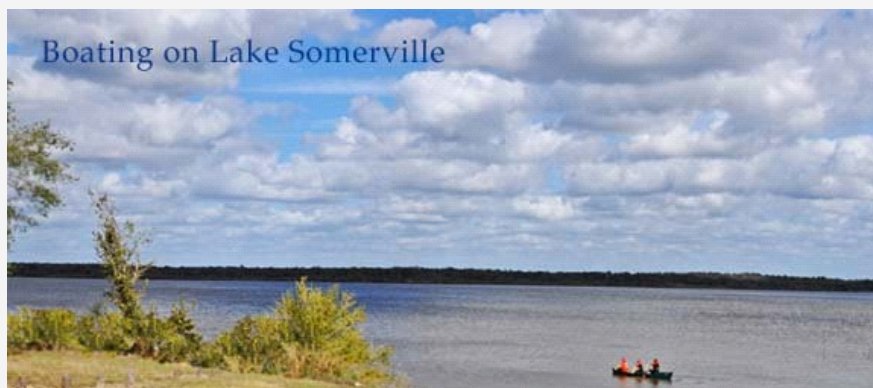


Fun in the sun with Casper as he travels to Matagorda County. Lots of music, theater, rodeos and summer stuff!

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## BACKROADS NEWSLETTER July 2014 Volume 33

PDF Copy of July 2014 Newsletter

Howdy Friends & Partners,

It's summer on the road with rural reporter Casper as he heads to the beach of Matagorda County. Get ready for fun in the sun with great things to do & see and places to eat!

July seems to be the month of theater and music as we look through Bellville (Bluegrass jam), Bowie (Fiddle music), Round Top (orchestra), Burton, Comfort, Brownwood (Roy Orbison), Bastrop (country) and Point.

And ah, the theater! There's Shakespeare in Winedale, Four weekends of theater in Jefferson and a Character Breakfast in Wharton.

Some unusual happenings are the Mosquito Festival in Clute, Casino Night in Smithville and Christmas stuff in Canton, Ennis and Conroe.

See you on the Trail

Note to ALL READERS: If you find events you're interested in, please double check them with their local Chamber, Visitors Center or business of origin's websites. Events can be subject to change, cancellation and rescheduling.

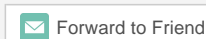


### Traveling the Back Roads of Texas Matagorda County - It's A Shore Thing by Casper

Matagorda County is a great place to spend a weekend, or if you're lucky, as we were, spend 4 or 5 days exploring all the county has to offer.

The first stop on your adventure should be Bay City and

[Like us on Facebook](#)



the Matagorda County Convention & Visitors Bureau. Director of Tourism Rebecca Newman is a wonderful guide to shops, restaurants, and attractions. Bay City [pop. 18,000], located on the Colorado River about 80 miles southwest of Houston and 30 minutes from the Gulf, is the perfect start for exploring a region which combines abundant nature and Texas history dating back nearly 500 years. Bay City was established in 1894 and replaced the town of Matagorda as county seat the same year.



Bay City's town square, surrounding the 1965 courthouse, has lots to offer visitors. We started our day at Main Street Coffee and Wine Bar, which serves gourmet coffees and pastries as well as an excellent lunch selection of soups, sandwiches and desserts. Walking around the square, we enjoyed visiting the many shops, including Bay City Antique Mall, the Basket Shop & Boutique, Heart & Home, Bay City Floral, Homestead, and Mustard Seed Christian Store. Town Square Restaurant, across from the courthouse, is a great place for lunch while you shop.



Also located on the square is the Matagorda County Museum and Children's Museum. This award-winning museum has interesting displays covering Matagorda County history, the Karankawa Indians, and the excavation of LaSalle's ship, La Belle. The Children's Museum, known as "Our Town", is located downstairs and represents a small Texas town c. 1890-1910.



The museum is fully furnished and allows children of all ages to experience play in areas including a one-room, schoolhouse, general store, bank, jail, post office, ladies dress shop, barber shop, and prairie home.

