

# 47<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LLANO FIDDLE FEST & OPEN FIDDLE CONTEST



## APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup> & 6<sup>TH</sup> 2025

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The marquee at the Courthouse Square has proven itself a very valuable advertising tool for our members who can reserve it for half the price of non-members.

### MONTHLY CHAMBER BUSINESS-TO-BUSINESS MIXERS!

Another opportunity for our members to socialize and network. A different member hosts this evening each month to welcome new, current, and prospective members of our Chamber. This also provides a venue to ask questions and discuss issues with others and the Chamber Board.

### FREE RIBBON CUTTING AND WELCOME EXPOSURE TO THE COMMUNITY!

We feature you as a new member on the chamber marquee at the Courthouse.

### AND LAST BUT CERTAINLY NOT LEAST...

The Chamber is your advocate to aid in promoting your business and growing your customer base.

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### COMMUNITY CALENDAR!

We keep you up-to-date!

We keep a Community Calendar online and mail out a monthly Constant Contact update of Chamber goings on, so you will know what's happening any time.

### COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD!

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Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is an equal opportunity employer and program provider. The Texas A&M University system, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts Cooperating.





The Organizing Committee welcomes you to Llano County, Texas and the Llano Fiddle Fest weekend. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, whose mission is to enrich and preserve the art and history of Texas-style fiddle music and to benefit local charitable organizations.

We would like to thank all our generous business sponsors and volunteers, the City of Llano, the Llano County Commissioners' Court, the Llano Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center and the many other supporters who make this event possible.

We hope you enjoy your stay in this part of the beautiful Texas Hill Country and we thank you for your support of this festival!

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## Llano Fiddle Fest 2025 Organizing Committee

Tony Guidroz • Marilyn Hale • Patty Kuykendall  
JoAnn McDougall • Bill Tuckness • Claudia Tuckness

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Fiddle Fest 2025*



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all the competitors**

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NMLS # 407849



# 2025 Llano 47th Fiddle Fest Schedule of Events

- FRIDAY, April 4th -

**Evening: Fiddle Jam Session** (exclusive to musicians only)  
To participate, contact wildfiddlinbill@yahoo.com

- SATURDAY, April 5th -

**9:00 – 9:30 AM: Llano Fiddle Fest Beginners Showcase (all ages)**

**9:30 AM – 5:00 PM: 46th Llano Open Fiddle Contest – \$2,000 Grand Prize!**  
*FREE to attend, but DONATIONS gratefully accepted!*

Location: John L. Kuykendall Event Center  
2200 West Ranch Road 152, Llano

**7:30 – 10:30 PM: CONCERT and DANCE!**

(doors open at 6:30 PM – limited seating)

**BILLY MATA & THE TEXAS TRADITION**

VIP Seats: \$30 per ticket

General Admission: \$20 per ticket

Location: John L. Kuykendall Event Center  
2200 West Ranch Road 152, Llano

- SUNDAY, April 6th -

**9:00 – 11:30 AM: Sunday Morning Service**

A little preachin' by Tony Guidroz

**Performance by The Gimbles**

Cowboy brunch

*FREE to attend, but DONATIONS gratefully accepted  
to benefit the Llano County Historical Museum!*

