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Message from LJT...

It has been my pleasure to present some of the world's finest songwriters and entertainers to an ever increasing number of music fans. It has also been a pleasure to see those fans become as passionate about the music as I have been most of my life. We will have over 50 songwriters performing their original songs on stage this year, some old favorites, some new faces, and a few surprises.

If you've been before you know to pack your heavy coat, summer shorts, rain gear, suntan lotion and wind breaker and to get ready for 6 days of music and camping. So buy a new chili pot or shine up that old one, kick the tires on the RV or patch the tent, pack the lawn chairs, put strings on whatever needs strings and I'll see you around the campfires, I hope. ~ Larry Joe Taylor



Larry Joe Taylor

Website: www.larryjoetaylor.com

Hometown: Stephenville, TX

Current Project: 36th Annual Texas Music Festival

Latest Project: *Coalition* (2016)

When you hear this name, most likely what comes to mind is a massive music festival (and chili cook-off) that occurs annually just outside the small town of Stephenville, Texas. While this is an accurate association, “LJT” did in fact have a life before big stages, bright lights, and loyal fans.

Taylor started out in the early 70s no different than many of his fans are today: A full-time employee with a deep love of music armed with only an old guitar, and a dream. Influenced by great artists such as Guy Clark, Jerry Jeff Walker, The Doors, and Bob Dylan, Larry Joe writes songs that form their own genre somewhere between the coastal atmosphere of Jimmy Buffet, the country feel of his idols, and the world of rock and roll. Taylor’s songs have been recorded by Jerry Jeff Walker and the Lost Gonzo Band, Gary P. Nunn, Richard Leigh, Keith Sykes, Tommy Alverson, Brian Burns, The Tejas Brothers, Chuck Pyle and more.

“Larry Joe Taylor and his festival represent one of the oldest, biggest, and most impactful music festivals in the United States annually, drawing a large mass of fans to Melody Mountain Ranch in Stephenville, TX, to three stages, 50+ bands, and a festival that has been around for over three decades. It’s a gathering of the tribes so to speak, and while the show is centered around the main stage, the atmosphere of camaraderie in the campground, with guitar pickings around campfires and artists mingling with fans, is what draws many to the fest annually, with the main stage of music simply as the backdrop.” (Kyle “The Triggerman” Coroneos, savingcountrymusic.com)

While this is no doubt the biggest extravaganza that Taylor hosts, it’s not the only music event that bears his name. August finds him at Possum Kingdom Lake for his “Pickin’ at Possum” event. He’s back at Melody Mountain Ranch in September for his annual “Rhymes & Vines” Texas Music Festival. January finds him on “LJT’s Coastin’ & Cruisin’ Cruise”, the largest songwriter cruise sailing out of Texas for the past 22 years. In February, he hosts his annual “Valentine Dinner Theater”, an intimate dinner and songwriter show at T-Birds Garage Pub Concert Hall at Melody Mountain Ranch. March and April is his annual “Songwriter Showcase” at T-Birds Garage Pub which is also a host to many original music events throughout the year.

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Larry Joe Taylor's 36th Annual Texas Music Festival & Chili Cook-off Official Program

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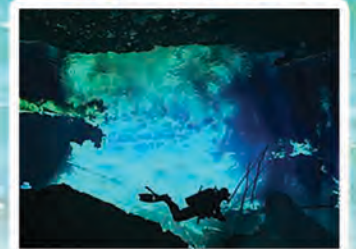
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January 4-11, 2026

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Madie Davidson *Drew Roberson*



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Wrought iron is composed primarily of elemental iron with small amounts (1-2 percent) of added slag. Wrought iron is made by repeatedly heating the material and working it with tools to reform it.

