

VISITORS GUIDE | FALL/WINTER 2023

GoFredericksburg

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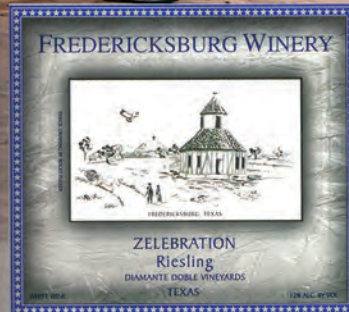
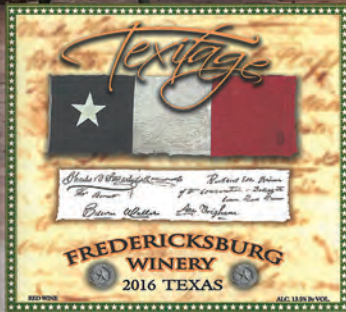


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Go Party with Fred and Barney

'GoFred' with native and imported wildlife

You're in Fredericksburg visiting, but *do you really know Fred?*

A bunch of our staff got up close and personal with "Fred," a rhinoceros at Longneck Manor Conservation Park who graces this edition's cover of GoFredericksburg. The facility also has a "Barney" rhino, namesakes of the dynamic duo of Flintstones fame, giraffes (hence the name) and other exotic wildlife not native to these parts.

There are some people new to Gillespie County with a global view and big hearts. These owners seek to raise awareness to the plight of the majestic species in other parts of the globe, plus give locals and visitors a chance to experience the sights and sounds, the size and even feel of the leathery or furry hides of these neat animals.

These are yet more attractions to add to Fredericksburg and Gillespie County's rather long list. We hope you enjoy Fred, Barney and the rest of the crew as much as we did.

In addition to Longneck Manor, there is another exotic wildlife viewing opportunity at The Preserve, which has a trio of elephants.

All of these folks moved here with a mission of helping promote and preserve these animals. Please give them a visit and tell 'em we sent you!

Welcome to our fall/winter edition of GoFredericksburg. Our company has promoted Fredericksburg and Gillespie County for the past

45 years with a special publication.

People have taken these all over the world to show family, friends and neighbors what they enjoyed about their visit to Fredericksburg.

We also have a companion website found at go-fredericksburg.com that will highlight all the content included, plus updates on events, attractions and more. Take a copy back to your place of residence for your friends and neighbors and let them know to GoFredericksburg.

Fredericksburg has grown into one of the finest and most popular small-town destinations in the country. And know that none of this happened overnight or by happy accident. The people who built this town from the ground up, starting in 1846, deserve much credit.

Today, we all get to enjoy the fruits of their labors and diligence. The Hill Country is a beautiful part of the Lone Star State, and we want to keep it that way. We take roadside trash seriously (my Rotary club and other civic organizations pick up garbage along a route regularly).

So please enjoy responsibly and, like the old scout saying for campsites goes, "leave it better than you found it."

Ken Esten Cooke
Publisher



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Go Fredericksburg

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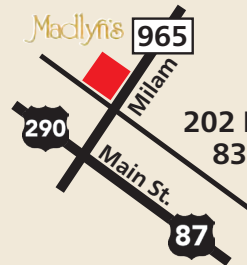
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Daniel Pardo
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Fall&Winter2023



A Step Back in Time

Pioneer Museum features exhibits on early life

In the mid-1840s, Germans looking for a better life were reading and hearing about Texas as a land of limitless opportunity. They risked everything to get here, faced every obstacle and created a unique German colony in the heart of the Texas Hill Country.

The Pioneer Museum grounds is a combination museum and historical site on 3.5 acres featuring historic homesteads and buildings donated by founding families of Gillespie County.

Among the structures are a one-room schoolhouse, a log cabin, a Sunday house, a bath house, a barn, a smokehouse that showcase artifacts and architecture which help to preserve and tell their story.

Visitors also may browse through the Fredericksburg Volunteer Fire Department Museum which displays pieces of early 20th century fire-fighting equipment.

Vereins Kirche Museum

Just two blocks away from the main grounds stands the Vereins Kirche (“Society Church”). The Vereins Kirche is located in the middle of the town square, called Marktplatz. This is a replica of the first public building constructed by the pioneers in Fredericksburg.

The original, built in 1847 served as a combination church, school, and community center for decades. A replica was built in 1935, the project that launched the Gillespie County Historical Society.

Historic County Jail

Today’s Historic Jail was completed in December 1885. The Historic Jail is 25 feet wide, 35 feet deep, and 20 to 22 feet high with two stories. The jail is open on the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Kids’ programs

Little Pioneers programs bring Gillespie County history to life for children with hands-on, interactive activities like blacksmithing, quilting, weaving, animal husbandry, stitching, baking and candle making.

The museum also celebrates the holidays with Kinderfest at Christmas time, and an Easter Egg Hunt in the spring.

Youth attractions

There’s something for kids every month during the school year and weekly during summer.

Guided Tours

Give your group of 15 or more an elevated Pioneer Museum experience. Guides will interpret the historical relevance of each historic structure, provide helpful information and a personal touch to enhance appreciation of the exhibits. Allow an hour and a half for a guided tour.



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Archives, Research

The Gillespie County Historical Society (GCHS) houses archives pertaining to the life and culture of German settlers in Gillespie County. GCHS encourages the public to take advantage of the information found in these unique resources. The collection includes almost 70,000 individual items.

The museum also provides services that include selling copies of historic images in the collection and providing research materials for various projects.

Museum Store

The Pioneer Museum store offers a unique and varied selection of historical books by authors from the Texas Hill Country and beyond. It also features a variety of local-made sauces, jams, candles and more, as well as Texas-themed home decor, aprons, hand towels, pillows, signs, toys and logo memorabilia.

Living History Days

The Pioneer Museum hosts Living History days monthly and as program events throughout the year.

First Saturday Living History Days — Held from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on the first Saturday of every month, living history presenters from the Frontier History Company Foundation will be on site at both the Pioneer Museum and the Historic Jail.

A Pioneer Museum Day Pass provides visitors access to both these locations and the living history presentation.

Handworkers are also on the Pioneer Museum grounds on these first Saturdays from 10 a.m.-12 noon, working on different types of handwork projects like needlepoint, bobbin lace, embroidery, cross stitch, knitting and crochet.

Pioneer Museum's premier Living History Days are Founders Day (early May) and Spring Break week (mid-March).

These museum programs showcase the living history presenters from the Frontier History Company Foundation, as well as blacksmiths, rope makers, chuckwagon cooks, spinners, handworkers, corn shellers and more.

Plan your visit

Day passes are exclusively sold at Pioneer Museum and the Vereins Kirche Museum and are good for 24 hours from the time of purchase and provide entrance to Pioneer Museum, the Vereins Kirche Museum and Historic Jail (when open for programs).

Admission - Day Pass

General Admission.....	\$12
Military and Senior.....	\$7
Student	\$5
Children age 5 and under	Free

Events Calendar

First Saturday Living History Days held first Saturday of each month. The Historic Gillespie County Jail is open the first Saturday of each month. Handworkers on Pioneer Museum Grounds the first Saturday of each month. Spinners on Pioneer Museum Grounds the second Saturday of each month. Fredericksburg Farmers Market at the Pioneer Museum is held on Thursdays from 4-7 p.m. from Sept. 28-Nov. 2.

Sept. 16.....	Little Pioneers Program, "Bread and Butter."
Sept. 19.....	Guest speaker, Dr. Donald Frazier on "The Republic of Texas."
Oct. 21.....	Little Pioneers Program, "Hand-dipped Candle Making."
Nov. 11.....	St. Martin's Day Celebration.
Nov. 17.....	Holiday Market Preview Party.
Nov. 18.....	Historic Home Tour and Holiday Market.
Dec. 2.....	Kinderfest.
Dec. 2-3.....	Singing Christmas Tree.
Dec. 15.....	Tannenbaum Ball.
Dec. 26.....	Zweite Weihnechten (Second Christmas).
2024	
Jan. 20.....	Little Pioneers Program, "Blacksmithing."
Feb. 17.....	Little Pioneers Program, "Quilting."
March 11-16...	Spring Break Living History Week.
March 30.....	Easter Egg Hunt.
April 30.....	Lenz Fest.

Check the Events page at pioneer museum.org to see the dates and details for these programs.



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Historic Home Tour & Holiday Market

The Gillespie County Historical Society/ Pioneer Museum will host its 64th annual Home Tour on Saturday, Nov. 18 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Themed “A Walk Through Time,” this year’s tour invites guests to explore the evolution of architecture in Fredericksburg. The tour is self-guided with docents available in each home to explain its unique features.

The seven homes on the tour record the history of Hill Country homebuilding, beginning with the “rock houses” built by the frugal pioneers who settled this area and built their homes using the abundant limestone they quarried here.

From there, an increase in available building materials led to grander homes built in the Victorian style toward the end of the 19th century.

The early 20th century saw the emergence of Arts and Crafts style bungalows as young people returned to Fredericksburg after seeing and studying architecture in bigger cities. Later, the 20th century also brought even more modern design features to Fredericksburg, and the area saw a surge in mid-century modern elements.



The historic Carriage House is one of the stops on Pioneer Museum’s Annual Christmas Tour of Homes.

Holiday Market

As with previous Home Tours, this year’s tour is coupled with the annual Holiday Market. The Holiday Market will be held from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in the Historic Sanctuary and Social Hall at 312 W. San Antonio St. and will feature 20 high-end, artisanal Hill Country vendors.

Home Tour tickets cost \$40 and include admission to the Holiday Market and the Pioneer Museum. Tickets to attend only the Holiday Market are \$12 and include admission to the Pioneer Museum, as well.

Preview Party

For those wanting to be the first to shop the Market, a Holiday Market Preview Party will be held from 6-8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17. Tickets for this special event are limited and cost \$45. This Preview Party includes appetizers, champagne and entertainment.

For more information about the Historic Home Tour and the Holiday Market or to purchase tickets, visit pioneermuseum.org.



The museum’s Holiday Market is always a popular event for Yule-time shopping.

TICKETS

Historic Home Tour \$40
(includes Holiday Market admission and Pioneer Museum admission).

Holiday Market \$12
(includes Pioneer Museum admission).

Holiday Market Preview Party \$45
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A Landmark and Symbol

The Vereins Kirche is a unique landmark in the center of downtown Fredericksburg. The octagonal building is owned and managed by the Gillespie County Historical Society (GCHS).

After an extensive renovation in 2019 and re-installation of exhibits, the Vereins Kirche features the history of the building in a permanent exhibit that begins with the German immigrants' trip to Texas in the 1840s through the present.

In January 1934, the GCHS was formed with one major goal in mind, to rebuild the Vereins Kirche. Since then, the GCHS has continued to preserve the history and culture of Fredericksburg and Gillespie County through exhibits and educational programs and outreach.

History

The original Vereins Kirche served as the town's first church, school and public meeting place, in addition to a lookout building for protection against invaders.

The replica of the Vereins Kirche has been used as a library, home to the Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce, a one-day post office and a museum.

The original Vereins Kirche, or Society Church, was used primarily as a church and school for Catholic and Evangelical Protestants. School districts were created in Gillespie County in the 1850s and students were no longer using the Vereins Kirche. As with the school, church congregations began building their own churches in town and slowly leaving the Vereins Kirche empty most days.

By the town's 50th anniversary in 1896, the stone walls were removed to make the Vereins Kirche a pavilion for the celebration. The building was torn down in 1897 after it fell into disrepair.

For many years, local citizens had the vision of building a replica of the Vereins Kirche.

In 1935, the Gillespie County Historical Society received its charter and began working to rebuild the Vereins Kirche as a pioneer memorial. Fundraising by citizens and help from the New Deal Public Works Administration supported the building of the Vereins Kirche. A celebration was held in May 1935 and the Vereins Kirche Pioneer Memorial was officially opened.

The first use of the new Vereins Kirche was to house Pioneer Memorial Library and a small historical museum. The first exhibits included memorabilia



and collectibles from the early pioneer days.

When the Gillespie County Historical Society purchased the Kammlah Homestead in 1955, most of its artifacts were moved and displayed in the Kammlah House while a small exhibit space remained in the Vereins Kirche.

In 1967, after the second courthouse had been refurbished by Eugene and Margaret McDermott of Dallas, Pioneer Memorial Library left the Vereins Kirche and took up residence in the McDermott Building where it remains today.

For a few years, part of the Vereins Kirche was home to the Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce, with GCHS exhibit space occupying some of the building. It was during this time that the GCHS began archiving and organizing its collection.

When the Chamber moved out of the Vereins Kirche, the space became an area for the GCHS Archives and Collections (now located at the GCHS offices in the historic First Methodist Church at 312 West San Antonio Street).

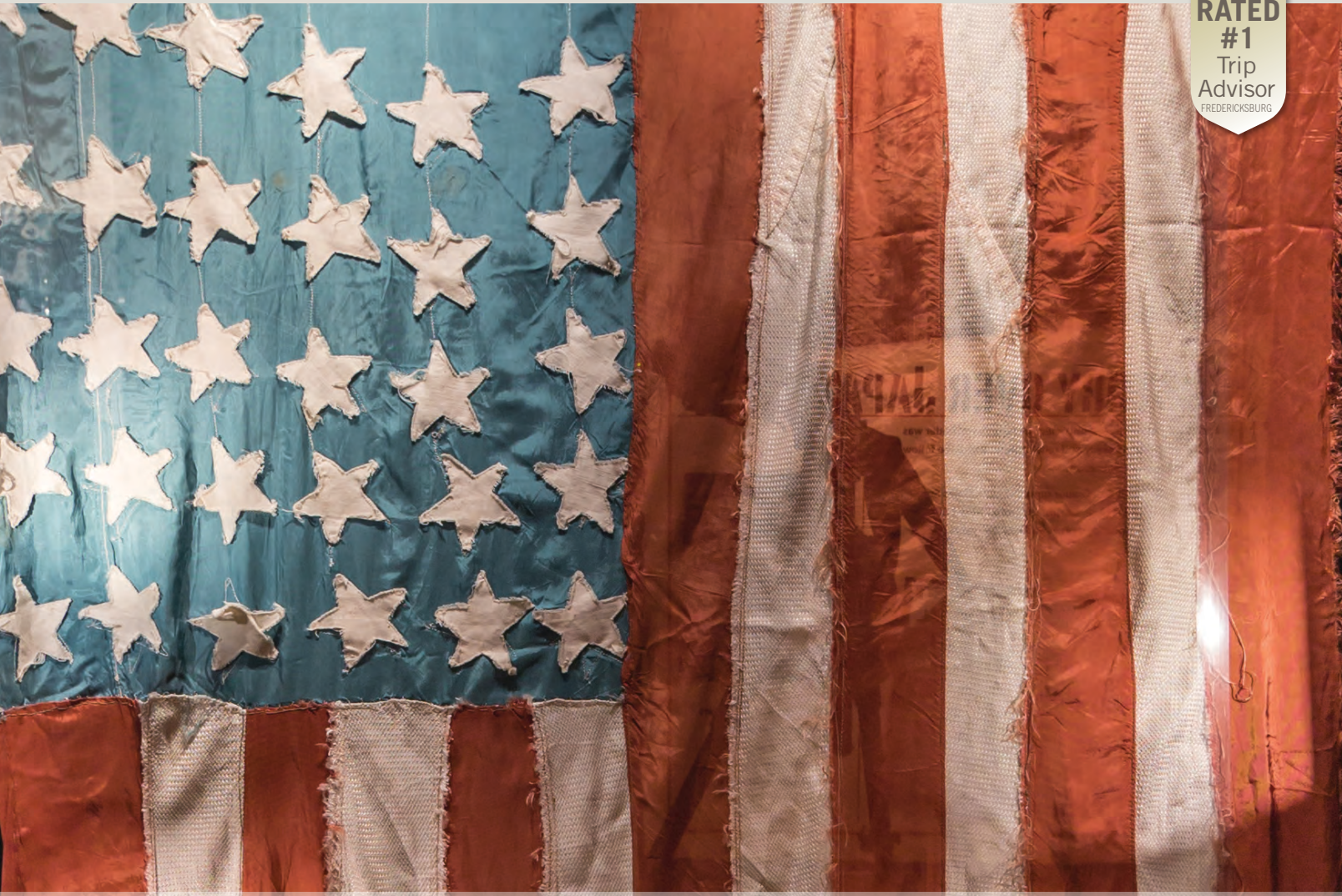
Hours of Operation

- The Vereins Kirche is open six days a week, year-round, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., closed on Sundays.
- There is an admission fee of \$5 which can be purchased at the Vereins Kirche or at Pioneer Museum, 325 West Main Street.



Come Discover Real Heroes

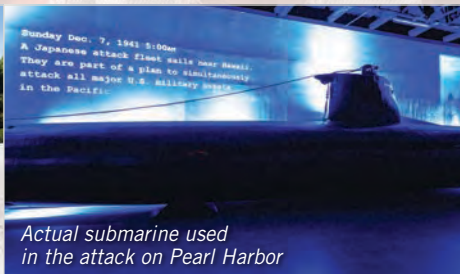
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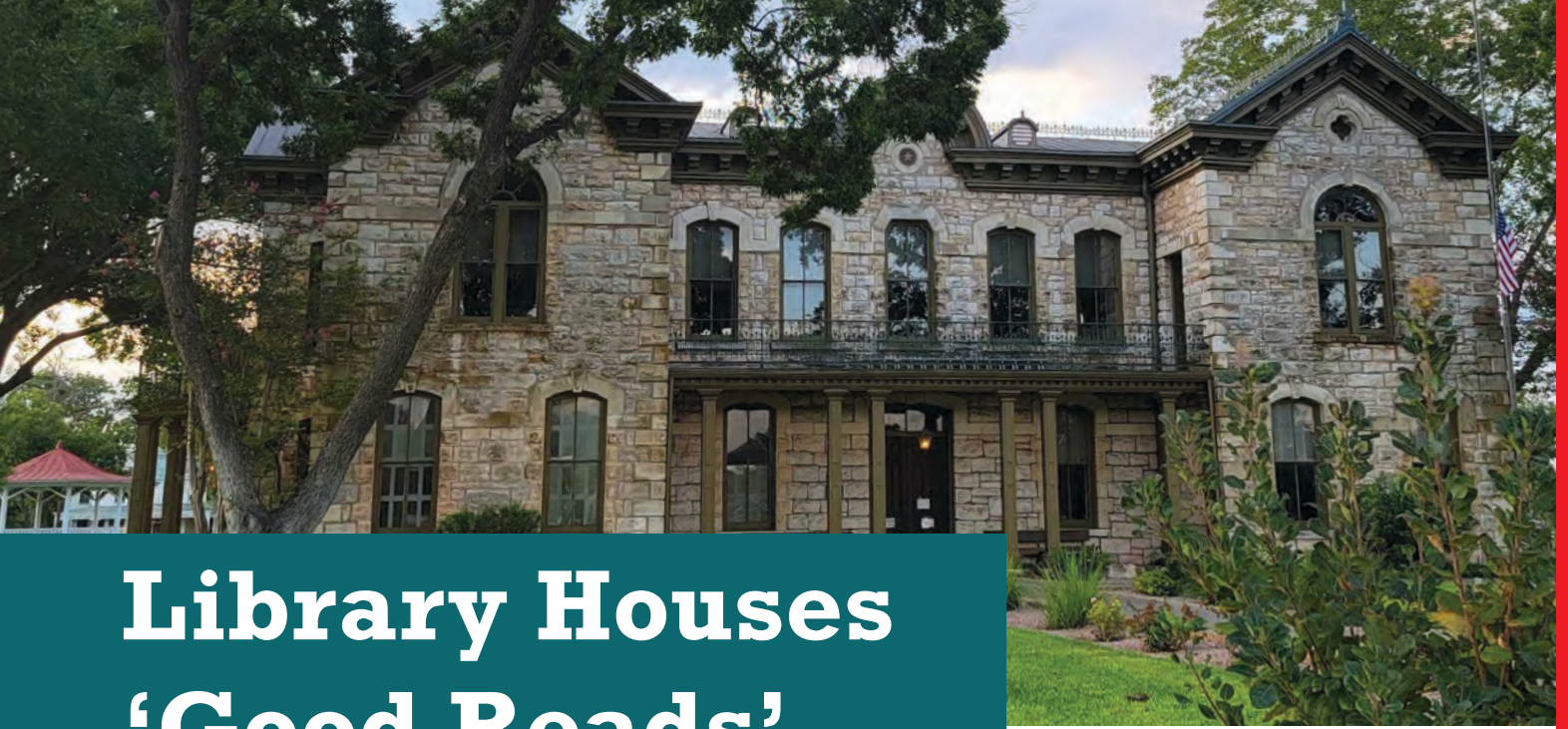


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Library Houses 'Good Reads'

Pioneer Memorial Library offers a quiet haven for readers away from the bustle of Main Street.

