping, carnival games, bounce houses and more.



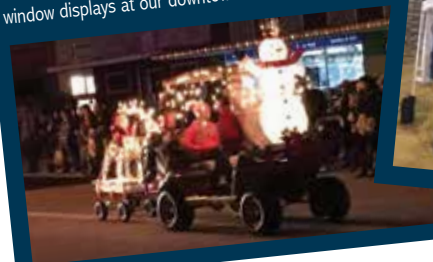
SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY — NOVEMBER 24 —

Small Business Saturday is a celebration of local businesses in our Downtown Area. It takes place each year on the Saturday after Thanksgiving and encourages people to SHOP LOCAL.



CHRISTMAS ON THE SQUARE — DECEMBER 8 —

This annual Christmas celebration draws a family friendly crowd to downtown Caldwell. The event includes an Old Fashioned Christmas Program with performance from local dance teams and the high school band, a visit to "Whoville" including pictures with a live Grinch, pictures with Santa, Elf School activities, bounce houses, trackless train and a lighted parade. Don't forget to come see the dancing lights on the Burleson County Courthouse and the gorgeous window displays at our downtown businesses.



RED & GREEN CHILI COOK-OFF — DECEMBER 8 —

In conjunction with Christmas on the Square, competitive cooks will compete in over 11 categories for the championship title of Red & Green Chili Cook-Off for the winner. 2018 will be the 6th year the competition will be held and is a don't miss for chili cooks.



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The two bonded quickly over projects and through other classes they had together. In the summer of 2014, Becca finally became single.

"I started trying to work out how I was going to ask her out," says Brett. "Becca is a very, very attractive woman and I knew that she would get asked out immediately so I knew I had to do it before somebody else did."

After days of planning and perfecting what he was going to say, the opportunity to ask Becca out finally arose when he was walking to class with his best friend's future wife.

"Becca ran up to me and tapped me on the shoulder and a voice in my head said, 'Dude, if you don't blurt it out you're going to [sic] choke,'" says Brett. "I basically yelled at her, 'Do you wanna go on a date with me?'"

When Becca remembers the moment, she laughs and says that Brett said it all so fast, like one word without spaces. As soon as the words came out of Brett's mouth, he turned to his best friend's future wife and yelled, "I did it! I did it!"

Three years later to the exact day and time they met, Brett proposed. Brett wanted to surprise Becca with the proposal, so he made sure to go the extra mile so that she wouldn't suspect anything.

"I threw Becca off my scent because we had gone to go look at rings like eight months before I proposed to her and then about a week or two before the engagement party I was like, 'Hey so what did you like in a wedding ring? You like this right?'" explains Brett.



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By this point Becca believed Brett already had the ring, so she was understandably a bit disappointed. Becca also says she thought all her high school friends had come to College Station to see a mutual friend who lived in Montana, so she didn't suspect a thing.

On the morning of the proposal, Brett told Becca they needed to pick up a computer part for a project Becca was working on at Texas A&M's campus.

"I wanted an excuse to get her outside of the Kleberg building because that's where we met," says Brett. "So, we go outside and I stop her and look at her in the eyes and said, 'Do you realize that three years ago from this spot is the first time that I ever walked away from you and ever since that moment I felt like every moment I spent apart from you was a waste of time, and I'm done wasting time.'"

Becca planned most of the wedding while Brett was in Virginia, working on his law degree.

"I wanted it to be pretty and classy but also still have things that were representative of us," says Becca.

She chose the wedding colors from an old Irish folk song called *The Orange and the Green* about a Catholic (Becca) and Protestant (Brett) getting married. The Dungeons and Dragons cake toppers were also representative of the couple.

Becca's favorite part of the wedding was all the family and friends who were willing to travel so far to come celebrate them and how much they love each other, she says. Brett's favorite part was watching Becca come down the aisle.

Luckily for Becca and Brett, the wedding day went off without a hitch, which they attribute to their vendors.

"All of our vendors pulled it off literally perfectly," says Brett. "I feel like every single wedding has some tragedy that happens right before the day of, but nothing like that happened. ... They did an amazing job." *i*

O'Donnell Vendors

Ceremony St. Mary's Catholic Church

Reception Downtown 202

Photography Dreamy Elk Photography

Catering/Cake D'Vine Cuisine

Florals Unforgettable Floral

Rentals Ashley & Co.

Coordination Stephanie with Ashley & Co.

Hair/Makeup Naturally Flawless

Cake Topper WhiteHartCreations on Etsy

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Haley & Joseph Valdez

April 14, 2018

Story by **SHELBI LEMEILLEUR**

Photos by **GEORGE STREET PHOTOGRAPHY**



Haley Cox knew Joseph Valdez was “the one” from the very beginning.

When she was 9 years old, Haley’s stepdad gave her some advice that wound up having a larger impact later on.

“[My stepdad] told me I needed a list of what I wanted in my future husband so I would know him when I saw him,” says Haley. “[Joseph] fit my list, and he’s just the kindest person I have ever known.”

Haley and Joseph started dating in December 2015. A year and a half later, Joseph surprised Haley during a trip of a lifetime in June 2017.

“His mom lives in California and we were going out there for his brother’s graduation,” explains Haley. “We went to Sunset Cliffs in San Diego and he proposed on the beach. He flew my best friend in unbeknownst to me and she jumped out of a bush and surprised me.”

Unlike most brides, Haley let her soon-to-be husband do most of the planning. However, she says having their wedding and reception at 7F Lodge was an important decision to both Haley and Joseph.

“We lived in The Woodlands and there aren’t any little white chapels and that’s what I have always wanted. I just fell in love with the venue. It’s like a little bed and breakfast,” Haley says. “There is this little, quaint chapel. It was actually built by the owner, and he built it to propose to his wife.”

The little white chapel was the perfect gathering place for Haley and Joseph’s family and friends to witness the couple start



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the next chapter of their lives together on April 14, 2018. Haley's stepfather officiated the ceremony, and the couple kept it intimate with four people in the bridal party.

While Haley says her favorite part of the wedding itself was the ceremony, it was also important for her to portray four families coming together. "My parents are divorced and Joseph's parents are divorced as well," she says. "I told the photographer I didn't want any single family photos, just group photos. It worked out. I was trying to portray that we are a family unit, not just four different families."

To future brides, Haley says not to sweat the small stuff. "Everybody had something they wanted to add and I kind of dug my heels in and said, 'No we want it this way.' In hindsight, I wish I would have let them have their moment in it, too."

In the end, it was still a wonderful day for Haley and Joseph to remember for the rest of their lives, surrounded by family, friends, and loved ones. *i*



Valdez Vendors

Venue & Catering 7F Lodge

Flowers Post Oak Florist

Dress Brickhouse Bridal

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Makeup Makeup by Kim Maraycchini

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Victoria & Dustin Myers

May 15, 2018

Story Courtesy of **INN AT QUARRY RIDGE**

Photos by **ORYAN PHOTO & VIDEO**



Victoria Junkerman and Dustin Myers met at a coffee shop. The next chapter of their lives began during Ring Day at Texas A&M University.

Victoria was able to present Dustin his Aggie Ring, but she says she could tell he was acting pretty nervous. After the ring presentation, Dustin asked Victoria to go on a walk with him.

"We walked and chatted and came across the Century Tree. As we approached the tree I recognized it from our second date," Victoria says. The couple discussed the legend that those who walk together under the tree are destined to be together forever and decided to walk under it together. "Half way under the tree he gave me a big hug and was visibly shaking. ... He then got down on one knee and asked if I would be willing to spend the rest of my life with him."

Since they both lived in College Station at the time, it only felt natural to plan

their wedding in the same city. Spending time with out-of-town guests in a casual atmosphere without driving all around College Station was a top priority for the Myers. After visiting with Sue and Larry at the Inn at Quarry Ridge, and learning about everything the wedding venue included, they knew this venue was the casual elegance they had been seeking!

The couple wed on May 15. Victoria says the day went beautifully and smoothly. Thanks to the day-of coordination contracted with Epoch Co. for all Inn at Quarry Ridge Marble Package clients, Victoria says she never wondered what was going to happen next, and loved how she could be in the moment with her closest friends and family. Monday morning Victoria and Dustin enjoyed brunch before they jettied off on a three-week honeymoon adventure cruising the British Isles and meandering the streets of Rome. *i*



Myers Vendors

Venue Inn at Quarry Ridge

Marble Package Coordinators Epoch Co.

Photographer Oryan Photo & Video

Dessert Peace, Love & Cakes

Hair and Makeup Naturally Flawless

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PHOTO BY MICHAEL KELLETT PHOTOGRAPHY

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Supporting Pink Alliance

Fall Bridal Show Benefits Breast Cancer Support in the Brazos Valley

Compiled by **INSITE STAFF**



PHOTO BY KRISTINA ROSS PHOTOGRAPHY

The 2018 Fall Bridal Show and Benefit will be held at Brazos County Expo Complex on Sunday, Sept. 23, from noon to 4pm.

