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JULY 2025 | ISSUE 6 :: VOLUME 1

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Albert Carl Riedel

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Boerne Bass Club

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BETTERMENT

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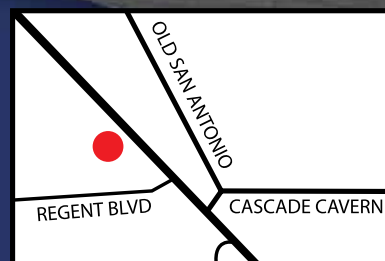
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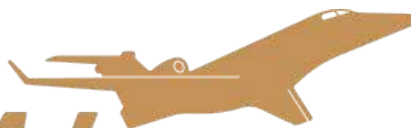
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Are you interested in contributing to The Kendall Gentleman? Do you have an interesting story to tell the men of Kendall County? Could you be considered an expert in your given field? Have something interesting to say? We're always looking for talented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





A Gentleman's Code: *What It Still Means To Be A Man*

July is when the flags come out - on porches, in parades, on the backs of pickup trucks heading to river crossings and backyard cookouts. We celebrate independence, grit, and a country built by men who weren't afraid to work hard, speak plainly, and live by conviction. So it seems like the right time to talk about something that's been twisted, mocked, and in some corners, nearly forgotten: what it means to be a man.

Let's get right to it - being a man isn't toxic. It's essential.

That shouldn't be a controversial statement, but in today's world, it sometimes feels like it is. We've raised a generation of boys who are being told that strength is oppression, that ambition is selfish, and that masculinity is a problem to be fixed. That's a lie. And like most lies, it leads to confusion, brokenness, and a culture that's more reactive than resilient.

But here in Kendall County, I see something different. I see men showing up. I see dads teaching their sons how to swing a hammer or bait a hook. I see grandfathers sharing their faith around firepits, not because they

think they're better, but because they know the value of passing something down. I see young men holding doors, giving firm handshakes, and standing up when someone else needs a seat. It's not performative. It's just how they were raised.

The world doesn't need less masculinity. It needs better masculinity. And that starts with reclaiming the values we used to take for granted:

Strength - not just physical, but moral. The strength to say no when it's easier to go along. The strength to carry burdens so others don't have to.

Faith - not as a private hobby, but as a compass. Men who lead their families in prayer, who show up in the pews and live their beliefs Monday through Saturday, not just on Sunday.

Humility - not weakness, but groundedness. The man who serves behind the scenes, who does the hard thing without demanding credit, who knows when to speak and when to listen.

Leadership - real leadership. The kind that builds people up instead of tearing them down. That teaches instead of lectures. That earns trust because it's consistent.

This is what I mean by a gentleman's code. And it's not new. Our grandfathers and great-grandfathers didn't need a movement to tell them to lead, provide, protect, and teach. They just did it. And for all our advancements, we'd be wise to revisit that foundation.

It's why I publish *The Kendall Gentleman*. Not to pat myself on the back, but to shine a light on the good men - ones who quietly hold up their families, their churches, their communities. Men who've traded applause for accountability. Those who show up early and stay late. Those who raise their children with discipline and love. Those who love their wives with loyalty. Those who put God first.

Somewhere along the way, we started thinking manhood was about power. It's not. It's about responsibility. It's about putting others first. And if our culture is starved for something, it's not softer men - it's stronger ones. Men who know who they are and whose they are.

That starts at home. Boys don't learn character from social media. They learn it from watching their fathers. They learn it from how you treat their mother. Whether you show up when you say you will. How you react when things go wrong. Whether your word means something. In this way, fatherhood isn't just a role - it's a calling. If you're a father, this is your mission. If you're a mentor, a coach, a big brother, a neighbor - you're in this fight too. Because every boy in Kendall County deserves to see what real masculinity looks like up close: not loud, not cruel, not self-serving - but brave, humble, generous, and rooted in truth.

This July, while we celebrate the birth of a nation, let's not forget the kind of men who made it possible - and the kind we still need today. Men with dirt on their boots and steel in their spines. Men who aren't afraid to speak up or kneel in prayer. Men who know that freedom isn't given - it's earned and protected.

So here's to the gentlemen. Not the polished caricatures of some bygone era, but the real, raw, steady kind. The kind raising kids, building businesses, mowing the neighbor's yard, and leading by example. You may never trend online, but you're shaping the world. And I'm proud to be among you.

Until next time,

Michael G. Ethridge
Publisher/Owner



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

6.19.25

The Forum III: The Official Men's Mixer of The Kendall Gentleman

The Oak of Boerne
605 S Main St, Boerne, TX 78006
www.thekendallgentleman.com
Join The Kendall Gentleman for the June edition of The Forum – a relaxed men's mixer held this month at the beautiful The Oak of Boerne.

7.2.25

Steak Night

Joshua Creek Ranch
132 Cravey Road, Boerne, Texas 78006
joshuacreek.com
Don't get left out wondering what's for dinner this summer. Every Wednesday through mid-September is Steak Night at Joshua Creek Ranch.

7.5.25

VFW Veterans Coffee

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

Block Party

Black Rifle Coffee Company
101 S Main St Ste A, Boerne, TX 78006
www.brccboerne.com
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7.8.25

VFW Business Meeting

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

7.11.25

Family Night at the Pool

Boerne Municipal Pool
106 City Park Rd, Boerne, TX 78006
www.boerneparks.com

7.12.25

Open Bowling

Boerne Turn Verein
221 E. Theissen, Boerne, TX 78006
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7.12.25

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

7.14.25

American Legion General Membership Meeting

American Legion Post 313
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)

7.21.25

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

7.26.25

Antique Tractor Pull

The AgriCultural
106 City Park Rd, Boerne, TX 78006
www.theagricultural.org
The AgriCultural Museum & Arts Center in Boerne is hosting a series of antique tractor pulls and a trail ride throughout 2025. These events celebrate farming heritage with powerful antique tractors in action, making for a fun-filled experience for the entire family.

Tuesdays

Trivia Night

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

Farmers Market

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33 Herff Rd, Boerne, TX 78006
www.cibolo.org
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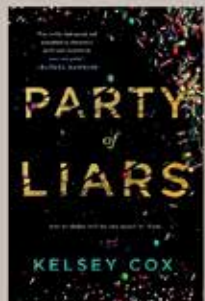




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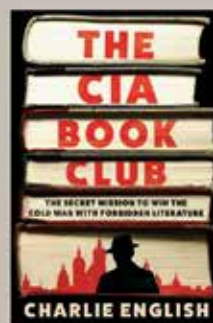
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Albert Carl Riedel:

Kendall County's Unsung Storyteller

By Tom Allred, Sr.