After our busy day, we headed over to the K-2 Steakhouse for a delicious dinner. Bay City has a number of recommended restaurants and cafes, including El Zarape Cafe, La Casona Mexican Restaurant, Blue Ocean Seafood, Fat Grass Restaurant & Bar, China One Buffet, and Bay City Seafood and Steak. Many overnight options are available including Comfort Suites, Hampton Inn, LaQuinta, Studio 6, and a

**Fastlane Motorcycle School** at MSR Houston in Angleton on July 12.

[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](#)



**Bastrop Opera House**

presents "Women in Country", a Musical Celebration of Female Singers & Songwriters of Country Music. Fridays & Saturdays July 11-19, Sunday July 13.

[Cameron, TX](#)

[Canton, TX](#)

[Centerville, TX](#)

[Clute, TX](#)

[Columbus, TX](#)

[Comfort, TX](#)

[Cuero, TX](#)

[Diboll, TX](#)

[Dimmit County](#)

[Elgin, TX](#)

[Emory, TX](#)

[Ennis, TX](#)



**Bluegrass Concert & Jam**

**Session** at Coushatta Recreation Ranch in Bellville. A concession stand is provided serving popcorn, sandwiches, soft drinks, etc. Jamming starts at 5 pm and the show starts at 7 pm.

number of RV parks.

The next day began with an early morning visit to the Matagorda County Birding Nature Center, just west of town. The 35-acre park is beautifully maintained and offers many different birding habitats and gardens to explore by foot or golf cart. This is an excellent place to relax and enjoy the natural surroundings. In the afternoon we travelled down to the small coastal town of Sargent, home of the last swing-bridge over the Inter-coastal Waterway and a top fishing spot. Recommended restaurants in this area are The Blue Gecko Bar & Grill and Stingrays Bar & Grill.



The town of Matagorda [pop 600], is located on the Colorado River, and just a few minutes' drive from the Gulf. There are a number of interesting shops in town and we enjoyed visiting Lena's Landing Gift Shop and Matagorda Harbor House. We stopped by the harbor and marina, busy with fishermen, and watched the many towboats as they pushed lines of barges up the inter-coastal waterway. The Waterfront Restaurant, overlooking the harbor, offered us a tasty lunch. Other recommended dining places include Spoonbill's Restaurant, Poco Playa, Snappers Bar and Grill, and Lighthouse BBQ.

A fun stop near Matagorda is the LCRA Matagorda Bay Nature Park. This 1600-acre park and preserve is operated by the Lower Colorado River Authority and includes two miles of beach on the Gulf, 2 miles of river frontage, and hundreds of acres of marshland and dunes, perfect for bird-watching and nature study. Kayak tours or rentals are available and the park includes RV and camping facilities.



An interesting historical stop is the Matagorda Cemetery, established in 1830, resting place of a number of early Texas pioneers and veterans of the Texas Revolution. After a seafood dinner at the River Bend Restaurant, we headed for our nights stay at the Lodge at Karankawa Village. The small lodge offers tastefully decorated rooms with extras like Keurig Coffee makers, bottles of spring water, homemade cookies, and comfortable covered lounge areas at the end of both floors.



The upscale Cattails Boutique is located across the lot and is a wonderful place to shop or enjoy gourmet coffee or a glass of wine before dinner.



[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](#)



**Look ahead: Belton Sip & Stroll** on Aug 9th from 4-8pm. Check in will be at Real Deals on Home Décor, 204 N Penelope, Belton on Saturday between 10am and 5pm. Goody Bags including souvenir wine glass, passports and surprise will be given at check in.

[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](#)



**Blanco Market Days** on July 19 from 9am-4pm at





The town of Palacios [pop. 5200], was established in 1902 and is located about 30 miles southwest of Bay City on land formerly owned by cattle baron A. H. "Shanghai" Pierce. Palacios is a quiet, slow paced city that is known as center for coastal shrimp fishing. Stop by the Chamber of Commerce office as you enter town for information on attractions and dining places. The City By The Sea Museum has interesting displays covering the towns' 100 year history, the excavation of LaSalle's ship La Belle, Hurricane Carla of 1961, the Karankawa Indians, and the agricultural and fishing history of the area. Palacios has very nice parks with sandy beach areas and shallow water and playgrounds for kids along Harbor Drive. Recommended restaurants here include The Lumberyard, Palacios Mexican Restaurant, Bayside Seafood, Tran's Vietnamese Restaurant, and Marisalas Cafe. A highlight of this stop was our night at the historic Luther Hotel. where you can enjoy the beautiful sunset and ocean breeze from the quiet front porch.



