

# THE JOURNAL

*The unofficial newsletter of Wilson County Historical Society*



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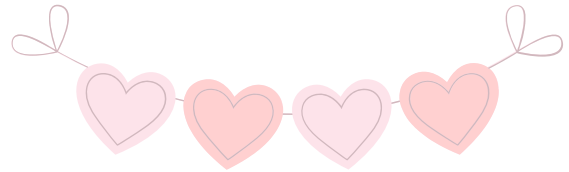
**is in the air!**

There have been tens of thousands of songs over the years about love. Recently Billboard Magazine published the top 50 love songs. The list includes the 1958 hit "To Know Him is to Love Him" #15, "To Sir With Love" #22, Diana Ross's "Love Hangover" #38, and one of my favorites, #42, "I Just Called To Say I Love You" by Stevie Wonder. What is your favorite love song?

## Unique, Worldly Valentine Traditions

### Wales

Wales celebrates St. Dwynwen's Day on January 25 instead of Valentine's Day. Couples exchange carved wooden love spoons, a tradition dating back to the 17th century.



### Denmark

Instead of red roses, Danes exchange pressed white flowers called snowdrops. Men also send humorous poems or rhymes called “gaekkebrev” anonymously, and women try to guess their admirers' identities.

### South Africa

Women participate in an old Roman tradition called **Lupercalia** by pinning the name of their crush or love interest on their sleeve, literally “wearing their heart on their sleeve.”



### Saudi Arabia

In Saudi Arabia, where the holiday is illegal, there is a thriving black market for red roses and heart-shaped chocolates in February.

*Excerpts from “Valentines Day: The Unbelievable History Your Didn’t Know” found on [walksofitaly.com/blog/art&culture](http://walksofitaly.com/blog/art&culture)*

# Floresville Opry Line-Up

*Floresville Opry with Dancing*  
*Feb. 6, 2025 Sean O'Brien*

90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash Feb. 15, 2025 Celebrating the Music of Johnny Bush featuring the Bandolero Band Members by the Justin Trevino Band at the (Floresville Event Center) Doors open 5:30 pm Music 7:00pm to 11:00pm Call #830-391-1062 for reservations

*Mar. 6, 2025 Tony Booth*  
*Apr. 3, 2025 Bobby Marquez*  
*May 1, 2025 Bob Appel*  
*Jun 5, 2025 Gabe Galvan*  
*Jul 3, 2025 Freddy Cruz*  
*Aug. 7, 2025 Wyatt Aleman*

*Information for First Thursday of each Month*  
*Wilson County Expo & Community Center (Show Barn)*  
*435 St Hwy 97 East out of Floresville, Texas*  
*Doors Open @ 5:00 pm—music 6:00-9:15 pm*  
*Info: Viola Henke 830-391-1062*  
*Gen Admission \$15.00 Reserved Table Seats (8) \$100.00*  
*Dinner \$12.00 Concessions Desserts \$2.00*  
*Bring your own adult beverages.*  
*Benefit for the Wilson County Historical Society*



The monthly Opry is a great event but it cannot happen without volunteers. Please consider giving a helping hand. The load gets lighter when others are there to help carry it.



# Celebrating Johnny Bush

## 90TH BIRTHDAY BASH! JOHNNY BUSH

**Celebrating the Life & Music of Johnny Bush**  
February 17, 1935 – October 16, 2020  
*Presented by the Floresville Opry*

**SATURDAY,  
FEBRUARY 15, 2025**

**Floresville Event Center**  
600 State Hwy 97 West  
Floresville, TX 78114  
Doors Open at 5:30 pm  
Live Dance Music from 7–11 pm

**Concessions Available**  
Beer, Wine Coolers, & Setups  
Available at the Bar  
NO ICE CHESTS ALLOWED

Grilled Pork Steak Dinner  
*by Malcher's Catering*  
**\$12.00**  
Desserts - \$2.00

**Silent Auction**  
**\$20 Arm Stretch Drawing**

BENEFIT FOR THE WILSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
FOR INFO OR TO RESERVE A TABLE  
CALL VIOLA 830-391-1062

**RESERVED TABLE**  
8 - \$100 or 10 - \$125

**GENERAL ADMISSION**  
Prepaid \$15.00  
At The Door \$20.00

  
**Here Everything's Better.**

  
**Wilson County News**

  
**OBR**  
 Metal Buildings & Components



Photo by CA Cash, Shot In Texas



Photo by Kimberly Manning Images



Photo by Kimberly Manning Images



**Court of Rooted Legacies**

# FEBRUARY PROGRAM

## Handmade Concrete Gravemarkers in South Texas



Photo by Nancy de la Zerda, WCHS FB page

### *Program Synopsis*

This presentation covers folk/vernacular, concrete, hand-made grave markers I have photographed in over 130 cemeteries in the South, Central Texas region (Bexar and surrounding counties). 16 of these cemeteries are in Wilson County. These markers were made primarily during the first half of the 20th century however, concrete is still being used today. I am currently putting together a database archive of these photos to be accessed online for scholars and interested persons.

