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HOME GROWN RYAN WILCOX AND THE SUNDAY SHAKES

BY KRISTA ALLEN

It takes an exceptional talent to find your calling in life. Ryan Wilcox and The Sunday Shakes have discovered their unique sound in being completely original. Ryan Wilcox, Ricky Harris, and Josh Banks are the well-known band members. Last Saturday night at Coffee and Cocktails, Wilcox and his band shared their sound with Mineral Wells to celebrate band member Ricky Harris's Birthday.

Ryan Wilcox has always had a love for music. For Wilcox, it became second nature, almost as simple as breathing. His favorite toys growing up were always

instruments. He got his first guitar from his grandfather when he was seven years old. He became serious about music when he was twelve years old. It was also around this time that he started to write his music. He followed his

"I feel more comfortable on stage in front of a bunch of people" ... "That is where I feel like I'm supposed to be."-Ryan Wilcox

dream into adulthood by making himself a professional musician at the age of twenty-one. Growing up, some of the icons that influenced Wilcox were ZZ Top and Stevie Ray Vaughan. The band gets

together regularly to work on their music, but they are not going for a specific sound or genre. It makes them happy just to be themselves. Wilcox notes, "None of us try to be anything. We get together and start playing music and whatever

comes comes. Whatever comes out is what we play, and we mesh pretty well. We all have a wide variety of music that we listen to; every bit of it comes out." The band plays all original songs,

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Bennett's Office Supply: Business through the Decades

WRITTEN BY MAKENZIE PLUSNICK
Over 50 years after opening, Bennett's Office Supply & Equipment owners Brian and Annette Bennett are dedicated to keeping up exceptional customer service and doing things the old-fashioned way. Brian's father, Bill, learned the...
(cont. pg 3)



HOME GROWN RYAN WILCOX AND THE SUNDAY SHAKES (CONT.)

It really seems to connect with people. Wilcox says what makes them unique is, "My style of playing the general dark and morose nature of the song's lyrics."

Drawing a crowd is a big part of being a successful musician, but Wilcox's stage presents become very natural. "I feel more comfortable on stage in front of a bunch of people" ... "That is where I feel like I'm supposed to be." ... "confidence on stage is key."

Adapting to the new Covid-19 restrictions has made things more challenging for the band, but it has not prevented them from continuing their craft. "To get through all of this limited capacity type stuff that we are dealing with right now. Last week we tracked five new songs, and we're gonna start releasing some new singles. We have four full-length studio albums out already and one live album. We plan on releasing another live album that we recorded this year. This year we are just going to start pushing out some more music."

Currently, the band is signed with Rift Records and has close to 2

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million streams for their hit songs Mexican Wind and Lovers and Thieves. They are played regularly on The Ranch radio station. The group also has another band with Kolton Moore, and they have close to 10 million streams with that band.

Wilcox was born and raised in Mineral Wells, as well as all the members of the band. He moved around to several other places, such as Arizona and Fort Worth, but home is where he wanted to be. He enjoys being close to his family, loved ones, and the community here in Mineral Wells. This town is also centrally located to all the places he enjoys performing, for instance, Austin, Fort Worth,

Stephenville, and Oklahoma. He is especially enthusiastic about all the work being done to downtown Mineral Wells and is doing all he can to assist the community.

"And now they've been trying to revitalize the downtown area. We try to play in town, more. I run the open mic night, up here on Monday nights, trying to cultivate a music scene..." ... "I try to play benefits usually anything involving the police department or like first responders and stuff, I'll donate time."

The Band is very proud to be apart of the community of Mineral Wells. They look forward to growing their music here in their hometown. and their lyrics have made the biggest impact on their success.

(cont. pg 2)

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ANOTHER TOUGH BATTLE IN RAM-LAND



BY KELLCI BAKER

The Mineral Wells Rams and Lady Rams took some tough losses in district play on Friday night against the Iowa Park Hawks.

Lady Rams 35, Lady Hawks 52

The Lady Rams came out firing on all cylinders despite being without 3 players due to injury, including sophomore Kate Bradshaw, who has been a leader in Lady Ram's success this year. Iowa Park took their defense up a notch in the second quarter, creating a gap in the score, and despite valiant efforts, the Lady Rams couldn't ever recover.

The scoring leader for the Lady Rams was Junior guard Hannah Seaton with 11 points, followed by Senior post-Nadiya Weiss, who finished the game with 8 points.

The Lady Rams face off with

Burkburnett for the final home game of the season on Tuesday, Feb.