Attendees may browse more than 100 vendors at the event and visit one-on-one with wedding professionals who can personalize your ceremony, reception, or honeymoon. Proceeds from ticket sales to the show benefit Pink Alliance, a nonprofit dedicated to providing support to breast cancer patients in the Brazos Valley.

Tickets are \$10 per person when purchased in advance online at babv.org; tickets are \$15 per person at the door and every person, including children more than 2 years old, must have a ticket to enter the show. Organizers note that no strollers are allowed in the show due to safety reasons. All tickets are non-refundable.

Prize drawings held throughout the show are intended for brides or grooms only, and all prize awards are subject to verification, according to show organizers.

The past two decades, The Bridal Association of the Brazos Valley has donated more than \$165,000 to local charities in the Brazos Valley. The designated charity for the 2018 fall show is Pink Alliance — Breast Cancer Support of the Brazos Valley. Formed by five women who experienced the overwhelming emotions that come with the diagnosis of breast cancer, the mission of the organization is to provide educational resources to women in the community who receive a breast cancer diagnosis.

For more information about Pink Alliance — Breast Cancer Support of the Brazos Valley, including phone numbers for immediate information, visit PinkAlliance.org. **i**

Check out these local businesses for all your wedding needs.

Courtesy of the Bridal Association of the Brazos Valley

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6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

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Flag Ceremony

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9:45 a.m.: SPJST Youth Beseda Dancers

10:15a.m.: Shiner Hobo Band

11:00 a.m.: Kolache Eating Contest

1:00 p.m.-5:00p.m.: Battle of The Bands

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3:30 p.m.: State Championship Kolache

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IF WALLS COULD TALK

Tales of Innovation and Renovation from the Cavitt House

By RACHEL KNIGHT



PRESENT DAY PHOTOS BY RACHEL KNIGHT

Built in the late 1870s, the Cavitt House is one of the oldest structures in Bryan College Station, according to Randy Haynes, senior city planner for the City of Bryan.

“The house was a style called Italianate,” Haynes says. “It was built at about the same time as Texas A&M [opened]. It’s one of the few buildings in Brazos County that is as old as the institution of A&M. There’s probably no building at A&M as old as this.”

William R. Cavitt married Mary Mitchell, a niece of Colonel Harvey Mitchell, commonly called the “Father of Brazos County.” Together, they had six children, two of which were twins. W.R. Cavitt built the two-story house with exposed brick, gingerbread trim, and

three-inch-thick wood floors on a plot of land as old as the City of Bryan. The land’s records date back to when the county courthouse was in Boonville. According to Haynes, W.R. Cavitt owned all the land between his house and Villa Maria Road. The neighborhood surrounding the Cavitt House became known as Jackass Prairie because many of the homeowners were doctors and lawyers, Haynes says.

The exterior walls of the Cavitt House are three layers of brick thick. If they could talk, each brick would have a story of its own about the fascinating people who have passed through the 140-year-old home.

W.R. Cavitt’s influence on the community includes roles in the development of Bryan and Texas A&M

University. He was a lawyer; county attorney; rancher; oil leaser; director at Texas A&M, which is the equivalent of a regent today; an early investor in the City National Bank; and a true character. His family came to the Brazos Valley in 1836, the same year the Alamo fell, according to Haynes. “Cavitt was born up in Wheelock,” he says. “They were a fairly prominent family. They had some means. They owned some enslaved people.”

W.R. Cavitt’s interaction and play with slaves as a child likely played an influential role in a civil rights lawsuit that took place in Bryan long before civil rights suits were common, explains Haynes. Born enslaved to the Cavitts in Wheelock, Perry Cavitt likely played with W.R. Cavitt when they were children. As



CAVITT HOUSE IN SNOW IN ABOUT 1920

a young man, while delivering melons in a horse-drawn wagon in Bryan, Perry and his friends stopped in front of the house of a white Bryan homeowner who started lipping and shooting at them, Haynes explains. The African American men fled leaving their horses and wagon behind, and returned armed with a gun. The homeowner started shooting again, but this time Perry shot back and hit the man. The man died from his wound five days later. Surprisingly given the period in history when this took place, Perry was able to stand trial without being lynched; however, at his trial, he was found guilty and sentenced to death. Perry hired an African American lawyer named Johnson, who argued Perry was not tried by a jury of his peers. "It went to the appellate court, and his argument did not prevail, but they commuted Cavitt's sentence from death to life in prison," Haynes says. "So, they sent him to Huntsville in the middle of the 1870s. Then in about 1905 or 1906, there was a new governor in Texas (who W.R. Cavitt apparently had some pull with) that commuted Perry Cavitt's sentence, or pardoned him. He left Huntsville, came to Bryan, and immediately went to W.R. Cavitt's house."

Though W.R. Cavitt cared enough about Perry to save him from life in prison, it is unclear whether or not W.R. Cavitt was a Ku Klux Klan member. In a newspaper article Haynes read from 1913, W.R. Cavitt says he is not part of the Klan. After the last of the Cavitt children died and the house was sold, a trunk of robes was found in the Cavitt House attic with names of prominent community members sewn into them. One of the robes bears the name, "W.R. Cavitt." This particular Klan robe can be seen at the Cushing Library at Texas A&M today.

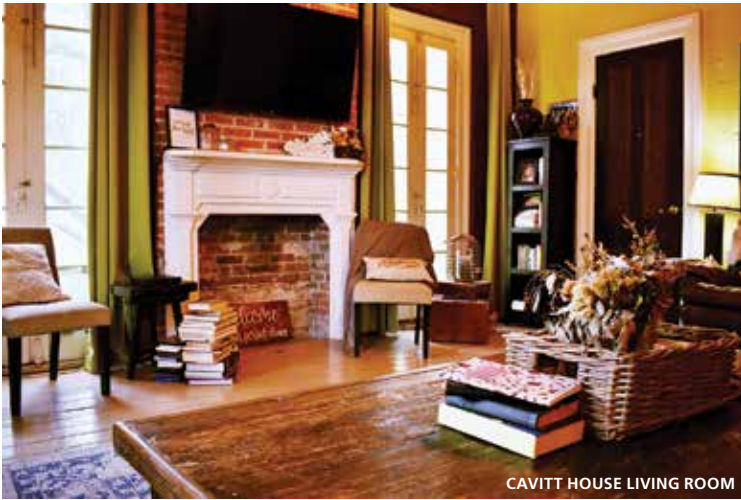
Without W. R. Cavitt, there would likely not be a Cushing Library, much less Texas A&M. To save money, the Texas



FRED CAVITT, THE YOUNGEST SON AND AMATUER PHOTOGRAPHER WHO TOOK MANY OF THE PHOTOS OF THE CAVITT HOUSE WE HAVE TODAY



OUTDOOR PARTY ROOM



CAVITT HOUSE LIVING ROOM



ORIGINAL RAILING ON SECOND STORY BALCONY

government tried to close Texas A&M and give its funding to The University of Texas three times before World War I, Haynes explains. "Cavitt was one of the men that persuaded Sullivan Ross, after he left the governorship, to come and be the president of A&M," Haynes says. A letter on governor stationery from Sul Ross to W.R. Cavitt says, "I've decided to accept the presidency of Texas A&M." Once he was in Bryan College Station, Ross was credited with saving the university and likely dined at the Cavitt House.

In the 1920s, the Cavitts decided to modernize the home's appearance. They added stucco to the exterior walls, took down much of the gingerbread trim, and tried to make the home appear more neoclassical, according to Haynes.

Eventually, the house was sold to another influential man with ties to Texas A&M, Peter McIntyre. "If you've ever heard of the Superconductor Super Collider ... he was the guy in charge of it," says Haynes.

Paul and Dorothy Van Ripper bought the property from the McIntyres and lived there from the 1980s to the early 2000s. They fixed structural problems, replaced electrical wiring, got new heating and cooling systems, and restored the home to the style in which the Cavitts had renovated it in the 1920s.

The Van Rippers have fascinating backgrounds of their own. "If nobody else but Paul Van Ripper lived there, it would still be a pretty cool place," Haynes says. Paul was a political science professor at Texas A&M, and Dorothy was a groundbreaking English teacher and literature professor. President George H.W. Bush and Barbara Bush dined at the Cavitt House twice with the Van Rippers.

Paul Van Ripper was the man in charge of renting French railroads from the French in World War II. "He was in charge of this Paris train station that all the railroads came into," Haynes explains. "For every train where we sent guns or bombs or



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BACK OF THE CAVITT HOUSE TODAY

whatever out to people, we had to pay the French people. If we were going to be in some office or palace for something, we paid rent. He was the guy who kept track of all that. ... He literally dealt with Charles de Gaulle.”

The Cavitt House is now owned by Leo Gonzalez. He fell in love with the home as a child riding his bike to the mansion and peeking inside.

