



THE KENDALLTM GENTLEMAN

FEBRUARY 2026 | ISSUE 2 :: VOLUME 2

LEROY SISCO

IS THE KENDALL GENTLEMAN

KENDALL CO. HISTORY

Bob & Della Russell

MUSINGS OF JEV

Thrifty German

REVIEW

Deadwood Sweet Jane

BETTERMENT

Stronger Together



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



Voted Boerne Star's Best of the Best Car Dealership



EXPERIENCE THE SERVICE
YOU DESERVE

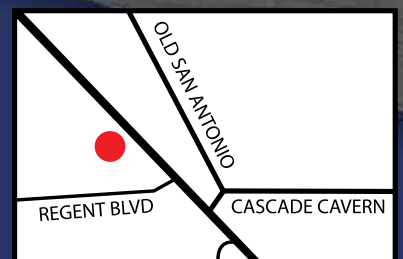
**#1 Customer Retention
in the U.S.**



Bill McKibbin
General Manager

TAKE EXIT 542

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



Experience the Best of the Hill Country



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.**



www.tapatiosprings.com

For more information or membership inquiries email membership@tapatio.com or call 830-537-6229

CONTACT US
(830) 995-2249



BEST PRICES IN TOWN

GUNS • AMMO • CONSIGNMENT • OPTICS • PARTS

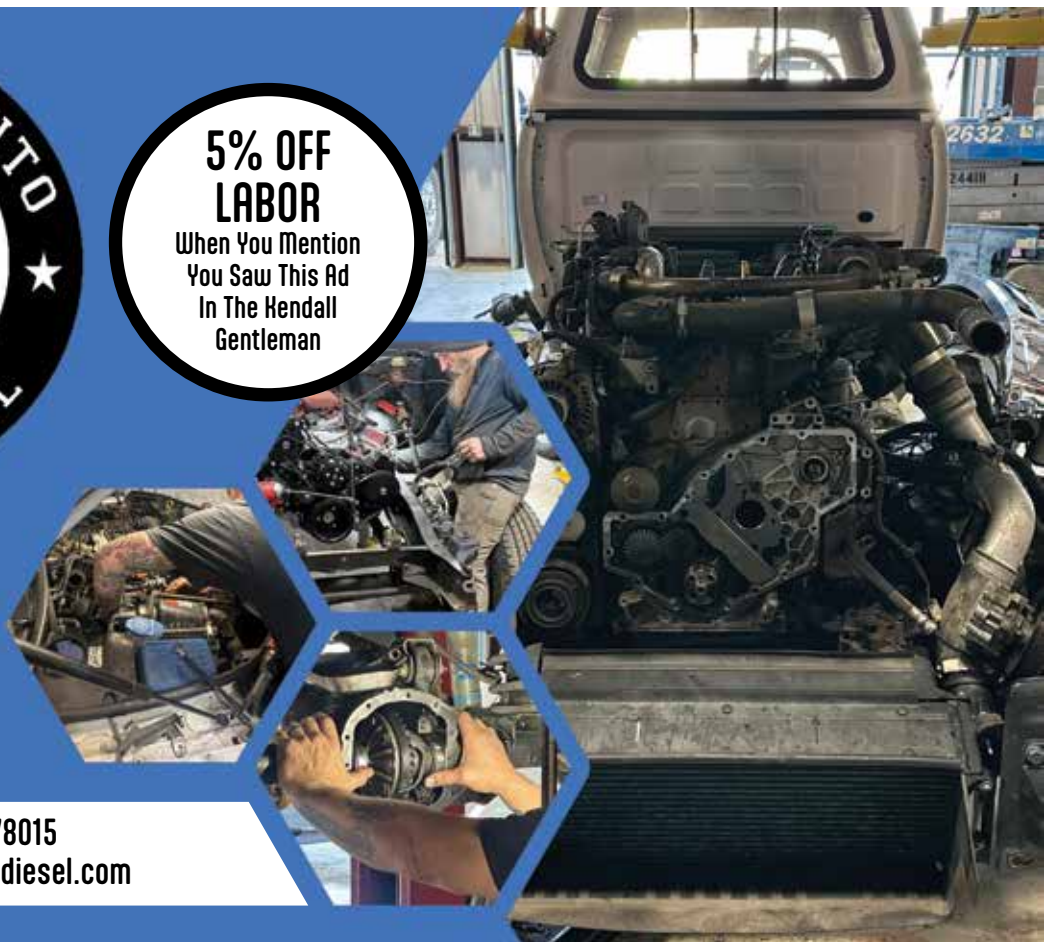


**5% OFF
LABOR**

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



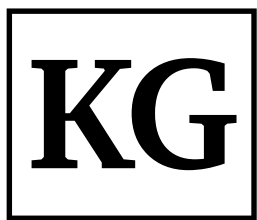
Salvador
DOBBS



COCKTAILS & BAR



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



THE KENDALLTM

GENTLEMAN

FEBRUARY 2026 | ISSUE 2 :: VOLUME 2

8 FROM THE PUBLISHER

10 CALENDAR of EVENTS

14 BETTERMENT

Stronger Together
By Paul Stephenson

18 HOPE for HEROES

Juan Acosta
By Jonathan R. Mallard

22 OUTDOORS

Pearsall Texas 1962
By Jed Mazour

26 REVIEW

Deadwood Sweet Jane
By Clay Smoot

30 FAITH & LEADERSHIP

Snow Story
By Coach Stan Leech

34 LEROY SISCO

By Michael G. Ethridge
Photography By Jonathan Mallard

42 MUSINGS OF JEV

Thrifty German
By John Eddie Vogt

46 HISTORY

Bob and Della Russell
By Tom Allred, Sr.



Leroy and Frances Sisco



Creative Director Ben Weber

Director of Photography Jonathan Mallard

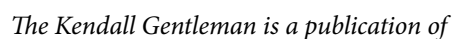
Photographer & Social Media Emily Pfeiffer

Intern Brayden Church

Contributors Tom Allred, Sr.
Clay Smoot
Stan Leech
Jed Mazour
John Eddie Vogt
Paul Stephenson

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



PUBLISHER

One Year In, Still Building

One year ago, The Kendall Gentleman was nothing more than a stack of proofs on a desk and a quiet sense of calling that wouldn't let go.

There was no grand rollout. No venture capital. No consultants telling us what men wanted or how this should look. Just a conviction that something had been lost, and that Kendall County might be one of the few places left where it could still be found.

I believed then, and believe even more strongly now, that men still want substance. They want stories rooted in real places, told about real people, doing real work. They want something they can hold in their hands and recognize as honest. Not flashy. Not trendy. Just true.

A year later, this magazine exists because you proved that instinct right.

To our readers, thank you for trusting us. You didn't just read this magazine. You welcomed it into your routines. You picked it up at local businesses. You left it on coffee tables. You passed it to a friend and said, "This feels like us." Some of you stopped me in parking lots or on sidewalks downtown to talk about an article that struck a nerve. Others sent quiet notes of encouragement that mattered more than you know.

That kind of engagement can't be manufactured. It has to be earned. And you gave us that gift.

To our advertising partners, I want to say this plainly. You didn't just place ads. You helped build something. In a media world dominated by algorithms and empty impressions, you chose to invest locally. You chose to support long-form storytelling, quality photography, and a publication that refuses to talk down to its readers.

You understood that this magazine reflects the same values on which your businesses are built. Relationships. Reputation. Consistency. Craft. Without your support, The Kendall Gentleman does not exist. I'll never pretend otherwise.

One year in, it's worth asking what this magazine is really about.

It isn't nostalgia for nostalgia's sake. It isn't about pretending the past was perfect, or

that change is inherently bad. It's about remembering who we are.

Men were made by God in His image. That truth isn't abstract. It has consequences. From the beginning, men were created to work, to tend, to build, to name things, to bring order to the world placed before them. Not as tyrants, but as stewards. Not as spectators, but as participants.

That calling didn't disappear when the world got louder. It didn't evaporate with technology or modern convenience. But it has been buried under distraction, lowered expectations, and the lie that responsibility is something to be avoided rather than embraced.

When you strip everything else away, the men we feature in these pages share a common thread. They build things.

Sometimes it's tangible. Wood. Steel. Stone. Businesses. Ranches. Institutions that outlast them.

Sometimes it's less visible. Families held together through hard seasons. Students shaped by patience and discipline. Communities strengthened through quiet leadership and steady presence.

Building doesn't always look heroic. More often than not, it looks repetitive. It looks like showing up early. Staying late. Fixing what's broken. Teaching what you know. Doing the job when no one's watching.

That kind of work doesn't trend well on social media. But it's the work that makes a place like Kendall County what it is.

This magazine exists to honor that.

Over the past year, I've had the privilege of sitting across the table from men who never asked to be recognized. Men who would rather talk about their work than themselves. Men who measure success not by applause, but by whether they did right by the people entrusted to them.

Those conversations changed me.

