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Tis the season to love Texas with Valentines dinners and dances, a Mardi Gras or maybe a rural Farmer's Market and theatrical show.

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BACKROADS NEWSLETTER February 2014 Volume 28

PDF Copy of February 2014 Newsletter

Howdy Friends & Partners,

Tis the season for love and there's lots to love about the month of February in Texas! This month we've got Farmer's and Craft Markets blooming all over in Ennis, Bellville, Blanco and Hallettsville. Theater also takes a bow in Rockport, Clute and Bay City.

If you're in the mood for romancing your sweetheart you can attend valentine dances in Canton or Giddings. There's a dinner and dance in Madisonville and a jewelry sale in Livingston. If your sweetie likes the wild side, attend a Mardi Gras in Gonzales or Nocona.

See you on the Trail



Spread the word about the new Ennis Farmers Market!

Begins Saturday April 26th in downtown Ennis from 8am-1pm.

Email: farmersmarket@ennis-texas.com

Web Page: http://visitennis.org/farmersmarket.htm
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ennistxfarmersmarket

(Ennis Farmer's Market)



Download PDF Calendar for February 2014

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Texas Ranger Day in Burton

Which famous Texas Ranger lived and died in Burton, Texas? Discover the answer to this question and much more at Texas Ranger Day hosted by the Burton Heritage Society.

The day begins with the Annie Maud Avis Memorial Fajita and Bean Cook-off, and live re-enactments by the Old West Rangers. The living history continues with a display of Texas Ranger 1880s camp life, and folk like demonstrations. The fun rivalry continues with a bean bag toss tournament and old-fashioned games for kids of all ages.

Tour the 1898 railroad depot (anytime), and the cotton gin at 10am & 2pm. Live music will include Abigail Taylor, Slim Bawb and the StumpGrinders, Trickdog and Lisa, "Steppenwolf guitarist," Danny Johnson and more! A silent and live auction round out the day and raise much-needed funds for Mt. Zion Historical Chapel at Mt. Zion Cemetery, our second historic site and location where Captain Leander McNelly is buried. So mark your calendars for March 8, a day of Texas history, food, fun AND do your part to preserve a vital piece of the Burton community. For more information visit our webpage at www.burtonheritagesociety.org or call 979-353-0050.



Have an Xperience in Angleton

MSR Houston gives you the opportunity to experience the excitement of a racecar thrill ride. Strapped into the passenger seat of one of five race cars: choose a Nascar stock or BMW M3 driven by a professional driver. By the end of the 2.38 mile course you'll have nothing but a smile and a desire for more.

Xperience the Exhilaration of Driving a Racecar

After a brief vehicle dynamics introduction to the racecar and scouting laps around the race track, you will get behind the wheel of either a BMW M3 racecar. A professional instructor will ride along with you to help you master the 2.38-mile, 17-turn road course and maximize your experience.

Xperience the Adventure of Driving and Riding

By choosing the most popular racecar package at MSR Houston you have the opportunity to drive a racecar, and then see how the professionals drive the challenging

Sherwood Forest Faire in Paige has accolades including a ranking as the no. 1 new renaissance festival in the country, Sherwood Forest Faire offers tastes, sounds and treats for everyone. Runs weekends Feb 8-March 30.

Angleton, TX

Bartlett, TX

Bastrop, TX

Bastrop County, TX

Bay City, TX

Bellville, TX

Belton, TX

Blanco, TX Bowie, TX

Bridgeport, TX

Brenham, TX

Brownfield, TX

Brownwood, TX

Burton, TX



Bellville Market Day on February 2nd. Lots of arts, crafts, collectibles, jewelry and antiques. Great food and live entertainment in the relaxing atmosphere of small-town Texas! No admission and free parking!

> Cameron, TX Canton, TX Clute, TX Columbus, TX Comfort, TX Cuero, TX

Diboll, TX Dimmit County road course at MSR Houston.

Have you experienced the best outdoor karting in Texas?With 3/4 of a mile in the circuit, you have plenty of space to get up to speed. Reserve a large, private room for your next birthday party or corporate teambuilding event and enjoy thrills behind the wheel.



