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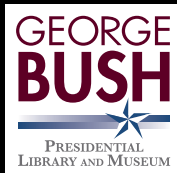


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**Error & Omissions**  
*The February Bridal issue included incorrect photos and articles affecting the coverage of Karina & Geronimo Longoria and Kylee & Rey Quintanilla. Insite regrets the error.*

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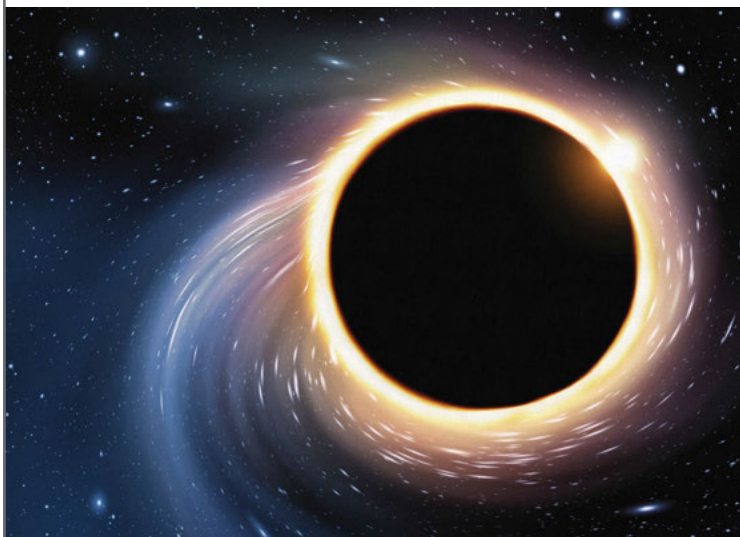
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This program made possible in part through Hotel Tax Revenue funded from the City of Bryan and the City of College Station through The Arts Council.



## SHOP-A-THON SYMPHONY PREMIERE MARKET

Compiled by Carolina Keating

The Brazos Valley Symphony Society is bringing high-end merchants and shoppers together again for the 3rd Annual Premiere Market Fundraiser at the Brazos County Expo Complex, April 9-11. The Premiere Market will feature specialty gift items, unique home accessories, designer fashions for adults and children, custom designed and heirloom jewelry, gourmet foods, and much more. Proceeds from the Premiere Market will benefit the cultural and educational programs of the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra.

"We are thrilled that many of our customers' favorite merchants will be back again with stellar selections," says Lou Ellen Ruesink, a Brazos Valley Symphony member and merchant coordinator for the event. "Some of the new merchants will bring petite to plus-sized clothing, even more delicious gourmet foods and candies, gifts for the kitchen, and great stuff for kids too," adds Ruesink.

The event will kick off with an exclusive Sneak Peek Party on Thursday, April 9. This special preview event will give eager shoppers "first pick" at the selections while enjoying delicious selections catered by Napa Flats, champagne, and musical entertainment during the evening from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00

p.m. In addition, attendees can also participate in the silent auction. Admission is \$25 per person and reservations are required no later than March 27, via the BVSO Office at (979) 696-6100 or online at [bvso.org](http://bvso.org).

On April 10-11, shopping is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. Delicious "tea room" menu selections will be available to shoppers in need of a snack or meal throughout the shopping days. Individual tickets (\$5 per person) for the public shopping days will be on sale at the door and the price includes entry to the Premiere Market on both Friday and Saturday.

*New this year will be 'Muffins, Mimosas & More,' a special VIP Shopping Event.*

The morning of Friday, April 10, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. will offer guests the VIP treatment with a complimentary mimosa, gourmet muffins and other breakfast goodies, a coffee bar, and private shopping for VIPs only from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. before the crowds arrive. Admission will be \$15 at the door.

On Saturday, April 11, the Market will feature "Photos with Reveille." Aggies and children of all ages will have the opportunity for a keepsake photo to be taken with the Aggie mascot. This event will only take place from 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. so as not to tire out the beloved "First Lady of Aggiland."

For more information, visit [bvso.org](http://bvso.org). *i*



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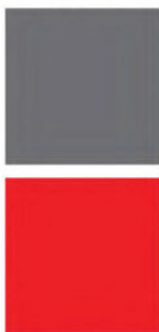
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## TWIN CITY MISSION GOLF CLASSIC

By Carolina Keating

For 15 years, the Twin City Mission Golf Classic has been bringing both awareness and fun to the Brazos Valley. This year, the 15th annual Twin City Mission Golf Classic will take place Monday, March 23, at the Phillips Event Center at Briarcrest Country Club.

The annual event is a major fundraising opportunity for Twin City Mission, a local non-profit organization founded in 1963 to meet the needs of the homeless in the Bryan/College Station area. In the more than 50 years since then, Twin City Mission has grown tremendously and now offers four different programs to provide help for those in need in the Brazos Valley.

The homeless and housing services provides emergency shelter for the homeless in the B/CS area and assists with transitional housing needs. The service also provides basic necessities such as clothing, furniture, and nutritious meals to those in need. The donation and resale program has four retail stores stocked by donations from the community that offer clothing and other items for very little cost. The domestic violence services program provides an emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence as well as non-residential services, case management, and counseling. The youth and family services program provides free services to at-risk youth and works to keep the family together.

The golf tournament serves a dual purpose for the organization, says Ron Crozier, director of public relations for Twin City Mission. "We use the tournament on two different fronts," he says. "One of which is a fundraiser and the second way is as a public awareness tool."

Despite the obvious benefits of the fundraiser, Crozier believes the second purpose is much more important. "For two months prior to the tournament we have people talking about Twin City Mission. We are getting our name out there and we are doing it in a positive way," he says.

*'If we only raise five dollars but we had 100 people come out and have a good time and talk about the Mission, then that is a successful tournament.'*

The Twin City Mission Golf Tournament also offers a positive spin on an often negative topic. "So much of what we do is considered in a negative light – homelessness, violence, child abuse – but on that day we've got a positive attitude and everything has a bright light instead of a grey dim association."

