

WEST TEXAS REHABILITATION CENTER

ROUND-UP



51st Annual Telethon & Auction featuring Neal McCoy & Runaway June

What kind of impact do you want to make? • Mrs. June Helwig

WTRC Horticulture Therapy • Dr. Anton Melnyk • & More

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LEADERSHIP LETTER BY STEVE MARTIN, PRESIDENT & CEO



Can we all say, "Welcome and so happy to see you, 2021" fast enough!

What a year 2020 was for West Texas Rehabilitation Center, our local communities, our state, and our nation. It was just about one year ago that we all began to hear about COVID-19 or the Coronavirus. As we reflect on 2020, we have all known someone who has been negatively impacted by this deadly disease. West Texas Rehab is certainly no different, as many of our employees, patients or their families have been affected by the virus in some way.

As we turn the calendar to 2021 there is renewed optimism as we are seeing many of our patients and essential healthcare workers have access to the vaccine. We are ready to start distancing ourselves from 2020! As we plan for REHAB 2021, West Texas

Rehab's 51st annual Telethon and auction, and our largest fundraiser, we want to update you on safety precautions in place to ensure Rehab 2021 is safe and successful. For a complete list of COVID-19 safety measures being implemented on the night of the Telethon, please visit our website @ WestTexasRehab.org.

We are excited to have Charlie Chase hosting the Telethon for his 21st year. Headlining our show will be the legendary Neal McCoy, back for his third engagement with West Texas Rehab. Joining him on stage will be CMT's "Next Women of Country" Runaway June, also back for a second time performing at the Telethon. Rion Paige, who has quickly become a Telethon fan favorite and comes from X-Factor fame, will join us again for a fourth year. Jennifer Smith and Braid Blanks will be back to showcase West Texas Rehab's programs, services, and patient stories.

Red Steagall, who recently had COVID, is home and recovering well, but he will be unable to join us. Fortunately, the Boys in the Bunkhouse will be here to play those tunes Red has made famous throughout his amazing career.

Stepping in to pick up Red's hosting duties will be 15-year pro rodeo veteran and 2008 world champion tie-down roper, Stran Smith. Stran qualified for the Wrangler

finals rodeo 11 times and became the national pitchman for Wrangler and Ariat. As you can see, we have a great line up of entertainers. The Telethon can be seen locally on KTAB and KLST and 10 other markets throughout Texas and Oklahoma. It will also be livestreamed from our website, WestTexasRehab.org, throughout the whole country.

Even through the trials of 2020, we can all find blessings and room for optimism as we move forward. I am choosing to focus on our amazing employees who have persevered through some tough times and our patients who continue to count on us, knowing we are the absolute best place for rehab and hospice services. I also think about our wonderful communities and donors who, even when dealing with their own challenges, continue to show up and be counted as folks who support our patients and West Texas Rehab.

Thanks for all you do. We appreciate the kindness you show and the support you provide each and every day!

All our best to you and your families in the year ahead! ★

TABLE of CONTENTS

- 2 Leadership Letter
- 3 Foundation Spotlight
- 5 Patient Spotlight
- 7 Physician Spotlight
- 11 Staff Spotlight
- 12 Donor Spotlight
- 13 Telethon Auction

- 16 Hospice Spotlight
- 18 Calendar of Events
- 20 Equipment Wishlist
- 22 Employer Spotlight
- 23 Telethon Spotlight
- 26 Donor Spotlight

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On the Cover

"Just because you're 90 years old doesn't mean life stops!
I'm just getting started!"
Read the article on PG. 5



FOUNDATION SPOTLIGHT BY CHUCK RODGERS, VP DEVELOPMENT, WTRC FOUNDATION

What kind of **IMPACT** do you want to make?

Transformational Impact

In your family?
Your community?
Our world?

That's an interesting question that we don't really start asking until a little later in life, at least I didn't. But, after the loss of family, friends, and an incident on I-20 where I truly thought I was a goner, I have asked myself that question. I've also asked others I know well and for whom I care deeply (*if you're reading this, that includes YOU!*). I ask it because I've come to understand that this is the question which speaks to the very heart of what we in the Rehab Foundation are all about. It's also what I believe those of us that have discovered the amazing benefits of giving are all about. Giving has such emotional, psychological, spiritual and even physiological benefits to us; and by the way, it changes our world for the better—and for the patients at West Texas Rehab, it changes the very trajectory of their lives!

