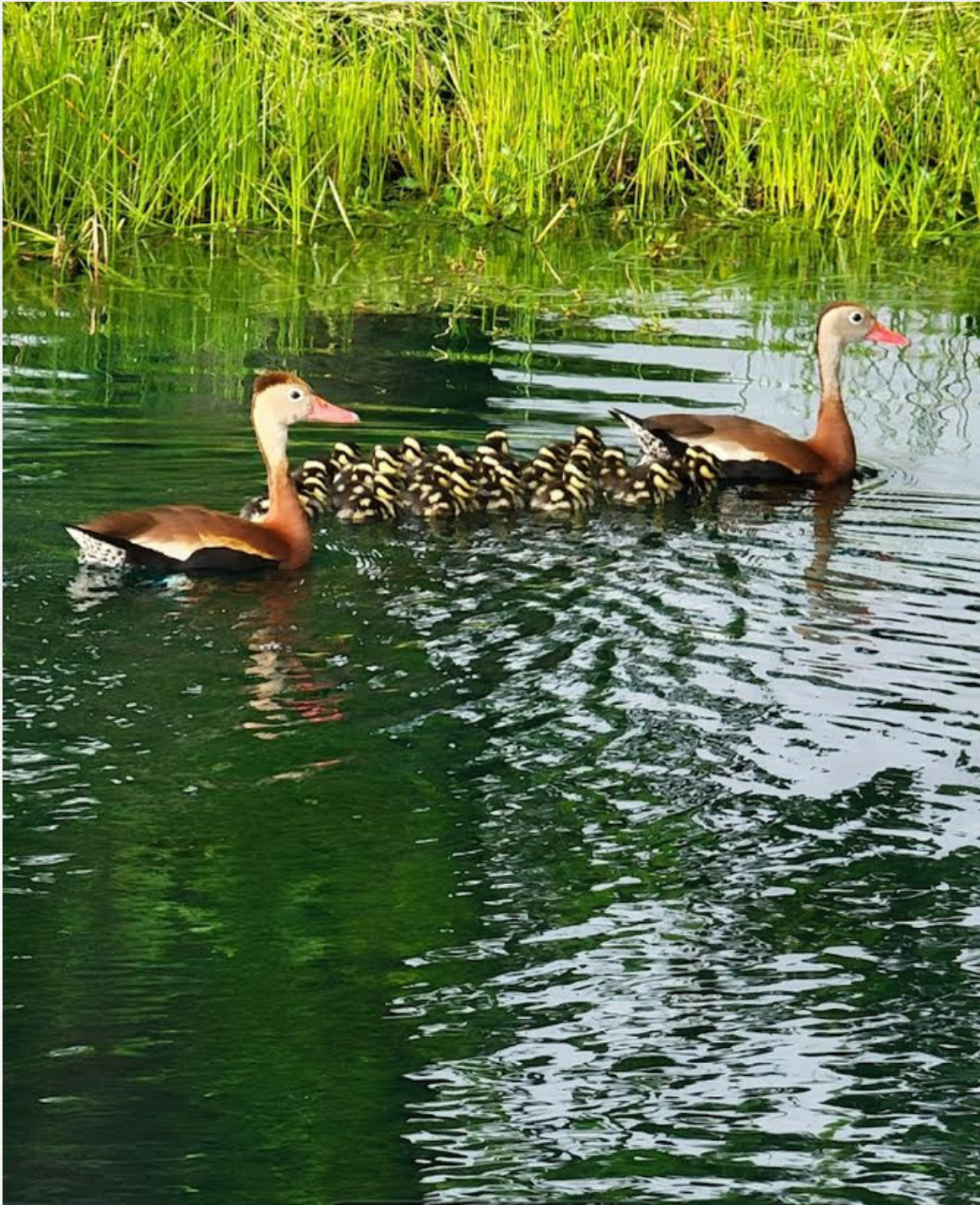


# DISCOVER CAMERON

ISSUE 01



VOL 1

#BEAPARTOFSOMETHINGPOPULAR



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LIFESTYLE . PEOPLE . COMMUNITY

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HISTORIC BEAUTY  
SERVING UP GREAT  
FOOD AND LIVE  
ENTERTAINMENT



DOWNTOWN  
CAMERON  
RENOVATIONS



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# EDITOR'S NOTE

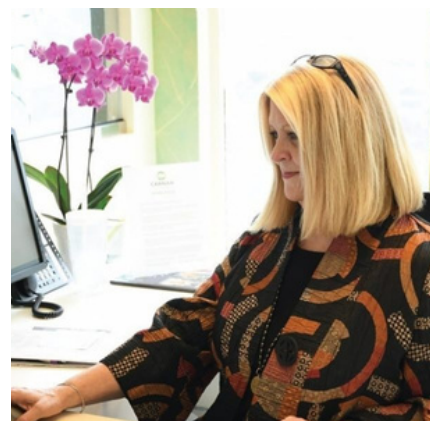


First Annual DISCOVER CAMERON May Day Picnic - Pie Eating Contest

Welcome to the first edition of Discover Cameron lifestyle magazine.