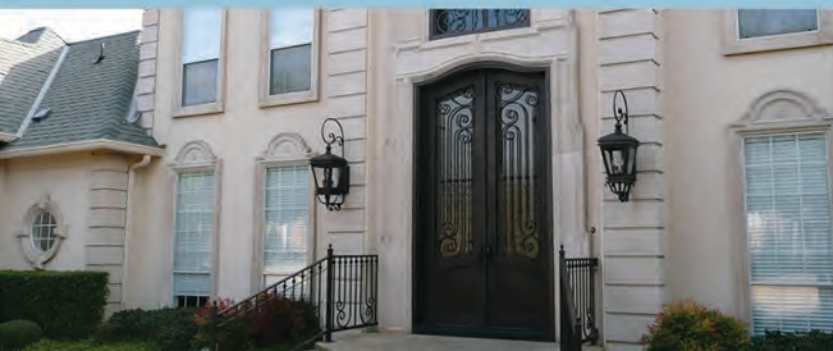
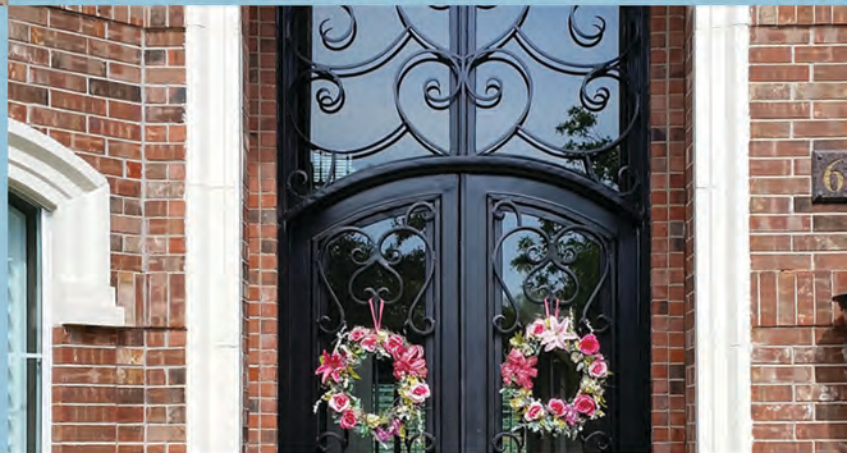
Wrought iron is highly malleable, allowing it to be heated, and re-heated, and worked into various shapes. The more it's worked on, the stronger it becomes. Characterized by its fibrous appearance, wrought iron doors are highly resistant to fatigue. The greater corrosion resistance of wrought iron makes it an ideal material for wrought iron doors and grilles.

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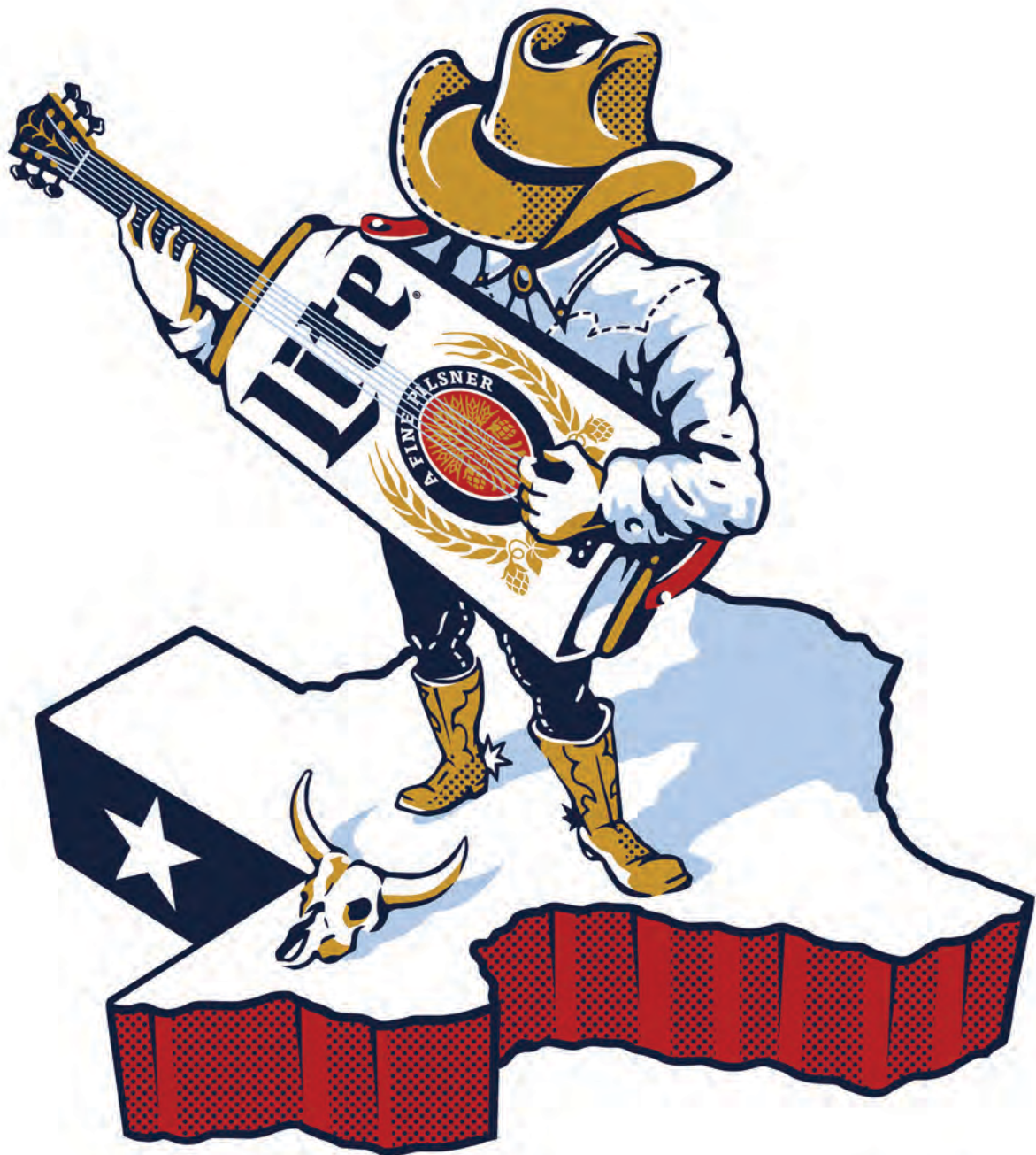
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PARK





