KG THE KENDALL G E N T L E M A N

MAY 2025 | ISSUE 4 :: VOLUME 1

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KENDALL GENTLEMAN

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MAY 2025 | ISSUE 4 :: VOLUME 1

8 FROM THE PUBLISHER

10 CALENDAR of EVENTS

14 HISTORY

Frederick Voges *By Tom Allred, Sr.*

18 WHISKEY REVIEW

Navigating the Whiskey Shelf *By Renita Reavis*

22 BETTERMENT

The Road Less Traveled By Tommy Mathews

24 COMMUNITY

Swing Strong Sponsored by Rick Reyes of Edward Jones

26 FAITH & LEADERSHIP

The Gospel According to Scottie By Coach Stan Leech

30 THE KENDALL GENTLEMAN: DORMAN VICK

By Michael G. Ethridge Photography By Jonathan Mallard

38 MUSINGS OF JEV

Forest Gump & Big Words By John Eddie Vogt

42 OUTDOORS

Cazando El Pavo Del Rio Grande By Jed Mazour





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Are you interested in contributing to The Kendall Gentleman? Do you have an interesting story to tell the men of Kendall County? Could you be considered an expert in your given field? Have something interesting to say? We're always looking for talented writers for The Kendall Gentleman. Email us at info@thekendallgentleman.com





The Pursuit of Purpose: Why Men Seek To Leave A Legacy

As the seasons change and the world around us bursts into life, I find myself reflecting on the concept of purpose. It's a topic that resonates with many of us, especially as we navigate the responsibilities of work, family, and community. There's something almost primal about the need to create, to build, and to leave something lasting—a legacy that endures long after we're gone.

For generations, men have been driven by the desire to make a mark, whether it's through craftsmanship, leadership, or simply being a steadfast presence for their families. It's not just about personal success or recognition; it's about creating a ripple effect that positively impacts others.

At The Kendall Gentleman, we often celebrate the artisans, craftsmen, and community leaders who embody this pursuit of purpose. From the dedicated blacksmith who passes down his skills to a new generation, to the father who coaches Little League not just to teach the game, but to instill character and resilience, these stories are everywhere in our community.

In Kendall County, I see countless examples of men who invest their time and effort into building something that

lasts. Whether it's constructing physical structures that will stand for decades, or building relationships that foster growth and support, their work is a testament to a deeper motivation. It's about legacy—not in the sense of wealth or fame, but in the lives touched and the lessons passed on.

One local figure who embodies this pursuit is Dorman Vick, a welding instructor at Samuel V. Champion High School. For nearly two decades, Dorman has shaped young lives, instilling both technical skills and life lessons. His story, like so many others, is a reminder that purpose often emerges from the desire to better others' lives, not just our own.

This drive to leave a legacy is something I think about often. In our fast-paced world, it's easy to lose sight of the long game. We're bombarded with messages about instant gratification, yet the most meaningful accomplishments often take years of dedication. Whether you're teaching your son to change a tire, mentoring a young entrepreneur, or volunteering at a local event, these moments of guidance and support are what shape the next generation.

As we step into May, let's take a moment to reflect on our own pursuits of purpose. What are we building? What values are we instilling in those who come after us? In the end, it's not just about what we accomplish, but about who we inspire along the way.

Thank you for being a part of this journey with The Kendall Gentleman. I hope that this issue, like those before it, serves as a reminder to build something lasting—not just for ourselves, but for our community and the generations to come.

Until next time,

Michael G. Ethridge Publisher/Owner





Calendar of Events

5.3.25

2nd Annual Music on the Mile **Festival**

Hill Country Mile www.musiconthemile.com The Hill Country Mile in Boerne, Texas will be filled with live music all day long, from 12 - 10 PM. Last year there were over 20 artists across 10 stages. This year will be just as good, if not better!

Boerne Lemonade Day

Sponsored by The Greater Boerne Chamber of Commerce All Over Boerne! local.lemonadeday.org/boerne Boerne Lemonade Day is a community program hosted by The Greater Boerne Chamber of Commerce that teaches young people the entrepreneurial skills they need to start, own and operate their own business; a lemonade stand!

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

5.8.25

Men's Thursday Study

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

5.10.25

Second Saturday Speakeasy Niahts

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

5.12.25

American Legion General Membership Meeting

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

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)

5.13.25

VFW Business Meeting

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

5.15.25

Men's Night

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

5.16.25

Swing Strong Till It's Gone Golf Tournament Swing Strong Inc.

Tapatio Springs Hill Country Resort 1 Resort Way Boerne, TX 78006 https://birdease.com/29853 To Benefit the Michael J. Fox Foundation For Parkinson's Research 100% of Team Fox Swing Strong Till It's Gone goes directly to research and development

5.19.25

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 | Our publisher is fixing supper that night!

Memorial Day Ceremony

American Legion Post 313 Veterans Plaza 801 S. Main St. Boerne, TX 78006 10:00am Start Time

Tuesdays

Trivia Night

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

Wednesdays

Mens Bible Study

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

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. KG







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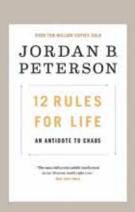
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The Boerne Bookshop

Dale Adams, Store Owner

Recommends "12 Rules For Life" by Jordan B. Peterson.

The rules are pretty basic and common sense but the discussion laying the foundation for each rule is fascinating, truly worth reading and understanding. Jordan Peterson delves into biology, evolutionary processes, societal development, religious morality and deep psychology to explain why each rule is valid for everyone. If you want to know what's going on in your head (and how to guide it where you want), this is the book for you.









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Frederick Voges: A Hardworking Pioneer of Kendall

County

By Tom Allred, Sr.