In a world before instant gratification and digital archives, one man in the heart of the Texas Hill Country took it upon himself to ensure that the vibrant, hard-won stories of Kendall County's past weren't lost to the winds of time. Meet Albert C. Riedel (1851–1924), a name that might not be on every monument, but whose legacy is etched into the very fabric of Boerne and its surrounding communities. A historian, a journalist, and truly, a guardian of local heritage, Riedel's meticulous records and lively prose offer us an invaluable window into a bygone era.

From German Roots to Texan Soil

Born in Germany in 1851, Albert C. Riedel arrived in the United States during a fascinating period of mass immigration. Like countless other German families seeking new horizons, the Riedels set sail for America, bringing with them a rich cultural tapestry and a deep appreciation for education and community. They eventually found their home in Texas, a place where German customs would blend seamlessly with the rugged frontier spirit.

While the specifics of his early schooling are a bit hazy, it's clear Riedel was no ordinary scholar. Fluent in both German and English, and possessing a keen intellect, he was perfectly poised for a career that blended his love of language with an insatiable curiosity for the human story. He quickly developed a knack for listening, absorbing the tales of his fellow settlers – their triumphs, their struggles, and the very act of building new lives in a wild, untamed landscape.

A Pillar of the Community

Albert C. Riedel put down deep roots in Kendall County, raising his family in Boerne, a town itself founded by German immigrants. He wasn't just an observer; he was an active participant in the community, embodying that unique blend of German heritage and Texan pride.

For Riedel, history wasn't just an academic pursuit; it was personal. He saw the rapid changes of the early 20th century threatening to sweep away the memories of the pioneers who built Kendall County from the ground up. Driven by a fierce determination, he grabbed his pen and began to write, ensuring that the remarkable stories of the county's founders would live on.

The Pen is Mightier Than Forgetting

Albert C. Riedel's true genius shone through his work as a journalist and chronicler. He filled the pages of local newspapers with historical essays, vivid profiles of prominent citizens, and captivating accounts of significant events. His writing wasn't just informative; it was engaging, drawing readers in with firsthand knowledge and the very voices of the early settlers he so diligently interviewed.

Thanks to Riedel, we have priceless insights into the daily lives, the challenges, and the incredible achievements of the German-Texan community. Imagine reading his firsthand accounts of:

The founding of Boerne in 1852, brought to life by the stories of the German Free Thinkers and intellectuals who dared to dream of a new life in the Texas Hill Country.

The raw, powerful immigrant histories, detailing how people arrived with little more than hope and built thriving communities through sheer grit and unwavering support for one another.

The unfolding civic development – the very beginnings of schools, churches, bustling businesses, and vital infrastructure – painting a picture of a burgeoning town built on shared values.

His writings became the bedrock for future historians and genealogists, providing an unparalleled foundation for anyone seeking to understand Kendall County and its remarkable people. Many of his works are carefully preserved in archives, serving as essential references for countless studies on Central Texas.

A Lasting Legacy

When Albert C. Riedel passed away in 1924, he left behind far more than just memories. He bequeathed a treasure trove of historical writings and an enduring reputation as Kendall County's unofficial, and undeniably essential, historian. In an era long before the convenience of digital databases or organized heritage institutions, Riedel's unwavering commitment to documentation ensured that the unique narrative of Kendall County, especially Boerne, would never fade into obscurity.

Today, historians rightfully recognize Riedel as a pioneer in local journalism and historical preservation. His life stands as a powerful testament to the idea that one individual, armed with a pen, a passion for truth, and a deep love for their community, can truly preserve the legacy of an entire generation.

So, the next time you drive through Kendall County, take a moment to appreciate the stories held within its hills and valleys. Chances are, Albert C. Riedel had a hand in making sure those stories were never forgotten. 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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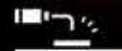
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How Do You Experience Your Whiskey?

By Renita Reavis

We all have our preferences on how to enjoy a pour of our favorite whiskey, but have you considered whether you are drinking it correctly? Are special glasses to sip on whiskey only for those who, like me, enjoy being full-on hobbyists who might have taken things too far? Your preference is correct. There are countless ways to enjoy the most universal distilled spirit. We will cover glassware and tasting techniques to help you experience your favorite bottle in more ways than you have realized.

Deciding how to enjoy your whiskey will determine which glassware you will select. Do you want to have it chilled on the rocks? What about a large refreshing alcoholic drink? Do you want to have a more profound sensory experience? Glassware will determine how you experience your whiskey. Rock glasses have a straight side and are wide open. The aromas are more challenging to smell. Rock glasses are great for chilling whiskey or cocktails. Highball glasses are great for those tall, cool drinks. Tulip-shaped has bulb-shaped glass and looks like a closed tulip, but the most common name is the Glencairn (Glen-Karn). These tulip-shaped glasses trap aromas to help with the nosing experience.

Chilling your whiskey will change your experience based on the method. Cocktails in a rock glass may have ice in a large sphere or globe to help cool the drink while slowly diluting the cocktail. Crushed ice, pellets, or large pieces help quickly chill while diluting the drink. The bartender may have used a shaker with chipped ice to help cool your cocktail and then strained it beautifully into a glass for presentation. How fast you want a diluted drink will depend on the choice of ice. You can buy premade spheres and cubed ice at some liquor stores, experiment at home with different methods, or have newer

refrigerators with the sphere ice option. Chilling the bottle will prevent dilution while providing the coolness you seek. Comparing cold to room temperature whiskey can be like comparing ice cream in various stages. Fresh ice cream from the freezer will taste less sweet than if you allow it to warm up for a few moments, while melted ice cream base is always the sweetest. You perceive sweetness less when the taste is cold. Also, lower-proof or lighter-flavored whiskeys can get lost when iced and diluted.

The tulip-shaped glasses, typically Glencairn, provide a more intense sensory experience. First, it traps the aromas in the bulb so that a person can nose the spirit. Nosing means bringing that glass straight up under your nose. Slightly open your mouth so that the retronasal passageway stays open. Closing your mouth traps the alcohol vapors and numbs your nose. The aromas will pass over your tongue during this process and help you taste the whiskey before you even have a drop on your lips. This nosing technique is excellent for those who cannot have a sip but still want to enjoy the experience. Change things up by focusing on the spirit under each nostril. Allergies can affect this experience, so having a nostril with more potent smelling abilities may be something you never realized you had. Once you have taken these whiffs, you can take the tiniest of sips. Think of it as you test the hottest coffee and then hold that tiniest sip on your tongue like a Sonic ice chip melting away. This first sip will help acclimate your tongue to the presence of alcohol. Watching people flinch or cough will show that they took too large a sip and swallowed too fast. This response is from the alcohol irritating the sensitive tissue of the throat. Slowing it down and smaller sips will help you enjoy even the highest hazmat bottles available.