I moved to Cameron, December 29, 2019 to assist, my then 90 year old mother after spending 40 years in Houston. Just two months later a pandemic hit and everyone was told to stay at home. We were allowed to go outside and walk, so that is what I did. I have been visiting Cameron my entire life. My grandfather was a farmer on land near the airport that had been in our family for more than 100 years. My great grandfather on my grandmother's side was the first commissioner for Precinct 2 for Milam County. I was actually born in Cameron although I never lived here. My mother was born in Cameron, my grandparents were born here, and my great-grandmother was born here, so my roots run deep. As I walked, I discovered so much about Cameron and I grew more impressed as I walked block after block, downtown, Dutchtowne, and all around town. I then took up bike riding because I could go further and see more. At the time, most everyone was at home putting teddy bears in their windows and staying inside. I had the whole town to myself. There were rarely any cars which translated into "owning the town" because I was the only one outside. I road my bike downtown everyday and circled the square. I really got to know the terrain in town. One of the marvelous things about slowing down and walking to enjoy the scenery is a deep appreciation for what is great about Cameron. Cameron is a fascinating small town offering a number of amenities including a public library, theatre group, municipal airport, lovely parks, car club, horseshoe tournaments, multiple wedding and event venues, walking and biking trails, public pool, country club, historical treasures, nationally known businesses, food trucks, great music, murals, and some of the best Texas high school football and barbeque to be found. I have been highlighting the happenings in and around Cameron and Milam County on Facebook for two and a half years. This publication is taking it one step further to explore the people and events in the area. The mission is to introduce the reader to the exciting things happening and a deeper dive into the lives of those making it happen.

In this issue, we will be visiting with the owners of Triple C Winery. This is a great love story. A family who is creating a legacy to leave behind for their children and grandchildren.



Roxane Witte  
Editor-in-Chief

DISCOVER CAMERON



# TRIPLE C WINERY & VINEYARD



This is a labor of love. Triple C Winery and Vineyard is the extraordinary project of Greg and Casey Cargel and their son Marshall.

Their story begins with their search to find a place to call home. Greg is a REAL Houstonian, born and raised. Casey is a west Texas girl from Odessa and they raised their children McKenna and Marshall in the Houston area. For a number of years the Cargels would travel to Cameron for the Christmas Parade. That event had them falling in love with Cameron. After purchasing land near the Halliburton training facility they started classes at Texas A & M to master the skills necessary to learn the trade of being a viticulturalist. The land is ideal for growing grapes. Greg is an engineer by trade and still travels to Houston to work on projects while tending to this massive endeavor, as he calls himself, "a dirt artist."

Daughter McKenna and her husband, Grant are their weekend warriors and helpful hands along with their two young daughters, Quinn and Sutton. They are anxious to welcome their third child this month, a son, Hutch.



## A family affair.

This family has prepared the land, built the structures, dug the holes, planted the vines, sprayed for bugs, had a war with grasshoppers, pulled the weeds and trimmed vines, and had hail beat their vines down.

They have learned a lot and are always happy to share their story and express their excitement over the adventure they have undertaken.

In addition to the vineyard, the Cargels have built a winery on their property to prepare wine from their harvest. There are white grapes this year and they are looking forward to bottling wine.



Casey spent years working for the Chamber of Commerce in the Cypress area outside of Houston. She brings an immense skill set of marketing and promotion. She worked at the Cameron Chamber of Commerce for the last two years. The Triple C was growing so fast she had to step away from that responsibility although she is still a big player with the Cameron Chamber of Commerce and all of their functions.



Son, Marshall, is the wine maker and a trained artist. He will be putting his skills to the test soon as the family prepares the winery. These three are outside 7 days a week working on this grand adventure. Although there are days it is not so grand, they are moving forward with great success everyday.

The Texas wine industry brought more than \$13 billion to our state economy in 2017 according to the National Association of American Wineries. In 2017, Texas had 352 wineries and was ranking fifth in the country. Now Texas is home to 547 wineries. The Cargels are a BIG value add to the county by bringing this opportunity to the area and their promotion of the industry.