Now, please understand that our job, first-and-foremost, is to raise funds for West Texas Rehab Center and the Rehab Center Foundation, period. We do that in many ways, probably most importantly by "asking the question." However, we also personally give to other charities and helping organizations in our communities.

Chances are you do, too. Because the fact is this: No one charity does everything; and our communities need *everything*.

Now, it's also a fact that some charities may not push or advertise the many estate planning tools available to donors as much as we do at the Rehab. That could be for a number of reasons, the most common of which are from a lack of time or a lack of staff that are knowledgeable in this arena. But, as I said, that is not the case at West Texas Rehab. There are four of us in the Foundation office who would like nothing more than to sit down with you and hear all the ways you'd like to impact your world, even if West Texas Rehab may not be in your plans. Just like how our patients come first with our therapists, you come first with us!

So, how do you answer that question? Why is it that so many of us don't like talking about it because we say, "I don't like talking about dying"? I'll let you in on a little secret: visiting with someone and answering that question is one of the most freeing and enjoyable things you can do! Seriously! You get to dream and learn about all the ways you can:

- Make sure your family is cared for at a level you want and are capable of providing
- Make possibly the most significant and transformational impact on the charity or charities you love
- Make some of those transformational impacts while you're still living, so then you

can see firsthand all the good you've helped accomplish (*you won't believe all of the estate planning tools you may have at your disposal - that is if you know what they are.*) Guess what? We know what they are and can help you discover the way, or possibly several ways, to accomplish your goals.)

- Make the process and costs of handling your passing easy and inexpensive for your family and..
- Make sure that most, if not all, of your estate is distributed where you desire, and NOT to the IRS!

Come on by and let us help point you in the right direction—the direction that leads you right toward making the impact of a lifetime..and for many years to come! ★

NEXT STEPS

Contact Rodger Kennedy at (325) 793-5424 or rkennedy@wtrc.com, or any of our Foundation officers to talk about supporting West Texas Rehab.

Chad Hirt at (325) 277-0442
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Chuck Rodgers at (325) 669-4139
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Jason Weaver at (806) 420-0771
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Audiology



JUNE

Mrs. June Helwig

“Just because you’re 90 years old doesn’t mean life stops!” Mrs. June Helwig made that perfectly clear when I talked with her recently during her therapy session at West Texas Rehabilitation Center. “I’m just getting started!” she explains.

We first started seeing Mrs. Helwig in June of 2020 for weakness in her knees, says her physical therapist, Cevan Smithson, DPT. “When she first came to me she was a high fall risk. It took her 29 seconds to stand up from sitting position 5 times, and 5 seconds to walk 4 meters. In my eyes, she was very deconditioned. So we went to work!” Cevan states.

They utilized the ZeroG Balance system in the beginning. The ZeroG Gait and Balance System protects patients from falls while providing dynamic body weight support as patients practice walking, balance tasks, and sit to stand maneuvers. Because

the ZeroG is mounted to an overhead track, there are no barriers between the patient and the therapist. “June quickly improved and we moved our sessions into the gym, Cevan says. She never gave up, never complained, and she is one of the hardest workers I’ve ever met”.

“I felt like I lost 10 years of my life being isolated at home through this pandemic, June reflects. I was afraid to leave the house and I got very weak. Cevan and the care I received at West Texas Rehab gave me back those 10 years and gave me more years to live! I walk a mile every day and I faithfully come for my therapy sessions. I have a very busy social life of church, family and my weekly trips to the hair salon. I don’t have time to be down with pain.”

“June has put in the work and is remarkable!” Cevan explains. “She is faithful about coming to treatment. She can now sit to stand 5 times in 9 seconds and can walk 4 meters in 4 seconds. The number one risk of falls

is the actual fear of falling. We have worked hard to get her stronger and keep those fears at bay.”

June grew up in Miles, Texas on a farm and states we were a ‘family of girls.’ Farm living was all she ever knew and when she married, her husband ran the cotton gin in Mereta for 41 years. They raised two children. June, now widowed, lives at home and remains very independent. “I see friends of mine that just give up, but I get up every morning and thank God and West Texas Rehab that I am pain free!”

