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SEPTEMBER 2009

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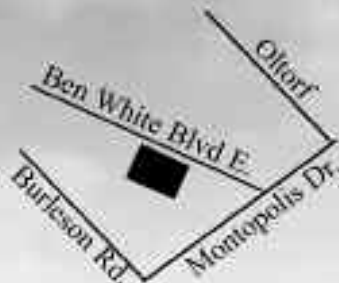
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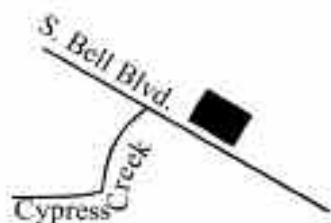
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HANK WILLIAMS' LIFE STORY HITS THE BIG SCREEN

Hiram King Williams, better known as Hank Williams Sr., is one of the most recognized names in country music history today — and many feel it is high time his story is told with Hollywood style. *Variety* magazine reports that 821 Entertainment and Strike Entertainment are teaming up to make a movie of his life. From growing up destitute in Alabama, to playing his Silvertone guitar on the sidewalk in front of the WSFA radio studios and eventually exploding into stardom. He also struggled with a mild undiagnosed case of spina bifida occulta, a disorder of the spinal column, which gave him lifelong pain. That pain, many say, would later drive his abuse of drugs and alcohol and eventually end his life. The father of the classic Honky-Tonk style may have had a recording career that only lasted four years, but the legend of Hank will continue to thrive on the silver screen forever.

BROOKS AND DUNN ARE DONE

If you haven't already heard, Brooks and Dunn will be wrapping up their country music partnership after twenty years of performing chart-topping hits. What's the drama? Plainly speaking, there is none. "We're still good friends. I'm proud to say we've never had a fight, never even yelled at



each other. And that's the truth." Kix Brooks stated. "We both feel like it's just too good a horse to ride it into the ground ... We've done all kinds of music you can think of, done every way we could think of doing it for 20 years ... We've worn this thing every way we know how to wear it! We realized at that point, this may be it ... So how do we wrap this thing up? What's the classy, right way to do it? That's what we're focusing on now —

a great tour, and we're gonna call it Last Rodeo ... We're going to relive 20 years of whatever the heck we've been doing!" If you haven't seen them live yet, you'll have to travel north and west to get your last glimpse. To view their remaining tour dates, visit brooks-dunn.com

KENNY CHESNEY LAUNCHES NEW CLOTHING LINE

Think Kenny Chesney is a busy man? It's not enough for him to just sell tens of millions of albums, create arsenals of chart-topping hits, launch his own radio station, win numerous industry awards, and break ticket sales records at his shows. Now he is launching his own clothing line, Blue Chair Bay, too.

How much will it cost to wear a piece of Chesney? Prices range from \$35 for a T-shirt to \$72 dollars for khakis. "Blue Chair Bay is kind of like the place we'd all like to go if we had no obligations or nowhere to be," Kenny divulged to *PEOPLE* magazine, "That's what I want this clothing line to represent. These are the clothes I would pack to go to this place." Can we go, too, Kenny?

SHANIA TWAIN, AMERICAN IDOL JUDGE?

Will Shania Twain be the next American Idol judge for the new season set to air January of 2010? "Shania will be joining Simon, Kara and Randy as a guest judge on American Idol for the Chicago auditions, Aug. 30 and 31." ShaniaFanPage posted on twitter Aug. 19. This fact was also confirmed on her myspace.com blog post on Aug. 18. Can she possibly replace the fan-favorite, Paula Abdul? Fox Entertainment Chairman Peter Rice says guest judges like Twain will be in place until they find the right permanent replacement. "What we need to find is someone who has great chemistry," he said. "It's really a casting job." Will this postpone her promise for new music? We sure hope not!

WYNONNA WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE

Wynonna Judd made a special appearance on "Who Wants to be a

Millionaire" on Aug. 18 in an effort to support her favorite charity, Backpack Mission Ministries, an organization that provides food-filled backpacks to impoverished children in her home state of Kentucky. Those who were watching were perched on the edge of their seats in anticipation when she used the phone-a-friend lifeline to call her aunt, Margaret Mandell, to get some help with a difficult mathematic question. Luckily, they came up with the right answer and she scored a cool \$50,000 for the needy kids. Want to help, too? Visit backpackmission.com for more information.

TOBY KEITH MAKES A SPECIAL DELIVERY FOR SOLDIER

Last April, while doing his seventh USO tour in Afghanistan, Toby Keith met serviceman, Sargent Allen McKenna II (Robby) who asked if he would make a special birthday delivery to his stepmother when he returned home to his native Oklahoma. McKenna reportedly was unsure that the delivery would happen, but Toby made good on his promise.

Late on June 13 the McKenna family of Purcell, Okla. received a call asking if it was too late to make a delivery on behalf of Sgt McKenna. Little did they know that Toby and his buddy Curt Motley were on their Harleys (riding through a thunderstorm) on their way to the McKenna home. When they arrived, Toby Keith walked up to the front door asked for Mrs. Allen McKenna, delivered the package, and then stuck around for photos and autographs. Amazingly, while Keith and Motley were still at the McKenna home, Robby called and Toby Keith reportedly answered the phone! Robby then put the megastar on speakerphone so his fellow troop members could share in the experience. "We don't know how to express our gratitude for what Toby has done for us, for Robby and his troop. We want [people] to know what kind of person Toby Keith is. He's a hard worker. He loves his country. He cares for the soldiers. And he's a man of his word, and we know these things are facts." ❧

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★ **ROADHOUSE RANT** by Chris Mosser

Every new generation must make its own way in this crazy world, and they almost always do it in a way that the prior generation cannot understand.

The Roadhouse show on KVET represents a new opportunity for a whole new crop of Texas artists to be heard on the radio in Austin. Generally speaking, this new bunch is a lot younger than the more traditional group of country artists that KVET listeners are accustomed to hearing, plus most of them are not part of the "Nashville machine" which up until the last few years has dictated and dominated what is heard and what is not in country music. Each of these artists has his or her own methods and goals, but by and large, Texas Music represents a shift away from the old system. And, just like with Elvis and The Beatles back in the day, when a new generation takes center stage, the older audience can get a little ruffled and put out.

It's perfectly natural for the young to buck the trends of the old. I know that in my teens and twenties, I loved nothing more than to shock my parents, and the likelihood of a band, movie, t-shirt or just about anything else to offend my folks was directly proportional to my likelihood of getting into it. Our new crop of Texas country artists, from the stalwarts like Kevin Fowler, Randy Rogers and Cross Canadian Ragweed to the more Americana-flavored types like Hayes Carll and Ryan Bingham (not to mention the older guard of rabble-rousers like David

Allen Coe, James McMurtry, and Steve Earle) are unafraid to push the envelope of tradition when it comes to topics of sex, partying, politics and religion, and while the new generation of listeners loves them for that, their parents are a bit concerned.