As we headed home the next day, we made a stop in the small town of Blessing at the historic Hotel Blessing Coffee Shop, home of famous homemade breakfasts and lunch buffets. The hotel still accepts guest and we look forward to a return visit.

Annual events in Matagorda County include the Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Show and the Matagorda Seafood Festival in March, LaSalle Landing Reenactment in July, Bay City Lion's Club Rice Festival and the Matagorda Heritage Day in September, and the Lighted Christmas Boat Parade in November, and many fishing tournaments during the year.

Our trip to Matagorda County was filled with new and exciting experiences and we look forward to our next visit.

Links - <http://visitmatagordacounty.com/>  
<http://visitbaycity.org/>  
<http://www.mcbnc.org/>  
<http://www.matagordachamber.com/>  
<http://www.palacioschamber.com/index.html>

***"Traveling is almost like talking with men of other centuries." - Descartes***



**Brown Santa Golf Tournament in Cameron**

Sheriff Dave

the Blanco County Courthouse.

**Yett Park Trade Fair** is on July 12 from 9am-4pm at Yett Memorial park, 1813 Hwy 281. Swap Meet, Arts & Crafts and Farmer's Market.

- [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](#)



**July Jam in Bowie** on July 26: Casual evening of Fiddle Music, Fried Chicken, and old fashioned bake sale and auction. Community Center, 413 Pelham.

**Chicken Run Poker Ride on July 26.** Motorcyclists and car clubs are invited to participate in this 90-100 ride. Contact Main Street Bowie 940-872-6246



**Shakespeare at Winedale in Round Top** presents three great classics for the July-Aug months. Taming of the Shrew, The Merry Wives of Windsor and Troilus & Cressida.

**Round Top Music Festival Concert** at Festival Hill in Round Top on July 12 is the closing season concert.



Greene announces the 4th annual Brown Santa Golf Tourney for July

19th at Cameron Country Club. Back this year is the popular golf ball drop from a helicopter. Purchase a ball for \$10, closest to the pin wins a prize. Shotgun tee times are 8:30AM and 1:30PM. To sponsor a hole or for more info, call Lt. John Mendoza at 697-7033



### Splash out Hunger with Christmas in July at Canton

July 14 - 20 Celebrate the magic of Christmas this summer! The Splash Kingdom park will be decorated with plenty of holiday cheer, and Santa will visit on July 15 and 18! In the Christmas spirit, if you bring 2 non perishable items for us to donate, we will give you a free bottle of water to quench your thirst while you splash the day away at Christmas in July!



### The Mosquito Festival in Clute on July 24-26

From his vantage point high atop a moss-hung oak, Willie Man-Chew rested from his long search for a perfect home and surveyed the scene below. Here, in the early summer of 1981, the sight and sounds that greeted him were a delight to his senses. There were healthy, tanned humans playing ball, swimming in an Olympic-sized swimming pool, enjoying state-of-the-art playground equipment, laughing and having fun. Willie's discerning eye noted the lush greenery surrounding the homes and schools in the neighborhood. Springing, as he does from the finest bloodlines in southern Brazoria County, he realized that he had, at last, found the land of his dreams. Willie quickly marshaled a group of humans as his official goodwill ambassadors and began preparations for the first of the annual festivals that honor him and his fellow mosquitoes the last Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of July each year. These ambassadors, whom Willie affectionately and jokingly calls his "Swat Team" present three fun filled days of special events, games, food, carnival rides, and contests, craft booths, cookoffs and much, much more. Ya'll come down to Clute, Texas and join us just for the fun of it! Visit us at [www.mosquitofestival.com](http://www.mosquitofestival.com).

On June 7, 2012 TripAdvisor the World's Most Trusted



**Terry County Sheriffs Posse Rodeo** in Brownfield on July 17-19 at the Rodeo Arena.

**Look ahead: Terry County Vineyard Festival on Aug 2** in Brownfield with vendor booths, vineyard tours and the Food & Wine event.



