



THE KENDALLTM

GENTLEMAN

OCTOBER 2025 | ISSUE 9 :: VOLUME 1

KEN NIETENHOEFER

IS THE KENDALL GENTLEMAN

KENDALL CO. HISTORY

E.O. Rust

OUTDOORS

The Pursuit

REVIEW

1875 Bully

BETTERMENT

Deep Roots



Principle INFINITI of Boerne
A **PRINCIPLE** AUTO GROUP DEALERSHIP

2.9% financing for 60 months on the redesigned QX80
with approved credit



EXPERIENCE THE SERVICE
YOU DESERVE

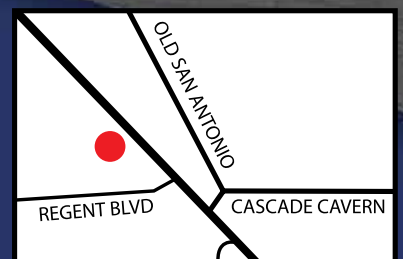
**#1 Customer Retention
in the U.S.**



Bill McKibbin
General Manager

TAKE EXIT 542

32275 IH-10
Boerne, TX 78006
210-477-1775



Experience the Best of the Hill Country



THE CLUB AT TAPATIO SPRINGS

Whether you're seeking a weekend escape, a round of championship golf, or a vibrant evening on the patio, The Club at Tapatio Springs welcomes you to enjoy the Hill Country lifestyle—**open to the public, yet uniquely semi-private.**

ELEVATE YOUR GAME

Become a Golf Member and enjoy exclusive access to premier amenities, personalized service, and a welcoming community.



RELAX & RECHARGE

Book a staycation and unwind at our resort and adult pools, soak in hot tubs, and lounge under the Texas sun.



SAVOR THE FLAVOR

Join us at La Cascada for live music, inspired cuisine from Executive Chef Eric Macintyre, and handcrafted drink specials.



CELEBRATE IN STYLE

Host your next holiday, corporate, or family event in a setting where charm, service, and unforgettable experiences come together.

As the only country club in the Texas Hill Country offering a semi-private experience, Tapatio Springs blends exclusivity with accessibility—come for the day, stay for the lifestyle.

For more information or membership inquiries, email membership@tapatio.com



NEW WEBSITE
WWW.CGCCERAKOTE.COM/STORE



RADICAL FIREARMS FR-16
\$490.99



CANIK TP9SF ELITE
\$389.99

GUNS-AMMO-OPTICS-GUNSMITHING-NFA ITEMS-ACCESSORIES



**5% OFF
LABOR**

When You Mention
You Saw This Ad
In The Kendall
Gentleman

- Lube And Oil
- Engine/Repair
- Electrical Systems
- Smog/Emissions
- Exhaust/System
- A/C
- Tune-Ups
- Suspension
- Radiator System
- Brakes
- Transmission
- Tire Inspection
- Wheel Alignment
- Diesel Repair
- Timing Belts
- Steering



124 Cascade Cavern, Boerne, TX 78015
830-331-9944 | lonestarautoanddiesel.com

Salvador DOBBS



COCKTAILS & BAR



512 River Rd., Boerne, TX :: www.salvadordobbs.com



THE KENDALLTM

GENTLEMAN

OCTOBER 2025 | ISSUE 9 :: VOLUME 1

8 FROM THE PUBLISHER

10 CALENDAR of EVENTS

14 OUTDOORS

The Pursuit

By Jed Mazour

18 REVIEW

1875 Bully by Romeo y Julieta

By Clay Smoot

20 HOPE for HEROES

Officer David Chavez

By Jonathan Mallard

24 BETTERMENT

Deep Roots Create Strong Trees

By Collin Miller

28 FAITH & LEADERSHIP

Mums

By Coach Stan Leech

32 THE KENDALL

GENTLEMAN:

KEN NIETENHOEFER

By Jonathan Mallard

Photography By Jonathan Mallard

40 MUSINGS OF JEV

Mikey the Donkey

By John Eddie Vogt

46 HISTORY

E.O. Rust

By Tom Allred, Sr.



Carol and Ken Nietenhoefer



THE KENDALLTM GENTLEMAN



Main Street Boerne, TX 2020

Publisher Michael G. Ethridge

Creative Director Ben Weber

Director of Photography Jonathan Mallard

**Photographer &
Social Media** Emily Pfeiffer

Sales Austin Fanning

Contributors Tom Allred, Sr.
Clay Smoot
Jed Mazour
Stan Leech
John Eddie Vogt
Collin Miller

www.thekendallgentleman.com
sales@thekendallgentleman.com
info@thekendallgentleman.com

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 Kendall Gentleman is a publication of





The Strength of Stillness

October settles over Kendall County like a quilt. The mornings begin to carry that crisp air we've been waiting for, the trees start to hint at turning, and you can smell fires drifting from backyards and campsites. Football fills the evenings, deer blinds are cleaned and stocked, and the calendar fills with fall festivals, church bazaars, and community events. It's a season that hums with activity, yet it also whispers something quieter if we'll let it.

Stillness.

I don't mean idleness, and I don't mean giving up the work that's in front of us. Stillness is different. It's the discipline of slowing your heart long enough to hear what really matters. In a world that tells us to run faster, chase more, and fill every empty minute, October invites us to step back.

I've felt that need more and more in my own life. When I was younger, I believed being a man meant always being on the move. Stack the wins. Keep the schedule full. Don't let anyone see you pause. But that kind of living runs a man ragged. You don't notice it at first, but the frayed edges show up in the way you snap at your loved ones, or how you feel bone-tired even after a full night's sleep.

The truth is, God didn't design us to carry the load at a dead sprint forever. He gave us the gift of Sabbath. He gave us seasons. And He gave us the reminder, in Psalm 46:10, to "Be still, and know that I am God." Stillness isn't weakness. It's where strength is renewed.

In Kendall County, stillness often looks ordinary. It's a man with a cup of coffee on

the porch before the sun rises, listening to the first crow of a rooster down the road. It's an hour in a deer blind when nothing walks out but squirrels, and realizing the time wasn't wasted. It's slipping into a pew on Sunday morning, not with words to say, but with ears to hear. It's walking the banks of the Guadalupe after a long week, breathing in air that smells of cedar and limestone.

Those moments don't announce themselves. They won't trend on social media. But they are the places where clarity comes, where you remember what's truly important: your faith, your family, your community.

I've seen it in the men we've written about in this magazine. Every one of them carries responsibility, but the best of them also know how to be still. They take the time to pray before making a hard decision. They know the value of sitting with their children without rushing off to the next thing. They've learned that the quietest hours often shape the loudest legacies.

October also gives us the reminder that time is passing. Another year is sliding toward its close. It's worth asking: have we lived with intention, or just speed? Have we left room for quiet, or have we drowned it out with noise?

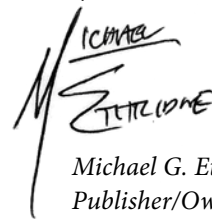
There's a reason the old-timers sat on their porches as the day wound down. They weren't lazy. They were wise. They knew the land, the weather, and the work would always be there tomorrow. But the people in front of them, their children, their neighbors, their community, needed them to be present that day. Stillness makes presence possible.

My encouragement to you, as we step into October, is simple: carve out time to be still. Guard it as fiercely as you guard your work or your hobbies. Let the quiet of a Hill Country morning teach you what hurry never will. Put the phone down, look your wife in the eye, linger at the dinner table. Sit with your son after practice, even if you're both too tired to talk. Those are the moments that write a man's story.

The Kendall Gentleman has always been about more than articles and advertisements. It's about calling men to live deliberately, to protect, to provide, to pray, to lead. Stillness is the soil where all those virtues grow. Without it, we run the risk of becoming men who achieve much but mean little.

So this October, take the invitation that's already written in the changing of the season. Slow down. Step outside. Be still. And know that the God who made these hills is still at work in you, in your family, and in this community.

I'll see you down the road,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MICHAEL G. ETHRIDGE". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "M" and "E".

Michael G. Ethridge
Publisher/Owner

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

9.17.25

Steak Night

Joshua Creek Ranch
132 Cravey Road, Boerne, TX 78006
www.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.

9.18.25

Men's Night

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

9.20.25

Fall Equinox Concert

Cave Without a Name
325 Kreutzberg Rd, Boerne, TX 78006
www.cavewithoutaname.com
Celebrate the balance of light and dark at the Fall Equinox concert featuring Rudi & the Rudiments. Part of the evening is performed by candlelight in total darkness inside the cave. Tickets are \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door.

9.27.25

Mainz Meat Market Grand Opening + BRCC Block Party

Mainz Meat Market + Black Rifle Coffee Company
Black Rifle Coffee Company
101 S Main St Ste A, Boerne, TX 78006
facebook.com/mainzmeatmarket

9.29.25

Tee Off For Our Heroes

Hope for Heroes Texas
Fair Oaks Ranch Golf and Country Club
7900 Fair Oaks Pkwy, Fair Oaks Ranch, TX 78015
www.hopeforheroestexas.org
Support local first responders while enjoying a day on the green at the 1st Annual Tee Off For Our Heroes Golf Tournament, benefiting Hope for Heroes Texas.

10.4.25

VFW Veterans Coffee

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

10.4.25

Love Forward: A Benefit Dinner for Ablaze Ministries

Ablaze Ministries
Nelson City Dance Hall
825 FM 289, Boerne, TX 78006
www.ablaze.us
This will be a night of vision, worship, and mission as we cast the dream God has placed on our hearts for the youth of Boerne, Kendall County, and beyond.