Those of us in the radio business have had to adapt to the reality that with iPods, satellite radio and the other myriad sources of music out there these days, we're no longer the only game in town. The old school had their country music served up by the old system, which for most meant their single hometown country station, or maybe two for those in larger cities. These stations were generally ruled by Nashville, and so the old guard of listeners have very definite ideas about what "real country" is. The newer bunch, though, has had access to any variant of music they might desire, and as a result, their tastes tend to be a lot wider, and their ideas about what's "real" and what's not a lot more flexible.

For me, and for Roadhouse, all of this demands that I do my darnedest to accurately represent the best of what's available across the entire spectrum of country styles with this new gang of listeners in mind, sometimes to my own peril. Bringing in this new, more irreverent bunch has made the show a source of friction for some amongst the old-time KVET audience and has made me a magnet for their disgust and dismay. I get fairly regular complaints about songs like **CONTINUED ON PAGE 23**

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 —TJ Greaney, publisher of *Country Line Magazine*

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In 200 words or less, write about a certain Kevin Fowler song that has meant something to you, e.g. it helped you through a bad break-up or maybe you just like to rock it out while driving through the country! All entries must be received by 3 p.m. on Sept. 10, 2009 at sandra@countrylinemagazine.com. You must put *Country Line Magazine* Contest in the subject box for consideration.

A winner will be chosen on Sept. 14 and posted on our Web site, countrylinemagazine.com. Good luck, y'all! Brought to you by *Country Line Magazine* and Roadhouse Productions.

TWO TONS OF THE REAL DEAL

Two Tons of Steel is the real deal. To country music lovers everywhere — Houston to Havana to Holland, in fact — the band means high-octane, full-out Americana roots rock powered by a kinetic lead singer-guitarist, beat and bass, and songs that make sitting still impossible. Its new, tenth album, *Not That Lucky*, continues the tradition that has sold out 14 annual Two Ton Tuesday summer concert series at the legendary Gruene Hall, to the tune of more



than 125,000 fans, and a sound that's launched a thousand road trips with the stereo turned up loud. Find out more at twotons.com.

SETH JAMES IS THAT KIND OF MAN

Seth James is set to release his new album, *That Kind of Man*, due in stores Sept. 1. James' bluesy style has become well known in the Texas music scene and he has shared the stage with artists such as Percy

Sledge, Delbert McClinton and Billy Joe Shaver.

That Kind of Man is an excellent album that will make you a fan if you aren't already. James is currently touring in support of the new project. Check out his brand new single "Leaves of September" or find out where he is playing at sethjames.com.

THE LONE STAR RETURNS HOME

Lone Star Beer is returning to its roots at the historic Lone Star Brewery, and its fans are invited to join the fun by celebrating their independent spirit and the Texas musicians they love.

On Saturday, Oct. 24 the "National Beer of Texas" will host the first Indie Bash at the Brewery on the grounds of the former Lone Star Brewery. Music enthusiasts can enter a sweepstakes online at lonestarbeer.com or by mail to register for the chance to see some of the best talent



on the Arts, and the Texas Coalition for Quality Arts Education. All of these organizations help strengthen and restore music education to Texas schools.

Through Sept. 30, Texans over the age of 21 can enter for the chance to win tickets to the Indie Bash at the Brewery. Sweepstake prizes range from general admission tickets to VIP tickets, and three lucky winners will be awarded grand prizes that include two VIP tickets to the concert, hotel accommodations, limo service to and from the show, and spending money.

A total of 500 pair of general admission tickets, 25 pair of VIP tickets and 25 autographed concert posters will be awarded randomly as part of the sweepstakes.

Watch for a Lone Star Beer Nights hosted by Texas Music Magazine in cities such as San Antonio, Austin, Dallas-Ft. Worth and Houston. For complete contest and sweepstakes rules, entry materials and additional info, visit lonestarbeer.com.

GEORGE STRAIT COMES TO CEDAR PARK

George Strait will headline the opening event at the new Cedar Park Center on Sept. 25. "George Strait is a country music legend and a Texas treasure and we are thrilled to have him open Cedar Park Center. Opening this state of the art facility with an artist of this magnitude demonstrates our commitment to bring the best entertainment in the world to the Greater Austin Area." said Tommy Hicks Jr., Vice President, Hicks Holdings, LLC. For more info, visit cedarparkcenter.com


RHYDER AND MARTINEZ IN SAN MARCOS

Cheatham Street Warehouse will have *Country Line Magazine*-favorites Brandon Rhyder and John Arthur Martinez on Sept. 24. Just two days later, John Arthur will host a release party for his new CD, *Purgatory Road*, on Sept. 26 at Cheatham Street as well. cheathamstreet.com

GUY CLARK'S SOMEDAYS THE SONG WRITES YOU TOUR

Don't miss this rare opportunity to see one of the most important songwriters of our time, Guy Clark, live. See him on tour Friday and Saturday, Nov. 20-21 at the Texas Union Theater in Austin, Tex. utexas.edu/txunion

RADNEY FOSTER'S REVIVAL ROLLS INTO TOWN

Radney Foster's newest record, *Revival*, emerged when the Texas native plunged into the roiling waters of change — his father's death and the end of his twelve-year, 5,000-mile separation from his son — and came up with renewed conviction. See Foster live Sept. 1 at a Waterloo in-store performance and Sept. 3 at Shady Grove, both in Austin, Tex. 



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Bonnie Bishop

Things I Know

IF YOU CALCULATE THE RATIO OF women to men in the music industry, there are a lot more men than women. I have heard all types of theories on this phenomenon and, really, I don't care about any of them. What I do care about is that the hard working and special ladies of music get their place on the radio dial or downloadable sites.

Bonnie Bishop is one lady who deserves it all. I remember Bishop playing a patio show for *Country Line Magazine* years ago. We decided on her because all the Texas music guys were just crazy about her — pretty good reference, as far as I was concerned. That night after the crowd left and she was rolling up her cords and putting her guitar away, I made the decision — I was a fan.

Bishop's newest release, *Things I Know*, is one of the best records that has come across my desk in years. There is a fantastic sound — a solid, unyielding and sensual sound that is Bishop at her finest.

There are 12 tracks on the new CD, and each one is individually crafted with producer Will Kimbrough. Kimbrough understands Bishop and her sound, her passionate lyrics and powerful vocals — that harmony of producer and artists is crucial to what you hear on this disc.

