

Country Line

The Only Texas Lifestyle Magazine

M A G A Z I N E

FREE
TAKE ONE!



CHRIS KNIGHT
finally releases the Trailer Tapes

INSIDE:
NASHVILLE & TEXAS MUSIC NEWS
TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY 2008
KEEP ALERT OF WINTER SNAKES
CENTRAL TEXAS FEBRUARY EVENTS
TEXAS INDEPENDENCE SHOOTOUT

Check out Country Line Magazine on line at www.countrylinemagazine.com

CALLAHAN'S GENERAL STORE

"Your Full Service General Store!"

**HORSE GEAR
Headquarters**

FRESH HAY • ALFALFA

**Saddles, Tack
Feed, Medications**



**HWY 183 S, SOUTH OF THE RIVER
512-385-3452
CALLAHANSGENERALSTORE.COM**



IF IT'S AUSTIN IT'S ON KVET



BOB COLE'S 7-DAY ALASKA CRUISE

July 2-9

Join Bob Cole and Rick Trevino for this memorable, musical journey during this amazing Alaska cruise on the Carnival Spirit. This ship is the floating resort with a two-level promenade, a reservations-only supper club and tons of features.

www.kvet.com

WILLIAMSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S POSSE EVENT

June 20-29

Join us at Sam Gabriel Park in Georgetown for live music, parade, bbq cookoff, Old West shootout & youth rodeo (June 21), plus Cowboy Church & Ranch Rodeo (June 22) with a carnival throughout the weekend. There will also be activities through June 28.

www.georgetownrodeo.com

W W W . K V E T . C O M



Full Kitchen Menu from breakfast to dinner.
CATERING menu and specializing in the
ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT Catfish Buffet
 cooked at your site or our large covered pavillion.

512-282-3600

1310 FM 1626 West

Just West of the Intersection of
 Manchaca Road and FM 1626



across from McCoys and Manchaca Baptist Church

RANCHERS FARMERS LANDOWNERS WANTED

**The Kids Outdoor Zone youth
 ministry needs land to hunt,
 fish and camp on.**

**If you would like to help
 please call TJ Greaney @ 512-
 292-1113 - for more
 information on this ministry go
 to www.kidsoutdoorzone.com**



INSURANCE NETWORK of Texas

Since
 1949



**We Specialize
 in Insurance
 for
 Contractors!**

*Workers Comp.
 Liability
 Health
 Bonding*



*Protecting your business and
 finding the best insurance
 program is extremely important
 in today's dynamic business
 environment. We can help with
 Property, Worker's Compensation,
 Bonds, Liability, Contractor's Equipment,
 Employee Benefits, Risk and more...*

When you need insurance, let us - a Texas independent agency - give you the freedom of choice. We work for you, not a single insurance company. Take the driver's seat and call us. We'll put you on the open road to better insurance coverage.

13 Offices Around Texas

800/258/8302 * 512/863/2395 * intonline.com



Proud to be Texas. Proud to be Independent.

IN THIS ISSUE

FEATURES

**ERWIN CENTER HOSTS GEORGE STRAIT
AND HANNAH MONTANA11**

RIVIERA NYAYARET13

DEPARTMENTS

NASHVILLE MUSIC NEWS6

TEXAS MUSIC NEWS8

ON THE TRAIL14
by Kendall Hemphill

HOMESPUN14
Recipe & Grandma's Hints
by Shirley Baker

'ROUND ABOUT TEXAS15
by Sandra Greaney

COUNTRY NEWS16

THE TEXAS OUTDOOR ZONE18
by Larry LeBlanc

FISHING REPORT19
by Don Gordon

www.countrylinemagazine.com

512-292-1113

MAILING ADDRESS
9508 CHISHOLM TRAIL • AUSTIN, TEX. 78748

LETTERS & COMMENTS
TJ@COUNTRYLINEMAGAZINE.COM
OR MAIL TO ADDRESS ABOVE

PUBLISHER & EDITOR | T. J. Greaney

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Don Gordon, Kendall Hemphill, Larry LeBlanc, Sandra
Greaney, Sheryl Bucsayi, Shirley Baker

★ FROM THE EDITOR



OK, so you get 14 days to figure it out, guys. You mess this one up and you are in big trouble at home or with your girlfriend.

In years past I have given guys interesting things they could do to impress their loving wives or girls friends at Valentine's Day. I shared the treasure map idea, the old postcard idea, the family photos with the cut out red hearts — lots of great ideas. This year I went looking online for a good one I could use, but I just couldn't help but think that most of them were silly. Some of these just had me cracking up

Online Idea: One Web site for people who love flowers said; your best bet is lavender oil scent, it's not a difficult task to purchase a bottle of lavender oil essence these days but if you truly want to impress your sweetheart this Valentine's then try making your own. Steam is the best way to extract the oil but if you took to crushing it with your manly brute strength you will always win them over. *TJ: So they want us to squeeze a bunch of flowers and do what. I saw a whole bottle lavender shampoo, bath oil and soap set for about six bucks at Wal-Mart — in and out, you're done.*

Online Idea: Take her for a walk down a garden path — it's cheap, it's effective and it says 'I Love You' more than pound-gaining chocolates. What's more, it will keep her in shape. *TJ: First this had to be a woman writing this for them. A man would not live to see the sun rise on Valentine's Day with a comment like that at my house. I have learned never to speak of weight or need of exercise, ever. Secondly, where do you find a garden path in February with flowers?*

Online Idea: Time with friends — this is a great one for couples that are friendly with other couples. You and your pals can join together to each give her and her pals plane tickets for a "girl's weekend," or him and his friends tickets for a "boys weekend." She or he will love that you were so thoughtful and will know that you planned ahead. *TJ: I just want a weekend pass to lie on the couch and watch TV. She, on the other hand, would love this one if we could afford it.*

Online Idea: Make jewelry — the most traditional Valentine's gifts can be made special with a little time — personalize your gift with engraving.

Include that secret pet name, or an inside joke that makes you smile. The thought will be romantic and sweet. *TJ: I have made some jewelry in the past. I like the paper clip bracelets and the ones I made with a bunch of boys from fishing camp with brass leaders. Make something for my wife, I think not. I buy her expensive jewelry she doesn't wear — but she always loves to collect it.*

Other online ideas: Scatter a trail of rose petals (though beware — some petals may stain fabrics or carpeting), sit in front of a cozy fire in the fireplace and watch romantic movies, cuddle up on the sofa and look through vacation photos or your wedding album. *TJ: Well, I am not sure about these last ones, the ladies are going to love them, the guys are going to struggle. But they are probably the best ones I have found. You have got to get a card and some other cute things as well, guys.*

God has given us a very special gift men, it is woman. I know I don't always appreciate my wife for all that she is and does for me and the family. There truly is nothing I can do to ever really get it right, but if I gotta sit on the couch for an hour, hold her hand and smooch a bit, I'm willing to try. I love you, Pookie — happy Valentine's Day.

T. J. Greaney
Publisher
tj@countrylinemagazine.com

KELLIE PICKLER'S BUSY 2008

Just before the Christmas holidays, Kellie Pickler spent a few weeks in the Persian Gulf region, where she performed for the US troops on a USO Tour.

Now, back in the states, Kellie trades helicopters and military cargo planes for the comfort of her tour bus as she's set to open shows for superstars Rascal Flatts. They have begun a two-plus month tour and includes stops in New York (Madison Square Garden), Canada and Las Vegas.

Kellie was on *Ellen* and *Jimmy Kimmel Live* January 22, where she will perform her new single, "Things That Never Cross A Man's Mind," as well as her hit song, "Red High Heels." Also while she was in Los Angeles, she visited with Blair Garner and *After MidNite*.