Like the Van Rippers, Gonzalez purchased the home when it was in need of repair. The front left corner of the house had started to crumble. Gonzalez worked with a mason to fix the problem, although they ran into some issues at first.

The mason told Gonzalez to get some bricks so he could fix the corner. Gonzalez purchased a load of modern bricks from Lowe’s only to find they were too small. “There’s no way we can use these to fix this,” Gonzalez explains. “I don’t know what I’m going to do.” Luckily, Dr. Van Ripper had brought bricks from Ursuline Convent (which was built with bricks similar to those used in the Cavitt House) to the Cavitt property when the convent was torn down. The bricks were still sitting on the Cavitt property when the corner crumbled. The convent bricks were the perfect size, and the brick mason was able to repair the corner, according to Gonzalez.

While Gonzalez and the brick mason were working on the corner of the Cavitt House, Haynes paid them a visit. “Randy [gave] me the most beautiful watercolor painting of the house,” he says. Haynes had recovered the painting from the Cavitt House attic and said he would eventually give it to the home’s new owner.

The Gonzalez family lived in the Cavitt House for two years. They only moved back to their previous residence, an eight-bedroom, seven-bathroom house, because it had not sold. For now, the Cavitt house is rented by a family that fills the home with six kids, two of whom are twins just like the Cavitts.

The Cavitt House has served as a home to many. Renovations since the Cavitts lived there have restored the home rather than modernize it. The importance of the Cavitt House to the Brazos Valley lies in the history that has passed through it.

“This is one of those things that make the community extremely different,” Haynes says. “Never mind the fact that this is, if not the oldest, one of the oldest in town. ... It’s not only significant because of its age, structure type, and style, but a combination of all those things. It is really, really important. It’s what makes Bryan, Bryan.” **i**

A House of Characters, Collectors, and Influential People

There are too many stories and artifacts from the Cavitt House to count, much less retell in a few short pages. Haynes and Gonzalez generously share some of their favorite stories and facts with **INSITE** below. More information about the Cavitts and the Cavitt House can be found at the Carnegie History Center in Downtown Bryan and at Cushing Library at Texas A&M.

- Unique items found on the Cavitt property include a tombstone that was stolen by Texas A&M fraternity boys (and eventually returned), a 36 caliber Civil War era Remington revolver, and a diary listing all the boys from Texas A&M who gave one of the Cavitt daughters a ride in their car.
- One of the Cavitt sisters owned two pet bears. One is buried in the backyard. The other was sold to a man in Dallas. When the second bear was in the freight office in Downtown Bryan, it got out of its crate around midnight. Miss Cavitt had to go to the train station in her nightgown to lead the bear back into its crate.
- Fred Cavitt, W.R. Cavitt’s youngest son, was a photographer. Thanks to his work, we have pictures of historical landmarks like the Cavitt House. There is a darkroom for developing film in the Cavitt House attic.
- During the time the Cavitt family lived in the house, they had one of only two tennis courts in town. The local newspaper would post tournament dates, standings, and locations of matches. The Cavitt tennis court is long gone, but the Gonzalez’ built a sand volleyball court in the backyard.
- Before roads existed in Bryan, the city had a master plan of where roads would go. However, many residents didn’t realize the roads would cut through their property because the original landowners had died before roads were built. One instance included Haswell street, which cut through the Cavitt property and blocked the way for Miss Cavitt to get to the tennis courts. There was a big land dispute up to and including the moment when Miss Cavitt pulled a gun on a worker, telling them to, “Get the hell off of my land.” The road was eventually put in despite Miss Cavitt’s threat.
- The Cavitts built an elaborate garden in their backyard for garden parties resplendent with rugs, stone arches, and an assortment of ornamental plants.
- Four streets in Bryan are named after the Cavitt family: Cavitt Avenue, Twin Boulevard, Esther Street, and Ethel Street.
- The only death by cannon fire in Bryan was witnessed by Charlie Jenkins, a guest at the Cavitt House. A few blocks from the house, two cannons were brought to Bryan from Texas A&M to celebrate the election of Grover Cleveland. The celebration was cut short when a man loading the cannon blew off his arm.
- The Cavitt house was in the family almost exactly 100 years. When the last two Cavitt sisters died, the property was subdivided into three parts, the lot the Cavitt House sits on, a lot that is now home to a Victorian home moved here in 1984, and the land that is now Heritage Park.
- Five families have owned the Cavitt House. Three of the owners have been lawyers. The other two were professors with doctorate degrees.



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FALL HOME TRENDS

Tips from Local Interior Designers

By **UNIQUA WILLIAMS**



As fall quickly approaches and you prepare for weather changes and football season, you want to be sure your home is up-to-date with the latest interior trends.

Restyling your home may seem like a daunting and expensive task, but with the right assistance you can be satisfied with your new look. Home interior designers from Holley's Window Fashions & Interiors, DSI Interior Designs, and Jancy Ervin Interiors offer ways for you to spruce things up this fall!

Changing for the Season

The leaves are starting to fall and the weather is changing, so it's okay for your house to undergo some changes, too! One of the most important factors to remember in fall decorating is having a warm, inviting home for guests who may be coming for football season or upcoming holidays.

"As people prepare for guests to come they need to make sure their guest rooms are ready," says Barbara Holley from Holley's Window Fashions & Interiors. She also stresses the first thing a guest sees when walking into a home. "I just want to remind people of how important it is to have an inviting entryway into their home."

While guest rooms and entryways are a great place to start, it's not the only part of the house that may need attention. Both Desiree Engram from DSI Interior Designs, and Jancy Ervin agree that bathrooms and kitchens are just as important.

Additionally, as the temperatures start to drop, don't forget about outdoor spaces!

"People are wanting to go outside, and one thing that would make outdoor entertaining more comfortable is screen shades that you can raise and lower," says Holley. "It can change the temperature by up to 20 percent."

While updating your guest rooms and other elements of your home, consider what colors are best fitting for you this season. If you want to stay trendy, all three interior design experts agree that warm colors, greys, and whites are what's currently hot. When in doubt, it's always best to stick with something that translates well year-round.

"I think you need to embrace the trends only when you're decorating with your finished items and wall colors," says Ervin. "I think if you stick with the timeless and classic elements on things that will be staying permanently in your home you will be happier in the long run."

When to Call a Professional

Some people are better with their hands than others and may have the capabilities of doing a lot of their own home interior updates themselves, but when should you call a professional?

"As far as arrangement goes, especially if you're doing a new remodel or a new house, then you should definitely call someone," says Engram. "It's really inexpensive to call a decorator or designer

and it's really worth it in the long run. Once you get into really ripping stuff out, unless you're really handy, I would say call a professional because you're just going to end up spending twice as much money if it gets messed up."

It's always better to be safe than sorry, especially when it comes to the look of your home. There are many things that might be beyond your expertise and these are the jobs decorators are here for.

"One thing that you do need a professional for is upholstery, and most window treatments require a specialist," says Holley.

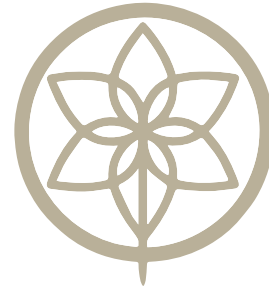
However, there are also things within your home that you may be able to change on your own, no expert necessary.

"A lot of people like found objects, instead of going down to the local department store and buying cabinets," says Engram. "They want something unique and interesting and that can always be done by themselves."

Of course, it all depends on how comfortable and confident a person is in their work. "If you can sew then get that fabric and make those throw pillows," says Ervin.

No matter what you decide, make your home a reflection of yourself, whether that is through following the trends or adding in new, timeless elements. Don't be afraid to call a professional for help or to change things up this fall! **i**

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UNLOCKING A TREASURE

Benefits to Making a Keyhole Garden

By SKYE LOVELADY



Gardening over the years has evolved immensely due to the increase of technology and demand of resources. Ranging from agricultural fields to rooftop raised-bed gardens, gardens continue to change to ensure efficiency and quality products. One garden rising in popularity is the keyhole garden.

Bob Knight, a retired Texas A&M University professor for the health and physical department, now called the department of health & kinesiology, is re-shaping gardening as we know it. Knight has always been interested in gardening, but discovered the keyhole garden idea from an article he read by Deb Tolman. He liked it so much he decided to bring the popular African gardening technique to the Brazos Valley. He started his own keyhole garden six years ago, and developed Bob's Home Grown Tomatoes four years ago.

A keyhole garden is an above-ground, three-foot brick or stone garden with a small inlet leading to the middle of the garden, hence the keyhole part of its name. This unique design allows the gardener to access every part of the garden without straining to bend over or reach across. The appeal of the keyhole garden is that anyone can do it, particularly senior citizens who can't bend over or squat down as easily, Knight says.

Knight started his own garden because he wanted to provide for his family. "You

can develop successful crops much more easily with [the keyhole garden] without being an expert, and that's what excited me or prompted me to continue in that," Knight explains.