The music industry is hard on anyone. The ones who can hold true to their sound and gifts work their tails off and have a chance. It has always been harder on the ladies than the men, but when you get a



Bonnie Raitt, Martina McBride, Reba McEntire or Bonnie Bishop, there is an undeniable fact that is obvious — this lady should be singing. She has this wonderful creative destiny to move people and evoke emotion and passion with her music. For most of these women, they need to make music.

Bishop's MySpace page reads, "God blesses us all with unique talents and personalities, so, as an artist, I try to make music that is a reflection of that individuality. In the current world of mainstream music, being 'unique' or 'different' usually means being doomed to obscurity ... but that's something I plan on changing."

If there is one thing I know about Bishop's newest record, she has given us a gift, an endowment of sound and beauty. I have been, and will remain, a fan. —TJ

GREANEY

Jason Aldean

Wide Open, Live & More

COUNTRY MUSIC FANS SWARMED the Knoxville Coliseum in March for a sold-out live concert DVD taping with platinum-selling country rocker Jason Aldean. Fans across the country can find the Eagle Vision set titled *Wide Open Live & More!* in stores now.

The 15-song hi-definition DVD includes his biggest radio hits, as well as fan-favorite album cuts from his first three albums; *Jason Aldean*, *Relentless* and *Wide Open*. Bonus interview footage with the Georgia-native rounds out the 86-minute collection.

"This is the coolest thing we've ever done together as a band," said Aldean from Los Angeles, where he was taping *The Tonight Show* with Conan O'Brien. "We aren't quite at the point yet that we can afford to have all the toys on stage that some of the bigger guys out there have, so we have to work a little harder to get the crowd going.

Fans can catch Aldean headlining his *Wide Open* tour through the fall, as well as opening a handful of dates for superstar Keith Urban in the coming weeks. He also taped an episode of E!'s highly rated late-night talk



show *Chelsea Lately* on July 28 and performed on ABC's CMA Music Festival: Country's Night to Rock on Aug. 31.

For additional tour dates and more on the upcoming live DVD, visit jasonaldean.com.

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GEORGE STRAIT'S STELLAR 2009

GEORGE STRAIT'S "LIVING

For The Night" first single from his upcoming album *TWANG*, hit the Top 15 mark in just three weeks making it one of the fastest rising singles of his career. The song, written by Strait, his son Bubba Strait and legendary songwriter Dean Dillon. With the debut single racing up the charts, the street date of *TWANG* was moved up to Aug. 11.

"It makes a papa proud to have my son contributing to the creation of this record," Strait admits. "We had a great time writing with each other and then Dean adding his magic made it even more special. I hope the people that buy this record have as much fun listening to it as I had making it."

"Living For The Night" marks the first time Strait has penned a song he has recorded since "I Can't See Texas From Here" from his second album *Strait From The Heart*. Strait co-wrote two additional songs on *TWANG*, "He's Got That Something Special" and "Out Of Sight Out Of Mind." Bubba Strait is the sole writer on "Arkansas Dave."

Co-producing this thirteen-track disc with legendary producer Tony Brown, Strait proves again why he has sold over 67 million albums throughout his record-breaking career. *TWANG*, Strait's 38th album, was recorded at Shrimpsound Studio in Key West, Fla. It is the same



studio where they recorded Strait's last two award-winning albums.

This year has already been one of accolades for Strait. His platinum-selling *Troubadour* was named "Best Country Album" at the 51st Annual Grammy Awards in February. In April, Strait was the fifth artist ever to receive the Academy of Country Music's Artist of the Decade honor. Most recently, he headlined the kick-off event at the new Dallas Cowboys stadium, selling out the venue is less than an hour. The concert was hailed by the *Dallas Morning News* as "an extravaganza" that "showcased Strait at the pinnacle of his musical game."

With a career spanning more than 25 years, Strait has 57 #1 singles to his credit, which is the record for more Number One hits than any artist in history including Elvis. His 33 different platinum or multi-platinum albums have earned him the most RIAA platinum certifications in country music and third in all genres behind The Beatles and Elvis Presley. Strait was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2006, making him one of a few artists to receive such an honor while still actively recording and producing music.

You can catch Strait at the new Cedar Park Center Sept. 25. For info, visit countrylinemagazine.com. **CL**



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The Hill Country Comes Up Grapes IV

THE SUMMER HEAT JUST KEEPS ON coming, and I just keep on trekking down the wine trail. With a trip to Fredericksburg in the bag last month, I decided to change things up and cover the southern most part of the trail this month. I took out my trusty Texas wine trail map and circled Dry Comal Creek Vineyards, Driftwood Vineyards and Mandola Estate Winery. No wife this time, as she was visiting her mother in the Big D, but I had plenty of tunes and the beautiful Texas highway to keep me company.

lunch, where they will happily serve their wine by the glass or the bottle. I recommend the award winning Lone Star Cab. I can't wait to bring Jen back for live music at sunset on Sept. 5. If the view at high noon is any indication, I am sure she will love the Texas Hill Country at dusk. Missing my wife and knowing that I have to drive, I dared not linger too long and took one last look before moving on.