Located next to the Gillespie County Courthouse at 115 West Main Street, the library welcomes guests of all ages to read and explore thousands of books.

Services

Library cards can be issued free of charge to residents of Gillespie County. Proof of residency — such as a driver's license — is required upon application.

Children, ages six and over, can be issued a card, with a parent or legal guardian's signature.

Residents of the immediately surrounding counties (Kimble, Mason, Llano, Blanco, Kendall and Kerr) are also eligible to use the library's resources for a \$5 fee.

Books may be checked out for two weeks, and if not requested by another library user, may be renewed for another two weeks.

Youth

Young readers can find their own exclusive area on the first floor. Picture books, stories for children and fiction and non-fiction reads for older kids are featured.

A schedule for events — such as story time — can be found at the library's central desk.

Adults

Adult fiction and non-fiction books, reference materials, the Texas collection, magazines and periodicals are located on the second floor, accessible by stairs or elevator.

Library 'Friends'

In addition to being a department of the County of Gillespie, Pioneer Memorial Library is supported by the Friends of Pioneer Memorial Library.

Annual membership in the Friends of Pioneer Memorial Library is open to all at a nominal cost.

Library history

Pioneer Memorial Library is housed in a former Gillespie County Courthouse, which was designed by Alfred Giles.

The historic building served as the courthouse from 1882 until 1939 when the courthouse transitioned into a newly erected building next door.

Various governmental organizations occupied the building until it was closed in 1963.

Two years later, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene McDermott of Dallas funded the preservation of the building so that it could be used as a public library. It was dedicated in May 1967.

In 1983, Mrs. McDermott provided a challenge for a matching grant so that renovations and expansion to the second floor could be accomplished. The community responded, and the renovated library was dedicated in December of 1984.



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Good Things Come in Threes

Chamber, CVB, and GCEDC offer wealth of information

Guests in Gillespie County should make the Fredericksburg Convention and Visitor Bureau their first stop.

Located at 302 East Austin Street, just one block north of Main Street, visitors can gather all the information they need to learn about the city and the two other organizations that serve the community — the Gillespie County Economic Development Commission and the Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce.

The Fredericksburg Convention and Visitor Bureau promotes Fredericksburg and Gillespie County as a leisure destination for group tours, reunions, weddings and meeting sites.

The FCVB staffs and operates the Visitor Information Center, which is open Mondays through Saturdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (closed only Easter, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day).

Contact us at visitfredericksburgtx.com/contact or by calling one of our destination experience specialists at 830-997-6523.

This marketing, sales and service organization is funded by a portion of the city and county hotel/motel occupancy taxes.

Visitors also can gather information on potential activities, accommodations and businesses of interest through magazines and brochures in the lobby area, including info on walking tours, historic sites, an events calendar, city and county maps and driving trail maps.

CVB President and CEO Brady Closson writes an occasional column in the Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post. Members of his staff represent Fredericksburg at travel events around the globe.

Visitors also can gather information on potential activities, accommodations and businesses of interest through magazines and brochures in the lobby area, including info on walking tours, historic sites, an events calendar, city and county maps and driving trail maps.

Tim Lehmborg is executive director of the **Gillespie County Economic Development Commission**. He keeps his finger on the economic pulse of Gillespie County and helps recruit and ease the transition for new businesses who are right for the market to locate here.

The GCEDC is a collaborative partnership

between the city and county and its mission is to encourage, enhance and promote managed economic development throughout the county. The GCEDC is governed by a board of directors with nine voting members.

The **Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce** works on business education, advocacy, communication and business-to-business assistance.

Catering to more than 900 members — a large amount for a town of roughly 12,000 — the Chamber works to create a positive business environment. Its staff coordinates events, volunteers and highlights accomplishments at its annual March banquet.

Chamber President and CEO Penny C. McBride also writes a weekly column in the Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post.

Visitors also can gather information on potential activities, accommodations and businesses of interest through magazines and brochures in the lobby area, including info on walking tours, historic sites, an events calendar, city and county maps and driving trail maps.

Visitor Center hours

Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Fredericksburg Convention and Visitor Bureau

302 East Austin Street
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Phone: 830-997-6523 or 1-888-997-3600

Email: visitorinfo@fbgtx.org
visitfredericksburgtx.com

Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce

306 East Austin Street
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
Phone: 830-997-5000

Email: penny@fbgtxchamber.org
fredericksburg-texas.com

Gillespie County Economic Development Commission

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Email: edc@fbgtx.org
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Music Club Brings World Class Musicians to Town

The Fredericksburg Music Club will be hosting a series of eight concerts from various artists starting in September 2023 and finishing in May 2024 for the start of a 2023-2024 schedule featuring eight quality music programs.

Ranging from classical piano and string music to more contemporary vocal and brass presentations, the FMC's upcoming concert season will highlight performances beginning at 3 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month in the sanctuary of Fredericksburg United Methodist Church, 1800 North Llano Street.

Featured this season for the enjoyment of Texas Hill Country residents during the club's 86th season will be:

Sept. 17 – Anna Geniushene – Piano.

Oct. 15 – Rastrelli Cello Quartet – Cello quartet.

Nov. 19 – Daniel Pardo – Flute.

Jan. 21, 2024 – Texas Children's Choir – Choral.

Feb. 18 – UT Trombone Choir – Brass.

March 17 – Windsync Woodwind Quintet – Woodwind instruments.

April 21 – IlluMen – Chorus.

May 19 – Emile Pandolfi – Piano.

Attendance at FMC concerts is free of charge, thanks to grants as well as private and corporate donations received through the mail or at the door of each performance.

The Fredericksburg Music Club's goals since the non-profit organization was founded in 1937 have been to provide the area with quality musical programs, to support music education and to make the gift of music available to everyone.

More information — including lists of the concert schedule for the 2023-2024 season, more information about this year's performers, past performers, etc. — is available on the FMC's website, fredericksburgmusicclub.com.



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German Choirs Year-Round

Keeping German tradition and heritage alive are two local choirs — the Arion Men's Choir and the Hermann Sons Mixed Choir.

Membership is voluntary and adults who enjoy singing are invited to join in and participate at any time.

Arion Männerchor (Arion Men's Choir), founded in 1908, and the Hermannsöhne Gemischter Chor (Hermann Sons Mixed Choir), active since 1934, are both directed by Amy Voorhees and accompanied by Annabel Wilkinson.

Both choirs have weekly rehearsals and performances throughout the year. Rehearsals are held at St. Joseph's Halle every Thursday evening.

New members are always welcome and knowledge of the German language is helpful, but not required, nor is the ability to sight-read music.

The choirs' repertoire ranges from sacred music to classical masterworks to folk songs.

They jointly present a free-admission public concert in the spring, usually the first Sunday in May (Maifest), and another in the fall, the first Sunday in November, a Herbstfest (Harvestfest).

Both of these events are usually held at St. Joseph's Halle or the St. Mary's Holy Family Center.

In addition, they represent Fredericksburg in a yearly Saengerfest (singers' festival) along with German choirs from San Antonio, New Braunfels and Corpus Christi.

Both choirs also appear regularly at Oktoberfest, and give performances from time to time during the year at nursing and retirement homes.

At this time, concerts are being scheduled for the coming months. Information will be published in the coming issues of the Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post.

More information is available by calling Carol Woitalla at 830-997-9671.



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Historic Schools Harken to the Past on County Rural Roads

During the 19th and early 20th centuries, students learned the three R's: reading, writing and arithmetic in the comfort of a one-room school house, many of which were located out in the country.

Later came schools like Fredericksburg Independent School District, Harper ISD and Doss Common Consolidated School District, and the rural schools took their place in history.

Those schools are now things of the past, but the sites and even memories can still be revisited, courtesy of a visit on the Gillespie County Country Schools Trail.

'Schools Trail'

The "schools trail" gives visitors and residents alike a chance to venture into the earlier days of Texas, when German settlers came to the Texas



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Hill Country and established country schools to educate their children.

Among the old school houses on the driving trail are Cave Creek, Cherry Mountain, Cherry Spring, Crabapple, Grapetown, Junction, Lower South Grape Creek, Luckenbach, Meusebach Creek, Nebgen, Pecan Creek, Rheingold, Williams Creek (Albert), White Oak, Willow City and Wrede.

Due to the Gilmer-Aiken Laws, in the 1950s and 1960s, the schools were consolidated into the Fredericksburg Independent School District.

On Jan. 23, 2006, the Gillespie County Commissioners Court established the Gillespie County Country Schools Trail. This trail linked the 16 historic former rural schools with the Vereins Kirche, which is a replica of the first school in the county.

'Friends'

The Friends of Gillespie County Country Schools, in conjunction with several organizations, sponsors the trail and various activities throughout the year so that people can learn more about the county's educational history.

The Friends consists of former students of the closed schools and area community residents.

Their mission statement is to preserve the past to enrich the future: to further the preservation and maintenance of historic community school buildings and improvements in Gillespie County; to support the activities of Gillespie County with respect to the preservation and maintenance of historic community school buildings and improvements in the County through assistance with fundraising and other means; to use and allow others to use such buildings and improvements for public purposes, by making such buildings and improvements available as community centers for public purposes.

The properties are listed in the Register of National Historic Places and are on the Country School Association of America National Schoolhouse Registry.

For more information, including a calendar of open house events, call the Friends of Gillespie County Country Schools at 830-685-3321, email them at info@historicschools.org or visit them online at www.historicschools.org.



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Museum Honors Sacrifice and Service of WWII Pacific Vets

The National Museum of the Pacific War interweaves the stories of America, China, Japan, Korea and others, telling the story of how World War II was won in the Pacific.

The museum honors the more than 100,000 Americans who gave their lives in the war in the Pacific and eight million who served in World War II, by “truthfully and respectfully telling the story of their struggles, their sacrifices and their triumphs.”

Formerly known as the Nimitz Museum — in honor of Fredericksburg’s Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz — the National Museum of the Pacific War is located at 340 East Main Street.

An eight-foot bronze statue of the admiral stands in Nimitz Platz, at the entrance of the museum.

The museum preserves the stories of all who served and those who did not return home. It teaches the history of the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations during World War II through educational platforms, connecting to current and future national security issues. The museum facilitates programs to memorialize and support all veterans.

A 33,000-square-foot exhibition area features 40 media installations, approximately 900 artifacts in 97 climate-controlled cases, 15 macroartifacts and hundreds of photographs.

The museum occupies six acres and has become one of the elite military museums in the nation.

The attractions include the Admiral Nimitz Museum, George H.W. Bush Gallery, the Japanese Garden of Peace, the Memorial Courtyard, the Plaza of Presidents, the Nimitz Education and Research Center and the Pacific Combat Zone.

The Admiral Nimitz Museum houses exhibits in the Cailloux Education Center and the Admiral Nimitz Grand Ballroom and Mezzanine on his life and career as he fought in World War II.

Exhibits in the George H.W. Bush Gallery convey the shock and destruction of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Within the gallery is an HA-19, one of the five Japanese two-man submarines that took part in the attack.

In the Memorial Courtyard, the museum honors the individuals, ships and units that fought in the Pacific Theater.

The archives of the National Museum of the Pacific War holds thousands of manuscripts, official documents, photographs and recorded interviews with Pacific War veterans.

All the archives are housed in the Nimitz Education and Research Center, which is open to the public by appointment only.

The museum stages Living History Reenactments that put viewers on the front line at the Pacific Combat Zone, located two blocks east of the main museum.

The WWII Pacific Combat Program features 60-minute shows which immerse visitors in battle, dramatically showing the equipment, weapons and tactics of the U.S. Army and Marines and the Imperial Japanese Army.

Admission for the show is \$10 for adults; \$5 for students; and free for children five and under. Ear plugs are provided.

Advance tickets are available at the George H.W. Bush Gallery or the Admiral Nimitz Museum. Walk-up tickets are sometimes available at the combat zone prior to the program.

Pacific Combat Zone

The Pacific Combat Zone is a unique two-acre indoor/outdoor exhibit and one of the museum's most popular venues.

In March 2017, the museum finished its \$8 million renovation to the complex.

Live reenactments are staged eight times a year on the weekends and feature history and details on weapons used during the war, as well as current weaponry.

The finale features a look into a war-like scenario with the weapons being fired.

The big change to the new Pacific Combat Zone is that the exhibits are no longer only accessible by guided tour.

Guests can come and spend as long as they would like exploring the exhibits in Phase 1.

Upon entering the Pacific Combat Zone, guests can see a to-scale map of the Pacific Theater and take time to walk the map and get an understanding of just how large this theater of WWII was.

Entering the PT 309 boat exhibit allows guests onto the deck of a PT boat tender as it is being equipped for a mission.

This exhibit includes video displays covering a PT boat mission, an oral history kiosk, and the history of PT 309 "Oh Frankie," the boat on display.

The TBM exhibit takes museum-goers below

deck of an aircraft carrier where they will see up close a TBM Avenger getting ready for a mission.

Visitors can take time to test their skills on tabletop games stationed in front of the plane.

They can launch torpedoes at enemy ships, defend a ship from enemy attack by manning an anti-aircraft gun, and land the pilot safely on the deck by waiving him in on his approach.

This exhibit also includes video displays, information panels about flight missions, and artifacts.

General Information

The Pacific Combat Zone is open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and The Nimitz Gallery and George H.W. Bush Gallery are open Wednesday through Monday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The museum is closed Tuesdays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas day.

Admission is free for WWII veterans.

Senior citizens 65 and older are \$16; adults are \$24; teachers and military members (active or retired) with an I.D. are \$14; children six and over, along with students who have ID, are \$10; children five and under are free.

For more information about rates, along with questions about volunteering at the museum, call 997-8600 or visit the museum online at pacificwarmuseum.org.



Meet Fredericksburg's Ghosts with Haunted Fredericksburg

Fredericksburg is one of the most historic cities in Texas, with rich German traditions still prominent today.

With that history comes all the souls still lurking, and the Haunted Fredericksburg Ghost Walk is there to introduce you to all of them.

Created by Derek Spence, the tour begins at 8:30 p.m. Fridays and 8:30 and 9 p.m. Saturdays. The adult price to attend the walk is \$22, and the price for kids (10 and up) and seniors is \$18. Children under 6 are free.

A tour is also available to include the Old Jail in Fredericksburg, a building sure to send chills down your spine. Prices for the walk and jail tour combo are \$32 for adults and \$28 for kids over

the age of 10. Group, private and corporate tours are also available.

Tours begin at the Admiral Nimitz statue at the corner of East Main and Washington streets.

The tour includes tales centered around the Nimitz Museum, hauntings of buildings on Main Street and stories about the old Keidel Hospital and the old jail.

The tour is also BYOB, so attendees can sip while they learn about Fredericksburg's haunted history.

Information on the ghost walk can be found at:
hauntedfredericksburg.com



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‘Everybody’s Somebody’ When Visiting Luckenbach Texas



Hill Country travelers frequent the attractions Luckenbach has to offer, much like Willie, Waylon and the boys did in 1977.

Known for its “Everybody’s Somebody” attitude and live entertainment, Luckenbach Texas is a popular destination for music fans, bikers and all those interested in discovering the tiny town in the tune heard by millions.

With its store, dance hall and picnic tables underneath arching live oak trees, Luckenbach (a sign jokes “Population 3”) is a destination in its own.

Open daily at 9 a.m., the family-friendly store offers visitors an old-fashioned experience and merchandise ranging from the nostalgic to items bearing the town’s oval-shaped logo.

The town also hosts regional and national acts. During quieter times, one can find a picker’s circle for those who want to swap tunes and musically mingle with the locals.

With nearly daily performances on the outside stage or in the dancehall, visitors can sit back and enjoy a beverage of choice while enjoying the musicians who provide tunes with a Texas flair.

History

Luckenbach began in 1852 when Jacob Luckenbach and his brothers, William and August, moved to the area from Fredericksburg and began farming.

William Luckenbach opened a post office under the name of South Grape Creek in 1854 which operated for 11 years.

In 1886, August Engel Jr. reopened a post office for the community along with a general store in the Engel homestead. It was named Luckenbach by Minna Engel, who recently married Carl Albert Luckenbach.

Engel and his descendants later moved the post office and general store down the street and added a blacksmith shop, dance hall and cotton gin.

In the 1970s, the Engel family sold the town to Hondo Crouch, Kathy Morgan and Guich Kooch.

During the years that followed, Luckenbach gained national attention as a “metropolis of mirth,” thanks in large part to Crouch’s far-reaching humor and charismatic personality.

Jerry Jeff Walker later enhanced the town’s reputation by recording his live album, “Viva Terlingua,” there 50 years ago.

From 1995 through 1999, Willie Nelson held his storied Fourth of July Picnic at Luckenbach.

Today, one can find local and traveling musicians on stage or at the Picker’s Circle, a weekend dance in the hall or one of the many events on the calendar.

Check luckenbachtexas.com for current performer and event info.

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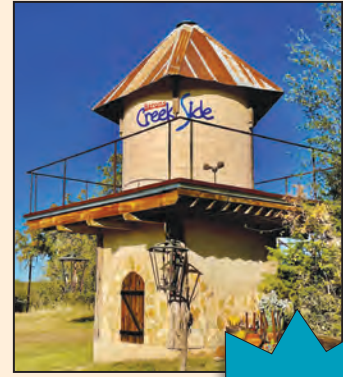
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Fredericksburg Theater Company's 27th Season

Fredericksburg Theater Company's 27th season is currently underway with upcoming performances of four main stage productions and five special events.

All performances are at the Steve W. Shepherd Theater, 1668 U.S. 87 South.

Information can be found on the FTC's website at fredericksburgtheater.org.

Along with its productions, FTC also offers youth and adult classes through its Fredericksburg Theater Academy.

Tickets go on sale a full two weeks prior to opening night at the FTC Box Office, located at the theater. Tickets can also be purchased by calling the FTC office at 888-669-7114 or online at fredericksburgtheater.org.

Box office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday.

All main stage productions are on weekends, with Friday and Saturday performances at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday performances at 2 p.m.

Main Stage Productions

The 27th season opened with "Annie Get Your Gun" in June and continued with "The Spongebob Musical," a Fredericksburg Theater Academy (FTA) production, in July and "Ring of Fire" in August, highlighting the music of Johnny Cash.