KENNY CHESNEY AT IT AGAIN

14 Stadiums, 5 Line-Ups, 1 Entertainer of the Year — Kenny Chesney's Poets & Pirates Tour

It's not one ... not two ... but five different combinations to bring Kenny Chesney's 2008 Poets & Pirates Tour to 14 stadiums across America. With a varying cast of musicians — picked for their intensity and ability to connect with a crowd — the Corona Extra sponsored tour is about giving the new breed of country fan a full-tilt day of music that can truly define the summer.

"My fans are used to a lot of energy and a lot of fun," explains the three-in-a-row and current Academy of Country Music and triple and reigning Country Music Association Entertainer of the Year. "So when you're trying to make a big show out of what we're already doing, you have to really pay attention, really make sure you've got the very best of the best because we're trying to give them as much as they throw back at us."

Chesney's shows — known for the tailgating, cook-outs, touch football and Frisbee playing and general block party vibe long before the gates even open — are the ultimate good time. It has helped the singer/songwriter sell in excess of a million concert tickets every year for the last 6 summers — with 2007's Flip Flop Summer Tour being the



PHOTO BY DAVE GATLEY

Located in an unfinished shopping mall, is the C.O.P. Callahan (Combat Out Post), where Kellie Pickler and her acoustic guitarists play before a crowd of service members.

2nd biggest tour behind the Police's Reunion.

Anchoring the rotating cast of artists on 10 stadium dates is Keith Urban, the critically-lauded Grammy-winner who's the only CMA Horizon winner to also win Entertainer of the Year, as well as 3 Male Vocalists of the Year Awards. With 7 #1 singles, including "Somebody Like You," "Days Go By," "You'll Think of Me," "Better Life" and "Once In A Lifetime" from his *Love, Pain & the whole crazy thing*, he is not just a close friend of Kenny's, but a consummate performer.

Also joining the line-up for various shows are industrial strength four time Entertainers of the Year Brooks & Dunn, Rock & Roll Hall of Famer Sammy Hagar, outlandish country duo Big & Rich, newcomer Luke Bryan, California country icon Gay Allan and Grammy-winning Poets & Pirates tour mate LeAnn Rimes. Chesney brings this super-sized show to Columbia, SC, Baltimore, MD, Cleveland, OH, Detroit, MI, Pittsburgh, PA, Atlanta, GA, Dallas TX, Philadelphia, PA, Phoenix, AZ, Nashville, TN, Chicago, IL, San Francisco, CA, Foxboro, MA and Indianapolis, IN

"We did six NFL stadiums last year and had a blast," Chesney says. "You get into a whole other kind of rhythm, and

it's just the best vibe ... the people are ready to rock, they're there to have fun — and all the acts talked about how they could really feel it. If you're all about people having a good time, kicking back and being with their friends, this really is the way to do it! And that's as much for all of us behind the stage as it is for everybody out there, hanging with their friends and singing along."

With "Shiftwork," the tropical homage to clock-punching people working hard for their money, hitting the Top 10 this week, Chesney — who spent over 25% of 2007 at #1 on the Billboard Country Singles chart with "Never Wanted Nothing More," "Don't Blink" and "Beer In Mexico" — is in the musical zone. Having produced both Willie Nelson's *Moment of Forever* and bandmate Tim Hensley's acoustic/bluegrass *Long Monday*, both dropping on Jan. 29, Kenny is ready to take that music making ability of his and get it out on the road in a big way.

"It's gonna be a great summer," he enthuses. "I have some of my very favorite acts and some people who are so cool to hang out with — and we're gonna get to make an awful lot of music. Isn't that what this is supposed to all about? I can't wait..."

JEWEL'S FIRST COUNTRY SINGLE RUSH RELEASED DUE TO STRONG DEMAND

Due to overwhelming demand from country radio programmers Jewel's country music debut, the self-written "Stronger Woman," was released Jan. 17.

One of the first country programmers to hear "Stronger Woman" was Ken Boesen with WKIS/Miami. Boesen says, "The timing is perfect for Jewel to release a country single! She came by the station and knocked us out and the single is a smash. WKIS listeners are very excited and so am I — welcome to country music, Jewel!"

"Stronger Woman" will be available exclusively at iTunes starting Feb. 5, and she will perform an exclusive acoustic version of "Stronger Woman" on ABC's *Good Morning America: Weekend Edition* on Sunday,

February 10th. The broadcast will mark the world premiere of Jewel's XM Artist Confidential performance of the new single. Please check local listings for specific GMA: Weekend Edition air times.

The single is set to officially impact country radio on Feb. 11. Her highly-anticipated new album, *Perfectly Clear*, is scheduled for release on June 3.

FAITH HILL RECUPERATES FROM KNEE SURGERY

Faith Hill, who has been recuperating from knee surgery, refuses to slow down. In fact, she's not only been busy preparing for her participation in the MusiCares Aretha Franklin Tribute, but has continued recording her long overdue and much anticipated Christmas album for '08.

A lateral release, realigning her knee-cap, Chondroplasty and a medial femoral chondyle (ouch) surely would have put most on the disabled list. But the singer doesn't seem ready to be out very long.

"Who has time to slow down?" said Faith. "Doctors had told me to stay off my feet for a bit and now I'm following their rehab program. I intend to be back better and stronger," she added.

The surgery is the result of an old knee injury suffered while playing softball in high school and normal wear and tear over the years.

Faith has already been part of a hugely successful Christmas project. Her duet with Josh Groban, "The First Noel," appeared on the best-selling album of 2007, Groban's *Noel*.

For more official Faith Hill news and information go to faithhill.com.

RONNIE MILSAP ANNOUNCES 1ST HALF OF "THE #1 HITS TOUR"

Ronnie Milsap, has become the pre-eminent country soul singer of his time, using his emotionally expressive voice and remarkable musical talent to become the most consistent and enduring artist of the '70s, '80s and early

'90s. A humble man with a winning smile, he has always let his knack for finding good songs and for entertaining crowds speak for him. Today, his track record speaks loud and clear: 40 #1 hits, six Grammy awards, eight Country Music Association awards, and the Academy of Country Music Pioneer award recipient mark him as one of the best-loved, and most important artists in country music history.

Music lovers can catch Milsap performing in 2008 on "The #1 Hits Tour" as it crosses across the United States and hits a few spots in Canada.

"I live to perform, I love the stage, and I love the crowds," says Milsap. "The applause and crowd give me that drive to keep making music and sharing it with the fans. As long as the fans keep coming, I will keep performing."

The current tour schedule can be found at ronniemilsap.com

GRAND OLE OPRY INDUCTS CHARLIE DANIELS AS NEWEST MEMBER

Legendary country superstar Charlie Daniels was inducted into the world-famous Grand Ole Opry by Opry members Marty Stuart and Connie Smith.

Stuart welcomed Daniels into Opry membership, before a sold-out crowd, by saying, "The Opry is American and its reach is universal. A steady force in the midst of passing trends. The Opry is family. God Bless Charlie Daniels."

Daniels responded, "My Bible tells me God gives us the desires of our hearts and tonight the promise has come true." He then invited Stuart, Smith, Montgomery Gentry and Trace Adkins to join him on stage to perform "Will The Circle Be Unbroken."

During the induction which aired live on "Opry Live" on GAC: Great American Country, Daniels was also presented the Opry Member Award, a 14-inch bronze and oak wood replica of the Opry's vintage microphone stand designed by renowned sculptor Bill Rains.

"What a great night for the Opry," said Pete Fisher, Opry vice president and general manager. "For five decades, Charlie Daniels has been sharing the many musical styles he performs so well with the world. We are truly proud to welcome him to our Opry family, and we look forward to the years ahead filled with great Charlie Daniels Band

music on the Opry stage."