After two years of successful gardening, Knight decided to venture out and start selling his produce, specifically his tomatoes. His tomatoes became a big hit and he is currently selling to restaurants in the Brazos Valley area.

One appealing factor of Knight's tomatoes is that they are organic. "Everybody is keying in on that [growing organically]. My stuff is organic but it's not because I'm thinking, 'This has to be organic.' It's just that I use natural materials," Knight says. Not only is the produce organic, but the fertilizer is as well. The earthworms that make their home inside the soil leave their waste, or "black gold" as Knight calls it, to work as a natural fertilizer for the garden.

Knight says with possible food commodities decreasing and vegetables becoming costly, starting a keyhole garden is resourceful and self-sufficient. "It is a unique way for a small family to grow enough food to nourish their family, and they can do that without spending a lot a money because when you salvage your materials, that doesn't cost you anything." *i*

Make Your Own Keyhole Garden

1. Gather Materials

Knight says to use recycled materials for your keyhole garden. He suggests getting your brick/stone from construction sites by talking to the builders ahead of time. Then collect newspapers, phone books, cardboard, leaves, and grass clippings, for these decompose easily and attract earthworms. Next, he says to gather other natural fertilizers to mix with the soil.

2. Build

When building your garden, start with a small circle with an inlet in it. Your circle should be six feet in circumference. Next, lay all your cardboard and other decomposable materials at the bottom. At the bottom of the inlet, place a basket that can be used as a compost deposit. Then fill the rest of the garden with your soil and fertilizer.

3. Grow

Use normal watering procedures for the type of plants you want, and maintain the garden from bugs, birds, and weeds. Follow these steps and you will have a successful keyhole garden in no time!

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October 13, 7 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church, 1100
Carter Creek Parkway, Bryan

Songs from The Great War
November 11, 2 p.m.
Veterans Park Pavilion, 3101 Harvey
Road, College Station

'Tis the Season to Be Jolly!
December 10, 7 p.m.
Bryan ISD Performing Arts Center,
800 S. Coulter, Bryan

New Things
February 24, 2019, 4 p.m.
A&M United Methodist Church, 417
University Drive, College Station

Mozart Requiem
March 24, 2019, 5 p.m.
Rudder Auditorium, Texas A&M
University

Banjoes, BBQ, & Bluegrass
May 5, 2019, 6 p.m.
Hildebrand Equine Center

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Season 37: New Heights

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bvso.org

Canadian Brass

The program for this season opener
will include a full range of music,
from Bach to Gershwin, plus special
arrangements created just for the
Canadian Brass.

October 14
Rudder Auditorium, Texas A&M University

Fei-Fei Returns

– Beethoven Symphony No. 7, Op.
92, A major
– Rachmanioff Piano Concerto No.
2, Op. 18, C minor
– Featuring Fei-Fei, Pianist and
Cilburn Finalist

November 4
Rudder Theatre, Texas A&M University

The Holiday Pops Concert

– Selections for Brass, Organ, and Choir
– Christ United Methodist Church
Sanctuary Choir & Canticle
Ringers, College Station High
School Varsity Women's Choir,
Brenham Children's Chorus,
James Faith – Organist

December 9
Christ United Methodist Church,
College Station



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FEI-FEI



FANDANGO!

From Classics to Jazz

An evening of classics and jazz, as Rob Clearfield and his ensemble take the stage with the BVSO.

– Featuring Rob Clearfield, piano
February 10 2019,
Rudder Theatre, Texas A&M University

Mozart for March

Double your Mozart pleasure this March as Music Director Marcelo Bussiki and the BVSO take on two stunning works from the beloved composer.

– Mozart Oboe Concerto, K. 314, C major
– Mozart Requiem, K. 626, D minor
– Featuring Brazos Valley Chorale
March 24 2019,
Rudder Auditorium, Texas A&M University

Season Finale

An unforgettable evening with Tony Award-winner and Hamilton actor Leslie Odom, Jr.!
April 28 2019,
Rudder Auditorium, Texas A&M University

CONCERTS ON CARTER CREEK

Season 36

(979) 823-8073
fpcbryan.org/concerts-on-carter-creek
First Presbyterian Church, 1100
Carter Creek Parkway, Bryan

Tao Lin

November 18, 5 p.m.

Houston Chamber Ringers

December 2, 5 p.m.

Fandango!

January 20, 2019, 5 p.m.

Dover Quartet

April 8, 2019, 7 p.m.

FRIENDS OF CHAMBER MUSIC

Season 23

communitychamberconcerts.org

WindSync Wind Quintet

In its ninth season, WindSync builds highly thematic programs that feature landmark quintets, new works by American composers, and premiere arrangements of standard repertoire with the goal of increasing accessibility and cultural significance of wind chamber music.

September 21
A&M United Methodist Church,
College Station

Bach Society Houston

October 26
A&M United Methodist Church,
College Station

American Brass Quintet

The American Brass Quintet is internationally recognized as one of the premier chamber music ensembles of our time, celebrated for peerless leadership in the brass world.

November 27
First Presbyterian Church, Bryan

Schumann String Quartet

The Schumann Quartet was accorded the 2016 Newcomer Award at BBC Music Magazine Awards in London for its previous CD Mozart Ives Verdi. The three brothers Mark, Erik, and Ken Schumann have been playing together since their earliest childhood. In 2012, they were joined



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SOMETHING ROTTEN! PHOTO COURTESY OF MSC OPAS



RUSSIAN NATIONAL BALLET – CINDERELLA

by violist Liisa Randalu.
January 29, 2019
A&M United Methodist Church,
College Station

Mark Husey, Organ
Award-winning and critically
acclaimed American organist Mark
Husey is in his second season as
Principal Organist at the Church of
the Blessed Sacrament in Hollywood.
February 19, 2019
A&M United Methodist Church,
College Station

Dover String Quartet
Considered one of the most
remarkably talented young string
quartets ever to emerge at such a
young age, the Dover Quartet was
the Grand Prize-winner of the 2010
Fischhoff Competition.
April 8, 2019
First Presbyterian Church, Bryan

MSC OPAS

Season 46: Raise Your Voice
(979) 845-1661
mscopas.org

Ann Cobb Wyatt Main Stage

The Choir of Man
October 2-3, 7:30 p.m.
Rudder Auditorium, Texas A&M
University

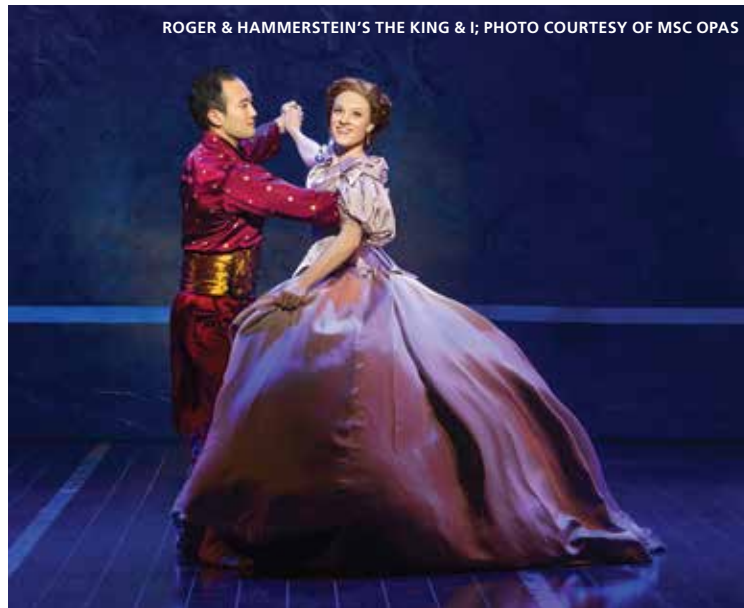
The Sound of Music
November 6-7, 7:30 p.m.
Rudder Auditorium, Texas A&M
University

Celtic Woman: The Best of Christmas
December 3-4, 7:30 p.m.
Rudder Auditorium, Texas A&M
University

*Rodgers & Hammerstein's
The King and I*
February 5-6, 2019, 7:30 p.m.
Rudder Auditorium, Texas A&M
University

Something Rotten!
February 23, 2019, 7:30 p.m.
February 24, 2019, 3 p.m.
Rudder Auditorium, Texas A&M
University

Finding Neverland
April 10-11, 2019, 7:30 p.m.
Rudder Auditorium, Texas A&M
University



ROGER & HAMMERSTEIN'S THE KING & I; PHOTO COURTESY OF MSC OPAS

Intimate Gatherings

The Capitol Steps
October 11, 7:30 p.m.
Rudder Theatre, Texas A&M University

Steel Magnolias
October 24, 7:30 p.m.
Rudder Theatre, Texas A&M University

Frankenstein
February 26, 2019, 7:30 p.m.
Rudder Theatre, Texas A&M University

Red Hot Chilli Pipers
March 19, 2019, 7:30 p.m.
Rudder Theatre, Texas A&M University

Lonesome Traveler: The Concert
April 4, 2019, 7:30 p.m.
Rudder Theatre, Texas A&M University

Special Events

Soweto Gospel Choir
October 30, 7:30 p.m.
Rudder Auditorium, Texas A&M
University

ERTH's Prehistoric Aquarium Adventure
November 30, 6:30 p.m.
Rudder Auditorium, Texas A&M
University

Boston Pops
March 22, 2019, 7:30 p.m.
Rudder Auditorium, Texas A&M
University

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Southern Fried Murder
September 28-29, 7 p.m.