At this point Jonny Cash and I had "Been Everywhere, Man," but we had one

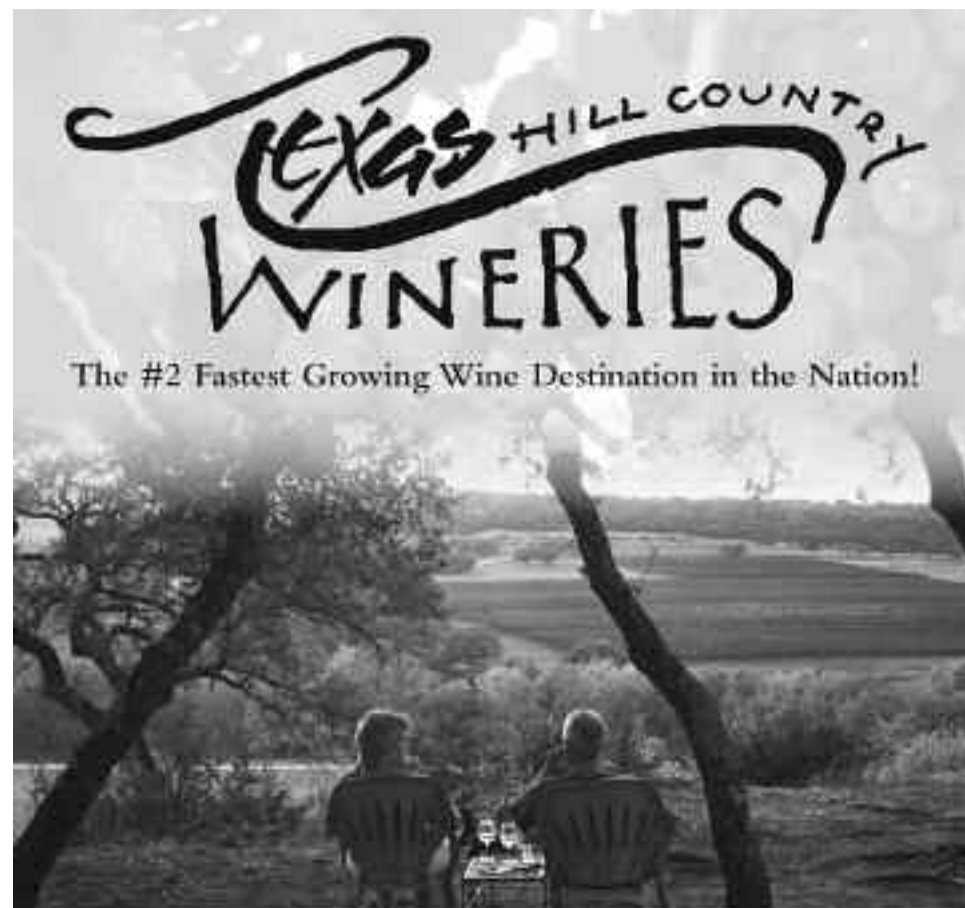


With the windows down and The Grateful Dead "Truckin'" along, the miles slipped away as I headed to the furthest winery on my stop, Dry Comal Creek. Nestled in a small protected valley of the Texas Hill Country, the charm of Dry Comal Creek is immediately inviting. Not to be outdone, though, the staff and wine are equally charming. This place looks, feels, and breathes Texas. As Franklin and Bonnie Houser are proud of saying, they don't make California wines, they don't make French Wines ... they make Texas wines. And boy do they make 'em well! With an emphasis on fruit flavors and smooth finishes they are consistent award winners. But Dry Comal Creek isn't just about the awards ... they want people to enjoy the wine. That is why they offer Winery U, a set of classes that aims to take the snobbery out of drinking wine and allow people to discover what they like and what they don't. Sorry that I would miss the Order of the Purple Foot Grape Stomp, I had to move on, knowing that I would soon be back with the wife for more delicious Texas wines.

Back in the car, Willie Nelson and I were "On the Road Again," heading to my next stop, Driftwood Vineyards. Owned and operated by Gary and Kathy Elliott, Driftwood offers one of the most beautiful vistas I have seen in my travels of the wine trail. With a porch looking out over the edge of a cliff, I suddenly wished the wife was with me for this trip. Not to worry though, Driftwood is generous with their setting, and they welcome people to stop by for a picnic

more stop to make. Mandola Estate Winery was my last stop for the day. Though I was growing tired, I was rejuvenated upon driving up to the winery. If Dry Comal Creek breathes Texas, Mandola Estate screams Italy. More than just a winery, Damian and Trina Mandola have created a slice of Italy in the heart of Texas. They even have Italian sayings printed on the cork of each bottle. With over 30 years in the culinary business to draw from, the Mandolas are no stranger to fine wine and foods. And food is a big part of the scene at Mandola Estate. After touring the winery (tours are given every hour on Saturday and Sunday starting at noon) I was all too pleased to try some of the delicious fare at Trattoria Lisina, an authentic Italian restaurant located just steps away from the tasting room. (The calamari was delish!) And if I decide I need a bottle of Mandola wine without the trip to Driftwood, I can always visit Mandola's Italian Market, in central Austin. Yes, the Mandolas are busy, but their schedule does not take away from the quality of their wine ... primo!

Full, relaxed, and trying hard to resist another glass of wine, I knew it was time for me to get home. I was surprised how much variety I found on the wine trail today. From Big Texas to Little Italy, I saw a bit of everything. I was also surprised how much I missed my wife. Traveling down the wine trail is always fun, but like a good bottle of wine, I think it is something best shared with the ones we love. —CHRISTIAN HUGHES



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★ 'ROUND ABOUT TEXAS by Sandra Greaney

Sept. 22 is the first day of fall so let's get this party started — fall fairs and festivals are in the Texas air this month! My vote would be to get the temperatures under 100 and then we can start talking outside adventures, but there are so many great events coming up, who can wait!

IN AUSTIN

SEPT 12 KEEP AUSTIN WEIRD 5K & FESTIVAL

Unofficially known to some as “the slowest 5K you'll ever run,” this is an experience you'll never forget. As you waddle, wade, paddle or slither your way down a scenic course, you'll enjoy samples from Austin originals, including Amy's Ice Cream, Taco Shack and Zen. Stay after for food, drinks, live music and the costume contest awards. keepaustinweirdfest.com

SEPT 13 16TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL HISPANO DE LA SALUD at the Travis County Expo Center, is set in a fiesta-style atmosphere and provides critical information about heart health and overall wellness. 512-433-4081

SEPT 18-19 AUSTIN CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL at the Monarch Event Center allows you to feed your inner chocolate monster! There will be a wide variety of local chocolate artisans there to treat all of your senses to a wonderful evening and to support a good cause — The Susan G. Komen organization. austinchocolatefestival.com

SEPT 20 SPEAK FOR KIDS CASA 5K at The Domain invites you to support CASA of Travis County by helping to raise awareness and funds to speak up for abused and neglected children. Go out and learn more about CASA while you exercise and enjoy a beautiful Sunday morning. casatravis.org/CASA5K.aspx

SEPT 22 HAAM BENEFIT DAY all over Austin. Eat, shop and listen to great music on a wonderful sunny day here in Central Texas. Join in to help Austin businesses as they give back to musicians by supporting the Health Alliance for Austin Musicians (HAAM). Various businesses will donate 5% of the day's proceeds to HAAM to support musicians' health. You can catch great

performances throughout the day at retail stores, outside stages, City Hall and more. healthallianceforaustinmusicians.org

SEPT 26-27 OLD PECAN STREET FESTIVAL

This lively street fair is so popular, you will want to get there early and stay late as to not miss any of the deals, food and fun. oldpecanstreetfestival.com

SEPT 28-OCT 2 GO TEXAN RESTAURANT ROUND-UP Texans across the state are invited



to participate in this week-long statewide dine-out celebration. Check out gotexan.org to find the participating restaurants that will give patrons a special dining experience by serving Texas menu options, featuring locally produced foods, Texas wines, shrimp and much more. Many of the participating restaurants have pledged to donate a portion of the day's proceeds to food banks across the state. Learn more at gotexan.org