Additionally, Crozier and the rest of the committee in charge of the golf tournament want to make sure that the golfers have a great time. "When they come out to the golf tournament that day we want to let them know how much we appreciate them and their support for Twin City Mission. We want to show them a good time so that when they leave they are already talking about coming back next year."

For more information, visit [twincitymission.org](http://twincitymission.org). *i*

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PHOTOS OF THE CONLEE HOME BY JAMES MORRISON & GRANT CONLEE

# Honoring Our Past Embracing Our Future

The 2015 Woman's Club House and Garden Tour

By Joan Moore of The Woman's Club

**T**he Bryan/College Station Woman's Club's 47th Annual House and Garden Tour and Luncheon will be Wednesday, April 15, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. In honor of The Woman's Club's 120th year, the theme for this year's tour is "Honoring Our Past – Embracing Our Future."

This year's theme, "Honoring Our Past—Embracing Our Future," is reflected in three uniquely beautiful homes, all located in historic Bryan neighborhoods. The residents of the homes have decorated in keeping with the original styles of the homes, while adding personal touches that make the homes perfectly "at home" in 2015.

**The Conlee Home**  
**Originally 'The Harrison Home'**  
**601 E. 32nd Street, Bryan**

Grant and Mandy Conlee's home at 601 E. 32nd Street in Bryan perfectly captures the Tour's theme, "Honoring Our Past—Embracing Our Future." Grant, a fifth generation Bryan native, and his wife Mandy wanted to raise their children in a home that was as deeply rooted as their family had been in this community.

Grant and his mother, Kay Conlee, own Old Bryan Marketplace in Downtown Bryan. Throughout the shop, you can see Grant's creativity and talent on display, and you will see that in the Conlees' home as well.

In fact, Grant's interest in design goes way back, as his mother says he was the only 6-year-old who liked to choose things for his bedroom from Cashion-Cain, an old home interior shop in College Station.



The home was built in 1933 by Dr. Henry and Mrs. Merle Harrison. Several families have lived in the home since then. Sitting on four city blocks of nearly an acre of land, the home has 3,988 square feet of living space, along with an additional 1,200 square feet of porches and carport. The traditional, primarily brick home, with a natural wood shingle roof, has four bedrooms, three and a half baths, formal and informal living spaces, along with dining and kitchen.

Grant and Mandy, the parents of two active boys, Davis, age 10, and Jess, age 6, embraced the home because it seemed to have been built for entertaining, which the Conlees love to do. The large rooms and open spaces flow beautifully from one area to the next. Their lives revolve around family, and this home does as well. With their hectic lives, they felt it was important to have a relaxing home where they could make the most of their moments with the boys.

As you enter the front door, the warmth of the entry sets the tone for the home and continues throughout the living spaces. The French server is especially meaningful as it belonged to Grant's grandmother, Kathryn Conlee, and it brings back so many wonderful memories of the lessons she taught them about family. He remembers her

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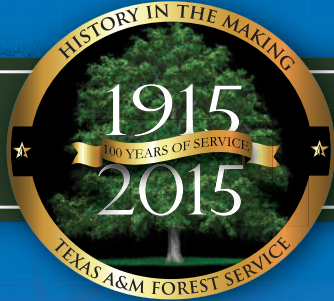
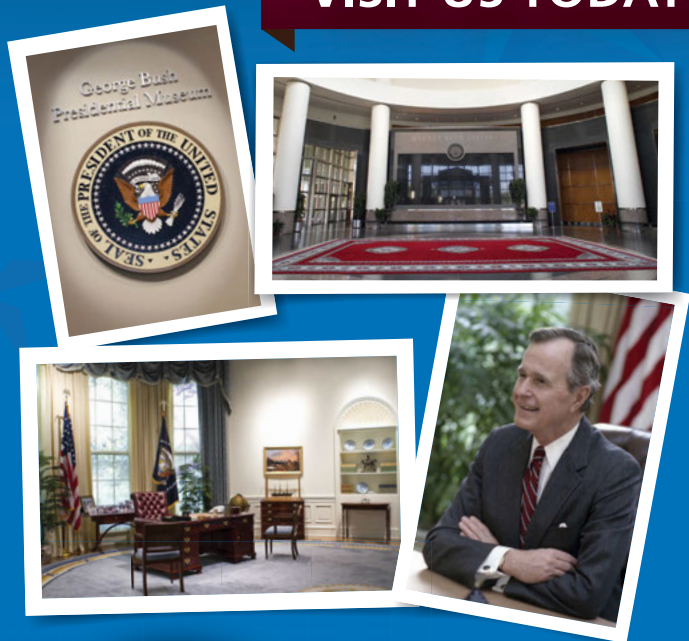
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telling of how she stood in the sleet outside an auction to buy this piece. The painting above the server and the clock were also hers. The antique solid gilded bronze and crystal chandelier was a housewarming gift from Grant's mother, Kay Conlee.

The family room is a gathering place for friends and family. The family room's foundation is a large handmade Oushak rug from Pakistan, which took two years to make.

The courtyard is a true continuation of the family room. With its lined boxwoods and sculpted topiaries, this area is a favorite place to relax with a cup of coffee in the morning or to unwind and visit as a family after a long day.

It doesn't take long to appreciate the importance of family to the Conlees. They wanted their home to be a place for entertaining as a family and being together as a family.



PHOTOS OF THE BRYAN HOME BY SHERYL START OF THE WOMAN'S CLUB

**The Bryan Home**  
**Originally 'The Madeley Home'**  
**763 S. Rosemary Drive, Bryan**

A history buff like Tim Bryan knows exactly what is meant by "Honoring Our Past – Embracing Our Future."

When you visit his home, you'll see evidence of all kinds of history: family history, world history, and even Texas history.

And of course, you'll also find history of the city where he was raised and which was named for

his ancestor. As you tour the home, you'll get a definite feel for the past, but you'll also see a home that is perfect for life in today's world while also looking to the future.