10.11.25

Open Bowling

Boerne Turn Verein
221 E. Theissen, Boerne, TX 78006
www.boerneturnverein.com

10.13.25

American Legion General Membership Meeting

American Legion Post 313
Kendall County EMS Bldg
1175 North Main Street, 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)

10.14.25

VFW Business Meeting

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

10.15.25

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

The Kendall Gentleman
Das GreenHaus
7 Upper Balcones Rd, Boerne, TX 78006
thekendallgentleman.com
Join The Kendall Gentleman for The Forum VI at Das GreenHaus in Boerne. From 5:00–8:00 PM, enjoy an open-invite evening of fellowship, conversation, and community as we celebrate the men of Kendall County—and those who stand beside them.

10.16.25

Whiskey & Wisdom Book Club

The Boerne Bookshop
153 S. Main St. #120, Boerne, TX 78006
www.theboernebookshop.com
Thinking while drinking has never been more illuminating!

10.20.25

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

10.31.25

KCAMC 20th Annual Golf Tournament

Kendall County Aggie Moms Club
The Buckhorn Golf Course
36 FM 473 Comfort, TX 78013
kendallcountyaggiemoms.membershiptoolkit.com
With our annual golf fundraiser we hope to raise enough money to award 30 \$1,000 scholarships to well deserving students from Kendall County attending Texas A&M with your support. **KG**



Scan the code to
RSVP to the
LOVE FORWARD
Benefit Dinner
or donate to
Ablaze Ministries

LOVE FORWARD

A BENEFIT DINNER FOR ABLAZE MINISTRIES

Doors open and cocktail hour starts at 6 pm, dinner begins at 7 pm. Come enjoy an evening of fun, dinner, and drinks on us to celebrate our ministry.

This will be a night of vision, worship, and mission as we cast the dream God has placed on our hearts for the youth of Boerne, Kendall County, and beyond.

This is a fundraising event for Ablaze, with all proceeds supporting our ministry in Boerne/Kendall County. Please RSVP using the QR code or consider donating if you are unable to join us.

October 4, 2025

Nelson City Dance Hall

825 FM 289

Boerne, TX 78006

1004 South Coulter Drive, Bryan, TX 77803 | admin@ablaze.us | (979) 485-9910



Welcome
Please come in!

153 S. Main St. #120

Boerne, Texas 78006

(830) 249-0000

www.theboernebookshop.com





GREAT SOUTHERN COINS

MAKE THIS SEASON BRIGHTER

Sell your rare coins and bullion
for extra holiday cash today!

1100 N. Main Street, Suite 101 • Boerne, TX 78006

830-331-9117 • 888-409-8344

www.greatsoutherncoins.com



Scan the QR code
to visit our site



KG THE KENDALL
GENTLEMAN

We're gathering the voices of Kendall County's veterans - those who served, sacrificed, and shaped our community. Whether it's your story or your grandfather's, or even your great great grandfather's, we want to help you share it and preserve their legacy.

Send submissions at
thekendallgentleman.com/veterans

HMRC Services

Hunter Martin Ranch
Construction Services

Mention this add and
get 10% off of your
next service



We at HMRC Services specialize in providing top-notch land clearing and dirt work services in Boerne. From excavation to mulching, site preparation to lot clearing, we have the expertise and equipment to handle all your land clearing needs efficiently and professionally. Let us help you transform your property today!

OUR SERVICE

- ✓ Land Clearing
- ✓ Ranch Roads
- ✓ Retaining Walls
- ✓ MUCH MORE
- ✓ Mulching
- ✓ Excavation
- ✓ Tree Trimming and Removal

Contact Us

www.hmrcservicestx.com

210-845-3280



PLANNING FOR YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE

With over 20 years of wealth management experience, HilltopSecurities Financial Advisor Mark Travis carefully cultivates each client relationship and works hard to understand your unique concerns and goals, while striving to provide you with clear insights into changing markets.

To help you plan for your financial future, Mark provides thoughtful solutions in a variety of areas including Investments, 401(k) and Retirement Plans, Education Planning, Estate Strategies, Charitable Planning, and Life and Long-Term Care Insurance.

Contact Mark to start planning your financial future, today!



Mark Travis
Senior Vice President
Financial Advisor

Office: 210.841.6401
Mobile: 210.900.3610
mark.travis@hilltopsecurities.com

70 Northeast Loop 410 Suite 750
San Antonio, TX, 78216



©2025 Hilltop Securities Inc. | All rights reserved | MEMBER: NYSE/FINRA/SIPC | HTS1577328625



830.249.3649 | hillcountrydoor.com





The Pursuit

By Jed Mazour

Cooler mornings and earlier sunsets. An extra cup of morning coffee and maybe a finger or two of evening bourbon. Time to inventory the firewood out front and spread the rye grass seed. To most people it's probably just a break from the heat, pumpkin lattes at the coffee shop and a change of wardrobe. A chance to actually enjoy taking the dog for a long walk and maybe try to get into an outside exercise routine. Who knows, maybe you will even plant a fall garden. This is not what's on my mind.. I feel like I have an animal instinct inside me, maybe it's in my DNA. As the whitetail deer transition from red summer velvet to hard horn nomads, I feel it! It's the feeling of the light around you dimming and the soft sounds of the creatures coming out at night. The feeling of a fire burning in the distance warming the cool night air. It's like the change in seasons sets off a survival instinct in animals and in man. I am a believer that God built us in this way and I embrace it. In fact, I am absolutely consumed by it.

Since our kids were born they have been submerged in this lifestyle. In fact, while Denise was around eight months pregnant with Hunter, her and I were camping and shot one of my best low fence deer to this day. I can remember needing her help to pull this deer up on to the tailgate and how big her belly was at the time with baby Hunter. I will never forget that. Hunter and Ellie have embraced it and it has been a huge part of keeping us as close of a family as we are. That is probably one of the most important things I can say or advise I could ever offer someone. Hunting season is here. The stage is set. It's time to perform.

After years of hunting South Texas our desire for bigger game, more challenges, and different terrain really started to grow. As Hunter got older and more mature, the opportunity to travel to farther places and search for bigger game became our focus. Our sights were set on elk and we were determined to put in our time. We both knew not to expect it to come easy but we didn't know what was in store for us either. My brother in law, Ty, is from the Taos, New Mexico area. Ken, his father, became our first mentor for elk hunting and knowledge of the local mountain terrain. So every October we would travel to the Tres Piedras area and try to learn how to track and stalk these animals for a week at a time.

If you want to catch the sight of a bull elk in the open and grazing, you have to be early and sometimes that might be pretty far away. About as soon as there is a glimpse of light, the wise bulls head back up into the tree line, not to be seen. The morning can easily turn into a 5 mile hike. Up one side of a ravine and down the other. Over and over again. it all starts to look the same and remembering where you have and have not been can be a little nerve racking. But that's what OnX is for these days. Around noon we would always stop at a nice vantage position to glass the area, eat a sandwich, and discuss our evening approach. I felt like we always did a good job of planning and tried to be as strategic as we could with our limited knowledge. Back to the sandwich! The "Questa Sandwich" was a staple on the trail and easily the most unusual sandwich I've have ever had. I don't know exactly how it came about but it was Ken's favorite and it became mine too. White bread, peanut butter, pimento cheese, sliced onions, pickles, and Tapatio hot sauce. Now wrap it in foil, smash it into the bottom of your daypack, let it get cold and voila! Trust me, it's way better than it sounds! Hunter and I spent five years learning and hunting northern New Mexico in the Carson National Forest. Some seasons were fairly warm and dry and sometimes it was just COLD and the snow was a whole other challenge to learn. Over the years there were opportunities missed and maybe a shot or two as well. But we cut our teeth in those mountains and learned some tricks that would ultimately lead us to our success.

On year six Ken had to take a break with some health issues and needed some time to get on the mend. At the same time an opportunity to hunt public land in far west central Colorado came up. This area was new to us but we were pretty confident in our abilities at this point to track elk and deal with elevation and weather conditions. But, there were things we were not prepared for..

Trailers loaded, we hit the road for the Rocky Mountains!

We made the drive in one day, arriving to our campsite in the dark of night. When morning came, we were very eager to set out and survey the area. after all, this was home for the week and there was plenty to do. The land was big and vast! Everything



seemed to be larger than life! I remember sitting on a cliffside with Hunter, drinking a cup of coffee and staring out across one of the most beautiful mountain valleys I have ever seen. It was like being a character inside of a famous mountain painting. In order to cover the region, you had to drive an ATV across large valleys to get to the next mountain ridge or advantageous area. what we didn't know was that our diesel powered side by side was naturally aspirated and the high altitude would not allow the motor to get enough oxygen. Basically, our ride was almost useless. This was a huge blow to our abilities to cover land fast and equally as detrimental to our motivation for a short time. But we came this far so we did what we had to do and adapted. Being on foot, we simply couldn't get to the far off places others were prospecting. We decided to turn around and go up the mountain behind camp on foot. It didn't really appear that anyone, or not many people, had this idea. Not sure why

but it seemed logical to us. After a day or so, Hunter caught a quick glimpse of a bull crossing a path. We found fresh tracks, scat, and soon enough we could smell them. One thing we learned in New Mexico was that if you can smell them, you are probably within 50 yards! So for a couple days we tracked the elk, following their signs and trying to get closer. After chatting with the guys at camp, it seemed we were the only ones actively tracking some bull elk. This was a good feeling! A few days later a snow storm came in and changed everything. This was our opportunity to test what we had learned in New Mexico. It was an evening hunt and we found some fresh tracks pretty quick. Hunter and I followed these tracks like a blood hound on a coon. But like a raccoon, the elk tracks would sometimes makes circles and just disappear.. we would pick it up again quickly and be back on the move. Stopping every so often to put up noses and try to sense how close we were getting.