Tuesday - April 22nd, 2025



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VIP

4:00 pm

STAGE
IN
PARK





"Welcome Jam"
Hosted by:
Buck Fuffalo

ALLSUP'S STAGE 6:00 pm





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Wednesday - April 23rd, 2025



Randy Brown

"Bloody Mary Morning"
Hosted by:
Randy Brown
and Special Guests

ALLSUP'S STAGE 12:30 pm



Câmeron Allbright



Bottomland



Courtney Patton



Ray Wylie Hubbard



Terry Rasor

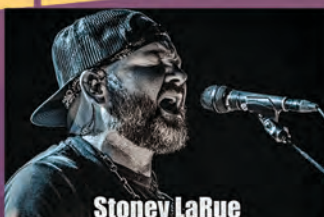
Miller Lite STAGE 5:00 pm



Shelby Stone



Race Ricketts



Stoney LaRue



Kolby Cooper



Wade Bowen



Larry Joe Taylor's
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**TEXAS
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Thursday - April 24th, 2025



Randy Brown

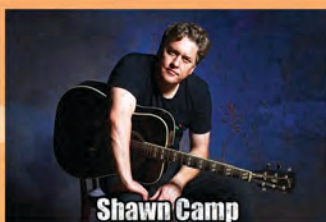
"Bloody Mary Morning"
Hosted by:
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and Special Guests



Julianna Rankin



Nyles Robakiewicz



Shawn Camp



Bri Bagwell



Max & Heather Stalling



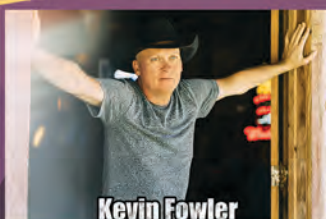
Dustin Perkins



Presley Haile



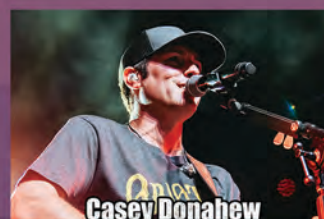
Hudson Westbrook



Kevin Fowler



Braxton Keith



Casey Donahew

- Artists & Time Schedule Subject To Change -

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**TEXAS
MUSIC**
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Friday - April 25th, 2025

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 **VIP** 

10:00 am



Randy Brown

"Bloody Mary Morning"
Hosted by:
Randy Brown
and Special Guests

ALLSUP'S
STAGE

12:30 pm



Graycie York



Cole Phillips



Walt Wilkins



West Texas Exiles



Jarrod Morris

TOTAL HEALTH AND HYDRATION
TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR HEALTH