The approximately 3,000-square-foot home at 763 S. Rosemary in Bryan was built in the 1930's by Ed and Billie Madeley who lived there with Mrs. Madeley's mother. Tim bought the house in 1999.

Tim and his brother Travis, III have spent most of their lives here.

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He grew up surrounded by family history, as the namesake of the city, William Joel Bryan, was his great-great grandfather, and Stephen F. Austin was William Joel's uncle.

William Joel Bryan gave the right of way to the Houston & Texas Central Railroad, which allowed for the extension of the railroad from Millican to what is now Downtown Bryan.

Tim is the son of the late Travis Bryan, Jr. and Norma Bryan. Norma, a lover of antiques, did most of the decorating in the home. Tim says that the home's artwork and furniture have meaning to him.

As you enter the home, you'll immediately feel welcome in the lovely foyer.

You'll also notice the beautiful red oak floors, which are original to the home. In the living

room, you'll begin to see some of the many items in the home with historical significance. On the living room wall, there is a crest from the early

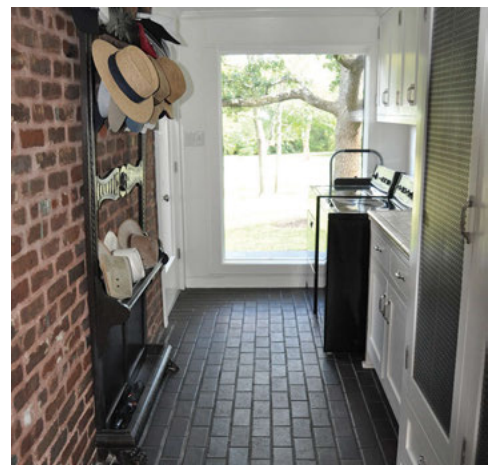
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1700's from the era of Frederick I, King of Prussia. A more recent piece of history in the dining room

is the bust of Winston Churchill, which is like the one President George H. W. Bush gave to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher at the G8 Summit in Houston. There were originally 13 copies of the bust made, and the bust in Tim's home is actually the original artist's proof.

Tim calls his home "House on the Hill" because it is located on what his dad told him was the highest point in the city when he was a young boy and hunted there in the early 1930s.

Early last century, all of the timber was mined, and because of that, one "could see Downtown Bryan from that hill." As Tim says, "The house has a very comfortable homey feel to it, not too big or small...comfortable."



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### The Caffey Home Originally 'The Searcy Home' 609 E. 32nd Street, Bryan

Stacie and Kevin Caffey's home at 609 E. 32nd Street in Bryan was originally owned by Dr. R. M. Searcy, a local medical doctor, and his wife Lois. The home was built in 1935. The Caffeys purchased the 3,000-square-foot home in 2013.

Behind the home is a garage apartment, an old garage, and a 5,000-square-foot warehouse, which is currently being used as a workshop, office space, and storage.

The neighborhood has long been a family neighborhood. Three very close families, the Searcys, the Harrisons, and the Halsells, once lived in this area. They raised their children together, got together often, and cooked out and spent time in one another's homes. Stacie says she feels like history is

now repeating itself as the current residents of these three homes, the Caffeys, the Conlees, and the Myers, are also very close. The kids play together, and the families often end up at one of the homes just to visit and relax together. Stacie feels the original owners would be extremely pleased to see how the neighborhood's family traditions are still a big part of life in the area.

As you enter the home, you'll notice the beautiful hardwood floors, which are original to the home. There are many examples of the 1930's Art Deco period throughout the home, and Stacie and Kevin have tried to leave some of those touches. The original front door is an example of the Art Deco style. All of the trunks in the home, including the one in the living room, were found, along with many other treasures, in the old garage

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behind the home.

The utility room, off the kitchen, was once part of the dining room. The dining room ran the entire length of the house, and there was no indoor utility. Stacie and Kevin designed this room, with locker space for each member of the family and a chalkboard sliding door.

The Caffey's have recently redone the kitchen. The original layout with a small island, pantry with folding doors and a return air closet was reconfigured with a new, larger island, cabinets, pantry space, and a coffee-wine bar. Quint Foster did all of the glasswork here and throughout the home. There is also a sitting area in the room, which is one of Kevin and Stacie's favorite parts of the house.

The "rumpus" room was added to the home in 1959. The old radio was found in the garage and has a record player inside. The china cabinet belonged to Stacie's paternal great-grandmother. There are two window seats, one overlooking the pool, and one overlooking the backyard.

One-year old Vivian's room definitely belongs to a "girly-girl." The built-in cabinets and drawers are original. The Caffey's added the marble countertops. The hardware in this room is also original. The old frame with the banner of Vivian's name was bought at a Rockdale antique store, Queen's.

The paneled "Boy Cave" was added during the 1959 remodel and is shared by 8-year old Jackson



and 6-year old Slaton. The bunk beds were found in the warehouse. The Caffey's redid one entire wall to make a built-in desk, cabinets, and a closet for each boy. The boys are very close, and this room is perfect for them.

Stacie loves space and color and loves mixing the old and the new. She knows the home was built for a family 80 years ago, but she feels that it was meant for her family today. Kevin and Stacie have definitely honored the past here, but they also obviously live life to the fullest today and embrace the future as well. They pray that everyone who enters their home is as truly blessed as they have been. Stacie says, "It is exciting and encouraging to see families with children living in this older neighborhood, keeping it active and alive!" *i*

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April 8 is the last day to make luncheon reservations. The luncheon, to be held at The Woman's Club, is open to members and non-members and will be served continuously from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The theme for this year's luncheon is "Picnic on Carter Creek."

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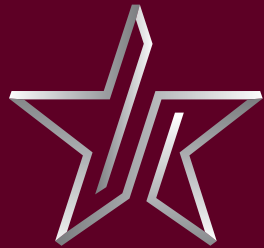
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## MAKING LEMONADE TEACHING KIDS BETTER BUSINESS

By Carolina Keating



CLAYTON'S WILD WEST LEMONADE STAND IN 2011.

