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APRIL 2025 | ISSUE 3 :: VOLUME 1

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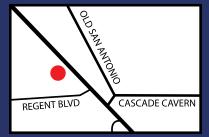
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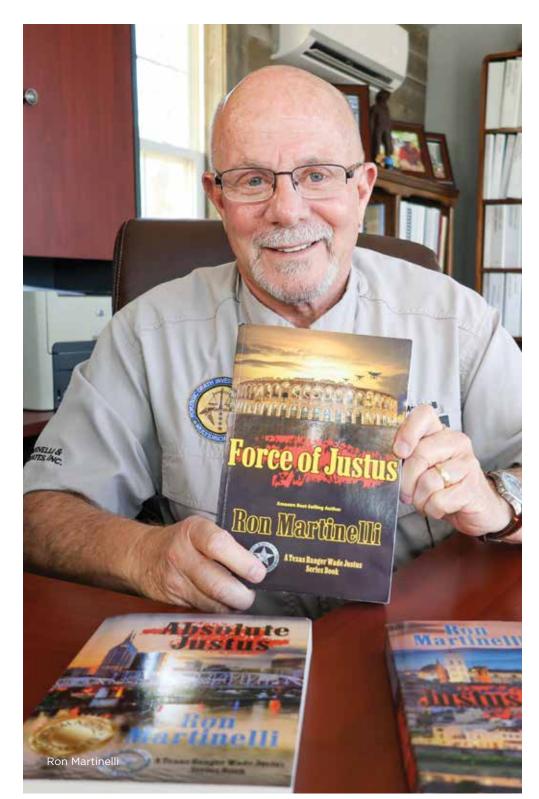
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Restoring the Spirit of the Masculine Man

Since starting The Kendall Gentleman, its growth and acceptance have been nothing short of meteoric. I've been asked to give speeches at local clubs, participate in podcasts, attend community events, and have been approached by countless people with remarkable stories of great men doing extraordinary things—some of which might just make it into the magazine. Each interaction has been both humbling and inspiring, a testament to the hunger for stories that celebrate manhood, integrity, and leadership.

Being asked to publicly tell the story of The Kendall Gentleman has also given me the opportunity to open up about why I took the leap into publishing—a field I had no previous experience in and certainly no intention of entering. It's a story rooted not just in a desire to build something meaningful but in a neardeath experience that changed my life and redefined my mission.

A Wake-Up Call

In 2023, I spent five weeks in the hospital with an illness that nearly killed me. It was a stark reminder of life's fragility, a moment that forced me to reevaluate everything. At the time, I was involved in a successful business venture, but the truth was, I was miserable. I spent my days making grueling trips to the west side of San Antonio and driving all over South Texas, selling products to farmers and ranchers. On the surface, things looked fine. In reality, I was burning out, running on empty, and suffocating under the weight of stress and dissatisfaction.

The months that followed were some of the darkest of my life. I was staring down the barrel of a rapidly depleting bank account, declining health, and a crippling lack of motivation. I had never struggled with depression before, but I found myself in a pit that I couldn't seem to climb out of. I knew I needed a change—I just didn't know what it would look like or how to get there. But as is often the case, adversity has a way of clarifying our vision and crystallizing our priorities. It was during this dark period that the vision for The Kendall Gentleman began to take shape-a vision rooted in faith, tradition, and the timeless principles of masculinity that seem increasingly under assault in today's culture.

A Message That Matters

The message of elevating men and "restoring the spirit of the masculine man" has resonated with me for quite some time. I've been a longtime reader of The Art of Manliness, a listener of Andrew Klavan's podcast, and an admirer of shows like Duck Dynasty that celebrate traditional values and faith-driven lives. Each of these influences, in their own way, reinforced what I already knew to be true: our culture is desperately in need of strong men—men who lead their families, serve their communities, and live with integrity and purpose.

In a world where masculinity is too often mislabeled as "toxic," the mission of The Kendall Gentleman is to restore the honor and dignity that true manhood represents. Real men protect, they provide, they serve. They are warriors, leaders, and mentors, driven not by ego but by a sense of duty to something greater than themselves.

Our society needs men who understand that leadership is not about dominance but about service. That strength is not measured in physical power but in moral courage and the willingness to do what's right—even when it's hard. These are the principles that built this country and the principles that will sustain it.

A Father's Influence

Looking back, I can see now that this mission has been with me all along—long before there was a magazine, long before the idea of The Kendall Gentleman was ever born. It started with my father.

My dad was my first and most important role model. He was the kind of man who didn't just tell you what was right—he showed you. Through his volunteer work and his involvement in the community, he didn't just raise my brother and me—he "raised" our friends and countless other boys who were fortunate enough to cross his path. He embodied the principles of leadership, integrity, and self-sacrifice that The Kendall Gentleman seeks to honor.

His influence is part of the reason why I believe so strongly in the power of mentorship. Boys need men of character to look up to—men who will teach them how to stand firm in their beliefs, lead with humility, and serve others without expecting anything in return. Preparing ourselves to be those men is not just a calling; it's a duty.

Rebuilding the Foundations

In launching The Kendall Gentleman, I've come to realize that the magazine's mission is about far more than telling stories—it's about rebuilding the very foundations of our culture, one principle at a time. Faith, family, tradition, leadership—these aren't just words we toss around; they are the bedrock upon which strong communities are built.

I believe that when men are strong—strong in character, strong in faith, strong in their convictions—families are strong. And when families are strong, communities thrive. That's why each issue of The Kendall Gentleman is designed not just to inform but to inspire men to live lives of purpose and conviction.

Looking Forward

The response to The Kendall Gentleman has been nothing short of incredible. Each message, each handshake, each story shared has reinforced what I believed from the start: that there is a deep hunger for the kind of content we are producing. Men want to be challenged. They want to be inspired. They want to be reminded that their role is not just to exist but to lead.

The journey is just beginning. In the coming months, we're looking forward to expanding our reach—through podcasts, live events, and new features in the magazine that will continue to highlight the stories of great men doing great things.

To those who have supported us from the start—to our supporters, our advertisers, and every reader who has picked up a copy of The Kendall Gentleman—thank you. Your belief in this mission means the world to me. We have a lot of work left to do, but I believe with everything in me that it's worth it. After all, the stakes are high—our families, our communities, and the future of our culture depend on it.