If you've spent any time digging into the history of Kendall County, you've probably come across the name Frederick Voges. He wasn't the flashiest figure in Texas history, but he was one of those hardworking, salt-ofthe-earth folks who helped turn this part of the Hill Country into a thriving community. A German immigrant who made his way to Texas in the mid-1800s, Voges built a life from the ground up—farming, raising a family, and laying down roots that would stretch across generations.

From Germany to Texas

Frederick E. Voges was born 19 Jan 1820 -Hanover, (Prussia) Germany to Johann Cord Heinrich "Friedrich" Voges and Katharine



Oelerking. Friedrich E Voges married Friederike Heinz, and they had 7 children. Now, we don't know a whole lot about his younger years, but like many Germans in the mid-19th century, he decided to leave the Old Country in search of something better. Times were tough in Germany—political upheaval, economic struggles, and just a general sense that life could be better elsewhere. And where did folks like Frederick set their sights? Texas, of course!

At some point in the 1850s, he made the long, grueling journey across the Atlantic, eventually settling in New Braunfels, one of the best-known German settlements in Texas. The area was already home to a strong German community, which made the transition a

little easier. But let's be clear—being a pioneer in Texas was no walk in the park. It took determination, grit, and a whole lot of sweat to carve out a good life in those days.

Family and Building a Life

By the time the Voges family packed up and moved to Kendall County, Frederick had his eyes set on farming. He managed to secure a 300-acre spread on the Balcones, and that land became his family's homestead. One of his sons, Friedrich Ernst "Fritz" Voges, was born in 1852 in a little settlement called Hortontown (now part of New Braunfels). As the family grew, so did their ambitions. Texas was full of opportunities, and they weren't afraid to chase them. The Texas Hill

Country had good, fertile soil, and Frederick knew how to make the most of it. Like many German immigrants, he had a strong work ethic and a knack for turning the land into something productive.

A Life of Hard Work

Frederick didn't just farm for his family—he played a part in feeding the whole community. His son, Fritz, eventually got involved in the local butcher business, working alongside his father-in-law, Conrad Adam. Together, they helped provide fresh meat for folks in Boerne and the surrounding areas, which was a big deal back then. Having a reliable food source was essential for a growing town, and the Voges family was right in the thick of it.

Life in early Kendall County wasn't just about work, though—it was also about building relationships. The Voges family married into other well-known settler families, like the Adams and Bergmanns, weaving themselves into the social fabric of the area. These were the kinds of folks who didn't just think about their success; they helped their neighbors, built businesses, and shaped the future of the town.

Leaving a Lasting Legacy

Frederick Voges lived a long and full life, passing away in 1903. His son, Fritz, carried on the family legacy, living until 1942 and being laid to rest in the Boerne Cemetery. Even today, the Voges name is well remembered in the region.

Frederick may not have been the most famous figure in Texas history, but he was one of the countless hardworking pioneers who made the Hill Country what it is today. He was a farmer, a family man, and a true part of the Texas story.

So, next time you drive through Kendall County and see the rolling farmland, think about folks like Frederick Voges—people who took a chance, worked hard, and helped build something lasting. Their legacy isn't written in big history books, but it lives on in the land, the families, and the community they helped create. 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@the kendall gentleman.com





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Navigating the Whiskey Shelf

By Renita Reavis

We are entering a time of year when special bottles are bought to honor our loved ones or celebrate milestones. Stores will see an increase in demand preceding Father's Day. Wedding seasons are next in the lineup as brides search for the special bottle for their grooms or the grooms look for the special bottle to enjoy with their groomsmen. Hopefully, we are seeing more of a trend in buying mothers their favorite whiskey. Fingers crossed? Then there are those special bottles we buy ourselves to celebrate milestones. Then there are the ones we buy in memory of a special person no longer in our lives.

"Would you please recommend...?"

"I need help finding..."

"Do you have...?"

"I need a gift for..."

"Which bottle would you choose?"

Anyone with any topic experience becomes the go-to resource when you need something. Yet, what do you do when the item is all based on preferences? How do you help when you don't know the person receiving the gift? These are questions asked all the time by those who work in the whiskey section of any liquor store or who have extensive whiskey knowledge. One question turns into multiple questions asked back to help guide the buyer into a direction that would hopefully work out best for them. It is all the "Twenty Questions" guessing game where everyone has their own preferences, and the store associates must guess so that the giver comes out the winner

The Twenty Questions game always starts with what is it that you are looking for?



Why are you looking for a bottle? Price range? Transitioning into more questions about the receiver's preferred brand, style of whiskey, or how do they enjoy it? All questions to get a glimpse of the direction to head towards the best choice among the available options. Being a detective and snooping around before heading to your favorite liquor store will make the experience easier and more pleasant for everyone involved. If not, you may be directed towards the dreaded store's favorite selections that bring them the most profits or incentives or a store associate who has little knowledge in that section.

Sometimes, the buyer is highly prepared, knowing exactly which bottle they want. Unfortunately, it falls in the extremely impossible to obtain unless you want to search for smaller stores and pay obscene amounts over the MSRP. They can be bought if you are willing to add an extra digit to the end of what you think you should pay, some are even two digits! These bottles are nicknamed "unicorn" or "allocated". Strolling into a large retailer is not going to get you the results you wish. Those places require loyalty points, lists, special emails, and special calls after spending significant amounts at the store over the year. Family members leave frustrated as they discover they are unable to obtain the special bottle they were so excited to be able to get for their loved ones.

The best customers are those who have pictures of their loved ones' whiskey selections or know of other easily obtainable bottles that are on their wish lists. Being able to look at a picture and point directly to a bottle with solid confidence makes everyone involved happy. Knowing their favorite brand

means helping direct them to possibly a special expression or a unique store pick to help them experience more of what the brand has to offer. Knowing they absolutely love American Single Malts helps direct them to an extremely specific section of the store to help aide in selecting a new or favorite bottle.