**Remembering When-Roy Orbison Tribute** in Brownwood on Aug 2 in Brownwood at Brownwood Coliseum, 500 East Baker St. featuring Al Nelson as the music legend, Roy Orbison! Tickets are available for either general admission or for dinner and show



Who's rockin the White Horse in Burton this month?  
 July 10 "Kountry Chick" Karaoke  
 July 11 "Robbie Wooten & Steven Marshall"  
 July 12 "Clayton Adams"  
 July 17 "Kountry Chick" Karaoke  
 July 18 "Will T. Massey"  
 July 19 "George"  
 July 24 "Kountry Chick" Karaoke  
 July 25 "Lee County Three"



**Try Woody's Smokehouse in Centerville**, The Jerky Capital of the World. Open 7 days a week 5:30 AM to

Travel Advisor site Calls out America's Wackiest Summer Events. "The Great Texas Mosquito Festival was chosen as Number 1 in America by their editors.



### Look ahead: Wine and Tapas Dinner in Columbus

Make your reservations in Columbus for Friday, August 1, 2014 for the Wine and Tapas Dinner. Dinner begins 6pm and tickets are \$75.00 per person. Includes full dinner of exotically flavored tapas ("little dishes") expertly paired with variety of wines served in your own take-home commemorative wine glass.

**SPACE IS LIMITED. RESERVE YOUR SEAT NOW! 979-277-0088 or [loverstreet@wespeak4kids.org](mailto:loverstreet@wespeak4kids.org)**



### Live Music all the Time in Comfort

**Guenther's Biergarten Grill** - live music Thursday & Friday nights 7-9 pm. Hwy 473 at 6th Street, Comfort ~ (830) 995-5370 ~ [www.thecomfortchef.com](http://www.thecomfortchef.com)

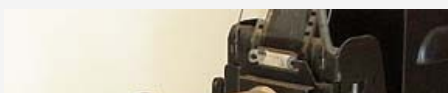
**The Cocky Rooster Bar** - live music Fridays, Saturdays and on special occasions. Look for updates frequently! 7 hwy 87, Comfort ~ (830) 995-5109 ~ [Cocky Rooster on Facebook](#)

**Bending Branch Winery** - Live Music Series from 2-5 pm  
142 Lindner Branch Trail, Comfort ~ [www.bendingbranchwinery.com](http://www.bendingbranchwinery.com)

**Singing Water Vineyards** - 2nd Saturday Concert 1-4 pm  
316 Mill Dam Road, Comfort ~ [www.singingwatervineyards.com](http://www.singingwatervineyards.com)

**Sweet Comfort** - Live music most Friday afternoons 1-5 pm with Rose & Thistle.  
706 High Street, Comfort ~ (830) 995-3559 ~ [www.sweetcomfortshop.com](http://www.sweetcomfortshop.com)

**Double D Restaurant** - open mike Sundays at 4 pm.  
1004 Front Street, Comfort - (830) 995-2001



10:00 PM. Providing East Texas with some of the highest quality smokehouse products such as sausage, jerky, hams, bacon, and many jarred favorites.



**Dimmit County** is comprised of 5 cities - Asherton, Big Wells, Brundage, Carrizo Springs, and Catarina. The County was named for Phillip Dimmitt, a Pennsylvania adventurer active in the Texas fight for freedom; the misspelling of his name is a result of state office paperwork. Dimmit County is known for the most number of Texas Rangers buried at Mt. Hope Cemetery. Dimmit County, located in the southwest part of Texas, was created from portions of Maverick, Webb, Uvalde and Bexar counties.

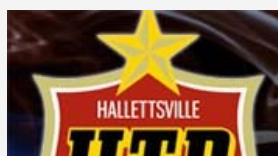


**A Sweet Affair Bakery in Emory** is coming soon this summer! The menu will include sweet treats like cakes, pies, cookies, brownies and cupcakes.