The scent was strong, we were close! All we had to do was speed up our pace just a bit. The bull was moving from tree to tree to find the grass that wasn't covered in snow, but he was moving faster than us.

Then, it just happened.. Hunter yelled out "THERE HE IS!!" only about 60 yards away. About as fast as I could turn around, Hunter swung up the rifle and took a standing shot at a moving bull elk. My eyes locked on to it at the exact moment Hunter took his first shot. It dropped the animal and Hunter screamed out in excitement. I watched as the animal gathered himself to make his final run. This part was like living out a scene in a western movie in slow motion. The bull took to the trail with everything he had left in him. Hunter exchanged four more rounds with him. I watched seemingly in slow motion, as they went back and forth with this battle. Each landed shot was followed by another chase until it wasn't.

This part was something I will remember for the rest of my life. We walked up to the elk with a feeling that this might have just been a dream. Hunter and I dropped to our knees and met him on the blood covered snow where he lay. The first thing we did was take a moment together to thank God for how much he had blessed us. As we sat there celebrating, it really sank in how much work we had put into this. The amount of time we had spent together over the years in preparation for this moment. It had been the perfect hunt. We met each challenge with stronger resolve and we did it all together. Now we get to carry this beautiful creation of God out of the snow covered mountains on our backs just like we had always dreamed of doing TOGETHER! This was my dream come true. It was placed in our life at the exact moment God knew we were ready for it and I am so dearly thankful for every single aspect of this experience.

We worked as a team that evening with our group to get this animal butchered and hauled out. When we got back to camp late that night, it was a time of celebration. We started a fire, poured drinks, and told stories for hours! We were all so happy. We were all so thankful. This will be a campfire story I will always tell and hopefully one day I can tell it to my grandkids as well. **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



1875 Bully by Romeo y Julieta

By Clay Smoot

This month's review by Mr. Clay the Cigar Guy from The Cigar Society, is the 1875 Bully (5 x 50) by Romeo y Julieta. Since I do not smoke many cigars with Indonesian wrappers, I would be lying to you if I said this cigar is always present in my humidor of go-to cigars. I had a few left over from an event and thought I would reacquaint myself with it. To be true, when I first started smoking this cigar in early 2020, I was surprised at how often I would pick one up to smoke. I developed an appreciation for it, and when I want or need a lighter to mild cigar, this is it for me. This early Saturday morning, I am enjoying this cigar at home with a hot cup of coffee from a locally owned coffee company, Dirty Duck Coffee.

Today, I am once again going to smoke indoors, because these Texas summers are a total joke, but not a funny one. Also, a cigar "buzz" hits different in the heat, but not in a good way. I grab the Bully from my personal humidor, placing it between my fingers as I grab my cigar punch, which is a rarity for me. A cigar punch is just that. You place the punch on the cap of the cigar (top) and

gently push it down. The result is a nicely formed circular hole that streamlines all of the flavor onto your palate. I flip the top of my refillable Firebird Triple Torch, push the button, and wait for the flame to appear. Once it does, I slightly move my torch forth and back, toasting, then whitening the end of my cigar. Picture in your mind getting coals to turn white before throwing a ribeye on the grill. Once that is complete, I take a deep draw of this cigar made by one of the giants of the industry, Romeo y Julieta.

I taste coffee and a tad bit of cinnamon, but I am a bit confused because I have not even taken a sip of my Cinnamon Teal Snickerdoodle coffee from Dirty Duck Coffee yet. However, that is what I taste. Then after a few minutes, I start to taste hazelnut, making it a sweeter, more savory cigar. I smoke this cigar at my own pace, as it is Saturday morning with a great book and a wonderful cup of coffee. The draws are long, drawn-out affairs for me, as usual. I want to taste every note on every pull. As the minutes start to add up, I begin to taste the leather and wood notes that this cigar is known for. As I get into the middle third of this cigar, I'm drinking my coffee, and I notice a slight change in the flavor profile. For me, I started to taste the coffee notes more, and gained a small hint of citrus, which was different. As this happens, I am reminded of how many times a well-matched pairing between a quality cigar and a great cup of coffee can change your entire tasting experience. The final third of this cigar reminds me why this is a cigar to smoke any time of the day. The grand finale hits with a creamy finish, really pushing that coffee profile forward. In my opinion, the coffee, hazelnut and creamy notes make this cigar a wonderful dessert and coffee cigar. It really ties everything together, putting a picture-perfect finish on an exceptional meal. Pairing a great

coffee with a cigar from a powerhouse cigar company worked out amazingly. Do yourself a favor and pick up a Romeo y Julieta 1875 Bully from Free Roam Brewing, Roc n Rita's, and either the Fair Oaks or Comfort locations of Spotted Deer Coffee. Remember, the drink you decide to pair your cigar with can make or break your whole tasting and pairing experience.

The 1875 Bully is widely regarded as a classic and fairly priced cigar from one of the cigar industry's big boys, Romeo y Julieta. The 1875 line is one of, if not the most famous cigar lines from Romeo y Julieta. The Bully is a light to medium-bodied smoke that offers a flavorful experience with a focus on coffee, creamy smoke, nuts, and a hint of cedar. Personally, I like the transitions from one note to another. Overall, I think the 1875 line is the flagship of the Romeo y Julieta brand.

Flavor Profile:

The Romeo y Julieta 1875 Bully is known for flavors like cedar, coffee, cream, leather, and occasionally hints of hazelnut, citrus, or spice.

Body and Strength:

It's generally considered a light to medium-bodied cigar.

Construction:

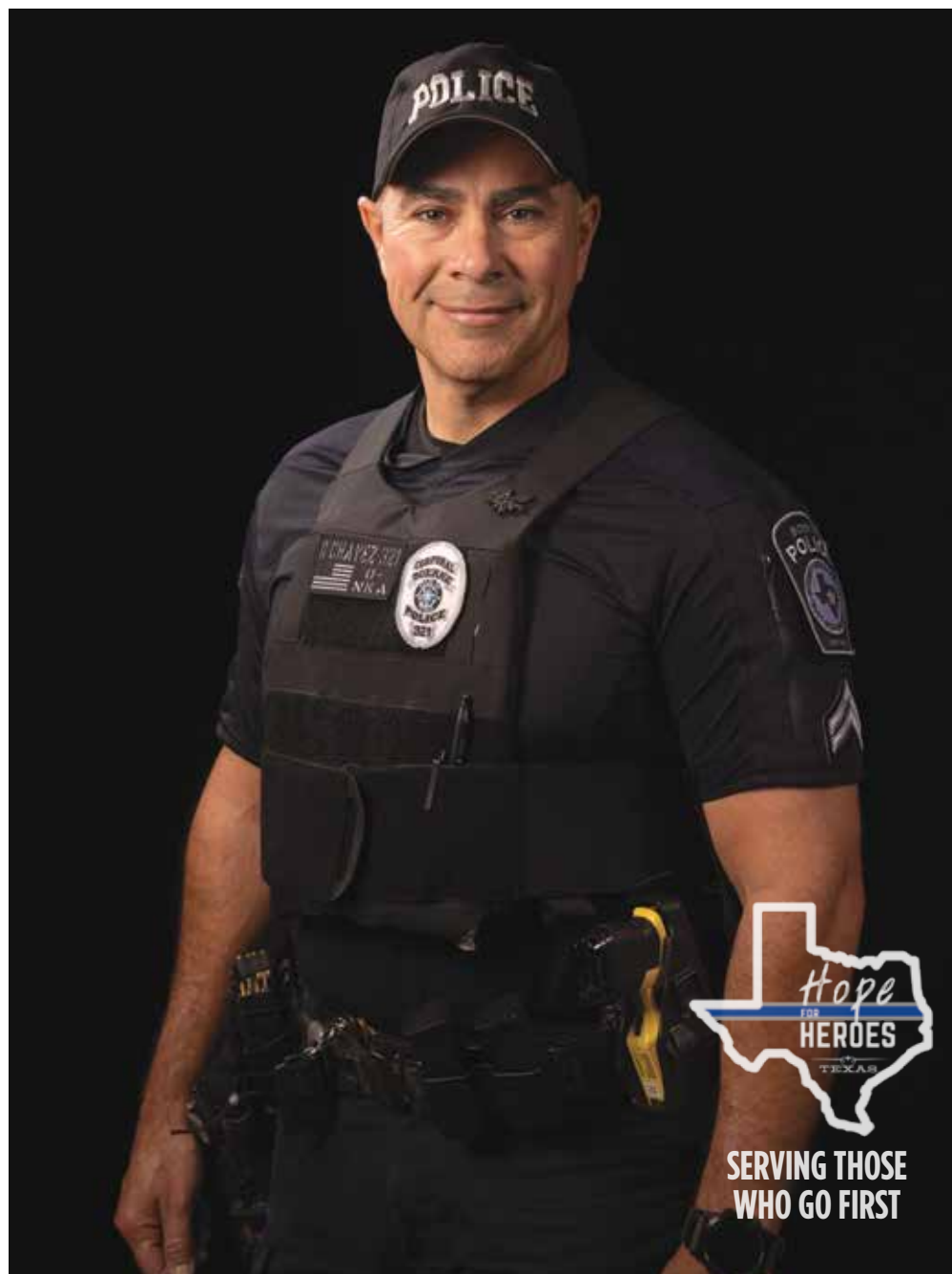
Some reviewers have reported construction issues, such as draw problems. I found the burn and draw to be excellent.