Location: John L. Kuykendall Event Center  
2200 West Ranch Road 152, Llano

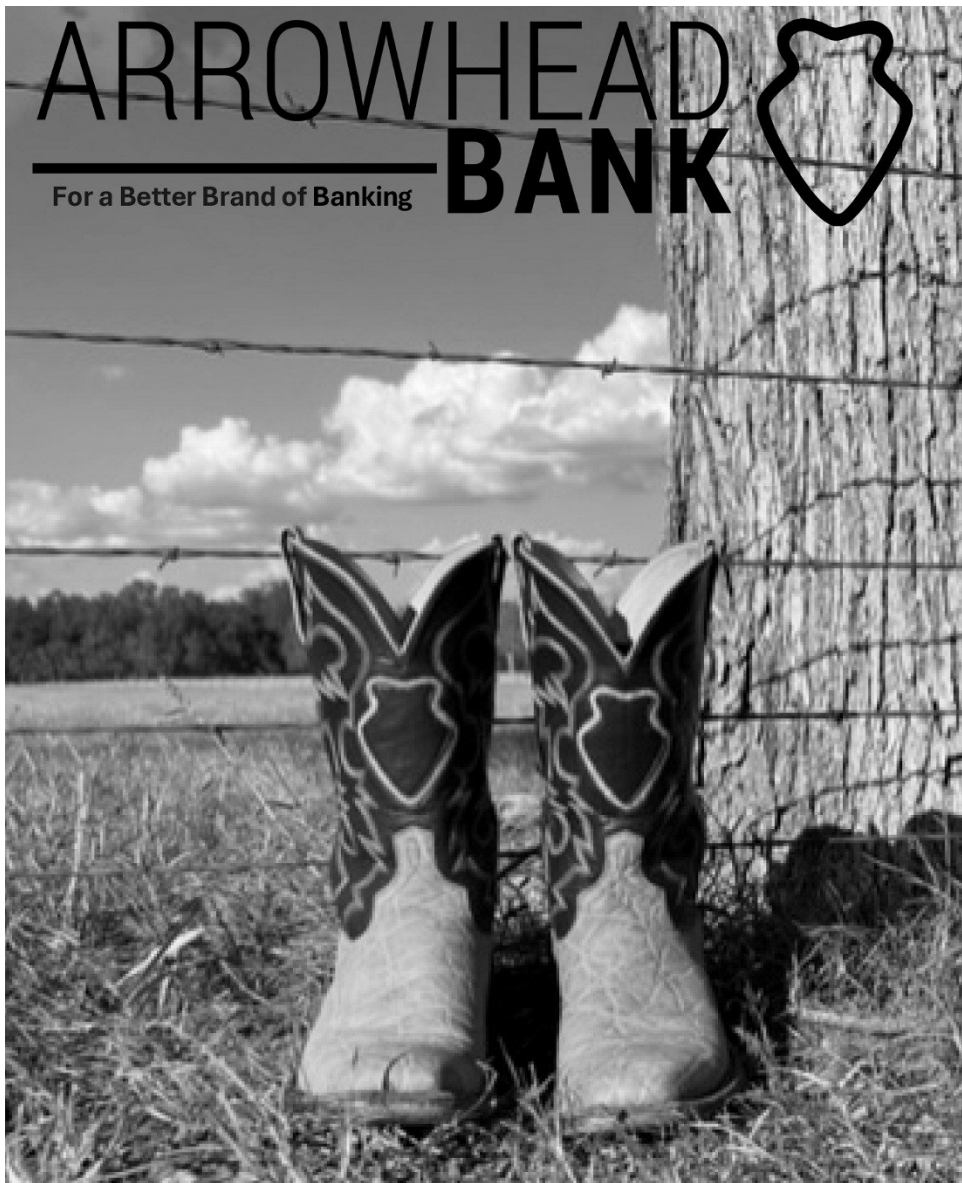
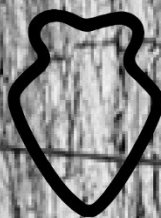
- ONGOING -

Come and see the Llano Fiddle History Exhibit at the Llano County Historical Museum, located at 310 Bessemer Avenue in Llano. The exhibit includes our newest donations from the collection of Hugh Farr. Mr. Farr is known as "The Father of Llano Fiddlers," and played with The Sons of The Pioneers.



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# Llano Open Fiddle Contest

*Saturday, April 5th, 2025*

Registration begins @ 8:30 AM

Competition begins @ 9:30 AM

		Division	
Place	Youth	Legends	Accompanist
1st	\$75	\$250	\$200
2nd	\$50	\$125	\$125
3rd	\$40	\$100	\$80
4th	\$30	\$75	\$50
5th	\$25	\$50	\$45
6th – 30th	\$20		

## Open Division

Grand Champion	\$2,000
1st Runner Up	\$1,500
2nd Runner Up	\$1,000
3rd Runner Up	\$800
4th Runner Up	\$600
6th – 10th Place	\$150
11th – 15th Place	\$100

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## Isaac Carver Memorial Fiddle Award

Isaac, who was known for his big smile and mile-long stories, left us too soon. Isaac had an incredible love of life and lived every moment to the absolute fullest.