Run for the Bluebonnets 5K/1K in Bastrop

Get your running shoes on Bastrop! The 8th annual Run for the Bluebonnets? 5K and Kids Run is slated to be held on Saturday, February 22nd in Fisherman's Park. This is a certified 5K (3.1 mile) course that begins and ends in Fisherman's Park

providing a flat course with a fast downhill finish. This is a family friendly event and will include activities for children. All proceeds benefit Bluebonnet Elementary School activities and stay in the Bastrop community. The Kids Run begins at 8:30 a.m., all kids running will receive a medal. The 5K begins at 9:00 a.m. Trophies will be given to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place male and female in various age groups. 5K runners will also be eligible for raffle prize winnings after the awards ceremony. Early registration is now through February 7th and can be done online. Call Bluebonnet Elementary at 308-1325 to have a form mailed or emailed to you.



A "Night on Broadway" in Bay City

The Silver Screen Community Actors of South Texas (the Bay City area's nonprofit community theatre group) will present "Night on Broadway 4 – The Silver Screen", a Broadway Musical variety show at the Bay City Country Club Feb 6-9. The Thursday through Saturday show times are 7:30 p.m. with a Sunday matinee performance at 2:30 p.m. In addition, the Saturday show offers an optional dinner ticket for \$25 per person (advance sale only). General admission for all performances is \$10 adults, \$8 seniors (55+) and students. Tickets are available at Green Brothers Jewelers on the Square, online at www.baycitycast.com or at the door. Seating is limited.

Elgin, TX Emory, TX Ennis, TX



Yett Park Trade Fair in Blanco

Saturday, February 8-March 8. Will continue every 2nd Saturday. 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. SWAP MEET ARTS & CRAFTS Farmers Market Yett Memorial Park, 1813 US Highway 281, Blanco, TX 78606

> Giddings, TX Gonzales, TX

Hallettsville, TX Hamilton, TX Henderson, TX Honey Grove TX Iraan, TX

Jefferson, TX
Jewett, TX
Lee County Fair,
Giddings
Lexington, TX
Livingston Polk
County
Luling, TX



Stars of Texas Paint-Off Competition in Brownwood. All 2D media (except photography) is accepted. Artists work from life, plein air, personal photo, or value study. Participants are required to register and have their painting surface stamped before painting. Artists may offer their works for sale by silent auction, with bidding closing before judging begins. Two cash prizes of \$500 and \$250 will be



Find Military History in Belton

Are you a military buff?

Bell County is home to the largest military installation in the free world. Fort Hood, Texas.

The Bell County Museum, located in Belton, has a wonderful display on the origins of Camp Hood, later to be known as Fort Hood. Many families were displaced from long owned farms and ranches in order for the United States to build a new training facility for it's soldiers during WWII.

Belton was home to famous and no-so-famous military men. Among the notable names to be found in the annals of Belton history are Gen. Walton H. Walker and his son, General Sam Sims Walker, as well as Capt. Henry T. Waskow - who was made famous by Ernie Pyle's news article and subsequent movie "GI Joe." These men are just a small sampling of the importance Belton played in military history.

Make a day of it and visit:

The Bell County Museum

See the display about the building of Fort Hood among the many historical displays featured at the museum.

South Belton and North Belton Cemeteries

Resting places of many Belton veterans including those of the Battle of San Jacinto, the Confederate War, WWI, WWII, and others.

Lena Armstrong Public Library

Visit the Genealogy Section of Belton's Public Library and see records from the Veterans of the Civil War annual meetings and more.



Let's Talk Bowie Knife and World Record

Bring the
Guinness
World Records
folks to Bowie,
Texas?
Yes, it can
happen! How?
By attempting
to build the

world's largest Bowie Knife, that's how!

awarded.

Madisonville TX
Magnolia, TX
Matagorda County
Mexia, TX
Mineral Wells, TX
Mt Enterprise, TX
Munday, TX

Nocona, TX Onalaska, TX Point, TX Plummer Printing Port Lavaca, TX



Plan ahead: Texas Ranger Day and Big Star Texas Night in Burton on March 8.

