COUNTRY LINE
The Only Texas Lifestyle Magazine
May 2008

RECKLESS KELLY
sings for their love of baseball

INSIDE:
NASHVILLE & TEXAS MUSIC NEWS
CENTRAL TEXAS EVENTS
HESTON RIGHT ON THE MONEY
COUNTRY & RODEO NEWS
DON GORDON’S FISHING REPORT

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MAY 28 BAND OF HEATHENS

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Proud to be Texas. Proud to be Independent.
A life is full of painful occurrences, and I seem to be dealing with physical pain more and more as I get older and more sedentary. Aging I can’t fix, the other yes. A good example is when your jaw decides to just snap and you randomly bite the inside of your lip or tongue. What the heck is that? You can just be living life happy-go-lucky and your muscles malfunction? A nervous twitch! When I checked with WebMD the closes I got was Tourette syndrome: “Tourette syndrome (TS) is an inherited, neurological disorder characterized by repeated involuntary movements and uncontrollable vocal (phonetic) sounds called tics. In a few cases, such tics can include inappropriate words and phrases." That seems to be pretty close because I usually follow the bite with a curse word or two, quietly of course.

The second thing recently was when my calf on my right leg just spasmed out. That, too, was followed by my verbal Tourette reaction. My daughter had the same thing recently, which seemed unexplained. Now those things hurt and can happen in the middle of the night when I just stretch my leg to get more comfortable. I eat plenty of bad, salty foods, so I don’t think it is lack of salt as one person suggested.

Also, creaking ankles and knees are a constant for me. In a quiet room I can hear myself coming. This I think is hereditary; I remember Dad creaking down the hall. Again, I don’t think adding greasy, oily food will help; it was a phenomenon I had early on. Eating an order of french fries does not appear to help like getting my truck lubed at the quicky oil place.

I once watched a documentary on 12 people who lived sedentary lives, trained them then ran the Boston Marathon. Many of them started with a low oxygen level in their blood. After the training, they had excellent oxygen in their blood and they reported higher energy and felt better. I suffer now, after six months of not being able to work out because of an injury, with low energy. Breathing all day does not help with this problem, so I am considering my options. I hope I can run a bit but may have to revert to other passive exercises, whatever those might be — walking, push-ups or biking.
TIM MCGRAW GETS HIS OWN FRITOS® FLAVOR AT WAL-MART

A new flavor of chips, called Tim McGraw’s Spicy Jalapeno Fritos®, will be stocked in Wal-Mart stores beginning in May. In addition, a collectible tin of Fritos and a DVD of McGraw’s backstage footage from his upcoming tour will be sold at Wal-Mart in September. McGraw will also appear in TV and print ads for the company. Fritos is the “official snack” of McGraw’s new tour which begins on May 9 in Tampa, Fla. The company will also sponsor the tour’s StyleSonic stage featuring new artists chosen by McGraw.

LITTLE BIG TOWN SIGNS WITH CAPITOL NASHVILLE

Little Big Town has left the independent Equity Music Group label to sign a multi-album deal with Capitol Nashville. The announcement followed several months of industry speculation that the platinum-selling quartet was looking for another label home after releasing two albums for Nashville-based Equity.

In a press release issued, Equity general manager and interim president Derek Simon confirmed that the label and Little Big Town “reached an agreement to part ways.”

Less than 90 minutes later, Capitol announced its new signing and also revealed the acquisition of the group’s two Equity albums — 2005’s The Road to Here and 2007’s A Place to Land. Capitol is taking over the marketing and promotion of A Place to Land and will be releasing a new single to country radio immediately.

TAYLOR SWIFT FEATURED ON COVER OF ROLLING STONE’S

BEST OF ROCK 2008 ISSUE

CMT Video of the Year and Female Video of the Year award winner Taylor Swift is featured on the cover of Rolling Stone magazine’s Best of Rock 2008 issue, which hit newsstands Friday, April 18th.

Taylor was the only country artist included in Best of Rock, and she was featured on the cover in the company of Madonna, Bruce Springsteen, Bono, Chris Brown and Robert Plant.

RANDY TRAVIS’ NEW CD AND MOVIE

Randy Travis will release a new album, Around the Bend, on Warner Bros. on July 15. It’s his first new country album in eight years, following a string of inspirational albums. The first single and video from the album is “Faith in You.” In addition, Travis stars in a new movie called The Wager, which will be released on DVD on May 13. Based on a book by Bill Myers, Travis stars as a famous actor whose faith is tested.

THE BROWNS COMPILATION

Jim Ed, Maxine and Bonnie Brown helped turn Nashville into Music City. 21-song compilation contains their early sides on Fabor Records and their later smash hits on RCA

The Browns were a sibling vocal trio comprised of Jim Ed Brown and his sisters Maxine and Bonnie. Their ascent from small-town Arkansas to the top of not only the country charts but the pop charts of the late ’50s and early ’60s is one of the unlikeliest stories in country history. Tracing their mid-’50s origins all the way to their waning days of the late ’60s, Collectors’ Choice Music has assembled The Browns: The Complete Hits, a 21-song compilation featuring their work on both the small, regional Fabor label and later RCA Records. Annotated by music historian Colin Escott, the reissue will hit the street on May 27, 2008.

DELTA’S COUNTRY-BLUES ROCKER STEVE AZAR LAUNCHES NEW WEB SITE

Mississippi Delta singer/songwriter Steve Azar and Country Line Magazine favorite unveiled his new official Web site, steveazarlive.com, April 16. The newly designed site is packed full of new content for Steve’s fans.

Visitors on the Web site can watch “Azar TV,” which is loaded with the newest music videos and TV features from Steve, along with a brand new jukebox filled with Azar’s biggest hits and some of his latest music.

Indianola, Azar’s new album will be released on Azar’s label, Dang/Ride Records on Tuesday, May 27 and will be available on his new Web site, as well as other digital music stores and select stores nationwide.

Stay tuned to steveazarlive.com for updates on Steve Azar news, upcoming contests and exciting giveaways.