They reminded me that masculinity, properly understood, isn't about dominance or bravado. It's about responsibility. About restraint. About strength that serves rather than demands.

They reminded me that faith isn't meant to be compartmentalized. It's meant to shape how a man works, how he treats others, how he keeps his word, and how he responds when things don't go his way.

They reminded me that community doesn't happen by accident. It's built, brick by brick, relationship by relationship, often by men who will never be quoted or photographed. This first year hasn't been easy. Print media is not the safe or obvious path. There were moments when the math didn't pencil out, when deadlines felt impossible, when doubt crept in late at night. Anyone who has built something from scratch knows that feeling. The gap between vision and reality can feel awfully wide.

But every time I wondered whether this work mattered, someone stepped forward and answered that question without knowing it. A reader. A business owner. A contributor who poured himself into a story because he believed it was worth telling.

That's how building works. You rarely see the full structure while you're laying the foundation.

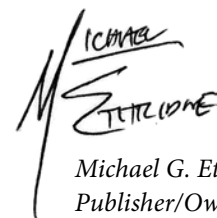
One year in, The Kendall Gentleman is still becoming. Still refining its voice. Still learning how best to serve this community. We are not finished. We are not complete. And that's exactly how it should be.

If this magazine has done anything well, I hope it has reminded men of who they were created to be. Builders. Stewards. Men of faith and conviction who understand that legacy isn't something you declare. It's something you live, day after day.

Thank you for walking alongside us this first year. Thank you for reading, supporting, and believing that this work is worth doing.

There is more to build.

And we're just getting started.



Michael G. Ethridge
Publisher/Owner

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2/6/26

Live at La Cascada

Tapatio Springs Hill Country Resort
1 Resort Way, Boerne, TX 78006
www.tapatiosprings.com

Come celebrate the weekend with live music every Friday and Saturday on the La Cascada Patio!

2/7/26

Open Fire Argentinian Cookout

Lost Oak Cellars

111 Rosewood Ave, Boerne, TX 78006
www.lostoakwinery.com/

On Saturdays from 12 PM to 11 PM, Lost Oak Cellars hosts an Argentinian open fire BBQ on the patio. It's authentic and delicious!

2/7/26

Veterans Coffee

Black Rifle Coffee Company

101 S Main St Ste A, Boerne, TX 78006

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

2/9/26

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)

2/10/26

VFW Business Meeting

VFW Post 688 Kendall

Masonic Lodge

897 E Blanco, Boerne, TX 78006

www.vfw688.org

2/13/26

Mardi Gras Gala

St. Peter The Apostle Catholic School

Cana Ballroom

202 W Kronkosky St, Boerne, TX 78006

stpetersboerne.com/mardi-gras-gala

A jazzy evening of food, music, auctions, and community supporting Catholic education

2/16/26

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

2/19/26

The Forum IX

The Swing Lab

635 State Highway 46 E, Ste 204,
Boerne, TX 78006

We call it a men's mixer, but everyone is welcome. This is a time to gather, connect, and enjoy the kind of community that doesn't need an agenda to matter.

2/19/26

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!

2/21/26

Open Bowling

Boerne Turn Verein

221 E. Theissen, Boerne, TX 7800

www.boerneturnverein.com

2/21/26

Freezin' for a Reason: Boerne Polar Plunge

Special Olympics Texas

Boerne City Lake

100 Boerne City Lake Park

www.classy.org/event/2025-boerne-polar-plunge/e645575

This exhilarating event supports over 2,000 Special Olympics Texas athletes by providing year-round sports training, competition, and health programs for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

2/28/26

Tour the Old Jail Museum

The Old Jail Museum

208 E. San Antonio Ave, Boerne, TX 78006

www.thejail.org

Built in 1887, the Kendall County Historic Jail served for 100 years as the county jail. It has recently been restored, and is open for tours the second and fourth Saturdays of the month from 10am to 4pm. Adult tickets are \$5, and kids under 10 and Law Enforcement get free entry.

Tuesdays

Trivia Night

Free Roam Brewing Company

325 S Main Street, Boerne, TX 78006

www.freeroambrewing.com

Trivia, Tacos, Tuesdays!

Wednesdays

Mens Bible Study

First Baptist Church of Boerne

631 S School St, Boerne, TX 78006

www.fbcboerne.org/men

Join FBCMen for a Bible study on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM in the Family Life Building during the school year.

Thursdays

Karaoke Night

Salvador Dobbs

512 River Rd, Boerne, TX 78006

www.salvadordobbs.com

Karaoke every Thursday night at Salvador Dobbs from 8:00-Midnight, with fabulous drink specials and the friendliest bar in town.

Sundays

Community Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Class

Black Diamond Martial Arts

140 Industrial Dr, Ste 100, Boerne, TX 78006

www.bdmaboerne.com

Whether you're just starting out or you've been practicing the art for years, our BJJ classes are designed to help everyone improve their ground game. **KG**

Your life. Your money. Your terms.

Whether it's investing some extra income, preparing a future for your family with your retirement secured, or saving for a home or education costs, we're here to coach you through it.

Contact us today to start creating a financial strategy tailored to your specific needs.



Caleb K Clark
CIMA®
Financial Advisor
124 E Bandera Rd
Boerne, TX 78006
830-428-0097



MKD-8652E-A AECSPAD jessamies



The Whiskey and Wisdom Book Club
will meet
February 19th at 6PM
at The Boerne Bookshop

You Are Invited!

This month's discussion will be about
"The Black Count:
Glory, Revolution, Betrayal
and the Real Count of Monte Cristo"
by Tom Reiss.





GREAT SOUTHERN COINS

LET US PAY YOU TOP DOLLAR

for your rare coins, precious
metals and gold jewelry!

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



THE TEXAS RANCH — COMPANY LLC —

FARM & RANCH REAL ESTATE



Serving the Hill Country and South Texas since 1997; specializing in Premium Live
Water Properties, Fine Hunting Ranches, and Distinguished Estate Homesteads.

BRANDON SCOTT

ASSOCIATE BROKER

(210) 421-8181

BRANDON@TEXASRANCHCO.COM



MULTIGIG FIBER INTERNET PLANS

2 GIG

— AND —

5 GIG



WITH
SYMMETRICAL
SPEEDS

Door to Deck—Connected Inside and Out

**MultiGig Fiber + Outdoor WiFi: Get lightning-fast symmetrical speeds
and total outdoor coverage.**

- ✓ **MultiGig Symmetrical Speeds.** Uploads are now as fast as downloads.
- ✓ **Connect more devices** with less network congestion.
- ✓ **Add Outdoor WiFi.** Stream flawlessly across your entire backyard.

PRICE L  **CK**

No contract.



☎ 844-543-1775
➡ gvtc.com/GigaYard

*See terms and conditions at gvtc.com/GigaYard for more info.



CELEBRATING
75
YEARS

Stronger Together:

On Pain, Reflection, and the Quiet Strength of Interdependence

By Paul Stephenson, M.A., LPC





The places in life that compel the most reflection are often associated with pain. Contemporary life, perhaps more so than ancient life - or perhaps this is simply what Socrates meant when he warned against the unexamined life. Either way, pain has a way of slowing us down. It interrupts momentum, exposes assumptions, and forces us to look at life as it is, not necessarily as we wish it to be. And in those moments of interruption, uncomfortable though they may be, clarity often follows.

One of the clearest realizations pain offers is this: isolation makes suffering heavier, not lighter. Yet modern life persistently whispers a different story. We are told - explicitly and implicitly - that strength looks like independence, that maturity means needing no one, that asking for help is a form of regression. The self-made man stands alone, stoic and unencumbered. It is a compelling image. It is also, in many ways, a deception.

Independence has its place. Competence, self-governance, and personal responsibility are virtues worth cultivating. But independence was never meant to be the end of the story. When elevated to an ideal, it quietly mutates into isolation. And isolation, while often mistaken for strength, erodes us slowly - mentally, emotionally, and even physically.

We are strongest and healthiest when we are together.

This is not a sentimental claim. It is a structural one. Our bodies, minds, and communities bear witness to it. From the way stress is regulated through connection, to the way wisdom is passed between generations, to the way character is formed through relationship, interdependence is not a social preference. It is God's inherent design of mankind.

The modern fixation on independence often arises from a legitimate desire: autonomy without entanglement, agency without obligation. We want to be free from the disappointments that relationships sometimes bring. Depending on others feels risky. People can fail us. They

can misunderstand us. They can leave. Independence promises control, and control feels safe - especially to those who have known loss.

But control is not the same as strength. And safety is not the same as health.

True strength is not the absence of need; it is the wisdom to place need well. Healthy interdependence does not mean surrendering responsibility or dissolving boundaries. It means recognizing that self-sufficiency, while admirable, is insufficient on its own. It means acknowledging that no one thrives in isolation for long - not because we are weak, but because we are human.

Pain often reveals this truth more clearly than comfort ever could. In seasons of loss, illness, burnout, or failure, the myth of independence begins to crack. The man who prides himself on carrying everything alone eventually discovers that the load does not become lighter through sheer willpower. It simply becomes lonelier.