Pairing:

Scotch, Bourbon, Rum, IPA, Lager, Coffee or Espresso.



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



Officer David Chavez

Service and Calling

By Jonathan Mallard

For Officer David Chavez, law enforcement was never just a job. From his earliest days hunting with his uncles to a family friend in uniform who treated him like a son, the seeds of service were planted early. He first pursued his dream of becoming a Texas Game Warden, serving in that role for 15 years, before God

directed him to a path he never expected but now embraces fully: working as a school resource officer in Boerne.

“I’ve never woken up feeling like I had to go to work,” Chavez said. “It’s like the old saying, ‘You’ll never have to work a day in your life

when you enjoy the things you do.’ I’ve truly been blessed with doing the type of law enforcement I’m passionate about.”

For Chavez, the reward is immediate and deeply personal. Each day begins before sunrise with prayer, reflection, and physical training before heading to campus. There, the school drop-off line becomes a ministry of its own, a chance to be visible to parents and give students a smile or high-five to start their day. “That’s the good stuff,” he explained. “The immediate return on the investment I put into my job.”

The role is not without its challenges. With limited time to interact with students during the school day, Chavez strives to make every encounter meaningful, teaching lessons in accountability, trust, respect, adversity, and grit. He admits it is never enough time, but he lives by one guiding principle: “Every child deserves a hero.” For him, that means showing up, advocating for students, and being a consistent presence.

Chavez’s faith is central to his work. “If not for the blessings I’ve been given, I’d be on a very different path,” he said. His career, he believes, has made him a better husband, father, and friend by teaching him patience, empathy, and selflessness.

Hope for Heroes Texas has also been a cornerstone of support. Chavez first connected with the organization when Brad Cornell began hosting monthly law enforcement lunches. “Everything from the meals they provided to the support they showed officers who needed a little extra help has been tier one,” he said. “Programs like these bridge the gap between the community and officers. They remind us that we are not alone in the struggles this job brings.”

When asked about legacy, Chavez’s focus remains on the present. “I’m not too concerned about leaving a legacy. I’m focused on doing the right things now. Giving everything I can to my kids. The legacy will take care of itself.”

Brad Cornell, founder of Hope for Heroes Texas, reflected on leaders like Chavez: “Supporting first responders is not just about appreciation, it is about sustaining the people who carry the weight of protecting our families and our community every single day. When men like Officer Chavez give their best to serve Boerne, it is our responsibility to stand behind them with the same commitment.” **KG**



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 688

PRIVATE BRUNO PHILLIP

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 688 | Boerne, Texas

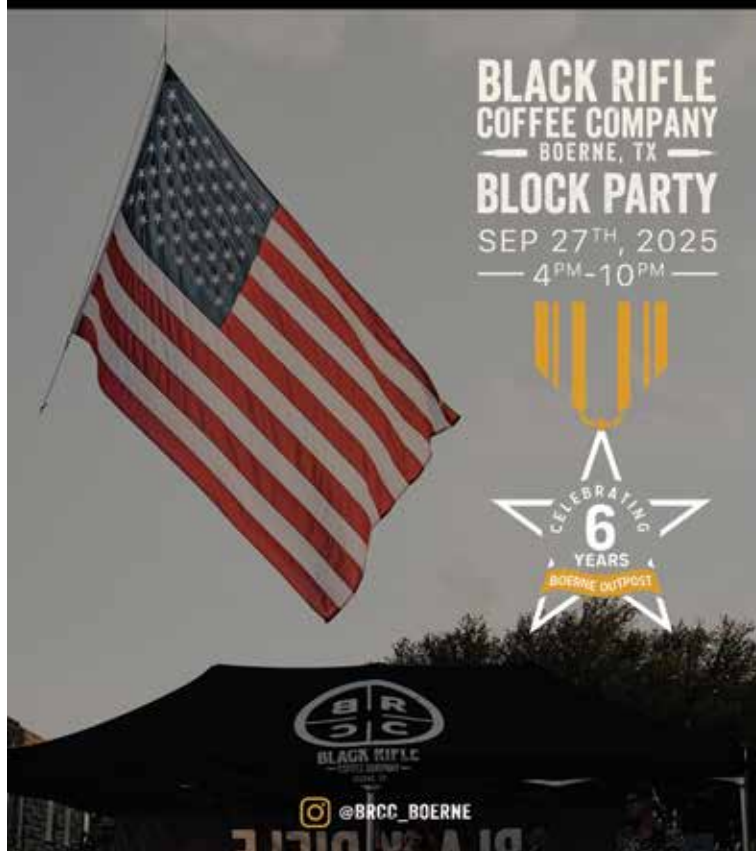
Boerne's VFW Post 688 is a nonprofit Veterans service organization comprised of eligible military service members from the Active, Guard, and Reserve Forces. Post 688 is dedicated to Veterans service, legislative advocacy, and military and community service programs in the Boerne and Kendall County area.

Follow us on Facebook
Contact us at QM@vfw688.org
for more information about Post 688.



www.vfw688.org

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE 6 YEARS OF BRCC BOERNE + THE GRAND OPENING OF MAINZ MEAT MARKET!





We cordially invite you to join us at:

THE FORUM VI

an evening of leadership & connection

Partnering with:



October 15, 2025 | 5 - 8 PM

Das Greenhaus
7 Upper Balcones Rd.
Boerne, Texas 78006



★ 40 ★
**MIKE
MIKE**
★ ★ ★
**TEXAS-STYLE
BOCK**
EASY-DRINKING MALTY LAGER





PROUDLY BREWED IN BOERNE, TEXAS
AS A TRIBUTE TO OUR MILITARY VETERANS
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PEOPLE'S HEART PROJECT

FREE ROAM
BREWING COMPANY



FREE ROAM
BREWING COMPANY
BOERNE, TEXAS

- HOUSEMADE BEER
- WINE SELECTION
- BEER GARDEN
- FOOD TRUCKS
- DOG FRIENDLY
- SPORTS ON TV

**HOURS: 11-MIDNIGHT
7 DAYS A WEEK**

325 S. MAIN STREET, BOERNE
WWW.FREEROAMBREWING.COM
@FREEROAMBREWINGCOMPANY

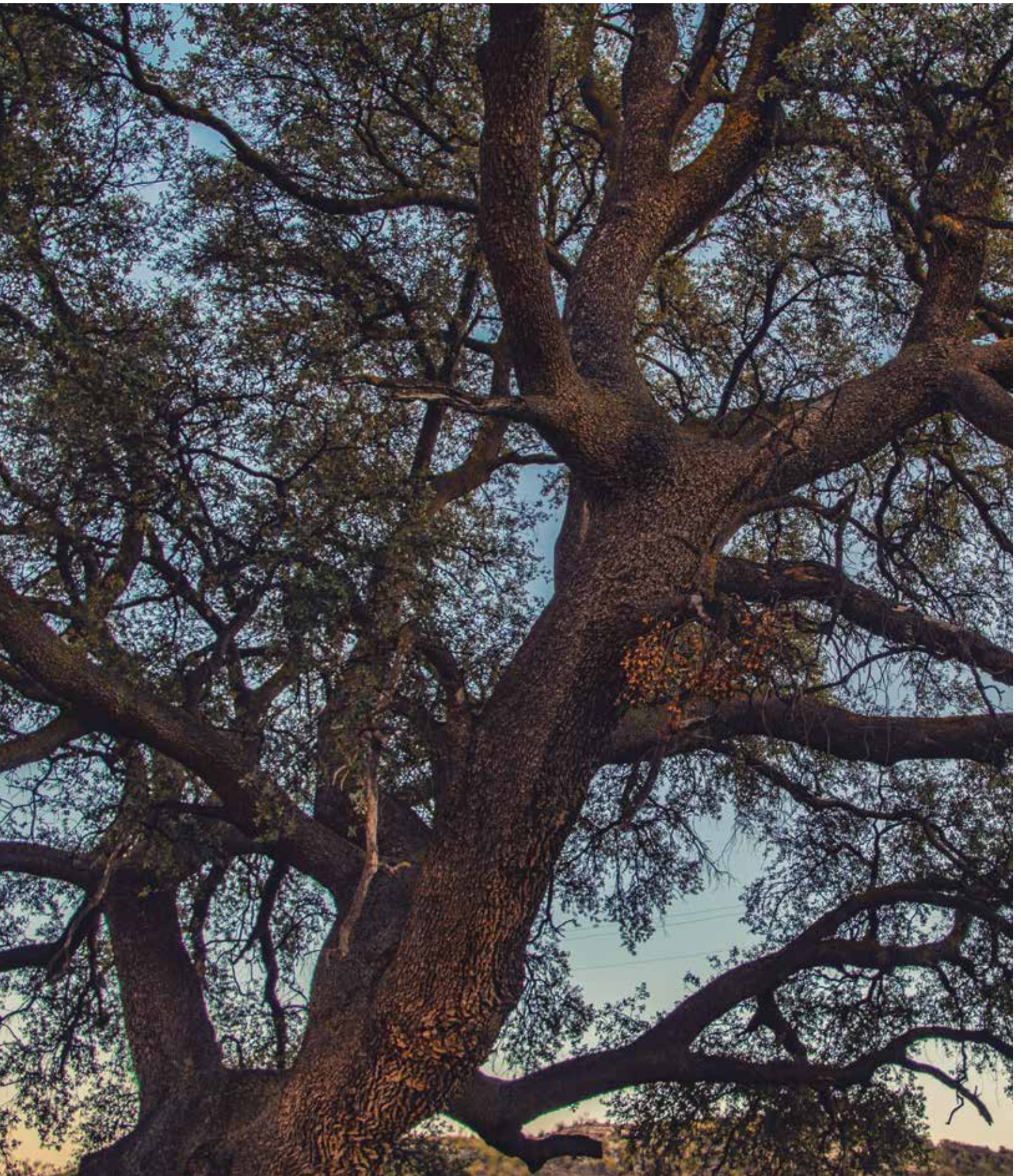


**PAIN RELIEF
IMPROVED JOINT MOBILITY
ENHANCED OVERALL WELL-BEING**

Our outstanding team is here to help you reach your healthcare goals.