So here's to the journey ahead. Here's to restoring the spirit of the masculine man, one story at a time.

Thank you for being a part of it.

Michael G. Ethridge Publisher/Owner

EVENTS

Calendar of Events

4.3.25

Men's Night

Free Roam Brewing Company 325 S Main St, Boerne, TX 78006 www.freeroambrewing.com

4.5.25

VFW Veterans Coffee

Sponsored by Ford of Boerne Black Rifle Coffee Company 101 S Main St Ste A, Boerne, TX 78006

www.vfw688.org

Enjoy a cup of coffee and camaraderie with other veterans on the first Saturday of each month at Boerne's Black Rifle Coffee Company. 8:00-10:00am

Boerne Sping Antique Tractor Pull

AgriCultural Museum & Arts Center 30 City Park Rd, Boerne, TX 78006 *www.theagricultural.org* Come to the AgriCultural Museum and Arts Center in Boerne, TX to see antique tractors compete. This is going to be a great pull so come on out! 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

4.8.25

VFW Business Meeting

VFW Post 688 At The Kendall Masonic Lodge 897 E Blanco, Boerne, TX 78006 www.vfw688.org

4.10.25

Men's Thursday Study

Trinity Presbyterian Church 31 Ammann Road, Boerne, TX 78015 www.trinityboerne.org

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4.12.25

Second Saturday Speakeasy Nights

Longhorn Lounge 810 Avenue A, Comfort, TX 78013 *www.longhorn-lounge.com* The velvet curtains will come down from 6-9 p.m. every Second Saturday of the Month while you bring the liquor and we provide the set-up. Text SSSN to 830-353-2663

4.14.25

American Legion General Membership Meeting

American Legion Post 313 At The Kronkosky Center 17 Old San Antonio Rd, Boerne, TX 78006

www.alpost313boernetx.org We meet every second Monday of the month from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM (with a social/pot luck hour from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM)

4.17.25

Whiskey & Wisdom Book Club

The Boerne Bookshop 153 S. Main St. #120, Boerne, TX 78006

www.theboernebookshop.com Thinking while drinking has never been more illuminating!

4.21.25

Masonic Lodge Stated Meeting

Kendall Masonic Lodge No. 897 897 E Blanco, Boerne, TX 78006 *www.kendalllodge897.org* Monthly Stated (Business) Meeting at 7:30; Supper at 6:30

Tuesdays

Boerne Farmers Market

Old City Hall 402 E Blanco Rd *www.boernefm.com* The Boerne Farmers Market will provide quality, locally grown and produced agricultural products, prepared food, and artisan specialty goods to be bought, sold for the benefit of both the consumer and producer.

Tuesdays Trivia Night

Free Roam Brewing Company 325 S Main Street, Boerne, TX 78006 www.freeroambrewing.com Trivia, Tacos, Tuesdays!

Wednesdays

Mens Bible Study First Baptist Church of Boerne

First Baptist Church of Boerne 631 S School St, Boerne, TX 78006 *www.fbcboerne.org/men* Join FBCMen for a Bible study on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM in the Family Life Building during the school year.

Thursdays

Karaoke Night

Salvador Dobbs 512 River Rd, Boerne, TX 78006 *www.salvadordobbs.com* Karaoke every Thursday night at Salvador Dobbs from 8:00-Midnight, with fabulous drink specials and the friendliest bar in town.

2nd and 4th Saturdays

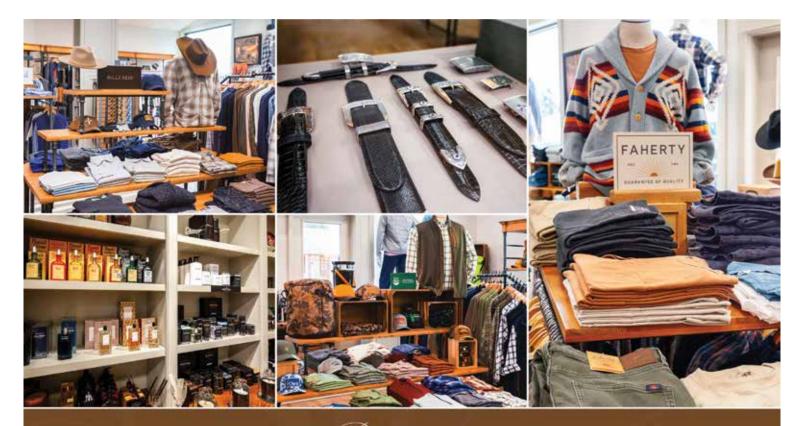
Kuhlmann-King Museum Tours

Boerne Area Historical Preservation Society Kuhlmann-King Complex 402 East Blanco Road, Boerne, TX 78006 *www.bahpsboerne.org* Open the 2nd and 4th Saturday each month from 12pm – 3pm. Admission and tours are free.

Sundays

Community Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Class

Black Diamond Martial Arts 645 South School Street, Suite 201 Boerne, TX 78006 *www.bdmaboerne.com* Whether you're just starting out or you've been practicing the art for years, our BJJ classes are designed to help everyone improve their ground game. KG



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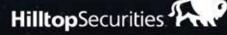
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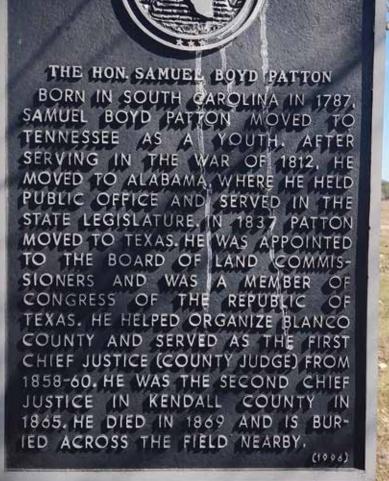
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HISTORY



TEXAS

Samuel Boyd Patton: A Pillar in the Formation of Kendal

A Pillar in the Formation of Kendall County Texas

By Tom Allred, Sr.

14 | The Kendall Gentleman | April 2025

Samuel Boyd Patton (1787–1869) was a pivotal figure in the early development of Kendall County, Texas. His extensive contributions spanned military service, political leadership, and community development. This article delves into Patton's life, highlighting his influence and enduring legacy in the region.