I think we can all take some lessons from Mrs. June Helwig. She, at the young age of 90, has conquered her fear of falling and states she is more confident and stronger than ever! And what else would you expect from a farm girl from Miles, Texas? ★



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Dr. Anton Melnyk

There is one thing we don't lack here in West Texas—that is access to quality healthcare. The ability for patients to stay close to home while facing some of the most challenging times in their lives is important. Dr. Anton Melnyk, specializing in hematology and medical oncology, has been instrumental in putting West Texas on the map for research when it comes to cancer. He has worked tirelessly to develop West Texas as a region in order to offer patients national-level clinical trials and treatments without ever leaving the area. We have him to thank.

Dr. Melnyk isn't originally from Abilene, but we think it's safe to say that we claim him as an Abilenian. Dr. Melnyk is from Canada and graduated from medical school at the University of Alberta in 1988. He completed his residency and internship in general practice at Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary, Canada. He saw it all—from general practice to delivering babies. In 1993, he called his mentor, whom he had throughout medical school, and said he wanted more. He was not sure about choosing between nephrology and oncology, but he chose oncology and went on to complete his fellowship at M.D. Anderson in 1996. Dr. Melnyk was recognized as chief resident

during his last year. He taught and mentored the others in the class, which doesn't come as a surprise.

In 1996, he was offered an opportunity to move to Abilene, Texas, and work with Texas Oncology. He was seeking a place that would allow him to see everything from A to Z, as he likes to say, and that he has. He has been with Texas Oncology ever since. When asked what brought him to Abilene, he rephrased it

to "what has kept me in Abilene". The answer is simple: his lovely wife, Kim Melnyk, who currently serves on the West Texas Rehabilitation Center board. She, too, is very involved in the community and gives of her time and experience where and when she can. To say that the both of them are quite the couple is putting it lightly. Dr. Melnyk and Kim raised their three daughters and they now have two grandchildren. Between his very busy practice and her community volunteering, they still find time to enjoy the outdoors and have traveled to many countries, including Africa, for mission work.

Over the past few years, Dr. Melnyk has stepped out of this comfort zone in order to raise funds for local nonprofits in town: from performing the tango with Dancing With the Abilene Stars to impersonating Elvis for Beltin' It Out for the Boys. We almost think there isn't anything that he can't do.

Although some of these recent activities may have been out of his everyday realm, that hasn't stopped him from being a front-runner when it comes to cancer treatment here in West Texas. The biggest change that he has seen with his own patients is in the evolution of medicine. Things are getting better for the patients.

He remembers seeing 100 patients in one weekend at the hospital, and now his typical weekend rounding is about 20 patients. "We are seeing fewer in-patient stays which means that the patients remain healthier. We do a lot of clinical research and trials here in Abilene that people don't realize. We are part of U.S. Oncology, not just Texas Oncology, and this enables us to work on a bigger scale and have access to clinical trials for our patients right here in Abilene. People don't have to leave to go to Houston or the Metroplex to receive that type of treatment," said Dr. Melnyk.

The tagline is "Cancer Care Close to Home", and they are really able to deliver that to people in the Big Country.

When asked what his philosophy of care is, Dr. Melnyk said, "It's pretty simple. It's care. We care for the patient no matter what." Maybe that is the common thread between Dr. Melnyk and West Texas Rehabilitation Center. We care for our patients no matter what, regardless of their financial circumstance.

"When it comes to caring, I believe the folks at Hospice of the Big Country really do care. I know the people who work there have worked on cancer floors and have been with hospice for years. I've known Dr. Dawson for years, and he cares for his patients, and he's a wonderful physician. Hospice of the Big Country has a good record of caring, and all of my patients have been very pleased with their services," stated Dr. Melnyk. "Not only do I utilize their hospice services, but I also utilize them for their audiology and prosthetics departments. Sometimes our patients will need a referral to get their hearing checked or there have been some cases where we need a prosthesis and they are always there to help. It's nice to have all of the services under one roof," said Dr. Melnyk.

We are so fortunate to have quality healthcare services right here in the Big Country. From the latest advancements in therapy to exceptional hospice care, our services, combined with the incomparable care provided by physicians like Dr. Anton Melnyk, make quality healthcare accessible for those in Abilene and the surrounding communities. ★

IF THIS DIRT COULD TALK



As a ranch broker, we have seen a lot of dirt over the years.

Every property has something unique. The views - of course - are always a sight to take in. But what amazes us is the realization that only a handful of people have stirred up the dirt and taken in the views of the property because, it has been in the same family for over a hundred years, or owned by only a handful of owners.

Regardless, the number of people who have crossed the property line isn't in the hundreds or thousands, it's probably just a couple dozen.