Kent says he's not a Cultural Anthropologist, or a Folklorist or a researcher in Material Studies, but an artist, Professor of Art and an appreciator of all things artistic.

The presentation will explore who made these markers, how they were made, reinforced, what forms they take, how they were inscribed and most especially how they were decorated.



# AFRICAN AMERICAN STORY GATHERING DAY

Do you have ancestors that lived in Wilson or Guadalupe Counties?

Do you have stories, photos, keepsakes, memorabilia, or information about friends and relatives that you would like to share?

Would you like to learn more about the Freedom Colonies along the Cibolo Creek?

We are trying to piece together the untold stories of the resilient men, women, and children that lived in the Freedom Colonies along the Cibolo Creek. Come and join us for an day of gathering stories.

**March 1, 2025**

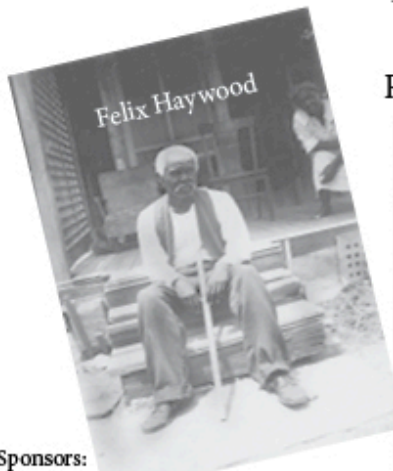
**Haven Oaks Community Bible Church**

10294 FM539, Sutherland Springs, TX 78161

Phone: (830) 900-3186

9:00am-3:00pm

Refreshments Provided



Felix Haywood



Albert Todd



Rev. Bill Green

**Sponsors:**

Sutherland Spring Historical Museum  
La Vernia Historical Association  
Stockdale Museum  
Haven Oaks Baptist Church  
San Antonio African American Community  
Archive and Museum (SAAACAM)

Contact: Melinda Creech  
mjccreech@mac.com

story gathering	9am-3 pm
dinner	12pm-1pm
storytelling hour	1pm-3pm
Polley Plantation visit	10am-3pm