2nd, where the 3 Lady Ram seniors, Nadiya Weiss, Carolina Tejada, and Taylor Wheaton, will be honored in a Senior Night ceremony.

Runnin' Rams 49, IP Hawks 61

The Rams began the 2nd half of district play by taking a tough loss to the Hawks, but not due to lack of hustle or effort. Head Coach Seth Riddle commented, "I thought we played hard with good intensity. Had some bad possessions on defense and didn't shoot great on the offensive end. Hats off to IP. They fly around on defense and made shots when they needed to."

Junior guard Landon Houston led the Rams offense with 14 points, including a hot hand from the

3-point line and following close behind. Also in double-digit scoring was Junior post-Landon Russell with 12.

The Rams continue district play at home against Burkburnett on Tuesday night following the Lady Rams.



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(cont.)

Bennett's Office Supply:

printing trade during his time in the Air Force after leaving the military, he worked in several different shops around Texas before deciding to open a print shop of his own in Mineral Wells in 1962. His brother-in-law rented him a small space at 400 N. Oak Ave.,

which he later bought. "It was a little one man print shop," Brian said. In 1969, he bought Schober's Office Supply and moved it into the same location as the print shop about a year later. In 1974, he decided to get out of printing and sold that side of the business. "Now it's Bennett's Office Supply," Brian said. In 1977, the Bennett family opened another location in Weatherford at 112 Houston Ave.

where it has remained since.

Brian worked for his father's business throughout his high school years. When he and Annette got married in 1981, she began working at the Weatherford location running deliveries before working her way up to store manager. In 1986 a third location was opened in Stephenville. Annette was overseeing all three locations, while Brian supervised the service side and his father took care of sales, Brian said.

The couple bought the business from Brian's parents in the early 2000s, they said. Though his parents took a step back from running the stores, his father remained an important part of the business. "He still had this office and still came down daily," Brian recalled. After all these years, the couple remains committed to providing the best customer service possible by maintaining a connection with clients that computers can take away, Annette said. Brian and Annette take pride in the fact that the success of the business was made possible by their wonderfully dedicated team members. Community involvement and giving back to the community is an important to both Annette and Brian. "We are staying firm to our roots, which is totally amazing customer service and... doing things the old-fashioned way," Annette said. The key to their outrageous customer service includes adapting to customer needs, and treating each customer as an important part of our business team especially during the pandemic, Annette said.

"[We] can get you everything from sneeze shields to custom face masks," she said. The couple has had to adapt its stores during the pandemic, not only for its customers, but for the business as well. "Our whole thing was to keep our stores open, keep our people safe, employees paid, and take care of our customers," Annette said. To do that, they started doing more Facebook live videos to show people tips and tricks on working comfortably from home. They also started doing more home deliveries



and began curbside service to ensure their clients had all their needs met, Annette said. "We have not missed a day [of work], knock on wood, [and] our people have stayed healthy," she said. "And we plan to keep it that way." "The family does not have plans to give up the business any time soon. Brian and Annette's daughters grew up in the business, their youngest daughter is working

full time in the business, and their grandson is growing up in the business. However, Brian and Annette are not sure if either of their children have plans to take over the business one day. "In the early 80s, if you asked Annette and I if we wanted to have an office supply, we probably told you no, no way," Brian said. "But time changes things as it goes by." Brian and Annette want to keep

expanding the business, especially online. They also plan to keep adapting to whatever life throws at them, they said. "The town is changing, [and] we need to be able to respond to whatever is best for us and for our customers," Brian said.

SIT AND SIP:

A PLACE TO FIND YOUR HIDDEN TREASURE

BY TOMMY POPHIN

In our fast paced society, Sit and Sip is the place to go when you want to slow down. It is a treasure chest full of wonder. They offer all the services one needs in order to provide a respite from the pressures of this world.



I made my first visit a couple of weeks ago and found many treasures within their shop. I was introduced to their coffee and tea bar. They offer a wide variety of beverages both hot and cold. I tried their hot apple tea. It reminded me of drinking hot apple cider on a

cold winter day.

Drinks include a medium roast Columbian coffee roasted in nearby Parker County. Their tea is imported from around the world. They offer tea in the British hot tea style. The ambiance that fills the air when you enter the shop is that of coffee, spices, and a slow, enjoyable pace. As I scanned the store, I saw tables for games like Chess, Scrabble and Backgammon. Their book store has a wide variety of books including a special children's reading area. The craft area includes a full stock of yarn as well as tools for knitting and crocheting. They have books and crafts created by local talent who have amazing , creative skills.