Whiskey enthusiasts have special bottles. They are usually valued due to rarity, age, or price. These bottles are saved for a specific special occasion such as weddings, retirements, birthdays, and other significant milestones. Every now and then, a bottle does not fit into the special category for any reason that a stranger would find. It is an average-looking bottle that can be easily replaced. No value is easily attributed to what is on the label, yet it is beyond the everyday grab. This bottle is attached to someone. It was that special person's favorite brand. It was a bottle you were saving to enjoy with them when they went into remission. It was the bottle you shared with them, and only them, when they came to visit. The sentimental bottles have no price comparison, but they are secretly treasured, brought out to remember, and quietly replaced in hopes of keeping that person's memory alive. No other bottle will ever compete. Never question the purchase or request for bottles from a whiskey enthusiast who knows what is on the shelf. They were kind

enough to give you an easy to find bottle that they know they will enjoy in a price range they know you will be able to afford. Please do not deviate from this request!

In closing, I leave you with recommendations to take your favorite person to build whiskey memories to these local distilleries. Build memories while experiencing whiskey and supporting veteran-owned distilleries. Chapline Distillery is owned by a Navy Submariner veteran. Many of his barrels are named in honor of submarines. Ranger Creek Brewery and Distillery is military-owned and employs many veterans. Garrison Brothers Distillery in Hye honors veterans every Veteran's Day and encourages Remember Everyone Deployed (RED) Fridays.

There are many in our community who have served or are still serving. Some of us have our loved ones actively deployed in the depths of the worst areas currently on the globe. This toast is to honor them: "To those who went, to those who are there still, to those who have returned, to those who never will." KG



Renita Reavis, a 15-year Boerne resident and Army veteran, is a whiskey enthusiast passionate about craft distilleries. She holds an Executive Bourbon Steward certification and Whiskey Sommelier Level 1, blending her love for unique flavors with rich experiences, friendships, and mentorships in the whiskey world. renita@thekendallgentleman.com



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The Road Less Traveled

By Tommy Mathews

Have you ever felt like you were in rut? Day after day of fighting the same battles, living an all too familiar experience over and over again as you move down the road of life. I think that it is fair to say that we all have been there or may even be there at this moment

in time. Sometimes, while in those ruts, we ask ourselves, "How did I get here? What did I do to deserve this? How do I get out of this rut, or is this just my destiny to bounce around, letting the ruts guide my progress?" We double down and try harder, because as

men that's what we do, suck it up and increase our effort. Sometimes that is the answer, but I would offer that more often than not, it requires change in a different form.

Let's take our metaphorical image of driving in a rut. To get out of the rut, we may try to slowly ride up the side of the rut in hopes of getting to the higher ground. Other times, we turn the wheel hard and "jump" out of the rut. In both cases, we know that if we are not careful, we can easily slide right back into the rut. It lurks before us, dominating our thoughts, ever threatening to take hold of our path and direction. Sometimes, it is easier to just give in, stay in the ruts, accept the hand we've been dealt, and ride out the journey without the experience that we had hoped for. We justify it by saying, "Hey, I'll hammer



through, get to the end eventually, and put that behind me."

The journey of life is not meant to be traversed in ruts or the paths worn by others or formed by the consequences of our choices. The ruts are only meant to be very short parts of the journey. The rest of the journey, we are called to set our own path for our betterment, living life by exercising our unique gifts, skills, and talents. Not by falling into the trap of yet another rutted path.

I was telling a medical professional one day that I felt like I was stuck in a rut, Groundhog Day, day after day. He asked me, "What are you doing to make a change?" to which I replied, "I am trying as hard as I can to do better." He then said something that forever

changed the course of my life: "I am not asking you how hard you're trying. I asked what are you doing to make a change?" It was a question about doing, not trying. I was reminded of what Master Yoda said in Star Wars, "Do or do not. There is no try!" In that moment I became aware of one staggering reality – I was in a rut because I chose to be. That is worth repeating – because I chose to be. The only person able to change that choice was me, so I cut the wheel hard and jumped up out of the rut, up to different ground and onto a road less traveled.

I began to study and look into why we get in ruts, why as we age we get "set in our ways", and how to avoid those very things. The human body is amazing and efficient. It repairs what we use by focusing its resources where they are needed. If we always do the same thing and think the same way, the body only repairs those things. This is why varied and dynamic physical exercise is so critical to our well-being and longevity. But what about the mind? As it turns out, the brain forms preferred neural pathways driven by the parts of the brain that we "exercise" the most.

What happens when we limit the parts of the brain that we exercise? Those neural pathways become neural ruts, our patterns continue, and the ruts become more established. We get more and more "set in our ways", and like ruts on a trail, more and more narrow(minded), not open to other possibilities. I'm not talking about our core convictions and principles. I'm talking about things such as limiting what we read, or not reading much at all, never learning a new skill, excessive screen time or endless scrolling, being a creature of habit, avoiding challenging new experiences, only listening to one form of music while avoiding others, especially soothing or classical music.

The connection between the mind and body has long been recognized. In the pace of today's world, we often don't take the time to invest in activities that support and reinforce the mind portion of the connection. Here are just a few things I have discovered that help me:

Find several good books to read to exercise different parts of your mind. Make sure that they are varied, such as something technical, something fictional, something spiritual or reflective. You can read one from start to finish and then move on to the next, OR you can rotate books each day so that you are reading 2, 3, 4 at one time! I've done this, and it is really quite amazing as it opens the mind and each book seems more interesting than if I read it from start to finish and then move on to different book.