And loneliness is not neutral. It changes how we think. It narrows perspective. It magnifies fear. Many breakdowns do not begin with moral failure or lack of discipline - they begin with quiet isolation. With the belief that no one else needs to know. With the assumption that asking for help would be a burden to others or an admission of inadequacy.

Healthy interdependence offers a different vision of strength.

First, it is marked by mutual responsibility without control. To be responsible to one another is not the same as being responsible for one another. The former honors agency; the latter undermines it. In healthy relationships - whether friendships, families, or brotherhoods - men hold one another accountable not to dominate or manage, but to sharpen and support. Truth is spoken plainly, even when uncomfortable. Encouragement is offered without enabling. There is care without coddling.

Most men can recall at least one moment when a friend told them something they did not want to hear, but needed. Those moments, though often painful at the time, are rarely forgotten. They linger because they

are formative. They remind us that being known - truly known - requires more than admiration. It requires honesty.

Second, healthy interdependence requires a strength willing to be seen. This does not mean emotional exhibitionism or indiscriminate vulnerability. It means appropriate transparency - the courage to admit fatigue before it becomes collapse, to name fear without surrendering agency, to acknowledge limits without forfeiting responsibility. There is dignity in restraint, but there is danger in silence.

Men, in particular, are often taught to confuse composure with concealment. We learn to manage appearances long before we learn to manage ourselves. But composure without connection hardens over time. Strength that cannot be seen cannot be supported. And unsupported strength eventually fractures.

Third, interdependence thrives on shared purpose with distinct roles. In any healthy system - families, teams, communities - no one carries everything, and everyone carries something. Roles shift with seasons. There are times when one leads, and another follows, when one gives more, and another receives more. This is not an imbalance; it is a rhythm.

Most men can point to seasons when they carried someone else through difficulty - and later found themselves carried in return. These moments, though humbling, reveal a deeper truth: reciprocity is not weakness. It is sustainability.

This is especially evident in the lives of men walking alongside other men. Brotherhood, at its best, is not about competition or posturing. It is about reinforcement. Men sharpen one another through shared standards, shared struggles, and shared accountability. Isolation makes men brittle. Brotherhood makes them durable.

Mentorship plays a crucial role here as well. Wisdom is rarely self-generated. It is received, tested, and refined in a relationship. A man who refuses guidance does not remain independent - he remains immature. Interdependence across generations preserves not only

knowledge, but perspective. It reminds us that we are part of something larger than our momentary ambitions.

The health benefits of togetherness are not incidental. Men with strong relational ties tend to experience lower levels of chronic stress, greater emotional resilience, and better long-term outcomes. But beyond statistics, there is a quieter dividend: clarity. When life is shared, reality is more easily discerned. Blind spots are exposed. Decisions are weighed more carefully. Pain is contextualized rather than internalized.

This does not eliminate suffering, but it transforms it. Pain carried together does not define us as fully as pain carried alone.

Practicing healthy interdependence does not require dramatic gestures. It begins with small, intentional acts. Identifying one relationship where accountability can be invited rather than avoided. Asking for help before crisis makes it unavoidable. Investing deeply in one community instead of shallowly in many. Becoming the man who shows up - consistently, quietly, even when it costs him convenience.

It also requires reflection. Slowing down enough to consider life as it is, not merely as it should be. Pain often initiates that slowing, but wisdom sustains it. Reflection allows us to examine not only our habits, but our assumptions - especially the assumption that strength is synonymous with solitude.

Independence may feel powerful, but interdependence is what sustains power over time. We were not designed to stand alone indefinitely. We were designed to stand together - distinct, responsible, and connected.

And in that togetherness, strength is not diminished. It is completed. **KG**



Paul Stephenson, LPC is a counselor who works with adults, couples, families, and adolescents facing depression, anxiety, trauma, and related challenges. A former Navy officer and educator, he blends lived experience with Emotionally Focused, Cognitive Behavioral, and Reality Therapy, grounding his work in listening, grace, and truth. paul@thekendallgentleman.com



Scan me!
GET THE APP

**Book online or in the app and
NEVER DO LAUNDRY AGAIN!**

**FREE
PICK UP &
DELIVERY**



WASH & FOLD LAUNDRY SERVICE

METROWASHTX.COM | 830.249.6832

Family Owned. Serving Boerne Since 1995.
1415 E Blanco Rd #14 | Boerne, TX 78006

NO LEASE & NO DEPOSIT

ONE FLAT FEE | FREE WIFI | UTILITIES INCLUDED



FACILITY MANAGEMENT



PRIVATE OFFICES AVAILABLE



CONFERENCE ROOMS



BOERNE, TX
officebox
CO. WORKING SPACE

Schedule a tour (210) 660-4101 or visit officeboxboerne.com.



Finding Purpose Early

Officer Juan Acosta's path into law enforcement did not begin in a classroom or a recruiting office. It started in a rough Chicago neighborhood where gangs, drugs, and violence were a daily reality.

As a high school student, Acosta took notice of the school resource officers who served as liaisons between students and law enforcement. He watched how they navigated chaos with calm and authority, and how their presence changed the atmosphere around them.

"I really looked up to him," Acosta said of one officer in particular. "I said, man, I want to be like him one day."

That curiosity led Acosta to become deeply involved with law enforcement even before graduating. He began sharing information about gang activity and drug deals that were coming into his school, providing dates, times, and names. He understood the risks, but he also understood the stakes.

"That's when I really noticed I was good at it," he said. "I was able to talk to people on both sides, and they didn't know what I was doing."

It was the first sign that he had the instincts and discipline needed for the job.

From Chicago to the Hill Country

Acosta eventually moved to Texas, drawn by the outdoors and the opportunity to build a life in a different environment. He began his career with Bexar County, working in the jail before putting himself through the police academy.

"I was never the type of person to be very secluded," he said. "I was always out on the streets and knew a lot about the streets." After graduating from the academy, Acosta joined the Kerrville Police Department, where he received advanced training and began focusing on drug interdiction. Wanting a broader operational scope, he eventually transitioned to the Kendall County Sheriff's Office.

Called to Serve:

Officer Juan Acosta's Journey from Chaos to Calling

By Jonathan Mallard

Today, Acosta serves as a patrol deputy and is also a member of the Sheriff's Office Special Response Team.

"We train monthly, physically and with our weapons," he explained. "We run different scenarios so we are ready when it matters."

The Weight Behind the Badge
While the public often sees the uniform, Acosta says the real burden of law enforcement is carried quietly and over time. "It's not just putting people in jail or writing tickets," he said. "It's opening a case, following it through, and going to court. People don't see the amount of work that goes into death investigations, murders, or sexual assaults."

Those experiences accumulate, even for officers who love the work.

"In the beginning, it's very mental," Acosta said, describing the early years of training and field work. "Later in your career, it becomes emotional. You see things firsthand that most people only hear about."

Fatherhood changed how those moments landed.

"When you have a daughter and you see things involving children, it hits different," he said. "You still do your job. It's still your passion. But you see life differently."

Integrity When No One Is Watching

When asked what service means when there are no cameras and no recognition, Acosta did not hesitate.

"Integrity, honesty, and professionalism," he said. "If you don't have those, how can the community trust you as a public servant?"

That commitment extends to leadership decisions, even when they are unpopular. "We have to stay professional and do what is legal," Acosta said. "Even when people don't like it."

In a smaller community like Kendall County, those choices are felt more personally.

"Everyone knows everyone," he said. "Your reputation matters."

Resetting After Hard Calls

For Acosta, processing difficult calls begins with accountability.

"I make sure I did everything correctly and didn't miss anything," he said. "By the time I leave work, I want to know the job was done the right way."

Only then does he begin to decompress, leaning on hobbies that keep his mind grounded.

"I hunt, I fish, and I keep fish tanks," he said with a laugh. "I've done saltwater and freshwater. Right now, I have cichlids." Those routines help him return home fully present.

Hope for Heroes Texas

Acosta's connection to Hope for Heroes Texas began quietly. Early in his career, he attended an event while in field training but did not fully understand the organization's mission. Years later, after transitioning to day shift, he reconnected through community involvement and ride-alongs.

That exposure changed his perspective. "The amount of time they put in to give you that attention," he said. "To say, your life matters. Other departments don't always have that."

For Acosta, the impact was immediate and deeply personal.

"I was mind blown," he said. "The smiles, the attention, the support. You feel like these people care about you and appreciate what you do."

Coming from an environment where law enforcement was often isolated and unsupported, that affirmation mattered. "It meant a lot," he said simply.

The impact extended beyond the badge. After sharing his experiences with his wife,

the conversation turned toward giving back. "She said once our business is up and running, we want to start donating to Hope for Heroes Texas," Acosta said. "Just like they support us, we want to support them."