If you have ever been to a whiskey bar, you may have seen small glasses of water with either a pipette or a dropper. This setup is for those who enjoy adding water to their whiskey. The concept of a single drop is so fun to watch! Using a Glencairn will help with this experience as it is a more condensed experience. Hold your glass up to the light, add a single drop of water, and watch the water dance as it enters the whiskey. It is like a slow-moving flame. You are witnessing the hydrophobic portions of the whiskey compounds fighting against the single drop of water. Taking a sip immediately after will be a bolder experience as all the lipids that interacted with the drop of water have risen to the top as if they were the cream of the whiskey. If you leave it alone, they will settle back down and blend as a bottler does when lowering the proof of the whiskey.

The only incorrect way to enjoy whiskey, or any distilled spirit, is shots. Save those back-of-the-throat disinfecting experiences for things you do not want or the vaccines your medical professional gives you. You will never be able to taste that pour of whiskey as you do not have taste buds in your throat. You are only experiencing the residuals from the back of your tongue and vapors from swallowing it.

In conclusion, the beauty of whiskey lies in its versatility and the personal touch you bring to it. Your favorite way to enjoy whiskey is yours alone; no one should dictate otherwise. Do not be afraid to experiment with new methods or have fun with your bottle at home. Each approach will unveil unique aromas and flavors, adding another layer of love to your whiskey journey. As James Joyce, the Irish poet and novelist, eloquently said, "The light music of whiskey falling in a glass – an agreeable interlude." **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.
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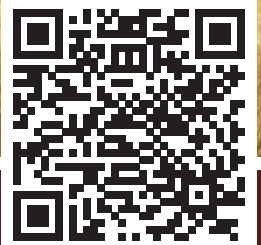
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Manny Cazares *Hope for Heroes Texas*

By Jonathan Mallard

When Fire Chief Manny Casarez pinned the firefighter's badge on his son, it wasn't just a career milestone — it was the culmination of two decades of service, sacrifice and purpose. Now leading the Boerne Fire Department, Casarez brings that same spirit of dedication to the Kendall County community every day.

Originally drawn to firefighting while taking classes at San Antonio College, Casarez found his life's calling in service to others.

"Coming to Boerne in 2023 felt like a calling," he reflects. "The people of Kendall County and the Team Boerne family have been incredibly supportive, and that inspires me daily to give my best."

Under his leadership, the department has embraced professional development, launching initiatives like a peer support team focused on firefighters' mental health — a growing need in the first responder

world. It's here that Hope for Heroes Texas has become a vital partner.

"Mental health is a real challenge in our profession," Casarez says. "Having a local partner like Hope for Heroes Texas makes a significant difference. Knowing we have them to lean on gives us great peace of mind."

Casarez is quick to deflect attention from himself, preferring to spotlight the team around him.

"I don't consider myself a hero. I see myself as one part of something much bigger," he says.

Yet, his vision for the department's future — one rooted in compassion, resilience, and excellence — speaks volumes about the kind of leader he is.

For young people dreaming of serving their community, Casarez offers this advice:

"Find a passion and pursue it with purpose. Learn everything you can, volunteer, and most importantly, always keep people at the heart of your mission."

As Kendall County continues to grow, Chief Casarez and the Boerne Fire Department stand ready — not just as first responders, but as neighbors, mentors, and friends. And with the support of organizations like Hope for Heroes Texas, they're ensuring no firefighter faces their challenges alone.

As Brad Cornell of Hope for Heroes Texas reminds us:

"Our mission is to serve those who go first. We are honored to stand beside the first responder heroes who step into danger so the rest of us can live in safety. Their sacrifice touches families and communities across the nation — and it's our privilege to make sure leaders like Chief Casarez, and the teams they guide, never stand alone." **KG**

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Protecting Your Land and Legacy in the Heart of Texas

Exploring Land Use Tax Benefits and Estate Planning Strategies for Wealthy Kendall County Families with Ranchland

By Sam McGee

It is no secret that Kendall County has some pretty wealthy families living here. We have a heart for community, preservation, and our values are as timeless as the setting sun. Unfortunately, it is also not a secret to the rest of the United States, and so many families are making this their new home, pushing up land values, and crowding out once beautiful tracts with new developments. This article has the wealthy land owner in mind, who may want to consider certain estate planning techniques, and also a light touch on the difference between Wildlife Exemptions and Agricultural Exemptions for our new neighbors coming in from out of State. We hope you find this useful!

Kendall County, TX, offers landowners valuable avenues for tax relief through Wildlife Exemptions and Agricultural Exemptions. Understanding the differences and benefits of these exemptions is crucial for landowners seeking to optimize their land use and tax strategies. Many times, these exemptions are misunderstood, mismanaged, and can create a sense of confusion for wealthy families who seek to maximize

their land use while taking advantage of tax savings. Crestmont Private Wealth does not provide legal advice and is not a land expert, we are a Registered Investment Advisor that works with wealthy and high-earning clients, developing a comprehensive wealth management plan. For specific guidance, consult your attorney, CPA, or the county office in Kendall. Your situation and current law may differ from the time of publishing.

Let's first discuss the two types of exemptions that are common to the area. One is a Wildlife Exemption, and the other is an Agricultural Exemption.

Wildlife Exemptions - Definition and Requirements

Wildlife Exemptions are designed to encourage landowners to manage their property for the benefit of native wildlife species. To qualify, landowners must actively manage their land according to a wildlife management plan approved by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. This includes activities such as habitat enhancement, controlling invasive species,

and providing supplemental food or water sources. We have seen acreage as low as 5 acres qualify for this requirement, which would accompany an Annual Report every two (2) years, and a Wildlife Management Plan report every five (5) years. For current and specific details, contact the county office and arrange an appointment to speak with them. We have found the local office to be very friendly, open, and educational!

Benefits

The primary benefit of Wildlife Exemptions is the reduction in property taxes. By shifting the land use from traditional agriculture to wildlife management, landowners can maintain lower tax rates. Additionally, these exemptions promote biodiversity, enhance ecosystem services, and provide opportunities for landowners to engage in conservation efforts that benefit local wildlife populations. When we think about promoting the long-term benefits of our beloved Hill Country, this is a mutual benefit for the future generation and encourages the right thing, in our humble opinion.