"The Heiress"

Oct. 20-29, 2023

The Heiress is a story of love and betrayal set in 1850s New York. Catherine, a young woman who stands to inherit her father's large fortune, falls in love when she meets Morris, who gives her the love and affection her father doesn't, and which she desperately needs. Based on the classic Henry James novel Washington Square, The Heiress was also made into an Oscar-winning film. (Rated PG)

"Plaid Tidings"

Dec. 8-17, 2023

The Plaids are back in an all-new holiday show filled with Christmas standards that have all been "Plaidized." This holiday treat will lift audiences' spirits and fill them with nostalgia for a bygone era of classic music sung in perfect harmony. (Rated PG)

"How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying"

Feb. 9-25, 2024

Big business means big laughs in this delightfully clever lampoon of life on the corporate ladder. A tune-filled comic gem that took Broadway by storm, winning both the Tony Award for Best Musical and a Pulitzer Prize, this musical boasts an exhilarating score by Frank Loesser. (Rated PG-13)

"The Sweet Delilah Swim Club"

April 12-21, 2024

Five southern women whose friendships began many years ago on their college swim team set aside a long weekend every August to recharge those relationships. As their lives unfold and the years pass, these women increasingly rely on one another, through advice and raucous repartee, to get through the challenges that life flings at them. (Rated PG)



The Fredericksburg Theater Company opened up their 27th season with the production of "Annie Get Your Gun". In this scene, Dolly Tate (played by Rachael Remlinger), left, confronts Annie Oakley (played by Meg Traverso), after Oakley decides to enter a shooting match against Frank Butler with Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show.

Special Events

The 27th season features five special events with a variety of performances.

The Fourth Annual **Texas Hill Country Cowboy Gathering** is returning and planned for Nov. 3-4.

“**The American Soldier**” is a one-man show paying tribute to the bravery and sacrifices of military veterans. The show is Nov. 10, 11 and 12.

FTA will present “**Elf Jr.**” at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 18-19 at 2 p.m.

“**God’s Megaphone: A Visit with C.S. Lewis**” will show at 7:30 p.m. March 8-9 and at 2 p.m. March 10.

Lastly “**James and the Giant Peach**” will show on May 4 at 7:30 p.m. and at 2 p.m. on May 5.

About FTC

The mission of the Fredericksburg Theater Company (FTC) is “to provide superior theatrical programs for regional participation which entertain, educate, enrich and inspire.”

Formed in 1997 by Jeryl Hoover, the theater has grown to an audience of over 13,000 annually.

All performances are held at the Steve W. Shepherd Theater.

FTC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. It has received statewide recognition from Texas Commission on the Arts, Texas Nonprofit Theatres, as well as grants from various arts endowment organizations.

FTC has been recognized as recognition as the Theater of the Decade (2010-2020) in the San Antonio region by BroadwayWorld.com Awards.

Most of FTC’s funding is from private donations, but the theater also receives grants and corporate donations.

A Season Flex Pass is \$145 and includes six tickets that can be used as chosen throughout the theater season. They cannot be used for special events and they expire at the end of the season.

Donation levels begin at \$250 with the Performer level and also include Director (\$1,000), Composer (\$1,750), Playwright (\$2,500), Producer (\$5,000), Executive Producer (\$7,500) and Tony Award (\$10,000).

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Relive the Texas Frontier Days at Fort Martin Scott

Take a trip to Fort Martin Scott to see where the lives of Apache and Comanche tribes, Anglo settlers, U.S. Army soldiers and frontiersmen known as the Texas Rangers came together centuries ago.

Fort Martin Scott, on the old Pinta Trail, is operated by the Texas Rangers Heritage Center, located adjacent to the fort site.

In 1823, a group of frontiersmen formed to protect settlers on the Texas frontier and became known as the Texas Rangers. German settlers established Fredericksburg in 1846, and subsequently formed a cooperative society with the Comanches and the Rangers. The settlers and tribes signed a peace treaty in 1847, allowing for trade of food and supplies.

In 1848, U.S. Army units arrived and established Camp Houston on the Barons Creek site, the first of many frontier forts to protect pioneers moving west. The camp was renamed Fort Martin Scott in December 1849 after Lt. Col. Martin Scott, who died in the Mexican-American War.

In 1850, Indian Agent John Rollins, Army, and Rangers representatives and interpreters met with a group of chiefs on the banks of the San Saba River and forged the Fort Martin Scott Treaty of 1850. Today, the Treaty Stone recognizing the pact is displayed in the fort visitor center.

The Army moved west as the frontier expanded westward. Fort Martin Scott was abandoned in

1866, but its story was not over.

In 1870, John Braeutigam and his family bought acreage that included the fort, and they lived in the guardhouse for 90 years. He ran Braeutigam Gardens, which included a saloon, store, race track and the area's first dance hall, and which hosted the first four Gillespie County fairs, until his death in 1884.

The City of Fredericksburg bought the land in 1949, and the Fredericksburg Heritage Federation started restoration of the fort that continues today.

Today, the fort includes a visitor center/baracks, restored officer's quarters, the guardhouse (the only original building), a blacksmith shop and stone foundations of many of the buildings.

The fort comes alive with re-enactments, storytelling, education days for schools and special events.

Fort Martin Scott is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Self-guided tours can be taken other days of the week from dusk until dawn.

Fort Martin Scott is located on U.S. Highway 290 East, across from the Gillespie County Law Enforcement Center.

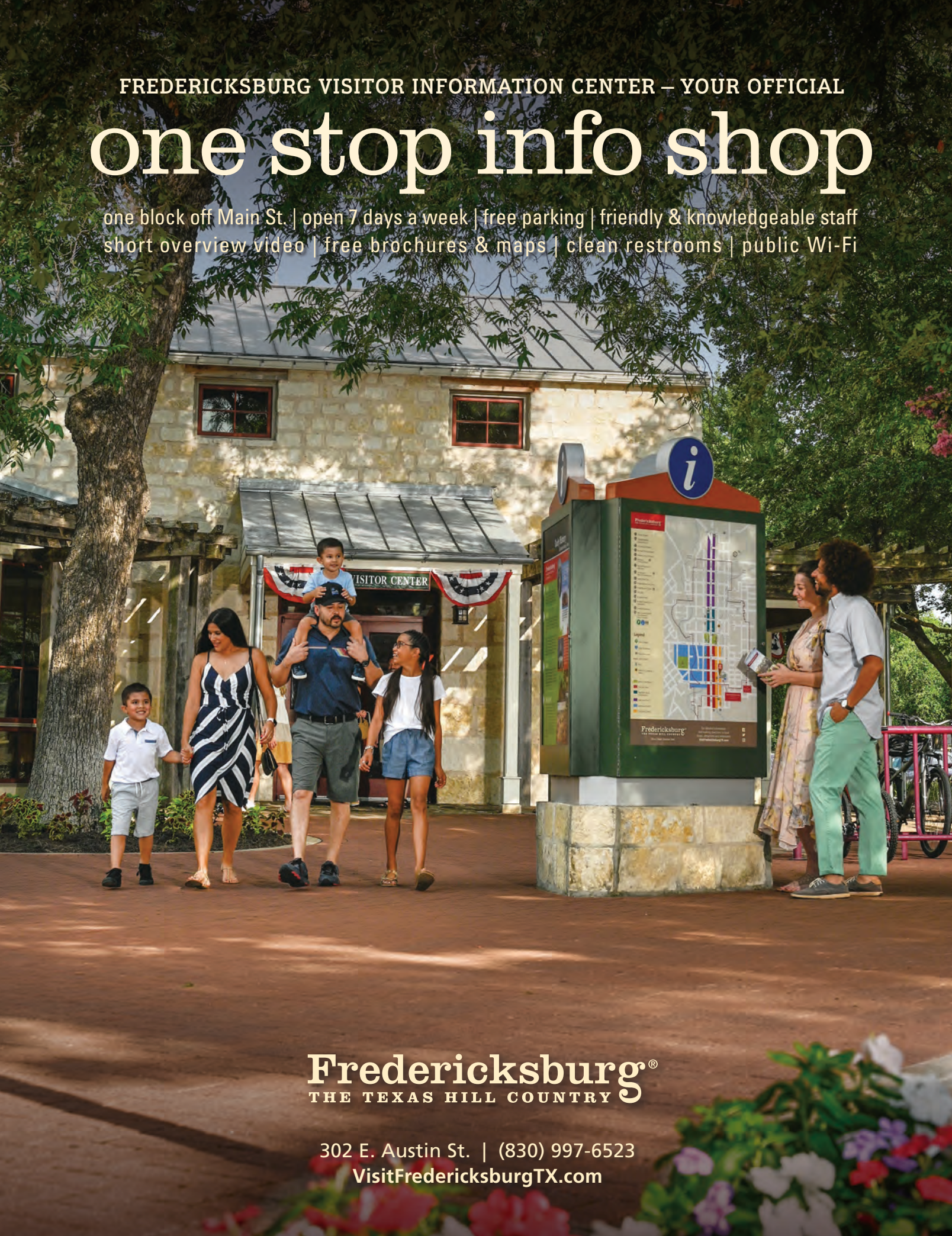
For more information on the fort's historic site, call the center at 830-990-2018 or via email at aschmidt@fbgtx.org.



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Texas Rangers Campus Celebrates Law Enforcement

Fredericksburg is home to the Texas Rangers Heritage Center, the 12-acre campus of the Former Texas Rangers Association, which marked its 200th anniversary earlier this year in March.

The 26,000-square-foot center houses a 350-seat open-air pavilion featuring an amphitheater with a fire pit. It offers a full catering kitchen and a Lone Star Stories Campfire Ring that support a wide range of event opportunities.

The site also includes a campanile (bell tower) and a Ring of Honor, which is a 30-foot simulation of a Ranger badge memorializing Rangers who lost their lives in the line of duty.

The center is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Sunday and Monday.

Contact the Texas Rangers Heritage Center office at 830-990-1192.

Fundraising efforts are underway for Phase II of the center, which will feature a museum.

Museum planners want to incorporate galleries

and immersive experiences, which will include interactive exhibits and a theater that will include stories of Rangers battling bootlegging, counterfeiting, murders, and the man who stopped the University of Texas Tower shooter in 1966.

The Former Texas Rangers Association welcomes new memberships, while the donation arm of the organization the Former Texas Rangers Foundation welcomes contributions to their efforts.

Fundraising

2023 Silver Stars Gala and Six Guns Gala, Nov. 4, 2023 at Inn of the Hills Hotel and Conference Center, Kerrville

FTR Foundation Memberships range from \$500 to \$5,000 (a person does not have to be a former Texas Ranger to join). For more information visit trhc.org/join/

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Rock Star

Dome Brings People in, Scenery Keeps them Coming Back

It's more than just a rock. The Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, known for the expansive views from atop its 1,825-foot high pink granite dome, offers hikers, campers and outdoor enthusiasts expansive views above and below sea level.

The scenery, rock formations, hiking trails and night skies keep the hundreds of thousands of hikers, campers and outdoor enthusiasts coming back each year.

The park is located at 16710 Ranch Road 965, 18 miles north of Fredericksburg. Information is available at 830-685-3636 or by visiting tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/enchanted-rock.

Things to do at the park are: Hiking, backpacking, camping, rock climbing, picnicking, birding, nature studying, geocaching and stargazing. There is no swimming or bike riding on the trails allowed.

Hiking/Backpacking

There are close to 11 miles of hiking trails across the 640-acre park for backpacking. Trails close 30 minutes after sunset, except the Loop Trail. The Summit Trail may close in wet weather. View the Interactive Trails Map here: tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/enchanted-rock/trails-info

Camping

There are primitive, group and walk-in campsites available to park guests for a fee. To check the fee schedule visit: tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/enchanted-rock/fees-facilities/campsites

Rock Climbing

Rock climbers must check in at park headquarters to pick up route maps and climbing rules. For more information about climbing restrictions visit: tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/enchanted-rock/more-info/rock-climb



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Birding/Nature Studying

Birders can request a checklist at park headquarters to find the various and abundant fowl in the area. Nature lovers will see rock and fox squirrels, armadillos, rabbits, white-tailed deer and lizards. There are also a variety of flora as well geological formations to see. Visit the nature page for more in-formation: tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/enchanted-rock/nature

Geocaching

Hunting for hidden treasure is a good way to explore the park. Adventurers should bring their smartphone with coordinates, pen or pencil, water, hat, hiking shoes and rain gear, if needed, sunscreen and insect repellent, park or trail map, inexpensive small items to trade for cache “swag” and sense of adventure. For more information about the treasure hunt visit: tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/parks/things-to-do/geocaching/

Star Gazing

People can marvel at the vastness of the universe under the skies of the Enchanted Rock SNA, which has been designed an International Dark Sky Park. Visit all the skies have to offer here: tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/enchanted-rock/more-info/dark-skies

Enchanted Rock rises 425 feet above the base elevation of the park. Its high point is 1,825 feet above sea level, and the entire dome covers 640 acres. Climbing the Rock is like climbing the stairs of a 30- or 40-story building.

In addition to the variety of trails to choose from, people can choose the difficulty level of walk.





Hiking trails open visitors' senses to the natural wonder of the Enchanted Rock State Natural Area.

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Hike to the Highest Heights

Visitors to Fredericksburg looking for a unique hiking trail can head to Cross Mountain Park on the north side of town.

The park is home to Cross Mountain, which is located on a marl and limestone hill with an elevation of 1,951 feet.

Cross Mountain has been a fixture since 1847 when settlers discovered a timber cross at the top of the hill.

Early Fredericksburg pioneers gave it the name “Kreuzberg” or Cross Mountain.

In 1946, a permanent lighted cross was erected.

The history of Cross Mountain reaches far back.

When the early settlers arrived here in 1846, they found the remnants of a wooden cross that had been erected there most probably by the Spanish missionaries who had by then established missions in San Antonio, San Saba and other areas of Texas.

For the Indians, too, it was a landmark as it lay on the Pinta Trail, one of the oldest Indian trails in the state. From the Pinta Trail crossing on the Pedernales River, the trail divided, with this branch following the Upper Crabapple Road in the direction of Bear Mountain and then on to Enchanted Rock and beyond.

Cross Mountain gained its name when an early-day German settler, John Christian Durst, found the old cross of heavy timbers at its summit that was presumably erected by the Spanish missionaries. He named it “Kreuzberg” (Cross Mountain), a name that has never changed.



In the summer of 1848, Father George Menzel, a Bohemian priest, erected a more substantial cross as a symbol of redemption and civilization.

During the Diamond Jubilee of St. Mary’s Catholic Church in 1921, a more permanent cross was placed on top of the hill. It was constructed of concrete, reinforced steel and sheet metal.

When rural electrification came to the area in 1946, the cross was illuminated. It burns bright each evening from dark to dawn.

The park was purchased by Dr. J. Hardin Perry in the 1900s to keep it from being developed. It then ended up in the ownership of the Gillespie County Historical Society.

In 1999, the City of Fredericksburg obtained ownership of the historic landmark.

The park is now maintained by the City of Fredericksburg Parks and Recreation Department.

An official Texas Historical Commission marker was dedicated in observance of Founders Day on May 7, 1977, and the Nature Trail was dedicated during the 1978 Founders Day activities at the site.

The park recently added a new trail and three picnic areas, and offers several trails, an overlook and restrooms.

The park is open from dawn to dusk and there is no fee to enter.

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Benefiting the development of the FlavoryTX culinary educational facility at the Hill Country University Center in Fredericksburg. FlavoryTX supports Texas Tech viticulture and enology educational programming, partners with the Fredericksburg High School Culinary and Hospitality programs and will provide experiential learning for all. FHS culinary students will gain hands-on experience assisting at this event.


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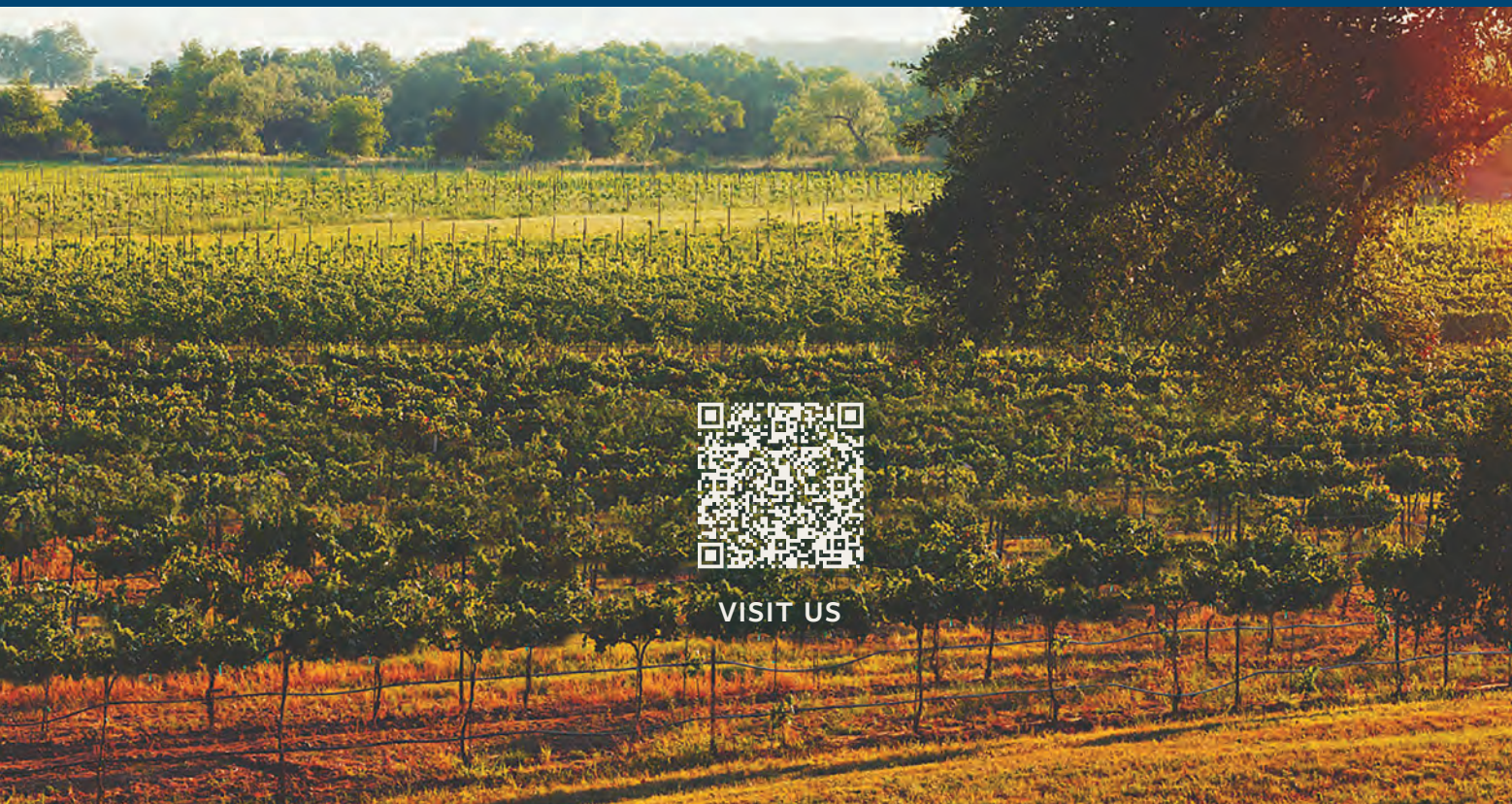
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LBJ State Park

A Must-See Destination

The Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site at Stonewall is an outdoor walk through history.