Looking Forward

When asked what he hopes fellow deputies will say about him at the end of his career, Acosta kept his answer focused on presence. "That I was always there for them," he said. "No matter the time, I was a team player." And when asked what hope looks like in a profession that often encounters people at their worst, his answer reflected the heart of the Hope for Heroes Texas mission.

"As long as there is strong support from our peers and the community," Acosta said. "As long as people remind you that your life matters and you are not alone, there is hope."

A Message from Brad Cornell

"Hope for Heroes Texas exists to remind first responders that their lives matter beyond the badge," said Brad Cornell, founder of Hope for Heroes Texas. "These men and women spend their careers running toward crisis and carrying things most people never see, and they need to know they are not alone. Sometimes support looks like resources or a retreat, but most of the time it looks like simply showing up, listening, and telling someone their life has value. When first responders feel that kind of support from their community, it strengthens them not just as professionals, but as people, and that is how we help ensure no one serving Kendall County ever feels forgotten." KG



Jonathan R. Mallard is a retired U.S. Army Sergeant and Combat Medic who served with the 772nd Forward Surgical Team, 101st Airborne Division, providing lifesaving care in Iraq and Afghanistan. After more than a decade with the 36th Infantry Division, he now captures stories of faith and community through photography across the Texas Hill Country while pursuing a Theology degree at Grand Canyon University. jonathan@thekendallgentleman.com

Your life goals.
We help you get there.



CRESTMONT™

PRIVATE WEALTH

Locally owned independent fiduciary

www.crestmontpw.com

Investment advisory services are offered through Crestmont Private Wealth LLC, a Registered Investment Advisor. This material is for informational and educational purposes only and should not be considered individualized investment, legal, or tax advice. Investing involves risk, including the potential loss of principal. No strategy can guarantee success or protect against loss in all market conditions. Services and outcomes described may vary based on each client's circumstances.

Investments through Crestmont Private Wealth LLC are: NOT FDIC INSURED, NOT BANK GUARANTEED, MAY LOSE VALUE, INCLUDING LOSS OF PRINCIPAL, NOT INSURED BY ANY STATE OR FEDERAL AGENCY.



★ 40 ★
**MIKE
MIKE**

★ ★ ★
**TEXAS-STYLE
BOCK**

EASY-DRINKING MALTY LAGER

TEXAS CRAFT
BREWERS
GUILD



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



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



SHOCKWAVE THERAPY

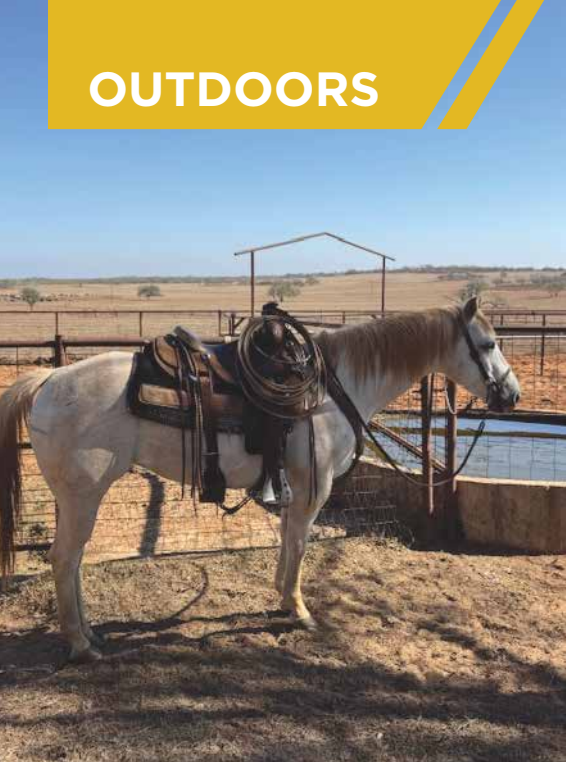
Shockwave Therapy is used as a part of a whole-patient approach to improving patient health and well-being. Officially called low-intensity extracorporeal shockwave therapy (Li-ESWT), the procedure is more commonly known as shockwave therapy.

CONDITIONS TREATED BY SHOCKWAVE THERAPY

Tennis Elbow • Knee Pain • Shoulder Pain • Sport Injuries
Carpal Tunnel • Sprain / Strain • Chronic Pain / Injury

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





Pearsall Texas 1962

By *Jed Mazour*

Southwest Texas is a very special place for my family, specifically, on my in-laws' side. In 1962, my wife's grandfather purchased a roughly 450-acre ranch in Pearsall, not for farming or ranching, but for a place the family could enjoy together, learning how to hunt, camp, and spend time just being kids and learning to respect the outdoors. Since then, it has become a place where family roots have taken a proud hold. In the early days of the 60s and 70s, Dr. O'Connor was the only doctor in town. Tending to anything from cuts and colds to broken bones and even

delivering babies at home. It would not have been unusual for him to show up at your doorstep with his medical bag to check up on you if you were feeling under the weather. The kind of doctor people truly trusted and would end up treating several generations of Frio County families. Although we never met, he seemed to me like the kind of man you don't want to disappoint. Not out of fear of him, but out of respect, not to let him down, knowing how much he loved and cherished his family. Dr. Timothy O'Connor passed away in the mid-90s, but the legacy he left behind started to grow. Over the past 25 years, I have heard so many loving stories about him from his family and even met multiple patients he treated while practicing in Pearsall. It's clear he was a well-respected, honest, and kind man who cared deeply for his family and young grandchildren.

Denise's mother, Annie, moved to Pearsall in 1962. At that time, just a little girl, her family left the vast, dusty plains of Southern New Mexico behind for a new start raising cattle a few miles outside of Pearsall. Her father, "Buster", a former sheriff in New Mexico, began what would become a legendary 64-year-old cattle ranch. Pretty quickly, at just 12 years old, David, Annie's brother, would take control of the operation and spend the next several decades hanging on a horse, working harder and longer days than any one of us could imagine! Most folks don't understand what it takes to run a ranch like David's. He told me he could remember taking one vacation in his life. A trip to Portugal, which he earned through business. He told me a story about being a little boastful while in Portugal and accepting a challenge to fight a bull on foot like a matador. You mess with the bull, you get the horns. And that's exactly what happened that day! Denise and I have been visiting "Davie" (as we call him) as much as we can recently. A bad back, worn knees, and, most recently, a cancer diagnosis at 80 have slowed him down. Davie is what I could consider the last of a TRUE Texas cowboy. Most of his life was spent on a horse. He once showed me his first saddle and said, "I bet I put a million miles on that saddle as a boy," and I believed him. Hanging on the hallway wall of his old house is a gun rack with a few rifles, but one in particular caught my eye. An original Winchester 30-30. I can't help but stare at it and imagine the stories and places it has been. Denise and I once attended a birthday party for his late wife

Ann. It was at what looked like an old Legion Hall in Pearsall. The place was filled with people who not only knew David and Ann but clearly respected them. I quickly started to gather the caliber of man David Moore is, and I admired it. The party was full of old cowboys from around the area. Some with their fancy knee-high boots and bolo ties. A Mariachi band was playing, and the cowboys danced with their wives. I realized all these old gringos speak fluent Spanish, and that really surprised me! That night was forever imprinted into my memory.

The O'Connor ranch hasn't changed a bit in all these years with the exception of deadfall and new mesquite growth. No cabins, no new fences or roads. In fact, there isn't even running water or electricity. But Denise and I have been camping there every deer season for the past 23 years straight. Same campsite every single time. An area about 20'x 40' cleared of all the mesquite, prickly pear cactus, and sage brush with a clear view of the night sky. There is not one thing permanent there but a hand-dug hole in the soft, red sandy ground where we burn our campfires and cook our meals. After the evening hunt, we gather around the fire for dinner - usually steaks and baked potatoes. Before we leave for the evening hunt, I stoke the fire well, wrap the potatoes in foil, and place them outside of the flames to cook for a few slow hours. Coming back to camp, dinner is that much closer to being ready. After dinner, we have some drinks together and tell stories for hours before zipping up our tents and trying to stay warm for the night. Although the sound of the coyotes singing is something we look forward to, it makes our guests a little uneasy, and we get a laugh out of that!

In the mornings, we head out for an early hunt unless you got lucky the night before. In that case, you are probably sleeping off a long night of celebrating.

Denise stays back at camp working on the fire and preparing a warm breakfast for everyone. If you've had it before, then you know how fulfilling and rejuvenating this is, almost like a soul food feeling! Everything is cooked in a cast-iron skillet over the fire. First, a package of bacon. Let that cook, then remove the bacon and add a dozen eggs to the grease to scramble. Denise saves a few cooked potatoes from the night before and reheats them in the skillet with some butter. Warm a handful of fresh tortillas over the fire

until they swell up, then keep them in foil to stay warm. A fresh package of shredded cheese and some Tapatio hot sauce, and you have yourself the best potato, egg, bacon, and cheese campfire tacos with a hot cup of coffee. If you tell me it gets any better, you, sir, are a liar!

