

There's Red, White and Blue galore this month! Belton shares it's July 4th event and you can gear up with festivals in Brenham, Schulenburg, Wharton and fireworks in West. Don't miss the Possum Palooza, Watermelon Thump and Lavender Festival!

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## BACKROADS NEWSLETTER

June 2013 Volume 21

PDF Copy of June 2013 Newsletter

Howdy Friends & Partners,

Texas is red, white and blue...colors of freedom and patriotism. Consider spending this July 4th in Belton, voted one of the best places to spend the holiday. For an early start, there are Juneteen Celebrations in Schulenburg and Brenham. West has fireworks and Wharton has a Freedom Fest. We're just bursting with color this month!

For something out of the ordinary you can try the Sausage and Opera Fest in Elgin, the Possum Palooza in Point, The Watermelon Thump in Luling or the Lavender Festival in Blanco.

You'll also find boat races, rodeos, historical markers, a skate park...Wow!

See you on the Trail

### [Fourth of July in Belton](#)

Since the 1850s folks from all over Texas have come to celebrate the 4th of July in Belton. The week-long celebration is ranked among the top places to celebrate in Central Texas and draws over 50,000. Featured is one of USA Today's Top Ten Parades in the country, the Festival on Nolan Creek, a carnival, Texas Ole Time Fiddlers' Contest, Patriotic Program, and Kick-off BBQ, with the rodeo being the highlight of the celebration.

#### **Belton's 4th of July Schedule of Events 2013**

Saturday, - Mutton Bustin' Registration @ Belton Feed & Supply



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[Calendar for June 2013](#)

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Monday, July 2nd - Kick Off BBQ, Yettie Polk Park 11:30 a.m.- 1 p.m.

Thursday, July 4th - Saturday, July 6th - PRCA Rodeo 7 p.m.

Thursday, July 4th

- Patriotic Program, North Steps of Bell County Courthouse 9 a.m.
- Parade, 10th Ave. & Main, Central and Birdwell 10 a.m.
- Festival on Nolan Creek, 11 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Wednesday, July 3th - Saturday, July 6th - Carnival, Confederate Park

Nightly Rodeo Events: Mutton Bustin', All American Cowgirl Chicks, Western Gift Show (5:30 p.m.)

We are doing something completely new and exciting this year for the 4th of July! Our Parade Chairman has set up a Google Voice phone number for YOU to call in and leave a message about your FAVORITE 4th of July memory.

Starting next week (June 3rd) we will be picking one winner from the calls to receive a set of FREE rodeo tickets! There will be a winner each week leading up to the week of July 1st. The number to call is 254-307-0490, there are instructions on how to format your message.



### Annual Fishing Day at the LBJ State Park & Historic Site near Stonewall on June 1 from 10am-12Noon.

This event is a fishing clinic for children & families. After fishing on the Pedernales River, there will be a short clinic for all the participants. It will be a fun event for all that attend. Please, no dogs or other pets allowed.

Archery Clinic Starts  
June 6, 2013



Lavender Festival in Blanco

### Lavender Festival in Blanco

The Blanco Chamber of Commerce will host the 9th annual Blanco Lavender Festival on June 7th - 9th, 2013. The lavender blooming season generally runs May



### Farmer's & Artisans' Market in Burton

[Angleton, TX](#)

- [Bastrop, TX](#)
- [Bay City, TX](#)
- [Bellville, TX](#)
- [Belton, TX](#)
- [Blanco, TX](#)
- [Bowie, TX](#)
- [Bridgeport, TX](#)
- [Brenham, TX](#)
- [Brownfield, TX](#)
- [Brownwood, TX](#)
- [Burton, TX](#)



Experience the unique collision of music and flavor at the Sausage and Opera Festival in Elgin on June 1. The Festival includes an Art Show and Competition, a raffle and fantastic sausage!

Produced by Franco-American Vocal Academy. Free Admission, however a seating reservation is required. Participate to our raffle and win wonderful gifts!

- [Cameron, TX](#)
- [Canton, TX](#)
- [Clute, TX](#)
- [Columbus, TX](#)
- [Comfort, TX](#)

through July.

### Lavender Market

The entire town of Blanco and the surrounding countryside will be bathed in lavender during the Lavender Festival. The Lavender Market, on the grounds of the historic Blanco County Courthouse, is always a must-see highlight of the festival. Selected vendors and artists from across the Hill Country will offer lavender-related pleasures and treasures from the finest craftsmen.