Agricultural Exemptions - Definition and Requirements

Agricultural Exemptions are granted to landowners who use their property for farming, ranching, or other agricultural activities. To qualify, the land must be actively devoted to agricultural production for purposes such as crop cultivation, livestock grazing, or timber harvesting. The land must meet specific use intensity and history criteria defined by the Texas Comptroller's Office, and typically, we see 10 acres as a minimum starting point.

Benefits

Agricultural Exemptions also offer significant property tax reductions. These exemptions support the local agricultural economy, ensure the continuation of farming traditions, and promote sustainable land management practices. Agricultural activities also contribute to food security and provide economic benefits to the community.

Comparing Wildlife and Agricultural Exemptions

While both Wildlife and Agricultural Exemptions provide property tax relief, they serve different purposes and require distinct management practices. Wildlife Exemptions focus on conservation and biodiversity, while Agricultural Exemptions emphasize food production and agricultural sustainability. Landowners should carefully consider their land use goals, management capabilities, and long-term objectives when choosing between these exemptions.

What if I Have My Homestead on the Site?

Typically, the appraisal office will appraise the 1 acre where your home is contained to be non-exempt as defined by the Ag or Wildlife exemption, meaning that it will get the "typical" tax rate and valuation. Your home will also be taxed at the normal rates, but you may qualify for a homestead exemption. However, the remaining land outside that acre boundary should remain exempt as defined in this article as long as you keep up with the reporting and spirit of the rules. This allows homeowners to essentially be "on-site" operators of the exemption, which we all know can be a big benefit to the intent of the Wildlife or Agricultural ecological purpose.

Conservation Easements for Estate Planning

Some families who own large tracts of land (usually 100 acres plus) consider ways to preserve their land for future generations,

shield it from development, and ease their Estate Tax Burden. As of the time of this publication in June 2025, the estate tax is 13.99 million per individual and 27.98 million per married couple. As we think about the increasing values of property in Kendall County and the desire for families to pass this land down generations, it is crucial for them to consider every legal angle possible within the tax code to get their property down the bloodline in trust. This is, of course, if that is their intent and desire. Shrinking the value of the estate is one way to do so, to get the property under the allowable exemption levels, and provide an avenue for gifting this discounted value to generation two. Conservation easements are one method of many to do so. These are legal agreements that limit land use to protect its conservation values. These easements can be a valuable tool for estate planning, especially for landowners with significant assets. By placing a conservation easement on their property, landowners can reduce the taxable value of their estate, potentially lowering estate taxes. Conservation easements also ensure the long-term preservation of the land's ecological and open space values, benefiting future generations. In Kendall County, this can be a valuable tax benefit and preservation benefit for wealthy landowners interested in preservation and passage of wealth to the next generation, keeping the family ranch in the family.

Using Family Limited Partnerships for Estate Planning

Family Limited Partnerships (FLPs) offer another strategic approach for estate planning, particularly for landowners with assets exceeding the US Estate Tax Exemption threshold, as mentioned previously. FLPs allow landowners to transfer ownership of their property to a partnership where family members hold limited partnership units. Because LP units are illiquid, the IRS does allow discounting to these units because they are not immediately transferable on an exchange or open market. Over time, landowners can gift these units to family members under the annual exclusion gift limits (currently \$19,000 per individual in 2025), effectively reducing the taxable value of their ultimate estate. With a well-designed and executed estate plan over time, this can significantly reduce the exposure to potential estate taxes.

Benefits of FLPs

The benefits of holding ranch property within an FLP include:

Control and Management: Landowners can retain control over the property while

gradually transferring ownership to family members.

Tax Advantages: Gifting FLP units can reduce the taxable value of the estate, potentially avoiding estate taxes.

Asset Protection: FLPs can offer some limited protection on the property from creditors and provide stability for future generations.

Family Legacy: FLPs ensure that the property remains within the family, preserving its legacy and value.

Wildlife and Agricultural Exemptions in Kendall County, TX, offer valuable tax benefits and promote sustainable land management practices. Landowners should choose the exemption that aligns with their goals and capabilities. Additionally, conservation easements and Family Limited Partnerships provide effective estate planning strategies for landowners with significant assets. By utilizing these tools, landowners can optimize their tax liabilities, protect their property's conservation values, and ensure a lasting legacy for future generations. When we think about these various techniques, these are just a handful of options available to the wealthy landowner. By utilizing a fiduciary wealth advisor, a CPA, and an Estate Attorney, one can design a comprehensive plan that may suit the needs of future generations to enjoy our beautiful Hill Country and help it stay preserved for generations to come.

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Sam McGee, CFA, is the founder of Crestmont Private Wealth, a fiduciary firm serving high-net-worth families across Texas. Based in Boerne's historic Dienger homestead, Crestmont manages over \$300 million in assets. Sam and his wife Kristen give 1% of firm revenue to local ministry and stay active in faith and community service.

Broken Windows, Dead Roses, and Brown Patches

By Coach Stan Leech

I remember it well.

We were in the Williamsons' backyard, playing our usual brand of neighborhood baseball, a mix of hustle, imagination, and questionable judgment. I got hold of a great pitch and sent it soaring...straight through the neighbor's kitchen window. We all scattered like we were running from the law. A few yards later, we realized that the strategy wasn't going to hold up. So, our heads hung, we marched next door and turned ourselves in. I told my parents, and they worked it out—grown-ups solving kid-sized problems, like they used to.

I remember getting three stitches in my right knee when first base was a rock. There wasn't much concern for safety, we were too busy having fun. I remember being picked last more than once. My mother, never one to sugarcoat things, told me, "Well, you either need to get better or be nicer. You pick." It was a lesson in self-awareness and motivation.

Those were the days of dirt clod fights in vacant lots—some exploded like powder puffs, others packed a sting. We rode our bikes to the Handy Hut to buy baseball cards with a quarter and some lint from our pockets, then cooled off at the Dairy Mart with Ocean Water. Kool-Aid was a treat, usually in a plastic pitcher with the sugar at the bottom, and if someone's mom made popsicles, we all lined up.

We didn't have bottled water—we had the hose. And it tasted like rubber, summer, and freedom.

Across the street, we had a vacant lawn that served as our ballfield. We used old oil barrels as bases. Kick the Can was a nightly ritual, and Tony Isaac invented a game where we threw a ball over the roof and tried to catch it before it hit the ground. That game,

like most of what we did, ran on the honor system—until someone started losing, and then we quickly invented referees.

We built ramps in the alley and prayed for "just a little air." We chased the snow cone truck, played lots of chase, and collected glass bottles from the bar ditch to turn in for coins—at least until my brother, Brad, wrecked his bike and sliced his arm on a broken bottle. That was the end of that operation, but the memory lives on.