Early Life and Military Service

His early years were marked by a commitment to public service, beginning with his participation in the War of 1812. This military experience not only showcased his dedication to his country but also laid the foundation for his future roles in governance and community leadership.

Samuel Boyd Patton was born on August 15, 1787, in York County, South Carolina, to Isaac Patton and his wife, whose surname was Foster.

He was one of several children in the Patton family. His known siblings include:

William Augustus Patton (1771–1860): Married Rebecca Jane Simpson in 1793 in Tennessee.

Jacob Patton (1772–1850): Details about his life are limited.

Thomas Patton (1773–1816): Specific information about him is scarce.

Isaac Patton Jr. (1777–1862): Lived through significant historical periods, but personal details are minimal.

James Patton (1780–1831): Information about his life is limited.

Growing up in South Carolina during the late 18th century, Samuel was part of a family that valued service and community involvement. This environment likely influenced his later commitments to public service and leadership roles in various states.

In 1809, Samuel married Sarah D. "Sallie" Stephenson in Davidson, Tennessee. The couple had several children, including:

George Washington Patton (1809–1877) James Madison Patton (1811–1900) Thomas Jefferson Patton (1812–1871) Roseanna Jane Patton (1814–1869) Phoebe Patton (1818–1839) Nancy Ann Patton (1820–1898) Pickens Patton (1821–1893) Sarah Matilda Patton (1826–1889)

After Sarah's death in 1828, Samuel married Elizabeth Dease in Alabama. Together, they continued to build their family and eventually moved to Texas, where Samuel's leadership and public service further flourished.

Samuel's early family life, marked by his upbringing among multiple siblings and his role as a father to numerous children, reflects the familial structures of his era. His experiences within this family framework likely shaped his perspectives and commitments to community and public service in his later years.

Political Endeavors in Alabama

Following his military service, Patton relocated to Alabama. There, he immersed himself in public affairs, holding various public offices and serving in the state legislature. His tenure in Alabama's political sphere provided him with valuable experience in legislative processes and governance, skills that would later prove instrumental in his contributions to Texas.

Migration to Texas and Early Contributions

In 1837, Patton moved to Texas, a region teeming with opportunities and challenges. Recognized for his leadership abilities, he was appointed to the Board of Land Commissioners and became a member of the Congress of the Republic of Texas. In these capacities, Patton played a crucial role in land distribution and legislative affairs, influencing the early administrative framework of the burgeoning republic.

Establishment in Blanco County

Patton's journey in Texas saw him settling in Blanco County, where he was instrumental in its organization. Demonstrating his leadership and commitment to civic duty, he served as the county's first chief justice from 1858 to 1860. In this role, Patton was responsible for overseeing legal and administrative matters, laying the groundwork for the county's judicial system.

Transition to Kendall County

The year 1862 marked a significant transition for Patton. His homestead became part of the newly established Kendall County, named in honor of journalist George Wilkins Kendall. Embracing this change, Patton continued his public service by serving as the county's second chief justice in 1865. His leadership during this formative period was crucial in establishing the county's governmental structures and ensuring a smooth administrative transition.

Legacy and Final Years

Samuel Boyd Patton passed away on March 20, 1869, at his home on Curry's Creek in Kendall County. He was laid to rest on his homestead, beneath a venerable oak tree, a testament to his deep connection to the land he helped pioneer and develop. His grave remains a historical landmark, symbolizing his enduring legacy in the region.

Throughout his life, Samuel exemplified dedication to public service and community development. His contributions to the early political and judicial frameworks of Alabama and Texas, particularly in Blanco and Kendall Counties, underscore his significant role in shaping these regions. Patton's legacy serves as a reminder of the impact that committed individuals can have on the development and governance of emerging communities. **KG**



Tom Allred, born in 1949, has lived in Kendall County since 1993 and is a dedicated contributor to The Kendall Gentleman. Inspired by his great-uncle, James V. Allred, the 33rd Governor of Texas, Tom explores local history and the legacies of men who shaped their communities. tom@thekendallgentleman.com



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My Father MF The Judge Cigar of the Year 2024

By Clay Smoot

This month's review by Mr. Clay the Cigar Guy from The Cigar Society is the 2024 Cigar of the Year by My Father Cigars, The Judge. With its impeccable construction and complex flavor profile, this cigar has not only earned top honors but has also secured a spot in my personal top five favorite cigars.

The Judge is a masterpiece of craftsmanship and flavor, enveloped in a spectacular dark brown Sumatra Oscuro wrapper. Its appearance is both inviting and intimidating, suggesting a bold smoking experience without veering into harshness. The wrapper, sourced from Ecuador, brings a fine sweetness that cleverly conceals the inner strength of this full-bodied blend. What sets The Judge apart is its use of not one but two binders—Corojo and Criolloeach contributing to the cigar's complexity and depth.

Beneath the surface lies a blend of three different Nicaraguan fillers, meticulously selected from My Father Cigars' own farms. The tobacco comes from at least three renowned regions: the La Bonita Two farm in Jalapa, El Pedrero in Estelí, and San Rafael in Namanji. Each region's distinct terroir brings unique characteristics to the blend, creating a symphony of flavors that evolve throughout the smoke.

Lighting up The Judge Grand Robusto is an experience in itself. The first draw reveals a bold introduction of red pepper spice, immediately followed by a rush of dark chocolate and earthy tones. The cigar's full-bodied nature is present from the start, yet it manages to remain balanced, allowing each flavor to stand out without overwhelming the palate. As the smoke progresses, notes of cedar wood, black coffee, and plum emerge, woven seamlessly with hints of toast and nuts. These layers of flavor are both vivid and satisfying, making it clear why Cigar Aficionado named The Judge its Cigar of the Year for 2024.

The thick, box-pressed construction of The Judge not only enhances its aesthetic appeal but also serves a practical purpose. The shape promotes an even burn, allowing the smoker to savor the full complexity of the blend. The Grand Robusto's thick ring gauge is particularly effective in showcasing the nuances of Nicaraguan tobacco, making every puff a cross-section of the country's finest soils.