Hunting this place for as long as we have has come with some great experiences. Over the last couple of years, both Hunter and Ellie have harvested their best low-fence native whitetail deer to date. We have hosted an array of friends and family. Some continue to join us, and some we have so tragically lost. This is the place where our children learned how to hunt, clean, and butcher an animal. The place they learned how to watch their steps for rattlesnakes and be mindful of what to expect from predators like coyotes, feral hogs, bobcats, and even mountain lions. Here, they have learned to treat the land with respect and leave only their footprints behind. A place where you can really feel so far away from the daily grind that might be wearing you thin. A place to really charge your soul, as Denise would say.

Almost 65 years later...the R7 Moore Ranch and Cattle Company will continue operation for many years to come, but with new ownership. The old house and corals are still there. The view into the pasture is nothing short of jaw-dropping and deserves to be a painting passed down generation to generation. In fact, the next time we are there, Denise and I will crack a few Shiner Bocks and take the view in a little more than normal.

The O'Connor ranch remains unchanged. Both in a good way and a bad way. But I think that's just the way things go. Enjoy the people you love around you and the things you treasure while you still have your health. Don't fret about things you can't change. This ranch serves as that exact lesson, and maybe that is what it's for. Simplicity is best. The funny thing is, I never thought of it that way until I wrote this article...I am truly grateful.

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



Fast, easy, worry-free internet.

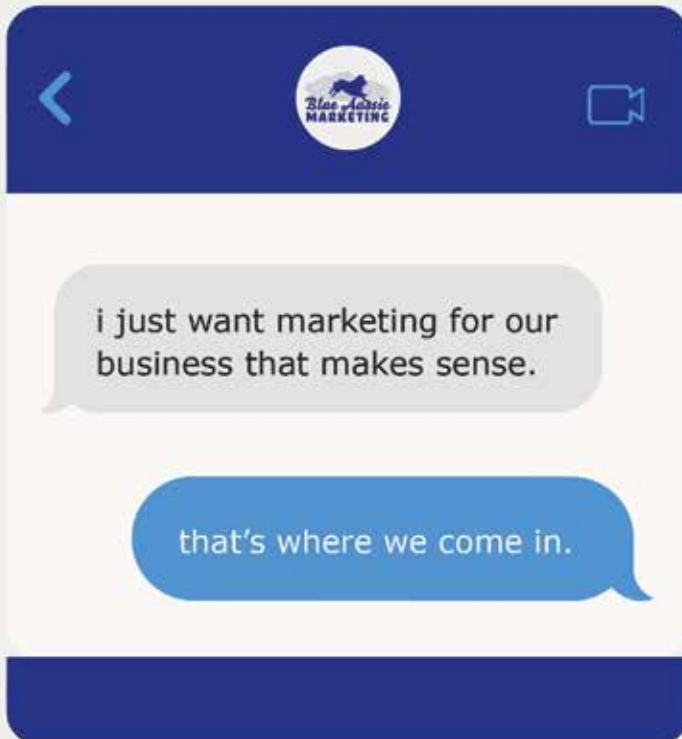
VALENTINES DAY IS ABOUT

Connection

IMPROVE YOURS WITH
**BETTER, FASTER
INTERNET!**



GET
CONNECTED
TODAY!



**stop ghosting
your marketing.**
it's time to commit.



JOIN US FOR OUR

1940S NIGHT AT THE USO MATINEE & GALA



EVENT EXTRAVAGANZA!!

A nostalgic time of Dinner, Dancing and Entertainment! We are hosting a fundraising gala on February 28, 2026 - at the CANA Ballroom. During dinner, you will be entertained by our very own Boerne Jazz Band and after followed by the swinging sound of Frank Sings Frank! If you feel like dancing during the show, come early at 7:00 PM to get some free Swing Dance lessons. Feel free to dress in your best 1940's get up.

**SCAN
THE
QR CODE
TO GET
YOUR
TICKETS!**



MATINEE: 1:00 TO 2:30 PM / EVENING GALA: 7:00 TO 11:00 PM



Deadwood Sweet Jane by Drew Estate

By Clay Smoot

I smoke almost every single day, with my cigar of choice, almost never being a sweet tip or flavored cigar. Not that I don't like them or enjoy them, it is just that I prefer a stronger and more "traditional" cigar. However, I do tend to smoke sweet tip and flavored cigars when I have an event. I do that, because as the intoxicatingly sweet aroma wafts lightly through the air, it piques the curiosity of the occasional cigar smoker and beckons them to my tent like the "pied piper". The cigar that I typically smoke during these events is the Sweet Jane from the Deadwood Series by Drew Estate. This series also includes the following cigars: Crazy Alice, Fat Bottom Betty, Leather Rose, The Girl with No Name and the new Dominicana. I thought the Sweet Jane would be an appropriate cigar for this month's February issue.

I was introduced to this cigar over a decade ago. Over the course of this time, I have come to appreciate The Sweet Jane for its sweet mellow and delightful taste. This cigar also comes in a tin of ten cigars (4 x 32), but I prefer the Corona vitola (5 x 46). The latter will be the cigar that is reviewed today.

The Deadwood Series Sweet Jane is made by the Drew Estate Cigar Company that was founded in 1996 in the DUMBO neighborhood of The World Trade Center in New York, even having a kiosk inside of the World Trade Center at one point. They make ACID, Tabak, Undercrown and one of the best lines in the cigar world, Liga Privada. Drew Estate has a unique outlook on cigars and their slogan "The Rebirth of Cigars" shows their unique philosophy. This cigar has a maduro wrapper from Nicaragua, but the filler and binder part of this cigar is undisclosed. This, to me, adds to the allure. In prior reviews I have mentioned that maduro wrappers tend to have a stronger effect on the smoker,

especially a novice smoker. However, there are exceptions to that rule, this cigar is one of them.

Wrapper – Nicaragua
Binder – Undisclosed
Filler – Undisclosed
Size – 5x46 Corona

I will be pairing this cigar with a pour of Michter's Small Batch Bourbon, neat of course. Rum or coffee is usually my preferred drink with a darker maduro cigar, but after doing countless hours of "research" over the years by drinking assorted whiskies, spirits and smoking hundreds of cigars, I decided to try a small batch bourbon with a maduro. I grabbed the cigar from my personal humidor; I walked to my desk in my office, put on some Otis Redding and started my smoking routine. I grabbed tabletop four cut cigar cutter, picking my favorite cut, the "V-cut". I placed the cigar in my mouth, tasting the sweetness of it. I flip the lid of my torch to double check the intensity of the flame, making sure it is sufficient for the process. I place the cigar in my mouth, push the button on the torch, the flame leaps to life, I inhale slowly, rotating the cigar gently back and forth. I repeat the slow rotation two more times, while inhaling to get the cigar to light. It lights almost perfectly and evenly. The first notes hit, sweet like candy. Which is appropriate since this February, and sweet candy is the order of the day for Valentine's Day.

Once the initial candy flavor hits, I take a second deep drag on this cigar, and the hit of vanilla and sweet chocolate flavor is unmistakable. It is eventually followed by spice and mocha.

In the middle of this cigar, the earthy tones start to step up a little bit, but is not prominent. I do notice the beginning of

a very slight sweet aroma to form, and flavors of a sweet cream with a taste of coffee and leather emerge.

The final third of this cigar is a compilation of all of the flavors. The chocolate and spice form a sweet partnership. The leather and earth tones glide over the tongue with a lingering, taste that stays just the right amount of time. The mocha and vanilla flavors resonate on the tongue like a delicious cup of coffee. This cigar will form a "heart-shaped" love affair with your taste buds. To top it off, the aroma is so deliciously sweet that even your Valentine's Day date will not mind the smell. Gentlemen, to be fair, your date may even want to taste it for herself, making her your "smoking hot date". KG

PAIRS WELL WITH:

Black Coffee

Tequila

Bourbon

Spiced Rum

Stout

**Red Wine – Cabernet Sauvignon
or Malbec**



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



Libations - Coffee - Cigars - Camaraderie



A Social Club for Men and Women
Open 7 days a week from 9am till late
This is your invitation to come experience The Oak