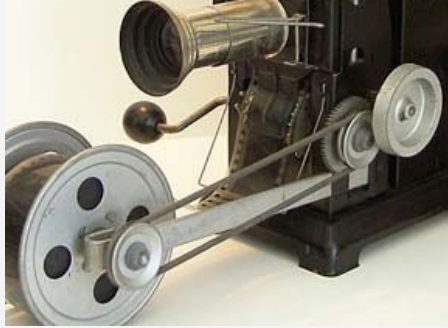
They will serve a tea room style lunch which will include salads, chicken salad, tuna salad, and a soup of the day from 11am-1pm. The store will also be home to boutique shopping, offering treasures from local artists and new merchandise.



**Look ahead: Giddings Swap Meet** on Aug 29-31.







## Summer Staycation in Cuero

Thursdays in Cuero are Staycation Days from July 10-August 14, 2014. Enjoy movies at the Cuero Park Knoll on July 10, 24 and Aug 7. Free paddleboat and kayak rides at the Lake on July 17 and a free pool day on August 14.

It's the best time you can have staying near home.



## Beach Party in Elgin

It's a beach party in Elgin on July 19 from 10am-2pm at Elgin Memorial Park. Enjoy waterslides, watermelon, building a sandcastle, lemonade and fun for the whole family.



## Christmas in July in Ennis

Are you searching for the perfect gift? No need to wait until December! Come to Ennis on July 12th from 9am-4pm at the Ennis National Bank Event Center. Now is your chance to buy from local artists and vendors who will add a personal touch to your shopping! Find unique gifts and support the local community! Don't miss this special holiday shopping event! For more information call 972-935-6777.

### **Bingo! The Winning Musical, book by Michael Heitzman and Ilene Reid**

BINGO is a splashy, zippy, outrageously funny new musical at the Ennis Public Theater from Aug 1-17. Come meet Vern, Honey and Patsy: three pals that have driven through a terrible storm in the name of their weekly obsession. In between the number calling, strange rituals, and fierce competitions, love blossoms and long lost friends reunite! for more information visit [www.ennispublictheatre.com](http://www.ennispublictheatre.com)



**Hallettsville HTP Truck Pull** on July 18-19 at the Wilbur Baber Expo Center. Bring what you've got and let's pull! Rain or shine.



**Look ahead: Hamilton Hillaceous bike ride** in Hamilton on Aug 2. Call the Chamber for more details 254-386-3216.



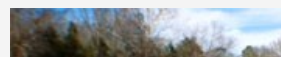
**Look ahead: 158th Annual East Texas Sacred Harp Singing Convention in Henderson** on August 9th-10th. at Henderson Civic Center 1005 Hwy 64 W.

### **BUGTUSSLE TREK**

in Honey Grove is on **August 23th** on the north side of the square. The car club meets at the Civic Center to eat lunch, and park their vehicles for all to view while eating. They drive around for about an hour at 11am.



**The Alley Oop Park Museum in Iraan** is open every Thursday-Sunday (excluding holidays) from 1 to 5 p.m. Admission is free





## PBR Gonzales on July 11-12

PBR in Gonzales is at the JB Wells Arena on July 11-12. The doors open at 5:30pm for the 7:30pm show. Tickets are on sale, contact E-Barr Feed, the Chamber of Commerce or Johnson Oil & Cost Store.



## East Texas Performing Arts Festival 2014 in Jefferson

It's four weekends of theater and music at the Jefferson Transportation and Visitor Center on 305 E. Austin St from July 25 through August 16.

- **Broadway musical, The Mystery of Edwin Drood.** A Play within a Play is what people are saying. Each audience member votes for the ending. How exciting will that be?

This may be one of the most fun theater performances Jefferson Texas has ever had. Imagine the possibilities. Every performance could be a completely different show depending on what the audience decides. Based on the unfinished Charles Dickens novel The Mystery of Edwin Drood. It is written by Rupert Holmes, and was the first Broadway musical with multiple endings (determined by audience vote).

**The Throw Away Children**, a world premiere stage drama. A moving and serious commentary on the worldwide plague of human trafficking.

- Music concerts
- Artists competing for regional music awards.

- a production of East Texas Performing Arts, Inc. Information and tickets, [www.ETXPA.org](http://www.ETXPA.org) or call [847-722-8798](tel:847-722-8798).



## Lake Limestone in Jewett.

Lake Limestone is for public use for all type of water recreation. The predominant fish species are Largemouth Bass, White Bass, Crappie and Channel, Blue and Flathead Catfish.