On February 13, John, Holly and the rest of the Witte family invite you to a Valentine's Day special. From 9:00 - 3:00, they will have some sweetheart specials including drinks from their coffee bar, eats and treats, piano/organ music, open mic talent show, local comedy, and door prizes. The public is invited to show off their talent during this time. You may register for your time at the mic either now or on the day of the event. This is a safe, family friendly atmosphere that welcomes everyone.

You are invited to Sit and Sip so that you may find your hidden treasure.



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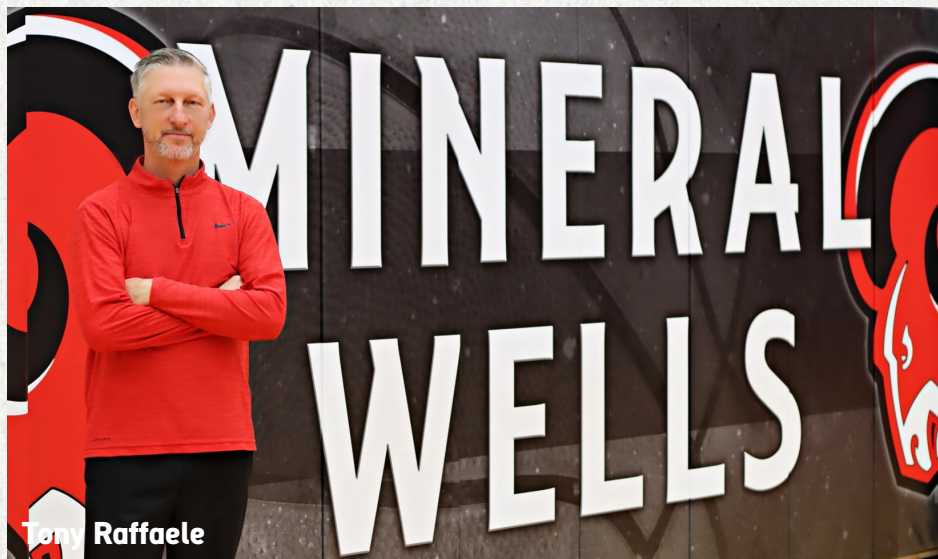
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HOBBS, RAFFAELE NAMED AD'S AT MWHHS



Seth Hobbs



Tony Raffaele

BY JERRY HAMILTON

Seth Hobbs was recently named the new Athletic Director at Mineral Wells High School. Hobbs is taking over a program that has seen some tough times as of late. The Rams former defensive coordinator and the assistant head coach believes the Rams future is looking bright.

"We are a very young team, but the good part is our freshman are becoming sophomores, and our sophomores are becoming juniors. They are growing up," stated Hobbs.

Hobbs knows what it is like to be at

the very top. He has been there. As a coach at Farmersville, his team won a state championship in 2007. In 20 years of coaching, he was athletic director and head football coach at Rio Vista and spent time as offensive coordinator at the top classification, South Garland.

Coach Hobbs is committed to this program. He and his family have bought a home in Mineral Wells. "I'm excited about the community. My family and I want to be a part of Mineral Wells," added Hobbs.

Tony Raffaele is into his fifth year

as a head basketball coach for the Lady Rams. Raffaele has a new title and new responsibilities, as he was named the new Lady Rams athletic director.

The Mineral Wells native has experience at the top level, serving as AD at Kopperl High School. Raffaele led the Santo Lady Wildcats to the state tournament during his 30+ years of coaching.

"We have very good coaches here at Mineral Wells, and I expect to see improvement in all phases of our athletic program," said

Raffaele. Raffaele also sees strong classes at the freshman level and in Junior High. "Our 7th and 8th grade programs are strong, and our freshman team is outstanding," added Raffaele.

Coach Raffaele has a plan to bring back a strong Lady Rams program soon. "We have to work on fundamentals and skills," stated Raffaele.

With that plan, look forward to seeing much stronger Lady Rams in the very near future.

HOUSTON ELEMENTARY TEMPORARILY SWITCHES TO FULLY REMOTE LEARNING FEB. 1

BY MAKENZIE PLUSNICK

Houston Elementary is switching to fully remote learning starting Feb. 1, Mineral Wells ISD Superintendent John Kuhn announced via social media on January 29th.

The switch to remote learning is

due to a spike in the number of COVID-19 cases, staff exposure to the virus, and a shortage of substitutes, Kuhn said in the social media post.

"We know this is an inconvenience for parents, and we apologize," Kuhn wrote. "We are endeavoring to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to allow our staff members' quarantines to end so we can get them back into the classroom."