It would not be summer in Texas without an ice-cold glass of lemonade to keep you cool in the sweltering heat. Thanks to the annual Lemonade Day program, there will be plenty of lemonade stands from which to purchase that glass of lemonade on May 4.

Lemonade Day is a national program founded in Houston in 2007. The program's main focus is to inspire kids to learn about building a small business and accomplishing goals by helping them start, own, and operate their own business – a lemonade stand.

Kids who participate in Lemonade Day are in complete control of their stand and learn about entrepreneurship by creating a budget, setting profit goals, serving customers, giving back to the community, and much more.

Four years after its inception in Houston, Lemonade Day debuted in the Bryan/College Station area in 2011.

"It seemed like something that would be ideal for the B/CS area," says Lenae Scroggins, founder of the B/CS chapter of Lemonade Day. At the time, Scroggins was running the Entrepreneurship Center at Texas A&M University and she thought Lemonade Day was an excellent way for the center to get involved in working with younger kids.

"We were much more focused on students at A&M and not so much involved on the secondary

education level," she says. Scroggins worked with the original founder, Micheal Holthouse, as well as local business owners to make the first Lemonade Day happen. Dave Fox, owner of Blue

**MOST KIDS DON'T REALLY  
LEARN THIS STUFF AT  
HOME AND THEY DON'T  
LEARN IT AT SCHOOL  
EITHER, SO THERE IS THIS  
BIG GAP OF LEARNING. WE  
ARE TRYING TO FILL THAT  
GAP WITH LEMONADE DAY  
– LENAЕ SCROGGINS**

Baker, was one of those entrepreneurs.

"In general, we get involved mostly with groups and events that have to do with kids and what I thought was unique is that there is no other event that is really trying to teach entrepreneurs," says Fox.

Fox was sold on the idea and Blue Baker has been a sponsor of Lemonade Day since the B/CS chapter was founded.

While working on getting Lemonade Day off

of the ground, Scroggins says she realized how much a program like this was needed. "Most kids don't really learn this stuff at home and they don't learn it at school either, so there is this big gap of learning. We are trying to fill that gap with Lemonade Day," says Scroggins. "It teaches very, very valuable lessons. It is about setting a goal, making a plan, working the plan, and achieving the goal."

Vanessa Sikorski, a parent who has helped her son, Clayton, participate in Lemonade Day for the past four years, agrees with Scroggins. "We like doing it because it teaches him how to plan, from start to finish, an idea and how to save his money," Sikorski says.

Clayton, who changes the theme of his stand every year and has won several awards including "Best Imagination Stand," "Best Stand," and "Entrepreneur of the Year," enjoys the whole process but particularly loves seeing all his hard work

pay off.

"I like that there are a bunch of people that are friendly and nice that come by and get lemonade," says Clayton. When asked if it is difficult to make his lemonade stand happen, there is a pause before he responds. "It takes a little thinking," he says.

Lemonade Day also focuses on showing kids what they can do with the money they earn from their lemonade sales.

#82

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JACE P.'S LITTLE MAN'S STAND WON MOST UNIQUE STAND.

"It's a spend-a-little, save-a-little, share-a-little motto with Lemonade Day," says Scroggins.

After paying back their investors, participants can use the rest of the money they earn in any way they wish.

However, Lemonade Day does encourage

giving back to the community and Scroggins says a surprising amount of kids end up giving a large portion of their earnings to charities.

Although Lemonade Day is not until May 4, anyone interested in having his or her child participate can sign up online now at [bcs.lemonadeday.org](http://bcs.lemonadeday.org). After registering, backpacks with all the information needed to guide parents and children through the Lemonade Day process will be available for pick up at local businesses sponsoring Lemonade Day. Those locations include Blue Baker, American Momentum Bank, Copy Corner, and Village Foods.

Blue Baker will also be hosting a "Best Tasting Lemonade" contest at their store on University Drive on Saturday, April 25, to help raise awareness of Lemonade Day.

"A lot of people don't know about Lemonade Day until Lemonade Day and they always say they wish they had known about it sooner," says Fox. "We are just trying to get people aware of the event."

Scroggins wants to assure parents that anyone is capable of creating a lemonade stand.

"One of the biggest challenges is helping parent's understand that this is not a monumental task to take on and that it brings the family together and is fun to work on together," she says. She believes the effort more than pays off for the kids involved.

"The lemonade stand is the vehicle but the



JONATHAN & MADISON: ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

things kids learn at Lemonade Day is a template for teaching financial responsibility for the rest of their lives," says Scroggins.

And as for Clayton's theme this year? "It's a surprise," he says. "You'll just have to come out and see it for yourself!"



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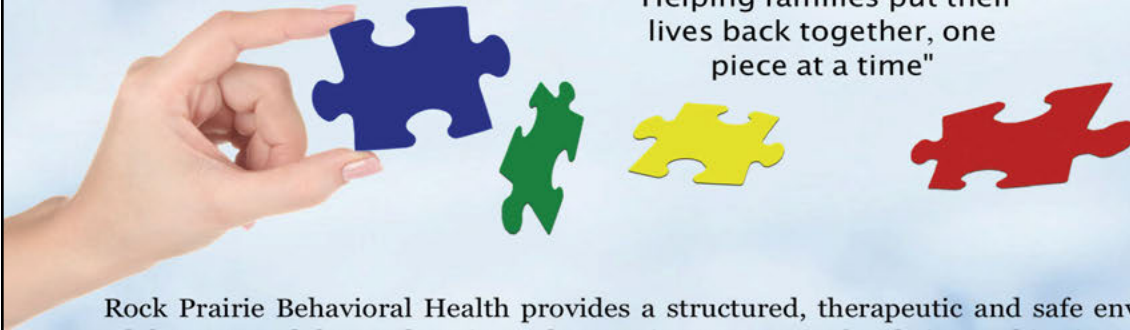
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## LIVE SUSTAINABLY, BE HAPPY HOMESTEADING IN THE CITY

Story and Photos by Carolina Keating

**O**n an unseasonably warm Saturday afternoon, Lavell and Andrea Merritt are toiling in their expansive garden. Lines of neat dirt rows crisscross with a few red and green lettuce sprouts joining tiny carrot tops in peeking through the soil. Nearby, chickens cluck in their homey coop.