I personally prefer to cut the cap of my cigars with a V-cut, and The Judge is no exception. The V-cut provides a controlled draw that accentuates the cigar's rich flavors without allowing too much smoke to overwhelm the palate. The draw is smooth, with just the right amount of resistance, enhancing the smoking experience and allowing each note—from the pepper and chocolate to the subtler nutty and sweet undertones—to shine through.

One of the most impressive aspects of The Judge is how it encapsulates the essence of Nicaraguan tobacco. The filler, binder, and wrapper work harmoniously to deliver a smoke that is both powerful and refined. The tobacco from Jalapa adds a natural sweetness and creaminess, while the leaves from Estelí contribute strength and peppery spice. Meanwhile, the Namanji tobacco rounds out the blend with its earthy, rich profile.

The result is a cigar that tells a story with each draw—starting bold and spicy, transitioning into a smoother, creamier middle, and finishing with a robust mix of earth, wood, and coffee notes. The retrohale—where smoke is expelled through the nose—brings out additional complexity, highlighting floral undertones and a slight mineral finish.

Perfect Pairings for The Judge

To fully appreciate the complexity of The Judge, pairing it with the right drink is essential. The cigar's bold profile calls for equally robust beverages that can stand up to its intensity without overshadowing its nuanced flavors. Here are some pairing suggestions:

Liquors: High-quality bourbon with a slightly sweet finish, aged rum with caramel and spice notes, or Añejo tequila with its smooth and oaky character. The natural sweetness of these spirits complements the chocolate and nutty flavors of the cigar.

Coffee: Dark roast coffee or a well-pulled espresso enhances the earthy and coffee notes in The Judge, creating a harmonious blend of bitterness and spice. Wine: A robust red wine, such as a Cabernet Sauvignon or a Malbec, with its tannins and dark fruit flavors, pairs beautifully with the cigar's plum and chocolate notes.

Food: Dark chocolate with a high cocoa content or a perfectly seared steak provides a satisfying counterpart to The Judge's fullbodied profile.

Final Verdict

The Judge is not merely a cigar; it's an experience that demands attention and respect. From its impressive construction to its evolving flavor profile, it is a testament to the artistry of My Father Cigars. Whether you're a seasoned aficionado or a casual enthusiast, The Judge is a smoke that is sure to leave a lasting impression—bold, complex, and satisfyingly rich without being overly aggressive. It's no surprise that this cigar has claimed a top spot not only in my personal collection but also in the world of premium cigars.

For those who appreciate a cigar that tells a story with every draw, The Judge is a case that is open and shut—guilty of being one of the best. [KG]



Clay Smoot is the owner of The Cigar Society, a local business dedicated to offering premium cigars for aficionados. His carefully curated selection, including the featured cigar in this issue, is available at popular Kendall County spots like Free Roam Brewing Company and Roc-N-Ritas, providing a perfect pairing for great company. clay@thekendallgentleman.com

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BETTERMENT



Men Need MENtors

The Power of Strong Male Leadership By Collin Miller

A Defining Moment in a Young Boy's Life

When I was in fourth grade at Kendall Elementary School, my father was somewhere he wasn't allowed to tell me. He was a pilot in the Air Force, flying the C-5M Galaxy out of Lackland Air Force Base. At just 11 years old, I knew Dad was far away, but I had no real understanding of what that meant. I didn't yet grasp the demanding nature of his service, the sacrifices he was making, or the level of commitment his career required. It wasn't until Career Day that I began to understand what it meant to have a mentor-a man to look up to.

Career Day was the best day in elementary school. We didn't have to sit through regular classes, and parents of my classmates came in to share what they did for a living, giving us a glimpse into a world we knew nothing about. There were presentations from firefighters, business owners, and construction workers. Sometimes, we'd get lucky, and a fire truck would be parked outside, sparking a frenzy of excitement as we all begged for a ride with the sirens blaring-though, to our disappointment, they never did. That year, we were gathered in the music room at Kendall Elementary, sitting cross-legged on the floor as one of my classmates' fathers, a construction manager, showed us models of heavy machinery and photos of towering buildings. We were mesmerized, our imaginations running wild as he explained how these massive structures were built. When his presentation ended, we erupted into applause-the kind of deafening, enthusiastic applause only fourth graders can manage.

Then, the next dad was introduced.

My dad walked into the room. In his flight suit. Holding his flight helmet under one arm and carrying a model of a C-5 in the other.

I bolted toward him, wrapping my arms around him and hugging him as hard as I could. He set down his helmet and hugged me back. I remember the rough fabric of his flight

suit—it felt like soft Velcro against my face. But more than the texture, I remember the strength of his embrace. It was in that moment I knew I wanted to be two things in life:

As great a man as my father.

A pilot.

That memory shaped the man I would become. It was the first time I understood the power of having a mentor and the significance of having someone to look up to.

The Silent Crisis: The Absence of Male Role Models

As I've grown older, I've come to a harsh realization:

Not every young man has a mentor.

Not every young man has a father figure.

Not every young man has a leader to show him how to be a man.

And it shows.

Many societal problems can be traced back to the breakdown of the family unit - the absence of strong father figures and male mentors has

created a void. Young men are starving for guidance, discipline, and wisdom, yet many are never taught how to seek it Out.

It is our duty as men to learn from those before us, lead those who come after us, and pass down wisdom, discipline, and integrity. Without continual learning and leadership, society fractures, crumbles, and fades.

But mentorship isn't just about fathers and sons. It extends beyond family and into our community and professional lives.

MENtorship in Careers: Learning from the Greats

I am currently in law school, and one of the most valuable lessons I have learned is that strong mentorship is just as important in a career as it is in life. In my journey, I have sought out established lawyers-not just to teach me the legal profession, but to guide me in becoming a better man.

Yet, too often, young men are never encouraged to seek out mentors. Instead, they are simply told:

Go to school, get a degree, go to work.

There is so much more hidden in those commas.

In generations past, young men would apprentice under craftsmen, tradesmen, or professionals. The great men who built America and shaped history-leaders like

Benjamin Franklin, Robert Morris, and George Washington-studied under mentors. They didn't just learn a trade. They learned how to be great men.

Likewise, today's young men should seek out internships, apprenticeships, and mentorships-not just to gain skills, but to build character and integrity.

But mentorship is a two-way street. Young men cannot seek the wise counsel of their elders if their elders will not take them in.