 **VIP** 

5:00 pm



Mike Graham

Miller
Lite STAGE

5:00 pm



Keller Cox



Dylan Wheeler



Roger Creager



Ty Myers



William Clark Green



Saturday - April 26th, 2025



Nick Brumley

"Bloody Mary Morning"
Hosted by:
Nick Brumley
and Special Guests



Meredith Crawford



Tommy Alverson Tribute



Davin James



Tejas Brothers



Larry Joe Taylor



Canaan Bryce



Tyler Halverson



Bayker Blankenship



Mike Ryan



Randy Rogers Band



Graham St. Clair Band

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#SafeLJT

A Note from the Promoters of LJT

Welcome to the 36th Annual Larry Joe Taylor Fest! In 2024, we hosted a large number of folks here at Melody Mountain Ranch across the 6-day Texas Music event, and we look forward to reaching large numbers again and hopefully increase in size as this event continues to grow. Of course, with a mass of people in one place, it's like having a good-sized city in your backyard, so you are likely to have "good-sized city" issues behind the scene such as maintenance, electrical, plumbing, and even some crime. One thing that isn't nearly as much fun to discuss as your favorite dry rub that you use on those ribs you smoke at your campsite this year, but the most important topic is...SAFETY. Here at LJT the safety of our fans, artists, sponsors, and staff is our number one priority.

Over the past 36 years, the festival community has grown from a few hundred people to several thousand. Of course, with any growth brings changes, but the community and "family-ness" vibe has held on tight through those years. After the stage shuts down at night, the campground still lights up with campfires surrounded by fans and artists sharing food, drinks, and stories. Artists hop from one campfire to another, playing requests and sharing the stories behind their music.

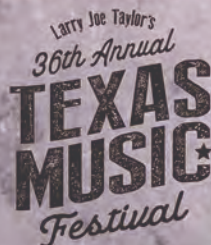
As in any group of thousands of people, there are always a few people in any community who are willing to cause harm, but we outnumber them. If you see trouble brewing, please do something. You may be wondering what, exactly, to do. The short answer is, keep it simple and safe. You don't have to cause a scene, and please don't put yourself or others in danger. You have lots of options for what you say or do, and you can be creative. Consider these examples:

BE DIRECT - tell the person who's trying to cause harm to knock it off. Or, just check in on the person you're worried about. "Hey, you ok? Need help finding your friends?"

ALERT SOMEONE ELSE - maybe you have a large and vocal friend who will say anything. Get that friend to check on someone you're worried about. Alert the friends of the person you're worried about: "Hey I think your friend needs some help." Or, alert security, law enforcement or a member of our friendly staff to assist you. Law enforcement will be within 100 yards of every stage and campsite, and we are all here to help!

CAUSE A DISTRACTION - maybe you see a fight brewing so you and your friends start belting out your favorite song, right by the people who are arguing. Or you see a young man trying to lead a young unwilling woman off away from a group, so you act confused. "Where's the main stage? But what time does Larry Joe play? How long have you been here?" Be a (non-confrontational) pest until he leaves or she wanders back to her friends.

There are many ways to help, and a good place to start is to create awareness! We would love to include you in our #SafeLJT campaign, which means you're part of a community, and you're committed to the safety of the community. Most of all, look out for each other and have a great time!



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J.C. HARWELL AND THE GYPSY FALCONS

El Fenix Rising 2025 World Tour

April 24	Stephenville, TX	LJT Festival Campfire Near the Back
April 25	Stephenville, TX	LJT Festival Campfire Somewhere Else
April 26	Stephenville, TX	Live at Stephenville City Jail (Solo Performance)



Above: Archival Image of
Harwell, ca. 1993.

The Legacy and Legend of J.C. Harwell

Excerpt Courtesy of Gypsy Falcon Biographer and J.C. Harwell Historian, S.D. Henderson

In every civilized culture, there exists an archetype; the warrior-poet-philosopher-king... In Texas, there is J.C. Harwell. Is he real? If he's real, why haven't I heard of him? If he's a legend, why haven't I been told? Has anyone seen him...