Passersby could be forgiven for thinking they have stumbled off the sidewalk and onto a country farm. The Merritts are city homesteaders, part of a movement that has brought the farming mentality home to backyards inside city limits. The Merritts' College Station home is minutes from Kyle Field but miles from traditional backyards. Homesteaders are more likely to tend fruit trees and vegetable plants than topiary; the more intrepid also raise chickens and even bees.

For some, the idea is daunting. For others, like the Merritts and Brazos County Horticulturist Charla Anthony, farm scenes are a natural part of life, even in the city. "I grew up in agriculture," explains Anthony. Lavell and Andrea Merritt share similar experiences and memories.

"My grandfather was a gardener and a farmer in the D.C. Metropolitan area," says Lavell. "I remember chasing grandpa and picking potatoes, apricots, peaches...all that kind of stuff."

Raised in northern Michigan, Andrea fondly recalls growing up surrounded by orchards. "It was a constant influence," she says.

For the Merritts, childhood may have waned,



but the importance of gardening did not. "Our first date was actually in a garden," recalls Andrea, laughing. When the pair moved to Texas from Lanham, Maryland, to pursue Lavell's doctoral degree at Texas A&M University, establishing a fertile yard was the first priority.

"Before we even painted the walls, we dug up the garden," says Lavell. When the couple had children, the importance of fresh produce only increased. "It was a high priority to us to feed our children this way," explains Andrea.

The Merritts have recognized a healthy trend line marking a growing interest among city

dwellers. "Within the last 10 or 15 years, it seems like people have really embraced this idea of gardening," says Lavell. "It's been neat to see the way the community groups have adopted homesteading."

Anthony agrees. Her work with the Brazos County Master Gardeners program spreads information about gardening in the B/CS area while encouraging the community to get involved. "We are teaching people how to do all the processes that we always did," says Anthony. "The dynamics of the population are much more urban and much less experienced with homesteading – and all that entails – than in previous generations."

Despite her agri-aware background, Andrea, who teaches yoga in College Station, insists anyone is capable of gardening. "People in my class know I garden, and they come up to me sometimes asking about gardening. I always tell them to start small. A lot of times people get too ambitious and get overwhelmed," she says. "But people are doing it when they see that it is easy to do, and more and more, it is catching on."

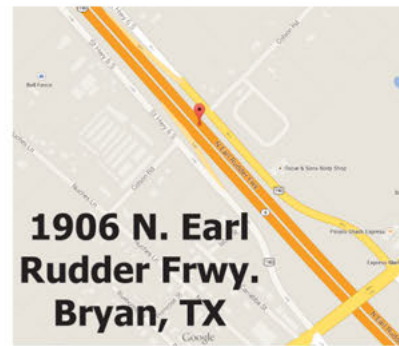
Fortunately, B/CS can be a fertile gardening environment. "We have a unique climate here,"



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notes Lavell. “The dead season here is actually at the end of the summer.” Mild winters and bushels of sunshine mean crops can be grown year-round. In the winter, greens and spices flourish; produce like kale, collards, arugula, cilantro, rosemary, and sage abound. Summertime yields bountiful squashes, zucchinis, pumpkins, tomatoes, peppers, basil, and sunflowers.

While the Merritts admit homesteading is occasionally a tough row to hoe, they both say it is well worth the effort.

**IT IS A LOVELY,  
LABORIOUS  
ACTIVITY THAT IS  
VALUED BY OTHER  
HUMAN BEINGS.  
-LAVELL MERRITT**

“The quality of the food – you just cannot compare; you can taste it,” adds Andrea.

Homegrown crops yield other benefits. “The self-sustainability factor of growing food becomes really empowering,” says Lavell. Both agree it is the bond of planting seeds then nurturing seedlings that keeps the couple close to the earth.

“There is real value in the process, says Andrea. “It allows our kids to see the process of growth when we grow something small and insignificant, and it grows into something huge and powerful.” *i*



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Compiled by Insite Staff



**S**ome slightly good news on the monarch butterfly front: after years of decline, their numbers have improved – up almost 70 percent from last year – says a Texas A&M University researcher.

Craig Wilson, a senior research associate in the Center for Mathematics and Science Education and a longtime butterfly enthusiast, says early figures from the monarch's breeding ground in Mexico show that it is making somewhat of a comeback from recent disastrous decades and has rebounded from 33 million to an estimated 56.5 million.

In 1996-97, there were an estimated one billion monarchs in 15 over-wintering sites in Mexico, and those numbers tumbled to only 33 million in only two sites in 2013-14, the lowest ever recorded.

Because more monarchs actually managed to migrate successfully this past fall, there are believed to be more than 50 million monarchs in nine sites, a slight rebound, Wilson says.

"The winters the last few years have been rough on them," Wilson says, "and there is still a lingering drought in and around their breeding grounds. But this has been a fairly mild winter and their numbers are moving in the right direction.

"There are still plenty of reasons to be concerned, mainly because the number of milkweed plants – the one plant that is vital to their existence – has been decreasing in the past

decade. There are new programs to establish milkweed planting, and the public is urged very much to do so. The monarch's survival depends on it."

The number of monarchs once could be counted in the hundreds of billions just 20 years

**IN 1996-97, THERE WERE AN ESTIMATED 1 BILLION MONARCHS IN 15 WINTERING SITES IN MEXICO. THOSE NUMBERS TUMBLED TO 33 MILLION IN ONLY TWO SITES IN 2013-14, THE LOWEST EVER RECORDED**

ago, Wilson notes.

They breed in Mexico and then have three more generations as they travel north to Canada, "and Texas is a critical place for them – they have to pass through the state on their way north and lay eggs," Wilson points out.

"So it's critical for them that they get milkweed here. It is the only type of plant that monarch caterpillars will digest as the multiple

generational migration heads north."