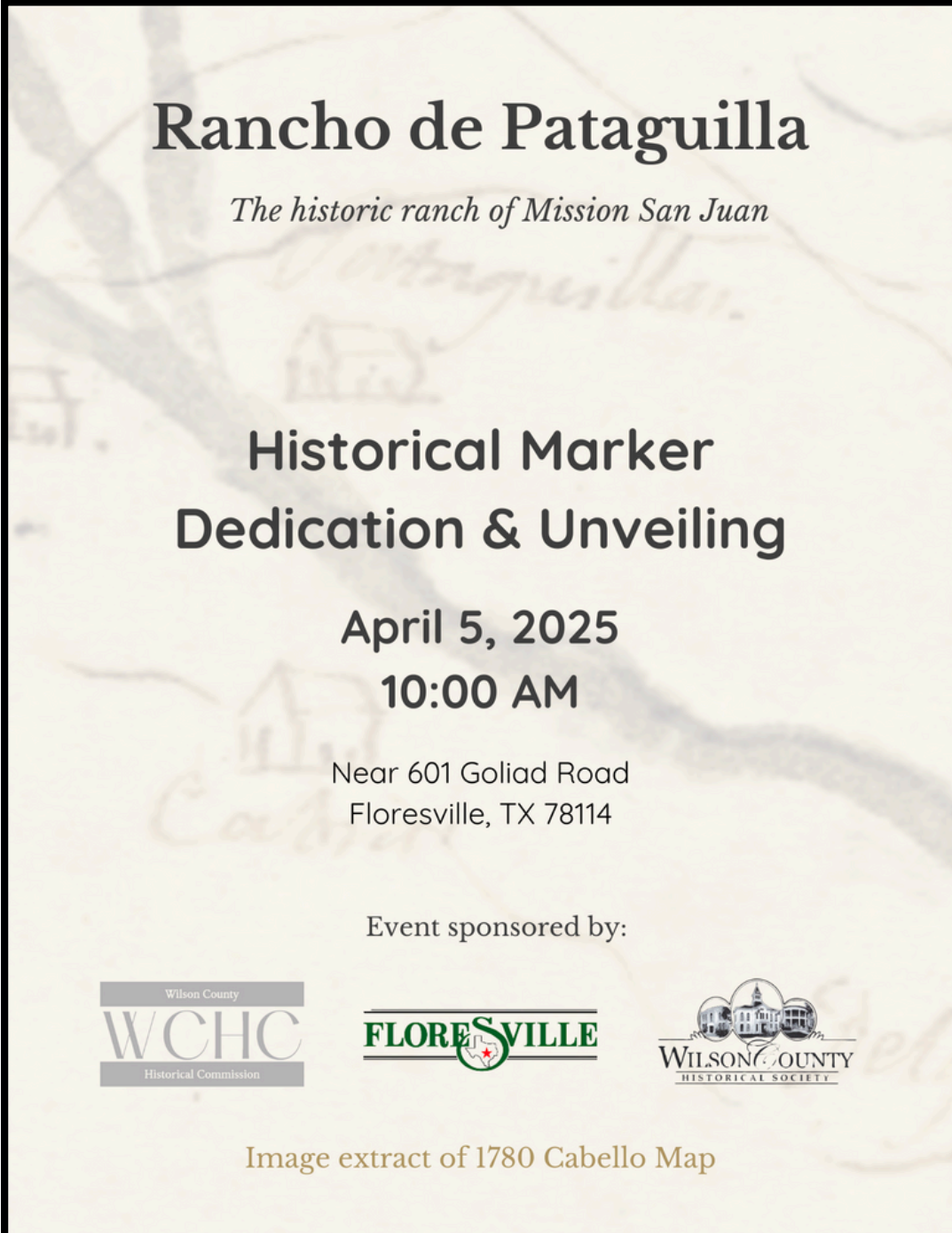
**Contact Melinda Creech at [mjccreech@mac.com](mailto:mjccreech@mac.com)**

## Viola Receives Special Recognition



At the February 6th Floresville Opry, the Historical Society Board, led by President Carol Chitty, bestowed special recognition upon Viola Henke for her extraordinary efforts producing the monthly Floresville Opry. Viola has been producing the Opry for more than fourteen years. Carol said “Your efforts developed a community of Country & Western enthusiasts and lifetime friends.” Carol went on to share the fact that the money raised by the Opry funded most of the Jailhouse Museum renovation; a treasure enjoyed by many.

## Mark Your Calendars & Plan to Attend



**Rancho de Pataguilla**  
*The historic ranch of Mission San Juan*

**Historical Marker  
Dedication & Unveiling**

**April 5, 2025  
10:00 AM**

Near 601 Goliad Road  
Floresville, TX 78114

Event sponsored by:






Image extract of 1780 Cabello Map

**Reception to follow**



## March Field Trip to Panna Maria



**March 20, 2025**

**Day Tour**  
**Polish Heritage Center &**  
**Panna Maria Historical Society**

9:15 AM – Arrive Archives Building  
9:30 AM – Depart  
10:00 AM – Polish Heritage Center Tour  
12:30 PM – Lunch (\*separate charge)  
1:15 PM – Historical Society Shopping & Tour  
2:30 – Depart

***\$10 Admission/Veterans admission waived***

***\*\$10 lunch*** by Polaks:  
Turkey & Swiss sandwich on homemade bread or  
Ham & American cheese sandwich on homemade  
bread w/lettuce, tomato, and pickles;  
Cup of soup, chips, cookie, tea, water, or coffee

***RSVP NLT Feb 25***  
Sign up via email to  
[info@wilsoncountyhistory.org](mailto:info@wilsoncountyhistory.org)  
Provide number attending and contact  
phone number

**Field Trip will replace March meeting**

Be sure to check  
out our Website  
and "like" our  
Facebook page



<https://www.wilsoncountyhistory.org>



[facebook.com/wilsoncountyhistorical society](https://facebook.com/wilsoncountyhistorical%20society)

## Our Website Story Highlight:

Click the link below to read a little history while also perusing our website.

**DIETRICK RICHARD VOGES**