STEVE WARINER JOINS THE MUSIC CITY WALK OF FAME

Steve Wariner inducted into the Music City Walk of Fame as part of the fourth class of honorees that also included Steven Curtis Chapman, Merle Kilgore, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Kirk Whalum and Hank Williams, Sr.

Garth Brooks pulled a fast one on his good friend Steve when he flew into Nashville and surprised him just minutes before inducting him during the ceremony. Speaking of his friend, Garth said, “Steve Wariner is going to go down in the history books of not just country music, but all music,” and also talked about Steve’s humility and how he would be the last person to talk about his accomplishments. Garth then presented Steve with his official Music City Walk of Fame plaque and helped unveil his star on the Walk of Fame.

During his remarks, Steve showed his sense of humor when he shared a congratulatory email from his songwriting friend Rick Carnes. In it, Carnes joked, “Congratulations, Steve. Now all of those little people you walked on to get to the top will have the chance to return the favor!” Steve also thanked his wife, Caryn, his children and other family members who were present, and emotionally acknowledged the love and support of his parents, who were not able to attend the ceremony. “Of course, I wouldn’t be here today if it weren’t for people like Dottie West, Chet Atkins and Bob Luman, who all took a chance on a young kid like me,” he said.

TOBY KEITH JOINS WAYMAN TISDALE ON REMAKE OF “NEVER, NEVER GONNA GIVE YOU UP”

Former basketball great and accomplished jazz bassist Wayman Tisdale is no stranger to one-on-one match-ups but playing with country music star Toby Keith was an unexpected pairing. The duo recently joined forces for a remake of Barry White’s hit “Never, Never Gonna Give You Up” on Tisdale’s eighth album Rebound, set for release on Rendezvous Entertainment on June 3.

Driven by Tisdale’s steady bass performance, “Never, Never Gonna Give You Up” features a vocal rendition by Keith, who embodies the sounds of a true Barry White protégé. While reminiscing on first hearing Keith’s interpretation, Tisdale notes, “My mouth was wide open. I could not believe what I was hearing! Toby nails it!”

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EDDIE MONTGOMERY BREAKS GROUND ON A NEW RESTAURANT

Local community leaders and officials were present today to see singer Eddie Montgomery, of country duo Montgomery Gentry, break ground on a new restaurant and 40-acre commercial development off the U.S. 127 bypass in southern Harrodsburg.

Skylar’s Landing, a Montgomery and Mitchell development, is named after Montgomery’s granddaughter. The development will feature a variety of shopping venues and numerous commercial lots available for purchase, as well as Montgomery’s signature restaurant.

Eddie Montgomery’s Steakhouse will be approximately 16,000 square feet with seating for 265 guests. Specializing in premium steaks and family atmosphere, the log-structured restaurant will have a lodge theme complete with stone fireplaces, waterfalls, and a stage to showcase musicians from around the country.

“Live music has kind of gone away and I want to help bring it back,” said Montgomery. “This has always been a part of this development.”

Lonnie Campbell said the development is instrumental for the growth of communities.

Montgomery’s business partners, Tommy and Gwen Mitchell of Rocky Top Log Furniture and Railing in Garrard County, said the development is already receiving substantial attention.

“We’re receiving inquiries from all over the country,” said Tommy Mitchell. “From local interests to national chains, there are so many people who want to be a part of this development.”

The local community is also sharing in the excitement. Harrodsburg Mayor Lonnie Campbell said the development is instrumental for the growth of commerce and tourism in both the city and Mercer County.

Ultimately, Montgomery wants to give back to the area in which he grew up by increasing opportunities for Harrodsburg and the surrounding communities.

“This area and Kentucky and the man upstairs have given so much to me that I would just love to give a little bit back,” said Montgomery. “I want to do something that everyone in the community can be proud of.”

Construction is scheduled for completion this fall. For current updates and more information, please visit eddiemontgomerysteakhouse.com.

MILEY CYRUS BOOK

Miley Cyrus has signed a deal to write a memoir scheduled to be published in spring 2009 by the Disney Book Group. The book will reportedly focus largely on the guidance of Cyrus’ mother, Leticia, and will include previously-unseen photos and family stories. “I am so excited to let fans in on how important my relationship with my family is to me,” Cyrus said. “I hope to motivate mothers and daughters to build lifetimes of memories together and inspire kids around the world to live their dreams.” The book will be published under the Disney-Hyperion Books imprint. Cyrus and her father, Billy Ray Cyrus, are currently working on a feature film.

IVIDEOSONGS.COM

iVideosongs (www.ivideosongs.com) announced recently the addition of nine great country songs to its growing catalog of high-def music instruction videos. Featured are three songs from banjo virtuoso and founding member of the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, John McEuen, who shows how to play his hits, “Miner’s Night Out,” “Togary Mountain” and “Return to Dismal Swamp II.” Also new is the John Denver hit, “Thank God I’m A Country Boy,” featuring the song’s author and Denver sideman, John Sommers.

iVideosongs is the new service that shows aspiring musicians everywhere how to play their favorite songs completely and accurately, with the instruction provided by the original artists who wrote and performed them, and also from expert instructors.

iVideosongs customers can choose a skill level and genre, and then download the high-def titles to their personal computer, iPod or other device. Each song title is presented slowly in natural segments, with unique chapters for the introduction, verse, chorus, bridge, outro and other elements, and each title includes tablature and chord grids. Each title also includes a master performance and backing track, so customers can compare their progress against the song. Titles featuring artists also include an interview segment, where they reveal the inspiration and influences that went into the creation of the song.

BLUEGRASS TRIBUTE TO JEWEL TO BE RELEASED

Jewel’s pungent mixture of folk, pop, and poetry resounds with clarity, cutting through the din of manufactured music. Her songs teem with the hopes and fears of human existence. Pickin’ On Jewel is a clever tribute to the songwriter’s wholesome sounds. Mandolin and banjo allow the airy notes of a fiddle to take flight on instrumental versions of Jewel’s biggest hits. Look for Pickin’ On Jewel mid May.
Longtime Austin entertainer Shelley King — roots-rock singer-songwriter and bandleader and multiple music award winner — will be honored as 2008 Texas State Musician with a reception recently hosted by Gibson Guitar at its Austin showroom.