37131 I-10 Building #400 | Boerne, TX 78006 | (830) 816-4357
genesishhealthchiropractic.com





Deep Roots Create Strong Trees

Serving Our Neighbors in Kendall County

By Collin Miller

The most important people in my life are not on billboards or TV. The most important and influential people in my life are not famous. They are not world leaders or politicians. The most important and influential people in my life, I run into and meet every day. They are the ones who are walking down Main Street at the same time as I am. They are the ones who taught me stories from the Bible. They are the ones who gave me advice on life decisions and gave me comfort in my sorrows. The people I can rely on to lead, teach, and support me are those in my community.

This has been a historically difficult summer. When the storms came, when the world stopped, when our community held its breath and tears, the truest leaders stepped forward. It is essential to acknowledge the tragedy of this Summer. The mainstream media has continued on its cycle of clickbait and catchy headlines, but our community is still hard at work trying to heal and rebuild. Lives have been permanently changed, and people are still reeling from the quick and merciless river that so many of us enjoyed peaceful days of floating down amongst the cypress. Talking about this summer will always bring a tear to my eye; however, my heart fills with pride as well. The Sunday after that awful night, men and women by the hundreds and thousands rushed to begin searching for the children. Our very own Boerne and Sisterdale volunteer Fire Department rushed to begin search and rescue operations. I saw firetrucks and emergency vehicles from Oklahoma, Arkansas, New Mexico, all over Texas ranging from the East Texas pines all the way to the West Texas Desert, California, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Virginia, Colorado, Louisiana, North Dakota, Ohio, Minnesota, Arizona, Virginia Beach, Nevada, Indiana, Kansas, Florida, and South Carolina just to name a few. Our very own men and women of Kendall County stepped forward and up to take on the immense tragedy.

The reason I write about the tragedy and what Kendall County and the Hill Country did is because this is a perfect example of God giving an opportunity for the men and women He has prepared to fight and serve to do so. In my short life, I have learned that the greatest men do the hard things when they could have chosen the easy path. I know of many people who put their lives and deadlines on hold to go and search and support. I know many people who donated and brought food and supplies to fire and police stations, as the lights never turned off. There are people who stepped forward and took advantage of an opportunity to not only help people but also their community as a whole.

It is our responsibility to work hard for where we call home. Far too often people, as a community, turn to convenience rather than supporting one another. Currently, I am in law school, which is taking up a significant portion of my time. Between being on the Law Journal, competing in Mock Trial competitions, and preparing for the Texas State Bar Exam, I have difficulty finding time to eat, let alone volunteer and attend church. But surely my commitments to school outrank my community and family? There is a story that answers this.

Long ago, in the days of Christ, a man was walking down a road that was notorious for thieves. He was traveling to town where he would hang his hat. When he was a good ways down the road, he was attacked and robbed. The thief left him for dead. A priest happened to be going down that road and came upon him. He simply stepped over him and continued on his way. Some time later, a Levite came to him and saw him. He ignored him and continued on his way. Then, a Samaritan came upon him. He had sympathy for him and picked him up. He bandaged his wounds and dressed the bandaging with expensive medicines. The Samaritan then placed him upon his donkey and took him to an inn. He took care of him

for the night. The next day, the Samaritan paid the Innkeeper. He said, "Look after him, and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may need to spend on him." The Samaritan kept his word.

We shall not be the priest or the Levite. We will be the Samaritan man. Jesus told that story over two thousand years ago, yet the meaning and purpose ring so true. To love our neighbors is foundational to having a community, but if I isolate and focus on my needs before those of my community, then I am no better than the two men who ignored the hurt and dying man. Our commitment to digging roots and allowing ourselves to grow into strong trees is more important now than ever. It is more important now than ever to support local businesses. It is more important now than ever to support your local authors and restaurants. It is more important now than ever to find a faith-based group and invite them into your home and lives. It is more important now than ever that a house is not just a place to eat and sleep but a place to commune.

Having deep roots and deep dedication to where you are from or where you plant yourself is how we create a strong place to raise families and grow old. Having a place that is safe, successful, and sustainable starts with all of us loving our neighbors like the Samaritan. **KG**



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



THE OAK



Cocktails – Cigars – Wine – Coffee

A place apart.

*Where time lingers, glasses never empty, and
conversations matter.*

605 S. Main Street Boerne



A TASTE OF TUSCANY IN THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

Authentic Roman & Neapolitan Pizza
Regional Tuscan Salad
Signature Panuozzo Sandwich
Handcrafted Gelato
the finest ingredients

Open to the Public
Dine in & Take Out
Delivery coming soon

605 S. Main Street Boerne





LUXURY IN THE AIR AWAITS

Find the ideal aircraft for your mission!

210.865.2475 | 529 State Hwy 46 E, Ste. A03 | Boerne, TX 78006

Mums

By Coach Stan Leech

In Texas, you can feel Homecoming before you see it. It's the jingle of bells on a ribbon, the rustle of mums brushing down a hallway, and the low hum of a marching band in the distance. The air is cooler---football weather---and Friday night isn't just another game. It's the night a whole town comes home.

College Homecoming festivities, whether they started at Baylor in 1909 or Missouri in 1911, began with a simple invitation - "Come back." At Baylor, the purpose went beyond a friendly reunion- it was also about improving attendance at the game and rallying support for the team. Alumni were called home to watch, cheer, and invest their hearts back into the school. That invitation grew into a weekend of football, parades, and reunions. By the 1930s and 40s, high schools across the country had caught on.

Boerne High School began its own return-to-campus game in 1952, and that tradition has now stood for 73 years. That year, Nancy Huff was crowned the school's very first Homecoming Queen, with Darla Ward and Doris Moore serving as princesses. The week's events included a community bonfire, a fiery tradition that lit up the night until 1988, when it was replaced by the Homecoming parade. In Texas, Homecoming is a universal language. Everyone knows the vocabulary: schedule a win if you can and hope you're not the guest team too many times. Towns host parades, light bonfires, and crown kings and queens---sometimes before the game, sometimes at halftime. Seniors circle the date on the calendar months ahead, and the rest of the school plans who will ask whom to Homecoming.

Back in the day, the dance was one of the crown jewels of the week. Today, it's less of a universal draw, but the week still holds its magic. Everyone has vivid memories of this sacred annual event.

Every school adds its own twist, but there's one ritual that threads through Texas Homecomings like no other---mums. Yes, mums. Once upon a time, getting close to 100 years ago, a boy gave a girl a single chrysanthemum, dressed up with a ribbon in school colors, to wear at the big game. It was a simple gesture, equal parts of school pride and courtship.

Over the decades, Texas mums grew like Texas football. One bloom became two, then a spray. The real flowers gave way to silk, so they could last for years and survive a full day of classes before kickoff. Businesses sprang up - some of them one-person operations - that could make enough in a month of mum-building to carry them until the next fall. Today, mums are a full-scale industry, with custom orders, theme designs, and prices that can rival a good pair of boots.

And it's not just the girls anymore. Somewhere along the way, the Homecoming garter was born - smaller, worn on the arm, but still packed with ribbon, bells, charms, and school colors. Parents make sure nobody is left out, because the mum isn't just decoration - it's participation in the ritual.

If you step back and think about it, it's remarkable. What began as a single seasonal flower has become a piece of wearable art that says, "I'm part of this community." The fact that the flowers are no longer real is almost beside the point. In a way, it mirrors

the tradition of Homecoming itself: it's not about the object or the event, it's about what it represents - belonging.

Of course, the game still matters...in theory. But Homecoming week has a way of stealing the spotlight. Monday might be "Western Day," which is just an excuse to wear boots to algebra. Tuesday is "Tango Tuesday," because nothing says football like a slow-turn ballroom dip in the hallway. Wednesday? "Wacky Sock Day," when even the most serious students admit to owning socks with tacos, flamingos, or both. By Thursday, there's a pep rally, and by Friday morning, the halls are alive with the sound of bells, the swish of ribbons, and the flash of mums big enough to block half a doorway.

And here's the thing about Homecoming reality - it's really about connections, and if we're honest, those connections are strongest the year after you graduate. That's when you still know all the seniors because you sat by them in chemistry at some point in your high school career, and you can still name the homecoming court without peeking at the video board. Two years out, you might know one or two - unless you have a younger sibling in the band, on the dance team, or wearing a football helmet. After that, your attendance depends more on nostalgia than name recognition.