I remember BB guns being part of growing up—until the inevitable accident that caused an emergency neighborhood parent meeting, and then they were packed away for a while. I remember riding on the tailgate of my dad's '66 Green Ford, wind in our face, laughing with friends, until the tailgate dropped one day on the way back from baseball practice and we all tumbled out. Yes, we survived. Somehow, we always did.

We even dabbled in urban exploration, long before we knew the term. Scattered close to our neighborhood were a few old, vacant Sears and Roebuck homes—wooden, creaky, and half-forgotten. Mom told us to stay away from them, said they were unsafe and no place for kids, but those empty houses called to us like treasure caves. Each doorway, a mystery. Each floorboard, a secret. We'd dare each other to peek in or step inside, our hearts pounding like drums. There was just something about those places—an air of adventure we couldn't resist.

My mother had always dreamed of a rose garden on one side of the front yard and an emerald, green lawn on the other. So, as a good husband does, my dad made it happen. He built her a beautiful rose bed and worked hard to make the lawn lush, but dreams meet reality quickly when kids are involved. The roses struggled because our basketballs

constantly pelted them, and the lush green grass? It turned brown in patches from worn-out paths to first base, second base, and back again.

It was less of a garden and more of a sandlot—but it was our sandlot.

One story we often recall as a family happened right in that front yard. My mom was chatting with our neighbor, Grace Isaacs, whose boys were a few years older and had moved on from neighborhood games. My mom, partly frustrated and partly amused, told Grace that she couldn't grow roses on one side of the yard because the basketballs were giving them a pounding, and she couldn't grow grass on the other side because the base paths were just worn-out patches of dirt.

After listening patiently, Grace smiled and gave my mother one of the best bits of wisdom she had ever received. She said, "Scottie, just enjoy those worn-out bases in your yard. One day, they won't be there. You'll have your roses on one side and an emerald, green lawn on the other. So, enjoy the dead roses and the worn brown spots in the grass."

My mom quoted that often in the years that followed. And as the bases disappeared, the lawn filled in, and the house grew quiet, those words echoed with more meaning.

I sometimes wonder if that old quote, "The more things change, the more they stay the same," still holds water. Neighborhood summers feel like a relic. These days, kids play organized sports with schedules, trainers, and matching gear. They hydrate with filtered water in team-issued bottles. And they text each other from across the street.



But back then, summer wasn't managed, it was discovered. There was no app for adventure. There was just a bike, a glove, and a best friend or two.

It wasn't religious, but it was sacred. We learned more than just how to throw or hit, we learned how to lose with grace, how to share what we had, and how to lead without a title. We learned how to forgive, how to laugh, and how to get back up, and I believe God was right there in the middle of it all—in the joy, the dirt, the learning, the togetherness.

Jesus once said, "Let the little children come to me." That invitation wasn't just for Sunday morning, it was for every ordinary, magical, messy, beautiful moment of childhood.

Today, kids still laugh. Bikes still roll. Baseballs still fly, but if we're honest, they do a lot more watching than doing, and maybe that's on us.

Maybe we need to help them rediscover what it means to play—to really play, to get dirty. To get bruised. To come home sweaty, tired, and happy.

We didn't know we were making memories. We just thought we were having fun.

So, here's to broken windows and rock-hard first bases. Here's to dead roses, brown patches, Kool-Aid stains, and worn-out sneakers. Here's to BB guns and oil barrels and collecting bottles from the ditch. Here's to old Sears homes, ghost stories, and brave hearts.

Here's to summers that shaped us.

And here's to the hope that we can bring just a little of that magic back. **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.
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RIDE FOR THE BRAND

Cody Davenport's Mission of Legacy and Loyalty

*By Michael G. Ethridge
Photography By Jonathan Mallard*



Cody Davenport isn't the kind of CEO who spends his days behind a desk, distant from the work that drives the heart of his organization. Instead, the leader of the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo is a hands-on, boots-in-the-dirt Texan who can often be found alongside volunteers, loading livestock, or training with his staff in their jiu-jitsu gym at the rodeo grounds. His approach is simple and authentic—rooted in grit, guided by faith, and driven by a deep sense of responsibility to preserve his agricultural heritage.

Born in Uvalde and raised between his family's ranch and San Antonio, Davenport grew up immersed in agriculture and rodeo traditions. He vividly recalls childhood days at Freeman Coliseum, anxiously waiting for the bull-riding dummy to drop. "I was always around little rodeos, small-town rodeos. That was just our culture," Davenport says. "My granddad was my role model. He took me to rodeos constantly. Everything about rodeo—the culture, the values—shaped me."

At Churchill High School in San Antonio, Davenport played football as an offensive lineman, even reaching the state quarterfinals. However, despite his deep agricultural roots, Churchill had no formal ag program, so his livestock experience came solely from working with his granddad at the family ranch. After briefly attempting college football at Texas State, Davenport soon realized his athletic ambitions had run their course and pivoted to studying military history, ultimately earning a master's in construction management from Texas A&M.

Davenport initially built custom homes before transitioning into commercial construction with SpawGlass in San Antonio. Eventually, family obligations and small-town values drew him back to Uvalde. There, he found success building second homes in Concan, Texas, during a real estate boom. He and his wife Yvonne later acquired Neal's Lodges, an historic family-run resort, cementing their ties to the region.

Today, Davenport and his family proudly call Boerne home, a community that embodies his values of faith, family, and small-town camaraderie. "I LOVE Boerne—so proud of the place," Davenport emphasizes. He speaks fondly of his adopted hometown, describing it as his "oasis," a place of peace and pride.

"Nothing pleases me more than driving into Boerne at night, down Main Street when everything's quiet," Davenport reflects. "It's like my therapy. I love how early we put up Christmas decorations, it's like being in a postcard sometimes."

His journey with the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo began in the early 1990s, initially volunteering with the Junior Livestock Auction Committee. Over decades, Davenport rose through the ranks, founding the Corral Club and chairing the inaugural Bar-B-Que Cook-Off before becoming CEO in 2018. Along the way, he learned every corner of the operation, building credibility and camaraderie with the 6,000 volunteers who power the event each year.

Under Davenport's leadership, the rodeo has significantly benefited Kendall County students, offering countless scholarships and educational opportunities that empower the local youth. The stock show's mission resonates deeply within the Kendall County community, aligning seamlessly with the area's dedication to agriculture, education, and tradition. As Davenport puts it, "Everything we do is ultimately about giving kids a chance. That's the legacy I care about most."