THE OAK

605 S. Main Street Boerne

AUTHENTIC ITALIAN-

**PIZZA
SALADS**

PANUOZZO SANDWICHES

GELATO

TIRAMISU

CINZANO

CINZANO

DINE IN

TAKE AWAY

IN TOWN DELIVERY

Pizza Volterra
605 S Main St, Boerne, TX 78006

5.0 ★★★★★

All gelato 9 chef

Most relevant Newe

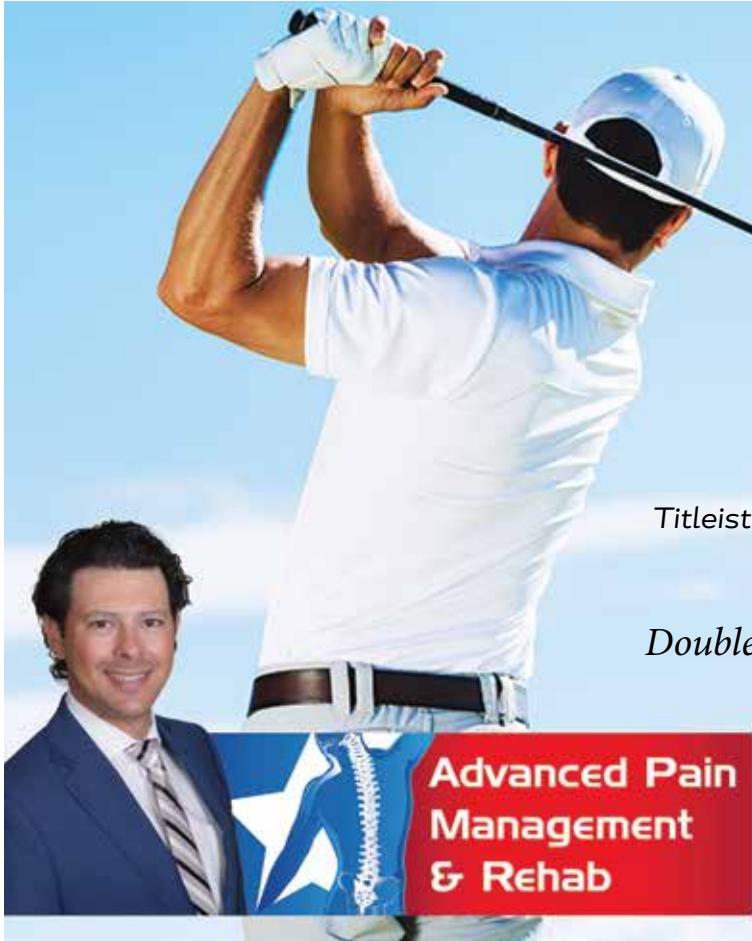
Kankin Roots
jews 1 photo

a month ago



11AM-8PM DAILY

605 S. MAIN STREET BOERNE IN FRONT OF THE OAK



Pain doesn't
have to be normal.

**Advanced minimally invasive
treatment options for
chronic joint pain,
neck/back pain,
and more**

Titleist Performance Institute Certified • Se Habla Español

Alan B. Swearingen, M.D.

*Double Board-Certified Interventional Pain Specialist
Boerne Resident*



**Advanced Pain
Management
& Rehab**

112 Herff Rd Ste. 320 • Boerne
210-495-7246

www.backpainsa.com



Plumbing service repairs, water heaters, and water softeners

At Olde Town Plumbing our commitment to you is to always provide honest evaluations and dependable service repairs. We won't recommend services you don't need. And we won't add hidden fees or over charge for our services.

We live in Boerne and our customers are our friends and neighbors. We strive to provide you with the clear communication and trustworthy plumbing services that we want for our own home.

*Give us a call if you're ready for good old fashioned customer
service infused with up-to-date plumbing techniques.*

28550 I-10 WEST, SUITE 2 | BOERNE, TX 78006
oldetownplumbing.com | info@oldetownplumbing.com



SCHEDULE TODAY

830-446-5227

The Snow Story

By Coach Stan Leech

February has a way of stirring old memories - especially in West Texas, where snow was rare and gone too soon. For me, one snowy day in 1967 turned into more than a school assignment. It became the beginning of a lesson that lasted nearly sixty years.

I was six years old, in Mrs. Bobbie Andrews' first-grade class at Colonial Heights Elementary in Brownfield. It was our family's first full year in town. My mother, Scottie, was teaching at Wheatley, a school that would close just two years later, sending its students to Colonial Heights and Oak Grove. Brownfield was a small town with only three elementary schools, then two, where the teachers all knew one another by their first names, and where I was trying to find my place after living in three towns in three years.

That February day, the air was sharp and cold. Snow had fallen - maybe our only snow of the year, maybe the last. Mrs. Andrews gave us an assignment: write about how the snow made us feel. At six, feelings

aren't complicated. We know joy, and we know sadness. I pulled out my Big Chief tablet, gripped my fat pencil, and started writing. Because I was the son of a teacher, my printing was neat, but the real difference was that I didn't stop.

I filled three or four full pages. I wrote about the joy of seeing snow, the fun of playing in it, and then the sadness that came when it melted away. It wasn't Shakespeare, but it was mine.

Mrs. Andrews thought enough of it to ask me to read it aloud to the other first-grade classes. Then, even more memorably, she let me read it to the second graders. When you're six, that's a big deal. Standing there, telling my story, I got my first taste of writing-and of what I would later recognize as performing.

The mind lets some memories fade, but others never leave. That snowy February reading has stayed with me for decades. But the real story happened after reading.

I was a talker, the kind of boy who sat in the front row to be kept in check. Afterward, Mrs. Andrews leaned close and said something that might seem small to most but meant the world to me. "Stanley, this is very good! I'm going to send this to your mother. She'll appreciate it."

Not amazing, not fantastic. Just direct, kind, and matter-of-fact. And she followed through. She sent my story home with a note written in the most beautiful cursive I had ever seen - so graceful that I can still picture it today.

It read:

Scottie, I knew you would want these. I am so proud of Stanley. He did them all by himself. Maybe he will be a writer and make us all rich.

That was it. No signature. No hearts or candy. Just a short, wonderful note of encouragement.



And that was all my mother needed. For the next eleven years, while we lived at 1206 South Pecos, Scottie brought up that note at least once or twice a year. Sometimes she'd say, "Remember to make Mrs. Andrews proud." Sometimes, "You're a writer," Most often, she'd laugh and say, "Make us rich."

The older I got, the funnier the line became. But the message never left. Every time she mentioned the Snow Story, I heard the same call: make your mother proud, honor Mrs. Andrews' kindness, don't waste your gift.

Mothers have a way of keeping their sons humble, too. Years later, when I bragged about my "first speaking engagement," Scottie would smile and say, "Settle down. It was too cold to go outside, so Mrs. Andrews had to think of something for you to do." Then she'd leave the room before I could fire back.

There's another piece that ties it all together. Mrs. Andrews' daughter, Shelly, was in my graduating class, living just up Pecos Street. A few years ago, I shared the note with her. She was kind, as friends are, but I doubt

she knew the depth of its impact - not just on me, but on my mother. That simple act of encouragement rippled through our household for more than a decade.

So, what's the message? It isn't about a six-year-old's memory. It's about a six-year-old's action, and a teacher in her 30s who chose to encourage, and a mother who carried that encouragement forward year after year. Mrs. Andrews nailed the timing. She saw a boy and a family just settling in, and she chose to notice. That note became a refrain in my life, spoken in my mother's voice: You have a gift, and you need to use it.

Encouragement doesn't have to be elaborate. It doesn't have to come with exclamation marks or extra fluff. Sometimes it's one sentence, written in a hand so beautiful it can't be forgotten. Sometimes it's a teacher sending a story home. Sometimes it's a mother repeating it until a son finally begins to believe it himself.

All these years later, I can still see the snow falling, still feel the Big Chief paper under

my hand, still hear Mrs. Andrews' steady voice, still picture that looping cursive note, and I can hear my mother's voice-part encouragement, part humor-telling me to "make us all rich."

The truth is, I never made anyone rich with my writing. But what Mrs. Andrews and my mother gave me was something better: the sense that words matter, that stories matter, that timing matters. And if you're fortunate, the right words at the right time will last a lifetime.

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



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)



**HILL COUNTRY
OVERHEAD DOOR**

830.249.3649 | www.sanantoniodoor.com



KENDALL POINT

WEDDINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS VENUE

WWW.KENDALLPOINT.COM | 830-229-5090 | KRISTIN@KENDALLPOINT.COM



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, Tusculum Brewing,
and Männer Salon*

IG: [_thecigarsociety_](#) | thecigarsociety1@gmail.com

210-364-7915

General Leroy Sisco **STILL CARRYING THE LOAD**

By Michael G. Ethridge

Photography by Jonathan R. Mallard

I first met General Leroy Sisco several years ago at a campaign event for Quico Canseco. It was one of those introductions that happens in passing. A handshake. A few words. A sense that the man in front of you carries gravity, even if you don't yet know why. The room was loud, the night moved on, and life did what it always does.

I knew who he was. I knew of his service. I knew about the Military Warriors Support Foundation. And like a lot of people, I admired him from a respectful distance.

It wasn't until years later, when Leroy stepped into the orbit of Dorman Vick, that I really began to understand the man. Watching him engage with Dorman, advocate for vocational education, and quietly use his influence to support a teacher who pours his life into young men and women told me more than any résumé ever could. That was the moment admiration turned into something deeper.

Respect.







Over the last couple of years, getting to know Leroy personally has been genuinely rewarding. Not because he's impressive, though he is. But because he's consistent. The public figure and the private man are the same.

When we sat down for our interview, there was no agenda. No performance. Just a steady, measured voice shaped by decades of leadership and responsibility. Early on, he said something that framed everything that followed.

"I've been blessed my whole life," he told me. "And I've always believed when you've been given much, you're obligated to give much back."