OUTSIDE OF AUSTIN

SEPT 4 MOONLIGHT PADDLE: A SENS-ATIONAL ADVENTURE A midnight paddle ride at Inks Lake Park is like a dream come true. The canoes, kayaks, life jackets and paddles are

provided, or you can take your own. Open to ages 18 and older. 512-793-2223, tpwd.state.tx.us

SEPT 5 MASON COUNTY APPLE FEST in the downtown square of historic Mason, this family-fun event is most noted for the apple dessert-baking contest, Little Miss Apple Blossom contest, bobbing for apples, apple carving and farmer's market. 325-347-1808, masoncountyyapplefest@live.com

Springs. Sample locally grown food and wine. drippingwithtaste.org

2ND ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIP GRAPE STOMP at Vintage Oaks at the Vineyard in New Braunfels. The stomp allows over 100 teams to crush over 1,000 pounds of grapes. Set up your own two-person team to stomp, taste and explore. If you're not up for stompin', local restaurants and Texas Hill Country wineries will be on hand preparing delectable foods and pouring award-winning wines (tastes and by the glass) all while enjoying live music by Jazz Blues and Diamonds. There will even be a children's stomping area making this event fun for all ages. texaswinetrail.com

SEPT 19 TEXAS WATER SAFARI in San Marcos. This 16-mile adventure is an exhilarating opportunity for avid, young canoeists and kayakers. 512-738-6607

NEXT MONTH

OCT 2-4 AUSTIN CITY LIMITS MUSIC FESTIVAL

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EVERY SAT. | AUSTIN FARMERS MARKET Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Wednesdays, 3-7 p.m. at Republic Square Park (4th and Guadalupe). austinfarmersmarket.org

EVERY SAT. | SUNSET VALLEY FARMERS MARKET offers local fruits and vegetables at the Tony Burger Center. sunsetvalleyfarmersmarket.org, 280-1976

IF YOU ATTEND AN EVENT LISTED HERE, SHOOT ME AN E-MAIL AND LET ME KNOW HOW IT WAS. SANDRA@COUNTRYLINEMAGAZINE.COM

★ HOMESPUN by Shirley Baker



GRANDMA'S "SAVE THE WASTE" HINTS

Substitute half plain yogurt for mayonnaise in dishes like tuna, chicken or egg salad.

How much turkey? When buying a turkey, purchase one pound of turkey per person to be served. This formula allows for the holiday meal plus a little left over for the prized turkey sandwich.

Defrosting Turkeys If you can't defrost your turkey in the refrigerator for a few days, keep the turkey in its original packaging and place in cold water. Change the water as often as needed to keep it cold. Allow 30 minutes defrosting time per pound.

Cook Beef to Safe Temperatures Safe meat temperatures vary for beef. The USDA recommends: Ground beef mixtures/hamburgers: 160°F. Steaks and roasts (medium rare): 145°F. Steaks and roasts (medium): 160°F. Steaks and roasts (well done): 170°F. Temperatures on grills and other cooking appliances may vary, so use a meat thermometer to get the most accurate reading for your meat.



BREAKFAST BY THE SLICE

A twist on breakfast — Maple syrup spread on a pizza crust and topped with scrambled eggs, sausage, Cheddar and Mozzarella cheeses and, if you desire, a kick of jalapeño.

12-inch thin baked pizza crust
1/2 cup maple syrup
5 large eggs, scrambled
8 oz mild breakfast sausage, cooked, drained and crumbled
1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
1/8 tsp fresh ground black pepper
1/8 tsp salt
1 small jalapeño pepper, diced (optional)

Preheat oven to 425°F. Line a vented pizza pan with parchment baking paper. Place crust on pan, then with a spatula, evenly spread maple syrup as if you were spreading pizza sauce. Add remaining ingredients evenly over the crust in the following order: scrambled eggs, sausage, cheeses, diced jalapeño, then dash the top with salt and pepper. Bake for 12 minutes. Remove pizza from oven, let stand 5 minutes before slicing. Yield: 8 servings

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God, Guns, Guts and American Pickups

— About the time I first heard about the 'Cash for Clunkers' government giveaway program, my New York librarian friend, Gretchen Holzhauser, sent me a link to a story about a car dealer in Butler, Mo., who was implementing his own incentive program to help him sell cars — with every vehicle he sold, Mark Muller was giving away a voucher, redeemable at gun stores, for an AK-47.

In case you're one of the three people on Earth who have never heard of an AK-47, it is a Russian assault-style rifle, usually chambered for the 7.62x39 cartridge. The rifle has been copied by more weapons companies than the Colt M-16, if that's possible, and there are probably more of them loose in the world than there are teabags in China. And, for the record, China has probably built more AKs than Russia.

Anyway, as you can imagine, Muller's incentive program has drawn heavy criticism from people who believe anyone who wants an AK-47 must be insane, or a criminal, or a mass murderer, or all three. It's very difficult for the politically correct crowd to grasp the concept that shooting is a wholesome family activity, and that defending one's life and property is acceptable.

A CNN reporter interviewed Muller

about the program. She asked him if he didn't think the practice was 'irresponsible.' Muller said, in effect, "I'll bet the guy who, along with his wife, was recently killed by seven guys, in his own home, in front of their twelve children, I bet he wishes he had an AK-47." Which is pretty much a given, if you ask me.

The reporter later asked Muller how he came up with his motto — 'God, guns, guts and American pickup trucks.' She particularly wanted to know, "Why you included God in a motto that also includes guns."

Muller said, "You don't have a problem with God, do you?" She claimed she didn't, but her intention, obviously, was to insinuate that owning guns must be un-Christian. CNN's employment standards must be pretty low, is all I've got to say.

Last year Muller ran a similar program, in which he gave away a handgun with every vehicle purchase. He said the dealership had sold about 35 more cars than they usually did during the same time period, and he was hoping to sell about 100 more than normal with the AK-47 program.

This trend is liable to catch on. Josh Felker, a San Antonio real estate agent, gives away a Glock pistol with every house he sells. Josh also runs Lone Star Handgun, teaching Concealed Handgun courses at the Bass Pro Shops store in San Antonio. Josh spent ten years in the Army, including a year in Iraq as a Special Operations officer. And

he's a genuinely nice guy with a great sense of humor.

Not only that, but he has pretty much the same attitude I do about guns. He once made a trip across San Antonio with one of his young sons and, realizing he had accidentally left home without a pistol, stopped at a gun store and bought another Glock. It's pretty much impossible not to like a guy that would do that.

So I was thinking about Mark and Josh when I heard about the government's idea to give people way more money than their old cars were worth to trade them in on new vehicles. I called Randy Young, who is my go-to guy on anything that has to do with automobiles, and asked him about the program. He said car guys hate it, because it takes some very nice, salvageable vehicles out of circulation that could otherwise be restored and enjoyed. And, as usual, Randy was right.