If you have a commute or travel, try audio books. I currently have books on science fiction, reflection, health & wellness, history, and the science of space travel in my audio library that I am rotating through.

Add a 20+ minute early morning or evening walk, free of cell phones, to your daily routine. The sunrise and sunset light are soothing to the soul and the starlit sky is a great reminder of the universe of infinite possibilities. This helps the mind, body, and spirit.

A couple of times a day take a 10–15-minute break from your normal routine to get up and move, to meditate and clear your mind, or to visit with others.

Perform random acts of kindness by smiling and saying hello to strangers, asking how their day is going, and genuinely listening to their answers.

Manage your time in the evenings so that you can get a good night's sleep. This is especially true if you sit in front of a computer screen much of the day. Stay away from electronics, the TV, and screen time for at least an hour before you plan to go to sleep.

Develop a simple thankfulness prayer or meditation to say/do every night as you fall asleep. This helps relax the mind and can be used to help you fall back to sleep should your sleep be interrupted.

Write a letter. Yes, I said it, handwrite a letter, card, or a note and send it to a loved one or a friend. I guarantee that receiving it will bring them joy, and it will do you good.

Rather than texting back and forth, call, visit, and hear someone's voice.

The funny thing about ruts is that when you are not using them, they slowly fill back in, and the same holds true for those in the mind. As we use more and more areas of our minds, we grow, and new possibilities present themselves. So, restore your dreams, reach for new and greater things, and find joy in new learning and experiences, and I hope that we meet one day on the Road Less Traveled. KG



Tommy Mathews leads Westward Environmental, headquartered in Boerne. A proud Boerne native and BHS '78 graduate, he's actively involved in the community through roles with the Boerne Kendall County EDC and Visit Boerne, where he serves as Chairman. He's also a dedicated member of St. Helena's Episcopal Church. tommy@thekendallgentleman.com

Swing Strong

Sean Jahr's Journey to Making a Difference

Sponsored by Rick Reyes of Edward Jones

Sean Jahr's story is one of resilience, determination, and community impact. Diagnosed with early-onset Parkinson's disease at the age of 38, Sean didn't let the diagnosis define him. As a former athlete and successful executive, he kept his condition private for years while continuing to excel professionally. After retiring, Sean shifted his focus to his family, his passion for golf, and giving back to the Parkinson's community.

Sean is known for his fierce independence, even when faced with challenges on the golf course. Despite his condition, he refuses help when he falls, insisting on getting back on his feet on his own. It's his way of maintaining his independence for as long as possible—a quality that resonates with everyone who knows him. As Linda Moulton, co-chair of the auction, puts it, "Sean is a very strong man... people adore him."

Sean's wife, Lisa, and his three sons—Jordan, Spencer, and Dominic—are a constant source of support and inspiration. Jordan works as a controller for Game 7 in Austin, Spencer is a firefighter in Aurora, Colorado, and Dominic is a firefighter in Casper, Wyoming. The family's close bond and commitment to helping others reflect Sean's own values of resilience and service.

As his Parkinson's disease progressed, Sean underwent Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) surgery in June 2020. Two months later, he joined Tapatio Springs Golf Resort and began playing golf almost every day with the men's group. Despite stumbling and fumbling at times, Sean maintains his spirit and positivity, emphasizing the importance of staying active and passionate about life.

Sean founded Swing Strong Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, with the mission to raise funds for Parkinson's research through the Michael J. Fox Foundation. The flagship event, the Swing Strong 'Til It's Gone Golf Tournament, is held annually at the Tapatio Springs Hill Country Resort in Boerne, Texas. The first tournament in 2022 raised \$30,000, while the 2023 event saw incredible growth, raising \$100,000 for the foundation.

This year's tournament will take place on May 16, 2025, featuring a day of golf, a silent auction, dinner, and a concert by Texas legend Gary P. Nunn. Sean's goal for this year is to raise \$150,000, with a stretch goal of over \$200,000. Registration starts at 11:00 AM at Tapatio Springs, and the event promises a memorable day of community spirit and philanthropy.

Sean's message to the community is simple yet profound: "We are all going to be confronted with something in our lifetime – don't fight it, embrace it and make it your own."

To learn more about the tournament or to register, visit the event page at birdease.com/29853.

The Kendall Gentleman proudly supports Sean Jahr's efforts to fight Parkinson's and inspire the community through the Swing Strong Golf Tournament. KG











The Gospel According to Scottie

By Coach Stan Leech

Mothers have a way of telling us exactly what we need to hear, even when it is not what we want to hear.

For my mother, Scottie Florene Leech, this was her specialty.

Scottie could cut through distractions, set the game plan, and make sure we didn't waste time worrying about the wrong things. Sometimes her lessons came in quick, sharp reminders—truths wrapped in a few wellchosen words.

We call these lessons, The Gospel According to Scottie.

Lesson 1: Play the Game with What You've Got

It was 1982, and Jackie and JoAnn Cargill were hosting a party for Carla and I. We were asked to invite some friends, and I did - about two handfuls of them. Well, as the party got going, I started to notice something - about half of the people we invited didn't show up. I looked around, feeling a little disappointed and finally turned to my mother and asked, "Where are Danny, Kirk, and Ioe?"

Without hesitation, she gave me that signature raised eyebrow and said, "Only concern yourself with those at the party."

And then for emphasis, "Don't worry about those not at the party." That was it. She didn't explain it. She didn't overanalyze it. She simply reminded me of a truth that I have carried with me ever since:

Focus on the ones who show up. In life, in leadership, and even in faith, it is easy to get caught up wondering why some people don't come along for the ride. But my mother? She knew better! She understood that your energy should go toward the people who

are present, engaged and willing to walk the journey with you. And as it turns out, Jesus taught the same thing. The Biblical Connection: "If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you." Luke 10:6.

