

Museum hires new assistant director, opens annual art show

The Red River Valley Museum has an unusual summer planned. It kicks off with the opening of the 17th International Juried Art Show and Sale on June 2.

In addition, The Red River Valley Museum is tentatively planning an art camp for children 5 and up. With the art work and replica of Electra Waggoner Biggs studio as inspiration, this camp is geared to initiate and encourage budding artists.

Cooper Alexander, Assistant Director of the Red River Valley Museum, will be the instructor. Alexander is the newest member to the museum staff.

"Cooper will be replacing our beloved Ponchie Dean who has decided that it is time for her to retire to spend more time gardening and playing with her fur babies," Sherry Yoakum, museum director, said in announcing the addition of Alexander to the museum.

"What a delight it is to see everything through a new set of eyes! Please join us in welcoming Cooper to the Jewel in the Crown of North Texas."

Alexander, daughter of Cody and Becky Alexander of Vernon, graduated from Vernon High School. She graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a BA in Art History and a Minor in Arts Management and Administration. At the university, she served as

publicist for The University Theater Guild, served on the Fine Arts Council within University Senate, was Communications and Marketing Director and organized events for the Fine arts students and faculty.

"I'm excited to be back in Vernon after spending the last few years attending school and working in Austin," Alexander said. "My intention when heading off to the University of Texas was to eventually make my way back home to help make the museum and community everything it could be. I'm fortunate that 'eventually' came much sooner than I expected."

Sherry and the Board of Directors have given me such a wonderful opportunity, and I couldn't be more grateful."

Alexander's extensive experience has included Marketing Lead and Art Educator for the Cardavan Art School; Event Manager for "Isabel and the Runaway Train; Theatrical Director for the University Theater Guild; Radio Announcer; Commissioned Artist; Math and Speech Tutor.

In Her spare time, Alexander enjoys gardening, baking, learning Spanish, collecting snow globes, museum hopping and interior design.

ART SHOW

And Alexander began her duties just in time

for the museum's annual International Art Show, which is currently on display. She and Yoakum just completed displaying the pieces entered in this year's show.

This art work will be on public display from June 2 through July 10, 2020, with awards announced on June 12. Featuring the work of 22 artists from four states, this is one of the most highly prized shows in North Texas. Many will recognize the works of returning artists and marvel at the work of new artists. The diversity of art work featured in this show is truly delightful. There is something to capture the imagination of everyone.

Artists are as follows: California: Barbara Fracchia, Kensington Natalie Smythe of Glendale

Oklahoma: Sandy Ingram and Patsy Lane from Konawa, Ron Roberts from Poteau, Donna Robillard from Lawton, and Lyndon R. Wilcoxson from Oklahoma City.

Texas: Mary Cardwell of Electra, Dee Elliott of Mineral Wells, Diane Gibson of Vernon, Laura Gillis of Iowa Park, Ron Gordon of Vernon, Shirley King of Wichita Falls, Don MacLaughlin of Montague, Belinda Moore of Childress, John Robinson of Sherman, Jerry Smyers and Kathy Smyers of Holliday, Jaisa Stanley of Iowa Park, Kim Ward of



Red River Valley Museum Director Sherry Yoakum (left) and new Assistant Director Cooper Alexander, review the list of artists featured in this year's International Art Show which opened Tuesday.

Joyce Ashley/Vernon Record

Wichita Falls, and K. W. Whitley of Crowell.

Virginia: Z. L. Feng of Radford

While visitors are viewing the art show they can visit the Berry Gallery and the Waggoner Gallery. These galleries will remain open through the summer. The Bond Gallery is currently closed for construction of the redesign.

ART CAMP

The Red River Valley

Museum is tentatively planning an art camp for children 5 and up. With the art work and replica of Electra Waggoner Biggs studio as inspiration, this camp is geared to initiate and encourage budding artists! Cooper Alexander, Assistant Director of the Red River Valley Museum will be the instructor. Having previously worked for Cordovan Art School in Austin, Texas, Cooper is planning a curriculum to inspire the inner vision

of each child. The camp will be held Tuesday, July 6 through Friday July 17 for a cost of \$15.00 (to cover cost of supplies). For additional information call the museum at 940-553-1848 or check the Red River Valley Museum Facebook page.

The Red River Valley Museum is open: Tuesday -Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and is closed on Sunday and Monday. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

Contact the museum at (940)553-1848 or email Sherry Yoakum at rrvvm1@yahoo.com or Cooper Alexander at rrvvm2@yahoo.com with any questions.

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June sees camps, sports slowly reopening

Texas enters June with summer camps, including sports camps, allowed to open as the state relaxed some of the rules put in place to control the spread of the coronavirus.

Executive orders issued in mid-May allowed camps to begin reopening May 31, provided they follow social distancing guidelines.

Texas also now allows some professional sports events with limits on spectators, although it's unclear if any are planned soon. IndyCar will race the Genesys 300 at Texas Motor Speedway on Saturday but track officials say it won't include fans.

The University Interscholastic League released guidelines last week for the return of summer strength and conditioning programs and sport specific practices, which will allow student-athletes across Texas to get back to limited action beginning June 8.

The organization will also allow an additional 90 minutes per day, Monday through Friday of sport-specific skill instruction — with no more than 60 minutes per day in a given sport. The UIL initially canceled all spring sports and activities due to the novel coronavirus pandemic on April 17 after Gov. Greg Abbott announced schools to remain closed to in-person learning for the remainder of the year.

Now, the UIL has taken the first step towards bringing high school and junior high athletics back, although in limited fashion.

The UIL states "schools may use discretion when considering whether or not to offer in-person programs."