Carla and I still enjoy going back to Tarleton at least once a year, and when it happens to fall on Homecoming, it's special. Sometimes we don't see a single person we knew "back in the day," but just walking those streets, remembering what was there then and isn't now, is worth the entire going-home experience.

The beauty of the mum is that it's the one item that every corner of the school has in common - band, dance, cheer, students, and players. For one night, everyone wears the same symbol, layered with ribbon and bells, as to say, "We're all part of this."

For coaches, Homecoming can be... complicated. We'll call it "a distraction" and leave it at that. Spirit week is fun, but it's hard to focus on third- and-long when Monday is "Western Day," Tuesday is "Tango Tuesday," and half your offensive line is jingling from the bells on their garters. And let's not forget the mums themselves---glorious, oversized, impossible-to-ignore. For the rest of the school, the mum is the centerpiece; for the coach, it's one more reason players aren't quite locked in on reacting to their game assignments.

And yet, in the middle of the distraction, you can't deny the truth - this is the one night the whole town turns out. The stands fill early, the buzz is different, and the scoreboard matters a little less than the fact that we're all here together. The mum, the parade, the awkwardly wonderful reunions...that's the real "coming home."

For football players, it's the chance to play in front of the largest crowd they'll likely ever see in their careers. It's the great reward for all those summer workouts in the heat, the early mornings, and the hours in the weight room. It might just be the best life lesson of them all---nothing truly good happens without a lot of work and preparation.

From a leadership perspective, it's a master class in the power of shared traditions. The



mum is a visible, tangible signal that you belong here. It's a conversation starter, a connection point, and a memory you can hang in your closet long after graduation. For the younger students, it's a promise - one day, it will be your turn. For alumni, it's a link to a younger self, the sound of the band on a cool fall night, and the feel of those first lights coming over the field.

Spiritually, it's a picture of return. Just as Homecoming calls alumni back to the place where they were shaped, the mum calls us back to the values we learned here - loyalty, pride in where you're from, and joy in celebrating with others. Traditions like this remind us that the past isn't something we leave behind; it's something we carry forward.

And so, when October rolls around, and the air turns just a little cooler, and the stadium lights pierce the early dark, mums return. Some are modest, some outrageous, some simple, some loud enough to jingle down the hall. But each one is part of something bigger

- a tradition that has been 73 years in the making in Boerne, and more than a century across Texas.

From one flower to many, from fresh to artificial, from a small gesture to a statewide phenomenon - the mum remains a symbol of a season, a community, and a game that's about more than a scoreboard.

It's about being home. **KG**



Coach Leech, now in his 40th year with Boerne ISD and 27th 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

YOUR TRUSTED FOUNDATION AND DRAINAGE EXPERTS SINCE 1997



- FAMILY OPERATED FOR 3 GENERATIONS
- FOUNDATION & DRAINAGE REPAIR
- INSPECTION & GENERAL CONTRACTING
- CITY LICENSED & BONDED

Matthew 7:25

CALL TODAY
210.635.7577

www.safoundationrepaircompanies.com



Onsite Pro Can
Portable Sanitation Rentals

**Purple & Green,
Always Clean!**

We are a local and woman owned and operated business, based in Boerne & Kerrville since 2017

Serving Kendall, Bexar, Kerr, Comal, Blanco,
Bandera, Gillespie, Medina and parts of
Kimble & Hays counties

CONSTRUCTION
EVENTS & EMERGENCIES • PORTABLE TOILETS
FRESH/BLACK WATER HOLDING TANKS
HAND WASH STATIONS RV PUMPING

Call or Text
830.521.CANS (2267)



Thank you Boerne for voting Caleb Clark, Financial Advisor with Edward Jones Best of the Best for 2025.

We value our clients and look forward to serving
your financial prosperity



Caleb K Clark, CIMA®

Financial Advisor

124 E Bandera Rd
Suite #204
Boerne, Texas 78006
830-428-0097

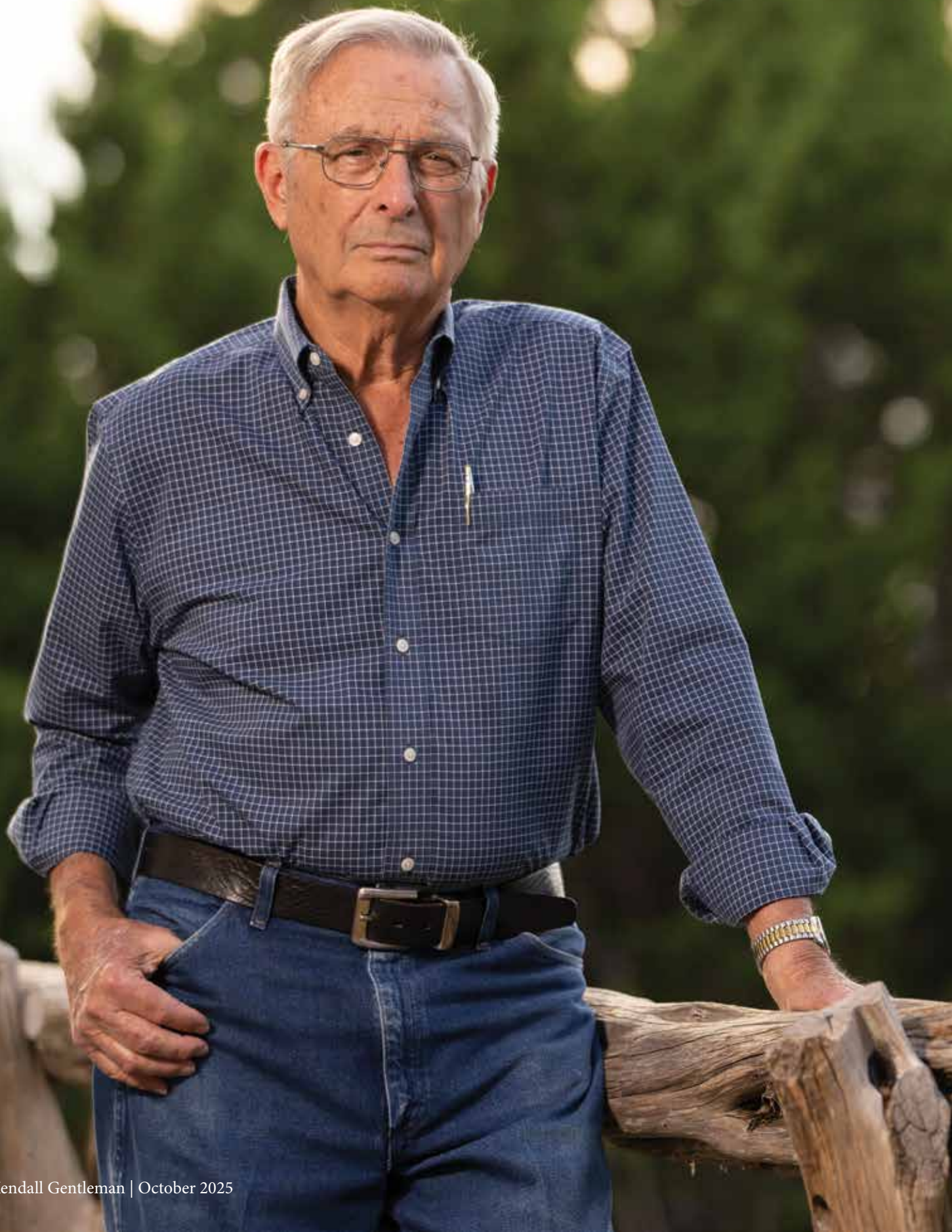
A large advertisement for 'The Cigar Society'. It features a man with a beard and a cowboy hat, wearing a dark blazer over a plaid shirt, holding and smoking a cigar. The background is dark and moody. To the right of the man is a stylized logo for 'The CIGAR Society' with decorative flourishes and a cigar illustration. Below the logo is promotional text about their hand-rolled cigars and where they are available.

The
CIGAR
Society

Passionate Texan cigar enthusiast crafting hand-rolled perfection for your events or for a relaxed evening at home.
Available for pop-up events.

Cigars available at Free Roam Brewing, Roc-n-Rita's,
Spotted Deer Coffee in Fair Oaks,
Spotted Deer Coffee in Comfort

IG: [_thecigarsociety_](#) | thecigarsociety1@gmail.com
210-364-7915





THE VOICE OF LOCAL TRADITION

Ken Nietenhoefer

By Michael G. Ethridge

Photography By Jonathan Mallard

Ken Nietenhoefer likes to say he's lived six different lives. He even wrote them down once, in a manuscript he calls *My 6 Lives*. But listening to him tell it, those chapters don't sit neatly side by side. They stack on each other, like wood grain running through a beam, all adding up to the same story: a man who kept answering the call to serve God, his family, his country, and his community.

For me, Ken has always been part of the backdrop of Kendall County. Growing up near Leon Springs, we often took the Boerne Stage exit, which carried us right past his office. I'd known of him for years, even shaken his hand a few times, but never had the chance to really sit with him until recently. Despite that distance, Ken always stood out — someone worthy of respect, a quiet role model whose presence carried weight even before I knew his full story.

"I was born in Hondo in 1940, out on the farm," Ken begins, his voice steady, matter-of-fact. "We didn't have electricity or running water. We had chores every day before school. Hard work wasn't an option. It was just life."