At the courthouse, speakers give lavender-related educational programs. If you are interested in lavender's mystical culinary properties, its various craft uses, aromatherapy benefits, or its suitability as a landscape plant, you will find a session designed to answer your questions.

During Lavender Weekend, Lavender Festival Fever will be in full swing, with the whole town participating in the celebration. Merchants will offer lavender merchandise and restaurants will serve lavender-flavored dishes. Who couldn't love lavender in one of its many forms?

### Lavender Farms

Admission to the farms is free. Some farms are newly planted; others are well established. Visitors will be able to see the lavender farming industry in different stages of development. Since all farms are within 20 minutes driving distance, visitors can stop at several in one day. Each farm will offer activities and events related to lavender, such as classes in aromatherapy and demonstrations of lavender oil distillation.

Farms will offer items for sale, ranging from their favorite lavender plants, to lavender products, to Hill Country crafts. Many of the farms offer special entertainment; and some provide activities and events for the whole family. Some of the farms will even let you pick your own lavender from plants on the farm.



## Jim Bowie Days in Bowie

In these days of speeding through our busy lives, it is wonderful to return to a period when the pace was slower. Jim Bowie Days is like stepping back in time remembering when fun was affordable, children were entertained without technology, and memories involved the whole family.

[Cuero, TX](#)

[Diboll, TX](#)  
[Dimmit County](#)

[Elgin, TX](#)  
[Emory, TX](#)  
[Ennis, TX](#)



**Silence is Golden in Giddings** as a new non-profit organization is being formed to start renovating the Sterling Silent Movie Theater (1910).

[Giddings, TX](#)  
[Giddings Swap Meet](#)  
[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](#)



**Beech Creek Ranch in Mt. Enterprise** offers a great opportunity to ride across 700 acres of wooded areas, creeks, open pastures and hills. Bring your own horse for conditioning or pleasure and ride until your hearts content. There is no better way to escape the hustle of your everyday routine, than to saddle up and surround yourself with nature. A lunch for the trails can be provided for an additional fee.

Every year in honor of our western heritage, the last weekend in June is known for the Jim Bowie Days Festival and Rodeo. Bowie, which has been given the name of 'Cattle Country', reverts back to the days of when the West was cowboys. The week begins with a Bass Tournament, followed by the Youth Rodeos, Parade, Day time Activities and more.

June 25th is our youth rodeo events which is held for those cowboys and cowgirls under the age of 19. There is also the Jim Bowie Days UPRA Championship Rodeo, on June 27th, 28th and 29th, which has bull riding, bronco riding, barrel racing, mutton bustin' and the calf scramble, to name a few.

There is never a boring moment at Jim Bowie Days, I can assure you! Daytime activities include: the parade on Saturday morning followed by the hamburger feed, games for young and old (such as frog jumping, turtle racing and the kiddie parade), the Little Cowboys and Divas tiny tot beauty contest, a Rodeo Queen Contest, Quilt Show, Indian Artifact Show, and for the first time this year, a vendor show featuring thirty local vendors, at the Bowie Community Center located directly behind the Rodeo Grounds.

If you don't feel as if you can take that all in on one day, there are more than enough motels and B&B's in Bowie to fit the bill. If you come traveling in your RV, no problem! There are area campgrounds; one is on the Pelham Park site for easy access to some of the festival activities being held at our new state of the art Bowie Community Center.

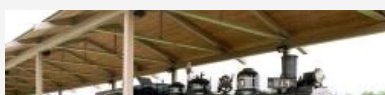
### Paint-In at the Brazosport Center for the Arts & Sciences in Clute



The Brazosport Art League's Paint-In on June 4-July 7 provides the opportunity for Art League members to work and learn with other artists in the area. At the Paint-In the artists can get help, give help, or provide support to each other as it is needed to keep producing art. The atmosphere is very casual and friendly. Artists bring their own lunch and come and go at their leisure. Everyone is welcome, and the sessions are especially helpful for beginners. Watercolor paper is available for purchase. A Mat Cutter is also available.



**Don't miss the 82/287 Yard Sale in Honey Grove** all day June 7-8. Honey Grove sits right in the middle of an advertised 425 miles of sales.