Isaac frequently arrived to his fiddle lessons in camo and sleeveless work

shirts, and was able to catch a flying rooster in mid-air. He loved “living off the land,” and would pack the freezer with his successful hunts. Isaac was a hard worker and enjoyed every ounce of the outdoors. His family roots date back to the original German immigrants who settled in Llano.

Music meant a lot to Isaac, and he played for the sheer enjoyment of the fiddle. Anyone who met Isaac immediately loved him.

Llano dearly misses our friend, and we are proud to honor Isaac through this annual Memorial Fiddle Award.



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# THE GIMBLES



The Gimbles consists of the 2nd and 3rd generations of a legendary Texas music family. Dick is the son of the iconic Johnny Gimble. Johnny is considered to have been the finest fiddler to ever play with Bob Wills, the King of Western Swing.

Playing alongside his father for five decades, Dick accessed the kind of musical knowledge and nuance that only such a relationship can impart.

Third-generation Emily has continued the tradition by performing with both men for over two decades, but also by working with her contemporaries to recharge the music.

The Gimbles is a mix of Western Swing, Swing standards from the 30's & 40's, some honky-tonk and country blues, and a healthy sampling of Johnny's own beloved compositions. Emily and Dick perform as a duo, but also in trios with one of Johnny's notable disciples, including such accomplished fiddlers as Wes Westmoreland, Jason Roberts, Randy Elmore, Katie Shore and Warren Hood.

Dick has been a music professor at McLennan College for 39 years, and has conducted hundreds of workshops on swing music: improvisation, rhythm section, record production, etc. With his father, he pioneered the Johnny Gimble Texas Music Camp. Emily has taught vocal workshops at music camps and festivals throughout the country. A residency with The Gimbles could range from such workshops as those above to weeklong, community-wide educational presentations and mini-performances.

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## Fiddle Appreciation at the Llano County Historical Museum

Preserving and interpreting the history of Llano County are among the chief goals of the Llano County Historical Museum, and this includes musical history. Llano County has produced some outstanding fiddlers throughout the years, and a new crop of young fiddlers is in development, as evidenced by the number of young local musicians participating in the Open Fiddle Contest during Llano Fiddle Fest.

Llano Fiddle Fest has partnered with the Llano County Historical Museum for several years to develop a permanent display in the museum,

featuring instruments and biographical sketches of Llano County fiddlers of days past, such as Otis Light, John (JC) Burton, Woodrow Thomas and Eddie McDonald. Also on display are news clippings and memorabilia from past years of Llano Fiddle Fest. In 2022, the collection was honored to add the fiddle of Hugh Farr (1903-1980), who was



Llano County Historical  
**MUSEUM**



**Hugh Farr's Josef Guarnerius  
Fecit Cremonae Anno 1724 IHS Fiddle**

born in Llano County and played with The Sons of the Pioneers from the mid-1930s through 1958.

On Sunday morning, museum volunteers will prepare and serve biscuits, sausage gravy, and all the trimmings for a hearty brunch following a brief church service and music by The Gimbles.

Breakfast is by donation, with proceeds benefitting the Llano County Historical Museum.

Sunday morning's events start at 9:00 AM at the John L. Kuykendall Event Center, located at 2200 West Ranch Road 152 in Llano, and conclude before noon.