## Lexington Market Days on

July 12 and August 9 at the Dowdy House. Food Produce, Crafts, Antiques and Collectibles.



## Luling Bar-B-Q at 709 E.

Davis. Mon, Wed, Thurs and Sun from 7:30am-6pm. Fri & Sat 11am-6pm. Closed Tuesday.



## Woodbine Hotel and Restaurant in

**Madisonville.** Lunch is Tuesday through Friday 11 am to 2 pm. Dinner is Tuesday through Saturday 6 pm till 8 pm. Closed Monday. Full Bar. Reservations are recommended.







## Parking Lot Party in Livingston

KXAX 104.3 FM is having its first ever parking lot party FREE to everyone! Come out and enjoy live music, free food, door prizes, meet the radio personalities & best of all come out to meet **American Idol Season 12 finalist Amber Holcomb**. This event is happening July 26<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in the parking lot of KXAX studio & Eastex Security. The radio station is bringing a mixture of live Texas music to Polk County. We will have 4 live bands, door prizes and free hot dogs. We will even give away a 4 pack of tickets to Moody Gardens valued at over \$500. This event will be hosted by KXAX radio personalities like "The Old Kid". Come out and meet the station personalities all while having a good time without spending a dime.

Location: 2116 Hwy190 West (Just Across from First National Bank)

Some chairs provided. The Armadillo Hole will be selling Barbeque plates. Sno-cones will also be available. KXAX will provide free hot dogs & drinks. Vendor booths & business sponsorships are available by emailing [hgn@hgnmusic.com](mailto:hgn@hgnmusic.com) or call 936-417-6006.



## Beach Safari in Matagorda

Everybody wants to visit a beach, but living there can be tough. Learn about the hardships of life on the coast as we go "hunting" for the animals that make the beach their home. Come be a part at the Beach Safari on July 12.

### Palacios: Shrimp-O-Ree Festival on August 3rd

What a better way to end the summer season than with a giant shrimp festival. This event will be at the St. Anthony's Church in Palacios, TX. With the City of Palacios being, the Shrimp Capital of the United States, this event is perfect! So bring your family and friends, and come out to have a wonderful time.



## Taste of Palo Pinto County in Mineral Wells

Delicious Food from Restaurants in the Mineral Wells

### Christmas in July

**Shopping and Networking Fair** in Conroe on July 26 at Knights of Columbus Hall from 10am-3pm.



**The Cotton Pickin Theater in Point** has [a Saturday Nite Shindig Show](#) every Saturday at 7:30 p.m. (except 4th Saturday). Then there's the [Rural American Music Revue](#) on the 4th Saturday Nights - 7:30 p.m.



**Fort Parker State Park in Mexia** offers 25 campsites with water, electricity and restrooms with showers, 10 screened shelters, activity center, playground, group pavilion, learning center, swimming, fishing, bird watching, hiking, biking, canoeing, boat tours, boat ramp, nature study, and baseball/softball.



**Beech Creek Ranch at Mt. Enterprise** offers great opportunity to ride across 700 acres of wooded areas, creeks, open pastures and hills. Bring your own horse and ride to your hearts content. Contact for fees.



**Lee House Historic Bed & Breakfast in Munday** is a beautiful 100 year old house was built by Dr. J.T. Lee, one of Munday's founders. The guest house is ideal for several family members

Area on July 14 from 6pm-8pm at the Holiday Hills Country Club at 4801 Highway 180 East. There will be door prizes, live music and auctions. General admission is \$35 and reserved seats are \$50. Benefiting the Mineral Wells Senior Center



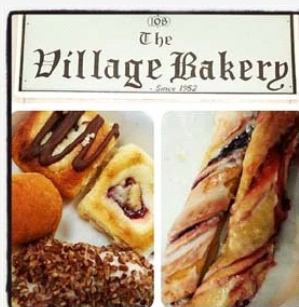
Look ahead: Onalaska Half Triathlon at Lake Livingston on September 14, 2014.



### Calhoun County Kiwanis Golf Ball Drop in Port Lavaca

The Golf Ball Drop is on July 29 at 2644 FM 3084, Port Lavaca. Please contact Donna Boyd, 550-7349 for more information.