Students can return for in-person learning Feb. 9.



MOVING FORWARD WITH THE PALO PINTO COUNTY ACTIVITY CENTER

BY KRISTA ALLEN

The Palo Pinto County Activity Center is underway. Clint Myrick, Henry Cox, Z Beard, and Rhonda Gibson as well as many others, are working very hard to create a special place for all the people of Mineral Wells, to come together and enjoy. The building will have many purposes including, but not limited to, a center for sports, mentoring for youth, senior venue, and nonprofit office space.

This week's brainstorming entailed lots of ideas of what the building should have. The group wants the community center to have a framework close to 10,000 to 12,000 square feet with a small, modest kitchen to provide concessions for all consumers. There will be a separate senior space. The group wants the gym to be huge, and they also added the office spaces within the location are to have glass windows looking out onto the gym.

Gibson paints a beautiful image by saying, "I'd like to see glass offices; that they can see out into the gym..." It was also noted during the meeting, "I want a senior room" This senior room would be private so that they are not concerned with being interrupted. It is in this area seniors can play dominos, bingo, or socialize.

All bathrooms will be handicap accessible. It is predetermined to have a weight room as well as a conference room. The group is also looking to make this space as multi-purpose as possible. Lastly, the building could also be considered used for a storm shelter for emergencies. But the brainstorming is far from over. The group is open to suggestions from the community to help this project be successful. Henry Cox says, "I would love to see everyone step forward and contribute ideas and suggestions to help make this

project go forward. And fundraise for all of Palo Pinto County."

Going forward, the troop plans on presenting a brand and logo for the public to recognize. The group is currently working with Michael Price on surveying the property for the building. The location is beside Meals on Wheels, at 1410 SE M.L.K. Jr St, Mineral Wells, TX 76067. Richard Signs and Cranes Inc. of Mineral Wells are creating a four by eight sign for the activity center. In the next meeting, the collective plans to have a timeline created and a design of the building. The group is using ideas from other successful activity centers such as the Twin Lakes Community Activity Center in Jacksboro, Texas. Once the steps are in place, they plan to have a groundbreaking social for all to attend. This groundbreaking will allow the public to become fully involved with the project and assist in its fundraising. A budget for the

program should be announced soon.

Z Beard, the youth's voice for this project, wants it known he plans to mentor and teach all youth who attend the activity center. "But ideally, let's say there's a kid who's a freshman, and he tries out for the basketball team he doesn't make it, then next summer he can join my camp, and in his sophomore year, he makes the team with ease because he had a leader and somebody to guide him."

Their goal is to create a place for all walks of life to come together. The community center will be a safe place for seniors to meet while collecting their meals, and children can play sports and participate in other activities. Cox states, "I'd love to see something for the grandkids, kids in town, or single-parent families, so there's some kind of safety net. It has got to be a multi-use facility."



NEW ALL-INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AT LAMAR ELEMENTARY

BY KELLCI BAKER

Tuesday January 19th, at 1 p.m., the Mineral Wells Chamber of Commerce celebrated with Lamar Elementary and Mineral Wells ISD with a ribbon-cutting for their new ADA playground equipment, which was completed in December of 2020 when the last piece was added, according to Lamar Principal Kendra Fowler.

Fowler was very excited to give us the story of how this new equipment came to be, "They are very picky about safety and fall zones, so we had to work with our maintenance department, and our former assistant principal did most of the work to make sure we had everything we needed and met

regulations," said Fowler of the project.

After talks began about the project, Weatherford Aerospace joined the conversation and took this on as their charity project around Christmas of 2019. They didn't do it all on their own though, Palo Pinto General Hospital and the Lamar PTO were also involved in big ways in getting this project completed and funded.

Fowler is excited and looking to the future, saying, "Hopefully, as we get money and look at future projects, we will hopefully be able to do this in other common areas and keep adding."



Weatherford Aerospace representative Steven Alvarez was proud to be a part of this, saying, "It was just a great opportunity for us to be a part of it. I know funding is an issue for schools, but to give them something active to do outside is great to be a part of." PPGH has recently donated money to school districts in the county, including MWISD, CCS, Palo Pinto ISD, and more. After talking with Caye Mauney, we found out just where that donation came from and that this project also came from the same generosity.

"It came from donations from the employees of the hospital. Employees donate to a fund, and at Christmas time, we dispense those funds." Discussions with Dr. Kuhn(Superintendent) began, trying to figure out where to spend the money, where the needs were, and he let them know about this project.

During the ribbon-cutting, the students were occupied with other activities, but members of the MWISD team assured all present that the equipment is "very well-loved" and has been in use since the last piece was installed in December.