When Jesus sent out his disciples, He told them to focus on the ones who received them – not to was time trying to convince those who weren't interested. That is exactly what my mother was saying that night. She didn't want me worrying about who wasn't there - she wanted me celebrating the ones who were. If you think about it, that's a good coaching lesson, a leadership lesson, and a life lesson all in one.

Lesson 2: Toughness is a Requirement, Not an Option

My mother was never one to make life easy just for the sake of it.

One afternoon after a long session of shooting baskets in the driveway, I walked inside the house, probably feeling a little too comfortable, when she started shouting orders:

"Shut the door, wash your hands, start the wash, clean up, and study."

I decided to test my luck and sarcastically asked: "You're tough on me. What would you have done if you had a daughter?"

She paused, raised an eyebrow, and delivered a Hall of Fame response:

"I don't have to worry about that now, do I?" God gave me boys, and my job is to raise you and your brother to be tough enough to run a business, be a husband, and raise a family, and none of those are possible if you can't handle being pushed." There was no arguing with that! She was right. Life isn't about

getting breaks – it's about being prepared when things get tough, because they will!

When you're down with 30 seconds left, needing a stop and a three to stay alive, you can't just wish things were easier – you've got to be tougher. That's exactly what great mothers do!

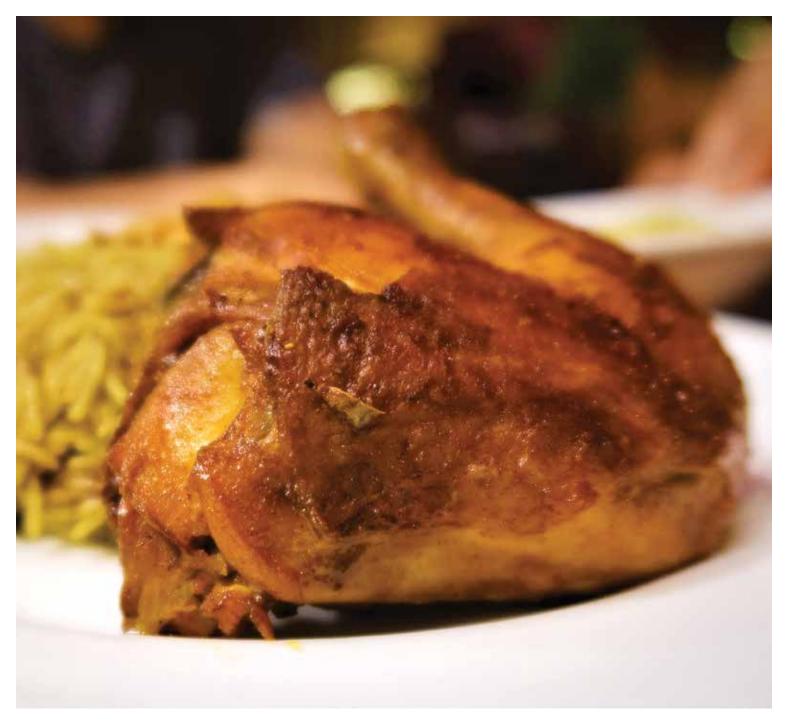
Lesson 3: Make the Right Play in the Moment

One Sunday in west Texas, my mother was doing what most mothers of that era did cooking Sunday lunch.

Like any good west Texas meal, something was fried. As we were leaving church, she ran into the pastor and casually mentioned, "Hey, I've got fried chicken today, come on by for lunch." The pastor, being polite, responded, "We may just do that, but I need to talk to Jackie first. If you see us, you see us."

Mother took that as a no and went about her day.

We hurried home, changed out of our Sunday best, turned on the Cowboys game, and probably started a heated game of bumper pool. Meanwhile, my mother stayed in her Sunday dress and went straight to the kitchen. All was well - until the doorbell rang. It was the pastor's entire family. With a loud twangy voice, my mother shouted, "Oh my, it's the pastor's family!" Then she turned and yelled at my brother and I, "You boys get in the kitchen RIGHT NOW." Now, you have to understand something...in her mind, this was no different than coaching a basketball team. "Down 5 with 30 seconds, needing a stop and a three to stay alive." She had seconds to adjust, and she called the perfect play. She bent down and whispered the game plan. "The pastor showed up and brought everyone. You boys don't eat ANY chicken.



Fill up on potatoes, bread and green beans. If you do, you get pie! "

And just like that, we had our strategy. We sat at the table, Dad said the blessing, and we stuck to the plan...NO CHICKEN!

As lunch wrapped up, my mother looked confident that she had pulled it off. Then, in her usual style, she delivered the final dagger. She picked up everyone's plates, walked to the oven, grabbed two beautiful buttermilk pies and announced: "Only boys who ate chicken get pie." She had outcoached us. She tricked us out of chicken AND out of pie all in one move. And you know what? She did what she had to do to make the meal a success.

Final Thoughts: The Legacy of Scottie Leech

My mother's lessons were simple, sharp and effective. She didn't spend time worrying about the players who weren't in the game. She focused on the ones who were. She didn't raise us soft. She made sure we were ready for the challenges ahead. When things didn't go as planned, she called the right play and made the best of the moment, even if it meant sacrificing chicken and pie.

That's why we called these the Gospel According to Scottie. And maybe that's the greatest Mother's Day message of all. At the end of the day, a great mother isn't here to tell you what you want to hear. She is here to

tell you what you need to hear, and we are all better because of it! $\overline{\text{KG}}$



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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The Dorman Vick Story and the Revival of **Vocational Education**

By Michael G. Ethridge Photography By Jonathan Mallard

In a cluttered workshop buzzing with welding torches and reverberating with the sound of grinders against metal, you'll find Dorman Vick in his natural element, patiently mentoring his students through sparks and steel. Yet, the journey that brought him to this workshop, becoming a cornerstone of vocational education in Boerne, Texas, began far from this scene.