King, the first woman to hold the post, will be presented with a limited-run Gibson Acoustic Elvis King of Rock guitar during the reception, to be attended by Casey Monahan of the Texas Music Office. King’s term began April 19 — along with those of the State Poet Laureate and State Two- and Three-Dimensional artists. Past Texas State Musician appointees are Dale Watson, Billy Joe Shaver, Johnny Gimble, Ray Benson and James Dick.

“I can’t even express what an honor it is to be the State Musician of Texas,” says King. “I am doubly honored because I am the first woman to hold the post, will be presented with a limited-run Gibson Guitar at its Austin showroom. With so many amazing Texas women musicians whom I greatly respect and admire, I feel really humbled and privileged to be the first of, I am sure, many. It’s very exciting, and I am looking forward to all the opportunities to represent the state of Texas with my music.’

Austin’s King is a seasoned entertainer with a big voice and strong delivery who has won Austin Music Awards for Roots Rock Band of the Year (2005) and Song of the Year for “Call of My Heart” (2001). Her songs have been covered by nationally and internationally known artists such as Toni Price, Nancy Sinatra and Lee Hazlewood. She has appeared on radio and TV and tours tirelessly and globally; plans include visits to Australia, Japan and China in the near future.

In nearly two decades of professional music experience, King has been described as “blistering” and “a powerhouse” with a “soothing alto” — all in the same review. It shows a musician with range and moods, and one who always delivers an uplifting, dynamic, engaging fun performance. (shellekying.com)

The Texas Poet Laureate, State Musician and State Artist Committee of the Texas Commission on the Arts designates a poet laureate of Texas, a Texas state musician, a Texas state artist for two-dimensional media and a Texas state artist for three-dimensional media. The committee consists of seven members appointed by the governor, lieutenant governor and house speaker. (arts.state.tx.us)

Mickey Newbury Gathering VIII

Austin will once again play host to what has become one of the largest songwriters’ festivals in the country. The Mickey Newbury Gathering. Formed to honor Mickey Newbury, a member of the Songwriter’s Hall of Fame and soon to be inducted into the Texas Music Hall of Fame, this event was first held in Austin in 2003 and has grown throughout the last five years into a very special celebration which draws songwriters from all over the planet.

This will be Gathering VIII, and will be held June 26-29, at the Howard Johnson’s Hotel and Civic Center. Some of the songwriters who are scheduled to perform are; Doug Lang, Egbert Meyers, Larry Jon Wilson, Cowboy Johnson, Newbury’s children, Chris, Leah and Laura Shaye, Jonmark Stone, Toni Jolene Clay, Bo Roberts, Billy Arr, Waylon Payne, Larry T. Wilson, Don & Karen McNatt, C. W. Colt, Paula Nelson, Cass Hunter, Sam Anderson, Capt. Andy Olson, Randy Dodds, Elton Noel, Tommy Tyson, Todd Agnew, Michel Martin, Ron Peterson, Jim Pasquale, Kacey Jones and Sarah Teitl.

Planned performances start on June 26 (7-11 p.m.) and continue ... June 27 (1-4:30 p.m., 7-11 p.m.), June 28 (1-4:30 p.m., 7-11:30 p.m).

Registration for the Gathering is $50 which provides entry into all of the planned performances and into the “guitar pulls” that take place all over the hotel and last from midnight ’til dawn. Free refreshments are included in the registration fee.

This year, Mickey’s 87 year old mother, Mamie and his widow, Susan, will attend. There will be a huge silent auction and raffle of special items with the money raised from these events going to helping songwriters with expenses involved in attending the Gatherings. In addition, this year the event will be broadcast over the world wide web in color and stereo sound. myspace.com/mickeynewburygathering, mickeynewbury.com

Mother’s Day Show at La Zona Rosa Becomes Nelson Family Gathering

The Mother’s Day concert benefiting the Give Love Give Life campaign to promote ovarian cancer research and healthcare for American women and children will feature two of Willie Nelson’s daughters, singer-songwriters Paula Nelson and Amy Nelson, and a granddaughter, Martha Fowler, and their bands along with the show’s centerpiece and co-creator, Native American recording artist John Trudell.

Paula Nelson and The Paula Nelson Band, Amy Nelson and Folk Uke, and Martha Fowler and Herald and Mod join Trudell and his band, Bad Dog, for the concert from 3-7 p.m. on Mother’s Day Sunday, May 11, at Austin’s La Zona Rosa, 612 W. Fourth St. Tickets are $25, available through Austin’s La Zona Rosa, 612 W. Fourth St. Tickets are $25, available through all Get Tix local outlets, at gettix.net and at the door; mothers get in free. Info: 512-263-4146

The concert is one of a series of nationwide events to raise awareness of ovarian cancer, build support for women’s health, and create sufficient dialogue to make women’s health and national health insurance for women and children part of the national debate in the 2008 elections.

With the inclusion of Herald and Mod (kicking off the concert), Folk Uke and The Paula Nelson Band (preceding Trudell and Bad Dog), the concert is a Willie Nelson family gathering, only without Willie Nelson, who will be in Europe at the time.

“I believe that any man should do anything in his power to make sure that the women and children in his life are cared for before anything else,” says Nelson. “The health care for my children and their mother comes first. ... Thank you, John Trudell, for bringing this issue to the forefront. Give Love Give Life will make a difference.”

Poet-activist-actor Trudell is a co-developer of the Give Love Give Life concept and a force behind its increasing momentum. “Give Love Give Life isn’t a program; it’s an attitude,’ he says.

Learn more at givelovegivelife.net and at its MySpace home.