During Daniels' 50-year career, he has scored hits on the rock, country, pop and Christian charts and counts awards from the Country Music Association (CMA), Academy of Country Music (ACM), TNN/Music City News Awards, and the Gospel Music Association (GMA) among his many accolades. Born in Wilmington, NC, he was raised on a musical diet that included Pentecostal gospel, local bluegrass bands, rhythm & blues, and country music from the radio, including Nashville's 650 WSM. His signature song, "The Devil Went Down to Georgia," topped both country and pop charts, bringing him international acclaim.

Daniels' current Blue Hat/Koch Records CD release, *DEUCES*, is his first duet album and features guest artists Travis Tritt; Bonnie Bramlett;



Gretchen Wilson; Vince Gill; Earl, Gary & Randy Scruggs; Dolly Parton; Darius Rucker; The Del McCoury Band; Brenda Lee; Brooks & Dunn; Marty Stuart; Montgomery Gentry; and Brad Paisley.

RASCAL FLATTS' STILL FEELS GOOD TOUR RELAUNCHES IN JANUARY

People's Choice, CMA and ACM Group of The Year RASCAL FLATTS re-launched their "Still Feels Good Tour" in January performing sold-out shows in Manchester, New Hampshire at the Verizon Center and also New York City's Madison Square Garden. This tour leg will run into April with 27 concerts. Kellie Pickler will open.

"We love being on the road and seeing our fans," said Gary LeVox, Rascal Flatts lead singer. "It's why we love what we do."

The 2007 "Still Feels Good Tour"

wrapped in November after performing 59 shows in 57 cities to over 715,000 fans, closing out the year as the 10th best selling tour in all genres, according to Pollstar Magazine.

Rascal Flatts has sold over 15 million albums, scored nine #1 singles and 17 top 10 hits and current CD *Still Feels Good* became their third-straight album to debut at #1.

For more tour information go to rascalflatts.com

SARAH JOHNS' OPENING NIGHT WITH GEORGE STRAIT A SUCCESS IN SPITE OF WARDROBE MALFUNCTION

BNA Records newcomer Sarah Johns didn't have time to think about the butterflies in her stomach that she thought she'd have before opening for the legendary George Strait because ten minutes before she was to take the stage, her boot blew out.

"We were on the bus in the parking

lot about to go to the stage when the zipper on my knee-high boots busted open ... from heel to knee! I screamed and I'm not sure what string of words followed but it's safe to say they were not 'G' rated. Luckily I had a back-up pair of boots but they look like hell let out on recess," Sarah laughed.

"The show went on without a hitch, and what an amazing experience it was," said an exuberant Sarah. "It just went so fast! I'm looking forward to tonight so I can really take it all in. During George's set he said, 'I want to thank Sarah for doing such a great job,' which made me cry. Believe it or not, the first person I ever saw in concert was George Strait."

Sarah's 20-minute set includes her feisty "The One In The Middle" and her new single, "He Hates Me," from her critically acclaimed debut album, *Big Love In A Small Town*. In fact, the editors of iTunes named her album as a "Best of 2007 Editor's Choice — New Country Artists."

The show rolled on to Oklahoma City and Little Rock the following two days. As for the wardrobe malfunction, Sarah took it all in stride and said, "The good news is, if you have a boot problem, Texas is the state you want to be in." **CL**

RODEO AUSTIN ANNOUNCES ITS 2008 LINE-UP

Rodeo Austin will host an exciting lineup of musical entertainers this March 1-15. Past performers like Kevin Fowler, Miranda Lambert, Clay Walker and Joe Nichols will return for another round of entertainment, while newcomers Rodney Atkins, Natasha Bedingfield, and Gretchen Wilson will be firsttime Rodeo Austin musical guests.

The 2008 entertainment lineup is packed full with genre-blending, award-winning artists. From pop to country, alternative rock to reggae, everyone will find favorites while simultaneously supporting the organizational mission, Promoting Youth Education – Preserving Western Heritage.

March 1: Randy Rogers Band
March 2: Rodney Atkins
March 3: Gretchen Wilson
March 4: Willie Nelson



Native Texan George Jones returns to his home state to perform at Rodeo Austin on Sunday, March 9.

March 5: Tracy Lawrence
March 6: Styx
March 7: Neal McCoy
March 8: Miranda Lambert
March 9: George Jones
March 10: Natasha Bedingfield
March 11: Clay Walker
March 12: Joe Nichols

March 13: Jason Aldean
March 14: Sean Kingston
March 15: Kevin Fowler

Tickets for the rodeo and concerts are on sale now at rodeoaustin.com

SXSW 2008

Interactive › March 7 - 11
Film › March 7 - 15
Music › March 12 - 16

Little rates higher in the music industry than the South by Southwest Music Festival. This little ole' event from Austin has given music people a solid reason to come to Austin and see the amazing music scene here.

For many Texas music artist this has been where they were heard and discovered for the first time by a major label or promotions team. Here is the history of this event (from their Web site) and the amazing story it tells.

South by Southwest (SXSW, Inc.) is a private company based in Austin, Texas, with a year-round staff of professionals dedicated to building and

delivering conference and festival events for entertainment and related media industry professionals. Since 1987, SXSW has produced the internationally recognized Music and Media Conference & Festival.

In 1994 as the entertainment business adjusted to issues of future growth and development, SXSW added conferences and festivals for the film industry (SXSW Film) as well as for the blossoming interactive media (SXSW Interactive Festival). Now three industry events converge in Austin during a Texas-sized week, mirroring the ever increasing convergence of entertainment/media outlets.

In addition to the SXSWWeek events, SXSW is also involved in North by Northeast (NXNE), held in Toronto, Canada in late Spring, in association with NOW, an alternative newsweekly in Toronto.

Why Austin?

The first South by Southwest Music Conference and Festival (SXSW) was held in 1987 in Austin, Tex. Despite the



9709 Swanson Ranch Road
Austin, Texas 78748
512-280-9690
M-F 8AM - 6PM
www.traviscotrans.com

***Free Transmission Check!**
Wholesale Pricing to the Public,
Experienced, Fast Service, Qualified.

**Fleet Pricing
Complete
rebuids starting
at \$350.**



**Clutches
Transfer Cases
CV Axles
Drive Lines
Rebuilds**

I had no idea who to trust my little red Jeep to when it came to my transmission. I am so happy a friend told me about the guys at Travis County Transmission. They did a great job and I would recommend them to you",
Sandra Greaney, Country Line Magazine.

JEEP REPAIR

THE DEALER ALTERNATIVE
SCHEDULED MAINT. 30K-60K-90K • THE AMERICAN SUV SPECIALIST

**Tune Ups
Brakes
Exhaust
Engines
Transmissions
Custom Mods**



2617 South First

NEW
Bigger Location
to serve you!

JEEP MASTERS • 326-3555
WWW.JEEPMASTERS.COM



Dolly Parton will perform on the SXSW BMI showcase at the Austin Music Hall on Friday, March 14.

fact that Austin was not a Top 20 major market at the time, the background and character of the city made it a perfect location for the conference. Austin was considered a fairly cosmopolitan town for its size because of the University of Texas, which draws people from all over the world. As home to the state government and Texas Legislature it has also always been a popular party town, with a reputation that goes back to the 19th century when numerous nightspots and bars were populated by General Custer's troops after the Civil War. These nightspots are located in the same areas where the 6th Street and 4th Street club and bar scenes now exist.

Austin's eclectic music scene goes back to early in the city's history (from Mexican, German and colonial origins) and encompasses a wide variety of music including country, folk, jazz, blues and rock. Central Austin boasts more original music nightclubs in a concentrated area than any other city in the world.