Beyond that though, are the stories each property holds from those few dozen's adventures. From tall tales of the old west to cowboy stories and hunting legends, the stories are what really make a property a special place.

It is our privilege to hear those stories from landowners. In an effort, to make sure all those stories are never forgotten we started the "If

This Dirt Could Talk" video series. We hope we do the stories justice and are grateful to the families and individuals who have graciously entrusted their stories to us.

Our first ten episodes are from Stonewall County, Texas on the J.D. Patterson Ranch. Butch Nuding, a fourth-generation rancher, shares stories from his time on the ranch and how the ranch came to be.

We feature even more stories and tales from West Texas, beyond the Patterson Ranch. Other ranches, landmarks and individuals are also highlighted in the series.

The series lives on our website ekdahlrealestate.net. You can also visit any of our social media accounts to check them out.

We recommend liking or following the pages to never miss an episode. Tune in to be a part of our mission of making sure these stories are never forgotten.

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Horticultural Therapy



Horticultural Therapy at West Texas Rehabilitation Center

In the pediatric department at West Texas Rehabilitation Center we have recently sought to make nature and horticulture an integral part of our services. There is no denying the avid technology use and engagement seen in the pediatric population of today. As wonderful as technology is, we have also observed secondary effects of increased technology use including more time spent indoors, and less time spent outdoors exploring what nature has to offer. We as a department have sought to make sure children do not lose the wonderment

and therapeutic benefits nature has to offer. One of the benefits nature has to offer is the aspect of Therapeutic Horticulture or Horticultural Therapy.



Horticultural Therapy (HT) is engagement of a person in gardening or plant based activities to achieve specific therapeutic goals. Our Horticultural Therapy program uses these activities to improve physical, cognitive, language, and psychosocial well being of our patients. In our pediatric department the goals in our garden may look like: walking to and around our garden beds,

balancing while watering, attending to and completing a garden task, being able to handle tools and plant



materials with hands, organizing thoughts and language to talk about plant and garden elements, or cooperating with peers to complete a garden activity. Our main area of activity is centered around our outdoor garden space by our pediatric playground. We have four garden beds of various levels, and depending on the season, we grow things like squash, cucumbers, cantaloupes, tomatoes, okra, sunflowers, and a pediatric favorite - pumpkins! The children participate in all aspects

of planting, watering, weeding, and harvesting. When not working directly in the garden, our Occupation Therapists, Physical Therapists, and Speech-Language Pathologists are utilizing planned HT projects to target goals such as potting flowers, harvesting seeds, and arranging wreaths to keep or gift to others. It is noted our garden is not 'all work and no play'. Many times children are taken to our garden to just see, touch, smell, and play with toys. Our social group participants have been

known to utilize materials and critters found in our garden for play. Families are encouraged to use and enjoy the space, as being in nature and around plant elements can have a grounding effect on their emotions. One of our social group participants said it best when asked how he felt after working hard with friends to weed our tomato garden - "I feel different, and it's good". ★

51st annual

Just a few of our fantastic auction items currently available!

West Texas Rehabilitation Center's 51st Annual Telethon & Auction

How to place a bid via Handbid:

- 1** Download the **HANDBID APP** or visit **HANDBID.com**

- 2** Tap **'Get Started' & Create an Account**
Enter your user info & Handbid will text you a PIN#. Enter the PIN# & click the link in the text.
- 3** Select **'REHAB 2021'** from auction list
Swipe LEFT to enter the auction & accept notifications. In the APP swipe left/right to access items.
- 4** Set your max bid
Select 'MAX BID' & enter the max amount you're willing to spend. Handbid will automatically bid for you, up to that price.
- 5** Monitor your 'Dashboard'
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Betty Rose's Crawfish Boil for 30



Chisos Boots



Dry Cleaning & Laundry - A Town Cleaners



Girls Night Out - The Arrangement



51st annual

Just a few of our fantastic auction items currently available!

West Texas Rehabilitation Center's 51st Annual Telethon & Auction



Guided Duck Hunt for two (2)



Kids 6 Month Membership - Premier Martial Arts

Lift Master Garage Door Opener - Veterans Garage Door



Lytle Land & Cattle - Rib Eye Steak Dinner for 15



HOSPICE SPOTLIGHT

Construction on the new Stephens Family Center for Hospice Excellence is finishing up!

We are hoping to be finished with this project in March, 2021.