Besides, the government could help Americans in other ways, such as encouraging them to spend more time outdoors. I've got a plan for that.

What we need is an incentive program for hunting and fishing and camping gear. Say you want to trade up for a new deer rifle. If you can get \$100 off the price of a new rifle by turning in your old one, the government could kick in, say, an extra hundred or two, provided you buy an American made gun. That would stimulate the economy and encourage good health at the same time.

And, let's face it, judging by Obama's proposed health care plan, you're not going to want to fall into the clutches of the medical establishment in the future.

The same kind of thing could be done with pistols, fishing rods, boats, trolling motors, and just about anything else you need for outdoor fun. Of course, the used gear wouldn't need to be destroyed. It could be donated to programs like Operation Orphans, and Kids Outdoor Zone, and other groups aimed at teaching young people to enjoy the outdoors and be good stewards of the environment. I think it would work.

So if you want to buy a car in Butler, Mo., go see Mark Muller. If you are in the market for a house in San Antonio, Josh Felker is your man. And if you're looking for slanted news stories with a liberal twist, turn on CNN ... ☞

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Counting Your Chickens: Part 12

GOOD GRIEF, CHARLIE BROWN!

Coming up on September and we're still in triple-digit heat — no rain, hence no grass, no water in stock tanks, and most of the cattle have been sold. People cannot afford to feed anymore, and they certainly cannot haul water to a herd. One bright spot in our business is the increase in activity in all things chicken. On Saturday, Aug. 15th, the Austin Backyard Poultry Association had their monthly meet-up at Callahan's, and I was pleasantly surprised at the number of people that turned out. This group of 70 or so attendees ran the gamut of folks who had been involved in chickens for years, to the curious who were interested in becoming involved. At the meeting, a speaker generally presents and covers a topic, and then answers questions. The members also swap stories and info among themselves. To join, or for more info, visit meetup.com/austinbackyardpoultry

One of the questions that have been asked of me lately is about water. How much does a chicken drink a day in this heat, and what are the consequences of too little? A chicken's body is said to contain more than 50% water — so you better provide access to it at all times. A hen deprived of water for a full day may take another day to recover. Studies suggest that a hen without water for 36 hours may go into molt and may never recover enough to be a good layer. The egg is 65% water, so that makes sense.

My writing was just interrupted by a phone call from a customer whose hen was coughing. We talked about dust in the lungs, parasites, upper respiratory infection, and settles on some over the counter Terramycin. However, it also made me include a warning about water deprivation. If the medication is not used properly, the water may develop bitter taste and the birds will not drink.

Depending on the size of the chicken and the weather, birds will drink 8-15 ounces of water a day. In hot conditions, they may drink 2-4 times that amount. It's the same deal when water freezes in winter, but we will save that until it gets cold — wish it would hurry up! Adios. —MIKE YOUNG, CALLAHAN'S GENERAL STORE



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Community Rallies to Support Fire Hall

MANCHACA, TEX.: IT'S NOT JUST THE place you go for the biggest breakfast taco in town or all the best fried catfish you can eat ... The Manchaca Fire Hall is the heart of this small community and has been for over 40 years.

The Manchaca community, and just about everyone within a hundred miles of this once small rural area just southwest of Austin, Tex., is getting ready to give back in a big way. The local gathering place, The Manchaca Fire Hall Restaurant and Community Center, has had a few pieces of the older kitchen equipment tagged by the county fire marshal for replacement. The problem is that the gear and installation is expensive. Recently, the owner mentioned the high cost and his concern to one of his customers. In this tight knit part of Travis County, most folks are family and when one person is hurting, when someone needs barn, the community comes together for a barn raising! The word got out and the community is energized and rallying.

When Clarence Vogel and his wife, Betty, moved to this once small farming community, there wasn't much here. Horses, cows, goats and hay pastures were plentiful and the Vogels didn't give much thought to the fact that there wasn't a fire department, until the day they experienced a fire at their home. Not long after that, Clarence felt a calling to build a fire station to protect the community — that was over 40 years ago.

The restaurant grew from a small idea into the community center and pavilion, and the Vogel family has grown up serving the community ever since. Every kid, grandkid, cousin, son-in-law, sister-in-law, niece and

nephew can be found bussing tables, pouring coffee or sweeping the floors. Every community group or family with a need — from the Girl Scouts to the Optimists, from FFA to funerals — are allowed to use the facility free of charge. Millions of dollars have been raised for the community and families of this community through the hard work and sweat of the Vogel family.

Now the community is ready to give back and the wheels have been set into motion to raise the money needed to help them cover the repairs and equipment needed. The fundraiser will take place Sept. 13 from 1-5 p.m. The cost is \$15 per adult, which includes the famous all-you-can-eat fried catfish dinner and tea; kids 6 and under are free. There will be live and silent auctions, music, a bake sale and more — 100% of the proceeds will go directly to the Save the Firehall Fund.

Karen Huber, Travis County Commissioner Precinct 3, told the community, "I know the Manchaca Fire Hall has been and continues to be highly regarded and an important part of the Manchaca community." She continued about the Vogel family, "We can all learn from his legacy, commitments and contributions to the community. What is important is that the wonderful spirit of community moves forward."

To donate services, auction items or cash to the Save the Fire Hall Fund, visit savethefirehall.com, call 512-450-3843 or e-mail savethefirehall@yahoo.com. ☎

SAVE THE FIRE HALL FUNDRAISER

Join the Manchaca community in its effort to raise funds for much needed repairs and equipment to keep their Fire Hall open!

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I come from a family of students, who believe education is the key to being successful in society. Well, I'm not sure I need to go to school for 15 years, but I did acquire the habit of wanting to continue to learn new things every day. I was recently reading an article by Andy Curry, who has been a horse trainer for years and written several best selling equine training books. I found these seven things to be very good reminders when training a horse. I'm going to sum up these great points, so keep an open mind while being reminded of common mistakes horse owners make.

Mistake #7 – *Assuming you can get on any horse and simply ride.* There is no horse that is the same ride as another. Every horse is different — younger horses are harder to ride and are more unpredictable, unless they are thoroughly broken. Typically older horses are easier, are more forgiving and have experienced a variety of riders, making them good for beginners.

Mistake #6 – *Assuming a horse trainer's technique is the only way to train a horse.* It is a common mistake to run to the bookstore when your horse is misbehaving and find one horse trainer's view on training a horse. When that training technique doesn't work, most people think that *their* horse is just not responding correctly. Instead, try a new technique and try out different trainers. This applies to lessons as well — if your trainer does not help, find a new one.