The classic problem facing Austin musicians was being isolated from the

rest of the world here in the middle of Texas. SXSW was a way to reach out to the rest of the world, and bring them here to do business. To do that successfully, SXSW needed to appeal to people other than local artists whether they were from Austin, Ft. Worth, Chicago, Toronto, Munich or Tokyo.

National interest in SXSW was immediate. For years, music businesses on both coasts had been intrigued by what was going on in Austin. The cosmic cowboy, blues, punk and other scenes had already proven that Austin was a receptive place for bands to be creative. With SXSW, music industry executives gained a good excuse to visit.

International interest in SXSW began the second year due to many Austin and American bands finding their first success in Europe. Conversely, there was a lot of interest from SXSW registrants in the international bands who came to perform. SXSW now has offices in Ireland, Germany, Australia and Japan who help bring SXSW registrants to Austin.

The music event has grown from 700 people in 1987 to nearly 10,000 people. As Austin has grown and diversified, film companies and high-tech companies have played a major role in the Austin and the Texas economies. In 1994, SXSW added a film and interactive component to accommodate these growth industries. SXSW Film and SXSW Interactive events attract approximately 7,000 people to Austin every March.

SXSW's original goal was to create an event that would act as a tool for creative people and the companies they work with to develop their careers, to bring together people from a wide area to meet and share ideas. That continues to be the goal today whether it is music, film or the internet. And Austin continues to be the perfect location. **CL**



Alt-Country artist Shelby Lynne will showcase a new album of cover songs at SXSW 2008.

Nutty Brown
CAFE & AMPHITHEATRE

*Live Music
Great Food
Good Times*

We proudly celebrate the long tradition of genuine Texas music every weekend — join us each Saturday from 8:30-11pm.

LIVE MUSIC WEEKENDS
 FEB•2 Zack Walther • FREE
 FEB•7 Carport Cassanova • FREE
 FEB•9 Melody Mann • FREE
 FEB•21 Texas Renegade • FREE
 FEB•23 Quincy Harper • FREE

SUNDAY BRUNCH
 Live Jazz Music • Brunch Buffet with breakfast standards & gourmet features • \$2.50 Hand-crafted Bloody Marys & Mimosas • Children's Play Area • 10am-2pm

FRIDAY KARAOKE
 8-11:30pm • Winner receives \$50 Gift Certificate

512-301-4648 • 12225 HWY 290 W • NUTTYBROWN.COM

**GET YOUR FREE BREAKFAST
AT RODEO AUSTIN'S
COWBOY BREAKFAST**



**FRIDAY, FEB. 29, 2008 • 6-9 A.M.
Auditorium Shores • Austin, Texas**

Live Music • Cowboy Coffee • Sausage • Brisket • Donuts • Pancakes & More!

WWW.RODEOAUSTIN.COM

ADVERTISE IN
Country Line
 MAGAZINE

15 years, over 2 million copies, a Texas Tradition

as little as \$99 per month

512-292-1113 • sandra@countrylinemagazine.com
www.countrylinemagazine.com



GROWGREEN
 COMMERCIALSCAPES

Your landscape says everything about your organization, and GROWGREEN will make it stand out above the rest ... guaranteed. Let our qualified professionals provide you with a consistent maintenance program targeted to help your landscape thrive and your investment grow. We work with all budgets and can save you money and improve your landscape immediately.

- Landscape Maintenance Services
- Landscape Design/Build & Renovation
- Landscape Installation & Management
- Seasonal Color Experts • Tree Care
- Irrigation Services & Enhancements
- Fertilization & Water Management

Call Today for a Competitive Bid!

512-288-0660

Serving Central Texas for more than 12 years

Country Line
 MAGAZINE
 TEXAS RODEO TEAM T-SHIRTS

**GREAT TEXAS
 GIFT IDEA**



Country Line RODEO T-SHIRTS
 MAGAZINE

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

	QTY	TOTAL
BARREL (S•M•L•XL) _____	x \$15 = _____	
BULL RIDER (S•M•L•XL) _____	x \$15 = _____	
ROPER (S•M•L•XL) _____	x \$15 = _____	
WRESTLER (S•M•L•XL) _____	x \$15 = _____	

MAIL TO:
 COUNTRY LINE RODEO
 9508 CHISHOLM TRAIL
 AUSTIN, TX 78748

Shipping & Handling (\$3 EACH) _____

TOTAL _____

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY 2008

A THREE-DAY CELEBRATION HONORING Texas' 172nd year of independence from Mexico is set for March 1-3. Coordinated by the Austin-based non-profit group Celebrate Texas, the annual observance commemorates the March 2, 1836 signing of Texas' declaration of independence from the Republic of Mexico. The 2008 celebration begins at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 1, with a 5K run. (To register for the run, which begins near the Bob Bullock Texas History Museum at Congress Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, visit the Celebrate Texas Web site at celebratetexas.org or show up early that morning.) At 10:30 a.m. that Saturday, the annual Celebrate Texas parade will move up Congress Avenue beginning at the north side of the Congress Avenue Bridge. The parade will feature hundreds of musicians from area high school bands, including the 300-plus-member Austin All City Band, the Del Valle High School Band and the Gonzales High School band, the Texas Shrine Pipe Band, the Texas Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps. Period reenactor groups, floats, car clubs and other organizations will round out the parade.

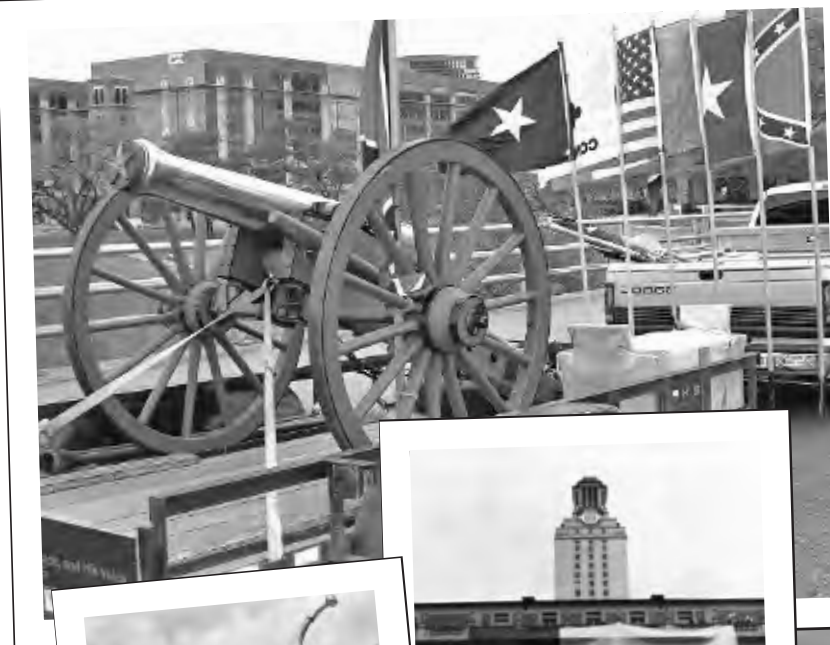
Following the parade, at noon in the rotunda of the Capitol state and local officials will gather to commemorate Texas' independence.

A memorial ceremony at the Texas State Cemetery honoring Texas Revolution veterans is set for 2 p.m. Sunday, March 2. At 4 p. m. on March 2 there will be an Alamo defenders commemoration on the south Capitol grounds near the Alamo monument. The final Celebrate Texas event is the Jay L. Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament at the University of Texas' Steiner Ranch course. Tee-time is 11 a.m. Monday, March 3. Founded by former Austin City Council member and businessman Jay L. Johnson, Celebrate Texas is a non-profit group dedicated to raising the awareness of Texas' unique history and heritage. The group's

slogan is "Together we're Texas." ☞

FOR ADDITIONAL INFO, CONTACT ROGER MOORE AT 512-263-6943 OR 512-413-0392 OR MIKE COX AT 512-458-8449.