George Strait, The King of Country Music

George Strait, The King of Country Music, has more #1 hits in a single chart format than any other recording artist, including all genres of music. As “I Saw God Today” sits at the #1 spot on Billboard/#R&R, one should take notice that it’s been a great few weeks for George Strait. His 37th album, Troubadour, debuted at #1 on the Billboard 200 chart and now he has an unprecedented total of 56 #1 singles to his name.

“I would just like to say thanks to all my fans out there,” says Strait. “To have a number one record is very special, whether it’s your first or one of
SHOWDOWN AT ANTONE’S TO PREVIEW 3RD HAAM BENEFIT DAY

Health Alliance for Austin Musicians is offering Austin business professionals who enjoy performing live music on the side an avenue to express their star power with its first Corporate Battle of the Bands, a fundraising contest and concert.

Deadline is Thursday, May 15, 2008, for registering a band in the Corporate Battle of the Bands. Each band must submit a Band Registration Form, a $25 registration fee payable to Austin Community Foundation/HAAM Fund and a music sample (by CD, MySpace link or a sound file to cschwarz@healthallianceforaustinmusicians.org).

To qualify, bands must have no less than three and no more than 10 members, and members must be bassists only and residents of the Austin area. Bands can represent any musical genre and perform covers or originals.

Bands chosen for the showdown will be notified by May 31 and will donate an entry fee of $1,000. A panel of celebrity guests will judge the bands 6 p.m. to midnight on Wednesday, September 3, at Antone’s, 213 W. Fifth St., and award special prizes for Best Cover Band, Best Original Band, Fan Favorite and Grand Prize Winner.

The Corporate Battle of the Bands is meant as a preview of the annual day of music and giving back that is scheduled for five weeks later, the city’s 3rd HAAM Benefit Day on Tuesday, October 7. And as a reminder to the entire community to join businesses and individuals on HAAM Benefit Day to support musicians’ health.

“Austin is home not only to over 8,000 working musicians but also thousands more who work by day as lawyers, doctors, firefighters, high-tech employees and more,” says Tim Taylor, second-year chairman of the HAAM Benefit Day Committee.

“The Corporate Battle of the Bands is a perfect opportunity to spotlight the talent of these non-professional musicians and to offer them the opportunity to give back to the professional musicians with whom they share a passion for performance and who contribute so much to the culture and economy of the Live Music Capital of the World,” says Taylor.

Band registration form and payment should be mailed to Health Alliance for Austin Musicians/ATTN: Corporate Battle of the Bands, P.O. Box 301496, Austin TX 78703.

For a Band Registration Form and more information, visit healthallianceforaustinmusicians.org and www.myhaam.org.

MARK CHESNUTT GETS STUCK ON RUNWAY

Country music recording artist Mark Chesnutt (Lofton Creek Records) became an unfortunate and unsuspecting domino in the American Airlines’ “grounding” recently when the flurry of canceled flights forced his band and road crew to rearrange their entire travel schedule — forcing Mark to cancel one of his shows altogether.

American Airlines canceled 933 flights across the nation on Thursday, April 10, to inspect the air vessels for potential wiring hazards in wheel wells that could cause fires or problems with landing gear on the MD-80 jets. Scheduled to depart Nashville's BNA Airport that day, Chesnutt’s band and crew were among the thousands of passengers who suffered the chaos in airports across the country as they attempted to make their way to Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas to join Chesnutt for the “Salute to Our Heroes” benefit concert appearance at the military base.

Despite aggressive efforts, American Airlines was unable to secure flights to get Chesnutt’s gang from Music City to “somewhere” in the Lone Star state. The officials at Fort Hood stepped up to purchase tickets on Southwest Airlines to get Chesnutt’s band to Killeen. Chesnutt, a featured artist at the concert event, (and his band) successfully made the gig to perform in front of an audience in excess of 50,000. The “Salute to Our Heroes” concert, organized by Fort Hood’s Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation was a closed celebration aimed at honoring veterans of the war on terrorism and their families. Military and family members, retirees, Gold Star families, Department Of Defense civilians and contractors were in attendance and more than 80,000 enjoyed the festivities.

This was Chesnutt’s first appearance at Fort Hood — the only two-division post in the United States (1st Cavalry Division and the 4th Infantry Division) and home to the III Corps. To “Mark” the occasion, after his show, Chesnutt signed autographs at his merchandise table for nearly three hours, spontaneously and graciously electing to give away t-shirts, hats and CDs to those who have dedicated their lives to serving our country.

“These men and women put themselves at risk for us when they go out and fight for our freedoms. The very least I can do is sign a few autographs and give this minimal gift — a hat or a t-shirt — to show my appreciation in return,” Chesnutt said.

Further problems with American Airlines carriers prevented the band and crew from catching a connecting flight the following day resulting in the cancellation of Chesnutt’s April 12 performance at Cattle Annie’s in Lynchburg, Va. “Just goes to show, it’s not ‘always’ faster to fly and it’s best to just roll with the flow!” Chesnutt said in jest. The Lynchburg show is to be rescheduled in the coming months.

Mark Chesnutt is scheduled to release his next CD, Rollin’ With The Flow, in late June.
Lonestar & Friends Strike Out for the Kids

This year, Lonestar’s St. Jude bowling bash will be held on Monday, June 2 at the Hermitage Lanes in Hermitage, Tenn. Lonestar called on some of their friends, some of the biggest names in country music, to join them for the annual event. Those scheduled to bowl with Lonestar include Trace Adkins, Jo Dee Messina, Little Big Town, Lady Antebellum, American Idol’s Bo Bice, Josh Gracin and Diana DeGarmo, Trent Tomlinson, Joe Nichols, Jamie O’Neal, Darryl Worley, Chuck Wicks, Bryan White, Chris Young, Ty Herndon, Heidi Newfield and Crystal Shawanda.

This year’s sell-out marks the fourth consecutive year the event has been a major success. Since Lonestar founded the annual event in 2004, it has sold out every year and has generated more than $70,000 for St. Jude.

“Knowing that this thing is already sold out is huge!” says Lonestar’s founding member, Dean Sams. “I’ve got a gut feeling that this year’s proceeds will beat out everything we’ve raised in the past!”