[American Red Cross Drives for Lives Golf Tournament](#) will be held at the Colony Creek Country Club, 301 Colony Creek Drive, Victoria, TX on August 29.



### Reviews are good for the Village Bakery in West!

Drop by next time you're in town to sample a kolache, klobasniki™, strudel, and buchtka as well as a variety of pies, breads and cookies.

113 E Oak St., West, TX



### Schulenburg Festival on July 31-August 3

Join us for "The National Party of Texas"! Includes: Rodeos, bands, contests, parades, cook-offs, games and a carnival. Visit the official website for the whole shabang: [www.schulenburgfestival.org](http://www.schulenburgfestival.org)



who wish to rent the entire upper floor. There are four bedrooms and a large, luxury bath complete with antique tub and shower.

[Grandma Mary Days in Nocona](#) continue with "Movie Night" in the downtown park, showing Disney's "Frozen" on July 19th at 7pm.



**Rockdale Tennis Open 2014** on July 26-27. Contact the Chamber at Ph: (512) 446-2030 for more information.



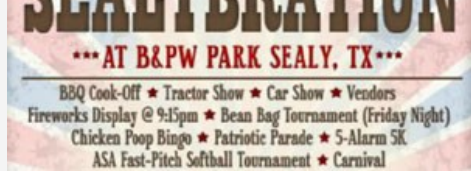
**John Uhr Memorial Billfish Tournament Bastante** in Rockport on July 9-12 at the Rockport Harbor Area.

[5th Annual Bay Bash Redfish Roundup at Bastante!](#)  
July 11-12, 2014

[Rudy's Redfish Series Tournament](#) at Redfish Bay Boat House, 322 Huff Street, Aransas Pass on August 8.



**Texas Photo Festival in Smithville.** You have until September 1, 2014 to submit photos in any of eight



### Sealybration in Sealy

On July 11-13 join the folks in Sealy for the annual Sealybration. Enjoy many activities throughout the weekend such as the BBQ Cookoff, tractor and car show, vendors, fireworks, bean bag tournament, chicken poop bingo, patriotic parade, 5 alarm 5K, ASA Fast Pitch softball tournament and carnival. Friday, July 11 The Original Triumphs and Saturday, July 12 Fred Rusk & The Zydeco Hi-Steppers, The Washers and Steve Wariner.

[Also don't miss the Jubilee, Sizzler Steer & Heifer Show](#)

Saturday & Sunday, August 9 & 10, 2014

Sponsor: Austin County Fairgrounds

Austin County Fairgrounds



### Casino Night in Smithville- July 26

Smithville Rec Center, 106 Gazley  
6pm buffet 7-10pm gaming 10pm-12am live music & dance

Only 300 players allowed! Get your tickets quickly. From 6 p.m. to midnight, the Smithville Recreation Center will be transformed into a casino style party you don't want to miss.

Here's what you get: All your favorites - blackjack, roulette, craps and slot machines, plus the popular Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament. General admission tickets also include all-you-can-eat buffet and \$10,000 in gaming chips.

NEW! A wine toss! and LIVE MUSIC and dancing from 10 p.m. to midnight!

Get your group (family, friends and co-workers) together and mark your calendar. Silent auction to help billboard account. This event is brought to you by the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce and our Title sponsor, Covert Chevrolet/Buick/GMC.

Casino and Buffet GENERAL ADMISSION  
\$30 in advance (\$35 at the door)

categories and become one of Smitty's favorite photographers.



**65th Annual Taylor Rodeo and Cowboy Cook-off** in Taylor on July 18-19 at 210 Carlos Parker Blvd.



**Look Ahead: Texas Word Wrangler Book Festival** in Giddings on September 12 at the public library.



**Plaza Theatre's 3rd Annual Character Breakfast in Wharton** on July 19. Enjoy breakfast and see the following characters: Woody, Buzz Lightyear, Elmo, Mickey, Minnie, Belle, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Dora, Snow White, Alice, Jake & the Neverland Pirates, Hello Kitty, Ninja Turtles, Tinker Bell and more. Tickets are \$15.00 and ticket sales close on Friday, July 18 at 5pm. This is a fundraiser for Programs at the Plaza Theatre.

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