> Rockdale, TX Rockport-Fulton, TX

Schulenburg, TX Sealy, TX Smithville, TX Smithville Cottage Spoiled Doves of Texas

Taylor, TX
Texas Word
Wrangler Book Fest
Wharton, TX
The Village Bakery



The party is on in Cameron! Champagne and All that Jazz, Act I is set for Sunday, March 2, noon to 4:00 p.m. at delightful rural getaway, The Chapel at Caliber

The idea of the 'Bowie Knife Monument' was pitched to the Bowie Chamber of Commerce by the late Bob Hadley, local rancher and bronze sculptor. A monument was inevitable! "This is an exciting addition to our city. We look forward to the completion of the 3-dimensional replica of the Bowie Knife in 2014" says board member Van Baize.

Bowie can do this and be 'Officially Amazing'. You too can be a part of history in the making and permanently have a place at the site. Various sizes of engraveable granite will be used at the base of the knife monument and will be available to purchase.



Stars Over Brenham Quilt Show

Feb 7=8 Fri 10-5, Sat 10-4 Fireman's Training Center, 1101 Hwy 290, Brenham, TX

A number of vendors will be on hand with demonstrations and products of all types, ranging from quilting supplies to jewelry. In addition, a Boutique filled with a wide variety of upscale items handmade by Quilt Guild members will be available for shoppers. Raffles will also take place.

Quilt Event at Winedale

10-4 daily Feb 10-23 Winedale Theatre, 3738 FM 2714, Round Top, TX 78954

The Winedale Historical Complex hosts its annual quilt exhibition: Red, White, and a Bit of Another color. A Quilt exhibition featuring a selection of quilts from the Winedale Historical Quilt Collection; The University of Texas at Austin. Quilts from the collection date from late 1700s to current dates. Exhibit will be on display from Feb 10-Feb 23, 10-4 daily. FREE



St. Michael's Catholic Church in Cuero

Oak, as a "come-and-go" event. Guests will be entertained by the Shawn Ellison Trio, drink mimosas, and enjoy a full plate of brunch-y food, all for only \$25 per person. This event benefits the Milam Community Theater.



6th Annual Western Swing Valentine Party in Canton on Feb 13-15 at Canton Civic Center 800 Flea Market Rd. Line up: Thursday: Eddie McAlvain & The Mavericks Jimmy Burson & Texas in the Swing Texas Largest Fist Fry All You Can Eat \$10.00 with paid admission. Friday: Landon Dodd & The Dancehall Drifters Jeff Woolsey & The Dancehall Kings Jake Hooker & The Outsiders Saturday: Billy Mata & The Texas Tradition Bobby Flores & the Yellow Rose Band The Tulsa Playboys (From Cain's Ball Room Tulsa, OK) Admission: Any single day \$35.00, Two days \$60.00, Three days \$75.00 Prices are good at the door, Any day after 5:00 pm only \$20.00 Over 200 RV Hookup \$30.00 per day. We accept all major Credit & Debit cards. Reservation are not necessary, except for parties of 8 or more. For information call: 800-243-6502



See "1776" in Clute. The decisive event in

204 N. McLeod

St. Michaels established as a Catholic church in 1875. Several structures served the people of the parish throughout the years, some with very interesting histories of their own. Finally, after outgrowing these other structures, the present church building was dedicated in March of 1931. The beautiful church was built by architect F.B. Gaensen in the Romanesque style. It is faced with tapestry brick and the trimmings and belfry are of tampered stone. There are many exquisite stained glass windows throughout the sanctuary. St. Michael's Church is an important and interesting part of the history of Dewitt County and a fine example of the great architecture of Cuero.



Valentine Sweetheart Dance in Giddings

Giddings Noon Lions Club is hosting a Valentine's Sweetheart Dance on Saturday, February 8th from 6-11pm at the Sons of Hermann Hall in Giddings, Texas. Tickets are \$30 for individuals, \$60 for couples and \$500 for Corporate Sponsor Tables of 8.

Live Music will be provided by Kenny Orts and His Band and there will be live & Silent Auctions Tickets are available from Noon Lions Club members and local area banks.