That sentence explains Leroy Sisco better than any rank or title ever could.

His story begins far from stadium stages and boardrooms. He was born in Oklahoma and raised in a working family. His father died young, at just forty-three, leaving his mother to raise three boys on a teacher's salary. It was the kind of loss that forces maturity early.

"I went to work when I was fourteen," he said. "There wasn't any other option."

The family eventually moved to Abilene, Texas. Life there came with expectations. You showed up. You worked. You carried your weight. Leroy still speaks with gratitude about Don Whitaker, a World War II combat veteran who managed a retail store where Leroy worked as a teenager. When he quit working at T.G.&Y. to attend college, Sam Walton hired Don Whitaker to run Walton's Five & Dime, and eventually, he was Walmart's first store manager.

"He taught me how to show up. How to take responsibility. How to respect people," Leroy said. "That stuck with me."

Those lessons carried him into the Texas National Guard while he was still in high school. He didn't join out of drama or ambition. He joined because it felt right. He worked his way through Abilene Christian University over five years while holding a full-time job. Nothing about his early life was fast. Everything about it was earned.

That pattern never changed.

Leroy served forty-two years in uniform, rising from enlisted service to Lieutenant General. Along the way, he qualified in

five Army branches: infantry, engineer, quartermaster, logistics, and armor. That breadth mattered. It made him useful in ways that weren't always obvious at the time.

He commanded at every level. Platoon. Company. Battalion. Brigade. General officer. One of the pivotal moments came during large-scale REFORGER operations in Germany, where he was responsible for moving enormous amounts of troops and equipment across Europe. His unit dramatically outperformed higher-ranked commands.

"I didn't realize it at the time," he told me with a small smile, "but that assignment changed everything."

Promotion to general officer wasn't assumed. Leroy was selected because of something harder to quantify than seniority. Competence across disciplines. Calm under pressure. And the trust of those above him.

Yet when he talks about his military career, he rarely leads with rank or accolades.

"The honor was serving with good people," he said. "That's what stays with you."

What many don't realize is how essential Leroy's civilian career became to what followed. He spent decades with NCR Corporation, rising from sales to district management and eventually leading a multi-state financial division. Later, he co-founded and scaled a private company serving financial institutions.

"I learned how banks think," he said. "How loans really work. How assets are evaluated."

At the time, it was just business; in hindsight, it was preparation.

The Military Warriors Support Foundation was not born from a nonprofit blueprint. It came from frustration. Leroy watched wounded veterans return home carrying physical injuries, invisible wounds, and crushing financial pressure.

"We tell them thank you," he said. "And then we expect them to figure everything else out."

His solution was radical in its simplicity. Remove the mortgage. Remove the payment. Remove the pressure.

Homes, given outright.

Not raffled. Not discounted. Given.



Since its founding, the Military Warriors Support Foundation has awarded nearly twelve hundred mortgage-free homes, hundreds of vehicles, and facilitated hundreds of restorative outdoor trips each year. The total charitable value approaches half a billion dollars. Experts estimate the work has directly saved more than 160 veteran lives.

Those numbers matter. But Leroy never leads with them.

“This isn’t charity,” he told me. “It’s stability.”

What sets the foundation apart is discipline. Homes aren’t immediately doled out. For three years, recipients complete mandatory financial education taught by retired bankers and CPAs. The result is extraordinary. More than 98 percent of recipients are debt-free when the title is finally transferred.

“A gift without wisdom can become a burden,” Leroy said. “We didn’t want to create another problem while solving one.”

At times, the work became very public. Through a long-standing partnership with George Strait, they’ve given 127 homes away



together over the last 15 years. Leroy tells me, “There are not enough words to thank George for his incredible support”. He has found himself standing on stages in front of tens of thousands of people, handing keys to wounded veterans. Two of the most

unforgettable moments came at AT&T Stadium, in front of 106,000 fans, and at Texas A&M University in front of 110,905 fans, handing keys to incredible heroes.

No script. No spectacle. Just a family realizing their future had changed forever.

“Those moments aren’t about the crowd,” Leroy said. “They’re about accountability. When you honor someone publicly, you remind the country what honor actually looks like.”

National media took notice. Appearances on the Today Show twice, followed by the Mike Huckabee Show multiple times. Headlines came and went. The cameras eventually moved on.

The counseling never did.

In recent years, Leroy took on another fight that mattered deeply to him. One that had nothing to do with houses or vehicles, and everything to do with honor.

For decades, Medal of Honor recipients received a modest monthly stipend from the federal government. Modest to the point of embarrassment. Leroy knew that number. He’d known it for years. And it bothered him.

“These men did things the rest of us can’t even imagine,” he told me. “And we were paying them like it was an afterthought.”

What followed was a sustained, behind-the-scenes effort that took patience, relationships, and persistence. Leroy worked closely with Congressman Troy Nehls, Senator Ted Cruz, and ultimately President Donald Trump to push legislation that would meaningfully raise the monthly pension for Medal of Honor recipients.

It wasn’t flashy work. It was phone calls. Meetings. Education. Relentless follow-up. The kind of work Leroy has always been comfortable doing.

When the legislation was finally passed and signed into law, the increase was significant - \$5,780.36 per month, tax-free. Life-changing, in some cases. And for Leroy, it was deeply personal.

“I’m proud of that,” he said, without hesitation. “Those men earned it. Every single bit of it.” The legislation nearly quadrupled the stipend for these heroes to around \$69,364.32 annually - every penny of it tax-free. He said it was a true honor to be





Official White House Photo by Joyce N. Boghosian

in President Trump's office when he signed the bill. After the President signed the bill, he gave the pen to General Sisco. Leroy admitted it was a bit emotional.

There was no self-congratulation in his voice. Just relief that the system had finally done right by men who had given everything.

Leroy's sense of duty doesn't stop with veterans. His advocacy for vocational education runs just as deep. He believes skilled trades offer dignity, independence, and purpose, and he's put real resources behind that belief.

"We've told too many kids that success only looks one way," he said. "That's just not true. Some of the most successful, fulfilled people I know work with their hands."

That conviction is what led him to Dorman Vick, and it's why watching that relationship unfold changed how I saw him. Leroy didn't posture. He didn't make announcements. He showed up. Quietly. Consistently. With results.

Faith runs through Leroy's life without showmanship. Married for fifty-nine years,

he met his wife, Frances, at Abilene Christian University. He tells everyone, "She is an Angel on earth and the best thing that has ever happened to me." Together, they raised three children, one of whom they lost - their daughter. They now enjoy two sons, two daughters-in-law, and five grandchildren.

"I've been carried more times than I can count," he told me. "By my wife. By God. By people who showed up when it mattered."

That sense of being carried seems to fuel his insistence on carrying others. Not out of guilt. Out of gratitude.

Kendall County understands men like Leroy Sisco.

Men who build.

Men who serve.

Men who don't confuse recognition with responsibility.

I've known of Leroy for years. I've looked up to him for a long time. But getting to know him personally these past couple of years has been something else entirely. It's shown me

what steady leadership looks like when the spotlight fades.

Some men stop serving when the uniform comes off.

Leroy never did.

Some men chase legacy. Others live it without ever naming it.

Leroy Sisco has spent a lifetime carrying responsibility quietly. For his family. For his soldiers. For wounded veterans who needed more than applause. For Medal of Honor recipients who deserved better than an afterthought. For young men and women learning a trade who just needed someone to believe in the work of their hands.

He never waited for permission. He never asked for credit. He simply showed up, again and again, and did what needed to be done.

And for that, General Leroy Sisco is The Kendall Gentleman. **KG**



TURNKEY SOLUTIONS



COMPLETE PROJECT DESIGN

Knighten Industries delivers fully engineered project solutions—from initial concept and CAD modeling to detailed system planning. Our engineers collaborate closely with customers to ensure every design meets operational goals, regulatory requirements, and long-term performance expectations.



IN-HOUSE FABRICATION

With comprehensive fabrication, machining, and assembly capabilities, we build every component to exact specifications. From structural steel and pressure piping to mechanical, electrical, and finishing work, each project is crafted with precision and rigorously tested for quality and reliability.



SEAMLESS COMMISSIONING

Knighten manages the entire installation and startup process, ensuring your system is integrated safely and efficiently. Our team provides field support, testing, training, and ongoing service—delivering a smooth transition from drawing to operation and long-term confidence in your equipment.

FULL-SERVICE DELIVERY

From design and fabrication to installation and ongoing support, Knighten provides true turnkey project execution—all handled by one trusted partner.

CONTACT US

830.816.5200

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



WWW.KNIGHTEN.COM



THRIFTY GERMAN

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.*

Mr. Eric P. was from the old German school, as was his wife. The expression “waste not, want not” was part of their life from the time they got up in the morning until they went to sleep at night.