A Call to Action: Kendall County **Needs MENtors**

Kendall County is one of the most beautiful, thriving areas in Texas: rolling hills, vineyards, stunning ranches, and historic towns, but beauty in nature must be matched by beauty in the people who call it home.

If you are an established man-whether in your career, family, or community-I urge you to seek out mentorship roles:

Volunteer at your church.

Mentor young men at local events.

Offer guidance in the workplace.

You have lessons to teach, and there are young men hungry to learn.

And if you are a young man, know this: people want to help you; your journey is just beginning. One day, it will be your turn to pass it forward.

The Wisdom of the Ancients: Lessons from Marcus Aurelius

One of my favorite historical figures is Marcus Aurelius, the Roman emperor and philosopher. At the height of his power, he was the richest and most powerful man in the world. Yet, he spent his life writing a journal, never meant to be seen by anyone else. That journal is now known as Meditations, one of the greatest books on wisdom, discipline, and leadership ever written.

In it, Aurelius offers this challenge:

"Waste no more time arguing what a good man should be. Be one."

That single line changed my life.

Final Thoughts: Seek or Look

I am grateful every day for my father. He drives me to be better. He pushes me to learn.

He keeps me upright. I thank God for that blessing. But not every young man has a father like mine. So, I leave you with a simple call to action:

Seek or look.

If you are a man with wisdom to share—seek out young men to mentor. If you are a young man in need of guidance—look for an elder who will teach you.

Because wherever you are in life—someone needs you. Be the mentor. Be the leader.

Be the man. KG



Collin Miller, a proud Texan, was born in San Antonio and raised in Boerne. An Aggie with an English degree from Texas A&M, he's now pursuing law at St. Mary's. Passionate about storytelling, justice, and Texas traditions, Collin enjoys the Hill Country, Aggie football, and good company at The Oak. collin@thekendallgentleman.com





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Watering Your Own Grass

By Coach Stan Leech

In the spring of 1989, early in my coaching career, I attended a one-day clinic hosted by Northside ISD. The featured speaker was Terry Morris, then the head basketball coach at Marshall High School. He shared a lesson that has stayed with me for over 35 years. Morris spoke of his constant search for the "perfect" job—the right location, the right talent, and the right pay. He moved from one place to another, hoping to find an ideal situation, only to realize that such a place didn't exist. That's when he had a revelation: rather than searching for something better, he needed to bloom where he was planted.

That phrase has shaped my perspective in both coaching and life. Many people coaches, teachers, and athletes alike, believe that fulfillment is always just beyond the next opportunity. If they could just get to the right school, the right situation, or the right break, then they would be content. But the truth is, the grass isn't always greener on the other side. As the saying goes, "If the grass is greener on the other side, start watering your own grass."

The Easter Message: Resurrection and Renewal

Easter reminds us that true transformation doesn't come from external changes—it comes from within. Jesus didn't need better circumstances to fulfill His purpose. He was born in a humble manger, raised in a small town, and rejected by His own people. When He was crucified, it seemed like defeat. But three days later, He walked out of the tomb, proving that victory comes not from changing locations but from embracing God's purpose right where we are.

The resurrection is the ultimate proof that life, hope, and renewal can spring forth even from the darkest situations. Just as springtime brings new life after the cold of winter, Easter reminds us that God can bring restoration in our own lives—no matter where we are planted.

Praying for Transformation

C.S. Lewis captured this truth perfectly in Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer when he wrote,

I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God. It changes me."

Too often, we pray for God to change our circumstances when, in reality, we need Him to change our hearts. Instead of asking for an easier path, a different challenge, or a new opportunity, we should ask God to help us grow where we are.

When Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, He didn't ask for an escape route, He asked for strength to carry out God's plan. His prayer wasn't about avoiding suffering but about being faithful in the midst of it. That is a powerful lesson for all of us.

The Beauty of Fertilizer

Of course, blooming where we are planted isn't always easy. Growth requires struggle, and sometimes, that means dealing with things that aren't pleasant. I once heard someone say that a beautiful yard doesn't always need fertilizer-but when it does, we all know what's in fertilizer!

In other words, sometimes, the hardships we go through—the setbacks, disappointments, and frustrations—are exactly what God uses to help us grow.

I've seen this in coaching many times. Athletes who didn't get the playing time they wanted but refused to quit became some of the hardest-working players. Teams that suffered tough losses often came back stronger the next season. Life works the same way. If we trust God's process, even the difficulties—the "fertilizer" of life—can produce something beautiful.

Living the Resurrection Life

As we celebrate Easter, let's remember that Christ's resurrection isn't just a historical event—it's an invitation to live transformed lives. We don't need perfect circumstances to experience God's blessings. Right now, in the jobs we have, in the families we are a part of, in the communities where we live, we can flourish.

So instead of searching for something better, let's start watering our own grass. Let's trust that God has planted us exactly where we need to be. Because when we embrace His calling, we will find that the resurrection power of Easter is alive in us—not just on one Sunday in April, but every single day of our lives.

"Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 15:57 KG



Coach Leech, now in his 39th year with Boerne ISD and 26th as Athletic Director, is a legendary high school basketball coach and a respected leader in the community. Beyond the basketball court, he has devoted over 30 years to teaching Sunday School at First Baptist Church, exemplifying his commitment to faith and mentorship. stan@thekendallgentleman.com



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RON MARTINELL Journey to Truth and Justus

By Michael G. Ethridge Photography By Emily Pfeiffer

Early Life and Education

Born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Dr. Ron Martinelli's path to becoming one of America's leading forensic criminologists was anything but ordinary. A scholastic All-American in track and field, Martinelli was a sprinter with ambitions of competing in the 1972 Olympics, boasting a 9.4-second 100-yard dash. His athletic prowess earned him a full scholarship to California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, where he pursued pre-med with aspirations of becoming a physical therapist. However, the emergence of discriminatory policies at the time made entry into PT programs challenging. Undeterred, Martinelli shifted his focus to law enforcement, laying the foundation for a remarkable career.

His drive to serve was sparked by a newspaper ad seeking applicants for local police and fire departments. While a lottery system ended his pursuit of firefighting, the police department remained an option. Despite tumultuous times marked by Vietnam War protests and widespread anti-police sentiment, Martinelli's determination led him to secure a position with the police force, launching a career that would span over two decades.