Carol, his wife of nearly sixty years, chimes in with a laugh from across the room. "That's why he still can't sit still. If he's not working, he thinks something's wrong."

Ken grins. "Well, she's right about that."

His earliest memories come with the smell of dust and drought. The 1950s were hard years in Medina County. "There was a five-

year stretch when it just wouldn't rain," he remembers. "Creeks went dry. Our well went dry. Crops withered. We had to sell off our cattle for almost nothing because everyone else was hurting too."

The oldest child, Ken was put to work early. "When I got off the school bus, I went straight to feeding cattle or riding the tractor. We ran a little dairy too, so we milked cows morning and night, seven days a week. If we showed up late to something social, that's why."

The farm was a training ground in discipline, sometimes the hard way. He chuckles at a story he's told before. "I got a new red wagon, and I thought I'd use it to carry a five-gallon can of milk to the cooler. I dropped it, and milk spilled everywhere. My dad gave me one of the worst whippings of my life. That was money on the ground. Back then, you didn't waste."

It wasn't an easy childhood, but it built toughness and gratitude. "We didn't have air conditioning. In the summer, I'd stick my pillow in the freezer for a few minutes before bed and hope it stayed cool. In winter, we piled on quilts, then sprinted to the kitchen in the morning, because it was the only warm room in the house."

Church was the one thing his family never gave up. "No matter how bad the drought was, we never skipped Sunday. I had a chest full of perfect-attendance medals."

Music became his escape. When a music store came through Hondo to show off



instruments, Ken picked up a cornet and made a sound. “That was it. I was hooked. I lived and breathed trumpet from then on.” By high school, he was sitting first chair in the Hondo band and, before long, recognized as one of the top players in Texas.

That horn carried him to Austin in 1958. “I’ll never forget stepping onto the field with the Longhorn Band. Here I was, a farm kid from Hondo, suddenly in front of thousands.”

At UT, he learned leadership. He became president of the Longhorn Band and earned an invitation to the Texas Cowboys, one of the university’s most respected spirit groups. He laughs when he recalls his first words to the band’s feature twirler, Carol. “I told her she was out of line. She got mad and swore she’d never talk to me again. But here we are, sixty years later.”

The two married in 1966, and right after the wedding, Ken’s next life began. He entered the United States Navy and headed for Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island.

The Navy was a world away from Hondo, and it came with its own lessons. “One of the drills was to jump off a twelve-foot tower into the pool, then swim underwater thirty

feet. I wasn’t much of a swimmer, so I kept coming up short. They called it ‘stupid swim,’ and I had to do it every Saturday until I made it. Finally, one day I said, ‘I’m going to make it or drown.’ And I did. After that, it was simple. The mind is a wondrous thing.”

He served thirteen years, rising to Lieutenant Commander in the Naval Reserve. His job was supply officer, the man who made sure everything the sailors needed actually got to them. “Ships don’t move without supplies. Men don’t fight without food and gear. It wasn’t glamorous, but it mattered.”

Some moments still make him laugh. “One night, I got home and realized I might have left the ship’s safe unlocked. So I called, had them send a boat across the bay, went back aboard, and checked it. The safe was locked, of course. Four sailors had to haul me back at midnight for nothing. I’m sure they weren’t happy with me.”

Other moments brought perspective. He was in San Diego when the USS Pueblo was seized by North Korea in 1968. “We had subs coming in, and normally it took a month to rearm and reload them. We turned one around in twenty-four hours. That’s when

you realized how close the world could come to war.”

When he left active duty, Ken and Carol came home to Texas with a new baby. He did a little substitute teaching before his father-in-law connected him with a homebuilder. “I didn’t know a thing about construction, but Don Smith gave me a chance. I learned quick. Five years later, I started KCN Builders. That was the beginning of my fifth life.”

Over the next fifty years, Ken built hundreds of homes in the Hill Country. Maybe most satisfying of all, he built his own home debt-free. “We still live in it, and I suppose we’ll be here the rest of our lives. And the best part is, we don’t owe a dime.”

Carol smiles. “He can walk through town and point out every house he built. He remembers the families.”

Building houses was never just about wood and stone. It was about building trust. “I always tried to treat my craftsmen right. They’re the ones who make a house stand tall. If you take care of your people, they’ll take care of you.”



That philosophy spilled into the community. In the early 1980s, Ken joined the Berges Fest board, eventually serving as president. He later became the voice of local tradition, emceeing the Miss Berges Fest pageant, the Kendall County Fair Queen contest, and, for more than twenty years, the Boerne Village Band's summer concerts. In fact, 2025 is the first time in fifty years he didn't emcee the Kendall County Fair Queen's Contest. "People still come up and say, 'Ken, you announced my name when I was a contestant.' That means something. It means you're a part of their story."



He also helped start something new. In 1985, Ken and a group of friends founded the Centurions of Kendall County. "Back then, there weren't many fundraisers besides Berges Fest and the Fair. We said, Let's use our friendships to do some good."

The first year, each man tossed in a hundred dollars. They put on a dance and auction, not knowing much about what they were doing. Forty years later, the Centurions have raised more than a million dollars for scholarships, shelters, and nonprofits across the Hill Country. Their gala each February fills the Cana Ballroom with hundreds of guests.

"It's been incredible to see what God can do with a small group of men committed to serving together. I'm proud of that."

Ken is the last of the original founders still active, serving now as the club's historian. But the title hardly covers his role. He is the steady hand, the one who reminds the younger men what the mission has always been. "It's about service. It always has been."

His words didn't just stay in Boerne. In the 1990s, he wrote a column for the Boerne Star called A Breath of Fresh Air. Those essays became the book 50 Ways to Enrich Your Life. He followed it with Don't Shoot the Customer, a candid take on business and customer service that turned him into a motivational speaker. "I traveled the country giving seminars. It was fun, but it always came back to the same thing. Treat people right. That's the core of business, and it's the core of life."

Though he no longer manages the Boerne Township development he once built, Ken hasn't slowed. Now in his eighties, he calls this sixth life his best. He and Carol travel, he mentors younger builders, and he's become something of a sage. At the end of our conversation, I asked what advice he would leave behind. He thought for a moment, then said, "Be faithful. Work hard. Love your family. Serve your community. If you do those things, you'll have lived a good life."

They still make time for fun, too. Ken and Carol are avid Longhorn fans, traveling to almost every away game with his sister and brother-in-law, John and Betty Baker. The Bakers have a special connection: they own and care for Bevo, the UT mascot. And while Ken bleeds burnt orange, I'll admit it warms this Aggie's heart that John and Betty's son is, in fact, a fellow Aggie. Some things you just can't script.

"I look back and I see God's hand in every chapter," Ken says. "I wasn't the smartest. I wasn't the most talented. But I tried to be faithful. And God kept opening doors."

Carol nods. "We've been blessed. That's the truth."

Ken smiles. "Family, faith, community, the chance to serve. What more could you ask for?"

That is the heart of it. Ken Nietenhoefer embodies what The Kendall Gentleman was created to celebrate. He is Christ-centered, with faith at the core of every chapter. He is hard-working, proven across farms, ships, and building sites. He is a family man, with Carol by his side and children and grandchildren carrying his legacy forward. And above all, he is a servant to his community. From Berges Fest to the Centurions, from the Fair to the Boerne Village Band, his fingerprints are woven through the story of Kendall County.

He says he has lived six lives. But to the people of this place, they add up to one thing: a gentleman in the truest sense. And for me, that reflection feels personal. For years, I passed by his office without really knowing him, yet I still felt the pull of his presence in this town. Now, having listened to his stories, I see why. Ken has lived his life in service, not for applause but for the quiet impact it leaves behind. That is why Ken Nietenhoefer is The Kendall Gentleman. KG



Boerne, Texas
TRUSCULUM
BREWING CO.

830-428-0596, 236 S. MAIN STREET, BOERNE, TEXAS 78006



ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Since 1996, **Westward Environmental** has been a trusted partner and dedicated advocate for our clients, building sustainable relationships with both our clients and the regulatory community. Our deep roots in Kendall County, and our extensive experience across diverse projects, allow us to provide expert commercial development solutions that are both innovative and environmentally responsible. We understand the unique challenges of commercial projects and are committed to helping you navigate the complexities of floodplain management, drainage, and environmental compliance. Our team expertly handles civil site design, stormwater management, and public water system design, ensuring your project meets all regulatory requirements and exceeds expectations.

Protect your investment and partner with Westward Environmental:

- Minimize risk of flood damage
- Comply with all environmental regulations
- Streamline permitting processes
- Reduce long-term maintenance costs
- Maximize property value

For almost three decades, we've been helping businesses thrive while protecting our shared environment. Let us leverage our extensive experience to help you achieve your commercial development goals efficiently, sustainably, and with confidence. We invite you to connect with us to learn how we can support your Environmental, Engineering, and Natural Resources goals.

ENGINEERING

Civil Site Design
Public Water Systems
Floodplain Permitting
Stormwater Management

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

Air/Water/Waste Permitting
Environmental Due Diligence
EH&S Training

GEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Geologic Assessments
Groundwater Studies

NATURAL RESOURCES

Wetlands
Endangered Species

830.249.8284
westwardenv.com



EST.  1996
WESTWARD
Environmental • Geology • Engineering



Me and Mikey harvesting corn. I'm the one wearing the hat.

Mikey The Donkey

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.*

When I was not yet four years old my Uncle Willie bought me a donkey from Mr. Schrader—I think for fifty cents, but I know for sure it was less than two dollars.