Davenport's tenure has been marked by significant challenges, notably the COVID pandemic and the severe winter storm in 2021—what he refers to as "Snow-vid." "That storm taught us resilience," Davenport reflects. "We learned we could withstand anything." During those trying times, he personally ensured the survival of over 250 animals, working tirelessly alongside a skeleton crew. "If I ever feel stressed, I remind myself—no one's dying on my watch," he says, encapsulating his steadfast leadership approach.

His philosophy is firmly grounded in his faith and historical perspective. Davenport often draws from his background in military history, noting, "My love of history definitely helps keep me grounded and humble about how small my life and decisions truly are."

Jiu-jitsu has become a critical element in his routine, providing mental clarity, physical discipline, and team bonding. Davenport proudly notes, "We have a gym in the back, and I've got people on staff here that I train

AN ANTON

with. It helps all of us with our rodeo work because we stay grounded.” He warmly invites all rodeo volunteers to join them in training sessions, emphasizing the value of camaraderie and mutual support. “The culture it builds is incredible,” he adds. “You learn about yourself, and each other, in a very real way.”

As CEO, Davenport is passionate about expanding the rodeo’s mission. “The arena is the window to our lifestyle,” he emphasizes. “Everything we put in that arena has to reflect our values—agriculture, family, faith, service.” His vision includes transforming the rodeo into a year-round attraction with a \$200 million redevelopment plan, significantly amplifying its educational impact. “We change lives in the month of February,” Davenport notes, “Now we’re going to do it over 12 months.”

The redevelopment isn’t just about bricks and mortar—it’s about legacy. Davenport sees it as his responsibility to leave the rodeo stronger than he found it. “I hope people say I took care of my watch,” he says, referencing the Biblical Prayer of Jabez. The new facilities will allow the rodeo to host events, offer programs, and welcome guests throughout the year. “It’s an investment in future generations,” he says. “The same way our grandparents invested in us.”

Family remains central to his life, with his wife Yvonne offering unwavering support. His roots extend internationally as well—Davenport’s father is a banana farmer in Guatemala and his brother operates a similar venture in Nicaragua. These global ties, combined with his Texas heritage, give him a unique perspective on the

interconnectedness of agriculture, family, and faith.

Together, they raised their children, Terrell and Seth, amidst ranching traditions, watching proudly as their children rediscover their agricultural roots. “Watching them come back is rewarding,” Davenport says warmly. He credits Yvonne for keeping the family anchored through the chaos of rodeo life: “She’s a city girl who fell in love with agriculture. She has a servant’s heart and a deep faith. That’s what keeps us going.”

Terrell describes her dad simply as “a leader.” Of all the things he’s taught her, she says the lesson that’s stuck with her the most is loyalty. “He is one of the most loyal people I know—especially to the people he loves,” she says. “In today’s world, I feel like that quality isn’t always valued the way it should be. But





with him, I've always known I could count on him, no matter what. I really hope I can reflect that same kind of loyalty to the people I love, just like he does." She adds, "He means the world to me. Having a built-in best friend and dad is the best."

One of her favorite memories was the time she came home from high school and found her childhood horse—unexpectedly—in the backyard of their Boerne home. "We live in town, so not necessarily where you would find a horse," she laughs. "My dad knew I missed him, so he drove to our place in Concan and brought him for the weekend. It was the funniest and best surprise."

Seth calls his dad "a molder of men." He sees him as the ultimate example of what it means to be a strong, faithful leader. "Everything that he does is to either provide for his family or to make us proud of our last name. No matter what he does, he does it the right way and in a respectable way," he says. "I'm so proud to have him as my father. Seeing him be so passionate with every facet of his life that he cares about is extremely inspiring to me."

He adds that his dad has always stressed the importance of respect and communication. "Respect is a dying thing," Seth says. "But if you carry yourself in a respectable fashion

and have a voice people want to listen to, you can get anywhere in life."

Seth's favorite Boerne tradition with his dad is their shared love of Halloween. "Halloween has always been his favorite holiday and that rubbed off on me," he says. "Every year it turns into an entire project on how we're going to decorate the yard. Fog machines, giant skeletons and spiders, fake car wrecks, and an entire graveyard. Our house has become a hot spot for kids to trick-or-treat, and I know my dad enjoys seeing them get a kick out of it—so I enjoy helping him get it ready."

Yvonne echoes many of the same sentiments. "Most people would describe Cody as a leader, strong, driven, dedicated, a man of integrity, a visionary. He stands for what is right and doesn't waver under pressure," she says. "But I get to witness his generosity, his heart for the underdog, and how thoughtful and funny he is."

She describes him as a provider of love, support, strength, and wisdom. And she reflects fondly on the life they've built together. "His mom said during our rehearsal dinner, 'You will not be bored,' and she was right," Yvonne says with a smile. "Being married to Cody has been an adventure full of treasured memories. When I reflect on it,

the word 'building' comes to mind. Building a fundraising group with our friends to buy animals from 4-H and FFA kids. Building custom homes. Building our business. Most importantly, building our family. And now I get to be his number one fan as he builds a strong future for the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo."

One of her favorite Boerne pastimes is their Sunday drives through the Hill Country Mile and along the river in Cody's 1942 Willys Jeep. "We are fortunate to live in Boerne with the beautiful river and charming Main Street," she says. "Those peaceful drives remind us how lucky we are to live in a place like this."

Davenport's advice to young men entering life's arena is simple yet powerful: "Grit. Study it. Know it. Live it. Because you'll never be the smartest or the prettiest in the room. But if you have grit, you're always in the game. Only you decide when you walk away."

With humility, toughness, and vision, Cody Davenport is a modern steward of Texas tradition, rooted in the past, working hard in the present, and building for a future that honors both, making him The Kendall Gentleman. **KG**



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The Plaza

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.*

Just south of the Dienger Building, laying between Blanco and San Antonio Streets on the west side of Main is “The Plaza.” Not “Main Plaza” or “The Town Square” as so many today want to call it. There is only one ‘Plaza’ in Boerne, and that’s it. There is a “Veteran’s Park” across from Saint Peter’s Catholic Church, between Hickman and Kronkosky Streets, but it was never known as a plaza.

On the Plaza there was a merry-go-round that sat back about twenty-five feet from the front curb of Main. About 50 feet or so to the west of the merry-go-round, and more centered between the two side streets was the beautiful water fountain built from native honeycomb rock. There were no pecan trees lining the Plaza, only a few hackberry trees along Main and scattered around, with a bench or two under some of them.