VISIT THE CELEBRATE TEXAS WEB SITE AT CELEBRATETEXAS.ORG OR MAIL CELEBRATE TEXAS AT 3005 S. LAMAR BLVD. D-109, BOX 360, AUSTIN, TX, 78704.



Picture a life without fishing

Think of all you'd have missed were it not for a simple invitation. Someone offered to take you fishing, and that one day has led to countless gifts. Give a little back by passing on the gesture. Visit anglerslegacy.org today. Take our pledge and ask someone new aboard your boat. It's a connection that can last a lifetime.

START YOUR LEGACY TODAY. VISIT ANGLERSLEGACY.ORG

Anglers' Legacy
A national mission from "take me fishing."

Hop- a Lot Moonwalks

MOONWALK RENTAL & SALES 528-1233
7 Days Per Week • Carnival Games • Birthdays
• Block Parties • School Functions • Churches •
Family Reunions • Day Cares

Choose from Popular Children's Characters for
your Moonwalks such as:
Dora the Explorer, Disney Princesses, Spiderman, Little Mermaid,
Barbie, Power Puff Girls, Scooby- Doo, Noah's Ark and Sponge Bob

POPCORN * COTTON CANDY * GIANT WATER SLIDES *
DUNKING BOOTH
* SNOW CONE MACHINE * KID'S TABLES & CHAIRS
VISIT WWW.HOPALOT.COM FOR ALL YOUR PARTY NEEDS!

"Reserve Your WaterSlide Today!"

SOUTHWEST HILLS VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Dr. Dave Garza, DVM
Dr. John Fling

13345 NUTTY BROWN ROAD • AUSTIN, TX 78737 • 512/301-0070

Long Days Hard Work Toyota Tuff

Champion Toyota
4800 South IH 35
Austin, Texas 78748
866-324-2623
www.championtoyotaofaustin.com

TJ Greaney
Hunter, Writer

CHRIS KNIGHT

IN THE SUMMER OF 1996 INSIDE a sweltering single-wide trailer outside a small Kentucky mining town, an unknown singer-songwriter named Chris Knight recorded an 'unofficial' batch of tracks prior to the release of his major label debut album. Over the next decade, through a combination of leaks, bootlegs and legend, those sessions would become something much more. "People have been talking about these tapes ever since I recorded them," Chris Knight says. "To me, they were rough and stark and I never thought they'd see the light of day." Ten years and four acclaimed albums later, *The Trailer Tapes* remain a remarkable moment in time less captured than cornered, a portrait of the artist as a ferociously talented



young man. And for the artist *The New York Times* would soon call "the last of a dying breed ... a hard-nosed iconoclast with an acoustic guitar and a college degree," *The Trailer Tapes* have now arrived as the long missing first chapter of one of the most uncompromising careers in music today.

For the sessions' producer Frank Liddell, today known for his Grammy-winning work with Lee Ann Womack and Miranda Lambert, *The Trailer Tapes* near-mythic reputation is well deserved. "These tapes are like an amazing photograph out of an old *Life* magazine, before Photoshop or fancy editing tricks," Liddell says. "What Chris was doing could be harsh, like coffee or whiskey, but he is the most honest writer I've ever heard in my life. The truth is not something Chris talks about. It's something that he is."

Of the album's 11 original tracks, "House And 90 Acres" and "Something Changed" would be re-visited for 1998's *Chris Knight* and the still-startling "If I Were You" for 2001's *A Pretty Good Guy*. The remaining eight are heard here for the first time ever.

Reaction to his 1998 debut album *Chris Knight* — which included the hit Americana and AAA tracks "It Ain't Easy Being Me," "Framed" and "Love

And A .45" — was immediate, with writers nationwide comparing him to everyone from John Prine and Neil Young to Johnny Cash and Nebraska-era Springsteen. In 2001, Knight returned with *A Pretty Good Guy*, taking listeners on a stripped down journey through a far darker side of survival. Despite being released on 9/11, the often brutally bleak album received stellar reviews as well as strong AAA airplay. His 2003 release *The Jealous Kind* added a new wit and wisdom that led *Playboy* to rave "Knight can break your heart with his singing, but the songwriting here is even stronger." 2006's *Enough Rope* stands tall as classic Chris Knight: Sometimes dark, often intense and always without compromise. It is an album that unfolds with the power and fury of Cormac McCarthy meets Copperhead Road.

The trailer is long gone, but the decade since that summer has seen Chris Knight become a revered



songwriter, a relentless road warrior, and one of Americana's most popular performers. And much like a Lomax field recording could reveal the roots of a genre, Knight's *Trailer Tapes* now expose the foundation of a singular career. ❧

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE SHOOTOUT

A uniquely Texan Sporting Clays Competition

The spirit of all the legends of Texas will be alive and well at the Texas Independence Shootout, a sporting clays competition to be held Friday, Feb. 29, 2008, in Austin, at the Texas Disposal Systems Exotic Game Ranch & Pavilion.

Shooters from around the Lone Star state are hereby invited to participate in a quest for the braggin' rights to the mythical "Best in Texas" title, and certification as an official "Texas Sure Shot." A flurry shoot will be available for an additional fee

This event will salute and honor Texas Independence in many unique ways. The firing of ceremonial cannons

will mark the beginning of the shootout, as the famous William B. Travis letter from the Alamo is read. After shooting, participants will enjoy music, and delicious Texas barbeque.

If your preference is socializin' instead of shootin', we have just the opportunity for you! While the music plays and the barbeque is being served, we'll also host "The Texas Bull Shooters Gathering." You and nine guests are invited to "Shoot the Bull," one of the oldest and perhaps most celebrated Texas art forms. You and your nine guests will eat, drink, pitch washers, and enjoy all the entertainment, and bull shoot with

the best of 'em.

All participants will receive gift bags full of valuable prizes, and everyone will be eligible to win additional door prizes, including hunting gear, special firearms, weekend vacations, and many other exciting items. The winning team will receive Texas flags, framed with their certificates authenticating that they have flown over the State Capitol Building.

The event is rich in Texas tradition, chock-full of music, food and prizes, and is a memorable way to celebrate Texas Independence. Proceeds benefit the Texas Heritage Songwriters' Association and their affiliated non-profit

beneficiaries: The Center for Texas Music History and the Health Alliance for Austin Musicians. Entry fees, table reservations and other donations are tax-deductible.

All participants are eligible to purchase tickets to the Texas Heritage Songwriters' Homecoming. This intimate concert will be at historic Hill's Cafe on Sunday, March 2. Tickets are extremely limited. ❧

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT SUZY ROWLEY: 512-917-7917

Life is what you make it

We sat on the low porch of the hunting cabin, talking quietly while the sun slipped slowly below the tree-lined horizon to our right. My companion had a rifle across his lap, just in case a deer wandered out of the live oaks that bordered the clearing around the cabin. Hunting, but not really hunting, just shooting the breeze and passing the time. There are few things in life more pleasant than sitting in a deer camp, visiting and watching the night creep in from the east.

Our topics varied, from the problems facing the future of hunting in America, to Texas issues in particular, to weather and high fences and old friends. The salmon run in Alaska. Maybe we got into Colorado a little, maybe New Mexico. I scanned the tree line every few minutes, hoping more than my companion that a deer would appear, so I could watch him shoot. It would have been a new experience for me, helping a blind man line up a shot on a deer, but it never happened, and too soon he raised the rifle, unloaded it, and held the trigger as he closed the bolt, releasing the spring tension.