Thank you to all the donors who made this project possible! ★



Stephens
Family Center
for Hospice Excellence

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CALENDAR of EVENTS ABILENE DATES, KARLA @ 325.793.3507 / SAN ANGELO DATES, BERKELEY @ 325.223.6313

Date	Event
January 2021 23rd	Rehab 2021 Telethon/Auction – Abilene Convention Center, 6pm
February 1st-28th	Hearts Remembered – Hospice of the Big Country – Mall of Abilene
April 8th 9th-10th 29th	“Make A Break” & Crawfish Boil – 3 -11pm – Abilene Clay Sports Top Gun Sporting Clay Shoot by Capital Farm Credit – Abilene Clay Sports 3rd Annual Dancing with the San Angelo Stars – San Angelo
May 4th 16th (tentative) TBD TBD TBD	San Angelo Gives Spring Chicken Affair C.A.S.T. – Fort Phantom Lake – Abilene Legacy of Love, San Angelo Legacy of Love, Abilene
June 1st - 3rd 8th - 10th 15th 29th TBD	Camp REHAB - Abilene San Angelo Day Camp Lamb & Goat Sale: Wylie Ag Barn Stamford Art Show Preview Party, Stamford HOBC Butterfly Release @ 11:00 - Nelson Festival Garden
August TBD TBD	REHAB Summer Dinner Show, Abilene Civic Center, 6:45pm Round-Up Kick-off BBQ – Fort Chadbourne, 6pm
September 3rd 9th 11th 14th 16th 18th 24th TBD TBD	Round-Up Lunch Ballinger, First National Bank of Ballinger, 11:30am Round-Up Supper Christoval/Eldorado, Bar H Ranch (Helmers), 6pm Goat Roper's Gala - Ozona Round-Up Sale – Abilene Auction- 11a.m. Round-Up for Rehab Producer's Sale Frank Caraway Sporting Clays Classic, San Angelo, Claybird Association, 9am Rehab's HOBC Golf Tournament – Fairway Oaks Golf course Abilene Round-Up Sale - San Angelo, Producers CAST for Kids- Twin Buttes Reservoir - San Angelo
October 1st 4th 6th 7th 12th TBD TBD TBD	Round Up Cotton Project Pig Sale – Wylie Ag Barn Round-Up Coleman Sale Round-Up Dudley Brothers Bull Sale Round-Up Powell Bull Sale R.A. Brown Bull Sale – Throckmorton Round-Up Stephenville Fall Rehab Dinner Show – San Angelo
November 2nd 5th 12th	Round-Up Sweetwater Shrimp Peel – Nolan County Annex Hospice of the Big Country Candlelight Memorial Service, Logsdon Chapel HSU, 6:30 pm Quilt & Afghan Brunch, WTRC, 10:30 am San Angelo
December 11th 11th TBD TBD	Round-Up Danny Isbell Memorial Rehab Jackpot Show, Wylie Ag Barn Round-Up Big Country Christmas Ball, Coliseum Snyder HOSA Candlelight @ 6:00 pm. – Emmanuel Episcopal Church HOSA Light Up a Life @ 6:00pm - Cactus Hotel Lobby
January 2022 22nd	Rehab 2022 Telethon/Auction – Abilene Convention Center, 6pm

TBD: To Be Decided. Due to COVID-19, all dates are subject to change. Please check our website at WestTexasRehab.org for all updates.





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EQUIPMENT WISHLIST

Description	Quote
Vital Signs Monitoring System:	\$2,430
Green house and supplies for Horticulture Therapy Program:	\$2,357
Elliptical Trainer:	\$2,520
Kaye Chairs:	\$1,376
OCCCUPRO FCE Software:	\$13,225
Fitness Equipment for Pacesetters Program:	\$17,500
Stereo Optical Vision Screener:	\$7,225
Pedi therapy equipment, marble panel, cube chairs:	\$2,630
3 - Pediatric Therapy Swings:	\$1,965
Matrix Climbmill:	\$4,118
8 - High/Low Treatment Tables:	\$13,960
3 - Med Rx Avand REM Hearing Verification system:	\$16,291
HydraTherm Moist Heat Pack System:	\$2,410
Oaktree Pneumatic Exam Chair:	\$3,100
New solid surface counter tops, 2 solid surface sinks and faucets for O&P cast room:	\$4,000
Powered parallel bars:	\$4,850
Outdoor magnet wall:	\$1,225
SCIFIT Pro Upper Body Exercise Bike:	\$5,300
Fiber optic ceiling tiles for sensory room:	\$867
Hip trac independent long axis hip traction:	\$895
Going on a bear hunt sensory equipment:	\$1,500
Activity tower for sensory gym:	\$2,000
Bloodflow Restriction System:	\$4,995
Biodex Balance System for Vestibular Treatment:	\$15,330
TKO Hyperextension Bench:	\$649