September 30, 2 p.m.
October 5-6, 7 p.m.
October 7, 2 p.m.
October 11, 7 p.m.
October 12, 7 p.m.
October 13, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
October 14, 2 p.m.

Laterns & Legends:

Monuments and Mysteries
October 25-27, 6:30 p.m., 6:45 p.m., 7
p.m., 7:15 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 7:45 p.m.
All performances will be held at
Oakland Cemetery in Navasota.
There will be one indoor performance
held on October 28 at 2 p.m.

A Christmas Carol
Performances will be held on
Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays,
and Sundays from December 6
to December 16. Thursday and
Friday performances will begin at
7 p.m. Saturday performances will
begin at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday
performances will begin at 2 p.m.

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Signature Series

*Chicks with Hits – Pam Tillis, Suzy
Bogess, and Terri Clark*
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Crockett Civic Center

OktoberFest! With Brave Combo
October 6, 7 p.m.
Houston County Airport

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MOORES SCHOOL OF MUSIC CONCERT CHORALE



THE DESK SET; PHOTO COURTESY OF ALAN BRYANT

The Texas Tenors – Deep in the Heart of Christmas

December 18, 7:30 p.m.
Crockett Civic Center

William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night

January 27, 2019, 3 p.m.
Crockett Civic Center

Russian National Ballet – Cinderella

February 17, 2019, 3 p.m.
Crockett Civic Center

Blood, Sweat & Tears

March 9, 2019, 7:30 p.m.
Crockett Civic Center

Special Events

Tony Orlando

November 10, 7:30 p.m.
Crockett Civic Center

Lee Ann Womack

April 6, 2019, 7:30 p.m.
Crockett Civic Center

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All concerts will be held at the Festival Concert Hall.

Chamber Music Trio

August 18, 3 p.m.

Moores School Concert Chorale

October 13, 3 p.m.

Houston Chamber Ringers

November 17, 3 p.m.

The Nutcracker Ballet

December 8, 4 p.m.

Texas Guitar Quartet

January 12, 2019, 3 p.m.

Valentine's Concert with

Dick Smith & Friends

February 9, 2019, 2 p.m.

James Dick, Piano Recital

March 9, 2019, 3 p.m.

Split Second Piano Duo

April 27, 2019, 3 p.m.

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Harvey

October 4-20



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRENHAM PORTRAIT GALLERY

Arcadia

November 29 – December 15

Dinner with Friends

February 7-23, 2019

Murdered to Death

April 4-20, 2019

Butterflies Are Free

May 30, 2019 – June 15, 2019

Caught in the Villain's Web

July 25, 2019 – August 10, 2019

Joseph and the Amazing

Technicolor Dreamcoat

April 19, 2019 – May 5, 2019

Sunday in the Park with George

June 21-30, 2019

Mamma Mia!

August 2-18 2019

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unitybrenham.org

Main Stage

All performances are held Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 4 p.m.

The Savannah Sipping Society

September 27 – October 14

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

January 31, 2019 – February 17, 2019

And Then There Were None

March 28, 2019 – April 14, 2019

Brighton Beach Memoirs

June 13-30, 2019

Studio Series

All performances are held Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 4 p.m.

Amelia

November 1-11

Breadcrumbs

May 9-19, 2019

Family Shows

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

November 28-30, 7 p.m.

December 1, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

December 2, 4 p.m.

A Pocketful of Rhymes

July 25-26, 2019, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

July 27-28, 2019, 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. **i**

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tx.ag/GuitarSymposium

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St. Thomas Episcopal Church

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– Sept. 29, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Rudder Theatre

– Sept. 30, 5 p.m.

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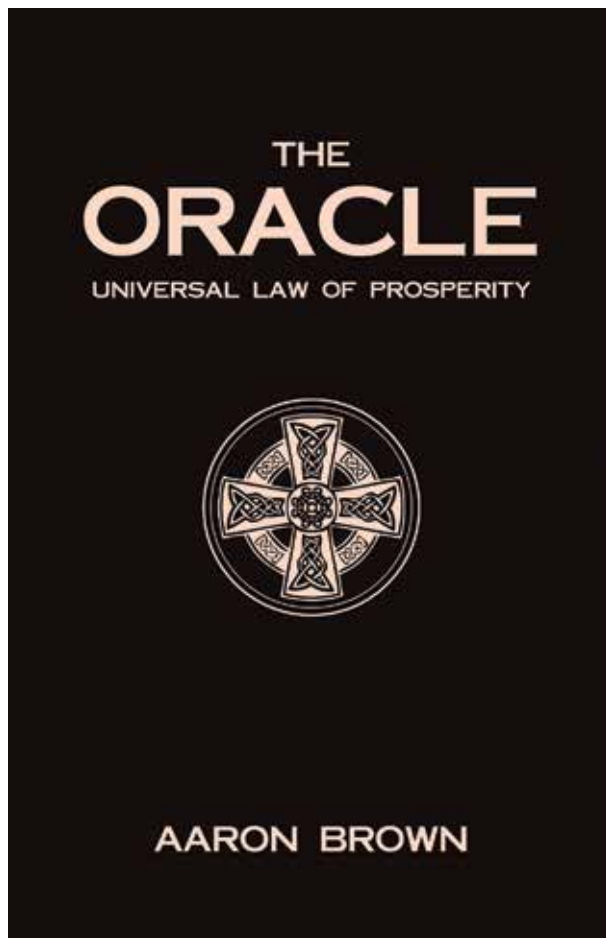
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BRAZOS READS

The Law of Prosperity

By SHELBI LEMEILLEUR



The Oracle: Universal Law of Prosperity; By Aaron Brown

Follow God and lead a blessed life; turn from Him and curses abound. This is the overarching principle behind *The Oracle: Universal Law of Prosperity* by Aaron Brown, owner of Sweet Eugene's in College Station. Brown uses his faith to dive into the Oracle, which he defines as: "The bold prophesy proclaiming prosperity to anyone who fears the Lord God."

Each easy, consumable chapter focuses on one aspect of the Oracle of scripture. Brown begins the chapter with a verse or set of verses, then explains why it is important to live your life according to a specific principle, ending with points to ponder. *The Oracle's* foundation relies on a few important ideas: The Oracle is timeless, the Oracle is universal, the Bible is inerrant and inspired by God, and the Oracle is reliable. Throughout its pages, Brown argues why a fear of the Lord leads to a prosperous life, and why rejecting Him brings curses upon your life.

The Oracle is available in paperback at Sweet Eugene's or online through WestBow Press and on Amazon. **i**

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SAVE THE DATE!

BVEDC's Brazos Valley Business Forum

Compiled by **INSITE STAFF**



Community and business growth typically go hand in hand. For one to be successful, the other must follow. The Brazos Valley Economic Development Corporation, a public-private economic development corporation serving the Brazos Valley, is dedicated to launching, growing, and locating businesses in the area.

To better serve the community, BVEDC is hosting the Brazos Valley Business Forum on Sept. 27 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Doug Pitcock '49 Texas A&M Hotel and Conference Center across from Kyle Field. The event for the professional and business community alike will engage all who attend and provide educational tools to help businesses improve the Brazos Valley.

The Brazos Valley Business Forum was inspired by the Governor's Small Business Forum held at the Stella Hotel in Bryan last year, according to Audrey Schroyer, the marketing and engagement manager at BVEDC. "[The Governor's Small Business Forum] was so well received by the community that we decided we wanted to make this an annual event, however because there are so many communities within the state of Texas, the Governor's office has to spread the love a little bit," she explains. This means the

Governor's office cannot host a business forum in Bryan College Station annually, so BVEDC decided to create an annual business forum for the Brazos Valley.

Attendees can expect dynamic presentations and discussions on a wide range of topics to engage them and the business community as a whole. There will be plenty of networking opportunities to create and strengthen working relationships through the forum's theme, ENGAGE!

"We are really trying to maximize the network as a strength in this geographic region," Schroyer shares. "The way that this forum is structured, you're going to be moving the whole day."

Schroyer says she is looking forward to the progressive lunch portion of the event. At the conclusion of each course, a bell will ring signaling everyone to get up and move to a different table with a different group of people, thus maximizing the opportunity to engage with others and network, even during the lunch break.

The forum's keynote speaker is Dr. Rick Rigsby, a former Texas A&M University professor and best-selling author. Rigsby is known for his motivating and inspiring speeches he gives around the world. "He was the life skills coordinator and chaplain for the football team at A&M,"

Schroyer explains. "Coach [R.C.] Slocum kind of brought him into the team's fold, and he has inspired so many of the Aggie football players and other people here in the community."