Stanley McGowen is the Texas Projects Coordinator for the Armed Forces Foundation. He arranges hunting and fishing activities for veterans who have special needs. They

used to be called disabled veterans, and maybe they still are, but I don't think of them as disabled anymore. To me, disabled means you can't do the things you want to do. That isn't the case with these folks.

Stanley, for example, can't see, but that doesn't keep him from hunting. His rifle is equipped with a pistol scope, for long eye relief. A spotter looks over his shoulder through the scope, and tells Stanley when he's lined up.

Other veterans who participate in Stanley's hunts have different requirements. Some get around in wheelchairs, and have to be particular about where they hunt. Box blinds with ladders don't do them much good, but then, box blinds are for lightweights, anyway. And these folks aren't lightweights. They're serious hunters.

Those who have lost the use of their arms and legs use special rifles that can be maneuvered and aimed by blowing or sucking on a tube. Some with limited sight use rifles controlled by special computers, their scopes' sight pictures transferred to monitors that make it possible for the hunters to line up on game. The various processes are delicate and probably difficult to master, but we're talking about people who face difficult problems every day. They do whatever is necessary to accomplish their goals.

Stanley is a good example. As a U.S. Army helicopter pilot he was stationed in Alaska in 1990, and decided an airplane would allow him and his son to hunt and fish wherever

they wanted in the land of the midnight sun. He found a Cessna in Yuma, Ariz., and was headed north with it. After a stop at an airport in Utah he lost power on takeoff and crashed. The impact threw him through the windshield, and both his eyes were irreparably damaged.

Stanley already had a master's degree from Tarleton State University. After losing his sight he obtained his Ph.D. in American History from TCU, and taught college history for a while, before deciding to help other veterans with special needs. He went to work for the AFF, and now, as he puts it, he shows people that "they can do the things they want to do, things they didn't think they could."

I met Stanley during an annual barbecue dinner that Steve Toone holds for Stanley's hunters at Steve's home. Steve is another retired army helicopter pilot, and is Stanley's local contact for an AFF deer hunt every January in Mason County. Stanley and some friends had been hunting on Steve's ranch for a while before they arranged the first local AFF hunt in 2005, which was attended by three veterans with special needs.

Steve and other Mason County ranchers, who belong to the Willow Creek Wildlife Management Association, graciously allow the veterans to hunt on their land. The hunters mostly stay in local motels, and the whole affair is supported by donations from sponsors, such as the Oglebay Norton company. Fifteen



veterans attended this year's hunt, and all of them killed at least one deer.

The conversation on the porch of Steve's hunting cabin trailed off, and Stanley and I sat in a companionable silence for a few minutes. I realized again the truth of a statement once made to me by a fellow who was missing an arm. He said, "Losing a limb doesn't make someone disabled. They have to do that to themselves."

Stanley can't see, but he isn't disabled. If he had to quit hunting, though, that might be a different story ... ❧

KENDAL HEMPHILL IS AN OUTDOOR HUMOR COLUMNIST WHO WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU FOR THE SACRIFICES MADE FOR THE REST OF US BY AMERICA'S VETERANS. WRITE TO HIM AT PO BOX 1600, MASON, TX 76856 OR JEEP@VERIZON.NET

GRANDMA'S HINTS

Got a toothache? Make paste of cayenne pepper and few drops of water. Use cotton swab and dab on tooth, not gums.

Sniffles or diarrhea? Make tea with 1 teaspoon cinnamon and 1 cup boiling water. Steep 15 minutes, strain, drink.

Morning sickness, motion sickness? Make tea with 1 teaspoon powdered ginger and 1 cup boiling water, steep 10 minutes, strain and drink.

Night sweats?

1/4 teaspoon sage to 1 cup boiling water, steep, strain, drink.

TUNA ALOHA

Something light and different for this month. Enjoy!

- 2 cups cooked rice
- 1 (6 oz) can of tuna
- 1/8 tsp pepper
- 1 Tbsp parsley, chopped
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 Tbsp onion juice
- 3/4 cup Cheddar cheese, grated
- 2/3 cup mushroom soup, milk added to can
- 10 slices pineapple (No. 1 can)
- 1/3 cup dry bread crumbs
- 2 Tbsp brown sugar

Cook rice according to directions. Combine with tuna, parsley, salt, pepper, onion juice, 1/2 cup cheese and mushroom soup mix. Place pineapple slices on baking dish, brush with brown sugar. Spoon tuna-rice mixture onto pineapple slices, shaping into mounds. Sprinkle bread crumbs on top. Top with pinch of cheese on each mound. Bake at 350°F for 20 minutes. Tasty and different!



February is not just a month that revolves around Valentine's Day, although that is a worthy reason to celebrate. There is so much more going on in and around Central Texas this month that you won't want to miss. Check out what's going on in your area below. As always the times and dates of any of these events are subject to change so please check out websites or call before heading out.

IN TOWN

ALL MONTH AUSTIN FARMERS MARKET Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Wednesdays, 3-7 p.m. at Republic Square Park (4th and Guadalupe). Buy fresh fruits, vegetables and more from local growers. austinfarmersmarket.org

ALL MONTH PLAY IT BY EAR at Austin Children's Museum. Explore the art and science of tinkering with sound. Bring to life artworks created by sound artists. Make your own sound art. Experiment with echoes. Change your voice to sound like a robot. This exhibit takes a creative, playful approach to learning all about sound production and reception. 472-2499, austinkids.org

FEB 2 QUILTING BEE at Pioneer Farms. Discover who invented quilts, can quilts talk, how many ways can you quilt and what was the purpose of quilting a blanket. 1-5pm. \$10 adult, \$8 children over age 2. pioneerfarms.org

FEB 4 HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS at the Frank Erwin Center. The 2008 "Magic as Ever" World Tour will carry on the Globetrotters tradition of visiting local schools and hospitals, wowing spectators with amazing basketball skills and wizardry and they will wrap up the evening with an autograph session. 477-6060, uterwincenter.com

FEB 12 VALENTINE'S SPEED DATING at Cork & Company. Cupid.com is now hosting speed dating events in the Austin where you can go on 12 "pre-dates" in one evening! Sign up at cupid.com and use promo code "val2008" to receive \$5 off registration!

FEB 14 LOVE IS A FUNNY THING at The Hideout (617 Congress Ave). Two improv shows on Valentine's Day — celebrate with your loved one and the best improv comedy in Austin, featuring improv games, scenes, chocolate and flowers. Tickets: 443-3688, hideouttheatre.com

FEB 16 BLOOD DRIVE at Dream Dinners (5207 Brodie Ln) with Mobile



Crowds enjoy brisket, sausage, catfish and sides at La Pasadita's tent at the Star of Texas Fair & Rodeo BBQ Cook-Off, March 7-8.

Blood Center of Central Texas. Donate blood and receive a complimentary dinner! Pre-registration encouraged but not required. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. 358-8833, dreamdinners.com

FEB 29 COWBOY BREAKFAST on the shores of Town Lake. Put on your western gear and start off your morning right with free grub, cowboy kettle coffee and live entertainment. This is a free event encouraging Austinites to come out and help kick off the Star of Texas Fair & Rodeo. 919-3000, rodeoaustin.com.

FEB 29-MAR 15 71ST ANNUAL STAR OF TEXAS FAIR & RODEO For more info, 919-3000, rodeoaustin.com

OUTSIDE OF TOWN

FEB 8 DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE at the Clay Madsen Recreation Center in Round Rock, Tex. Dads and daughters are invited to a special evening filled with fun, refreshments and even a dance contest. Tickets and info, 512-218-3220.