Orbison to Be Honored with Boxed Set, Video Tour

Roy Orbison will be commemorated this year by the release of a boxed set and a theatrical tour of a video concert. The CD boxed set is coming in September from Sony BMG and will include Orbison recordings on Sun, MGM, Sony and Virgin, as well as other labels. A spokesperson for the estate said rarities and previously unreleased songs will be included, along with a 100-page booklet.

Also in September, a theatrical tour will be launched of Black & White Night with never-before released rehearsal footage and new interviews. The spokesperson said duets and country salute albums are also planned for later this year. Orbison died in 1988 of a heart attack. Black & White Night was first shown on television a month before Orbison’s death. It was filmed in concert in 1987 with guest artists including Bruce Springsteen, Bonnie Raitt, Tom Waits, Jackson Browne, T Bone Burnett and many others.
Reckless Kelly loves baseball. Reckless Kelly loves America. Reckless Kelly loves to sing. Put them all together, and what have you got? Several dates by the roots-rock band to perform “The Star-Spangled Banner” and more at major and minor league games this season.

Reckless Kelly, whose new album for Yep Roc Records, BulletProof, is slated for release June 24, is scheduled to perform the National Anthem and “God Bless America” around 1:20 p.m. on Sunday, May 11, at Wrigley Field before the Chicago Cubs meet the Arizona Diamondbacks. The band will be in town to play at 9 p.m. Saturday, May 10, at Joe’s, 940 W. Weed St.; information 312-337-8588.

The band is also scheduled to do the honors: May 12 at Milwaukee before the Brewers-Seattle Mariners game, June 4 at Texas before the Rangers-Cleveland Indians game, along with a 7th Inning Stretch performance, June 12 at Houston before the Astros-Milwaukee Brewers game and June 27 at Houston before the Astros-Boston Red Sox game.

In addition to performing “The Star-Spangled Banner” at a minor league Corpus Christi Hooks game July 31, Reckless Kelly is putting together a charity softball game for fall, with major league players and musicians taking part and a center-field concert afterward.

Reckless Kelly — lead singer-guitarist Willy Braun, brother Cody Braun (fiddle, mandolin, harmonica, vocals), lead guitarist David Abeyta, bassist Jimmy McFeeley and drummer Jay Nazz — is known for its excellent musical chops, rockin’ live shows, evocative songs, familial harmonies and more.

Willy Braun, in fact, was in Boston in early April to watch the Red Sox beat the Detroit Tigers in the Sox home opener.
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TOUR OF OAKWOOD Save Austin’s Cemeteries will have a cemetery walking tour, which will focus on Old Austin families that are buried along the Main Street of Oakwood Cemetery. Hear about Austin’s history through these families. sachome.org

MAY 26 2ND ANNUAL CEDAR PARK HERITAGE FESTIVAL will feature live music by Duck Soup, a Championship Hamburger Cook-off, an arts & crafts fair, big wheel races, concessions, demonstrations, inflatables and much more fun for the entire family. Free to the public. Heritage Oak Park, 4-10 p.m. cedarparktx.us

OUTSIDE OF TOWN

ALL SPRING TUBING IN NEW BRAUNFELS Bear the heat with the cool water of the Guadalupe River on an inner too, a raft or a canoe. Contact outfitters Rockin’ R River Rides at 830-629-9999 or 1-800-55FLOAT or Gruene River Company at 830-625-2800.

MAY 3-4 THE OLD PECAN STREET FESTIVAL in downtown Austin’s 6th Street Entertainment District. Enjoy the largest family event in Central Texas featuring over 250 arts and crafts vendors, dozens of bands, theatrical, and comedy and dance performances. 11 a.m.-8 p.m. on Saturday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. on Sunday. FREE to the public. oldpecanstreetfestival.com

MAY 5-11 NATIONAL WILDFLOWER WEEK is the perfect time to take self-guided tours of the beautiful gardens at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and celebrate the beauty of the Hill Country with on-site interpretation. wildflower.org

MAY 11 MOTHER’S DAY CONCERT at the Zilker Hillside Theater, given by the Austin Symphonic Band. 512-345-7420

MAY 17-18 HISTORIC WALKING
ON THE TRAIL  by Kendall Hemphill

Tyranny with Manners

Quotes have always held a certain fascination for me. We come across quotes every day, in books, magazines, newspapers, on television and the internet. Quotes are, I think, the punctuation of literary life. They add context, perspective, credence, and spice. And they never die, though sometimes it might be better if they did.

Consider some of the more famous quotes of recent years — recent being a relative term. See if you can name the people who said:

“Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.”

“A government big enough to give you everything you want is a government big enough to take from you everything you have.”

“Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall.”

“It depends on what the definition of ‘is’ is.”

Answers are at the end of the column. Don’t peek.

Recently, while reading Norman Maclean’s account of the famous Mann Gulch fire of 1949 entitled “Young Men and Fire,” I ran across a couple of quotes that made more sense than just about anything else I’ve heard in a long time. Both are evidently original with Maclean.

One gives voice to a thought most of us have probably had at one time or another in our lives, especially recently, but it offers no solutions. Maclean said, “A mystery of the universe is how it has managed to survive with so much volunteer help.” I appreciate the sentiment, but if Maclean had a suggestion or two about what to do with peta or the human society or Greenpeace it would have been helpful.

The other quote is an explanation of why we sometimes persist in ridiculous endeavors and erroneous beliefs, in spite of overwhelming evidence that tells us we’re mistaken. It explains why some still believe gun control can cut down on crime, and why our government gets bigger every year, and why immigration and health care reform are such Gordan knots:

“Coming to recognize you are wrong is like coming to recognize you are sick. You feel bad long before you admit you have any of the symptoms and certainly long before you are willing to take your medicine.”

So when I decided to say a few words about the life of Charlton Heston, and started reviewing some of the information I have about him, that quote came to mind. For most of his life Heston tried to get people to take their medicine, with mixed results. He was probably the most unpopular popular man in America, maybe the world.