Depot Museum in Henderson

The Depot Museum Complex in Henderson is clustered on five acres with 11 buildings including a historic oil derrick, cotton gin, historic carousel, Missouri Pacific Caboose and the famous Arnold Outhouse, with a Texas State Historical Marker. In the visitor's center visitors are treated to an orientation video that sets the stage for a tour of the complex. There are several building that have a Texas State Historical Marker.

The Depot Museum is also the location for: The Annual Heritage Syrup Festival the 2nd Saturday in November. Step back in time and watch sugarcane syrup being made with the help of mule power. Enjoy folk artists, musical entertainment, antique tractors and many more at the Depot. Catch one of the many hayride shuttles to the Historic Downtown. Downtown offers vendor

American history blazes to vivid life in this most unconventional of Broadway hits. 1776 puts a human face on the pages of history as we see the men behind the national icons: proud, frightened, uncertain, irritable, charming, often petty and ultimately noble figures determined to do the right thing for a fledgling nation.



Barn Concert in Elgin, February 15. Hear the Lost and Nameless Orchestra. Doors open at 6:30pm,show at 7:30pm. At the Del Woods Barn, 850 FM 3000. \$40/person, contact Kay Queen for tickets 512-856 -2294.



Ennis Czech Music Festival, Sat Feb 8 from 1-10:30pm at the Sokol Activity Center at 2622 E Hwy 34. Hear 6 live polka bands.



Come and Mask It in Gonzales on Feb 22 from 7-11pm at Pioneer Village. Live Zydeco Music by Dr. Zog. Cajun appetizers, jambalaya, hurricane punch. Tickets \$40 and prizes throughout the night.



shopping, musical entertainment, cloggers & square dancers and antique classic cars.
www.depotmuseum.com
514 North High Street
903-657-4303



Historic Ghost Tours in Jefferson

Jefferson TX is considered the most haunted small town in Texas thanks to the Discover, Travel and Scifi channels.

By the glow of lantern light you will venture through dark alleyways and courtyards listening to vivid accounts of historic tragedy, murder and ghostly encounters. The only tour in town that will try to take you inside of a haunted location!

Hear factual history, genuine legends and ghost tales narrated by local historian Jodi Breckenridge. Tour departs from THE Sandwich Shoppe (Old Kahn Saloon) on the corner of Austin and Vale every Friday and Saturday night at 8pm. Ticket sales begin at 7:30. Tickets may also be purchased online.



Leon County Art Trail in Jewett

The 2014 Leon County Art Trail is sponsored by the Jewett Economic Development Corporation. This year there are 26 pieces of sculpture placed in front of businesses and in Eagle Scout Park along Main Street through Jewett. Jewett was recently given the honor of being chosen "Sculpture Capital of Texas."

Nationally known sculpture artists vie for the opportunity to display their art and compete in the Leon County Art Trail annually. Pieces in the 2014 Leon County Art Trail are all available for sale and range in price from \$350 to \$88,000.

Treat Your Valentine to an Evening of Luxury

Let us make it a Night to Remember





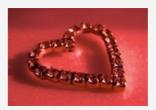
Hallettsville Market Days on February 15.

City Lake in Hamilton is

a great place to go for hiking, wildlife viewing and fishing. About 2 miles east of the city limits on Hwy 22. Enjoy 161 acres, including 48 acres underwater. The Lake was donated to the city in 1923 for a water supply.



Visit the Lexington Log Cabins and Heritage Center in Lexington. Located in the center of town, and contains two circa 1850 log cabins furnished with pioneer furnishings and exhibits. Also a corncrib which stores 19th century tools and implements. Group tours by appointment are hosted by costumed docents with demonstrations of pioneer crafts. Hours: Thursday-Saturday 9am to 4pm. Phone: 979-773-2194.



Cost: Donations Accepted.

Valentine's Day Jewelry Sale at First National Bank in Livingston benefits Relay for Life and Cornerstone. Come to the Westside Branch 2121 Hwy 190 W. February 7 and 13-14 from 9am-4pm.