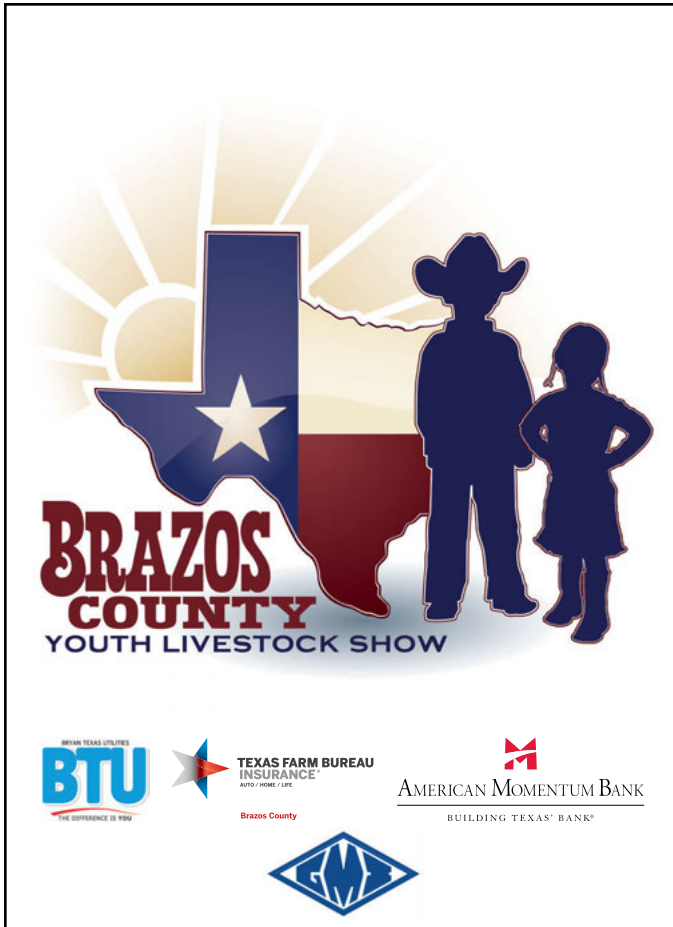
The prevalence of herbicide resistant crops, very dry conditions over much of Texas and numerous wildfires have hampered their 2,000-mile journey to Canada. A recent study from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says that nearly one billion monarchs have vanished since 1990.

The agency has partnered with two other groups – the National Wildlife Federation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – to plant milkweed along thousands of acres of Interstate Highway 35 from Texas to Minnesota, a route where at least 50 percent of all monarchs migrate.

Wilson adds, "It takes four generations of the insects to make it all of the way up to Canada, and because of lack of milkweed along the way, a lot of them just don't make it. But if people want to help, they should purchase and plant milkweeds, preferably milkweeds native to their state."

Wilson is currently adding a variety of milkweed plants to the existing Cynthia Woods Mitchell Garden on the Texas A&M campus. *i*





**The Brazos County  
Youth Livestock Show**  
**March 24-28, 2015**  
 For More Information: [BCYLA.net](http://BCYLA.net)

**Queens Dance**  
 Saturday, March 21, 2015  
 8:00 - 12:00  
 Featuring Cory Morrow  
 (Queen Will Be Crowned 9:00)

**Commercial Steer  
Awards Breakfast**  
 7:00 am Tuesday March 24th

**Commercial Steer Sale**  
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AGGIECON XII "WIPE OR WASTE" CIRCA 1981

## BRINGING FANTASY TO AGGIELAND SINCE 1969 **AGGIECON 46**

By Cassidy Tyrone

**WHAT** Aggiecon 46

**WHEN** March 27-29

Friday, 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**WHERE** College Station Hilton  
Hotel

For more information visit  
[cephvar.tamu.edu](http://cephvar.tamu.edu)

We define ourselves as the nerds of campus,” says Aggiecon director and Cepheid Variable Officer Andrew Evans.

Cepheid Variable, founded in 1969 by a group of astronomy enthusiasts, is a Texas A&M University social club fostering a deeply rooted appreciation of science fiction. The group hosts the annual Aggiecon, a multi-genre entertainment and comic convention. Aggiecon 46 will be held at the College Station Hilton Hotel & Conference Center on March 27 from 12 noon to 7 p.m., March 28 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and March 29 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The founders, affectionately referred to as the Elder Gods, created the first version of Aggiecon as a science fiction week. The small, yet popular, gathering featured nights of science fiction films and tabletop gaming, including the ever popular Dungeons and Dragons.

As pop culture evolved, so did Aggiecon, which was quick to adopt anime culture when it appeared on the scene in the late 1970s and early 1980s. As the horror genre melded with science fiction, it too was added to the Aggiecon program. Gaming systems like Super Nintendo, Nintendo 64, and Sega also became an early driving force in the community, Evans says.

Each new development expanded the Aggiecon program and drew in a new fandom which has led to Aggiecon’s wide following today.

As one of the few remaining student-run conventions, Aggiecon strives to stay true to its roots. “Aggiecon is a nerdy con. We don’t try to fight it,” Evans says with pride. There

**‘THERE WILL BE SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THAT NERD BONE IN YOUR BODY,’ EVANS SAYS. ‘AND IF YOU DON’T THINK YOU DO, TRUST ME, WE WILL FIND IT.’**

is a unique personality that owes itself to Aggiecon’s comparatively small size to that of the popular San Diego Comic-Con. “Higher level [conventions] have bigger guests but a decrease in interaction,” Evans says. “Smaller cons add a sense of community you don’t really see in larger conventions.”

Aggiecon 46 will have a full dealers room with products ranging from books and comics to weapons and wearables. Cepheid Variable will also be selling t-shirts.

The gaming room will feature the best in tabletop gaming as well as games just breaking into the market. “It will not just be Candyland and Monopoly,” Evans says. “It will definitely be something you haven’t played before. It can range from two-minute card games to eight-hour tabletop games.”