FEB 9 CUPID'S CHASE RUN/WALK in Georgetown, Tex. The event will be a 6K run/walk race following a route on the hike and bike trail, is sponsored by Georgetown Parks and Recreation. It is held on a USA Track & Field Certified course and begins at 8:30 a.m. For info, 512-930-3595.

FEB 17 SAN ANTONIO STOCK SHOW AND RODEO is one of the biggest events in the country! It runs for nearly 3 weeks and features some of the biggest names in country music. Tickets are on sale for every day of the Rodeo and Stock Show. 210-225-5851, sarodeo.com

COMING IN MARCH

MAR 7-8 STAR OF TEXAS FAIR & RODEO BBQ COOK-OFF Over 50 teams

gather to offer you BBQ, live music and beverages galore! Come sample the best BBQ in the state and support the youth of Texas. Located on the South Fairgrounds.

MAR 8-9 3RD ANNUAL AUSTIN CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL benefiting Susan G. Komen for the Cure at the Arthur Murray Dance Studios. Festival will feature up to 20 vendors — chocolatiers, bakeries, patisseries, etc. offering samples.



Enjoy and participate in chocolate competitions and demonstrations. 512-637-0479, austinchocolatefestival.com

MAR 8 4TH ANNUAL SPOKE & SPURS RIDE starting in Liberty Hill, Tex. Will have fully-supported routes with 6, 14, 28, 44 and 62.5 mile options. The ride benefits Spirit Reins Ranch, a 501(c)(3) organization that helps at-risk youth improve their self-confidence, self-esteem and communications by working with horses. spiritreins.org

E-MAIL YOUR EVENTS TO SANDRA@COUNTRYLINEMAGAZINE.COM FOR CONSIDERATION. SPACE LIMITS OPPORTUNITY.

Lookin' for a Party?

LA PASADITA INVITES YOU TO THEIR TENT AT
Rodeo Austin's BBQ Cook-Off
FRIDAY, MARCH 7 – SATURDAY, MARCH 8

GREAT BBQ

Brisket • Yardbirds • Sausage • Catfish & More!

FREE BEER

LIVE MUSIC

The Sophisticates (nights) • Shane Parker Band (days)

Bring Cash for our Tip Jars!

Tips go to the Star of Texas Scholarship Fund which has awarded over \$20 million to over 13,500 students in 120 Texas counties!

For the last 18 years, La Pasadita — a 2nd-generation team — has been throwing a "party with a purpose" since 1990. With the help of sponsors and partygoers like you, we've donated almost half a million dollars to the Star of Texas Scholarship Fund!



LA PASADITA
It's All for the Kids

CHECK OUT PARTY PHOTOS & VIDEOS, TEAM INFO, SPONSORS, MAPS AND MORE ONLINE AT

LAPASADITA.ORG



State's Agricultural Agencies Change Names, Renew Missions

Two state agricultural agencies that have served Texans for a combined 224 years are beginning 2008 with new names and renewed missions.

Texas AgriLife Research is the new name for the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, which annually conducts more than \$150 million in agriculture and life sciences research in such areas as improving food and fiber production, enhancing human and animal health, and conserving water, soils, wildlife and other natural resources.

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service is the new name of Texas Cooperative Extension, which provides Texans in all 254 counties with objective, research-based education programs and services in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H and youth development, family and

consumer sciences, and community economic development.

"We are making these changes to better communicate the life-sustaining and life-changing impacts that both AgriLife Research and AgriLife Extension deliver to the people of Texas and beyond," said Dr. Mark Hussey, director of AgriLife Research.

Both agencies remain members of The Texas A&M University System, with the same commitment to their partners, clients and mission.

"But we also want to tell our story to a larger audience and a changing state population, attract new resources and build new partnerships, while strengthening our existing ones," Hussey said. "In this way, we hope to better serve the people of this great state."

The name changes are part of a re-branding initiative launching this year after two years of study and planning. These efforts were led by former vice chancellor Dr. Elsa Murano, who was named president of Texas A&M University on Jan. 3.

"The re-branding efforts are centered on one foundational message:



'Agriculture is Life!'" Hussey said. "The central idea is that life itself is the core value that our agencies seek to sustain and enhance.

"People usually don't realize how much we all depend on agriculture and the life sciences. Discoveries and innovations in these fields directly impact the quality of the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the air we breathe, the water we drink, the homes we live in, and, more and more, even the fuels we pump into our vehicles."

"This is more than a name change, or even a new logo design," said Dr. Ed Smith, director of AgriLife Extension. "These new brands will impact not only our marketing materials and signage, but also the way we position and prioritize our programs and work with our federal, state and county partners to serve the state of Texas. It is vitally important to tell our story and that people connect our agencies to the tremendous impacts they have on the state."

One of the drivers of the re-branding initiative was a market study that showed that the work of the research and extension agencies was not widely known across the state of Texas.

"We hope to help people better understand the vital role that agriculture and life sciences still play in improving the prosperity of their lives," said Smith. "We believe that if they come to know us better, they will

see that connection more clearly, even within a state population that is now 85 percent urbanized."

+++++

AgriLife Research, established in 1887, employs a team of 425 scientists on the campus of Texas A&M University and at 13 centers across the state. Research has made many innovative advances over the years, including development of the Texas 1015 onion and the TAM Mild Jalapeño pepper, which revolutionized the U.S. salsa industry.

Current major research includes the efficient use and conservation of water



resources, the development of fruits and vegetables with higher levels of disease-fighting compounds, and the adaptation of crops and other agricultural products for making biofuels.

AgriLife Extension, established in 1915, provides Texans with continuing education

programs and services. More than 900 professional educators team with some 90,000 volunteers to serve families, youth, communities and businesses throughout the state. Some 600,000 children annually participate in Extension's 4-H and youth development programs.

For more information, see agrilife.tamu.edu.

2008 TEAM SCHEDULE		
Date	Lake	Location
Feb. 2nd	Travis	Pace Bend
March 1st	Belton	Temple Lake Park
April 5th	LBJ	TBA
May 10th	Belton	Temple Lake Park
June 7th	Choke	Callitham Park

ALL NEW CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT
NO ENTRY FEE - OVER \$100,000 CASH
Lake will be neutral location that is not part of any regions normal schedule.

2nd Annual DODGE MEGA CLASS
The World's Fastest Truck Day - Monthly Big Bass Tournament
3 Days - 12 Hours - 12 Trucks Awarded
San Rayburn - July 26th - 27th, 2008

website basschamps.com
phone 817-439-3274

The Best Little Meat Market in South Austin

JOHNNY G'S MEAT MARKET

Your Summer BBQ Meat Headquarters

We also offer ...
Fresh-Choice Beef, Pork, Sausage, Wholesale/Retail



Tanglewood Biz Park • 11600 Manchaca Rd, Ste H • Austin, TX • 512/280-6514

CHAPMAN MOTOR SALES

You Can Trust A Chapman Family Dealer



Steve Chapman
5919 E. Ben White
(512) 385-8807



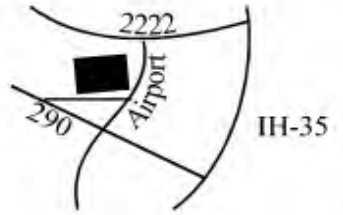
Kyle Chapman
2301 S. Lamar
(512) 476-5304
www.kylechapmanmotors.com



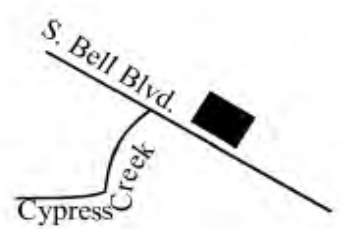
Doyle Chapman
6000 Cameron Road
(512) 454-3763
www.doylechapmanmotors.com



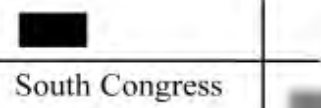
Kyle Chapman
1503 River Road
San Marcos
(512) 396-9966
www.kylechapmanmotors.com



Bill Chapman
5324 Airport Blvd
(512) 459-1141
www.billchapmanautos.com



Greg Chapman
950 S. Bell at 183
Cedar Park
(512) 401-2555
www.gregchapmanmotors.com



Steve Chapman
4712 S. Congress
(512) 444-6800

Ben White Blvd E.