The Road to Law Enforcement

Martinelli's introduction to police work was swift and intense. During his first week of field training in San Jose, California, he found himself under fire—an experience that solidified his passion for the profession. "I have arrived," he recalls thinking amidst the chaos. Driven by a commitment to justice, he quickly rose through the ranks, passing the detective test with the top score and embarking on a career focused on combating street crime and gang violence.

His tenacity was evident in his undercover work as part of the street crimes unit, where he routinely placed himself in harm's way as a robbery decoy, getting held up 8-10 times a night. Such dedication paid off as he became the sole investigator for San Jose's burgeoning gang problem, which ballooned from 15 to 150 gangs in very short order.

Throughout his law enforcement career, Martinelli pursued higher education, earning an MPA in Public & Justice Administration and a PhD in Criminology and Forensic Psychology by 1983. His academic achievements were made possible through grants from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA), a testament to his belief in the power of education as a tool for advancing justice.

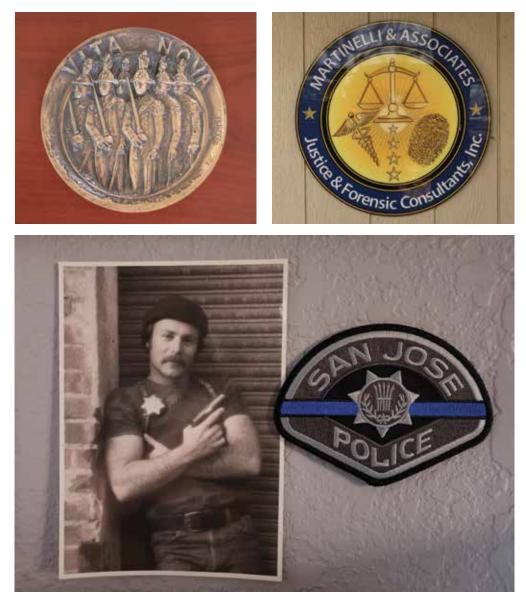
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Professional Philosophy: A Commitment to Truth

Guiding Martinelli's career is an unyielding commitment to truth. As the founder of Martinelli & Associates, his firm's motto— "We defend the innocent, and we speak for the dead"—encapsulates this philosophy. Unlike many expert witnesses, Martinelli refuses cases if he believes the opposing side's argument could prevail, underscoring his impartial approach.

His investigative methodology hinges on five key elements: information, circumstances, statements, facts, and forensic evidence. By comparing and contrasting these components, Martinelli maintains a balanced perspective focused solely on what the evidence reveals. "It's not my job to make credibility determinations," he explains. "I simply state: this is what the person said, and this is what the facts say."

Martinelli's team, composed of nationally recognized experts, operates under strict standards of integrity. Egos are left at the door, and the focus is placed squarely on the art of representation—ensuring that every analysis reflects a commitment to unbiased truth. This approach has not only earned his firm national prominence but has also solidified Martinelli's reputation as one of the country's foremost forensic experts.



Military Connections: Training the Best of the Best

By the early 2000s, Martinelli's expertise in hand-to-hand combat and tactical training had caught the attention of an elite group the Navy SEALs. During a training session for military police, a chance encounter led to an invitation to become a visiting instructor at the Naval Special Warfare School. Martinelli's role involved instructing SEAL trainers in advanced hand-to-hand combat and weapons disarmament techniques, a responsibility he recalls with admiration for the SEALs' mental and physical mastery.

His involvement with the SEALs exemplifies a core belief: staying within one's lane of expertise. "Problematic experts tend to extend beyond their lanes," Martinelli often notes. His emphasis on this principle not only shaped his approach to forensic consulting but also underscored the respect he garnered within military circles.

Building a Multidisciplinary Approach

Foreseeing the growing importance of forensic science in law enforcement, Martinelli began shifting his focus to this field while still serving as a detective. In 1978, he launched his first consulting business, which quickly gained traction due to its focus on a multidisciplinary approach—integrating crime scene analysis, forensic psychology, and investigative best practices. This model allowed Martinelli & Associates to provide comprehensive analyses that went beyond traditional law enforcement capabilities.

His decision to pivot to forensics in the aftermath of 9/11 further expanded his firm's scope. While federal agencies secured most of the high-profile contracts, Martinelli's specialization in forensic consulting carved out a niche that has endured for decades.

Teaching and Training: Spreading Knowledge

Martinelli's passion for teaching has been a consistent thread throughout his career. From his early days directing a large police academy in California to his later roles as a professor of advanced criminology, he has trained over 100,000 law enforcement and military personnel. His philosophy is simple yet powerful: "Learn by doing." This hands-on approach has proven effective in preparing officers for the complex realities of modern law enforcement.

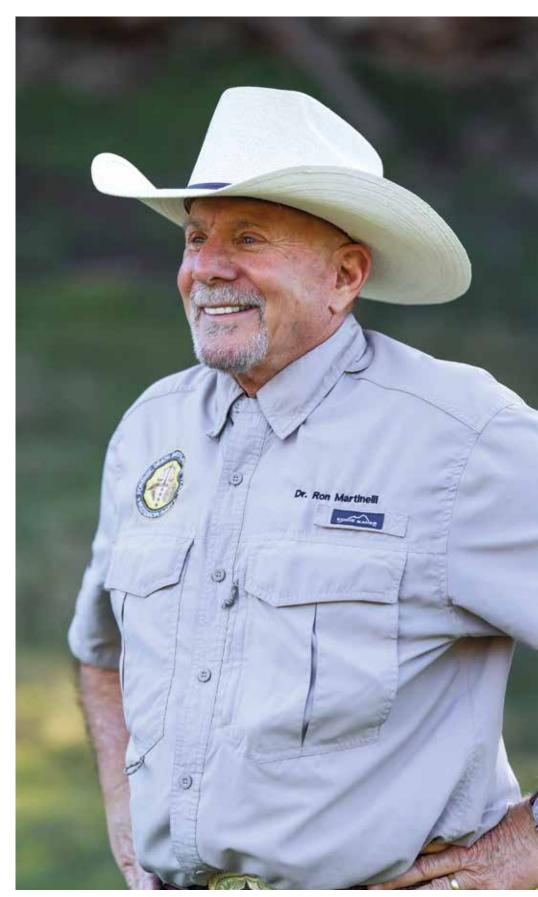
Beyond tactical training, Martinelli has been a pioneer in introducing forensic disciplines such as ballistic science and photogrammetry to officers across the nation. His contributions have helped shape a new generation of law enforcement professionals equipped to handle an increasingly forensic-driven justice system.