The Llano County Historical Museum is located at 310 Bessemer Avenue in Llano. Hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

*- Marilyn Hale*



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# Llano Fiddle Fest

## Legends Division: 65+

1st Place	Brent Young	Anna, TX
2nd Place	Bob Davis	Leakey, TX

## Youth Division: Up to 15

1st Place	Mason Ludiker	Austin, TX
2nd Place	John Steward	Wichita Falls, TX
3rd Place	Austin Herron	Llano, TX
4th Place	Sofia Underwood	Fredericksburg, TX
5th Place	Sterling Swift	Fredericksburg, TX

## Isaac Carver Memorial Fiddle Award

3rd Annual Winner   Cameron Hougham   New Braunfels , TX



# 2024 Contest Winners

## Open Division

Grand Champion	Dennis Ludiker	Austin, TX
1st Runner Up	Carl Hopkins	Porter, TX
2nd Runner Up	Wes Westmoreland	Temple, TX
3rd Runner Up	Monte Gaylord	Nowata, OK
4th Runner Up	Marty Elmore	Bowie, TX
6th Place	Thomas Paskvan	Southlake, TX
7th Place	Tristan Paskvan	South Lake, TX
8th Place	Nathan Pedneault	Fort Worth, TX
9th Place	McKenna Petersen	Fulshear, TX
10th Place	Jason McBride	Bertram, TX
11th Place	Keenan Fletcher	Llano, TX
12th Place	Luke Eggert	Rockwall, TX
13th Place	Clara Mitchell	Grapevine, TX
14th Place	Heidi Labensart	Austin, TX
15th Place	Aimee Petersen	Fulshear, TX

## Accompanist Division

1st Place	Hyatt Hopkins	Porter, TX
2nd Place	Jacob Johnson	Godley, TX
3rd Place	Jason Andrews	Whitewright, TX
4th Place	Nick Gillentine	Graham, TX
5th Place	Marty McPherson	Glen Rose, TX



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# Billy Mata & the Texas Tradition

With over 40 years of music making, Billy Mata & The Texas Tradition bring their authentic Western Swing to dancehalls all across Texas, with true traditional country music. Billy started his recording career in the 1970's, singing Billboard charted, Top 40 Country music. He has been named Academy of Western Artists Western Swing Vocalist of the Year three times, and has received the Academy's Entertainer of the Year Award.



Billy's career started as a featured singer with Tommy Morrell and the Time Warp Top

Hands on Larry Scott's syndicated radio show, The Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium of the Air. That lead to guest appearances with the Texas Playboys, featuring Tommy Allsup and Leon Rausch. From there, Billy was invited to perform at the West Texas Western Swing Festival in Snyder, Texas and following that, at the Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium in Ruidoso, New Mexico, where he is now invited to entertain annually. He has gone on to become the heir apparent to the Bob Wills tradition as the Voice of Western Swing.

True to his Texas heritage, Billy insisted on recording his 1998 album *Keepin' The Tradition: A Tribute to My Heroes* with his own stage band, to properly perform the music he truly prefers: real Bob Wills Western Swing and Traditional Country. His instincts proved true, with the album winning multiple awards and his music getting further radio exposure. By the time his two subsequent albums were released (*Traditionally Yours* in 2004 and *Domino Effect* in 2006), Billy was a radio hit. Billy Mata & The Texas Tradition has

enjoyed regular rotation on SIRIUS/XM's Willie's Roadhouse and worldwide traditional country radio stations.

In 2008 *This is Tommy Duncan, Volume One* was released. The first of a Trilogy Tribute to the "Voice of Western Swing," it includes guest appearances by historic patriarchs /creators of the Western Swing phenomenon. Designed to bring attention back to the Bob Wills vocalist, Tommy Duncan, who lived in the shadow of the king, the album was awarded the 2009 Western Swing Album of the Year by the Academy of Western Artists.

This is *Tommy Duncan, Volume Two*, featuring the years of Tommy Duncan's own band, was released in the Spring of 2011, continuing the Trilogy.

In 2012, just one year after *Volume Two* was released, Billy released *By Request*, a special collection of the most asked for Western Swing and Traditional Country Honky-Tonk Dancehall songs at Billy Mata live performances.

This is *Tommy Duncan, Volume Three* was released in January 2018. This is the final chapter, covering Tommy Duncan's return to Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys. *This Is Tommy Duncan, The Trilogy* is now complete.

Billy Mata and The Texas Tradition's music is not just limited to Texas. The band has performed throughout the United States, Canada and Europe.