It's where historians, naturalists, recreationists, wildlife viewers, political enthusiasts, wild-flower lovers, walkers, anglers and others can find something of interest.

The park features historical exhibits, memorabilia and a living history farm with recreational sports, nature trails and bicycling opportunities and shopping.

Reservations are suggested for day visits and camping by going to texasstateparks.reserveamerica.com. For updated information, visit tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/lyndon-b-johnson.

Honoring a President

The LBJ State Park and Historic Site honors Gillespie County native Lyndon B. Johnson, the 36th President of the United States.

A Visitor Center complex houses exhibits and memorabilia focusing on the late president's two terms of office.

Park Facilities

The Visitor Center is the first stop for any tour to the LBJ Ranch, which is a part of the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park.

Attached to the Visitor Center is the Behrens Cabin, a two-room dogtrot cabin built during the 1840s by German immigrant Johannes Behrens.

There's also an outdoor amphitheater used for a variety of programs.

Numerous shaded picnic and rest areas (some with restroom facilities) are available at the state park. From early June through the summer, a large pool facility — complete with a children's wading pool and a covered pavilion — is manned by certified lifeguards. Nearby are two lighted tennis courts.



The park's dining hall and group picnic area are available by reservation, and are located on the banks of the Pedernales River, as well as a separate baseball diamond facility.

Fishing is allowed without a license from the banks of state park lands. However, those who go into the waterways on a boat, for example, must have a fishing license.

Nature Trails

Elsewhere in the park, a winding nature trail leads walkers to a larger-than-life bronze statue of the former president overlooking the Pedernales River.

The trail also winds near a wildlife enclosure housing American bison and other areas with members of the Official State of Texas Longhorn Herd.

Another trail approximately a mile long is handicapped accessible and suitable for wheel-chairs and strollers. It departs the Visitor Center and travels through fields of wildflowers and past the Texas Longhorns' pen to the Danz cabins.

Every trail in the park is marked with directional signs and strategically placed markers giving brief highlights of the path. Leashed pets are welcomed but are not allowed inside buildings.

More Information

More information on specially planned park events, as well as rental of the park facilities, is available by contacting the park headquarters at 830-644-2252 or visiting the park's website.

Current park information is also posted on Facebook at LBJSTATEPark and on the park's Instagram, @lbjstatepark.



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Enjoy Camping and Quiet Joys at Lady Bird Johnson



Lady Bird Johnson once said she had a passion for showing “her country,” to those not from Texas. “Her country,” being Hill Country.

Just three miles from downtown attractions, is the 150-acre Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park, the crown jewel of the City of Fredericksburg’s parks system. It’s a getaway for locals and visitors, alike.

“My special cause, the one that alerts my interest and quickens the pace of my life,” Johnson once said, “is to preserve the wildflowers and native plants that define the regions of our land — to encourage and promote their use in appropriate areas and thus help pass on to generations in waiting the quiet joys and satisfactions I have known since my childhood.”

There is no admission charge to the park located southwest of town on Texas 16 South.

Day Use Activities

Daytime visitors to Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park can use picnic tables (available on a first-come first-served basis), four playgrounds, tennis and pickle ball courts at no charge to accommodate those looking for outdoor activities in the scenic Hill Country.

Three nature trails, established by the Friends of the Fredericksburg Nature Center, lead hikers across Live Oak Creek.

The park offers a 17-acre lake and plenty of spots to wet a line. Motor boats, however, are prohibited, as are trotlines.

Elsewhere in the park, there are baseball and softball fields, a sand volleyball court, an outdoor basketball court and a seasonal swimming pool (with a kiddie pool to the side).

Rental facilities

Visitors who plan large gatherings may want to look into using one of the park’s five large outdoor covered pavilions or one of three indoor



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sites, including the Tatsch House, the Cardinal Room at the golf course clubhouse or the spacious Pioneer Pavilion.

Each of the five outdoor pavilions is available on a first-come first-served basis or by reservation.

Information about the facilities and reservation opportunities is available from the City of Fredericksburg's website, fbgtx.org.

Camping

Camping under the stars is available at the park, which accommodates RVs and tents.

In all, there are 90 RV spaces available for travel trailers with 30-50 amp electrical hookups, water and sewer, cable, Internet and shade trees.

Check rates for short- and long-term RV and tent camping at fbgtx.org. All campers must check in at the park office to receive a camping permit before 10 p.m. on weekends and 5 p.m. on weekdays.

There are nine comfort stations and three bathrooms available.

Tent camping is first come first served and reservations to use the park's picnic tables or facilities can be made by calling 830-997-4202.

Amenities:

- Five outdoor pavilions;
- Baseball field;
- Golf course;
- Softball field;
- Practice field;
- Volleyball court;
- Basketball court;
- Tennis courts;
- Swimming pool (open summer months only);
- Fishing at Live Oak Creek;

- Restrooms adjacent to Lady Bird Johnson RV Park.

Dog Park

The City of Fredericksburg and the Fredericksburg Dog Park Association [FDPA - a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization] have joined together to create a city dog park within Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park.

The five-acre dog park adjacent to Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park can accommodate both large and small dogs.

This is a great opportunity for visitors to let their furry friend run off extra energy. The park asks everyone to use common courtesy and clean up after their pets.

For more information about these parks, call park headquarters at 830-997-4202 or City Hall at 830-997-7521.



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Flora and Fauna on View at the Nature Center

The Fredericksburg Nature Center is located at Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park and is an attraction that features wildlife and their habitat homes along with several nature trails for enthusiasts to enjoy.

The initial stage of nature trails was built between 2000 and 2002 after Bill Lindemann and friends formed the Friends of the Fredericksburg Nature Center non-profit organization.

The Live Oak Wilderness Trail began construction in 2000 and was the first trail to be completed.

The trail was approximately 3,000 feet long and included several ecosystems, including forest, prairie, riparian, wetlands and post oak savannah.

A major diversity of wildlife exists within the relatively small area of the trail system, including 240 wildflowers, 180 birds, 70 butterflies, 50 odonates (dragonfly family), and various mammals, reptiles, fish, trees and grasses.

The Vista Loop trail was completed in 2002 and added 200 feet to the trail system at the Fredericksburg Nature Center.

Five years later, in 2007, 650 feet of the Vista Loop Trail was converted to a handicapped accessibility trail located next to an adjacent parking lot.

This portion of the center offers beautiful vistas, access to the butterfly habitat, bird feeding area, a wildflower pocket prairie, and a rock and geology exhibition site.

Park visitors can also check out the Pollinator Garden which is considered to be the most beautiful area of the park and a “must see” destination.

For more information, feel free to email the Fredericksburg Nature Center at info@fredericksburgnaturecenter.com or log on to Fredericksburg Nature Center website at fredericksburgnaturecenter.com/nature-trails-2/.



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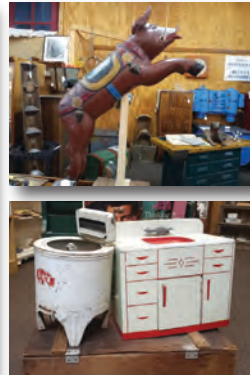
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Wildseed Farms originated in Eagle Lake, Texas in 1982.

Wildseed Farms was founded by John and Marilyn Thomas after they spent seven years in Eagle Lake working on a family rice and cattle farm.

John Thomas' knowledge of farming led him to plant wildflowers initially on his property in Eagle Lake as a fun project.

In 1982, curious passersby noticed his beautiful wildflowers growing on his property. His farm attracted people from near and far, clogging the small roadways in Eagle Lake.

In 1993, Wildseed Farms was created in Fredericksburg on 217 acres with the intention to make beautiful wildflowers more accessible at a cheaper rate for businesses and the residents of Fredericksburg.

Visitors to the farm and market center will see fields of wildflowers blooming from March through October. The farm also offers a boutique, a Lantana Nursery and a Biergarten, with a little bit of everything for the whole family.

Visitors to the farm can explore the walking trails and take photos while sipping on a glass of cold wine or any other refreshment.

The farm also began growing grapes in 2015 to help with the growing Texas Hill Country grape business. The farm now boasts a tasting room, featuring a variety of Hill Country wines.

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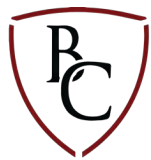


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Bats in Flight

Old Tunnel State Park is home to one of the Hill Country's best nature shows

Visitors to Old Tunnel State Park, located 11 miles south of Fredericksburg on the Old San Antonio Road, can get one of nature's best shows around between May and October.

Those who arrive early enough can get a seat close to the action where hundreds of thousands of bats leave an old railroad tunnel to spread out over the region and feast on insects and moths. Only 70 seats are available for the presentation and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Cost for that program, as well as admission to the lower trail and lower viewing seats, is \$5 per person. Park guides conduct an educational program in the lower observation area closer to the tunnel about 30 minutes to an hour prior to the estimated bat emergence times on Thursday through Sunday evenings.

Others may watch the nightly emergence from observation decks located just above the opening of the tunnel. In addition, the upper viewing deck contains glass-plated biological displays aimed at educating the public on the life cycle of the bats and their importance to the ecological system.

Beginning in late March or early April, up to three million-plus bats make their home inside the 920-foot landmark railroad tunnel at the 16.1-acre Old Tunnel State Park.

Mexican Free-tailed Bats, as well as an estimated 3,000 cave myotis bats, funnel out of a now-defunct railroad tunnel between May and October. The largest bat populations and corresponding longer emergence times (up to 45 minutes) fall later in the summer.

Originally built in 1913, the tunnel was used by the Fredericksburg and Northern Railroad until its abandonment in 1941.

Attendees also can enjoy hiking, bird-watching and general wildlife viewing on the half-mile nature trail. The trail opens daily at sunrise and closes at 5 p.m. The trail is primitive and can be steep.

To minimize disturbance to the bat colony and for safety, visitors are asked to stay on the designated trail and not approach the tunnel.

Visitors are also advised to bring drinking water, as no water is available in the park. Picnic tables are available. Restrooms are only open in the evenings during bat season (May to October).

Due to the sensitive nature of the park, no camping, pets or smoking is allowed. Picnic tables are available at the park, along with a half-mile birdwatching trail.

OLD TUNNEL STATE PARK
10619 Old San Antonio Road
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

The park is open daily from sunrise to sunset.

Phone 866-978-2287 for a recording that details expected show times for bats to take flight.

Or email the staff for information at Old.Tunnel@tpwd.texas.gov.



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The Fredericksburg Farmer's Market runs its fall and winter season at Pioneer Museum, located at 325 W. Main St. in Fredericksburg.

The Fredericksburg Farmer's Market continues its seven-month-long schedule of bringing locally grown and produced foods to downtown Fredericksburg, celebrating its 16th year in operation.

Every Thursday, rain or shine, shoppers can meet farmers, ranchers and wineries located within the geographic neighborhood of Gillespie and adjacent counties, offering a wide variety of tomatoes, vegetables, peaches, blackberries and other fruits, meats, goat cheese, eggs, Gulf seafood, baked goods, wine, flowers, vinegar and herbs.

Shoppers are invited to come for the food and stay for the family-friendly party atmosphere where they can purchase meals and snacks while listening to live music.

The market will run on the following Thursdays from 4-7 p.m.:

Sept. 28 - Live music by Stephen K. Morris.

Oct. 5 - Live music by Bryan Maldonado.

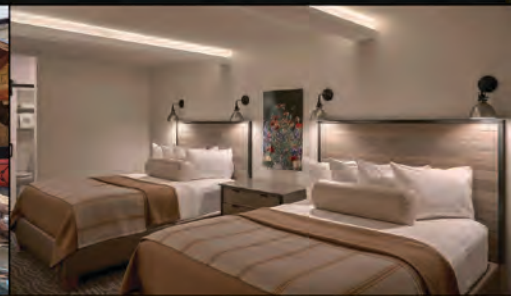
Oct. 12 - Live music by Jake Martin.

Oct. 19 - Live music by Woody Eastman.

Oct. 26 - Live music by Mindy Brown.



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County Youth in 4-H and FFA Compete Statewide

For Gillespie County 4-Hers and Fredericksburg and Harper FFA members, a trip into the spotlight with their livestock or ag mechanics projects is serious business.

For the hundreds of Gillespie County youth who compete, the livestock shows are the culmination of months of long hours of caring for, feeding and grooming their animals.

And these livestock exhibitors often see their hard work pay off in the form of championship honors, prize ribbons, trophies, rewarding bids paid at the auctions and scholarships.

For months prior to the stock show season, Gillespie County 4-Hers and Fredericksburg and Harper FFA members are busy working with their animals.

They are assisted by advisors, teachers and adult volunteers as they ready for local shows and competitions around the state.

While several livestock shows are held in the fall, competitions don't begin until January for most youngsters.

Officially kicking off the 2024 stock show season for all of the county's youth is the Gillespie County Youth Livestock Show. This coming year's show will be Jan. 3-6, 2024, at the Show Barn at the Gillespie County Fair Grounds.

Hundreds of entries are annually displayed at the county show, including market steers, hogs, meat goats and lambs, along with breeding beef cattle, breeding sheep, goats, broilers and turkeys.

At the auction that concludes the county show, local merchants, business people and individuals from the surrounding area turn out to support young exhibitors with their bids.

In August, local youths join exhibitors from around the state in competing for top honors in livestock competitions held as part of the Gillespie County Fair.

Exhibitors and parents with questions concerning the livestock competitions are encouraged to visit each show's website.

For more information on the stock show schedule, the Gillespie County 4-H website can be accessed at gillespie.agrilife.org.



Contestants show their animals in the arena for the judges during the annual Gillespie County Youth Livestock Show at the Gillespie County Fair Grounds

STOCK SHOWS

Gillespie County 4-Hers, Fredericksburg and Harper FFA members will be competing in livestock shows around the state, including the following:

State Fair of Texas in Dallas

Sept. 28-Oct. 22.

Heart O'Texas Fair and Rodeo in Waco

Sept. 27-Oct. 15

Gillespie County Youth Livestock Show

Jan. 3-6, 2024.

Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo

Jan. 12-Feb. 13, 2024.

San Angelo Stock Show

Feb. 1-18, 2024.

San Antonio Livestock Exposition

Feb. 6-24, 2024.

Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo

Feb. 26-March 15, 2024.

Rodeo Austin

March 7-23, 2024.



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Drop in at the Fredericksburg Skate Park

Skaters and bikers have a safe place to ply their trade in Fredericksburg. Until 2015, riders of all ages were practicing tricks in the gym and drain ditches at Hill Country Evangelical Free Church, where associate pastor and youth minister Kelly Graham opened doors to a crowd with nowhere to go.

In 2015, the Fredericksburg Morning Rotary Club built the park for \$325,000, decked out with bowls and rails.

Portland, Oregon-based Evergreen Skate Parks, run by longtime boarders Bill and Catherine Coulson, designed the 24,000-square-foot park.

The City of Fredericksburg maintains the park, which can be entered at Old Fair Park near H-E-B.



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Landing Residents, Visitors, and Business

Gillespie County Airport serves as a gateway to the Texas Hill Country for jet setters, aviation hobbyists and visitors alike.

Corporate jets, single engine aircraft and pilots of a variety of other types of aircraft are all accommodated at the facility, located at 191 Airport Road, just south of downtown Fredericksburg on Texas Highway 16. (The facility sits between the Gillespie County Fair Grounds and Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park.)

Classed as a general aviation airport, it features a 5,000-foot runway and full-length parallel taxiway and has runway lights and a beacon that operate from sunset to sunrise, giving the airport a 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, operational capability. During daylight hours of limited visibility, the lights can be turned on by the approaching pilot.

Instrument approaches are available to both ends of the runway, and precision approach path indicators provide pilots with visual assistance during night landing operations.

A fully-automated weather system (AWOS) informs pilots about local conditions.

Operated under Gillespie County government, the facility has seen constant upgrades and expansions as it services more and more pilots.

The airport's terminal building provides a comfortable environment for pilots, crews and passengers waiting on aircraft.

An additional convenience is available with the credit card-operated refueling system that provides aviation gasoline (100LL) and jet fuel 24 hours a day.

Airport manager Tony Lombardi can provide information on all airport operations. The airport has 89 tie-down positions for public use. Long-term T-hangar spaces are available through three different entities.

The adjacent Hangar Hotel and Conference Center boasts 50 upscale guest rooms, an officer's club, meeting facilities for large groups and a classic 1940s-style diner, unique facilities for a non-metropolitan airport.

Businesses at the airport include the Pippen-York Flying Machine Company, which

provides avionics installation and repair, and Tac-Aero, which provides major and minor airframe and engine repair, aircraft rental, rides and flight school. The Crosswind Aviation school also offers rides on Saturdays and weekdays by appointment.

The Gillespie County Airport also features the Fredericksburg FBO, a full-service fixed-based operator that provides fuel service, information and service to pilots and crews. It houses more than 20,000 square feet of storage and is currently constructing additional hangars.

Ground transportation options include rental cars from The Motor Pool at Fredericksburg FBO.



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Promises

2023 Wedding Guide

A Special Section from Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post

Planning Weddings and Filling them with Flowers

Local Wedding Planner Launches Floral Shop
By Brent Burgess



In the past decade of Fredericksburg's growth, several industries have grown by leaps and bounds as tourism and population continue to boom.

One of those is the wedding industry. With Gillespie County filled with destination wedding venues, wedding parties are traveling to Fredericksburg every weekend to celebrate marriage in one of Texas' most visited areas.

TBW Creative Studios, formerly known as Taylor Bible Weddings, has been providing wedding planning and floral services in recent years, and has grown with the same fury as the industry around it.





Owner, Taylor Hill, whose maiden name is Bible, founded the wedding business almost by accident.

Hill is a Hill Country native who grew up in Johnson City where her parents own a restaurant. She left for college with no plans to be a wedding professional.

“I went to Blinn College for two years, and I was trying to figure out what I wanted to do,” said Hill. “I was going to school for business (but) could never find what I wanted to do.

“I found this wedding planning course randomly in Dallas.”

Hill then took an internship with a wedding planner in Waco and worked there for six months.

“Right after that, I started my own business,” said Hill.

Coming Home

Hill launched her business in Waco prior to making her way to Fredericksburg.

“It was a really booming little business,” said Hill. “Waco was starting to grow there with Magnolia (Market).

“But I quickly realized to make the most money or find the clients that best fit, (the business) just wasn’t in Waco. The budgets weren’t there for me to sustain a business full time.”

Hill began to feel the attraction to the Hill Country where she was raised.

“I missed my family,” said Hill. “I missed the Hill Country. I came home and started my business here.”

That move paid off for Hill, who moved back at a time when Fredericksburg and its surroundings were seeing massive growth of wedding venues.

“Fredericksburg was starting to really get going with venues,” said Hill. “New venues were popping up all over the place.”

Joining the Network

Traveling around and meeting the venue owners

was the major marketing strategy for Hill, who claimed that her business had significant growth right from the beginning.

“It was all about network,” said Hill. “It was literally just making connections with all the awesome venue owners around here. I don’t think my business would have worked without making those connections.”

Within weeks, Hill had weddings booked on her calendar months ahead, filling up her yearly calendar. As the dates continued to fill, Hill began to realize she might need some help if TBW Creative Studios was going to continue to grow.

During a summer, Hill took in a young woman to live with her in her home who wound up taking work as an intern for Hill throughout the summer. Once Hill had the ability to split responsibilities, she recognized the best way forward.

I quickly realized I needed to add another coordinator (and) this is the way to go to keep growing business,” said Hill. “The easiest way is to take multiple (weddings) and have multiple coordinators.”