From Forensics to Fiction: A New Chapter

While Dr. Ron Martinelli's forensic expertise has earned him national acclaim, his talents extend beyond the courtroom and crime scenes to the world of fiction. In 2017, at the encouragement of his mentor, Hans Halberstadt, Martinelli turned to writing as a way to process the harrowing crime scenes he had encountered throughout his career. His first book, Absolute Justus, marked the debut of Texas Ranger Wade Justus—a character inspired by Martinelli's own values of justice, honor, and tenacity.

The series, which now includes Border Justus, Justus for All, Force of Justus, and the upcoming Runaway Justus, has garnered a dedicated readership. What sets Martinelli's books apart is their unwavering commitment to accuracy. Every location, piece of technology, weapon, and investigative technique is painstakingly researched and rooted in reality. In fact, prior to publishing his first novel, Martinelli sent the manuscript to the chief detective of Nashville, who praised it as the "new gold standard" for crime books about the city.

Martinelli's commitment to authenticity goes beyond the pages of his books. Accompanied by his wife, Linda, he personally visits every location featured in his novels—from the streets of Nashville to the historic avenues of Florence, Italy—conducting interviews and gathering firsthand details to enhance the realism of his stories.



The Evolution of Wade Justus

The Wade Justus series follows the titular Texas Ranger as he confronts a wide range of threats, from Mexican cartels to international conspiracies. The character's background, a small ranch on the Guadalupe River near Boerne, Texas, mirrors aspects of Martinelli's own life. This connection resonates with readers, many of whom are drawn to the authenticity and depth of the characters.

Border Justus, the best-selling installment in the series, delves into the world of transnational drug and human trafficking cartels, presenting a fictional county in New Mexico based on real-life locations and gangs. The latest addition, Runaway Justus, set to release in late March or early April, tackles the issue of sex trafficking, a cause championed by actress Cheryl Ladd, who also appears as a character in the book.

The series' success is further underscored by its broad appeal—46% of Martinelli's readers are women, according to Amazon data. This demographic diversity is a testament to the depth of his characters, particularly the strong, intelligent female figures who play pivotal roles in each story.

A Connection to Kendall County

For the past decade, Boerne, Texas, has been home for Martinelli and his wife, Linda. Their decision to settle in the Texas Hill Country was sparked by a serendipitous detour off Interstate 10, which led them through downtown Boerne. Captivated by the town's charm, they decided to make it their permanent home.

Martinelli's ties to Kendall County run deep. Upon moving to Boerne, he quickly sought ways to give back to the community. One of his first acts was to offer pro-bono training services to the Boerne Police Department, which at the time lacked a substantial training budget. Over the years, his expertise has extended to all local law enforcement agencies, including the Texas Rangers and the Department of Public Safety, often at no cost. His commitment to public service is also evident in his response to critical incidents. On one occasion, Martinelli was personally requested by then-Boerne Police Chief Jim Kohler to assist in analyzing the scene of the city's first fatal officer-involved shooting in decades, ensuring the investigation was handled with utmost professionalism and accuracy.

Faith, Family, and Values

Faith and family are at the core of Martinelli's life. A man of strong Christian beliefs, he attributes much of his success to his faith and to Linda, his wife and business partner. Their story is one of chance and destiny—an online political survey during the Bush-Kerry election era connected the two, who discovered a shared passion for politics and law enforcement. Their first meeting at the Mission Inn in Riverside, California, revealed an uncanny connection: Linda, a former LAPD officer, had been involved in the Hillside Strangler case—an investigation Martinelli was teaching about at the time.

Together, they have built Martinelli & Associates into a national leader in forensic consulting. Linda's business acumen and marketing expertise played a significant role in expanding the firm's reach and influence, transforming what was already a successful business into what Martinelli describes as a "rocket ship trajectory."

Hobbies and Lesser-Known Facts

Outside of his professional life, Martinelli has a surprising hobby—combat knife throwing. Taught by real-life throwing knife instructor Matthew Dunn, Martinelli has incorporated this skill into his novels, blending his interests with his storytelling.

He is also a lifelong learner who approaches each day with the mindset that there is always something new to learn. His travels, both for consulting and research for his books, have taken him around the world—from Singapore, where he observed one of the world's most advanced surveillance systems, to the Warrant Officers Academy in Florence, Italy, where he was the first civilian invited to tour the facilities.





Legacy and What Matters Most

When asked what he hopes to be remembered for, Martinelli's answer is straightforward: professionally, for his contributions to forensic science through the multidisciplinary investigation method; personally, as a devoted husband and father who lived by his faith.

"Your success is not your own," Martinelli often says. "You have a responsibility to bring people up with you." This philosophy reflects not just his professional life but his personal one as well, emphasizing mentorship, integrity, and the importance of giving back.

Conclusion: A Life of Service and Justice

Dr. Ron Martinelli's life has been a testament to service, integrity, and a relentless pursuit of truth—whether through forensic investigations, training law enforcement officers, or crafting compelling novels rooted in reality. His unwavering standards and commitment to accuracy have set him apart as a true advocate for justice.

As he continues to expand the Wade Justus series and pursue new projects, Martinelli's influence on both the forensic and literary worlds remains profound. In an era where truth can often seem elusive, his dedication to facts and evidence serves as a powerful reminder of the impact one man can have when guided by principle and purpose.

For these reasons - and many others - Dr. Ron Martinelli is The Kendall Gentleman. KG

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Cibolo Fun and Food

By John Eddie Vogt

Published in 2011, the late John Eddie Vogt's book, Witches, Bitches, and Other Small Town Folks, brings to life the quirky, unforgettable, and entertaining tales of growing up and living in Kendall County from the 1930s through the 1960s. Thanks to the gracious permission of his family—and proudly sponsored by Hometown Roofing—The Kendall Gentleman is honored to share excerpts from his book for your enjoyment.