Mistake #5 – *Not riding enough.* When I

was training a young horse who did not have a lot of riding experience under his belt, I had to ride at least five days a week to create the type of horse I wanted him to become. It takes diligence and a lot of riding to train your horse.

Mistake #4 – *Thinking a problem with the horse is the horse's fault.* When a horse misbehaves it is not always because they are a bad horse, it may be because your horse does not respect you or feels it does not need to listen to you. It is not the horse's fault they it is not listening; it is usually because the rider has never demanded respect or control.

Mistake #3 – *Not understanding how horses think.* Horses are creatures of flight and tend to scare very easily, so riders must be patient and understand that they are naturally fearful.

Mistake #2 – *Not knowing that every interaction with a horse is a training exercise.* Even if you are putting a halter on a horse, or leading them with a lead rope, you are training your horse. Every interaction with your horse is a training exercise, even petting your horse.

Mistake #1 – *Riding a horse with little or no understanding of horsemanship.* Horses respond to a myriad of influences — leg pressure, your seat and whether or not you are tense or relaxed. If you are a novice rider, consider taking lessons before jumping on a horse and trying to ride. 🐾

BLUEBONNET HORSE EXPO

Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society invites you to our third annual Bluebonnet Horse Expo. Come join us for a fun and educational day for horse enthusiasts!

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Texas Drought Takes its Toll, but Fishing is Still Good

A SCORCHING ONE-TWO PUNCH OF prolonged low rainfall and record high temperatures in central and southern Texas is stressing fish and other aquatic creatures, especially rare species that depend on spring flows, and decreased river flows are sending salt content in mid-coast bays soaring. Nonetheless, biologists say fishing is actually good in many parts of Texas, and some fisheries could even improve long-term.

"It's not as bad as the drought of record in the 1950s, but if it continues through summer and into fall, we've got a problem," said Cindy Loeffler, a water resource expert with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

"What's made this so bad is the record heat. Unless something miraculous happens, this will be the hottest month in Texas ever, not just the hottest July."

In hard-hit Central Texas, Stephan Magnelia, TPWD inland fisheries biologist in San Marcos, says the drought could end up making fishing better in the long run on lakes like Travis and Buchanan. Short-term, Magnelia expects poor year classes yielding lower numbers of largemouth bass and white bass. He said the good news is there is lots of terrestrial vegetation growing in the exposed lake beds, and when the water rises there should be good conditions for survival of young fish and strong year classes of game fish.

Meanwhile, other scientists in Central Texas are nervously watching endangered species that depend on spring flows, some of which have dropped sharply.

Laurie Dries is an environmental scientist with the City of Austin who monitors the endangered Barton Springs salamander, which lives only in several springs in and around Barton Springs Pool in the city's Zilker Park. Dries said average abundance of salamanders in 2008 was 703 at Eliza Spring, but that's down to 159 so far in 2009, with only 69 salamanders found in the last count. In the pool (technically Parthenia Spring), the 2008 average was 178, but that's down to 153 so far in 2009, with only 13 in the last survey.

"The drought will kill them if [spring] flows get too low," Dries said. "Sunken Garden, which gets the lowest flow of the Barton Springs system, looks more like a pond than a spring. I don't know if there are salamanders there — we haven't seen any there at the surface for a year or more."

Dries said a key problem is low dissolved oxygen in the water caused by low flows — besides killing salamanders outright, this will inhibit reproduction and erode the population over time. She said if salamanders go extinct in the wild, there are backup plans to reintroduce captive bred salamanders, though she said that would be a last ditch attempt and the species won't survive without good habitat in the wild.

On the central coast, where drought-stricken rivers like the Colorado and Guadalupe drain into bays and estuaries, low river inflows mean high bay salinity.

Recreational fishermen in the Aransas

Bay system "seem to be doing okay with red drum (redfish) and black drum, and some guides are doing okay with spotted seatrout," said Karen Meador, Aransas Bay ecosystem leader with TPWD in Rockport. She added "some weekend anglers are complaining they're not catching the trout in the Rockport area, although longtime guides here are not having problems catching their limit."

Recreational fishermen in the Aransas Bay system "seem to be doing okay with red drum and black drum, and some guides are doing okay with trout," Meador said. She added "some weekend anglers are complaining they're not catching trout in the Rockport area, though longtime guides here are not having problem catching their limit."

In other regions, biologists report some great fishing, despite the drought and heat.

"Water levels at most major reservoirs in my area of South Texas are at or near full," said Randy Myers with TPWD in San Antonio. "Along the Rio Grande, Lake Amistad has been near conservation pool since September 2008 and Falcon was recently about 10 feet below full." He explained heavy rainfall in northern Mexico discharging into the Rio Grande helped fill Amistad and Falcon. He said Calaveras and Braunig Reservoirs near San Antonio are kept full with water pumped from the San Antonio River.

"Sport fish are abundant in all four of these water bodies and South Texas anglers are enjoying fantastic fishing success as a

result," Myers said. Statewide, TPWD experts report fewer fish kills caused by drought than some had expected.

In drought-stricken Central Texas, Stephen Twidwell in San Marcos is one of a half dozen biologists across the state on the TPWD Kills and Spills Team, which investigates larger fish kills.

"High temperatures and low dissolved oxygen in the water have caused quite a few smaller fish kills in area farm and park ponds," said Twidwell, whose large region extends from the Hill Country around Austin-San Antonio south to Del Rio and west to San Angelo and El Paso. He did note significant fish kills in above Canyon Lake in the Guadalupe River and in the Lavaca River in Hallettsville, where flow in both streams has slowed to a trickle.

"Overall, however, I've been expecting to get more reports of fish kills due to high temperatures and declining stream flows, and we're not seeing a lot of that so far. But this is definitely not a good time to be a fish in Central Texas streams." 🐾

Crossbows are now legal archery in Texas

The new information for the coming hunting season is flooding the electronic modes of communication faster than I can open my emails; one item that was from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) devoted to archery. As of Sept. 1 crossbows was considered legal archery equipment and can be used during archery season.

In the past the only hunters that could use crossbows during the special archery season were those with documentation from a physician stating they could not physically use a conventional bow, now anyone can use one.

One of the decisions a person will have to make when considering a crossbow is the draw weight just like on a bow. It is necessary to be honest with yourself about how strong you are because in the quest to make crossbows faster and faster the draw weights have become heavier and draw lengths longer, making them much harder to pull back. If you think that you will only be using your crossbow for target shooting and maybe small game such as squirrels, rabbits, turkey etc. ... the experts recommend you consider buying a 150-



This old crossbow has a 90-pound bow weight and looks only similar to the modern, more powerful crossbows.

pound model and if you do not plan on going after big game you might consider one with a 200-pound draw weight.