Hill has continued to grow her coordinator staff and is now capable of working three weddings each weekend.

Adding Florals

While interning with her mentor in Waco, Hill learned how to do florals, a service that business provided.

Despite initially disliking floral work, Hill learned the skill and eventually decided to provide the service to some of her smaller Fredericksburg weddings just to make the planning process simple, since there were few florists in the area. It didn’t take long for the wedding floral business to grow as fast as her wedding planning service had done.

“They found it as a one stop shop situation where we could design the wedding and then also come in



(with) the florals,” said Hill.

Hill’s floral business has motivated her most dramatic growth, igniting her need for a delivery van and eventually a store front shop.

Many residents of Fredericksburg have seen TBW Creative Studios’ van around town, vibrantly decorated with bright flowers on almost every inch of the van’s surface.

“I realized my SUV just wasn’t going to cut it anymore,” said Hill. “So, I was like, alright, I’m going to buy a van and put flowers all over it and make people see it, so I (can) use it for marketing.”

As demand for a florist continued to thrive, Hill decided to open a shop that would provide a much-needed service to the area.

Hill moved TBW Creative Studio into a newly constructed building located at 1328 Texas 16 South, where her brightly colored van can usually be seen parked out front.

Inside the shop, Hill has the space to keep her flower inventory, prepare her wedding florals and have some office space for her planning services. But Hill is primarily hoping to expand her business as a floral service for locals with smaller daily needs.

“People have been loving it,” said Hill. “We’ve been getting lots of local reoccurring flowers each week. We go to Caliche (Coffee) and we go to Hill Country Chocolates. So, we’re getting a lot of those great little local (businesses).”

Hill emphasized her desire to grow her everyday floral services for more events such as anniversaries and funerals. For that purpose, she loves her store and its location.

“This location is great,” said Hill. “It’s not on Main Street, which we were never trying to market for the tourists. We just wanted the local business, so this location is great for that.”

Already a successful wedding planner serving 50-60 weddings per year, Hill said that 98% of her wedding clients also use her floral services for their weddings.

Hill credits her growth to the fact that the Fredericksburg area has a significant wedding need, and not very many businesses to fill it, claiming that many wedding services are ordered out of the surrounding cities of Austin and San Antonio.

The few wedding services that exist in the area have a good relationship with each other, said Hill, helping her to feel connected to the community.

“I had no anticipation of it getting as much traction as it did so quick,” said Hill.

“I love doing business here because it’s just a small tight-knit community.”

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Camp

The wedding and reception space at Camp Hideaway is situated to provide an exceptional view of the sunset as well as an indoor/outdoor feel to give the guests a true Texas Hill Country experience.
- Allison Jeffers

by Brent Burgess
Standard-Radio Post reporter

The Texas Hill Country has its share of beautiful properties, places that offer views of sunsets and vast rolling fields. Camp Hideaway is a wedding and event venue in Gillespie County that gives its guests a truly Texas view.

Owner, Judson Sutherland, and his wife, Wendy, looked at other properties in the area along the rural roads near Luckenbach Texas, while determining a place to start a wedding venue.

But when they drove up the driveway of what is now Camp Hideaway, they both got chills.

“We came onto the property and were literally driving up the drive and looking at each other like, oh my goodness, this is incredible,” said Sutherland.

Sutherland and his wife were motivated to purchase the property during the COVID-19 shutdowns.

Sutherland said, “We realized this is actually a really awesome idea, because people now more than ever appreciate the value of getting away and being out in God’s creation.”

With a property set to view the best of the Texas sunsets, Sutherland set out to hire a staff that matched his vision for loving and serving people.

“Everyone sitting here is an A-player, everyone sincerely cares about helping people,” said Sutherland. “Everyone cares about working hard and cares about

Hideaway

A Space to Remember



helping each other.”

Ollie Bushula, operations manager for the venue, worked at resorts all over the world before meeting Sutherland in Drippings Springs where the two instantly became friends. Facilities manager, Jeremy Jensen, spent much of his life in Colorado as an electrician and material mover. Kelsey Fisher, sales manager, developed a passion for weddings shortly after graduating from Texas State University in San Marcos.

When Sutherland purchased the property from the previous owners, the location and amenities were already noteworthy. The hilltop location featured two homes, Ranch House and Sunrise House, capable of

sleeping 10 guests on the grounds between the two.

Many Gillespie County wedding venues do not provide any accommodation, so the two houses set Camp Hideaway apart. But soon, the venue plans to expand their overnight operation.

“We’re going to start adding some luxury glamping tents, as well,” said Bushula. “We will have that feel of a safari, but also elevated.”

Luxury tents and yurts have gained popularity as B&Bs across the state, but there are few in Gillespie County. With the views at Camp Hideaway, luxury tents give the guests easy access to sunsets and night skies.

As a wedding venue, the increase in beds provides



Kelsey Fisher, Jeremy Jensen, Ollie Bushula and owner, Judson Sutherland all work to offer love and hospitality to the guests at Camp Hideaway, each bringing their own unique experience to the staff. – Standard-Radio Post/Brent Burgess

possibilities for the wedding arrangements of their guests.

“Once we complete these, it will be possible for the entire wedding party to stay at Camp Hideaway,” said Sutherland.

The plan is to build 12 luxury tents that will be heated and cooled, 400 square feet of space per tent, and will feature a private deck and full kitchen.

“We’re (also) building a resort pool at the bottom half of the property,” said Sutherland.

With the additions in accommodation and amenities, the staff at Camp Hideaway is hoping to diversify the use of the space to include not only weddings, but also family reunions, corporate events and spiritual retreats.

Much of the appeal for a Texas Hill Country wedding venue is the scenery and surrounding landscape. Sutherland pointed out that Camp Hideaway is a short drive from area attractions such as Luckenbach, wineries, and downtown Fredericksburg.

“The lodging on property is a huge selling point,” said Fisher about the property’s appeal. “A view is a requirement and an outdoor ceremony option. Also, an indoor/outdoor feel.”

With a vision for putting their guests first and creating a memorable experience, the staff at Camp Hideaway is invested in a long-term future.

“We’re not offering a venue to rent,” said Sutherland. “The actual purpose of what everyone on our team is doing is loving people through our hospitality.”



Maggie Gillespie Designs.com

Photography by Vanessa

Guest Column

Your Fredericksburg Wedding

Local events come with unique challenges and opportunities

By Emily Remy
Owner, Hill Country Bride

If you have visited Fredericksburg, or have the privilege of calling it home, you know the magic of this sweet and charming town. A weekend escape from big city traffic, noise, access to views, great restaurants, and boutique shopping are all a breath of fresh air to locals and visitors, alike, but especially to couples.

It is not hard to see why the town's wedding popularity has exploded in the past decade. Even through COVID related shutdowns, most of the local wedding vendors stayed afloat as the remote nature of Fredericksburg served as a safe haven for scaled-back events.

Weddings continue to thrive in Fredericksburg as couples desire to create their wedding memories here. However, area weddings do have unique challenges, as well. As you plan your wedding in this little Texas town, there are some special points to consider.

Don't DIY it

If you were on the fence about hiring a wedding planner or coordinator, don't skip it. Most of the venues in Fredericksburg now require at least a day-of coordinator and it really is for your benefit. An experienced, local, professional planner will help guide you in vendor selections, best practices, and execution on the wedding day. A planner will also know the current tips and tricks for navigating challenges unique to this area.



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While DIY might be tempting, don't neglect the benefits of a good planner.

Beware Food Costs

Recently, there has been a significant increase in food, beverage and service costs. From supply chain issues (have you seen the price of eggs?), to labor shortages, catering companies have seen more price increases than any other wedding-based industry.

Expect to pay 20 percent more for catering, overall, than two years ago. If this isn't a priority for you, consider other options such as restaurant catering.

Hair and Makeup

Plan to pay travel fees for hair and makeup stylists out of nearby cities such as Austin and San Antonio. Despite hopeful improvements soon, there is a current shortage of these services in Fredericksburg.

Keep it Classic

Black tie, white florals, silk and satin fabrics are all back in fashion. Trends are leaning away from recent BOHO styles and moving back to classic and simple. This never goes out of fashion, but just takes a break in popularity. It's back for now.

It will be interesting to see how couples pair this style trend against the rustic Hill Country backdrops.

The Experience

Not surprisingly, after social-distancing with the COVID-19 pandemic, couples are excited to bring their guests together for the mini vacation of a wedding celebration.

Shared experiences are being valued over larger guest counts, posh hotels and extravagance. Unlike other Hill Country towns, Fredericksburg has plenty of boutique lodging and is far enough away from the big city to give a destination feel without international hassle.

The laid-back, small-town vibe of Fredericksburg has enough activity to be stimulating while preserving a quintessential Texas Hill Country experience for a weekend. Fredericksburg is truly a Texas home away from home.

Emily Remy is the founder and planner at Hill Country Bride, a boutique wedding planning service based in Fredericksburg. For more information visit: hillcountrybride.com.



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Marriage Q & A

*By Brent Burgess
Standard-Radio Post Editor*

The Texas Hill Country is a wedding celebration hot spot. The area brings beautiful scenery, colors, characteristics and weather conditions. But it also can have its own unique challenges.

Regan Schmidt and Ada Broussard-Schmidt got married in March 2022. Ada is from Louisiana, but met and married Regan, who is from Doss, in Gillespie County.

With a recent experience of organizing and conducting a wedding in Gillespie County, Ada and Regan were able to answer some questions about their engagement and wedding day.

How did you meet?

“I (Ada) was visiting a friend in Fredericksburg and went out to dinner at Hilltop Café. Regan was there that night and was our waiter, and I thought he was really cute. And then, I thought he was even cuter when later in the evening he went up and played some music.”

What was the wedding venue that you picked?

“The wedding venue was Contigo Ranch out there on Lower Crabapple (Road).”

What was appealing about Contigo?

“We picked that venue for two main reasons. One, they had a lot of lodging on site. All of our family and friends from out of town could stay together and turn the event into a weekend affair. We could maximize our time together celebrating. The second reason we chose it, is that it’s a really beautiful space that highlighted the outdoors, and we didn’t need to do much in terms of decoration because the space was just so beautiful.”

How did the wedding go?

“It went great! It was so magical. It’s really cliché to say, but it really was one of the most fun nights of my life just to have all of our friends and family, and folks



Marriage Q & A

that I've never met, all together.

"We had a huge cold front come in right before our wedding. We had to pivot our plans just a little bit. But the wedding itself was so fun.

"All Regan's friends are great musicians and they all played for the reception. Regan ended up impromptu deciding to jump on stage and play a couple of songs, as well.

"My family is all pretty Cajun, so we had some musicians play some Cajun music, as well, which is really fun for all the Texas folks."

What time of year did you get married?

"We are coming up on our year anniversary. It was March 12. The temperature dropped 20 degrees two days before the wedding. It was fine the day of our wedding, but the day before was freezing cold. We got really lucky."

Were there any snags or difficulties during the wedding?

"We had to change our rehearsal dinner two days before the wedding. We were supposed to have the rehearsal dinner at our house outside in Doss. But with the cold front we had to pivot. Contigo was incredibly helpful, and we had the rehearsal dinner at Contigo, itself."

Would you recommend the venue to others, and why?

"I would totally recommend the venue. If it's within your budget and you have folks from out of town, it really is an incredible venue. The staff is so kind and so professional and very accommodating."

What advice would you give to anyone planning a wedding in the Texas Hill Country?

"For better rates, you can border the peak seasons. We got married in March near to Spring Breaks and stuff was full. Guests had to really book their accommodations ahead of time, and transportation was booked up. We were very cognizant about agriculture, so what the outside looked like for our wedding was very important to me. I was very aware that in early March, everything in the Texas Hill Country had a good chance of still being very dormant, so all the native grasses, the colors would be browns and tans and dark greens."

Any general advice?

"I did a lot of DIY stuff. I would still do some of that. But the details in the end don't matter. As long as you have the big important things in place, and you have cool friends and family that are going to have a good time, then the rest will fall into place."



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A Small Town Love

Paxten and Kyle's Wedding Story

By Brent Burgess
Standard-Radio Post Editor

Before Paxten Keyser married Kyle Reeh, she claims they were born in the same room of the local hospital. Both grew up in Fredericksburg, with Paxten being one year older than Kyle. They began dating as teenagers.

"We dated in high school, and then she went to college and we kind of went our separate ways," said Kyle. "And then we started seeing each other in college again."

Paxten graduated from Texas State University in San Marcos, and then moved back to Fredericksburg when Kyle graduated from Texas A&M University and began working for his family business, Reeh Plumbing.

On June 11, 2022, the couple officially became Kyle and Paxten Reeh with a wedding at La Bonne Vie Ranch, just south of Fredericksburg.

The Proposal

"I had no idea he was going to propose to me, we hadn't even talked about it," said Paxten about the day they got engaged.

Paxten had just taken her job as a teacher in Kerrville. To celebrate, Kyle's mother invited them to join them for a day at the local wineries.

"He said, 'Before we go meet my mom and brother and his girlfriend at the wineries, let's go by the house, I want to show you these shelves I made,'" Paxten said.

Kyle had been in a phase of working on home projects and wood crafts, and so the request didn't seem too unusual. They drove to the house, and then Kyle insisted on Paxten being blind-folded. He said that he had worked hard on the shelves and wanted it to be a surprise. Paxten thought it odd, but never suspected a proposal.

"I walked out, and my two best friends and his two best friends were there, and he was on one knee and proposed," Paxton recalled. "I couldn't even post the video because I was so shocked I was saying a lot of bad words."

But the surprise didn't end with the proposal. The group of friends made plans to gather at Hondo's on Main to celebrate the new engagement, but on the way, Kyle insisted on changing his shoes. Despite some resistance by Paxten, Kyle held his ground to go to his family's home for more comfortable shoes.

"We pull up to his parents' house and it was lined up with all of our friends and family," said Paxten.

Kyle mentioned that it was difficult to keep everyone in on the secret without any hints or mishaps, but that it turned out perfectly.

Wedding Day

When asked about the wedding day, both Kyle and Paxten agree that the style of their wedding was casual.

"I'd say casual and a beer drinking wedding," said Kyle.

The wedding chapel at La Bonne Vie Ranch is luxurious but with rural Texas Hill Country appeal. The venue features a small country chapel, perfect for a wedding ceremony with backroad character.

The venue site also features plenty of accommodations, which allowed the wedding party to stay together the entire weekend.

Both Kyle and Paxten said that their wedding day went smoothly. They valued and recommended the help they had from their wedding planner, Emily Remy of Hill Country Bride.

"Emily made it easy," said Kyle. "She asked the right questions and made us think about what we needed."

Since both couples were local to Fredericksburg, they had over 300 wedding guests, and each had eight members in their wedding parties with two flower girls and two ring bearers.

The large wedding size contributed to, what Paxten described as, the most difficult part of the planning for her. Both had a difficult time narrowing down the final guest list, and some people were left out. Additionally, a lot of people were involved in the vision of the wedding day itself.

"I think the biggest obstacle was making everyone happy, trying to pick what everyone would like," said Paxten.

But all the worries changed on the day of the wedding, as both Kyle and Paxten wanted to have a wedding to enjoy rather than stress over.

"I remember sitting there and all my girls were getting ready," said Paxten. "I was sitting in the middle on this big couch, and just thinking to myself, I'm really going to take all this in because I have no responsibilities right now, and it's going by so fast."

"It really hit me when I was with my girls all morning, and then they leave you. Nobody prepares a bride for that. You're by yourself with just your dad. That was the most nerve-racking part."

Time stood still for both Paxten and Kyle when the doors of the chapel opened and Paxten walked down the aisle.





"I just forgot about everything. I open the doors and I saw everything and then I just saw Kyle, and I forgot the people were there," said Paxten.

That moment was significant for Kyle, as well.

"It was emotional," said Kyle. "Obviously, I cried. And I'm not a crier."

A Day to Remember

Both Paxten and Kyle feel that their wedding day went well without any significant hang-ups. Kyle credited good wedding planning as one of the best decisions they made for their wedding.

While neither have any regrets on their wedding day, they expressed a wish that they had done their ceremony a bit earlier to provide more time to visit with guests and enjoy their reception party.

For other couples who would wish to learn from Paxten and Kyle's experience, Paxten feels passionate that couples should try to enjoy the moment while it's there.

"I would say to not worry on the wedding day," said Paxten. "Just take it all in because it goes by so fast. Don't worry about the details."

But for this small-town Fredericksburg couple, their wedding day became the event they both hoped for.

"Fredericksburg is so beautiful, and the venue was so beautiful," said Paxten. "I wanted it simple. That's what I envisioned."

"My favorite part was walking down the aisle. You dream about this for your whole life. When I opened up (the doors) it was like a dream. And seeing him, and seeing everyone, it was a very good moment."



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BestFest Might be the Best Yet

This October, the Knights of Columbus Council 9765 will be having their 14th annual BestFest celebration.

This year's BestFest will be held on Saturday, Oct. 21, at Marktplatz. Gates will open at 11 a.m. and close at 11 p.m.

"This will be our 13th year of BestFest. We feel like after 10-plus years, we've got a great day festival with the support of many," said Event Chairman John Eilers. "We've been blessed with good weather and great festival goers for the last few years, and we're hoping this year will be no different."

The entry fee includes "all-you-can-eat" sausage, sauerkraut and German potatoes. Tea and other drinks, including beer, water, soft drinks and wine will be available for purchase along with a selection of craft beers. This will give those attending the opportunity to find their favorite beer and sausage combination.

The event features sausage products from Opa's Smoked Meats of Fredericksburg, Slovacek Sausage and Kielbassa and beer from various breweries, including Altstadt Brewery, Real Ale Brewing Company, St. Arnold's Brewing Company and Spoetzel Brewing Company.

Live polka music will be provided throughout the afternoon. The bands performing will include Off The Grid, Fritz Hodde and the Fabulous Six, and Bob Appel.

"Bob Appel will return as our evening entertainment," Eilers said. "Everyone has enjoyed Bob and his band for the last two years, and we're happy to have him back for a great evening of country music for dancing."

Activities for kids will include pumpkin painting, piñatas and many other games.

The event also includes drawings in which a selection of shotguns, rifles and handguns will be given away along with various other outdoor and hunting-related items.

The night's final drawing will be for a camouflage colored 2023 4x4 Kawasaki Mule 4010 Trans.

Tickets for these items are \$20 and will be available for purchase before the event and also



Craft beer is on tap and poured by a host of volunteers, including Will Weinheimer, during BestFest. Proceeds from the event help the charitable giving of the Knights of Columbus Council 9765.



Brenda Hollis of Fredericksburg serves up German fare during the Knights of Columbus BestFest at Marktplatz. The event features an all-you-can-eat sausage meal.

available for purchase on the day of the event.

Proceeds from BestFest are given to Knights of Columbus Council 9765 for their charitable work within various organizations.

Since the inception of BestFest, the council has allocated money to help sponsor many local organizations, including Habitat for Humanity, the MOM Center, the Hill Country Community Needs Council, the Golden Hub Senior Citizens

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Harlen Eilers, 4, of Fredericksburg, paints himself a fall pumpkin.

Four-year-old Jack Briscoe, of Fredericksburg, slides down a mini slide at Best-Fest at Marktplatz.

Center, Fredericksburg Academic Boosters, Fredericksburg Food Pantry, the Boys & Girls Club of the Texas Hill Country, St. Vincent De Paul, New Horizons and the Nebo Wounded Warrior Project.

They have also donated to St. Mary's Catholic Church ministries such as St. Mary's School and Adopt-A-Family Christmas programs.