# Extraordinary Restoration



The before photo tells the story. On the main entrance into Cameron's downtown area sits an old home that had lost its glory. It was a painful sight driving into Cameron and Spring Janke, on a whim, decided someone needed to do something about it. She called her mother, Marilyn Willie and asked her what she thought about restoring the house. Marilyn said ok, thinking nothing would come of it. A few days later Spring let her mother know they had accepted her offer and she was buying the property. And so the work began. Marilyn, who is a gifted artist, began the restoration. In addition to the masterful job they did on bringing this beautiful home back to life, Marilyn did the research to place a Texas Historical Marker on the property restoring the once glamorous address.

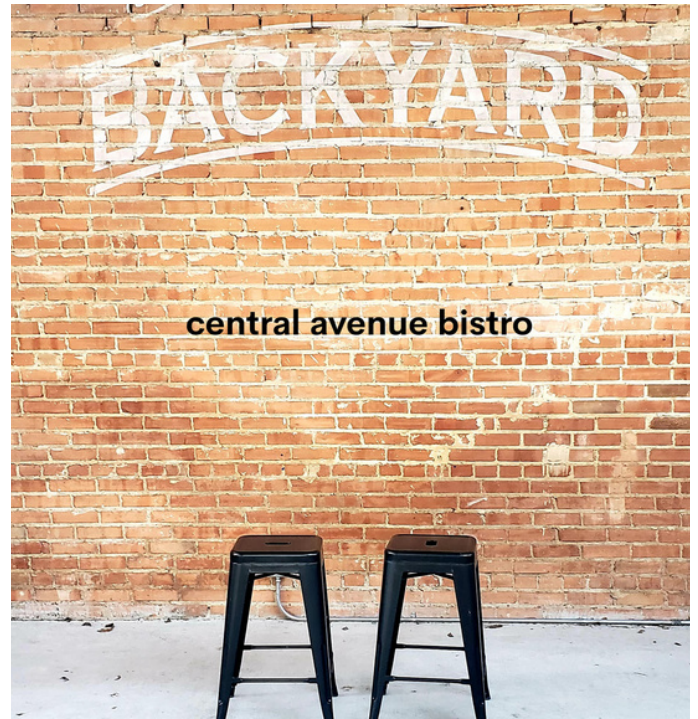
After the work was complete the mother-daughter duo had to decide what to do with the building. That is when the





Central Avenue Bistro and Marketplace was conceived. And almost as soon as they opened their doors the pandemic hit and they had to close their doors to service. They tried to make food 'to go' to be able to maintain their waitstaff. After some time it was unmanageable and they stopped serving and spent time and money remodeling the kitchen to add more space and additional cooking equipment in order to start serving grilled 44 Farms steaks and upgrading the menu.

After the ban was lifted on staying at home and restaurants could open the doors again, The CAB had a game-changing outdoor patio. This 'accidental' restaurant also had a great stage with a Instagram-'able' backdrop and they started hiring performers to sing on the patio under the shade of old oak trees. And the business survived and thrived. It is a wonderful addition to Cameron. People travel to Cameron just to enjoy the food and atmosphere.





## RAILFAN on Main

Enter Mike McMahon and his wife Kim. With a love for old buildings, Mike and Kim have a passion for making things useful and beautiful again. They have come to Cameron for the sole purpose of restoring buildings in Downtown Cameron and creating entrepreneurial opportunities. The most exciting find so far has been the beautiful brick walls that were exposed after the stucco was peeled away and underneath were old advertising murals.

The space in Bea's Kitchen is being prepared for a brewery and event space. The brick walls have been exposed in the interior of the buildings and the low drop ceilings have been removed to expose the wonderful height.

Mike is restoring a second building across the street from the old Bea's Kitchen which is best known for being the old JC Penny building. They are looking for an entrepreneurs to open businesses in the lower level of the building and the back building which was the MHMR building in the back has been restored and is ideal for a cozy coffee shop and bakery. The top floor will be a boutique hotel.





Before Mike McMahon...



The old Bea's Kitchen

After Mike McMahon  
and he isn't finished!





# Coming Soon!



Hometown girl, Tricia Carter Wood, is giving back to the community by restoring the Old School House in Downtown Cameron. Her story and the building will be revealed later this month. Her son, Adam Carter will be working with her as she brings her second location to Cameron. More news to come!



Another reason to visit Downtown Cameron. Fun & games starting at 4:00pm.



July 4th Fireworks celebration