The 'Mill Dam' on River Road was one of the places to go for a swim in warm weather. Another favorite place was below the bluff where Schleicher Street runs into School Street. There was a real good swimming hole there and it was handy to change clothes in a thicket that had formed where a gravel pit had once been. And then there was the Fabra Hole about a mile farther up the creek. Both of these latter mentioned places are so muddied up or full or trash and moss that they are unfit for swimming today. Dale Bower and I would play hookey from school each Spring and go swimming. No matter how cold the water we would have to test it out. The Cibolo would dry up every two or three years and become only a puddle or two. If it did run, it would be only a foot or so wide. I remember one year when teh creek from Main Street to the dam dried and Jack and Frank Newton went into teh creekbad with buckets and gathered up the crawfish and sold them to Dutch Paul Adler. Dutch Paul had a cade at about 142 South Main and would add crawfish to the menu. He would also pay thirty-five cents for a soft-shell turtle and make soup. When you were young, it was considered a real stroke of luck to catch a soft-shelled turtle and take it to Dutch Paul for the thirty-five cent "bounty".

Dutch Paul had a parrot that he kept by his side at all times. The parrot liked men but he had no respect for the female species. Whenever a parrot would come forward with "Hello you old bitch. Hello you old bitch". As you can guess, the cafe was mostly a male hangout. KG - brought to you by John -Eddie Vogt II with







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The Spring Transition

By Jed Mazour

For the avid outdoorsman, February is a slow time of year. Hunting season is wrapped up and it's too cold to fish most waters. This leaves most of us packing away our camo, cleaning the blood off of our tailgates, and planning our next adventures for early spring. Honestly, this is my favorite time of year! It's a transition from early morning sits or stalks, walks back to camp from the blind at dark, cold and quiet to turtle box speakers and bright colored kayaks. March is Mother Nature's birth to a new season. Warm sunshine and spring rain bring back the green to the trees, blooms the cottonwoods that line the rivers, and signals the white bass to make their run up the river to spawn.

I always have the same conversation every year with my son about this time. "Do you like hunting season or spring fishing more?" and it's always the same answer. Hunting season for him and for me, this is my favorite! I will spend any free time I have in my shop unpacking and cleaning my boat, loading the kayaks back on the jeep (The Moose Caboose), lining fishing rods, sorting tackle, cleaning ice chests and mapping our next drop in location on the Guadalupe River.

In the Boerne area, spring is a great time to catch the Largemouth Bass building their beds on the shallow banks preparing for the females to spawn. This is an exceptional time to catch them at a very aggressive state. The males (Buck Bass), smaller in size to the females, will clean an area in a circle shape for the larger female to spawn in. They will be very protective of this spot! Because of this, they will be much easier to aggravate and catch. If you are lucky, you can catch a few of the males and then work slowly at persuading the prized female to take a bite of what you have to offer. This bite is also usually done out of frustration that someone is in her area.

My tips for the angler looking to take advantage of this time of year are simple and will make for an enjoyable weekend with friends or family. We are blessed to have the Guadalupe River run through our county. Take advantage of it!! If you don't have a kayak, you can park at any bridge crossing and walk the river bed. When fishing the river, use smaller baits. This will help generate more bites. Small crawfish crankbaits, ned rigs, jigs or worms. Keep with the faithful watermelon red for color. Look for bedding bass but never leave a good rock or log unattended. These are always good spots for a bigger bass to set up and wait for a meal. This river is also the perfect opportunity to pick up a fly rod and learn something new. I will caution you! once you pick up a fly rod and land a few good bass, you will quickly be investing into more fly fishing gear! Another one of my favorite local spots for this time of year is Joshua Springs Park and Preserve. There are two main ponds. Both of them hold bass in the 10 lbs. range. This is one of the best

places to walk and stalk bass working on beds. Don't be afraid to walk all the way around the lower pond. The grass is higher but the water is deeper. The park allows you to hike around and fish or you can use a kayak. There is a loading area on the dam for convenience. Don't forget a lifejacket! State law. If you are so lucky to catch one of the large female bass on a bed, congratulations, it's probably a trophy fish! But don't keep her out of the water for too long. Take a few pictures and quickly return her to the exact same spot. With some luck, she will have a healthy and successful spawn producing more quality fish for the area.

This area is special to me and my family. My wife and I grew up here, floating the river and camping as kids. We have raised our babies doing the same with them. Take care of this beautiful river so we can all enjoy it for years to come. Take more than you came with when you leave. I encourage you to explore these areas, share it with others and have a true appreciation for the resources we are blessed to have! KG



Jed Mazour has lived in Boerne for over 30 years with his wife, Denise, and their two kids. An avid outdoorsman, he leads the faith-based Boerne Bass Club, helping youth anglers in grades 6-12 compete in bass fishing while sharing his passion for the area's natural beauty and opportunities. jed@thekendallgentleman.com

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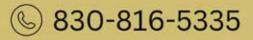


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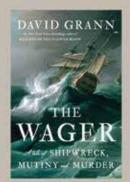




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Dale Adams, Store Owner

Recommends "The Wager" by David Grann. This is the story of the last mission of the British warship, the Wager. It was assumed that it was lost with all hands on board until two different groups of survivors turned up at different times and locations. They had very conflicting stories to tell and the British Navy convened a court martial to try to get to the truth. If Earnest Shackleton's miraculous, but failed, expedition to Antarctica shows how great leadership and strong camaraderie can overcome a catastrophe, the final voyage of the Wager shows what happens if you don't have those important qualities when they are most needed. Written in a fast bu wide ranging style, The Wager details one crew's struggle to survive when working together is needed but not found.





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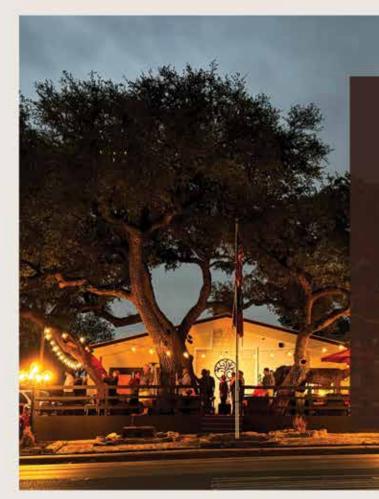


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