"We are delighted to host this year's business forum, called ENGAGE!" says BVEDC President and CEO Matt Prochaska. "This is one of those not-to-miss events in the Brazos Valley for business professionals and business owners alike. There is something for everyone. Dr. Rick Rigsby will inspire and challenge all of us with his keynote address. As one of the first events in the new Texas A&M Hotel and Conference Center, it will also be a great opportunity to check out the venue and network. The launch of the new local Economic Index published by PERC represents just one more value-add for the day's events."

Registration, ticket, and sponsor information are available at brazosvalleyedc.org. Tickets are \$125 per person and include lunch.

"This really is going to be a practical event," Schroyer says. "People will walk away with new ideas, tools, contacts, and inspiration to make themselves and their organizations better no matter where they are in their organizational structure." **i**



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REDS, WHITES, AND BEER

12th Annual Texas Reds Steak & Grape Festival

By SKYE LOVELADY



The Texas Reds Steak and Grape Festival is an event that combines the very best of Texas wines, Texas beers, and Texas beef. The 12th annual festival takes place in Downtown Bryan Sept. 28-30 and brings the very best “reds” of food and drinks to the Brazos Valley.

Texas Reds was originally started by the City of Bryan as a part of their revitalization project, says Katelyn Brown, events coordinator for the Downtown Bryan Association. The DBA took over running the festival four years ago.

The festival kicks off on Friday with a concert by Wynonna & The Big Noise at 9:30 p.m. Saturday, guests have the chance to participate in a variety of activities, and on Sunday, Downtown

Bryan shops open their doors for visitors to shop their hearts out. Also on Sunday is the Steak and Egg Brunch, complete with Texas wines and a mimosa bar from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Greg Tivis Nawlins Jazz Band performs Sunday during the brunch from 12 to 3 p.m. at the Palace Theater.

The main attraction on Saturday is, of course, the beer and wine tents. “You can enjoy Texas Reds in a variety of different ways,” Brown says. “Whether you want to drink wine or drink beer, we have different tasting packages available for that.” They offer packages just for wine, just for beer, for beer and wine, and for each featured steak meal. Brown says because of the growth of wine vendors and participants, the DBA added another

wine tent this year so everyone has more “room to breathe.”

The food packages include certain dinners and brunches. One meal is their famous Saturday night J. Cody steak dinner from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Brown says. On Sunday is the Steak and Egg Brunch, which will be held in the middle of Main Street — something the DBA has never done before, Brown says.

Texas Reds has also added a new dinner to the lineup this year. The DBA has partnered with Madden’s Casual Gourmet to host an “unwind and dine” dinner, Brown explains. It will be a three-course steak dinner that walks you through the wine pairings.

The Steak Cook-Off on Saturday is another popular event at Texas Reds.

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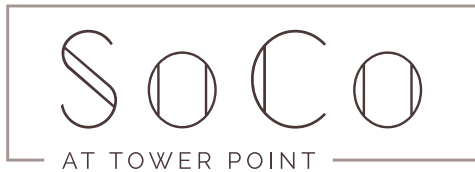


Teams compete to cook the best steak for a \$1,200 cash prize for first place, according to the Texas Reds Festival website. The steak is provided by Texas Reds and the entry fee starts at \$150. Guests are encouraged to walk around and watch each team prepare steaks for the judges, Brown says.

Free activities for festivalgoers include the grape stomp, hosted by the Bryan Noon Lion's Club, in front of the Carnegie History Center and the Kids Zone, which features inflatable bounce houses, the Purple Turtle Art Studio, and a miniature barrel train, according to the Texas Reds Festival website. Additionally, throughout the streets of Downtown Bryan will be local artists and vendors, as well as musicians playing on different stages planted throughout the festival, Brown says.

Ultimately, Texas Reds is designed to bring guests to Downtown Bryan, and that is exactly what the festival does. "I just love that the community has the opportunity to come to Downtown Bryan and experience it in a very different way, and to celebrate all things Texas," Brown says. "The Texas wine, the Texas beer, the live music, the arts ... it's just a big celebration."

Tickets for tastings and meals are on sale now, and you can save five percent by ordering your tickets between Sept. 11 and 21. For more information on ticket pricing and the events, visit texasredsfestival.com. **i**



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PIECE OF THE PAST

50th Round Top Antiques Fair

By **SKYE LOVELADY**



Are you looking for quality antiques? The Round Top Antiques Fair has this and more! The fair is a central hub for treasure hunters with 60-plus venues including the Big Red Barn and Annex and the Continental Tent. Visitors can explore room-style settings selling the unique and the unusual, including furniture, art, advertising, jewelry, and everything you expect to be in a well-appointed home. The fair celebrates 50 years of collecting and selling antiques of all variety Oct. 1 through 6. Susan Franks is the owner and bought the original show from Emma Lee Turney in 1968. The fair has been running and expanding its treasure trove ever since.

The Big Red Barn and Annex and the Continental Tent house different vendors who sell authentic antiques (meaning no reproductions or new items). Their dealers are professional antique dealers who guarantee their merchandise. "We absolutely adhere to our format, which is all antiques, quality antique, and vintage," she says.

If you've never been to the fair before, Franks offers a few tips and tricks to make your Round Top trip a success. She recommends coming in on Highway 290, for any other highway may result in traffic. Second, wear closed-toe shoes and comfortable clothes because you'll be on your feet all day. She says to book your hotel arrangements early because the area gets booked quickly. Lastly, if you intend to make a lot of purchases, call your bank to increase your debit purchase limit.

Once you arrive, all the fun begins. "This is a festival," Franks says. "This is not a stuffy, old antique show ... There's everything that you can imagine to buy, everybody will find something."

The Round Top Antiques Fair is a week full of surprises and offers something for everyone. Whether you are looking for country furniture, European furniture, accessories, jewelry, or treasures for your home, you are sure to leave the fair with a piece from the past! For more information, visit roundtoptexasantiques.com. **i**

Find a Piece from the Past Oct. 1-6

CHANGE A LIFE

Michelle Lynn Holsey Foundation Cutting Horse Competition

By **UNIQUA WILLIAMS**



The Michelle Lynn Holsey Foundation is hosting their 12th annual Cutting Horse Competition Oct. 3 through 7 and a dinner, auction, and concert on Oct. 6 at the Brazos County Expo Complex.

Lee Holsey, president of the Michelle Lynn Holsey Foundation, started the foundation after losing his wife, Michelle, to cancer in 2006. Holsey says she had a giving spirit and always wanted to help others. Even while battling cancer herself, his wife was always trying to find ways to help the people they would meet who were struggling in the same ways she was. Her selfless heart and desire to give to others is what sparked the idea to begin the foundation.

"You sit around in waiting rooms for months and months and you get to know these people," says Holsey. "So, when she passed, I thought, 'Man this would be a really nice way to remember her, to help these people we met.'"

In 12 years, the Michelle Lynn Holsey Foundation has given away more than \$1 million in grants and scholarships, according to Holsey. The funds aren't used to help find a cure for cancer. The foundation's main goal is to help people who are struggling with illnesses pay bills, buy medicine, and get to and from treatments. Many miss work when they (or a family member) are sick, and these funds help alleviate the financial burden.

"My wife and I met all these people before she passed," Holsey says. "They

'We raise money to help men, women, and children on their quest to battle cancer and other debilitating diseases'

— Lee Holsey

were missing work because their child was sick, or their spouse was sick, and we'd hear the stories in the waiting rooms about their struggles. ... We help a lot of kids. I would say at least half of our recipients are young people battling cancer."

This year's operating cost is \$10,000 a month and last year's was \$12,000 a month. Fundraisers like the Cutting Horse Competition help with operating costs and those in need.

"This is our main fundraiser we do each year," says Holsey. "We raise money to help men, women, and children on their quest to battle cancer and other debilitating

diseases and conditions while funding innovative research and education."

The Cutting Horse Competition is the biggest event held by The Michelle Lynn Holsey Foundation. This is a ranch-derived sport where competitors have two and a half minutes to drive through a herd of cattle and sort them, according to Holsey.

At dinner, there will be a silent auction that consists of anything from clothing and jewelry to gift baskets and gift certificates. The live auction is comprised of several different trip packages. Country singer Jason Cassidy is the concert headliner.

Holsey says he's expecting about 500 to 600 people to attend this year's event, but hopes for more. He encourages everyone to come out because this doesn't just affect a few people; it affects everyone.

"Everyone knows someone that cancer affects, so if we're blessed enough that we're not ill and fighting the disease, the least we can do is help others," says Holsey. "There aren't many people like us out there that help in monetary ways. That helps people who are struggling financially because of their illness. There are a lot of people out there looking for a cure or helping build some hospital, which are all very necessary, but I think our foundation is unique because we're helping people on a personal level."