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



Be sure to pick up a copy of the June issue of Texas Highways Magazine. There's a great article about Schulenburg, featuring the Original Kountry Bakery, Baumgarten-Matula, The Flower Box, the Texas Polka Music Museum, the Moravia Vineyard and Winery, Momma's at Sengelmann, the Stanzel Museum, and the Painted Churches.

Rockdale, TX  
Rockport-Fulton, TX

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

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



**Freedom Festival in Angleton**





## All Aboard the railroad exhibit at the History Center in Diboll!

Our fully accessible railroad display invites you to climb aboard, ring the locomotive's bell and blow the whistle, explore the caboose, and experience the sights and sounds of railroading's exciting past.

Built new for Texas Southeastern Railroad of Diboll, Texas (TSE) in 1920 by Baldwin Locomotive Works, Engine 13 is a 68-ton 4-6-0 or Ten-Wheeler steam locomotive. It was used regularly by TSE and Southern Pine Lumber Company (SPLCo) of Diboll as a mainline logging engine until replaced by TSE diesel-electric locomotive 22 in 1956.

### [The History Center](#)

102 N Temple, Diboll, Texas 75941  
(936) 829-3543 [Email us](#) [Map & Hours](#)



## Meet Possum Pete at the Possum Palooza in Point.

It's a day of activity on June 15, including an Antique Car Show, Tractor Show, Motorcycle Show, an exhibit of the Rescue Helicopter, Artisans, Vendor Booths, Food Booths, Silent Auction, Raffles and a 5K-1 Mile Water Gun Run.

A ceremonious Flag Retirement to be conducted by the Boy Scouts from Troops 345 and 393 and Venture Crew 345.

Youngsters will have the opportunity to meet "Possum Pete from Point" along with a sampling of live baby animals, to include lizards, alligators, turtles, ferret, etc., from the East Texas Gators and Wildlife Park.

From noon to 10:00 p.m., the Cotton Pickin' Theatre will turn into the "Possum Kingdom" to present a live musical showcase of bands and singers - for performances of Country, Gospel, Bluegrass, Rock, Pop and Blues . (A \$5 wrist band for in-out entry)



[Bastrop](#)

## [Opera House](#) [Shakespeare Rocks on June 9-10!](#)

The Bastrop Opera House ACT OUT Company directed by Chester Eitze. Scenes from A Midsummer Night's Dream, Romeo & Juliet, Macbeth, and Taming of the Shrew by William Shakespeare. Original narration by Landon and Will Holcomb. Songs from Shakespeare's plays interspersed.) together with

### **Anna and August** By Don Zolidis

Anna is the smartest girl in the school. She's also a purple belt in Tae Kwon Do and has a devastating punch. Strangely enough, she has trouble meeting boys, except for August, who seems to appreciate her weirdness.

Two 40-minute one act plays

Sunday, June 9 - 2 p.m.

Monday, June 10 - 6 p.m.

### [Juneteen](#) [Celebration in](#) [Brenham](#)

Join us for this free event at Downtown Brenham & Fireman's Park (910 North Park St) from 10:30am-4pm on June 15.

Brenham has a strong link to the Emancipation holiday. As a major site of growth during the Reconstruction, it was the home of a large freedmen's school established in the 1870s, and its Juneteenth parade is something of a legend.

Come Downtown Brenham for the parade, then to Fireman's Park for the rest of the afternoon's activities.

### [The 50th Annual Brown](#)

## It's the 60th Annual Watermelon Thump in Luling!

Four fun days from June 27-30 filled with parade and continuous live entertainment by Texas Unlimited Band, Curtis Grimes and Randy Rogers Band among others. There will be a world championship seed spitting contest, car show, carnival, arts & crafts & lots more.



## A new skatepark in the desert!

Carrizo Springs/Dimmit County marks the first skatepark in the I-85 area south of San Antonio. The park was designed in phases and this phase represents the 1st effort. The effort has been overseen by local County Grant/Planning Director, Ernesto Flores III, and after nearly 4 years, the ball is rolling.

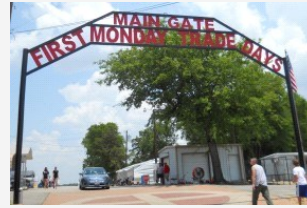
Phase 1 is 2016sf of park. A skinny strip at 108x20'. The park features a flat bar, a hand rail, a small stair set, a step-up gap, a wide-tight quarterpipe, a rainbow roller rail, two pump bumps, a fun box and a tall, mellow quarterpipe. The dirt mounds provide a "widened" look at the park as BMX'ers are able to transfer right out of the concrete and land on the dirt mounds.