If you are planning on going after bigger game such as deer, elk, etc. you will want something with a little more hitting power. Generally, I recommend is 200 pounds or more, however from what I read there are a few high quality 175-pound

crossbows that generate speeds of a bow well over some 200-pound models. Be sure to check the speed rating, this will give you an idea of how efficient the bow is. Just because it is a lighter weight does not necessarily mean that it will not have as much power.

One of the advantages of a compound style model is that they are generally more compact. Compound style limbs do not

need to flex as much and therefore do not need to be as long. This makes it a lot easier when maneuvering through the bush. Another advantage of the compound style is that, pound for pound, they tend to be slightly faster. There are recurve models that are faster than 90% of the compound crossbows out there, but the fastest in the world are compound. The final advantage of a compound style is that generally they are easier to pull back. With Recurve's a lot of the weight is in the last few inches making it a little harder to pull.

Recurve crossbows have their advantages too. One huge benefit of a recurve crossbow is that you do not need a bow press or have to take it into a shop to have the strings changed. This can be costly and sometimes inconvenient if you do not have a shop near you. String wear is a common thing on crossbows and with a recurve crossbow you can change your string yourself with no press. It is possible to do by hand, but for most there are stringers that make it extremely easy. When you're deep in the bush on the hunt of a lifetime, less going wrong is very important.

All that said both styles are good. Neither one is better, just different. Weigh the pros and cons of each look at and handle each and see which fits you the best and make a decision that is right for you. ☞

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\$1 Million for Fishing?

Ever considered being a millionaire? Well if you are like most Americans, the dream is real and achievable. There are certain career paths in which this goal seems virtually impossible, not true for tournament fishing any longer. As long as the conception of competitive bass fishing for pay there has yet to be a production that has the dramatic excitement of the Forrest L. Wood Cup. Here, the best anglers in the world battle it out on the water for four grueling days in hopes of cashing a million dollar paycheck.

The richest bass circuit to date, the FLW, provides a "rock show" atmosphere of each and every event, but particularly this year's 2009 Cup was bigger than ever. Taking place in Pittsburgh, Pa. the event was none less than a total blast for fisherman, woman, kids and the curious public.

Fishing the Three Rivers, it all came down to catching keeper-size fish. It became one of the best come-back stories in bass fishing to date. Greg Hackney was sitting in 36th place after the first day. After weighing in on day two, Hackney brought the largest sack to the scales which not only allowed him into the top 10, but took over the lead. Weights start over going into the weekend with the top ten anglers. It was literally anyone's to win at this point. Just a mere three ounces above Pro Micheal Iaconelli, Hackney secured the win on the final day.

The emotions ran high as Hackney and his mother, which was in the crowd,

discovered his victory and was delivered the winning Cup. Tears were evident, and a shaky voice made it hard for anyone with a true passion for competitive fishing to resist the thought of being on the same stage one day in the future.

A Vision in Fishing ...

As with anyone's passion, sharing the experience is rewarding in hopes that they too will find the excitement in the adventure. But what about those that are confined to a situation in which they aren't able to be mobile? Earlier this month, avid angler and friend Chris Roberts' fishing event took place at the Dell Children's Hospital and was a smashing success.

Just a couple months prior, Chris had mentioned how the good Lord placed the idea upon his heart. With many folks explaining the difficulty of bringing a fishing event to kids in a hospital, he chose to focus on the goal and explained how everything fell into place beyond his expectations. Kids from the hospital were able to leave their rooms, and venture down to a full assembly of fishermen and woman, game warden, and fishing pond with live catfish and try their luck at the hungry fish. Fish after fish and smile after smile, there are few things that are more rewarding than this sight.

The kids were able to experience kayaks, bass boats, abundance of fishing gifts and games, in which for just a moment they could forget whatever placed them in the



Don Gordon (L) and Cody Ryan Greaney are the Texas Outdoor Zone Fishing Team — Fish Hard or Go Home!

hospital. For those kids who were unable to make it to the event, many of the volunteers were sent to various portions of the hospital and rooms in order to deliver gifts, and talk about fishing.

Well done Chris and the good Lord placed an amazing thing upon your heart. When asking Chris if he plans to do it again, "We'll see if it's what the Lord asks me to." Many continue to suggest that this will have to remain an event for years to come. Also, thanks to Dell Children's Hospital and Special Events Coordinator, Ashley Davis for their gracious and open arms.

USA- vs. Mexico-Fishing Style

For the past five years, Mexico and the United States have competed in a grudge match tournament in Mexico. To make the team for the USA, you must have been on or towards the top of the points while fishing Skeeter Bass Champs team tournament trail. This years battle on Sugar Lake, Mexico brought out not only hot weather but some amazing fishing as well. There were many five-fish limits well above 20 lbs., and even a decent amount above 30 lbs.! The average fish weighed was a few ounces under five pounds.

Reports indicated that the more

consistent bags of fish came from deeper structure, ledges and points. Common baits used were large Carolina Rigs and Big Jigs.

The USA victory secured the title for another year and gave a lead in the series four to one. Next year's battle will be just as hot, and the fishing will be just as competitive, as the US tries to hold on to the title. In order to qualify for the USA team, fish Skeeter Bass Champs team tournament trail and you too can be representing your country on the water! —**CODY RYAN GREANEY** TOZ TEAM, CODY@TEXASOUTDOORZONE.COM

FOR MORE INFO ON PLANNING YOUR NEXT FISHING ADVENTURE, CONTACT CODY RYAN AT CODY@TEXASOUTDOORZONE.COM OR 512-576-2200.

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Roadhouse Rant

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7 "That Buckin' Song" by Robert Earl Keen, which plays on the F-word but never actually uses it (the line I would love to offer in response to these complaints is "turn up your hearing aid," but I usually come up with something more diplomatic); "The Boys From Oklahoma" by Cross Canadian Ragweed, which highlights regional differences in partying techniques; "Choctaw Bingo" by James McMurtry, which similarly examines the homemade party favor trade across the Red River; "She Left Me For Jesus" by Hayes Carll (a joke on the narrator, not the Lord and Savior); and "Blood For Oil" by Brandon Jenkins, which takes issue

with the decisions that led to the invasion of Iraq (but not, I always point out, the brave men and women who actually did the invading). Even Kevin Fowler's "Don't Touch My Willie" occasionally draws the ire of the well-intentioned soul who somehow doesn't get THAT joke.

With a new generation comes a new set of ideas and ideals, and I consider it a privilege to be charged with giving them a public voice in Austin. Still, as I raise my two small kids, I live in fear of what they'll come up with to offend me in the years to come. From a Karmic standpoint, I'm in for quite a ride.

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