Uncle Willie had a small farm to the west of Boerne at the end of San Antonio Street, and

besides cattle and horses he raised oats, corn, and sweet potatoes. He also did some “truck farming” and raised tomatoes and string beans that he sold on Market Square in San Antonio.

Willie built a small two-wheel cart that he hitched the donkey to and would let me help him and the other hands harvest the crops. I wasn't even four yet when I was driving the donkey and cart all by myself.

When the workers were “row-binding” the oats, I would, with the donkey, take them a mid-morning and mid-afternoon snack. After a couple of days, I was fired from the job because if the workers were not right there when we arrived, Mikey and I would eat up all the food. **KG**

**brought to you by John
Eddie Vogt II with**



A Legacy You Can Count On

830-428-2820

1252-2 N Main St • Boerne, TX 78006





305 South Main Street
Boerne, Texas 78006

Bechants
Men's

830-249-9879
BechantsMens.com  



SURTIERRA®

TEQUILA

THE GIVING SPIRIT
BENEFITTING TEXAS SCHOLARS



DRINKSURTIERRA.COM

ENJOY RESPONSIBLY. SURTIERRA TEQUILA, 100% AGAVE TEQUILA, 40% ALCOHOL BY VOLUME,
BORDERLAND TEQUILA, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



FLUID MOVEMENT PROFESSIONALS



OIL & GAS



WATER
TREATMENT



POWER
GENERATION



CHEMICAL &
PETROCHEMICAL



MINING



PULP &
PAPER



FOOD &
BEVERAGE

CONTACT US

877.362.0468

Scan the QR code
to fill out our
contact form or
find your nearest
location.



WWW.KNIGHTEN.COM

SERVING INDUSTRIES THAT KEEP THE WORLD MOVING

At Knighten Industries, we deliver fluid handling solutions built to perform across a wide range of markets.

From chemical, petrochemical, pulp & paper, food & beverage, oil and gas, mining, power generation, and water treatment, our expertise ensures systems that meet the toughest demands.

With capabilities supporting new and emerging markets, we provide the reliability, innovation, and service our customers depend on daily.



Supplements
& Natural Market



CLEAN, NATURAL MARKET WITH A HUGE SELECTION OF SUPPLEMENTS

Our products are backed by real science and many come with a money-back guarantee, so you can trust they'll deliver results. Avoid the growing threat of counterfeit products online—buy direct to ensure authenticity and effectiveness.

807 N Main | 830-249-4603 | NPBoerne.com

BEC Fiber

FOOTBALL NEEDS FIBER

AVOID A DELAY OF GAME - BEC FIBER INTERNET HAS THE SPEED YOU NEED ALL SEASON LONG



Extend your range to reach the great outdoors.

Seamless Outdoor WiFi for Everyone.

- » Seamless & Extended Outdoor Coverage
- » Professional, White-Glove Installation
- » Weather Resistant
- » Extend the Power of Your GVTC Fiber Internet



Add Outdoor WiFi
\$14⁹⁵*
/month

Shop Our Outdoor WiFi Deals Now!
844-543-1775 | gvtc.com/OutdoorWiFi

*Terms and conditions apply. Visit gvtc.com/OutdoorWiFi for more info.

The Enduring Legacy of E.O. Rust: *A Kendall County Pioneer*

By Tom Allred, Sr.

The Kendall County Fair in the 1920s

Kendall County, with its rolling hills, spring-fed creeks, and rich cultural history, has long been shaped by men and women whose stamina and vision built community from the rugged Texas frontier. Among those early builders stands E. O. Rust (1855–1937), a figure whose entrepreneurial drive and deep commitment to civic life left a lasting imprint on the Hill Country.

From Mississippi to Kendall County

Born in Mississippi in 1855, E. O. Rust came of age in the turbulent years following the Civil War. Like many pioneer families seeking fresh opportunity, the Rusts made their way to Texas, eventually settling in Kendall County in the latter half of the 19th century. At that time, the county was just beginning to establish its identity—its German-immigrant settlements, sheep and cattle ranches, and expanding railroad lines laying the foundation for growth.

Into this dynamic setting stepped Rust, bringing with him a blend of determination, business sense, and community-mindedness.

“The enduring strength of a community is not found in monuments, but in the everyday work of its people.”

A Man of Many Ventures

E. O. Rust quickly became known as a man who wore many hats, all in service to his family and community. He worked the land as a rancher, raising livestock on the fertile acres of Kendall County, contributing to the agricultural backbone of the region.

Recognizing the need for commerce in a growing community, he established a general store, providing everyday goods and supplies to local families. That store was more than a place of trade—it became a social hub, where neighbors gathered to share news, discuss weather and harvests, and build the bonds of fellowship that defined rural life.

RUST’S GENERAL STORE

- Supplied ranch families with essentials from flour to fence posts
- Served as a gathering spot for neighbors to trade stories
- Symbolized self-sufficiency and cooperation in early Kendall County

Commitment to Community

Beyond his personal enterprises, E. O. Rust believed deeply in the importance of progress and cooperation. He supported early efforts to improve roads and communication networks, recognizing that better connections meant stronger markets and stronger communities.

He also valued education, contributing to the establishment and maintenance of local schools. For Rust, knowledge was not just personal advancement—it was the surest way to uplift an entire county.

“For Rust, knowledge was not just personal advancement—it was the surest way to uplift an entire county.”

A Lasting Impact

When E. O. Rust passed away in 1937, he left behind far more than property or business ventures. His legacy was written into the daily lives of the people he served and supported. Long-time Kendall County residents continued to share stories of his integrity, hard work, and neighborly spirit.

The structures he helped strengthen—commerce, education, infrastructure—remain vital pillars of the county today. Though no large historical markers bear his name, Rust’s presence endures in census records, land deeds, and family histories preserved by the Kendall County Historical Commission and the Genealogical Society of Kendall County.

KENDALL COUNTY IN RUST’S TIME

- 1855 – E. O. Rust born in Mississippi
- 1870s–1880s – Rust family settles in Kendall County
- 1905 – Early community fairs begin, later evolving into the Kendall County Fair
- 1937 – E. O. Rust dies, leaving a legacy of entrepreneurship and service

Remembering a Kendall County Pioneer

The story of E. O. Rust is, at its heart, the story of Kendall County itself—a story of pioneers who turned wilderness into community, who gave more than they took, and whose quiet stamina continues to inspire.

As Kendall County grows into the 21st century, remembering figures like E. O. Rust helps us stay rooted in the values that built this place. His life reminds us that the enduring strength of a community is not found in monuments, but in the everyday work of people dedicated to their neighbors and to the land they call home.

E. O. Rust’s legacy lives on—in the rolling pastures, in the classrooms, and in the spirit of Kendall County, Texas. 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

Does your business target men as customers?

The Kendall Gentleman is here to help.

thekendallgentleman.com | info@thekendallgentleman.com

830-308-4406



THE KENDALL
G E N T L E M A N

What if insurance was easy?

Get a quote today



Luna Insurance Agency Inc
Jaime Luna, Agent

300 W Bitters Rd., Ste 155
San Antonio, TX 78216

Toll Free: 833-697-2984
jaimeluna@lunanation.com
www.lunanation.com



WINGSHOOTING LODGE



LUXURY SPORTING RESORT

It's Time to Plan Your Next Wingshooting Adventure.

Joshua Creek Ranch
Texas Hill Country

"I visited Joshua Creek for a corporate event. We hunted behind dogs the first afternoon and had a great experience. The guide was knowledgeable, knew his dogs well and was enjoyable to be around. The second day we did a driven hunt and had a great time as well. Overall, this place was beautiful, the staff were professional, and the hunts were exceptional. Lodge, food, and bar were also wonderful."

★★★★★ Will C. | Orvis.com Review



- ★ WORLD-CLASS UPLAND HUNTING AND EUROPEAN-STYLE DRIVEN SHOOTING
- ★ SPORTING CLAYS, SIMULATED DRIVEN CLAYS, AND HELICE SHOOTING
- ★ HANDGUN & LONG-DISTANCE RIFLE SHOOTING RANGES
- ★ LUXURY LODGING, FINE DINING, RESORT AMENITIES, AND EVENT FACILITIES

132 Cravey Road, Boerne, TX 78006 • (830) 537-5090 • JoshuaCreek.com

TEXAS INVESTORS TITLE



**Commercial | Residential
Farm & Ranch**

Becky Edmiston, CESP
President
Becky@TexasInvestorsTitle.com

Bryan E. Martin
Vice President
Bryan@TexasInvestorsTitle.com

116 W. Blanco Road | Suite 101 | Boerne, Texas | 78006
O (830) 816-5888 | F (830) 816-5889

Agents for Stewart Title Guaranty, Chicago Title Insurance, First American Title Insurance and Westcor Land Title Insurance

I gave my word.

Andra Wisian ran as a fiscal conservative to protect taxpayer dollars—

- Sharpening the pencil
- Finding budget efficiencies
- Working with fellow commissioners to plan for a strong future

Twice, she supported a lower tax rate, and this year, the Court voted unanimously with her.



Kenall County
Commissioner



Re-elect

Andra
W I S I A N

R E P U B L I C A N



Precinct 2

Andra Wisian. Keeping Her Word.

Political ad paid for by the Campaign to Re-Elect Andra M. Wisian, Kendall County Commissioner, Precinct 2, Duane Zoeller, Treasurer