Look ahead:



Ragin Cajun Gumbo Cookoff Throwdown in Luling on March



SWEET HEART GALA DINNER AND DANCE in Madisonville

Friday, February 14, 2014 at The Seton Center, 100 South Tammye Lane, Madisonville, Texas from 7:00– 11:00 pm

For your candelight dinner, enjoy a choice of entrees: Medallions of Beef Tenderloin Manhattan, Stuffed Pork Tenderloin Parisian, served at your table with vegetables du jour with a choice of beverages

Dance to the Music by Razz then find something special at the Silent Auction–You never know what might be offered in the Live auction Tickets are \$75 per couple—\$300 for a Table seating 8 guests— Advance Reservations Required by February 11.

936-348-1028 * 936-668-3672 * 936-348-0186

Mardi Gras Nocona Style!

February 20-22, 2014



Location: All Around Town

On Thursday the Tailgating begins at noon and continues all weekend at the Nocona VFW (corner of Willow and Baylor Streets). Dress your pooch up in its best Mardi Gras attire and enter for a chance to win Best Dressed in our Dog Parade. Entries line up at 4:30pm at the downtown park and then parade down Clay Street!

Friday there will be vendors, cajun music and fun taking over the streets of downtown, starting at noon. The ATV Parade is the perfect opportunity to get your ATVs and golf cartsout and cruise in Nocona. Parade starts at 6pm at the VFW and drives down mainstreet. The circus is in town and set up near the VFW. Circus starts at 7pm. Music from various artists (including David Paine and George Geurin) will play at the VFW from 5pm to 10pm. Between music sessions at about 7pm, the Mardi Gras King and Queen will be crowned.

On Saturday, February 22nd Mardi Gras Nocona Style! gets in full gear. The streets of Nocona will be full of people, vendors and activities for the whole family. The main event is the Mardi Gras Parade - full of creative and authentic Mardi Gras floats with a Nocona flair. The day is kicked off with a Chamber of Commerce pancake



8

Timber Ridge RV Park in Magnolia. With all the nearby attractions of Houston and The Woodlands located near Tomball, you're going to love camping at Timber Ridge RV Village! The comfortable campground is just a few miles away from terrific camping activities like golfing, boating, fishing, biking, hiking, and bird watching in the town of Tomball. You can even go fishing right in their own incamp stocked fishing pond or relax in your spacious, shady campsite.



Plan Ahead:

Mexia's Shoppolooza and

"Boomtown" History Day
on April 5, 2014 at the
Mexia Convention Center,
Downtown



Boudreau Herb Farm in Mineral Wells

Discover the beauty and benefits plants provide at this 77-acre herb farm. View native perennials, herb gardens, and antique roses. Telephone: (940) 325-8674

Address: 5545 Hwy 281
North ~ Mineral Wells

breakfast from 7 to 9am at the VFW. The streets will come alive beginning at 10am with vendors, kids' activities, music and fun. The infamous Mardi Gras Parade starts at 3:30, winding down Willow to Clay Street. After the parade there will be cajun food at the Nocona FIre Hall. Mud Bug Racing at the VFW at around 7pm - with music and dancing at the "V" with the Randy Brown Band at 9pm (tickets required).

Tail gate with the town - during the three day event, there will be community members set up all over downtown tail gating to keep the Mardi Gras spirit alive! All are welcome to join in - bring your cookers or just come down and enjoy the food and great company!



The History of Onalaska

When you stop to chat with local townsfolk and shop owners you find that Onalaska has quite a colorful history. The area was first settled in 1840, and was a farming area until the arrival of the Carlisle Company.

With the sawmill, Onalaska then became a boom town and was even larger than the nearby county seat of Livingston. The town had two hotels, a movie theater, a large park, a hospital, a large downtown which included many stores, a cold storage plant, its own electrical plant, a bank, a railroad depot, and a large general store where you could purchase almost anything.

The town's primary claim to fame was the largest sawmill in Texas. However, when the forest was depleted in the mid 1920's the sawmill closed. The loggers moved on and Onalaska shrank to a "sleepy little East Texas village". There are restored pictures of the original community hanging in the city hall council meeting room which can be seen Monday though Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



See the Spoiled Doves of Texas
February 28 - March 2, 2014
Texas Independence Day Celebration & The Virginian
Cast Reunion

Location: Agarita Ranch, 1000 Pin Oak Rd, Lockhart, TX 78644



Port Lavaca Halfmoon Reef Lighthouse This historical landmark has been around since 1857 and was placed at the southern tip on the Half Moon Reef in Matagorda bay. It served as an aid to ships trading in Port Lavaca and Indianola. It still stands and is now located at the Bauer Community Center.