The couple owned quite a bit of land in Boerne and a part of it was along the Cibolo Creek, from almost the dam all the way down to the sheep dip and on the north side of the creek. To my knowledge this part of the creek has never gone dry because of the spring located on the north side of the creek a hundred yards or so below the dam. This was some of the best fishing of anywhere in the area. If you didn't catch a prize bass it was no one's fault but your own.

There was a problem though. Mr. Eric demanded a fee of twenty-five cents to fish from his property. Twenty-five cents doesn't

sound like a lot of money today but in the 30's, 40's, and early 50's this was a pretty good amount. It would be like five or ten dollars today. If you didn't go by his house and pay before entering there was hell to pay afterwards.

Mr. Eric had quite a few rent houses that he had built and they were real nice little rock homes. They were scattered around town and he rented them reasonably. When the builders were constructing these houses Mr. Eric would go each evening and pick up the bent and fallen nails and take them home to be straightened for his personal use.

Mr. Eric raised sheep. At that time we had a lot of wild plums growing along the fence rows and if you know anything about wild plums you are aware that they have small limbs growing off the trunk, almost like thorns. As the sheep would graze they would rub against the plum trees and some of their wool would catch and pull off. Whenever shearing time arrived you would see Mr. Eric out in the pasture with a large paper sack gathering the wool from these branches to be put with the shorn wool to be sold.

The story goes, but I cannot prove this, that Mr. Eric's children wanted to put in electricity for the old couple. He held

out but finally gave in to them with the understanding that they would only put in one hanging outlet so that in case it leaked he wouldn't have to pay for so much electricity. I would think that this went back to the early days when you paid for your electricity by the number of outlets you had. I know that in the early 1900's the price was thirty-five cents per month per outlet.

Years later when I had my own store, Mr. Eric came in one day and in German asked if I had needles. Leading him to the back part of the store where the sewing notions were I asked him if he wanted sharps or embroidery, and a large size or small size. He didn't answer me but when I held a package of needles, about ten needles, towards him he again in German asked how much? I answered him in German that it was ten cents and he very indignantly in a high tone of voice said, “I don't want the whole package, I only need one.”

When the old folks died they had thousands of dollars in twenty-dollar bills. They had rolled the money into little rolls about like a match stick and had stuck them in the little holes in the mortar where the concrete blocks of the walls joined together. What a way to live your life, but like many others of the old timers, this was all they knew. **KG**



305 South Main Street
Boerne, Texas 78006

Bechants
Men's

830-249-9879
BechantsMens.com  

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



Bob and Della Russell:

Early Pioneers Who Helped Shape Boerne's Business and Cultural Life

By Tom Allred, Sr.

By the time Kendall County was beginning to find its modern footing, it was families like Bob and Della Russell who quietly but decisively helped turn a frontier community into a town with staying power. Their story is not one of flashy headlines or political power, but of steady work, civic responsibility, and an enduring belief that Boerne was worth investing in—economically, culturally, and socially.

Building More Than a Livelihood

Like many early settlers and business founders in the Boerne area, Bob Russell understood that survival in the Hill Country required adaptability. Ranching, trade, and service-oriented enterprises were often intertwined, and Bob's ventures reflected that reality. Whether through commerce, land stewardship, or partnerships with other early families, his work helped establish reliable local businesses at a time when residents depended on one another far more than on distant markets.

Della Russell played an equally essential role—one that extended well beyond the home. In an era when women's contributions were often understated, Della's influence was felt through community organizing,

hospitality, and cultural continuity. She was known for her ability to bring people together, reinforcing the social fabric that allowed small businesses, churches, and civic groups to thrive.

Anchors of a Growing Community

The Russells were part of a generation that helped Boerne transition from a loosely connected settlement into a recognizable town with shared institutions. Their involvement in early enterprises and community landmarks—whether commercial storefronts, gathering places, or cultural traditions—helped establish routines and meeting points that residents came to rely on.

These were the kinds of places where news was exchanged, disputes were settled, and celebrations were held. Over time, they became landmarks not just because of their physical presence, but because of the relationships and memories formed there.

Cultural Stewards of the Hill Country

Beyond business, Bob and Della Russell understood the importance of preserving the character of the Hill Country. Their lives reflected a respect for hard work,

neighborliness, and tradition—values that continue to define Kendall County today. Through church life, community events, and informal mentorship of younger families, they passed along an ethic of responsibility and local pride.

This stewardship helped ensure that as Boerne grew, it did not lose the sense of place that made it special. The Russells belonged to a generation that believed prosperity and culture were inseparable—that a town needed both commerce and community to endure.

A Lasting Legacy

Today, many of the businesses, institutions, and cultural landmarks that define Boerne trace their roots to early pioneers like Bob and Della Russell. While their names may not always appear on plaques or street signs, their influence is embedded in the town's foundation.

Their legacy lives on in the rhythms of everyday life—in the expectation that neighbors look after one another, that local enterprise matters, and that Boerne's past is something to be honored, not forgotten.

As Kendall County continues to grow and change, remembering figures like Bob and Della Russell reminds us that the town's greatest strength has always been its people—and the quiet determination of those who believed in Boerne long before it became what it is today. 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



FAIR OAKS EMERGENCY ROOM

Exceptional, 24-Hour
Emergency Care When Every
Minute Counts

Our mission is to improve the health of the people and
communities we serve.

We are committed to providing safe, compassionate and
exceptional care.

OPEN 24/7/365 • NO WAIT TIMES
NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED
LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED
ADULT & PEDIATRIC SERVICES
ONSITE LAB, X-RAY, CT & ULTRASOUND

(210) 903-2424

27638 IH-10 West, Boerne, TX
www.fairoaksemergency.com



ROYAL
METAL BUILDING
COMPONENTS INC.



METAL BUILDINGS



PANELS & TRIM



STRUCTURAL STEEL



COLD FORMED STEEL



ACCESSORIES



3D BUILDING DESIGN

**Texas-Built.
Texas-Proven.**
Serving Texas Since 1995



830.249.3331



39312 I-10, Boerne, TX 78006



WeatherXL

Scan For A
Fast Quote!



RoyalMBC.com

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





**LOCKED.
LOADED.
LOCAL.**

101 S MAIN ST SUITE A, BOERNE, TX



NOW OPEN!
101 S MAIN ST STE C,
BOERNE, TEXAS



WINGSHOOTING LODGE



LUXURY SPORTING RESORT

“Joshua Creek Delivers Excellence Every Visit!”

Joshua Creek Ranch
Texas Hill Country



“Every stay at Joshua Creek Ranch is excellent from start to finish. The lodging is always top notch—comfortable, spotless, and designed with a perfect blend of Texas charm and modern convenience. The food is consistently fantastic, with every meal tasting fresh, generous, and clearly prepared with care. The hunting is outstanding every time. The guides are true experts who know the land well, and the dogs are incredibly skilled, making each outing both fun and highly productive. Joshua Creek Ranch remains one of my favorite destinations, and I always look forward to returning. I strongly recommend it to anyone wanting great lodging, great food, and world-class hunting. It’s a place that delivers unforgettable experiences every single visit.”

★★★★★ C.R. | Orvis.com Review

- 
- ★ WORLD-CLASS UPLAND HUNTING AND EUROPEAN-STYLE DRIVEN SHOOTING
 - ★ SPORTING CLAYS, SIMULATED DRIVEN CLAYS, AND HELICE SHOOTING
 - ★ LUXURY LODGING, FINE DINING, RESORT AMENITIES, AND EVENT FACILITIES
 - ★ EASILY ACCESSIBLE DESTINATION. IDEAL CLIMATE FOR WINGSHOOTING

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

Does your business target men as customers?

The Kendall Gentleman is here to help.

thekendallgentleman.com | info@thekendallgentleman.com

830-308-4406



THE KENDALLTM
G E N T L E M A N

ROOTED HERE. STILL SERVING.

Rooted in Texas and Kendall County, Andra Wisian has served this community for more than three decades. A seventh-generation Texan and part of a ranching family, Andra has given her time, talent, and support to Kendall County as a volunteer, board member, and community leader.

She helped spearhead the construction of the Kendall County Youth Agriculture & Equestrian Center — now home to more than 400 4-H, FFA, and junior livestock youth — and later served on a Boerne ISD Bond Oversight Committee, helping ensure voter-approved dollars were used as intended. Through a gubernatorial appointment, she served on the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority board of directors, helping advance responsible management and public understanding of the water and natural resources of the Guadalupe River Basin.

A principled conservative, her service has always been grounded in fiscal responsibility, stewardship, and servant leadership. Today, she continues that same commitment as Kendall County Commissioner for Precinct 2, delivering steady, practical governance rooted in experience, accountability, and deep respect for the community she calls home.

Her priorities remain clear:

- Safeguarding taxpayer dollars
- Backing first responders
- Maintaining law and order
- Managing growth responsibly
- Protecting natural resources
- Improving county mobility



Scan the QR code to visit
www.VoteAndra.com

Kendall County
Commissioner



Re-Elect

Andra
WISIAN

REPUBLICAN



Precinct 2

Serving Kendall County with gratitude and heart.

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