The council has also sent money to Covenant House and provided scholarships for college-bound Gillespie County students.

In addition, the council also aims to support young men in priestly formation, young men and women in the religious life as well as college Catholic center ministries.

For more information about BestFest, visit bestfest.net

2023 BestFest
Saturday, Oct. 21, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Marktplatz, Fredericksburg

Admission Fee

Ages 14+	\$15
Ages 5-13	\$5
Children Under 5	Free
Multi-gun Drawing Ticket	\$20
Kawasaki 4x4 Drawing Ticket.....	\$20

Live Polka Bands and Dancing:

Off The Grid will play from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Fritz Hodde and the Fabulous Six will play from 1:30-5:30 p.m.

Bob Appel will play from 7-11 p.m.



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Oktoberfest

One of Fredericksburg's annual festivals brings a little bit of Bavaria to the Hill Country.

Three days of singing, toasting, dancing and Gemütlichkeit will be featured at the 43rd Oktoberfest Friday through Sunday, Oct. 6-8.

Sponsored by the Pedernales Creative Arts Alliance (PCAA), the family-oriented German event will take place at Marktplatz in downtown Fredericksburg. Oktoberfest in Fredericksburg was recently named by USA Today as one of the 10 Best in the US.

The event is again expected to attract 1,400 volunteers and more than 22,000 visitors.

Special Events Friday, Oct. 6

OkTubaFest at 5:45 p.m. Friday afternoon, will take place just inside the front gate. All tuba and euphonium players are invited to participate. The tuba performers will play until 6:16 p.m.

Meet the Shiner (Spoetzl Brewery) brew master at 6 p.m.

The Altstadt Brewery Waltz Contest will take place at 8:30 p.m.



The annual Kraut Run draws runners to participate in the 5k and 8K runs, as well as a 5k non-timed walk.

Saturday, Oct. 7

At 8:30 a.m., runners will gather for the 12th annual Rotary Kraut Run. Fredericksburg Morning Rotary sponsors the annual race that includes both a 5k and 8k run and a 5k non-timed walk.



Sophie Bourquin dances with others during the Hauptstrasse Chicken Dance Saturday morning.

Hauptstrasse (Main Street) Chicken Dance, registration at 9 a.m. and dancing at 9:30 a.m.

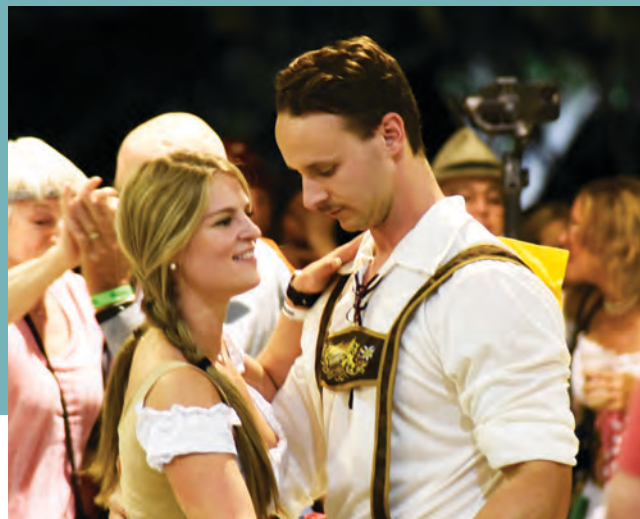
Samuel Adams Stein Hoist at 1 p.m.

Altstadt Keg Tapping at 2 p.m. and meet the Altstadt Brew Meister.

Sunday, Oct. 8

Real Estate Advisory Team 42 Tournament in Strassen Zelt. Registration begins at noon and the tournament begins at 1 p.m. Prizes will be given for the first-, second- and third-place teams.

Oktoberfest Family Lederhosen and Dirndl Contest at 2:30 p.m.



Chloe Bequillart, from Tennessee, and Mick Baker, from Georgia, participated in the Altstadt Waltz Contest.



Entertainment

Five covered stages will host a continuous parade of entertainers that feature the German favorites of oompah, polka and waltzing, with a Lederhosen and Stein Hoist contest, and plenty of opportunities for dancing.

Bands scheduled to perform at the festival include Elzkraimer, Czech & Then Some, Ennis Czech Boys, Red Ravens, Czechaholics, Walburg Boys, Swingin' Dutchmen, The Tubameisters, Sax Appeal, Off the Grid, The Seven Dutchmen, Chris Rybak, Shirley Johnson, Comal Community Band, Schuhplattlers, Boerne Village Band, Hermann Sons Mixed Choir and Arion Männerchor, Jodie Mikula Orchestra, Yodel Blitz, The Oompahs, Cloverleaves, Polkamatics, Fredericksburg Filharmonic, Mario's Accordion, Zuhause Junge Opa Band, Pivo & Polka Band and Herschel Moody.

There will also be many other attractions for both adults and children to enjoy.

- **Shopping:** Artisans from across the state will fill two tents with their best arts and collectibles.
- **Art:** A select group of Hill Country artists will be selling their art.
- **Food:** An array of German and American food will be offered by over a dozen vendors.
- **Drinks:** Tasters can sample a variety of German, American, Texan and other imported beers.
- **Children's area:** Youngsters can try their hand at the hi-strikers along with many other games and activities, including a magician and face painter.



Charlie Kiehne, dressed as the famous chicken, leads the Hauptstrasse Chicken Dance Saturday.

Park and Ride

Oktoberfest visitors can take advantage of a park and ride on Friday and Saturday.

Parking will be available at the Gillespie County Fair Grounds from 5:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Oct. 6 and from 9 a.m. to 1 a.m. Oct. 7.

The cost is \$10 per person/day for adults and free for children six and under.

Park and ride tickets are available for advance purchase on the Oktoberfest website until Oct. 6 at oktoberfestparkandride.com and will also be available at the fair grounds parking location during the festival.



Steeleye Harrison serves up iced cold brews to patrons during Friday night's festivities.

About

Since its inception in 1981, Oktoberfest has been presented by the Pedernales Creative Arts Alliance (PCAA).

Community volunteers provide the labor, and all Oktoberfest proceeds are used for student scholarships, gifts and grants, the Marktplatz Concert Series and to support the local arts.

This festival gives locals a place to honor their German heritage and visitors an opportunity to experience a long-standing Fredericksburg tradition.

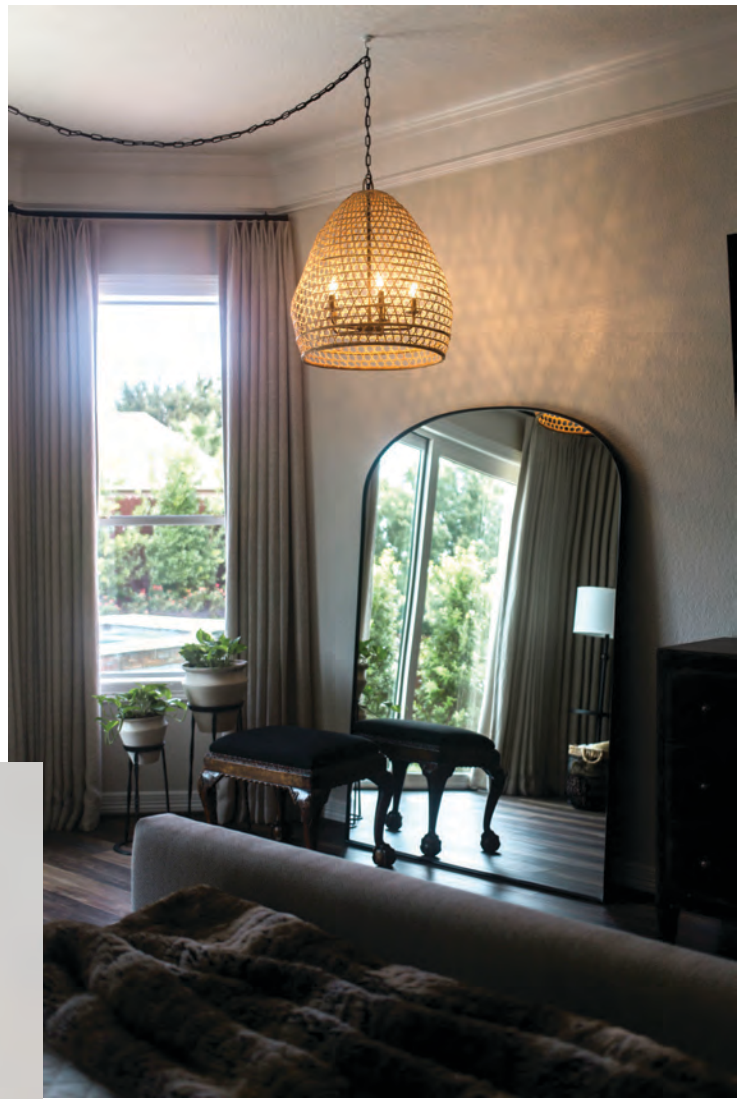
For more information on Oktoberfest call 830-997-4810 or oktoberfestinfbg.com.

Hours:

- Friday — 6 p.m. to midnight
- Saturday — 10 a.m. to midnight
- Sunday — 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Admission:

Adults.....	\$10
Children 7-12.....	\$1
Children 6 and Under	Free
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A Meal Worth the Wait

Every year cars line up near St. Mary's Catholic Church and guests flood the fellowship hall to partake of the annual St. Mary's Turkey Dinner.

The 61st annual Turkey Dinner will be held on Oct. 15 this year at St. Mary's Catholic Church, and guests can drive-thru, walk up for take-out, or dine in-side. Meals include turkey and a variety of traditional holiday sides.

This event is a longstanding tradition in the St. Mary's church and school community.

"Generations of families have invested time and energy to develop this fund-raiser into an enjoyable festival with food and fellowship, a spokesman said.

In addition to the meal, there will be a prize giveaway and parking lot games for kids and families.

Meal tickets are \$12 and prize tickets are 6 for \$10. Tickets can be purchased starting Monday, Sept. 25 at the St. Mary's Catholic School office, Arrowhead Bank, Security State Bank and Trust and St. Mary's Parish Office.



Elgin Durst helped serve up portions of turkey as one of the many volunteers at the St. Mary's Turkey Dinner.



Cole McMordie, left, John Moore and Eli Anderegg of St. Mary's Catholic School helped bag up meals for the St. Mary's Turkey Dinner carryout line.

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Rockhounds: Over a Half Century of Gem and Mineral Shows

The Fredericksburg Rockhounds Club will host their annual Hill Country Gem and Mineral Show at Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park's Pioneer Pavilion in 2024.

The show is set for Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 20-21.

Saturday hours will be 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday hours will be 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Updated information on the show will be published in the Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post and online.

Minerals, fossils, geodes, stone carvings and an extensive array of jewelry will be available from more than 40 vendors from throughout the Southwest. In 2019, a record number of over 4,000 people attended the event.

The club will have experts available who can identify any particular treasure.

The club is expected to be joined by members of mineralogical societies from throughout the Southwest.

Admission and parking are free. There are hourly door prizes, an hourly silent auction and prize drawing tickets for valuable mineral specimens and jewelry made by club members.

The show will feature a variety of minerals which will be for sale.

Founded in 1968, Fredericksburg Rockhounds is an organization devoted to the study and enjoyment of gems, minerals and fossils.



The Fredericksburg Rockhounds Club was organized in July 1968 with 65 members. Today, the club continues its annual show and regular fellowship.

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Hill Country Indian Artifact Show

The Hill Country Indian Artifact Show is typically held three times annually. The exhibition will be open Saturday, Oct. 28 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

As many as 70 tables are filled by collectors from across Texas to display Native American artifacts for buyers, sellers, traders and shoppers at the pavilion.



Consignments and appraisals are available at the event.

Admission is \$5 for everyone 15 years of age and older and children 14 and under are admitted free of charge. Prices are subject to change.

Free admission is provided for Gillespie County law enforcement officers.

Beverages, snacks and barbecue will be available to purchase at the event.

CONTACT

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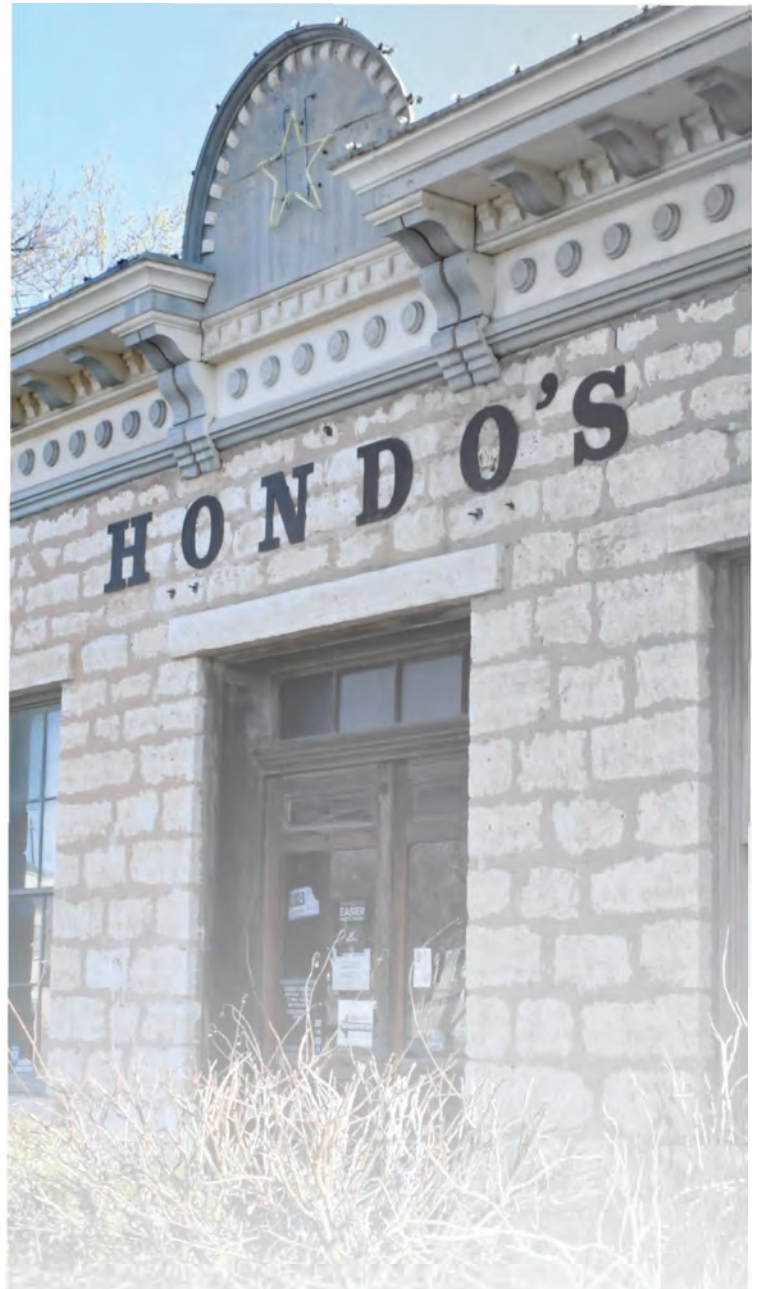
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Fredericksburg's Fine Art

Nationally celebrated artists such as Sol LeWitt and Nancy Bush are shown in Fredericksburg, as well as widely collected Hill Country artists, such as Charles Beckendorf and G. Harvey. Fredericksburg is filled with Western and Native American art.

The galleries lay along Main Street, across downtown and a short drive from town.

For the First Friday Art Walk, on the first Friday of each month, many local galleries open for extended hours. Visitors have the opportunity to view art demonstrations and meet artists.

The following are galleries worth a visit for art enthusiasts:

Vaudeville Gallery

230 East Main Street
vaudeville-living.com

In the heart of Fredericksburg is Vaudeville, a renovated three-story historic landmark with a third-floor gallery looking onto Main Street. Hill Country artists are represented, including Ray Hadaway, work in contemporary and modern styles. Vaudeville also has a bistro, gourmet market, wine club, supper club and a home and giftware showroom. Artisan jewelry and accessories are available on the main floor, featuring periodic designer trunk shows, including the likes of Vannesa Tosoni.

Charles Morin Fine Art

244 West Main | 830-307-3019
vintagetexaspaintings.com

Charles Morin's gallery displays some of Texas' most collected historical artists, with an emphasis on early Texas oil paintings. Morin has been a collector of vintage items since he was 14 years old. Charles Morin Fine Art is a must-see for art and vintage collectors. The collection includes a display of pottery, Native American and European art.

Fredericksburg Art Guild

308 E. Austin | 830-997-4949
fredericksburgartguild.com

The Fredericksburg Art Guild is a non-profit organization with a mission to educate, encourage, promote and cultivate the creation of fine arts throughout the Texas Hill Country. Many local artists are members of the guild. Each month, the Fredericksburg Art Guild features an artist. The gallery also features an all-member show during the year. Dates for their events can be found on the gallery website.



Good Art Company

218 West Main | 830-997-1111
goodartcompany.com

Good Art Company opened its doors in 2008 and has since been predominately showing contemporary western and landscape paintings. Located in the historic Schmidt-Dietz building, the gallery features a highly diverse collection of paintings in both traditional and modern styles. The gallery also maintains an assortment of home décor pieces.

InSight Gallery

214 West Main | 830-997-9920
insightgallery.com

InSight Gallery represents Texan artists — many of whom are based in the Hill Country. The gallery represents about 40 artists and rotates the works in the showrooms regularly. While representing a variety of styles from still life to figure, InSight features an esteemed inventory of western art from some of the industry's top artists such as Robert Pummill, Billy Schenck and Michael Ome Untiedt. The historic building features 8,000 square feet of viewing space.

Larry Jackson Fine Art & Antiques

201 East San Antonio St. | 830-997-0073
larryjacksonantiques.com

The Larry Jackson gallery features a ranging variety of modern fine art, traditional oil paintings and sculpture works. The gallery carries a significant inventory of collectible antiques, home décor, heirloom furnishings, silver and crystal items and one-of-a-kind treasures. The gallery is housed one block off Main Street in Fredericksburg's Warehouse District.

Purple Shack Makers Gallery

7991 Ranch Road 965 | 830-321-7991
enchantedfredericksburgranch.com

The Purple Shack Makers Gallery is located at the Enchanted Fredericksburg Ranch, north of town, near Enchanted Rock State Natural Area. The gallery features a collection of Texas artists, with an emphasis on functional art. Fiber art, jewelry, glass art, pottery and photography can all be found at the gallery. Purple Shack Makers Gallery is a worthy visit during a drive to Enchanted Rock, or for any-one seeking a unique art experience. Visitors are encouraged to call to set an appointment for viewing.



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Local Artists Show at Die Künstler Fine Art Show and Sale

The 30th Fall Art Show and Sale of Die Künstler von Fredericksburg (The Artists of Fredericksburg) is slated for Friday through Sunday, Nov. 10-12.

The event recurs daily at St. Joseph's Halle, 212 W. San Antonio St.

DK is looking forward to showcasing an outstanding exhibition of artworks in 2023.

The show offers an array of talent and fine art mediums worthy of a special visit to browse, enjoy and, perhaps purchase a work of fine art.

This event garners visitors from Texas as well as out of state.

DK, as it is commonly known, actively promotes appreciation of, and support for, the visual arts.



Local artist Barbara Mauldin demonstrates her oil painting technique during the Die Künstler von Fredericksburg Fall 2023 Fine Art Show and Sale.

DK encourages artists of all levels to continually develop and improve their talents. Art education DVDs from their extensive library of art education materials are available to club members to further their artistic knowledge and creativity.