To donate a piece of equipment from this wishlist, visit: westtexasrehab.org/general-donation/wish-list-equipment



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EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT



Taylor Electric Cooperative

"I love working with West Texas Rehab for our drug screening and randomizing services. They are very responsive to our needs and are extremely pleasant to work with," states Jyl Schoen, Human Resource Manager at Taylor Electric Cooperative.

Partners since 2003, West Texas Rehab is Taylor Electric Cooperative's (EC) resource for employee screenings. Rehab is always flexible with scheduling, on-site screenings, and walk-in testing. Their professional staff delivers information promptly which aids Taylor EC's return-to-work and pre-hire processes.

West Texas Rehab assists Taylor EC with compliance maintenance by remaining up to date on the ever-changing Department of Transportation (DOT) and Commercial Driver's License (CDL) laws.

They also go above and beyond for their clients; for example, an instance arose when screening was needed for an employee who was out of town. Rehab went the extra mile to assist us by helping coordinate external labs and billing which demonstrates their excellent level of care. ★



2021 TELETHON & AUCTION



Neal
McCoy

Neal McCoy

Neal McCoy has released fifteen studio albums. In 1993, Neal McCoy broke through with the back-to-back number 1 singles *No Doubt About It* and *Wink* from his platinum-certified album *No Doubt About It*. His commercial success continued into the late 1990s with two more platinum albums and a gold album, as well as six more Top Ten hits. A seventh Top Ten hit, *Billy's Got His Beer Goggles On*, came in 2005 from his self-released *That's Life*.

A new studio album, *XII*, arrived in 2012 Co Produced by Blake Shelton & Miranda Lambert. In 2013 he released *Pride: A Tribute to Charley Pride*, Neal's longtime friend and

mentor. 2015 brought the Big Band Standards CD *You Don't Know Me*. 2017 brought Neal McCoy's Favorite Hit's. 10 Hits with 2 new songs.

Neal has been on 17 USO Tours around the world and continues to say it's one of the achievements he's most proud of. He is also the recipient of multiple Humanitarian awards from *The Academy of*



2021 TELETHON & AUCTION

Country Music, The Country Radio Broadcasters and The Masonic Grand Lodge. In 2016 Neal again has made a move to continue his patriotic values by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance "Live" on his Facebook page every morning. He's reached millions of viewers all over the country and around the world. Currently he is closing in on 2,000 days in a row and going strong. Neal still maintains a very

busy touring schedule all through the year. Make sure to catch a show when he's near because Neal says "No two shows are the same!"

Neal also supports his own charity organization, *East Texas Angel Network*, which is committed to the enhancement of the lives of children of East Texas who are living with terminal or life-threatening diseases. He hosts a

yearly golf tournament, auction/ dinner & concert over two days in the Fall.

The foundation has been going strong since 1995 and to date has raised over 9 million dollars for approximately 500 hundred East Texas families. ★



REHAB2021



Runaway June

There's a sound that hasn't been heard on Country radio in quite some time – the sound of organic, three-part female harmonies, ringing strings and stories that speak the language of modern women everywhere. It's a sound that was the backbone of a little group known as The Dixie Chicks, and now it's making a comeback through a vocal trio named Runaway June.

Rootsy, brightly colored and mixing bluegrass tradition with dusty desert cool, Runaway June is comprised of three all-American women from different walks of life who have all “runaway” to chase the all-American dream. Though still being relatively new, the trio has already accomplished many feats that some artists never attain in their lifetimes. This past year Runaway June marked the first time a female trio or group has broken into the top five

on the Mediabase Country chart since the Dixie Chicks in 2003 with their breakout single “Buy My Own Drinks.” This song cemented their presence and proved their perseverance to spread this light-hearted anthem of independence.