The grass was worn down all around the merry-go-round and the hard-packed sandy soil made for an ideal place to draw out your circle for marbles. The sandy soil was easy to dig in to make a hole where you would play

washers or throw marbles. Occasionally money was thrown and you would lose all that did not go into the hole.

The soil was also soft enough that you could show off your skill with your pocket knife by playing mumbly-peg. This was in the days before the pocket knife became a weapon to be feared. It was carried by most boys to use when whittling a stick or cutting a string. In later years, some of the people became afraid that someone would get hurt on the merry-go-round and sue the city, so they had it taken down. It was moved over in the flat to the colored school for them to play on. I guess no one was afraid of one of them getting hurt and suing someone.

The Plaza was a favorite spot to meet and settle differences. A fight would start at school and rather than face the wrath of the teachers, the challenge went forth to “Meet me at the merry-go-round after school and we’ll settle this there.” A large crowd would always gather to see that both parties would show up and find out firsthand who would be the winner.

Besides being used as the local battleground, the Plaza was also the place for playing games such as football, baseball, and dodge ball. There were times though that none of these were permitted. When the owner of the Kendall Inn was mayor, he made sure playing was forbidden during his guests’ afternoon naptime.

The Plaza goes back to the laying out of Boerne. It was part of the “Commons,” an area

for the people of the town but the ownership was actually in the name of Kendall County since at that time Boerne was a town in name only. Several decades later the citizens of Boerne asked the Commissioner’s Court of Kendall County to take down the fences around the Plaza. This request was granted but what purpose it served I do not know. In the early 1900s when Boerne incorporated, the City acquired parts of the Commons which included the Plaza. However, the area where the courthouse presently is, and several other small lots, remained in the ownership of Kendall County.

In early times there was a cypress water tank at the west end of the Plaza where water could be run into a smaller tank for livestock to drink. People in the area could also draw water here since not everyone had a water well and there was no city water. The tanks were removed sometime in the 1920s.

Another part of the Plaza was the multitude of cut-ants and their holes. It is extremely hard to eradicate these ants as they have large underground chambers. There were three service stations directly across Main Street and they would pour their old oil into the ant holes hoping to get rid of the invaders. This went on for a number of years until someone decided to set the oil on fire in hopes that this would end the ant problem once and for all. Some kerosene or gasoline was poured into the holes and the oil was set afire. Smoke came up completely on the other side of the Cibolo Creek. No one could believe how expansive the underground ant den was. By the way, it didn’t kill the ants. **KG**

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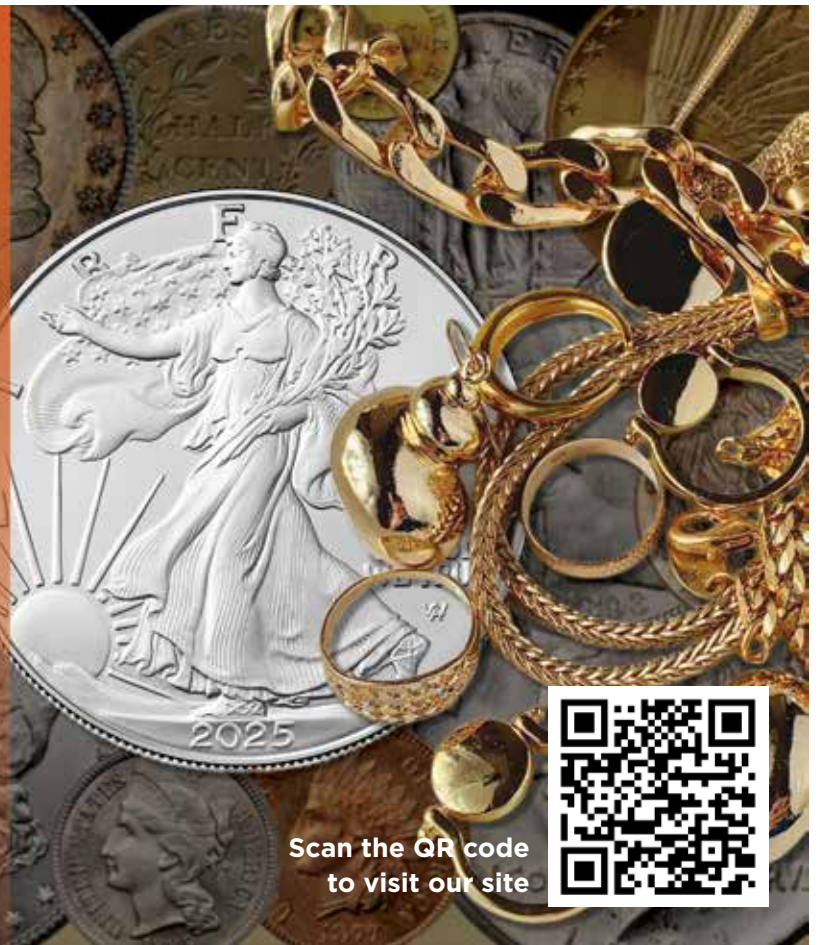




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Boerne Bass Club

The Tug is the Drug

By Jed Mazour

I set my alarm for 4:30 am, knowing I will wake up with excitement before it even goes off. Then, the boat ramp anxiety sets in a bit. But all of this is so familiar to me that the love of this sport outweighs the stresses.

It's been almost 8 years now since we met in a classroom with Welton Pickering, Owen, Kade, and a handful of other students and parents to form this club. But like all good things, it seems like yesterday.

I gently wake my wife as I am getting ready. Tournament jersey, check. Hat, check.

Sunblock, check. Sunglasses, check. Most important, a prayer of thanks and for God's watching eyes for our safety. Never a prayer to win.

Denise always wakes up happy to help me with the snacks for the day, the truck and trailer, as well as help others coordinate getting on the water. We make our way down a dirt road at Pace Bend Park on Lake Travis. Only a single boat ramp is open due to the years of continued drought. This is a battle we fight more often now. We get the boat in the water, truck parked, and beach

the boat until it's time for the release. Cade and Grayson climb aboard and get all their food, drinks, and tackle situated so it won't be in the way when we start running around the boat, fighting fish. It's hard to believe it's the last tournament of the season. As the sun comes up, the last of the 68 boats unloads in the water. Jeff, our tournament director for Faith Angler Network, plays the national anthem over a loudspeaker and says a morning prayer, as almost 70 boats put around the water, trying not to bump into each other. Just as quickly as we got on the water, we are off to a fast start! Lifejackets on and safety switch engaged, we are blasting off as fast as a 250 horsepower Mercury 2-stroke will go. A literal race to the other side of the lake because where there is grass, there is bass, and everyone knows it.