Cosplayers are welcome to imitate all of the pop culture favorites. “Cosplay, in the most holistic sense, is dressing and acting like a character that you like,” Evans says. “People dress like the character regardless of race or gender and we endorse that at Aggiecon.”

Guest speakers will discuss a variety of topics about sci-fi, fantasy, and comics. Convention events will include a video game tournament, “Rocky Horror Picture Show” screenings, and an art show with live and silent auctions.

Volunteers are needed. “Last year we had 80 general workers and that was just enough to get by,” says Evans. All volunteers get a free badge to attend the convention.

“There will be something for everyone as long as you have that nerd bone in your body,” Evans says. “And if you don’t think you do, trust me, we will find it.” *i*

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## WHERE HEALTH & FLOWERS REIGN 20TH ANNUAL HERBAL FORUM

By Cassidy Tyrone

**W**ith savory cooking, cures, and crafts, the 20th Annual Herbal Forum at Round Top explores new ways to utilize ancient plants.

The forum will be held March 20 – 21, with registration required by March 13 for the event at the Round Top Festival Institute.

“It’s a great opportunity to learn from experts and members of the herb society,” says Henry Flowers, Herbal Forum director. “You can ask all kinds of questions about how to grow and use herbs.”

Flowers says there is a mix of people who attend the forum, some who come year after year and some first-timers just beginning their herbal hobby.

“We get attendees from all across the state, as well as locals,” says Flowers. “I know many people that have attended every year since it started [in 1996].”

Friday, March 20, workshops will be held at 1 p.m. and again at 3:30 p.m.

Registered participants may choose among three different topics: “Cultivating and Cooking with Herbs,” which includes a tasting and an educational session of using savory and other herbs in the kitchen; “Spa Herbs,” tried-and-true techniques for using herbs in everyday living; and “Creative Herbal Mustards,” a course to show you how to use an array



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of herbs to make homemade mustards.

Saturday, March 21, everyone can enjoy the Blessing of the Garden, the Garden Buffet Lunch, and a variety of presentations. Presenters include Susan Belsinger, Lucia Bettler, Chris Crowder, Henry Flowers, Billi Parus, Ann Wheeler, and Tina Marie Wilcox.

Shopping opportunities will be offered Friday and Saturday. The annual Plant Sale, "Thyme Well Spent" Gift Shop, and the Herbal Forum Book Store will offer an array of garden goodies. Books and magazines will also be sold



HERB CHEESE CANAPES

to support the Herbal Society of America.

Overnight accommodations are available for herbal enthusiasts who would like to attend both days. Located on the Festival Institute Campus, most rooms are within walking distance of the Herbal Forum activities.

Deadline to register is March 13. Donations of 8-ounce jam jars to the "Thyme Well Spent" gift shop and donations of books and magazines to the Herb Society of America National Herb Garden Internship will be accepted.

Forum proceeds benefit the Gardens of Round Top Festival Institute and The HSA-Pioneer Unit Educational Activities.

For more information call (979) 249-3129 or contact Henry Flowers at [henryf@festivalhill.org](mailto:henryf@festivalhill.org). The forum itinerary, complete with times and program descriptions, is available at [www.festivalhill.org](http://www.festivalhill.org). *i*



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The Dr. Robert E. Basye

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[Kutach@wildblue.net](mailto:Kutach@wildblue.net)

**What:** 20th Annual Herbal Forum at Round Top

**When:** March 20, 9 a.m.-9:30 p.m.; March 21, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Where:** Festival Hill, Round Top

**Registration:** \$75 registration fee; additional \$35 fee for optional workshops

For more information, visit [www.festivalhill.org](http://www.festivalhill.org).



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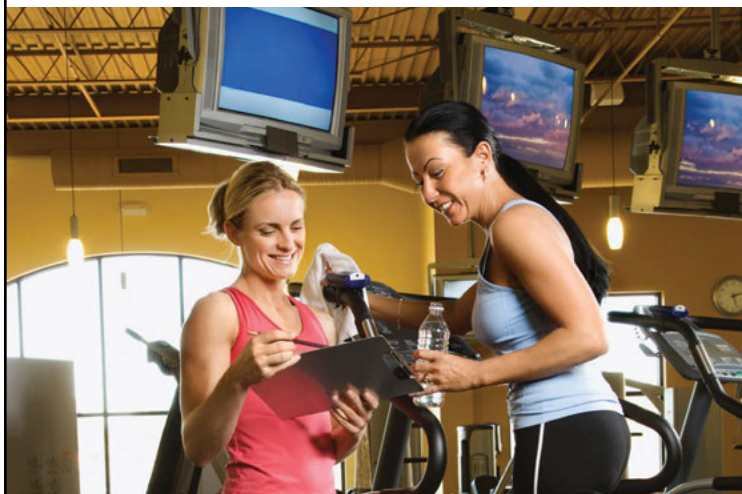


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## MARBURGER FARMS ANTIQUE SHOW

Compiled by Carolina Keating

You can tell who they are. The ones with tape measures, the notepads, the paint chips and the stylish, comfortable shoes. At the Marburger Farm Antique Show in Round Top, Texas, interior design professionals will fill the tents and buildings at the Marburger Farm Antique show on March 31-April 4.

Dallas interior designer Kim Turner of KT Designs has shopped for clients at Marburger Farm since the very first show in 1997. “The thing about designers is time,” says Turner. “A good designer does not have time to shop the world or every market nearby. Marburger dealers are professionals at what they do too—they spend the time scouring the planet for the best antiques and they have the contacts all over the world.”

Many Marburger Farm exhibitors buy with interior design customers in mind, as well as their retail customers.

Dealer Frederica Anderson of Amarillo, says, “The designers know how to spot the best piece in the booth.” For the spring 2015 show, Anderson will offer French and Italian furniture pieces.

“Right now, designers want simple but old,” Anderson says.

Dealer Stanley Hildreth from Staples, Minnesota, will offer 18th-19th c. furniture and decorative arts. Hildreth says cost is a factor

for designers. “When it comes to the quality that a good designer wants, they can buy much more quality, dollar for dollar, with an antique than with high-quality new items. The really good new items are extremely expensive. An antique repurposed, re-covered, re-imagined will always beat the new on quality and price.”