Naomi Cooke grew up in Florida enchanted with the other-worldly vocals of Alison Krauss, then made her way to a stage in Nashville's world-famous Tootsie's Orchid Lounge. Singer/guitarist Jennifer Wayne – a California Native – is a Garth Brooks lover so dedicated to country music she gave up a pro tennis career to write songs in Nashville (“She Don't Love You” by Eric Paslay), and happens to be the granddaughter of Hollywood legend John Wayne. Singer/fiddle player/guitarist Natalie Stovall grew up close to Music City in a town called Columbia, Tennessee. She started her career at the ripe age of four years old playing fiddle in the Opryland Kids Club and made her first Opry debut at age 12. Needless to say, this Berklee College of Music grad has always had music and drive in her blood.

All from different backgrounds, but with the same passion, they all separately decided Nashville is where they want to be, and their paths led them to Runaway June. Their name is an ode to their separate histories and their mutual bonds. They each felt pulled to “run away” from their homes and toward their dreams, to find themselves part of something bigger. As for “June,” both Jennifer's grandmother and one of Naomi's sisters are named June, a strong symbol of the family the trio has become.

Signed to Wheelhouse Records, an imprint of BBR Music Group, the first thing listeners will notice is the trio's obvious musical connection, and their stunning three-part harmonies – natural and effortless in feel. Just as impressive is their musicianship, a modern twist on a way-back sound that sets Runaway June apart from the pack as a true, self-contained band. Indeed, as strong women who are not afraid to take risks in achieving their goals, empowerment is a recurring theme for Runaway June – and not just female empowerment. “We want to be inclusive,” says Naomi. “We want to sing to everybody, so we steer away from being super negative to either gender.”

In a time when female voices have been squeezed into a few narrow categories at Country radio – the bad girls, the good girls, the crusaders – Runaway June want to break the mold. They know women's lives are far more diverse, and even though their sound is rooted in the timeless, their stories are very much of the here and now. So, in true fashion of The Dixie Chicks, they are here to break ground and pave the way for a new generation of the dreamers and the doers. ★



Senter Family

If you've lived in Abilene even just a few months, then you've seen the name “Senter.” It's everywhere, and for good reason: having your name “out there” is exactly what you do in the real estate business. And few do it, and have done it, better than the Senters and Senter Realtors!

The patriarch and matriarch of the family, Bill and Lila Senter, arrived in Abilene in 1956, only several years after the beginning of the Taylor County Society for Crippled Children, which became West Texas Rehabilitation Center. Naturally, the Senters, like so many people in Abilene, supported the start of the fledgling mission of helping kids, and soon adults, with all of the rehabilitation services they needed, regardless of their ability to pay. But things would really begin in

earnest for the Senter involvement with the Rehab when Bill and Lila's oldest, Scott, came along!

Scott recalls his first “job” with the Rehab was in the early 80's when he and a group of Jaycees would handle the transportation of folks for Telethon. Scott, Tom Headstream, and the other Jaycees had more fun hauling the different celebrities back and forth from the hotel to the Abilene Civic Center (now the Abilene Convention Center)! Imagine being a young man and getting to chauffeur Pat Boone, Rosemary Clooney, The Judd's and a young Reba McEntire!

So, when it came time for Scott to take over for his dad at Senter Realtors, the idea of being a part of the burgeoning West Texas Rehab was an ideal fit! And since some of Scott's fondest memories

were of the Telethon, and companies are always looking for great ways to get their business' name in front of lots of people, it was the perfect place to support in a way that would benefit his business AND the Rehab! Since 2004, Senter Realtors has generously sponsored some aspect of the Telethon, and we at the Rehab couldn't be more proud to have them on our team!

That's not all, though! Scott's younger brother, Steve, is a partner/owner at CBS Insurance, and he and his other partners are also a big part of West Texas Rehab, supporting at nearly every event we have. Whether it's the Dinner Show, Clay Shoot, Golf Tournament, you'll find Steve and the other CBS Insurance partners and agents out there supporting this worthy cause.

But, if you really want to know the “why” of the Senter family's support of West Texas Rehab, all you have to do is ask them and they'll tell you: “We have personally benefitted from the Rehab's incredible therapists!” Whether it's Michelle, Scott's wife, and the continued physical and occupational therapies she receives; or their son, Shawn and how much the Rehab's speech pathologists did for him when he was a kid; or Steve, and the rehab he received on his shoulder, this family loves West Texas Rehab, and you know what else? West Texas Rehab loves the Senters!

Thank you, Senter Family, from the bottom of our hearts!

The Horticulture Program at West Texas Rehab allows our pediatric patients tremendous therapy results in a non-traditional setting.



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