Keep alert for winter snakes

☞ This past Christmas I was again blessed with the opportunity and ability to spend a week with all of my children and grandchildren at the beach. This has been a tradition that emanated from a request from my daughter Angela, her husband James, and my son Michael, 19 years ago when Pam and I asked them what they wanted for Christmas. They said they would like to spend Christmas at the beach. We have grown from the five of us in a small beach house to accommodations for 11 people plus four dogs this past Christmas.

The weather was down in the high 40s at night and high 50s to low 60s in the day time. The wind blew steadily from 10 to 20 miles per hour, so one can see it was cold even though the sun was out most of the time during our getaway.

I tell you all of that because one morning my son with his wife and three children were crossing a bridge built over the sand dunes and just over the apex of the bridge lay a cottonmouth water



This copperhead is just another pit viper and you can see by the number 2 screwdriver it is a good size, even without the head.

moccasin. My son said he was about as big around as a nice big summer sausage we had in the ice box and it appeared to be lazily crossing the bridge. That in itself was a surprise to all of us as we figured it was too cold for them to be out and about.

Knowing cottonmouths he knew the snake was aware that they were on the bridge from the start, because it would have felt the vibration of them walking. Mike thought that it was probably moving slowly because of the cold weather. He picked up a stick and touched the snake on the tail to move it along and as quick as a flash it coiled up, mouth wide open in the center of the coils, ready to strike. At that reaction they left the snake alone and let him have the bridge.

When Mike and the kids came back to the beach house we all went out looking for the venomous threat, but he was long gone, and we were as happy about that as the snake probably was.

Naturally they can make a person sick if bitten, but they are seldom fatal to a healthy adult. On the other hand a big cottonmouth or rattlesnake can cause a strong, healthy person some serious problems. They can cause a dangerous drop in blood pressure and since their venom starts the digestion process in their prey a person can lose a limb if bitten by one of the larger vipers. The larger the volume of venom injected and the more it spreads throughout ones system the bigger the problem.

The reason I mention these cold blooded animals at this time in our Texas winter is because they are suppose to be hibernating according to my time

table, but I know of one that was not so I should let you all know to be alert look for to stay out of venomous trouble.

One may feel also there is no danger around water of seeing a rattlesnake, but that is wrong. There is a rattlesnake that lives in the marshes and around the driftwood and sand dunes along the coast known as a cane break rattlesnake. I do

not know if they are the same as, or a cousin to, a timber rattlesnake, but they can get just as big, meaning six feet or so is nothing out of the ordinary, and just as dangerous.

My winter message to my friends and readers is even though it is winter in Texas keep and eye on the ground and watch for snakes. ☞

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LARRY J. LEBLANC

Terry Rheinlander
Wildlife Artist / Sculptor
Master Taxidermist

Rheinlander
World Class
Taxidermy

5214 Burleson Rd. #501
Austin, TX 78744

512-447-3337
512-his-deer

GRANDEBASS
TROPHY HUNTER BAITS

**The Most Cutting Edge
Bass Lures Available!**

Get your GrandeBass Lures at Academy,
Gander Mountain, Marinas
and Tackle Stores.

If they
don't carry
Grande yet,
ASK FOR IT!

www.grandebass.com

★ FISHING REPORT

January 2008 began a new bass tournament year and kicked off the boat show season. I was amazed by all the wonderful innovations in boats, motor, electronics, tackles and lures.

Speaking of new tackle, the TOZ Fishing Team was given the opportunity to try some of the new reels, the H²O Xpress from Academy Sports and Outdoors. I was impressed with its quality and performance of both the H²O XPRESS reels we are trying. They are low profile, fit like a glove and run smooth. Check out more on our blog at texasoutdoorzone.com

Next month we will review the new and hot H²O plastic baits. These are some of the finest plastic baits you will ever fish with and we are going to put them to the test through the tournament trail and pre fishing. More to come!

Speaking of baits, Grande Bass is also coming out with some new products. One of them is a new stick bait called the Honcho that will be in the Academy stores at the end of the month. We will let you know about those baits as soon as we run them through the mill as well — and a few rock piles, docks and a bunch



Don Gordon and Brian Booker with a 16.07 pound sack on Austin.

of big bass bites.

In December, my brother-in-law lost his yearlong battle with lung cancer. The fishing community lost one of the best

saltwater fishermen that I have ever had the pleasure to share a boat with. Friend, fishing buddy, brother — Mark McGee will be missed. —DON GORDON

ABF Jackpot Finale

On Dec. 15, 25 boats braved the high frontal winds on Lake Austin for Austin Bass Fishing's season finale jackpot tournament. Winds gusted at 30 mph, air temps were in the low to mid 50s, and water temps around 60 degrees.

The Texas Outdoor Zone fishing team fared well as Don Gordon and I secured a second place finish. We caught four fish all day, and Don caught 'em all! He is a joy to watch on that drop shot rig. It was a real tough bite, and Don capitalized with the Grande Bass Rattlesnake fishing bluff walls.

We had two really good areas where

we knew fish were and just waited them out. The last bite came with literally 15 minutes to go — and it weighed in at just over seven pounds. Don and I both lost the fish that would have put us in first, but then you have heard that before.

Austin Bass Fishing is a great organization, and you can check them out at austinbassfishing.com. They will begin the weekly jackpot events again in January. With events alternating between Lake Austin and Lake Travis, there is a good mixture of fishing opportunities to meet any angler's strengths. But above all, it is about fellowship with a great group of friendly and supportive anglers where any experience level is welcomed. Hats off to president Charlie Montgomery, tournament director Eric Austin, and the whole ABF crew for a well-run tourney this year. We're looking forward to cranking it back up next season!

Check out their Web site to see the hogs they are catching on Lake Austin now that the lake is down. —TOZ TEAM CAPTAIN BRIAN BOOKER



Skeeter Bass Champs 2008

Feb 2: Lake Travis

March 1: Lake Belton

April 5: Lake LBJ

May 10: Lake Belton

June 7: Lake Choke Canyon

For more info visit basschamps.com

CHECK OUT THE TOZ BASS TEAM BLOG FOR NEWS AND TIPS AT TEXASOUTDOORZONE.COM

TOZ ROD COMPANY



TOZ ROD is the end result of years of testing, creating and fishing.

Our Pro-staff has participated in designing each element of the rods action for specific baits and conditions. All this has culminated in the finest handcrafted fishing rods available today.

TOZROD.COM



True Texas spring water bottled right here in Austin. Don't buy bottled city tap water when you can enjoy nature's pure refreshing spring water.

KEEPIN' IT LOCAL!

Home or Office Delivery
Call Today! 512/280-4037

Official Water of
The Texas Outdoor Zone
Texas Proud!



YOU KNOW HARD WORK. CHEVY KNOWS HARD-WORKING TRUCKS.



 **AN AMERICAN
REVOLUTION**



COMMERCIAL SALES

(OUTSIDE AUSTIN, 800-460-1888, EXT 305) **512-832-2305**

WWW.HENNA.COM • 8805 NORTH IH-35 • AUSTIN, TX