More information about the group is available online at dkfredericksburg.org.



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Food & Wine Fest Pairs Top Texas Food and Drink

The 33rd annual Fredericksburg Food and Wine Fest will be held on Saturday, Oct. 28, at Marktplatz.

The event will feature Texas food, wine and craft beer with a mix of top vintners, gourmands and music, along with some special events.

Twenty-two Texas wineries will be on hand pouring over 100 wines. Guests will have an opportunity to visit with some of the wine makers and learn about their wine.

Joining the event this year are Ab Astris Winery, Becker Vineyard, Blue Lotus Winery, Fiesta Winery, FlorVino, Four I's Winery, Grape Creek Vineyard, Hilmy Cellars, Invention Vineyards, Kfire Winery, Llano Estacado, Lost Draw, McPherson Cellars, Messina Hof Winery, O'Farrell Country Vineyards, Rhinory, Rusty Hook Winery, Texas Heritage Vineyard, Texas Hills Vineyards, Texas Mead Works, Valley Mills Vineyards and Wedding Oak Winery.

For beer drinkers, a selection of craft beers will also be available.

A variety of Texas-made products will be on hand for sampling and purchase. Participating vendors include Ambriz Jewelry, Avalon Jewelry, Bells Bangles, Chocolate's, Chuckwagon Nutcakes, CKC Farms, Eric Fasking Fine Art, Fischer & Wieser Specialty Foods, Fredericksburg Farms, Gourmet Texas Pasta, Other Mother Vinegar, Pecan Tree Soap Company, Rocky Top Sauces, Rough Creek Lavender, Sweetie's Cheesecakes, Teardrop Pepper Company, Texas Hill Country Olive Company, Ruby Lee Clark/Louise Murphy, Texas Olive Ranch, Texas Treasures by Patti, The Peachy Llama, Whiskey Morning Coffee, Wild & Well Kombucha, Wine Bottle Lights and Zonta Club of Fredericksburg.



Food & Wine Fest offers guests a variety of Texas wines and food offerings along with many Texas-made products and vendors.

Grape Expectations Cooking School

One main highlight of the festival is the Grape Expectations Cooking School. There will be four sessions held on Saturday starting at 12:15 p.m., 1:15 p.m., 2:15 p.m. and 3:15 p.m.

Each session will showcase an award-winning Texas chef paired with a Texas winery.

Seating is limited to 125 persons per session and the cost is \$75 per person for all four sessions, plus admission into the Fest.

Go Texan! Dinner

The Go! Texan Dinner will be held on Thursday, Oct. 26 at Messina Hof Hill Country.

Guests will be served five courses, each paired with Messina Hof wines.

This event is catered by Bryans on 290 Restaurant Johnson City and begins at 6 p.m. More information about the courses being served is available on the Food and Wine Fest web-site.

Celebration of Texas Wine & Food at Becker Vineyards

A Celebration of Texas Wine & Food will be held Friday, Oct. 27 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Becker Vineyards.

Catering the event will be Vivere Catering. It is an opportunity for guests to enjoy a wide selection of Texas Wines and hors d'oeuvres.



Patron Brunch on Marktplatz

The Patron Brunch will take place on Saturday, Oct. 28 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Marktplatz.

The event will be catered by Delicious Details. Patrons will receive lots of goodies and surprises.

General admission is \$25 for adults, \$5 for ages 6-21 and free for children under the age of six. Tickets to all events are limited and available online or by calling 830-997-8515.

Live entertainment will include:

- Ben Beckendorf Blues Band – Noon-2 p.m.
- Little Elmo and the Mambo Kings – 2:30-4:30 p.m.
- Jess Stratton Band - 5-7 p.m.
- Gargantuan Great Grape Toss – 2-2:30 p.m. and 4:30-5 p.m.
- Silent auction ends at 4 p.m.

Sponsors of the Fredericksburg Food & Wine Fest are Arrowhead Bank, Becker Vineyards, City of Fredericksburg, Messina Hof Hill Country Winery, Real Estate Advisory Team, H-E-B, Gästehaus Schmidt Reservation Service and Security State Bank & Trust.

More information on the event and advance ticket purchase is available by contacting the Fest Office at 830-997-8515, or by visiting fbgfoodandwinefest.com.

Proceeds from the festival go toward the continued upkeep of Marktplatz, including the recent addition of Festzimmer (Fest Room) and Die Küche (catering support kitchen).



Meredith Skulski, left, from Austin and Lamar Taylor from Midland made the rounds through several of the wine stations at Food & Wine Fest.



"Bestfest" at Marktplatz

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Sat. October 21, 2023

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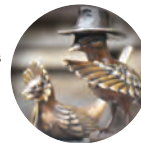


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Wine lovers Trek to Gillespie County for Vino Without an Attitude

Gillespie County wineries are known for their laidback, unpretentious atmosphere. Which may be why the area has become the epicenter of the Texas Wine Country.

Gillespie County sits in the Texas Hill Country American Viticulture Area (AVA) and is home to over 60 wineries in the county.

Many of these wineries also offer a variety of experiences from a general tasting to elevated food and wine pairings.

Below is a listing of wineries in Gillespie County and the Hill Country just ripe for the tasting.

Ab Astris Winery

320 Klein Road | 830-644-8369
abastriswinery.com

The tasting room and winery are open Thursday through Sunday noon-5 p.m., Saturday noon-6 p.m. and Monday noon-5 p.m. Last pour and sale are one hour before close. Tastings are currently \$25 for five dry wines. They do take walk-ins but strongly recommend reservations on Saturdays. They require reservations for groups over six. Reservations may be made on their website, on Tock, or by emailing info@abastriswinery.com

Adega Vinho

1000 Ranch Road 1623 Stonewall | 830-265-5765
Adegavinho.com

Hours are Monday through Thursday, 12:30-6 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday 12-6 p.m.

Airis'Ele Vineyards

11290 U.S. 290 East | 830-304-1800
AiriseleVineyards.com

Hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Reservations requested for groups of six or more. Located in the heart of the Hill Country and only 10 miles from the city of Fredericksburg, Airis'Ele Vineyards is a perfect place for wine tasting. The tasting room was once a farmhouse set back off the highway, renovated and now welcomes visitors with panoramic views of large aged oak trees and abundant wildlife viewing. Airis'Ele Vineyards offers comfortable tasting areas both inside and outside to accommodate all types of Texas weather. Crafted wines are offered by tastings, glass or bottle to enjoy on the property.

Alexander Vineyards

6360 Goehmann Lane | 830-865-3975
alexandervineyards.com

The winery is open Sunday through Thursday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Reservations are recommended. Calls on the way to the tasting room are appreciated. Bottles of wine are being sold in the tasting room.

Andreucci Wines

401 E. Main Street #1C | 830-307-9529
andreucciwines.com

Hours are Sunday noon-7 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and Thursday through Saturday 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Seventh-generation vintners specializing in Italian wines since 1794.



Augusta Vin

140 Augusta Vin Lane | 830-307-1007
Augustavin.com

Hours are Monday through Thursday noon-6 p.m.; Friday noon-7 p.m.; Saturday 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sunday noon-7 p.m. Reservations can be made through their website. Call to reserve a table in the tasting room for groups larger than eight. Full estate and production tours with tastings are offered for groups of up to 12. Larger groups are encouraged to call to discuss corporate or customizable tour packages.

Baron's Creek Vineyard

11290 U.S. 290 East | 830-304-3000
Baronscreekvineyards.com

Hours are Sunday through Thursday noon-5 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Closed Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve and Christmas day. Reservations are required for parties over six. Reservations are encouraged for tastings. Walk-ins are welcome depending on availability.

Becker Vineyards

464 Becker Farms Rd and 307 East Main Street
830-644-2681
Beckervineyards.com

The winery is open Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-6 p.m. The Main Street tasting room is open Sunday through Thursday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Bingham Family Vineyards

11157 U.S. 290 West, Hye | 830-644-2081
bingham.wine

The winery is open seven days a week: Monday through Thursday noon-6 p.m. and Friday through Sunday 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Curbside service is available by calling ahead, ordering online or driving up.

Blue Lotus Winery

8500 U.S. 290 West (Hye) | 830-379-9463
Bluelotuswinery.com

The hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. 100% Texas Wine and Mead (honey wine). Experience tastings in a barrel tasting room.

Calais Winery

8115 U.S. 290 West (Hye) | 830-213-2124, ext. 1
Calaiswinery.com

Hours are by appointment Thursdays, 1-4 p.m.; Fridays, noon-5 p.m.; Saturdays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sundays, noon-5 p.m. All tastings are available by reservation only and can be made online. Appointments are made on the hour.

Chilsom Trail Winery

2367 Usener Road | 830-990-2675
Chisholmtrailwinery.com

Hours are Friday through Saturday, noon-4:30 p.m. by appointment. Closed Sunday through Thursday. Reservations are required for groups of 10 or more.

Cicada Cellars

14746 U.S. 290 East Stonewall | 830-456-9324
cicadacellars.com

Hours are Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sunday noon-5 p.m. Closed Monday through Wednesday. No reservations are required.

Coordinates Vineyard

417 E. Main Street | 830-307-7400
coordinatesvineyards.com

Hours are Wednesday and Thursday, noon-9 p.m.; and Friday through Sunday noon-10 p.m. Closed Monday and Tuesday. For parties of eight or more, call ahead or email at wine@coordinatesvineyards.com. Reservations can be made by visiting the website.

Cross Mountain Vineyards

308 E. Main St. | 830-333-9931
crossmountainvineyards.com

Hours are Sunday and Monday noon-7 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday noon-7 p.m. and Friday and Saturday noon-8 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. No reservations required. For up-to-date information, call or visit the winery's website.

Crown Hill Winery

171 Crown Hill Road, Stonewall | 830-542-9585
crownhillwinery.com

Hours are Fridays through Sundays 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Call ahead for groups larger than eight to ensure availability.



Fat Ass Ranch and Winery/Brewery

Ranch/Winery: 51 Elgin-Behrends Road | 830-644-2300
Tasting Room: 153 East Main Street | 830-997-9095
fatasswine.com

Hours at both locations Sunday through Thursday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fridays 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Saturdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Fat Ass Ranch and Brewery is next door to the winery. Hours are Thursday through Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday through Thursday 11-5 p.m. Reservations are not required. Tastings are offered seven days a week at both locations. Wine, glasses and frozen sangrias are available at both locations.

Ferris and Fletch Wine Co.

409 E. Main St. | 830-307-9290
Ferrisandfletch.com

Hours are Sunday, Monday and Thursday, noon-5 p.m.; Friday, noon-7 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Closed Tuesday and Wednesday. Reservations are not required. Ferris and Fletch is a family-owned business that offers various wines and merch on their website as well as in their tasting room on Main Street.



Fiesta Winery

Winery: 6260 U.S. 290 East | 830-997-4466
Main Street: 147 East Main Street | 830-307-3328
Fiestawinery.com

Main Street hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Fridays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. U.S. 290 location hours are Monday through Friday, 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Live music is featured on Saturdays from 3-6 p.m. Call ahead for groups over 20.

Fredericksburg Winery

247 W. Main St. | 830-990-8747
Fbgwinery.com

Hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-5:30 p.m. (The last tasting each day begins 15 minutes prior to closing.) As it is a family business, hours and days may vary based on holidays. Walk-ins are welcome. Space is limited. Groups of seven people or more by reservation only. It is best to call ahead for availability.

French Connection

1197 Hye-Albert Road, Hye | 830-850-4091
Frenchconnectionhye.com

Hours are Thursdays, noon-5 p.m.; Fridays, noon-6 p.m.; Saturdays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sundays 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Closed Monday through Wednesday.

Grape Creek Vineyards

Vineyard/Winery: 10587 U.S. 290 East | 830-644-2710
Main Street: 223 E. Main St. | 830-992-3373
Grapecreek.com

Open Daily 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. See the website to plan a visit.

Heath Sparkling Wines

10591 U.S. 290 East | 830-304-1011
heathsparkling.com

Open daily 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. See the website to plan a visit.

Hilmy Cellars

12346 U.S. 290 East | 830-644-2482
Hilmywine.com

Hours are Monday through Wednesday 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday through Saturday, 11a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday, noon-6 p.m. Hilmy Cellars is a family-owned, artisan Texas winery founded in 2012. The winery specializes in producing award winning Texas Wines that include Red, White, Rose, and Sparkling Wines. A bottle, glass or tasting can be enjoyed inside the Hilmy Cellar's tasting room or outside on the patio that overlooks one of the estate's vineyards.

Horn Winery and Azeo Distillery

9953 U.S. 290 West (Hye) | 844-HYE-HORN
hornwinery.com

Hours for the winery and distillery are Thursdays and Sundays 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Reservations of eight or more are recommended.

Hye Meadow Winery

10257 U.S. 290 West (Hye) | 830-308-8551
Hyemeadow.com

Hours are Monday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. Closed Tuesday. The winery is offering tastings, glasses, bottles and serves food that can be enjoyed inside the tasting room, back patio, spacious pavilion, tree deck, or beautiful oak grove complete with games.

Inwood Estates Vineyards

10303 U.S. 290 East | 830-997-2304
Inwoodwines.com

Reservations for tastings and dining are required for groups of six and over with a small deposit to hold the time slot. Reservations are for Saturdays only. Visit website to make a reservation or for information about cancellation policies. Hours are Sunday through Thursday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Bottles and glasses are sold in the restaurant. The patio and picnic grove are open for seating and tables must have food to order wine. For groups larger than six, tasting reservations are encouraged. Table reservations are available with a small deposit to hold the time slot. Reservations for tables are for Saturdays only. Visit website to make a reservation or for information about cancellation policies. Bottles, glasses and food are sold in the tasting room. Pet-friendly areas are patio and grove, no outside food or drinks allowed. The winery is a kid friendly location.

Invention Vineyards

4222 Texas 16 South | 830-307-1258
inventionvineyards.com

Open daily 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. See the website to plan a visit.

Kalasi Cellars

414 Goehmann Lane | 830-992-3037
Kalasicellars.com

Hours are Sunday through Thursday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Kalsi Cellars is a boutique winery, vineyard and tasting room based in Fredericksburg, just five minutes from the center of town and half a mile off Wine Road 290.

Kuhlman Cellars

18421 U.S. 290 East | 512-920-2675
Kuhlmancellars.com

Hours are Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sunday and Monday, noon-5 p.m. Parties greater than six require reservations.

Lincoln Street Wine Market

111 S. Lincoln St. | 830-997-8463
Lincolnst.com

Hours are Sunday and Monday, 1 p.m.-midnight; and Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m.-midnight. Live music every night. Reservations are not required. Enjoy the various wines offered on the outside patio or inside the tasting room.

Longhorn Cellars

315 Ranch Road 1376 | 830-990-2990

Longhorncellars.com

Hours are Monday through Thursday from noon-4:30 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Groups of six or more require reservations on Saturdays.

Los Pinos Ranch Vineyards

6009 U.S. 290 East | 830-304-5778

Lospinosranchvineyards.com

Hours are Sunday, noon-5 p.m.; Monday through Wednesday closed; and Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome but reservations are recommended to ensure an opening at a specific time. Call to make reservations. Outdoor seating is also available but space is limited.

Lost Draw Cellars

113 East Park Street | 830-992-3251

Lostdrawcellars.com

Hours are Sunday through Thursday 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Reservations required for Fridays and Saturdays; encouraged other days of the week for tastings. Groups limited to six people; call or email for groups larger than six.

Mendelbaum Cellars

10207 U.S. 290 East | 830-997-7000

mendelbaumcellars.com

Hours are Monday, Thursday and Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, noon-5 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. For more information, email info@mendelbaumcellars.com or visit the winery's website.

Messina Hof Hill Country

9996 U.S. 290 East | 830-990-4653

Messinahof.com

Hours are Tuesday through Sunday from noon-6 p.m. Reservations recommended for Saturdays. Tastings, wine by the glass, bottles, and Lite Bites are offered any date of opening hours.

Narrow Path Winery

Winery: 6331 Ranch Road 1623 South | 830-998-1916

Tasting Room: 113 East Main Street | 830-644-2144

Narrowpathwinery.com

Hours for winery and vineyard are open Thursday through Monday, 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Sunday, noon-5:30 p.m. Closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Reservations required for tastings on Saturday and Sunday. Reservations are recommended during the weekday. For Tasting Room, hours are Thursday, noon-5:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, noon-6:30 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Reservations are not available for the Main Street tasting room.

Perspective Cellars

247 East Main Street | 512-423-7825

perspectivecellars.wine

Hours are Monday through Thursday, 1-8 p.m.; Friday, 1-9 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; and Sunday noon-7 p.m. Live

piano bar evenings Fridays and Saturdays, 6-9 p.m. Perspective offers educational wine flights from around the world, showcasing over 75 unique wines. A glass of wine can be enjoyed on their front patio or inside the birth-place of Admiral Chester Nimitz, with all original features from 1855.

Pedernales Cellars

2916 Upper Albert Road Stonewall | 830-644-2037

Pedernalescellars.com

Hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. Reservations are highly recommended for all tasting experiences. The winery may not be able to accommodate your reservation if you are late. Call for groups larger than six people. Cellar tours are available for groups up to six, inquire online or by calling the tasting room. Children are welcome, but must be included in group size, and must stay with the group during the duration of the visit. Unless you have a service animal, pets are not allowed inside our Tasting Room but are welcome on the lawn area on a leash.

Pontotoc Vineyard

320 West Main Street | 512-658-0023

Pontotocvineyard.com

Hours are Thursday through Saturday noon-8 p.m.; Sunday noon-5 p.m. Reservations are recommended for groups of 10 or more.

Rhinory

13112 U.S. 290 East | 830-992-9526

Rhinory.com

Hours are Monday through Sunday, 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Reservations are required on weekends and requested for weekdays.

Ron Yates Wines

6676 U.S. 290 West (Hye) | 512-585-3972

Ronyateswines.com

Hours are 11 a.m.-6 p.m. daily. Space is limited for large parties. Reservations are required for groups of 10 or more.

Safari Winery

5479 U.S. 290 East | 830-998-5956

Safariwinery.com

Hours are Sunday, noon-6 p.m.; Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Reservations are preferred for parties of six or more. The tasting room is open for tastings by the glass or bottle service.

Santa Maria Cellars

12044 Texas 16 South | 830-998-8621

Santamariacellarswines.com

Hours are Friday and Saturday noon-5 p.m. and Sunday noon-3 p.m. Closed Monday through Thursday. Reservations required for groups of eight or more. The winery offers tastings, glasses and bottles to be enjoyed on the patio. Wine can also be ordered online.



Signor Vineyards

362 Livesay Lane | 830-304-7446
Signorvineyards.com

Hours are Sunday through Thursday, noon-5 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. The tasting room (located behind Joanna's Market) accepts reservations for members of the wine club and for private drivers and select tour companies. Reservations for Elevated Tastings are available for all guests. Walk-ins are accepted for non-members based on availability. The winery is child and pet friendly on their lawn, and Monday-Wednesday in the tasting venue also. Joanna's Market offers soups, sandwiches, grab-and-go items, non-alcoholic beverages.

Six Shooter Cellars

6264 U.S. 290 East | 830-428-0810
Sixshootercellars.com

Hours are Thursday through Monday, noon-5 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays closed; and Fridays and Saturdays, noon-6 p.m. Six Shooter offers wine, mead, port, sparkling wine, wine-a-ritas, and souvenirs. Tastings are offered for all alcohol. No reservations are needed for tastings. Pet friendly.