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500 WINS AND COUNTING



BY JONNY GOODDAY
 Tuesday, January 12th, 2020, Coach Brian Rodricks and the Community Christian School High school basketball team won their 10th game this year, but this was a much bigger win for Brian. On that day, Brian earned his 500th win in his coaching career. Brian has been a high school basketball coach since 1995. In 2015 and 2016, while coaching for Nazarene Christian, his team became the state champions. Last year was his first year at Community Christian, and so far, he has enjoyed the players that are eager to Compete.

We sat down with Coach Rodricks and asked him about some of the highlights of his career so far.

Q: What would you say is your most memorable game?

“That would probably have to be the game against Waco Methodist Children’s Home in the State Semifinals in 2015. They were rolling along and had a really good record. If they had played us 10 times, we would have lost 9 times.

On paper, they had a kid averaging 32.8 going off to play college ball. So we were trying to devise a plan. They ended up taking a little lead, so we came storming and won the state championship with that game. That day still plays over in my mind. On paper, we were supposed to lose that game, but our guys really stepped up. That was a special group.”

Q: How long do you think you will keep coaching for?

“Until they put me six foot under. Teaching wise, I teach PE, and I love kids. Being out here has been a blessing. Community Christian has really been good to me. I’m 54 years old, not too old but climbing that ladder of life, you know, maybe 5-10 more years teaching. But as long as they’ll have me, I’ll coach. Basketball is in my blood. I just love it. Coaching kids is an important teaching key, so as long as they’ll have me, I’ll coach.”

Q: What made you get into coaching?

“It’s a God thing. I was born in Pakistan, lived in Nepal for ten years, and came to the United States when I was 12. In college, my father had worked for the government overseas. I was going to be a political science major, and that was what I was going to do. Foreign affairs, go overseas, work somewhere in an embassy make good money. That was going to be my life. As I was going through college, I worked at the YMCA and started running their sports program. Coaching soccer, coaching basketball, if they were short a coach, I had to do it because I can’t leave a team unattended. So I started doing that at about 23-24 years old. I met my wife to be, and I was still working there and going to school. I just really felt a love for coaching. I was like, this is what I want to do. I’m not going to work in Political Science and do stuff that’s not exciting. So when I finally changed my major, God kind of straightened me out a little bit and said I needed to take this just living life path. Then I found the Lord and started living my life right. I met a wonderful

woman and changed my degree to physical kinesiology to be a PE teacher and coach basketball. And that’s Been it ever since.”

Q: How did you feel about getting 500 wins in your career so far?

“No different. The team asked, coach, do we get the day off tomorrow? I said no, we go for 501. I was telling another teacher earlier, just in casual conversation, 500 is just another day. It’s not about me. It’s about the kids. Because of TABC (Texas Association of Basketball Coaches), they asked us to keep a record. But they said, “Hey, you know what, you’re getting close. Can you send your record to us? Because we send a plaque with the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches. So I made up a little sheet, but I didn’t really put much emphasis on it. I ended last year with 490 wins. This year Doug Jefferson started a countdown. “You have five more. You have four more!” I didn’t really, to be honest, think about it. We’re 4-0 in the district right now. And that’s all that matters to me. One day when I’m 70 sitting on the rocking chair drinking tea, I will think that was nice. If I had 600, 500, or whatever it is, I will look back and say it was good, but it’s just another number and another day.”

“To me, it’s about reaching lives and young men and teaching them how to be productive young citizens. Just good godly young men and try to be an example the best I can. I’m sure I fail sometimes. But no one is perfect. At CCS, it is like a different world, these kids just want to play, and they play hard, and as a coach, that’s what it is all about. The wins and loses will come, but that is what it’s all about.”

It was a pleasure to sit down with Coach Rodricks. We hope to see him stay at CCS continuing to do what he loves.

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THANK YOU FOR READING ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY

By JONNY GOODDAY

This a new chapter for Goodday Mineral Wells. We are continuing to grow. As we grow, we listen to the things you all request. One of our biggest requests was for a printable option. This is the first versoin of Goodday Mineral Wells | Classic Edition. More things will be added to the Classic Edition in the following months. Our website and this versoin of a newsletter will remain free. This is made possible by all of our sponsore and advertisers. Last month each ad for our online advertisers were seen over 180,000 times! We are starting to get quite popular, and we hope these news letters get its own form of popularity within the commun ity that doesnt use computers. If you have a loved one or a friend that either doesnt have acsess to the internet or would rather read on paper, print them a

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