The Texas Tradition is a handpicked collection of professional musicians from a wide area of Texas who are gathered together by their common interest in Western swing and the opportunity to play with the best of the best. They play like family. Together, they aren't just another "human jukebox" on the stage. When they play, it's natural and fun. Bob Wills knew how to do this. Tommy Duncan knew it. Billy Mata knows it. The audience gets the reward of it.



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## Special Thanks to:

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Agape Haus Music Studio, Keenan Fletcher, Llano

Jon Austin: program and website

Lyle Dixon: videography

Lynda Gammage, Llano

Tony Guidroz: master of ceremonies, preaching

Llano Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center:  
ticket sales and support

Llano County 4-H Horse Club: concessions

Llano County Historical Society, Inc.: brunch

Chyna Mason: graphics design

Stinger FM

Texas Old Time Fiddlers Association

Westbank String Shop, Austin

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And thanks to all the volunteers  
who have donated their time and talents to make  
Llano Fiddle Fest 2025 the best it can be.

The event's success is due in large part  
to these dedicated friends of Llano Fiddle Fest!

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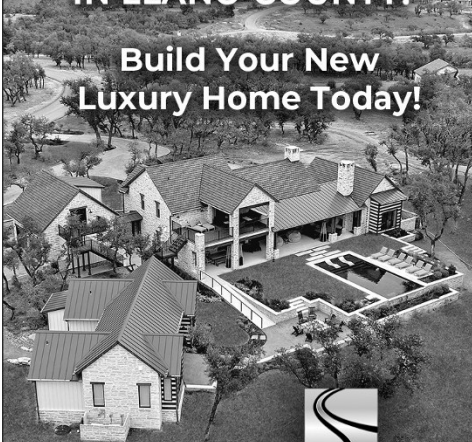
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Good luck to all of the fiddlers!  
I am so proud of each of you! ~ Keenan

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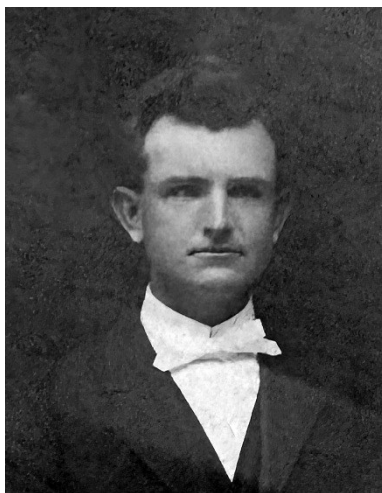
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My maternal grandfather, Joseph Reuben Johnson, was a fiddle player. He was born in Williamson County, Texas; moved with his parents and siblings to Buffalo Gap in Taylor County; and finally moved to the Valley View community in Mitchell County, where he and my grandmother raised two daughters. Some of his siblings also played musical instruments. I was born too late to hear the family band, and I have a vague memory of hearing my grandfather play the fiddle only once. His daughters arranged for some musicians to come to his home to play for him shortly before his passing. I can only imagine how important music was to him and his brothers and sisters, who experienced the hard work

and hard times that were common to farm families. His fiddle occupies a place of honor in my home. — *Marilyn Hale*



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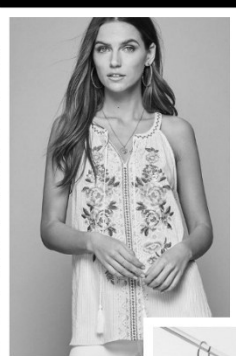
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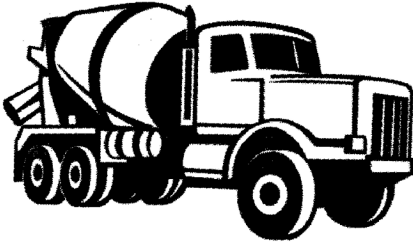
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**Mike Methvin**

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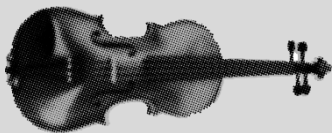
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