Slate Theory

10915 E. US 290 | 830-998-8306
Slatetheory.com

Tasting room hours are Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday through Wednesday, noon-5 p.m. Reservations are not required for tastings or bottle and glass service, tables in the tasting room are on a first come first serve basis. Reservations are required for production tours or tastings in the underground barrel facility.

Texas Heritage Vineyard

3245 U.S. 290 East | 830-992-3323
Texasheritagevineyard.com

Hours are Sunday through Friday noon-5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Manufacturing tours are offered at the winery building at 3750 Grapetown Road. Call ahead and schedule for groups of eight people on the weekends. Weekday tours are offered upon request.

Texas Wine Collective

10354 U.S. 290 East | 830-997-7470
TexasWineCollective.com

Hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; and Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Featuring wines from Brennan Vineyards, Lost Oak Winery and McPherson Cellars. We also feature Hye Cider. Reservations are required for groups of six or more. Events can be found on the winery's website.

The Edge Winery

3567 US Highway 290 East | 830-308-7118
theresortatfredericksburg.com

Hours are Sunday through Friday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Groups are advised to call or email on website in advance for reservations for tastings. Food is available at the winery Thursday through Sunday as well as live music on the weekends. Small bites on Monday through Wednesday and an extended menu on Thursday through Sunday. There are accommodations in beautiful cottages

on their Resort property. The Edge Winery is a resort type winery with a beautiful tower for Club members and a fantastic winery for all that love a beautiful in-door and outdoor setting with a view of the river. The Resort is a wedding, engagement, renewed vows, anniversary, birthday, bachelorette, special occasion venue.

Texas Vineyards and Beyond

329½ E. Main St. | 830-990-9199
texasvineyards@austin.rr.com

Hours are Thursdays and Fridays, noon-6 p.m.; Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; and Sundays, noon-6 p.m. Open additional days around holidays. Largest selection of Texas wines in the Hill Country, plus imports, large beer selection, cigars and local gift baskets. Many wines available by the glass for sidewalk consumption.

Wedding Oak Winery

6009 U.S. 290 East, No. B | 830-304-9333
Weddingoakwinery.com

Hours are Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. The tasting room is open for flight tastings, on-premise consumption and wines to go. For reservations of seven or more, contact reservewow@weddingoakwinery.com.

Wildseed Vineyards

100 Legacy Drive | 830-990-6684
wine.wildseedfarms.com

Hours are Sunday noon-6 p.m.; Monday through Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. They offer full tastings as well as wine by the glass. Reservations are recommended but not required.

William Chris Vineyards

10352 U.S. 290 East (Hye) | 830-998-7654
Williamchriswines.com

Hours are Sunday through Wednesday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Reservations are recommended for tastings. Call ahead, text or book online. For the latest information, go online or call the winery.

Wine Garage

11602 E. US Hwy 290 | 830-644-2600
Winegarage.com

Hours are Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. (hours can vary). Closed Monday through Wednesday. Each tasting at The Wine Garage consists of a curated collection of five Texas wines, visitors get to keep their souvenir glass, and tour the best car collection around.

Yeehaw Saloon Wine, Beer, and Spirits

3915 E. US 290 | 830-304-6000
YeehawSaloon.com

A wide variety of wines are available by the glass, as well as wine tastings. Open 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday through Friday; Saturday 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

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Find Gemütlichkeit at Local Biergartens and Breweries

Gillespie County breweries keep the air of gemütlichkeit — an environment with a sense of warmth and friendliness.

The region's close ties with German heritage is robustly maintained in its breweries, beer halls and biergartens. Alongside a vast selection of beers are traditional German bites.

Locations offer both imported and locally brewed European-style beers. The following is a list of the well-loved locales to grab a brew.

Altdorf Biergarten

206 N. Milam St. | 830-997-7865
altdorfs.com

Fine music, song and games are available at Altdorf Biergarten, in addition to traditional meals and German-style beers. The wide selection of brews are both local and imported. The El Pasoan owner also features her family enchilada recipe on the menu, alongside the Wurst Platte and Schnitzel. The beer garden is open 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday.

Fredericksburg Brewing Company

245 E. Main St. | 830-997-1646
yourbrewery.com

The 1994 brewery is open 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday and Sunday, 11:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday and 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The oldest operating brewpub in Texas sells German fare alongside their list of more than 20 craft beers, including Enchanted Rock Red Ale and an Anniversary IPA. The 1890s era building houses a beer hall, biergarten and a 12-room upper level "Bed & Brew."

Ogle Brewing

312 Schmitzinsky Road (off U.S. 290 East) | 830-304-2900
archrayresort.com/brewery The brewery is open Sunday through Thursday 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Reservations are required for groups larger than six. A part of Arch Ray Resort, the brewery offers a rotating list of handcrafted beers, including light ales, lagers and IPAs.

Gillespie County is home to several craft breweries and cozy biergartens, including these Altstadt brews.

Yeehaw Saloon Wine, Beer, and Spirits

3915 E. US 290 | 830-304-6000
YeehawSaloon.com

There's no better place than Yee Haw Saloon in Fredericksburg to enjoy a selection of 14 draft beers on tap, a variety of canned beers, and frozen drinks made with Texas-based alcohols while enjoying our music and dancing with your loved ones and friends. Open 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday through Friday; Saturday 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Bluement Brewery

662 Woodrose Lane, Stonewall | 830-307-7784
bluementvineyardandbrewery.com

The brewery is open 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursday through Sunday and 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Bluement offers seasonal pints and flights of craft brews in addition to their Hill Yeah hard cider. Various tours of the property, mixology classes and tastings are available. The Zurschmeide family's Stonewall vineyard and brewery can host group events and picnics.

Altstadt Brewing

6120 U.S. 290 East | 830-304-2337
altstadtbeer.com

The brewery is open 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday and Sunday, 11:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday and 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Altstadt's state-of-the-art brewery offers German-style beers and lagers made through both traditional and new brewing practices. The European-style beers can be found across Texas, if not sipped on the multi-level patio at the brewery or in the biergarten. In the basement is an authentic Rathskeller for a more intimate setting. There is also a second 1940s-era brew house in use that was found in Bavaria, restored and shipped to Texas. Altstadt gives tours, features live music, fine food and beer tastings. Group events, weddings and corporate gatherings can be accommodated at the brewery.



2023 GUN SHOW SCHEDULE

Sept. 9 & 10 - Kerrville Expo Hall
 Oct. 14 & 15 - Fredericksburg Fair Grounds
 Oct. 21 & 22 - Abilene Convention Center
 Nov. 11 & 12 - Kerrville Expo Hall
 Dec. 9 & 10 - Amarillo Civic Center

Dec. 16 & 17 - Kerrville Expo Hall



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Ice Skating, Texas Style

Eisbahn brings ice skating to downtown Fredericksburg for the holiday season. Visitors can enjoy snacks and hot chocolate in addition to skating. Eisbahn is run by Heritage School in Fredericksburg.

The week of Thanksgiving brings the annual return of ice skating to Fredericksburg.

The yearly Eisbahn, run by Heritage School volunteers, is set for Marktplatz and will open on Saturday, Nov. 18.

Mobile cooling coils convert a downtown pavilion on the city's square into a slippery, icy oval in spite of Texas' well-known mild and oftentimes sunny winters.

Now in its 18th season, Eisbahn will be open through the first weekend of January. Hours will vary throughout the season.

The rink is open from 4-8 p.m. Monday through Thursday during school weeks, 4-10 p.m. on Fri-

days and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturdays.

Sunday hours are 1-8 p.m.

Eisbahn will be closed on Dec. 24-25 but will be open on New Year's Eve, with scheduled hours of 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The rink may be reserved for private parties any time it is not open to the public.

A full day, come-and-go pass is \$15, and \$10 every Tuesday of the season. A 10-pack of day passes is \$135.

Concessions, such as hot chocolate, pizza and candy, may be bought near the rink.

Seating is available for those who would prefer to watch people skate rather than brave the slippery ice themselves.

Gift buyers are encouraged to consider skate passes as gifts or stocking stuffers.

Prospective skaters should call Rebecca Williams at 830-992-8492 if temperatures drop below 30 degrees to make sure Eisbahn is still open and to schedule private parties.

More information on this year's Eisbahn event is available at heritageschool.org/eisbahn.



Sisters Janie, left, and Cora Spence ice skate at Eisbahn at Marktplatz.

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Community Shines Bright in Annual Christmas Parade

Fredericksburg will celebrate the holiday season with its Light the Night Christmas Parade at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1.

The parade is presented by H-E-B and produced by the Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce.

The parade will wind its way up and down Main Street and is again expected to feature more than 130 entries, including bands, floats, animals and more.

Reserved bleacher seating is available for the parade, and offers the first chance to see the entries as they roll by.

The cost per reserved and designated bleacher seat with access to the adjacent restroom and hand-washing station, is \$25.

Tickets may be purchased for those seats in advance by visiting fredericksburg-texas.com.

Entries are also being taken for the parade. Forms can be found at lightthenightchristmasparade.com

In case of inclement weather, the parade will be rescheduled for Friday, Dec. 8.

The entire parade route along Main Street between Washington and Edison Streets is available for free seating on a first-come-first-serve basis. Attendees should bring folding chairs and blankets.

As in the past, the first 30 minutes of the parade will be broadcast live on CBS Austin (KEYE). The parade will also live stream at FBG.live.

AfterGlow

AfterGlow activities take place following the parade.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be available for pictures following the parade, beginning at 8 p.m. in the Peppermint Platz area of the Adelsverein Halle.

There will also be a children's activity area.



The Jenschke Orchard Christmas Tree Farm antique farm truck helped to light up Main Street during the annual Light the Night Christmas Parade

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Santa Shows Up in Fredericksburg

Santa Claus is planning another stop in Fredericksburg on Saturday, Dec. 2, to visit with local children and hear their Christmas wish lists.

After the long ride from the North Pole, Santa will be giving his reindeer a rest and instead, will ride through downtown on a Fredericksburg Fire Department fire engine Saturday morning, Dec. 2.

The annual Santa Day Parade begins at 10 a.m. and will take Old Saint Nick down Main Street before heading back to the gazebo on the Gillespie County Courthouse Square.

There, he will visit with children to find out what they really want to find under the Christmas tree this year and give out free bags of holiday goodies.

The annual event is sponsored by the Fredericksburg Jaycees and updates on the event can be found on the Fredericksburg Jaycees Facebook page.



Santa Claus makes a stop at the gazebo behind Pioneer Memorial Library after parading down Main Street.

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Christmas Tree Choir Brings Season's Tunes

A 65-person choir on a giant lighted Christmas tree will bring holiday cheer to Fredericksburg.

The annual singing Christmas tree will begin at 6:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 2-3 on the grounds of Pioneer Museum.

The event is free but donations will be accepted. Attendees may enter the museum grounds via the side gate on Milam Street, and everyone is encouraged to bring a lawn chair.

The 30-foot-tall lighted Christmas tree will be the setting for a volunteer community chorus to present a family concert sponsored by the Gillespie County Historical Society and Fredericksburg United Methodist Church and made possible by a grant from the Pedernales Creative Arts Alliance.

The tree is a giant metal structure in the shape of a Christmas tree. Greenery and lights will be added to make the effect complete.

The singers will stand on the tree at different heights for the one-hour concert featuring traditional music, German carols and sing-alongs.

In German, the project is called Der Singende Weihnachtsbaum.

To help fund the attraction, several local residents have made donations for underwriting.

Pioneer Museum is located at 325 West Main Street.

For more information, visit pioneermuseum.org.



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Lighting Up the Night

Nightly Countdown Lights Up the Holiday Season in Downtown

Fredericksburg's famed Marktplatz will be lit up each night during the holiday season. From Tuesday, Nov. 21, to Sunday, Jan. 7, visitors and residents will be able to experience an event that will include traditional holiday music and a history of the town's 26-foot German Christmas Pyramid and Christmas tree.

A 10-minute audio program telling the history of Fredericksburg's German heritage and holiday carols will conclude with a grand finale countdown to the illumination of all the lights on Marktplatz. The event will begin each night at 6 p.m.

The program will not occur the evening of the Christmas parade, Dec. 1, or on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31.

This event is very popular among both locals and visitors, alike. The combination of the town's German history and Christmas spirit creates a magical atmosphere in and around Marktplatz.

Plans are still being finalized for the event, so

be sure to check visitfredericksburgtx.com or fredericksburgstandard.com to stay up to date. More information is also available by calling the Fredericksburg Convention and Visitor Bureau at 830-997-6523.



Throughout the holiday season, Marktplatz will be decorated with holiday lights, including a Christmas tree and a 26-foot traditional German Pyramid.



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Kinderfest gives Kids a Christmas Experience

Pioneer Museum will be hosting Kinderfest, a traditional German Christmas celebration for children, on Saturday, Dec. 2.

Kinderfest has been a part of Christmas celebrations in Fredericksburg for more than 45 years, and the Pioneer Museum is proud to be able to continue this tradition.

Children 10 and younger should bring their stocking and hang it on the giant fireplace. They will then sing Christmas songs, read a Christmas story, and create an ornament to hang on their tree.

Santa will be at Kinderfest ready to hear what all the good boys and girls are hoping he will bring them.

Light refreshments will be served. When Kinderfest is over, children can find their stocking on the fireplace again, filled with goodies.

In the German Christmas tradition, good children receive nuts, fruit, and candy in their stockings while naughty children may find a switch or lump of coal.

Kinderfest is a free event and the program begins at 10 a.m. in the Social Hall of Pioneer Museum at 312 W. San Antonio St. Children and families should plan to enter via the gate on Milam Street where they will hang their stockings at the fireplace and then work their way chronologically through the Kinderfest activities.

Children must be 10 and younger and accompanied by an adult. This is not a come-and-go event, so parents are asked to arrive on time for the sake of their child.

For more information, visit www.pioneermuseum.org.

Second Christmas, a German Tradition

Zweite Weihnachten on Tuesday, Dec. 26, is a tradition honored in Fredericksburg each Christmas.

Hosted by the Fredericksburg German Club, the event will be held at the Gillespie County Historical Society Hall (old First Methodist Church building), 312 W. San Antonio St., from 2-5 p.m.

While, for many, the day after Christmas is a time used to hunt out bargains in the shops or to stand in line for returns, for others in this community, it means time to stretch Christmas over a second day.

Zweite Weihnachten, which means “Second Christmas” in English, is the German tradition of

sharing good food, drink, music and fellowship, not just with immediate family, but with friends and the community at large.

There is no admission charge for the event.

Christmas carols will be sung in both German and English. And, yes, there will be the traditional baked Stollen, Christmas cookies and warm Glühwein.

This year’s Zweite Weihnachten will fall, naturally, on Tuesday, Dec. 26. Young and old are invited to join in the fun and festivities.

Sponsoring entities are the Fredericksburg German Club, the Pioneer Museum (GCHS) and the FBG-VG Montabaur Sister City Verein.



An advertisement for Bridge Church Fredericksburg. The background is blue with a white bridge graphic at the bottom. The text reads: "BRIDGE CHURCH FREDERICKSBURG", "Sundays @ 9:00am & 10:45am", "224 FM 2093 (Tivydale Road)", "BridgeFBG.com", and "Building Bridges of Life and Hope In Christ Where we live, Work, and Play". At the bottom, it says "Member of the Gateway Church Network".





Above, The Silver Strings perform musical pieces on Appalachian dulcimers, lap string instruments with diatonic fretting.



Right, Hugh Reeves, director of the Fredericksburg German Club, serves up Glühwein Dec. 26 at Zweite Weihnachten.



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All images courtesy of Heavenly Hosts

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Heavenly Hosts



Christmas Journey at Bethany Lutheran

As a continuing gift to the community, Bethany Lutheran Church will once again host its holiday event, “A Christmas Journey,” which tells the Christmas story in a drive-through setting located along Town Creek, behind the church.

This year’s performances are scheduled for Friday and Saturday evenings, Dec. 8-9.

The 10-minute drive-through presentation features special lighting, music and effects, live characters, animals and professionally hand-painted props.

From 6-8:30 p.m. both nights, cars will be greeted by volunteers who will cover their headlights and then guide them to the tour’s start.

Cars will initially line up on Schubert Street, turn right onto Adams Street and then take another right into Bethany Lutheran Church’s back parking lot. Cars then follow the lighted pathway

through the Journey.

People on both sides of the vehicle will be treated to an excellent view of all eight scenes, according to the Rev. Casey Zesch, a pastor at Bethany Lutheran.

Those who don’t want to drive through the nativity in their own vehicles may experience it by enjoying an evening walk through the Journey on the designated walking trail.

People may also board the Bethany Lutheran bus which stops in front of Marktplatz on Main Street.

While there is no admission charge to the event, any monetary donations will be given to the Fredericksburg Food Pantry, according to the pastor.

Bethany Lutheran Church is located at 110 West Austin Street.



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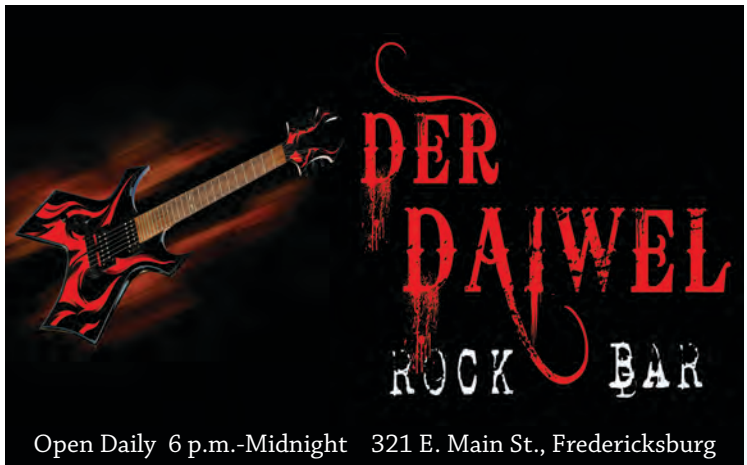
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2023 CALENDAR

- October 14-15Texas Gun & Knife Show*
- November 18Wild Game Dinner*
- November 24-26The Peddler Show*
- December 16-17Silver Spur Gun & Blade Show*

2024 CALENDAR

- January 3-6 Gillespie County Youth Livestock Show
- January 17-20.....Grandstand Sheep Show/Sale
- February 4 Fredericksburg Band Booster Turkey Dinner
- February 10-11Texas Gun & Knife Show
- March 7 Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce Banquet
- March 23-24 Silver Spur Gun & Blade Show*
- April 12-14.....Texas Vintage Motorcycle Fandango*
- April 20 Monster Truck Wars*
- May 18.....Antique Tractor & Engine Show
- July 6-7Pari-Mutuel Horse Races*
- July 19-20 Lone Star BBQ Cook-Off
- August 3-4Original Race Day Classic Steer Show
- August 10-11Pari-Mutuel Horse Races*
- August 10GCFFA Meat Goat Futurity & GCFFA Lamb Futurity
- August 22-25.....136th Gillespie County Fair*
- August 22 Concert & Dance*
- August 23 136th Gillespie County Fair Parade
- August 23Concerts & Dance*
- August 24 Concerts & Dance*
- August 24-25Pari-Mutuel Horse Races*
- September 5-7Hill Country Dorper Sale
- September 21.....28th Annual Scholarship Fest*
- October 17-19Texas Gourd Society (Lone Star Gourd Festival)*
- October 26-27Texas Gun & Knife Show*
- November 23Wild Game Dinner*
- Nov. 29-Dec 1.....The Peddler Show*
- December 21-22 Silver Spur Gun & Blade Show*

** Will have food available these events**
Schedule is subject to change without notice.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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