Texas has never been short of folk heroes, never lacked for epic figures to eclipse those of us shackled to this plane. In the cynical world of music journalism, critics scoff at the possibility that the most legendary figure in music since Hank Williams could have existed and wrote some of the most transcendent works not only in music, but in all of western thought. Perhaps it's simply a defense mechanism. Unwilling to be viewed as ignorant of what ought to be obvious, they pretend that he never existed.

J.C. Harwell was indeed born in Texas. Naturally reclusive and pugnacious, somewhat given to alternating descents into substance abuse and the criminal justice system, he's an inaccessible legend. His predisposition for solitude, and protracted legal battles with former managers and business partners keep him on the fringes of society, and beyond the myopic view of the industrial music machines of Nashville and New York. In the soul dead pulp mills of pop country, Harwell is known only in fragments and wisps of chance revelations. He is the secret genius so enigmatic that few even remember his name.

Yes, it's true that you can't purchase any of the Gypsy Falcon's work on iTunes. It's also true that no existing master recordings from the Gypsy Falcon discography have been unearthed in recent memory. No, nothing will spring to mind when you try to hum one of his haunting melodies. But when you hear a lyric that pierces your soul from any one of the newer artists on the landscape today, it is likely that J.C. Harwell once wrote something almost like that but more transcendent and ethereal.

Unlike the epic heroes of ancient Greece, the very real possibility exists that someday you may experience the opportunity to see the J.C. Harwell and the Gypsy Falcons at a venue near you. And should you be one of those fortunate enough to see the day, do not miss a chance to be one of the first to buy a copy of their long awaited masterpiece, due in stores this fall after a thirteen year silence. A highly placed source with close ties to the Gypsy Falcon inner circle has confirmed that J.C. Harwell is finalizing the sound engineering and cover artwork for the release of El Fenix Rising.

So, if you've never heard, and can't believe... just because you're not on the tip of the spear, perhaps less educated and sophisticated regarding independent music legends and folklore than your friends, doesn't mean you can't pretend you've listened for ages.

Below: Artist rendering of
Harwell today with digital age
progression.

Images Courtesy of
Henderson Industries
Worldwide, LLP.



Learn the Legend
www.gypsyfalcons.com

The J.C. Harwell Historical Association
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Ice, beer, cigarettes, showers, food vendors, arts & crafts booths, lost & found and information booth, security tent, first aid tent, event T-shirts, and merchandise of artists performing at festival. Also available is a vendor who will pump & fill RVs with non-potable water.

SHOWERS:		Price
There is a permanent 22 stall shower house to provide the needs of festival-goers. There are eleven men's and eleven women's showers each having a handicap accessible stall available on the camping grounds.		
Showers Open Everyday 7:00 am - 3:00 pm	6 & 5-Day Shower Pass (includes Sunday)	\$20.00
	4-Day Shower Pass (includes Sunday)	\$17.00
	3-Day Shower Pass (includes Sunday)	\$13.00
	Single Day Shower Pass	\$5.00

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www.stephenvilletexas.org

GATE TIMES: (No entry into campground before these times)

Saturday & Sunday before (For All In) at 12:00 noon - 8:00 pm
Monday at 12:00 noon - 9:00 pm
Tuesday at 12:00 noon - 10:00 pm
Wednesday at 9:00 am - 11:00 pm
Thursday at 9:00 am - 11:00 pm
Friday at 10:00 am - 11:00 pm
Saturday at 10:00 am - 10:00 pm

(After gates close each night; no entry without armband and camping/parking sticker)

✓ WHAT TO BRING

- ✓ Lawn Chairs for Concerts
- ✓ Clothes for warm and cool weather
- ✓ Ice Chest (no glass bottles allowed)