The term ‘actor’ has become a bad word in America, but Heston was an actor from the old school, along with Errol Flynn, Rory Calhoun, Gary Cooper and Jimmy Stewart. Those guys were hunters and patriots. They didn’t spend their time running down their fellow man and mourning about things they knew nothing about, the way some actors do today. Neither did Heston.

Not that he was a quiet guy. Heston was anything but quiet, and what he said made sense. But it usually wasn’t what people wanted to hear. He flanked Martin Luther King in the civil rights march in Washington D.C. in 1963, and continued to make unpopular waves for the rest of his life. He challenged authority when he thought it was necessary, regardless of the consequences to himself.

A good example of that was when he walked into a stockholders meeting at Time/Warner during the mid 1990s and protested a CD by Ice T called Cop Killer. The company cancelled Ice T’s contract, which cost them a lot of money. Heston was ostracized by Time/Warner, which cost him money, too. But it was the right thing to do.

Depending on your age, you may remember Heston as Moses in The Ten Commandments, or in the title role in Ben-Hur, or as Col. George Taylor in Planet of the Apes. But I remember him as the guy who stood at the podium at the 2000 NRA convention, holding a flintlock rifle over his head and saying, “From my cold, dead hands, Mr. Gore.”

Political cartoonists have denigrated Heston since his death because of that quote, offering parodies depicting coffins that won’t close because of a hand permanently gripping a rifle. They seem to think that means Heston lost. What it means, though, is that he won.

Even so, that is not my favorite Heston quote. He was called a racist for saying black people and white people should have the same rights. He was called a homophobe for saying heterosexuals and homosexuals should be treated the same. He was called anti-Semitic for saying that bashing innocent gun owners was like bashing innocent Jews. Heston said, “Political correctness is tyranny with manners.”

As important as the Second Amendment to our constitution is, as passionate as he was about protecting our right to arms, Heston realized that America’s enemies are after more than our guns — they want to tell us what to think. Once they can do that, through political correctness, even the Second Amendment won’t protect the rest of our rights.

Soon it will be too late to take our medicine …

KENDAL HEMPHILL IS AN OUTDOOR HUMOR COLUMNIST WHO QUOTED JOHN KENNEDY, GEORGE W. BUSH, RONALD REAGAN AND PEE WEE HERMAN. WRITE TO HIM AT P.O. BOX 1600, MASON, TX 76556 OR JEEP@VERIZON.NET

HOMESPUN  by Shirley Baker

GRANDMA’S HINTS

When your car heats up and the temperature outside is in the 90s, turn on the heater and watch the temperature gauge go down until you can reach a filling station.

Olives oil and lemon juice can be used for a quick shoe polish.

Furnish each member of the family with their own colored bath towels to end confusion and fusses.

Place lemon in disposal to freshen the sink.

Scratches on glasses? Use toothpaste as a polisher.

SPAGHETTI SQUASH SALAD

For those who have cooked spaghetti squash and mixed the pulp with spaghetti sauce, you will enjoy this new twist. 8 servings

1 medium spaghetti squash 1 tsp dried marjoram, crushed
2 Tbsp chopped pimiento 1/2 tsp paprika
1/2 cup vinegar 1/2 tsp dry mustard
2 Tbsp salad oil Lettuce leaves
1 Tbsp sugar 1/2 cup sliced radishes

Halve squash lengthwise; discard seeds. Place, cut side down, in shallow baking pan. Bake, covered, in a 350°F oven for 25 minutes. Turn cut side up; bake covered, 55 minutes more. Using a fork, scrape squash meat out of shell, reserving shells. Cool squash meat. Cover and chill shells. Toss together squash meat and pimiento. In a jar, combine vinegar, oil, sugar, marjoram, paprika, dry mustard, 2 Tbsp water, 1/2 tsp salt, and 1/2 tsp pepper. Put lid on jar and shake contents. Pour over squash mixture; toss to coat. Cover and chill. To serve, line reserved squash shells with lettuce leaves. Toss the radishes with chilled squash mixture; spoon into the shells.
Mother Bear Syndrome

Mother’s Day Reflection

Recently one night, I was up doing research on the Internet and ran across the video of the six teenagers who held a 16 year-old-girl captive and took turns beating her unmercifully for over half an hour. As a mother I wanted to cry, take revenge, have mercy and throw up, all in a one-minute time frame. I don’t know any of these girls and can’t even recall what state this took place in, but one thing was for sure — I could feel the pain of the innocent girl being beaten. Where that emotion comes from I don’t know, but I was so angry and upset that I had a hard time sleeping that night. As I lay awake in bed, I thought of the horror of what that girl must have gone through and I thought about the girls who were beating her and I wondered how it could be humanly possible to take part in such a horrendous thing? Didn’t, at some point during the beating, any of them ever feel like … enough? This is not OK. This is another human being. No matter how much we hate her … isn’t this enough?

The “mother bear” syndrome is a real thing. I have never studied it, researched it or even Googled it, but I do know it is a deep feeling that lies within. I can see something happening to another woman’s child and feel it as though the child were my very own. However, you better truly watch out if anyone tried to hurt my own child because I would become afraid of even myself. My actions would certainly not line up with my beliefs as a rational grown woman. I can assure you that all that would be out the window. As bad as that sounds, I believe that we, as mothers, are designed that way. That design hopefully manifests in ways that honor our motherhood by nurturing and protecting our young versus just wanting to hurt those who hurt our own.

I think back when our babies were born and I remember the sweet times of being up at four in the morning, feeding and rocking them and looking into their little eyes as they dozed back off to sleep and wondering how in the world I could ever love anything or anybody that much. A mother’s love is so strong that it hurts and is truly scary sometimes because of what lengths you would go to protect them, which is why my heart grieved when I watched this video. It not only grieved for the poor victim but also for the mothers of those victimizing her. What a horrible thing to know that your child was capable of participating in such an awful crime! How could you protect them while they were out hurting someone else’s child? UUGGH … my heart still grieves.