After about 30 minutes of over 60 MPH speeds, we throttle down and coast into a small cove. The banks are lined with piles of large rocks, and I can see the submerged grass on my graph. This is the spot! The boys get their bearings back after a white knuckle ride and find their respective positions. All of our rods are pre-rigged and laid out for each angler. 4-5 rods, each with a different



presentation. At this point, we have already determined exactly what to start with and when we will change our tactic. Grayson recently broke his leg from a fishing accident on the Medina River and is sporting a grey autographed cast. He is usually the point man, but today he is leaning on a seat in the rear for stability and to avoid getting in the way. Cade is at the bow and looking to put the first fish in the box. Ned Rig, that's what's for breakfast! We make a few passes around some grass, and soon enough, we land our first keeper. Lake Travis is large, and the water can be very clear in areas. Bass love clear, clean water, but it does present a challenge. If you see them, they can see you! We have to be methodical in how to present our tackle. We toss him in the live well and keep to our plan as long as we can. One thing I have certainly learned is to fish with a plan and fish what you are confident in. If you use a Texas Rig, crank bait, or drop shot most places, you probably better have that lined and ready at all times. We spend the morning catching fish and culling to keep the larger ones. You never know how some days are going to play out.

Sometimes we put in a lot of practice and planning for a tournament and catch 40 fish, and sometimes we are lucky to turn in 4 for 5. That's fishing for you... Around 1:30, we make our last few casts and begin the ride back. After about another 30 minutes, this time with much bigger waves from all the recreational boats, we make it back to the weigh-in. In these tournaments, you turn in your 5 best fish for a combined weight. This is a great opportunity for kids to compete and feel a little public speaking pressure as they walk across the stage with their catch. "Boat number 21, Cade and Greyson! So, tell us, what did you catch them on? Is there anything you would like to say about your fishing season?" The young anglers might get questions like these and several others as they stand on the stage facing crowds of around 200-300+ people. And you know what, it's good for them!

As we wait and watch 68 teams, 136 kids walk across the stage, I take the time to look around. Seeing so many families, grandparents, brothers, and sisters all together in the outdoors enjoying God's

creation. This always fires me up and confirms my love for all of it! The crowd gathers and watches as the teams walk up from the boats with their bags full of bass, making their way to the weigh station. As a boat captain, your work is done at this point. I have found more and more over the recent years that this is my calling, my discipleship. Jesus said, "follow me and I will make you fishers of men" Matthew 4:19. I know what that means now, and I will always be listening to him with my heart and soul for guidance on this. This time we may not have placed in the top 10%, but that's secondary. The boys are happy and getting some much-needed rest and hydration. Just as quickly as it started, it's finished, and everyone is safe and on the road home. Maybe you've heard the saying "The tug is the drug," and I can tell you, it's a real feeling. Same as the kids, I am leaving this tournament, waiting and daydreaming about the next time I get to set a hook or watch the kids fight a largemouth bass. If your kid's "drug" is bass fishing, I am here to tell you that you all are blessed!

Boerne Bass Club's mission statement is: To create a bass fishing club for area youth, keeping intact our Christian-oriented ideals and guiding principles, and in doing so, to develop future leaders in our community who have outstanding character, values, and share a love for the outdoors. This is something we truly believe in. Boerne Bass Club competes in the Faith Angler Network organization. We believe in putting Jesus Christ first and that God made all this for us to enjoy, respect, and conserve for future generations to come. This program is available for kids in grades 6-12, boys and girls. You don't have to be a seasoned fisherman or woman, we will teach you! If you have a child interested, have a boat and want to volunteer to take kids fishing, or want to sponsor or donate to an amazing cause, please reach out to us! Denise and I want to preserve this opportunity for kids as long as we can, but that takes help.

Instagram + Facebook @BoerneBassClub
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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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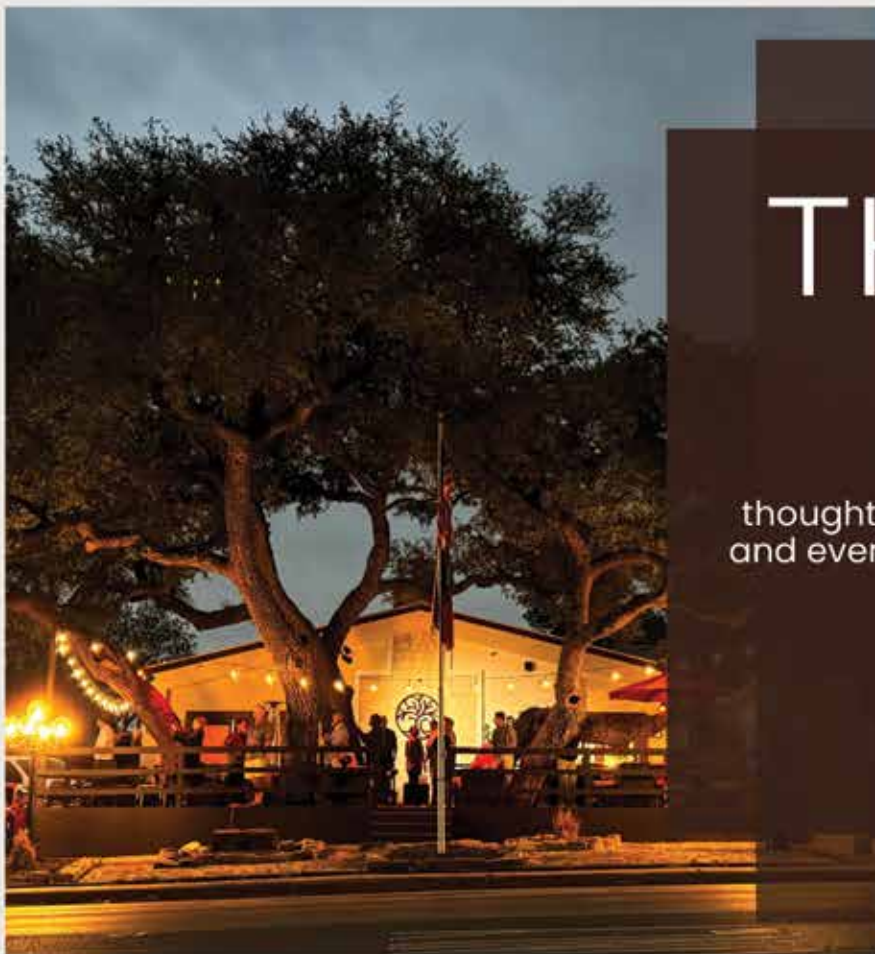
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