

The Bandera PROPHET

November 18, 2022

Bandera WinterFest, Say Yes to the Fest *Inaugural event set for Saturday, Dec. 3*

By Stacy LaLanne
Bandera ISD WinterFest Co-Coordinator

I love saying I'm from Bandera. Bandera has many wonderful things which draw people from far and wide. I've met people on Main Street from all over the world, in fact. One of the very best things about Bandera is: we know how to have a good time and make people feel welcome. People know that in September, they can come see longhorns running down main street. People know that on any given evening you might encounter horses tied up to hitchin' posts outside of the local bars and saloons.

One of the best times of year, especially in Bandera, is the Holiday Season. What better place to feel warm, welcomed and comfortable?. We have the Cowboy Christmas on the Courthouse lawn, the excitement of the Cowboy Evening Shopper's Stroll, and a colorful and fun Christmas Parade. These events have become staples of local Christmas Culture. Everyone loves hearing Christmas Carols and watching students put on a nativity reenactment. This year we are excited to add to the wonderful seasonal celebrations we all know and love. We present to you: the Bandera WinterFest.

Bandera WinterFest is a collaboration between the Bandera Independent School District and the Bandera community. Our inaugural WinterFest will be held on Dec. 3, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., at Bandera Middle School, just one block off of Main Street. This exciting celebration comes to you complete with some equally exciting options. Bandera WinterFest will offer activities such as ice skating, pictures with Santa, some great food, holiday shopping at our various vendor booths, and

music on our center stage by a live band. Stop and place a bid at Hill Country Elementary's silent auction, and after you can peruse our gallery of art work created by kids across the county. You can even visit the Hill Country Elementary Photo Booth to don some wacky and fun attire and have your picture taken.

Bandera WinterFest can boast some of the best craft, merchandise, and food vendors in the county. Come out to sample some wonderful foods, snack, treats and drinks, brought to you by some local businesses. Food and drink options available, where 100 percent of the profit goes directly back to the festival to help us ensure this event continues to support community-district involvement for years to come. Enjoy a hot chocolate while simultaneously supporting your students at Alkek Elementary School, or munch on some popcorn as Bandera Middle School PTO endeavors to raise money to support your middle school teachers and students. Other opportunities to support your local school campus and PTO's are available throughout the grounds, with merchandise booths from both Alkek and Hill Country Elementary.

Many of our vendors will have amazing products to be purchased at the festival, with opportunities to order gifts directly from the businesses which will make you the hero of your upcoming Christmas parties.

You're sure to find the perfect gift for that special someone this holiday season. Some of our booths are vendors from our very own community, working hard to make sure you have access to many unique and wonderful items, and some of our booths are even run by the students and clubs that make Bandera so wonderful.

Speaking of our wonderful students, on our main stage, right in the BMS Courtyard, you will have the opportunity to see amazing acts, song, dances and other talented skills from children within our community.

Between each spectacular set of students, enjoy the wonderful sounds and stylings of Bandera's own, local live band, Rebel Roxie, brought to us by Kickback Korner.

As the sun starts to set and the evening winds down, we invite you to stick around, head on over to the Middle School Football Field, where Alkek Elementary School will present a big screen showing of The Polar

Express right on the football field. Make your movie-going experience complete by visiting the concession stand, which will be busy providing snacks and drinks for you to enjoy for the duration of the movie.

We certainly hope you choose to join us for this fun and engaging day in Bandera. If you have a great idea for a booth, some spaces are still available. Or, if you own a business and would like to partner with us this year or in the future to ensure that Bandera WinterFest starts off strong and continues to grow within our community for years to come, please contact Bandera Middle School and leave a message for Shannan Sardo or Stacy LaLanne, the Bandera WinterFest Co-Coordinators.