Raised in North San Antonio, Dorman's childhood was shaped by a single mother and the steadfast presence of his grandparents. His grandfather, who ran a front-end alignment shop, was his earliest and most profound influence. "Watching my grandfather work tirelessly instilled in me a deep respect for working with my hands," Vick recalls fondly.

But his early life wasn't without significant trials. "I carried a hatchet and was ready to knock a head off until I was 25," he admits openly, reflecting on the anger and confusion of growing up without knowing his biological father. At the age of 25, Vick's life pivoted dramatically when he finally met his father at his paternal grandmother's deathbed. That critical moment allowed him to "put that hatchet down" and start redirecting his life's path.

As a teenager, Vick took a leap of faith, transferring from Clarke to John Marshall High School specifically for its agriculture program, even though it meant leaving friends and familiarity behind. It was there, in agriculture classrooms and livestock shows, that he first discovered his passion. "I knew early on success came from others investing in me," says Vick, recalling teachers like Joey Tomlinson, Steve Chumbley, John Vasbinder, and Charles Vickery. These mentors weren't merely educators; they were pivotal figures who provided discipline, encouragement, and direction. "Some of my most severe 'rear chewings' came from Mr.

Tomlinson," Vick remembers, "shaping me into the man I am today."

At just 15, driven by a burgeoning entrepreneurial spirit, Vick began welding stands for gas water heaters in his stepfather's garage, unknowingly laying the groundwork for his future career. Despite a clear aptitude for welding and fabrication, Vick initially pursued a college degree in Animal Science at Sul Ross State University after an impulsive road trip. While academically successful, he realized he "missed the boat" on agriculture, coming to understand his true calling lay elsewhere.

After college, personal upheaval brought him back home, redirecting him once again to vocational education. A chance encounter at a cowboy church in Pearsall, hearing the powerful testimony of John Byron Straitfather of country music legend George Strait—became a definitive moment. Strait's story captivated Vick, marking the instant he fully embraced his calling as an educator. Just days later, he began his first teaching role at Clarke High School, setting the stage for a transformative career dedicated to empowering students through the trades.

In 2004, Dorman Vick stepped into Clarke High School for his first official day as a welding and drafting instructor. Faced with the daunting task of teaching a diverse group of students, many of whom spoke little to no English, Vick initially felt overwhelmed. Rather than retreat, he confronted the challenge head-on, transforming potential barriers into opportunities. "That became one of the most rewarding classes of my entire career," Vick recalls, marking the early foundation of his educational philosophy: empowering every student through hands-on, practical learning.

A year later, in 2005, a new opportunity arose in Boerne ISD-a chance to build a welding program from scratch. With

minimal resources but an abundance of determination, Vick embraced the challenge, declaring from day one, "It's all about the kids." His relentless focus on student growth and hands-on instruction quickly turned a modest vocational offering into a worldrenowned program.

The early years were marked by grit and resourcefulness. The welding shop initially lacked even basic equipment such as benches, storage racks, and carts. Vick and his students worked tirelessly, fabricating their own infrastructure from raw materials. This not only taught practical skills but also instilled pride and a sense of ownership among the students, fostering an atmosphere of excellence and resilience.

Vick's initial students didn't merely learn welding techniques; they crafted BBQ trailers, wildlife observation towers, welding trailers, and innovative structures, earning recognition and accolades almost immediately. "That first year was a Cinderella story," Vick proudly notes. Projects that started as sketches on paper rapidly became tangible symbols of student achievement and community pride. Local and state competitions quickly took notice, and awards began accumulating, bringing further attention—and resources—to the program.

As the program flourished, so did its ambitions. Notable projects soon caught the attention of prominent organizations and individuals. Students built the "Big Dipper," a custom cattle dip trailer commissioned by the USDA. In partnership with Jesse James of West Coast Choppers fame, they created a specialized hunting trailer for a disabled veteran through the Texas Farm Bureau. Perhaps most emotionally impactful was the Iron Rose statue dedicated to the victims of the tragic Sutherland Springs church shooting—demonstrating the profound ability of vocational education to serve and uplift communities.

Vick's approach always prioritized community involvement, with students frequently choosing service-oriented projects over purely competitive ones. Recent efforts include constructing a stunning new entrance archway at the Boerne Cemetery and multiple structures for the City's River

Road Park Bank Stabilization Project. These undertakings not only showcase technical prowess but also embed a deeper understanding of civic responsibility and community service in his students.

Yet, Vick maintains that his true mission transcends trophies and accolades. The real reward, he explains, is witnessing the personal growth of his students. Over two decades, he has consistently emphasized the development of leadership, respect, excellence, and moral character. His classroom isn't just a workshop; it is a formative space where students learn to become responsible, community-minded adults.

Reflecting on his career thus far, Vick humbly deflects personal praise, instead highlighting the success of his students. He takes immense pride in tracking their journeys beyond graduation, celebrating their successes as welders, entrepreneurs, military servicemembers, and community leaders. This selfless dedication has not only shaped individual lives but also solidified his program as a cornerstone of vocational education in Texas, setting the stage for even greater accomplishments and impacts in the future.

Nearly two decades after beginning his journey as an educator, Dorman Vick stands resolutely at the forefront of a burgeoning vocational education revival. His vision transcends mere technical training; it is rooted in reshaping societal views about the dignity and critical necessity of skilled tradespeople.