Phase 2 plans are in the process and include a bowl and more street obstacles, including a larger stair set, an a-frame and a long ledge.



## County Fair and Rodeo

in Brownwood on June 6-8. Rodeo, parade, livestock shows and rodeo dance featuring "Reckless Kelly" and "The Remains"



## First Monday Trade Days in Canton on June 1-2 and June 27-30

What started more than a century ago as a flea market, has become home to some of the most exciting, cutting-edge home furnishings, antiques and collectibles that can be found anywhere.

## New Historical Marker in Columbus

A Texas Historical Marker showcasing the Carriage Step on Prairier Street will be unveiled during a dedication ceremony at 5pm on Saturday, June 1, 2013, at 1118 Prairie Street, Columbus TX

## Staycation in Cuero

begins June 13 with Movie Night - Madagascar 3. On June 20 attend Kid Fest downtown for fun games and great prizes. Free family event.



## 3rd Annual Black Music Festival on June 21 in Ennis from 7 pm-11 pm at the Ennis Veterans

## Come join us and celebrate the 45th annual Pow-wow

at the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation on June 7 & 8. The Reservation is located 16 miles east of Livingston on U.S. Highway 190.

A photographer's dream filled with images of the beauty of our people in splendid traditional regalia. Come watch the talented dancers, taste our unique frybread, listen to the sounds of the tribal heartbeat, and participate in our activities that last throughout the late evenings. Bring the family, come stay the night and camp out around Lake Tombigbee!



## Set Sail for the 11th Annual Great Texas 300 at South Padre Island June 12 - 15.

The Great Texas Catamaran Race with 300 miles of extreme sailing at its best!



## 4th Annual Vietnam Memorial Wall Update in Mineral Wells

Always our biggest event of the year! The half-scale Memorial Wall on the National Vietnam War Museum site will have 10 panels updated this year on June 1. The gates open at 8:00 a.m. The Patriot Guard arrives at 9:15 a.m. and Dana Bowman skydives in at 9:45. Monica Harvey "Lil Sis" will sing Welcome Home and the National Anthem. Remarks will be made by officers representing the US Army, Marine Corps and Navy. There will be rifle salute and Taps will be played.

Vendors will be on hand and an art exhibit and selected artifacts will be available for viewing in the Visitor Center. Also, visit the recently-updated Camp Holloway Wall and new signage in the Contemplation Garden.



## Visit Nocona for the Chisholm Trail Roundup & Parade on June 7-8.

The rodeo kicks off on both Friday and Saturday nights with mutton bustin' for the little cowpokes in training. The Grand Entry welcomes the Rodeo at 7:30pm. Exciting events include bareback riding, saddle bronc, open ranch bronc riding, steer wrestling, team roping, break

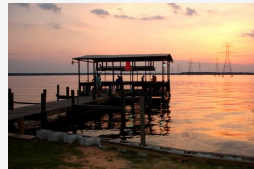
Memorial Park, 2301 Ennis Parkway. Bring your lawn chair, blanket and love for good Gospel, Jazz and Blues Music!



**Texas Unlimited Band comes to Gonzales on June 21st** as part of the Main Street Concert series.



**The Monte Verdi Cotton Plantation near Henderson** is a Greek Revival style home that was completed in 1856 by owner Julien Sidney Devereux and was situated on 10, 721 acres. The plantation received its Texas Historical Medallion in 1964. For tours and more information contact: [kochjl@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:kochjl@suddenlinkmail.com)



**Lake Limestone is located 11 miles from Jewett** on the upper Navasota River in Leon, Robertson and Limestone Counties. When full the lake covers a surface area of 12,680 acres. 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.



away roping, barrel racing, junior barrel racing - and last, but certainly not least - bull riding.

Join in on the fun on Saturday for the Chisholm Trail Round-up Parade on Clay Street in downtown Nocona at 5pm. There will be a BBQ meal at the arena from 6pm until 7:30pm. (\$5 Adults, kids under 5 free). Live entertainment provided by Larry Whatley.