On a lighter side, in the spirit of Mother’s Day this month, I want to celebrate not just my wonderful mother but my mother-in-law, my nieces and the list goes on and on of “mothers” in my life. I am blessed with the most wonderful mother a girl could ever hope for and love her beyond what words can say. I know in the deepest part of my soul how much she loves me. As I have grown into an adult we have become wonderful friends who could talk and laugh on the telephone together daily if we had the time. I also know that my innate feeling of protecting my own children came from how she protected us all while balancing being fair to others. I have seen the “mother bear” in her and appreciate knowing that she would always do everything in her power to keep us safe from harm.

Wishing all of you mothers a Happy Mother’s Day and may God bless you with children who will appreciate you for the “Mother Bear” you are. — Sandra L. Greaney

— Sandra L. Greaney
The Only Texas Lifestyle Magazine

DODGE NATIONAL CIRCUIT FINALS
RODEO CHANGES DATES FOR 2009

Organizers of the DNCFR, presented by U.S. Smokeless Tobacco, have moved the dates of the national championship back two weeks for 2009 to April 8-11 so that the Pocatello, Idaho rodeo no longer conflicts with RodeoHouston. In recent years, many competitors have had to make the difficult decision whether to pull out of either the DNCFR or the $1.3 million rodeo at Reliant Stadium, in some cases at mid-rodeo.

VETERINARY CAMP READIES FOR SIXTH YEAR

The West Texas Youth Veterinary Science Workshop, open to all Texas youth, will be held June 29-July 3 at the Tom Green County 4-H Center in San Angelo. The event is sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service offices in Sutton, Schleicher and Tom Green counties.

Pascual Hernandez, AgriLife Extension agent for Sutton County and the workshop’s coordinator, said the event, now in its sixth year, is meant to expose high school students to careers in veterinary science. University and research faculty members, AgriLife Extension and Texas Animal Health Commission personnel, as well as veterinarians, will serve as instructors.

Course topics will include: zoology, the Beef Quality Assurance Program, toxicology, parasitology, anesthesiology, anatomy, nutrition, first aid, beef feedlot health management, large and small animal practice, necropsy and horse medicine. The workshop will include classroom study, lab work and field excursions.

Enrollment is limited to 30 students, Hernandez said, but participants from across Texas are welcome to attend. They must be of high school age, have an interest in veterinary science and be willing to work in teams.

Adult project guides are also needed, but must pass a background check before participating, Hernandez said.

Applications must be submitted to the Extension office in Sutton County by June 6. Participants will be informed of their acceptance by June 13. Applications are available from any county Extension office.

Masters on the Mend

Reigning World Champion Header Chad Masters is on the road to recovery after undergoing surgery March 26 to repair a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his right leg. Masters, of Clarksville, Tenn., had the surgery, which was performed by Dr. Tandy Freeman of the Justin Sportsmedicine Team, at Mary Shields Hospital in Dallas and has been doing physical therapy in recent weeks.

“The rehab’s been slow, but things are good,” said Masters, who continues to lead the Crush Oil Rentals PRCA World Standings thanks to his RodeoHouston win. “I’ve been trying to stay on top of my work. I’ve been getting a lot of work done and stuff done around the house.”

Masters tore his ACL in Fort Worth, Tex., earlier this year and also had a partially torn meniscus. He spent a few weeks on crutches and is currently wearing a knee brace. He will be re-evaluated by Freeman in two weeks and hopes to return to action soon, health permitting.

“I’d love to go back to kind of my hometown rodeo in Franklin (Tenn.) in mid-May, but if I’m going to re-hurt it, I don’t want any part of that,” said Masters, who had also mentioned the Reno (Nev.) Rodeo as a possible returning point.

CELEBRATION OF WRANGLER NFR’S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

A year-long celebration of the 50th annual Wrangler National Finals Rodeo has officially been launched with release of the official logo to be used on all merchandise and materials for the Dec. 4-13 Golden Anniversary event at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas, Nev.

The logo, gold with black accenting and white lettering, was created by graphic artist Chad Smith and the art staff at MainGate Inc. The team has also worked on four recent Wrangler NFR logos, along with merchandise designs for the Indy 500, driver Danica Patrick, the Brickyard 400, NHRA and Toys R Us.

“Our goal in designing this prestigious logo,” said MainGate President and CEO Dave Moroknek, “was to bring out an authentic rodeo look in a crisp, clean and classic style. When designing for a huge anniversary event like this, classic always works best. We have worked closely with the PRCA over the past four years to make sure we saved the black and gold combination for the 50th.

“Fans can look forward to a black-on-black contestant jacket, which will be, by far, the most sought after jacket in the history of the WNFR.”

The Wrangler National Finals Rodeo is the biggest prize money rodeo in the world – it paid out $5.5 million to contestants last year – and the most prestigious, deciding which cowboys will wear the gold buckle as world champion each year.

The first NFR was held in 1959 in Dallas and it later had stints in Los Angeles and Oklahoma City before moving to Las Vegas in 1985, where it has become one of the hottest tickets in town. The Wrangler NFR has sold out its last 220 performances, dating back more than 20 years.
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*Who God is.

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Sponsorship support is appreciated and needed. We do not want to deny any boy the opportunity because of funds. If you would like to sponsor a boy - or a partial sponsorship please contact Sandra at 512-292-1113 or www.kidsoutdoorzone.com

Register your boy on-line at kidsoutdoorzone.com
Sunburn is preventable

The gasoline prices are still at the rape and plunder levels and increasing so some of us may have to cut down our motoring a notch, but so far the petrochemical industry and the government have not yet figured out how to put a tax on, or cause a mandatory, increasingly upward, price spiral on sunshine so we can still afford to get out in some fashion and enjoy the outdoors.

No matter what those of ill-gotten gains, usury and profiteering do summer in Texas is on the way and the accompanying fishing, water skiing, tubing ... sunburn. I get chill bumps all over just thinking about sunburn and the accompanying misery and I have had my share, believe me, so if being out in the sun is in your plan, you can cover up with cloth and straw, or you can use a chemical covering that works well also; sunscreen.