Look ahead: Tejas Art & Book Festival in Rockdale on March 22.



In Rockport, "Death Bemoans Her" the 2nd annual Mystery Theater on Sun, February 9, 1pm -4pm at The Woman's Club of Aransas County, 1104 E Concho. When a body is found in the river, it threw a damper on the meeting of the Gazillionaire Girls Club Group. Enjoy a light lunch as you watch & listen to the Gazillionaire Girls Group & other cruise guests. Gather clues to discover who the murder was or even if it was murder.



Come and dance with the Swiss Alp Dance Club Dance in Schulenburg on February 23 @ 3:00 pm -6:30 pm. Music by Central

Join us for a 3 day festival celebrating our western heritage and Texas Independence. Enjoy living history presentations, visit with "The Virginian" cast members (James Drury, Gary Clarke, Roberta Shore), Texas Rangers, and watch dramatic presentations of events that took place during the Alamo siege.

Friday, Feb. 28, from 9 am till 3 pm, a living history day with demonstrations that will include: blacksmithing, broom making; basket & candle making, leather; textiles, spinning wheels and fibers; oxenology, period medical procedures; horsemanship, and more. For those children who would like to be considered for the Junior Texas Ranger induction ceremony, we have arranged for Texas Rangers to be on site. The Rangers will teach the 5 requirements for becoming a Junior Texas Ranger. The induction ceremony will be held on Saturday. Open to the public and local schools. \$5 children, \$10 adults. (*Group rate available for schools).

Eriday Evening is Movie Night at the Chisholm Trail Ballroom in Lockhart. Watch "The Virginian" with the cast members (James Drury, Gary Clarke, Roberta Shore). Enjoy hot dogs, popcorn and beer just like the old days (food included in admission). \$25, limited seating.

Saturday, March 1, all day festival opens at high noon. Festival includes: The Virginian cast reunion, book signing and discussions with Former Texas Rangers Joaquin Jackson and others; Junior Texas Rangers induction ceremony, living history presentations (listed on Friday); celebrations & dramatic presentations of Texas Independence, wagon rides, gunfights; carnival games, specialty vendors; great Texas food and much more! Music all day by some of the top Texas musicians. \$5 children \$10 adults (*discounts available)

Saturday night is movie night at the Chisholm Trail Ballroom in Lockhart. Another chance to watch "The Virginian", share the evening with the Virginian Cast and our famous Texas Rangers. \$25 (food included). After the movie enjoy a street dance on Lockhart's town square, hosted by the Lone Star Grand Prix and Agarita Ranch. Free.

Sunday, March 2,

10 am, enjoy a live gunfight re-enacting a historic event in Lockhart during the 1800's for the Lone Star Grand Prix opening ceremony in Lockhart's Town Square.

12:30 pm, share a special up close, personal luncheon and private auction with the Virginian cast, former Texas Rangers and other celebrities. A silent auction of western items will include reproductions of the Virginian cast hats made exclusively by Texas Hatters (value \$500) *Tickets*: \$50. Seating is limited to 60 guests.

TX Sounds at the Schulenburg KC Hall.

Market Days on the Square in Sealy

Date: February 1, 2014 Time: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM



Look ahead: Thunder on the Colorado Biker Rally in Smithville. March 13-15, 8th annual. Motorcycles, Live music, Biker games, rides, Poker tournament, Miss Thunder contest, bike show & contest, Friday Night Lites, parade and more. RVs and tents allowed but must reserve RV space in advance by calling the Smithville Parks & Recreation Dept.



Plan ahead: Texas Word Wrangler Festival in Giddings September 2014



Java Jam in Wharton

On Friday, February 28 from 6-9pm at Milam Street Coffee. 200 W. Milam Street. For more information contact the Wharton Chamber:979-532-1862. The general email is helpdesk@whartonchamber.com

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