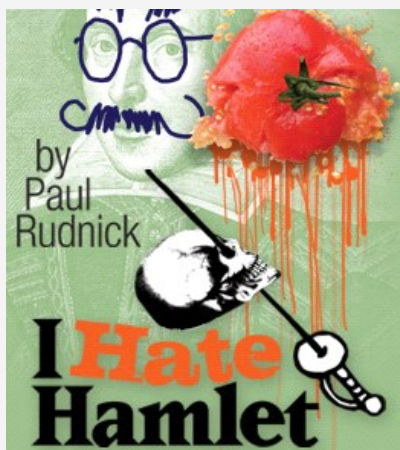
On June 28 and 29, join us on beautiful Monterey Square in downtown Wharton as we celebrate an old-fashioned Independence Day at **Wharton Freedom Fest**.

Enjoy a BBQ Cookoff, Bocce Ball Tournament, shopping, food, vendor booths, car show & swap meet, helicopter rides, Veteran's Parade and Salute and a revel on the river with music and dancing.

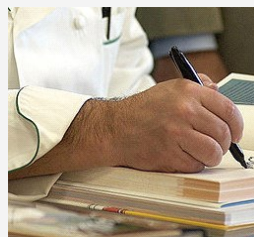
Music will be provided by Hidden Shadows, Kist by Grace and Chris Brade. The Litefooters in Disney's THE LITTLE MERMAID JR. will appear live at the Plaza Theatre.

### Round Top Music Festival Opens

The 43rd Round Top Music Festival, June 8-July 23, 2013, is one of the most prestigious events in the world. The Festival will present more than 35 public events, including orchestral and chamber music concerts, master classes and a children's concert.



Join the fun at the **83rd Annual Mexia Rodeo on June 20-22**. Open events include Double Mugging, Wild Cow Milking, Youth Breakaway Roping, Ribbon Roping and Mutton Bustin'.



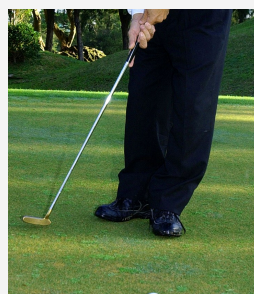
Enjoy members reading original short stories, poems, personal essays and novel excerpts at the **Rockport Writers Roundup on June 15 in Rockport**. There will be wine tasting courtesy of: A Wine of Mine Winery



**Events of the Juneteen celebration in Schulenburg take place on June 16th and 19th** at Wright Park.

Sunday, June 16th: The Parade starts at 2 pm. Later is the Youth Talent Show, the Celebration Raffle and D.J. "Body Rock" of Weimar, TX.

Wednesday, June 19th: Have a BBQ lunch at noon, (meat provided - please bring a covered dish if possible), Bingo, Horseshoe tournament, D.J. "Johnny Loco" of Weimar, TX.





## Unity Theatre's season ends with a laugh in Brenham!

Unity Theatre closes out its 18<sup>th</sup> Season of Excellence with a show that promises to leave the audience laughing! Paul Rudnick's hilarious comedy, *I Hate Hamlet*, will play for two more weeks May 23-June 2. In this theatrical romp, a successful young television actor, Andrew Rally, relocates to New York where he is offered the opportunity to play Hamlet in Central Park. However, there's one big problem: he **hates Hamlet!** Things quickly unravel as we discover the apartment once belonged to legendary actor John Barrymore, who was famous in part for *his* portrayal of Hamlet. Hilarity ensues as Andrew wrestles with the drunken ghost of John Barrymore, playing Hamlet, and his conscience – TV or not TV?

Performances of *I Hate Hamlet* are Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$27 and seats are reserved; however, all unsold seats are \$15 at 15 minutes prior to any performance.

(979) 830-8358 [www.UnityBrenham.org](http://www.UnityBrenham.org).



### Celebrate West Fireworks on June 29th at the West Fairgrounds.

An evening of free fun, food, and fireworks. Also recognition of special individuals of the past year.

### 45th Annual International Knights of Columbus Golf Tournament in Sealy is June 9 - 14.

Golfers from all over North America will be present in Sealy, Texas. A mens golf scramble will occur on Wednesday, June 12th starting at 7:30 am.

Welcome party will occur that night at the Sealy KC Hall starting at 6 pm. The Mens golf tournament will be on Thursday & Friday, June 13 & 14th. A golf reception will occur on Thursday, June 13th starting at 6 pm with an awards banquet on Friday, June 14th starting at 6 pm at the Sealy KC Hall.

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