Sponsorships and tickets are still available. Call the Michelle Lynn Holsey Foundation at (936) 204-4600 for more information. *i*

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Aggieland Humane Society is excited to announce the 12th Annual Wiener Fest, Sunday, October 14, at Wolf Pen Creek Park. Enjoy a full day of events including a pet costume contest, vendors, food trucks, live entertainment, a kid zone and of course the famous wiener races. Not a wiener? We'll have the wanna-be wiener races too!

AgHS will have 100 FREE 24-Hour Pet Watch Microchips available for pets. We will also have several local rescue groups on-site all day with pets looking for forever homes!

The day starts at 10 a.m. with our pet costume contest, followed by races all afternoon! Bring your pup, bring your kids, bring the whole family and enjoy a fun-filled Sunday in the park.

Go to aggielandhumane.org/wienerfest for race and vendor registration information.



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OVER THE EDGE BRAZOS VALLEY

The Most Unique Fundraising Event in the Brazos Valley Returns

Courtesy of **UNITED WAY OF THE BRAZOS VALLEY**



The most unique fundraising event in the region returns for a third year. Over the Edge Brazos Valley takes place on Oct. 12 and benefits the United Way of the Brazos Valley. Participants will rappel 110 feet down the Hilton College Station, facing their fears while fighting for a stronger community.

“Over the Edge was such a successful event in 2016 and 2017, we knew we had to do it again,” says Alison Prince, president and CEO of United Way of the Brazos Valley. “Through this event, we have raised over \$130,000 to fight for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in the Brazos Valley. We are thrilled to do Over the Edge 2018 where we are sure even more funds will be raised to address critical community needs right here in our community.”

To earn a spot on the rappel list, participants register online at OverTheEdgeBrazosValley.org, create their unique fundraising page, then share it with friends, family members, and co-workers who can pledge funds in support of their rappeller. Once the rappeller reaches their fundraising goal of at least \$1,000, they secure their rappel spot to go Over the Edge.

Over the Edge sponsors include Caldwell Country, Schulte Roofing, and Party Time Rentals. Sponsorships are still available.

‘Through this event, we have raised over \$130,000 to fight for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in the Brazos Valley’
— Alison Prince

In the last four years, United Way of the Brazos Valley has provided more than \$1.5 million in grant funding to local nonprofit organizations working to end social issues. They have answered calls and provided referral information for nearly 200,000 residents in need

through their 2-1-1 Texas service. United Way provides the only regional volunteer connection point called VolunteerBrazosValley.org and inspires more than 30 high school students from seven area high schools each year to engage in community leadership through Youth Leadership Cabinet. This year the Youth Leadership Cabinet provided more than \$14,500 in mini-grants to local organizations.

In just 2015, more than 62,000 people in the Brazos Valley were impacted by the collective efforts of United Way of the Brazos Valley.

United Way of the Brazos Valley fights for the education, financial stability, and health of every person in the Brazos Valley. They work to solve the community’s most daunting social issues, engaging individuals to build strategies, and mobilizing resources to invest for change.

Through Community Impact Grants to local nonprofit organizations and Investment Initiatives including 2-1-1 Texas, Youth Leadership Cabinet, VolunteerBrazosValley.org, and the Financial Stability Innovation Fund, United Way is creating measurable change in specific community issues.

To support the work of United Way of the Brazos Valley and learn more about how you can become involved, visit uwbv.org.



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BOONVILLE DAYS

Stampedes, Chuckwagons, and Western Heritage

Courtesy of **BRAZOS VALLEY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY**



Join the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History on Oct. 13 for the 13th annual Boonville Days — Texas Heritage Festival. This year also marks the 10th annual Buffalo Stampede Half Marathon and 5K Race and the 7th annual Chuck Wagon Cook-off on Friday and Saturday.

This year's Boonville Days will be bigger and better than ever before! This free festival held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. provides an opportunity to see Brazos County's pioneer history come to life. Visit with characters in period costume including cowboys, civil war re-enactors, musicians, dancers, artists, and much more. Professor Paisley from the Texian Institute of Oxenology will

parade back into town with oxen Justice and Liberty, showcasing Texas culture from 1830-1845. Demonstrations of frontier skills and trades including flint-making, spinning, quilting, weaving, and blacksmithing will also be on display. Family friendly fun includes making pinch pots and other period crafts, which is sure to keep your kids entertained.

Festival visitors can browse through the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History's Discovery Room with live animals, a library, and an exhibition gallery. Guests can also explore the Texas history display and the museum's current temporary exhibit, *THE BRAZOS: Legacy of a Mighty River*.

Runners will stampede their way through Bryan College Station starting at 7:30 a.m. at the Brazos Center as the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History hosts its 10th annual Buffalo Stampede! Runners of all ages are welcome. Overall male and female winners receive unique buffalo sculpture trophies. Save money by registering early online at brazosvalleymuseum.org, where maps and race details are also available. For more information about registration options, call the museum at **(979) 776-2195**.

During the 7th annual Chuck Wagon Cook-off, your taste buds can join the fun. The chuck wagons compete in a cook-off complete with meals for the public. Lunch



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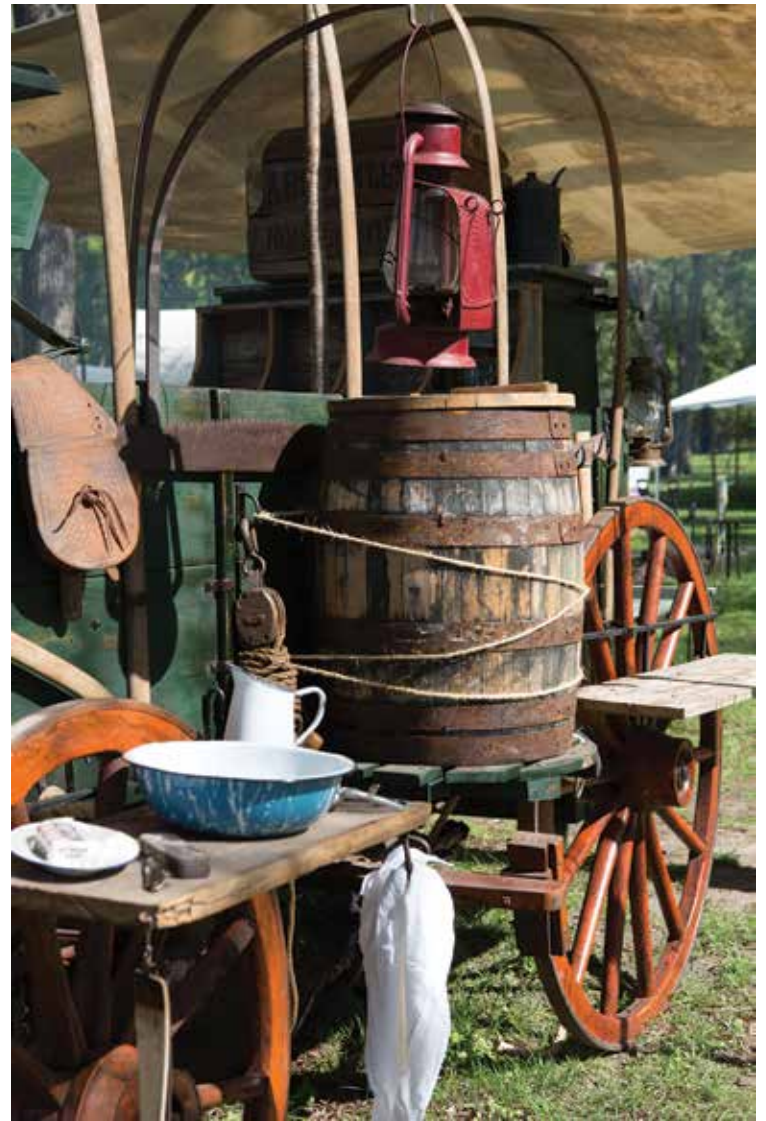
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tickets for the Chuck Wagon Saturday noon meal are pre-sold at the Museum for \$10. Meals include bottled water, chicken fried steak, beans, potatoes, and cobbler. Pat Gavin and the Buckaroo Band will provide music to keep your feet tapping in the Chuck Wagon area. Those wishing to pack extra chuck wagon fun into the weekend can visit Friday afternoon to see wagon judging and crews in period dress.

Part of the cook-off is watching friendly rivalries play out between several of the wagon crews who compete each year. The teams go head-to-head in an “Old-West” culinary battle to determine which chuck wagon reigns supreme. Cash prizes and spectacular hand-crafted silver and gold belt buckles by Tres Rios Silver awarded to the championship team serve as incentives for hard work and great cooking.

If chuck wagons are not your ideal form of transportation, you have nothing to worry about. Shuttle busses carry visitors to and from Boonville Heritage Park, a unique local heritage site. Boonville Heritage Park is home to a restored and furnished 19th century dogtrot cabin; replica buildings of the Boonville Court House, smoke house, and the Masonic lodge; and other re-enactors, booths, and more.