"For too long, we've undervalued the trades," Vick asserts passionately. "We've outsourced critical skills and lost respect for those who build our country with their hands." In his eyes, restoring vocational education is not just beneficial—it is essential to national prosperity and resilience. "Hamlet, Juliet, and inflated balls on fields are great, but they won't rebuild America. Our tradesmen and women will."

The powerful advocacy of Vick's vision is evident through partnerships with prominent figures who share his mission. Former Texas Governor Rick Perry and Texas Commissioner of Education Mike Morath have lent significant support, but none have influenced him as profoundly as Retired Lt. Gen. Leroy Sisco. General Sisco has become more than just a

supporter—he is Vick's closest mentor, role model, and friend. "General Sisco has been instrumental in shaping not just my career but also my understanding of leadership and community service," Vick reflects. The mentorship and personal support from Sisco have provided Vick with the strength and guidance needed to lead a national movement for vocational education.

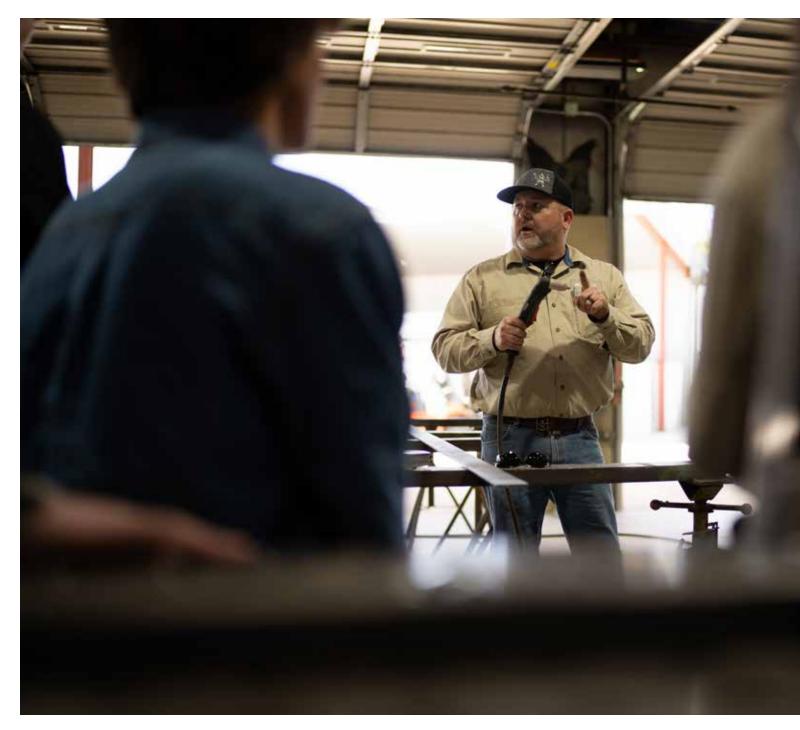
This movement has already taken tangible shape through the Welding Student Support Foundation, an initiative championed by Vick and his dedicated allies. The Foundation aims not only to support vocational programs financially but to change the national conversation around skilled trades. Vick sees Kendall County as uniquely positioned to lead this charge, encouraging local communities, businesses, and policymakers to rally behind practical, hands-on education.

Chris Franklin, General Manager of Vic Vaughan Toyota of Boerne, underscores the significance of Vick's impact, stating, "Dorman Vick is the most influential teacher that I have ever had the pleasure of meeting. I could only wish for a teacher that is so selfless with his time. When you walk into one of his welding classes, you can just feel the difference. Dorman and his students have also caught the attention of a past Texas governor, military general, and celebrities like Jesse James and many more. Dorman and his students have set the framework for generations of students. When you meet Dorman or any of his students, you will quickly realize this program is important."

In October 2021, a harrowing experience sharpened Vick's focus even further. Fighting for his life against COVID-19 with only a 15% chance of survival, he experienced a profound moment of clarity. "Lying there, near death, I realized my mission wasn't finished," he recounts soberly. The support from the community during this crisis, coupled with the unwavering strength of his wife, Stephanie, and sons Cade and Colter, reminded Vick of his purpose. "They are why I breathe each day."

Now, fully recovered and more determined than ever, Vick passionately calls for systemic educational reform. "We must stop stigmatizing the trades," he argues. "I've yet









34 | The Kendall Gentleman | May 2025



to meet a successful person who hasn't faced hardship—true grit is built by overcoming challenges." With over 80% of local taxes funding education, Vick insists that residents demand nothing less than vocational excellence. "We owe it to our kids. We owe it to our country."

His vision extends decades into the future. Asked about his legacy, Vick responds without hesitation: "Fifty years from now, I want to be remembered as the guy who brought vocational education back to its rightful prominence." He views his role as part of a divine plan, humbly stating, "Everything we've achieved has been by divine providence.



Above: Vick teaches sophomore Emily May, who's father, Jonathan May was in Vick's first class in Boerne ISD

From John Byron Strait's testimony to today's successes, it's all part of God's plan."

Jonathan May, a former student and now father to a daughter in Vick's program, echoes this sentiment powerfully: "As a former student, and now the father of a daughter in the program, I can say this: There's no better teacher, no better foundation, and no better place for young students to learn than under Dorman Vick. His legacy isn't just in the trophies—it's in the lives he's changed, generation after generation."

Vick remains a tireless advocate, confident that a vocational education renaissance is not only possible but already underway. His passion is infectious, his dedication unwavering, and his impact undeniable. As communities begin to rally around his call to action, Vick's mission moves closer to reality: reviving the trades, honoring craftsmanship, and rebuilding America—one skilled, confident student at a time.