On every sunscreen bottle there is the notation for SPF. That is the Sun Protection Factor. In language that I can understand it means one SPF is the amount of time in minutes that it takes your unprotected skin to become lightly reddened or irritated from being exposed to the sun. You can tell that is an exact measurement because everyone will react exactly the same way to the sun as everyone else. You know that's a lie. But there is needed a way to indicate what the product will do so this is a good a method as any.

Each person in reality has a different SPF based on such items as skin type, amount of skin pigment (skin darkness), existing tan and prior sun exposure. The SPF number on the bottle indicates approximately how many times your normal SPF time is multiplied by correctly applying that product.

Theoretically if your unprotected personal SPF is 30 minutes and you choose an 8 SPF sunscreen, you would extend your time to reach the sensitivity to the sun as described above by eight times. That time is reached by multiplying your normal unprotected time, let’s use 30 minutes as we did above, by the SPF number on the sunscreen bottle, in this case 8.

The total for this example is 240 minutes or 4 hours. So in our example the sun would have the same effect on a person who properly applied the SPF 8 sunscreen in four hours as if he/she had been out in the sun unprotected for thirty minutes.

I was also looking for a sunscreen that I can put on right after shaving and not set me on fire. I have found one that works well for me and it is Smartshield Sunscreen. I can slap that right on my freshly shaven face and not worry about it.

Beside the SPF number on the sunscreen bottle label it is a good idea to look for the specific ultra violet radiation that is being blocked. It is important that both UV-A and UV-B are both being blocked. UV-A is the most constant in intensity throughout the year. It is radiation that contributes to sunburns, wrinkles and premature aging of the skin.

UV-B radiation is more intense the closer to the equator you get and is fairly strong in our area. UV-B radiation is stronger than UV-a radiation, is the most common cause of sunburn, as well as contributing to premature aging, wrinkles, and also contributes to skin cancer.

So this summer slap on the sunscreen. This will allow you to better enjoy your summer outings by dodging the sunburn demon, and knowing that you will also be taking a step to help minimize your possibility of developing skin cancer in the years ahead.
A Tournament season has reached the mid-mark this month. Bluebonnets are blooming, bass are making beds, and big sacks of fish are coming to the scales.

The Fishers of Men tournament trail broke records again this month — the March 29th event on Lake LBJ had eighty-seven teams competing. This makes the Central Texas region of Fishers of Men the largest in the nation. The Texas Outdoor Zone Fishing Team spent some time pre-fishing and caught some impressive sacks of fish.

As it always seems to do, the night before the tournament a cold front blew through, dropping a large amount of rain and completely changing the stable conditions we were fishing.

Adjusting to the change in weather, the father-son team of James and Jacob Meredith chose to work main lake points using soft plastics but slowing their presentation. They only had five keepers all day, but they were the right ones weighing in at 14.81lbs and earning them $2200 for first place. Ty Chism, won second place. They employing finesse tactics to bag five fish to win themselves a $743 check.

There were 17 places paid by Fishers of Men on LBJ this month. Our Angler of the Year leaders are Roger and Jerral Boling. TOZ team members, Robby Crabb and Cody Greaney, are in seventh place and Brian Booker and myself are in 14th.

The following weekend, April 5, Skeeter Bass Champs had a repeat scenario on LBJ with a cold front blowing in the day before the tournament. Two hundred six teams started the day with 40-degree temperatures, blue bird skies, and high pressure. Many teams struggled, with 61 teams zeroing, and only 51 limits of fish caught.

Lucas Larson and Bill Rule targeted shallow water from two to eight feet using weightless pumpkin seed worms in the backs of creeks. They earned the first place check of $20,000 by bringing 18lbs of fish to the weigh-in. The team also won the Sure-life bonus of $200.

Matt Hill and Trey Webb also fished shallowing using a variety of lures, jigs, crank baits, and chatter baits in water no deeper than five feet to bring 14.90lbs to the scales to win second place. This garnered them a $5000 check plus an additional $5000 for being the first team in a qualified Skeeter.

Randall Maxwell/Randy Grounds 14.66lbs $3000
4th Damon Ross/Scott Ross 14.46lbs $2000
5th James Cantwell/Donna Cantwell 13.92lbs $1200
6th Alan Shelton/Heath Moody 13.72lbs $1090

The TOZ Fishing Team went to the Toyota Texas Bass Classic on Lake Fork. We all had a great time but Cody had the best time by kicking Robby and my hines in the little bit of fun fishing that we did on Fork. The event was incredible! Toyota had an entire course laid out with steep grades and lots of mud to demonstrate their super tough vehicles. Live bands played every night with tons of boat and tackle displays. We got to hang out at our new sponsor’s booth, Vicious Fishing. We have been using their great lines and wearing their high-quality apparel and we are impressed with both.

This was a Professional Anglers Association event covered by ESPN. The show will air on May 11. The pros were paired into four man teams, which is unusual in a pro angler format. First place went to Kelly Jordan, David Smith, Lance Vick, and David Walker with a three-day total of 228lbs for a payday of $250,000! They won by a margin of 8.88lbs and the lead was sealed by back-to-back catches from Lance Vick — 6lbs and David Smith — 5.8lbs in the last ten minutes of the tournament. This team was the one that we TOZ teammates were rooting for. Lance Vick is also sponsored by Grande Bass. Rumor has it that a special colored rattlesnake is the one that we TOZ teammates were rooting for. Lance Vick is also sponsored by Grande Bass. Rumor has it that a special colored rattlesnake bait was in Lance’s arsenal.

2nd John/Ryan/John/John/Schuyler, 219.12lbs
3rd Ricci/Morgan_AVFR_7/Reed, 183lbs
4th Scoggins/Dowling/Girshby/Lime, 180.48lbs

Fishing Tips
Fish are shallow right now so you can employ a variety of baits that will probably include your personal favorite. Everything from top water, hard baits, spinner baits, and soft plastics are good right now. Lake Travis has been especially hot! Good Fishing.
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