Event volunteers are always needed. If you are interested in volunteering or being a re-enactor at Boonville Days, email events@brazosvalleymuseum.org or call (979) 776-2195. *i*



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SCARECROW FESTIVAL

Fall Food, Fun, and Festivities

By **UNIQUA WILLIAMS**



Driving through the streets of Chappell Hill in October may seem a bit scary — if you're a crow that is. The Chappell Hill Historical Society hosts their annual Scarecrow Festival on Oct. 13 and 14.

The Chappell Hill Historical Society is a nonprofit, volunteer organization dedicated to the preservation of historical buildings in Chappell Hill. The festival helps raise money for the Historical Society. It's also a chance to educate visitors about historical significances and occurrences in Chappell Hill, according to Joel Romo, president of The Chappell Hill Historical Society.

"The Scarecrow Festival was designed to attract people that are interested in antiques and collectibles," says Romo. "The community started displaying scarecrows and preparing for the fall and it became a major attraction where there were scarecrow contests, more people got engaged, they decorated their homes and businesses, and the festival grew out of that."

There are usually hundreds of scarecrows displayed during the event by the community of Chappell Hill. The festival attracts anywhere from 15,000 to 20,000 people per year, according to Romo. Although a lot of guests are from the Brazos Valley, 90 percent of the guests come from out of town — places like Houston, Austin, and the Hill Country area. "This is one of the largest festivals in the state of Texas, and we are blessed that many of our attendees are from throughout Texas, not just local," says Romo.

Dance groups, ballets, and different musicians perform throughout the day. Two stages will also be open during the event, featuring performers like singer Abigail Tayler.

There will be food booths and beverages, train rides, and a kid's corner for visitors. The Chappell Hill Historical Society Museum, which has a huge exhibit relating to the 100th anniversary of World War I, will also be open.

"Everything will be within walking distance," says Romo. "People can enjoy a day at the festival and take in the live music, the cultural arts — which is in our museum — kids activities, and of course, food and beverages."

The scarecrows may be the main attraction, but this festival helps bring out the town's historical significance as well. A lot of Texas history occurred in Chappell Hill leading up to Texas Independence.

"We invite people to come to our festival and enjoy a day in the country with arts and crafts and activities," says Romo. "We have beautiful historic buildings that are open to the public during our festival: a museum, library, Providence Baptist Church. We have so much to offer in the Chappell Hill area."

The free festival is on Oct. 13 and 14, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Parking is \$5, and vendor applications are still open. For more information about The Scarecrow Festival, visit chappellhillhistoricalsociety.com. 

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napaflats.com, 1727 Texas Ave. S. College Station (979) 383-2500. Dining out never tasted so good. Enjoy California inspired cuisine made over a wood fired grill at Napa Flats. Open M-Th 11am-10pm, F-Sa 11am-11pm, Su 11am-9:30pm.

PAOLO'S ITALIAN KITCHEN

PaolosItalianKitchen.com, 809 University Dr #100, CS (979) 485-2704. Life is too short not to eat well. Signature dishes include Baked Clams seasoned with garlic, Veal Marsala with sautéed mushrooms, Chicken Scarpariello – oven roasted with bell pepper, onion & garlic. Lunch M-Sa 11am-2pm, Dinner M-Sa 5-9:30pm.

PEACH CREEK VINEYARDS

PeachCreekVineyards.com, 2029 Peach Creek Rd, CS (936) 825-3669. There's plenty of parking at this picturesque operation nestled in the beautiful countryside near College Station. Visit this winery and novelty gift shop in the heart of a Texas vineyard. While there, be sure to view the antique grape press from the late 1800s and ask about the Adopt-A-Vine program. Open F-Sa 12pm-6pm, Su 1-5pm.

READFIELD MEATS & DELI

readfieldmeats.com, 2701 S Texas Ave, Bryan (979) 822-1594. Your summer solution to meal planning and great BBQs, choose UDA Choice & Prime beef, Midwest Grain-fed Pork, Fresh Poultry, Lamb, Smoked Sausage, Cajun Boudin, and Honey Glazed Hams. Open M-F 8am-6pm, Sa 8am-4pm.

THE REPUBLIC

therepublic1836.com, 701 University Dr. E #406, CS (979) 260-4120. Recently receiving the designation of AAA four diamond steak house, The Republic offers a variety of gourmet steak options, seafood, wine, and whiskey. Their focus is on the use of fine, locally grown foods and simple Texas cooking in an elegant setting. Open M-Sa 5-10pm.

THE TAP

tapbcs.com, 815 Harvey Rd, CS (979) 696-7396. The Tap is a former train depot transformed into a sports bar and restaurant. This local favorite has more than 30 TVs, darts, pool tables, NTN trivia, dominoes, two huge porches, occasional live music specials, burgers, sandwiches, and free peanuts. M-Sa 11am-2pm.

TRUMAN CHOCOLATES

trumanchocolates.com, 4407 S Texas Ave, Bryan (979) 260-4519. Choose from signature series boxes or customize your own. Numerous flavors to choose from. Made on site by well-trained staff. Perfect to leave a lasting impression for any event! Open M-F 10am-6pm; Sa 10am-3pm; Closed on Sunday.

VERITAS WINE & BISTRO

www.veritaswineandbistro.com, 830 University Dr. E, Ste 400, CS (979) 268-3251. Classically trained chefs offer creative cuisine in a casual, contemporary setting. Veritas embraces usage of organic and local produce, wild caught seafood flown in directly from the source, as well as poultry and meat raised naturally. Lunch M-Sa 11am-2pm; Dinner Sun-Th 5:30pm-9:30pm, F-Sa 5:30pm-10pm.

WAYBACK BURGERS

waybackburgers.com, 910 William D. Fitch Pkwy, CS (979) 704-6280; 1512 S Texas Ave, CS (979) 704-3076; 3001 Wildflower Dr, Bryan, (979)703-6623. 3001 Wild Flower Drive, Bryan (979) 703-6623. Made-to-order burgers & milkshakes fill out the menu at this family-friendly chain. Open M-Sa 10:30am-10pm, and Su 10:30am-9pm.

ENTERTAINMENT & ATTRACTION**SCHLITTERBAHN**

schlitterbahn.com, (409) 770-WAVE, (979) 625-2351. With waterparks in Corpus Christi, Galveston, New Braunfels, and South Padre Island Schlitterbahn is

the perfect destination for your family vacation. Make a splash this summer and enjoy free parking, free tubes, and picnicking by the pool!

BURLESON COUNTY**MAD HATTER'S TEA ROOM**

madhatterstea.com, 210 S Echols, Caldwell (979) 567-3504. The Mad Hatter's cozy eatery provides tantalizing treats and generous portions bursting with flavor, a unique selection of gift items, gourmet coffees, and specialty teas. Open for breakfast and lunch and special events by appointment. Three course English Afternoon Tea every 4th Sat; call for reservations. W-Sa 8am-5pm

GRIMES COUNTY**CLASSIC ROCK COFFEE CO.**

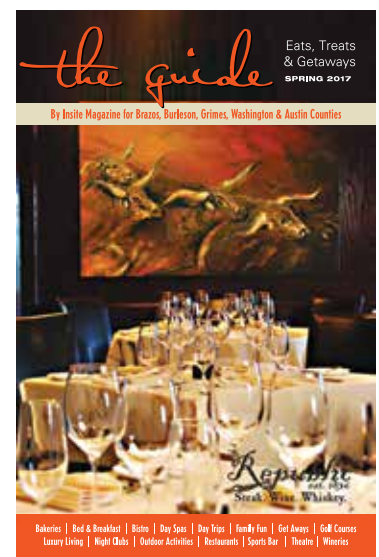
facebook.com/crcnavasotatx, 129 E. Washington Ave., Navasota, (936) 727-5613. Great coffee, great music! Stop by to hear some classic rock and try coffee from around the world. Su-Th 6am-8pm, F-Sa 6am-10pm.

MARTHA'S BLOOMERS

marthasbloomers.com, 8101 Hwy 6 Bypass, Navasota, café@marthasbloomer.com (936) 825-7400. Escape to sights, scents, and delightful treasures you'll discover. At Martha's Bloomers, you can take a stroll through beautiful gardens, home décor, and a boutique. While you are there, stop by Café M. Bloomers for a relaxing and delicious lunch. Lunch Tu-Su 11am-3pm, Desert until 4pm, High Tea 2pm-4pm by reservation.

WASHINGTON COUNTY**FUNKY ART CAFÉ & COFFEE BAR**

202 W Commerce St, Brenham (979) 836-5220. Delicious and different, Funky Art Café in Brenham offers enticing entrees to please the palate before shopping in its companion retail shop, The Pomegranate M-Fr 11am-2pm; Sa 11am-3pm



Check out Guide to Eats, Treats & Getaways at insitebrazosvalley.com. Listings provided as a service. Insite is not responsible for errors or omissions.

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