Through his unwavering dedication to vocational education, his profound influence on countless lives, and his steadfast commitment to community service, he exemplifies leadership, integrity, and humility. His life's work isn't merely about welding—it's about cultivating character, instilling values, and empowering the next generation. In Kendall County and beyond, the name Dorman Vick stands as a testament to the transformative power of education, mentorship, and unwavering belief in the potential of every individual. In every sense, Dorman Vick embodies what it truly means to be The Kendall Gentleman. KG





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Forest Gump & Big Words

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 following are some writings that I have found interesting over the years.

Refuting Forest Gump's Wisdom

Life isn't like a box of chocolates.

It's more like a jar of jalapenos.

What you do today

might burn your ass tomorrow.

Big Words

In promulgating your esoteric cogitations, or articulating your superficial sentimentalities and amicable, philosophical or psychological observations, beware of platitudinous ponderosity. Let your conversational communications possess a clarified conciseness, a compacted comprehensibleness, coalescent consistency, and a concatenated cogency. Eschew all conglomerations of flatulent garrulity, jejune babblement, and assinine affectations.

Let your extemporaneous descantings and unpremeditated expatiations have intelligibility and veracious vivacity, without rhodomontade or thrasonical bombast. Sedulously avoid all polysyllabic profundity, pompous prolixity, psittaceous vacuity, ventriloquial verbosity, and vaniloquent vapidity. Shun double-entendres, prurient jocosity, and pestiferous profanity, obscurean or apparent.

In other words: Talk plainly, briefly, naturally, sensibly, truthfully, purely. Keep from slang; don't put on airs; say what you mean; mean what you say. And don't use big words. KG

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Cazando El Pavo Del Rio Grande

Hunting the Rio Grande Turkey

By Jed Mazour

I am going to take two steps forward and one back with this article. I know I just got done talking to you about the transition from hunting season to spring fishing. But, there is one last hunting opportunity here in Texas that comes at the same transitional time. Spring turkey season! I am not talking about shooting turkeys out of the deer blind in the winter. You all know the anxious feeling you get while waiting for a buck; the cold sets in, the sun is coming up fast and the deer are leaving the feeder but there is a few turkeys hanging around so naturally, one might take a leave.

Well, this is completely different. This is the time of year when the Rio Grande turkey is on full display. Toms will begin gobbling and strutting to attract a hen at the peak of mating season. If you haven't had a chance to witness this, I will tell you, it's an impressive thing to watch, but are not easy to approach! Turkeys have exceptional eye sight. With vision nearly 360 degrees, imaging over twice as sharp as humans and a reaction time that will certainly leave you behind. All this makes for a much more difficult hunt than most expect. The preferred hunting method by most hunters is by shotgun or bow. I am a shotgun hunter. Mainly because I like to increase my odds of success, but like most men, I enjoy the excitement of shooting.

Probably the most important part is the most obvious. Find an area where you know turkeys populate. Cover and concealment is crucial! Like I mentioned, they can and will see any movement you make. I prefer to hunt without a "pop up" blind, using only the natural landscape. Set up next to a tree or brushy area, grab some branches and make a hasty blind that looks somewhat natural but will conceal you as much as possible. Make sure to cover your face with paint or a camo mask. Now comes the fun part. I like to set out some turkey decoys to draw some good attention. Turkey calls have several good options. The box call, friction call, and the mouth diaphragm calls. For the beginner I recommend the box call but when you get more experienced, the diaphragm is the go-to. This will help free up both hands to be quicker on the shot as well as minimize your movement. Once you get more experienced it becomes a lot of fun to practice your calls and see how the turkeys react. When you start calling, sooner or later, they will start calling back at you to find your location. Soon, they will make their approach to the decoys and from there, the rest is up to you! If you manage to make a successful call and bag a Tom, congratulations! This is a great moment for a cigar and some bourbon neat. Pack it just in case.

My wife and I have the opinion that wild turkey meat is extremely underrated. Denise is the best wild game cook I know and if you've shared a meal at our home I am certain you will agree. She may not have ever written a recipe down but I like that about her, it's all by and with her heart. Two of my family's favorite recipes are Chicken Fried Turkey Breast and Turkey Leg Carnitas. She pairs the Chicken Fried Turkey Breast with mashed potatoes, sautéed green beans, and the magic ingredient is her homemade venison bone broth that she uses to make the most incredible gravy.

Wild turkey legs can be a challenge to cook and often get tossed because they tend to be tough when not cooked properly. We have experimented with them a few different ways, as we are determined to use ALL the parts of the turkey. Turkey Leg Carnitas with her homemade Pico and Guacamole is where it's at! She slow cooks the turkey legs for over 12 hours so that all the tough connective tissues and cartilage breakdown resulting in the most delicious meat. She then drains the extra juices (saves them for dipping) and then heats up a cast iron to sear the meat to perfection until a little crispy. Top your favorite tortillas or tostada shells with a portion of the meat and add some Queso Fresco, homemade Guacamole, pico de gallo, squeeze a little lime juice and finish it off with some diced jalapenos and cilantro. We like to pair the Carnitas with homemade cream corn and sautéed Shishito Peppers, lightly salted with a squeeze of lime juice.

There are several options for taxidermy if you are interested. Some might just prefer to pull a few feathers out to stick in your straw or felt lid but it's worth checking into your mounting options. This is an extremely beautiful bird! Reach out to Andrew Usher with 4:19 Taxidermy for some ideas 210-608-0875

If you are looking for an opportunity to hunt this bird but are unable to gain access to any land, don't be discouraged. There are several outfitters that can help for a fee.

My personal friend and one of the most well-known waterfowl hunting guides in the South Texas area, Luke Bledsoe with Speck Ops Waterfowl can help you out! This is the most energetic guy in the business! You will leave ready to book your next trip which might be the Sandhill Crane or even the Speckled Belly goose. Look him up on Instagram @speck_ops or give him a ring 830-688-3641. Tell him Jed sent ya! 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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