Alan Hoops of Findlay, Ohio, who offers white ironstone and transfer ware, says designers are drawn to Marburger Farm.

*‘Marburger is the biggest selection of the best dealers in one location anywhere – and most are professional dealers, not part-time. They are accustomed to dealing with designers and know what designers are looking for.’*

Marburger Farm offers a long list of amenities: free parking and parking shuttle, full-service breakfast and lunch cafe, show-wide WIFI, golf carts available for rent, and the Blacksmith Shop bar.

A new benefit will be the VIP program with Marburger’s on-site shipper, Distinguished Transport, offering VIP breakfast, swag bags, as well as shipping and storage assistance, all coordinated from the Marburger Farm Gulf Warehouse.

The Marburger Farm Antique Show opens Tuesday, March 31 with early buying from 10 a.m. through 2 p.m.; cost to attend is \$25 for adults, free for children 15 and under. Regular \$10 admission begins March 31 at 2 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.roundtop-marburger.com](http://www.roundtop-marburger.com).

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www.theplaceforitalian.com, 222 N Main St, Bryan (979)822-2675. This award winning downtown restaurant has been serving creative and reasonably priced Italian dishes for 20 years. Enjoy their art deco interior, local art display and upbeat atmosphere. Lunch M-F 11am-2pm; Dinner M-Th 6pm-9pm; F-Sa 5pm-9pm

**CASA RODRIGUEZ**

www.casarod.com, 300 N. Bryan Ave., Bryan (979) 779-0916. Casa Rodriguez has been serving Bryan and College Station for more than 30 years. Their menu consists of traditional Mexican food recipes that have kept the locals and visitors coming back for more. M 11am-2pm; Tu-Th 8am-9pm; F-Sa 8am-9:30pm; Su 8am-8pm

**CENARE RESTAURANT**

www.gotocenare.com, 404 University Dr E, CS (979)696-7311. Cenare offers a variety of authentic Italian cuisine and beautifully presented dishes. Whether you are looking for an intimate evening, a nice place for the entire family or a place to host your next event, Cenare is a great choice. M-F 11am-2pm; M-Th 5-9:30pm; F-Sa 5-10pm

**CHEF TAI'S MOBILE BISTRO**

www.cheftai.com, check website for daily locations and hours (979) 268-3251. Chef Tai's Mobile Bistro is America's Favorite Food Truck serving a blend of globally inspired cuisine.

**CHOCOLATE GALLERY**

www.bcschocolategallery.com, 211 N. Main St., Bryan (979) 779-2804. The Chocolate Gallery provides premium pastries and chocolate as well as showcase the art of pastry and confections through education and experience. Tu-Th 10am-8pm, F-Sa 10am-9pm

**THE CLARY HOUSE**

www.theclaryhouse.com, 601 East 30th St., Bryan, (979)703-7916. Southern hospitality since 1902. Choose from four distinct suites to make you feel relaxed and pampered. Personal coffee bar and business center. Just one mile from Bryan's historic downtown and five miles from the Texas A&M campus. Perfect for special occasions. Promising to make your visit memorable with a leisurely stay.

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**LASALLE HOTEL**

www.lasalle-hotel.com, 120 S. Main St., Bryan (979) 822-2000. Located in the heart of historic downtown Bryan, LaSalle Hotel, Café and Bar has corporate and group rates, conference and meeting rooms, and an executive chef on staff.

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www.luigispatoristorante.com, 3975 SH-6 S, CS (979) 693-2742. Luigi's Patio Ristorante offers genuine Italian cuisine in a cozy atmosphere that transports you straight to the heart of Italy. You can choose to dine in the villa-style home interior or "outside" in the piazza town center, an indoor patio outfitted to embody all the excitement of a traditional Italian market square. Live music, check website for schedule. Open for lunch Tu-Fri 11:30am-2pm. Open for dinner Tu-Su 5:30pm, call for closing times. Brunch Su 11:30am-2pm

**MR. G'S PIZZERIA**

www.gotomrgs.com, 201 W 26th St., Bryan (979) 822-6747; 404 E University Dr., College Station (979) 693-6747. At Mr. G's, every slice is served with family pride, the freshest ingredients, original recipes and only the finest imported Italian cheeses. Now serving Gluten Free pizza. Bryan location: M-F 11am-2pm & 5pm-9pm, Sa 5pm-9pm. College Station location: M-Th 11am-2pm & 5pm-9pm, F 11am-2pm & 5pm-10pm. Sa 5pm-10pm.

**MUST BE HEAVEN**

www.mustbeheaven.com, 100 S. Main St., Bryan (979) 822-7722; 1136 East Villa Maria, Bryan (979) 731-8891; 1700 Rock Prairie Rd., College Station (979) 764-9222. Reminisce the good ole' days of Ice Cream Shoppes and hand-crafted sandwiches at Must Be Heaven. Bryan locations' hours: M-F 8am-6pm, Sa 8am-3pm. College Station hours: M-F 8am-8pm, Sa 8am-3pm

**PERRINE WINERY**

www.perrinewinery.com, 900 Harvey Rd., Ste. 6, College Station (979) 703-1843. Perrine Winery is a custom micro-winery featuring award-winning wines, tastings, parties, pairings, and custom labels. Tu-Th 4pm-8pm, F 2pm-11pm, Sa 12pm-10p

**THE REPUBLIC**

www.therepublic1836.com, 701 University Dr E, 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. M-Sa 5-10pm

**RONIN COOKING**

ronincooking.com, (979) 574-8745, Ronin cooking offers special full moon dinners and provides high quality food and catering for your next event, at your place or on the farm.

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www.tapbcs.com, 815 Harvey Rd, CS, (979)696-5570. 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

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*Listings provided as a service. Insite is not responsible for errors or omissions.*

For menus, maps and directions, visit [InsiteBrazosValley.com/eats-and-treats](http://InsiteBrazosValley.com/eats-and-treats)

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