



October 2016 - Newsletter

MISSION

The Texas Hill Country Trail Region will preserve, protect and promote the cultural, historic and natural resources of its 19 counties.

VISION

The Texas Hill Country Trail Region will develop partnerships to protect our heritage and sustain our natural and cultural resources through promotion, preservation, education and tourism.

Tiny Hill Country town plays big role in efforts to save Asian elephants

By Steve Bennett

September 28, 2016



COMFORT — A German Hill Country farming community established in 1854 is not where most of us would seek out elephant figures hand-carved from monkey wood or clothing woven by the hill tribes of Thailand and Vietnam.

So, when Ed and Joey Story opened The Elephant Story — a shop that stocks Asian artisan goods ranging from jewelry to furniture, as well as luxuries like elephant poop coffee (more on that later) — four years ago in downtown Comfort, some folks were left scratching their heads.

“When we first opened, we had one woman come in and ask if this was Republican Party headquarters,” Joey Story recalls in a silky Southern drawl. “I said, ‘Oh, please. I’m a diehard Democrat from Kentucky. My mother would turn over in her grave.’”

Married 31 years, Joey, a vibrant redhead of 65, and her charismatic, 72-year-old husband — a lanky man prone to loud laughter and fond of stingray-skin cowboy boots — owe their retail entrepreneurship to what 16th-century poet John Donne called “nature’s great masterpiece.”

Proceeds from the store benefit organizations involved in elephant conservation, including the Golden Triangle Asian Elephant Foundation.

Read More > <http://www.expressnews.com/lifestyle/article/Tiny-Hill-Country-town-plays-big-role-in-efforts-9392959.php>

Featured October Events in the Texas Hill Country

Comfort

Scarecrow Invasion

October 1st - 31st

830-995-3131

Comfort's residents and business owners go all out and invite hordes of scarecrows who invade our town! Creative, unusual, delightful displays of scarecrows of all sorts and sizes are found in the Historic district of down town, and all around town. Sponsored by the Comfort Chamber of Commerce.



WWW.COMFORT-TEXAS.COM

Burnet

Ft Croghan Day

October 8, 2016

703 Buchanan Drive

512-756-8281

Second Saturday in October from 9 am to 3 pm. See real live blacksmiths, sugar cane made into syrup, bread baked in a wood burning stove, or visit a one-room schoolhouse and "do your lessons" on a slate board.

<http://www.fortcroghan.org>



San Marcos

City Cemetery Tales and Tours

October 22, 2016

1001 Old Ranch Road 12

3 pm to 5 pm

512-392-4295

An informative stroll through the historic San Marcos City Cemetery. Guides will share the stories of the men and women who helped shape our community.



<http://www.toursanmarcos.com/events/outdoors/city-cemetery-tales-and-tours.html>

HILL COUNTRY HAPPENINGS....

The Texas Hill Country Trail Region partners met in July at The Bandera Natural History Museum located at 267 Old San Antonio Rd in Bandera. Our partners were able to take an adventurous tour of The Bandera Natural History Museum designed to explore, experience, educate and enjoy and to inspire awareness and appreciation of the World's Amazing Wildlife. Several of our partners met for a delicious lunch at the 1856 Tavern prior to our meeting which is located not far from the museum on Highway 16!



<http://www.banderanhm.org/>



JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT MEETING....



Texas Hill Country Trail

November Meeting

Thursday, November 17, 2016

1:00 p.m.

Meeting Location:

Details to come!

Cedar Park, TX



Texas Historical Commission Texas Heritage Trails Program Update

Real Places 2016 Heritage Travel Conference:

Thanks again to everyone who attended and/or participated in Real Places 2016 heritage travel conference in June, especially to the executive directors and board members for their efforts in creating regional experiences for the Tuesday evening event, "A Night on the Trails" and for the give-away items! A special shout-out goes to Barbara Brannon for her educational and inspiring presentation on the history of the THTP. We truly appreciate your efforts!

Advertising/Public Relations/Travel Shows:

The THC has secured the same booth and storage space for the 2016 Texas State Fair scheduled to take place September 30 – October 23 in Dallas that the THTP has had in previous years. The THC has paid the \$4,400 booth rental fee up front. If you haven't already done so, please send your \$204 check to the THC by August 31 per Teresa's July 13 email sent to the EDs. As requested, Teresa will forward an inventory of brochures and other marketing materials that the THC supplied to State Fair last year in a spreadsheet format so any adjustments can be made for this year.

WHAT'S COOKING IN THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY?

Helotes Recipe

Yield: 15 Servings

EL CHAPARRAL RESTAURANT FAMOUS BEAN SOUP

1 pound raw pinto beans	1 medium onion, diced
1 gallon water	6 jalapenos, chopped (or to taste)
Salt, to taste	2 tomatoes, chopped
1/4 pound bacon, chopped	1/2 bunch cilantro

Wash beans and pick over to remove any foreign material. Place in a pot with water and bring to boil. Simmer 1 hour, then add salt. Meanwhile, in separate large stockpot, cook bacon until crisp. Add onion, jalapenos, tomatoes and cilantro; cook several minutes until onions and jalapenos are soft. When beans have cooked 1 hour, add them to pot with vegetables. Reduce heat, cover, and simmer soup approximately 1 hour more, or until beans are tender. Taste and add more salt as needed. Soup can be garnished with chopped cilantro if desired.



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