CAMPGROUND RULES

- **All vehicles leaving and returning to festivals grounds must stop at the re-entry gate and have all credentials re-scanned upon entry.**
- **NO cruising** or riding around in the back of open vehicles within the festival grounds. **Speed Limit is 10 mph.** Enforced by law enforcement.
- **NO glass bottles** of any kind. **All articles are subject to search.**
- **NO amplified sound systems** at camp sites except during chili showmanship Saturday 10:30 am - 12:30 pm.
- **NO tossing or throwing of any items or disorderly conduct** that could result in the injury or damage to participants, spectators, equipment, etc. Violators will be prosecuted to the fullest extent allowed by law and will immediately be removed from festival grounds.
- **Tickets obtained from sources other than Texas Music Festival**, may be lost, stolen or counterfeit, and in such cases, **will not be honored.** It is unlawful to obtain or attempt to obtain admission by fraud. All such admissions or attempted admissions will be prosecuted to the fullest extent allowed by law.
- **Every campsite must be kept clean** - any campsite found to be **left unclean will result in a \$30 charge** applied to the purchaser's credit card. It is the original purchasers responsibility to make sure campsites have been picked up and cleaned upon leaving the festival grounds. No household furniture or large items may be left behind. Please have all trash bagged and ready for pick up upon leaving the festival grounds.
- **NO weapons** of any kind. **All articles are subject to search.**
- **NO soliciting on site** - includes food, beverage, merchandise or entertainment, or any other items.
- **NO unleashed pets.** Dogs allowed on leash in campground, however **NO DOGS ALLOWED** in concert areas
- **NO horses, ponies, mules, donkeys, wild or farm animals or similar animals** of any kind allowed on festival grounds.
- **NO golf carts, dirt bikes, three wheelers, four wheelers, go-carts,** or any other all terrain vehicle on festival grounds.
- **NO digging holes** for campfires or cutting down trees or brush. (Campfires are allowed unless county has issued a burn ban. Fire must be surrounded with rocks or other protective surrounding)
- **NO small children left unattended** - parents should accompany small children at all times.
- **NO unacceptable behavior** - actions and/or behavior that interferes with fellow patron's enjoyment of festival or illegal actions.
- **NO overnight camping in front of gate** - must arrive when gates open.
- **NO unauthorized sale of merchandise.**
- **NO parking outside of festival grounds** - everyone must park within the festival grounds.
- **NO obscene signs, banners, or slogans** - this includes any and all alcohol related products or items.



VIOLATORS OF THESE RULES WILL BE ESCORTED OFF GROUNDS BY SECURITY

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit: www.ljtfest.com

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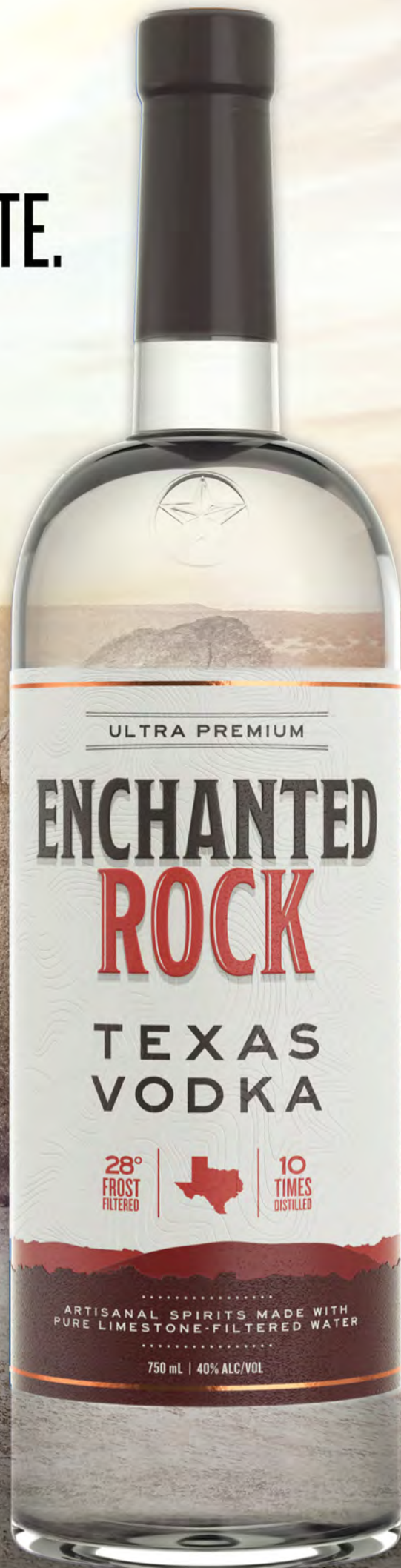
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