



Paul Schlesinger performs tricks on his fiddle at the Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame induction ceremony in 2012. Schlesinger was one of the inductees.

## Taylor's musical visionary

ANDRES DELGADO — TAYLOR PRESS INTERN  
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Taylor native drops a new country album with a little swing in it.

Paul Schlesinger released his new album Feb. 22, titled "Paul Schlesinger and his Knights of Texas Swing." According to Schlesinger, it's essentially a throwback to the older country sounds of the 40s, 50s and 60s. As an ardent fan of country swing, Schlesinger looks to bring back these authentic sounds.

"The songs feature some of my favorite Jimmy Heap numbers, and other tunes I feature at my dances and shows," Schlesinger said.

"The songs are all arranged by me and feature a lot of twin fiddles."

According to the Western Swing Top 10 Radio List and Country Music Magazine, the album has not gone unnoticed.

"The CD is now number three on a prominent western swing radio Top 10 list, with our cut of 'This Song is Just for You' coming in at the number two spot this month," Schlesinger said. "There are a lot of wonderful things happening with my current CD, including coverage in a high-profile British publication, and a nomination for the Academy of Western Artists Award in Western Swing."

Although Schlesinger, 45, is the Systems Administrator for the Texas Dental Association in Austin, his real passion is music, which he has pursued on the side for a long time.

"I'm not sure I can say there was a date when I said, 'I will dedicate my life to music,'" he said. "No matter what I did, everything seemed to default back to music."

Schlesinger's mother, Donna, has been very encouraging of his rising career as a musician.

"He loved music ever since he was little," she said. "This music makes you want to get up and dance."

"She is very supportive, and she attends nearly every show I play," Schlesinger said when asked about his mother's role in his career.

According to Schlesinger, he



Paul Schlesinger in action with his trusty fiddle at Granite Shoals.

### Notable awards and recognitions:

2014 Western Swing Artist of the Year  
2012 Country Hall of Fame induction in Gatesville  
Nominated for Academy of Western Artist's Award in Western Swing  
CD Feature in Country Music People magazine  
Coverage in high-profile British publications  
Radio play on Mike Gross "Swingin' West"

radio show on KSEY-FM in Texas and KTYNK in California  
Named among several Top 10 Lists that deal with country swing  
#5 in the Swingin' West June 2016 Top 10 Songs for "This Song is Just for you"  
Second album is #4 on the Swingin' West June 2016 list for albums.

has been recording this album for about 10 years. Several of the songs featured were part of Schlesinger's live set for nearly a decade.

"The reason for playing these older songs is because they haven't been heard in over 30 to 40 years," Schlesinger said. "People wanted to hear that older stuff again."

He said his inspiration for this album comes from western swing music that was popularized by Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys.

"My main influence is from a band called Jimmy Heap and the Melody Masters," Schlesinger said. "I'd say my favorite artists are them, Ray Price and the Sons of

the Pioneers."

Although this is his first with the Knights of Texas Swing, Schlesinger's first commercial recordings date back to 2004, when he performed his fiddle with Joe Boyd Reynolds on his "Ol' Cowboy" CD. Schlesinger released his first solo CD in 2005 titled, "Our Way", which was an instrumental album. He has also performed with the Texas Pioneers, King of Swing, and the Little River Playboys, a group he formed.

The band name, "Knights of Texas Swing" dates back to 2006, when Schlesinger began using it for personal band bookings.

Schlesinger is not the only

**See "Album" on page 4**

### Movies at High Noon

Need a fill for Westerns? High Noon Sundays is the place to be. The event is a five-week series for Western movies at the Howard Theater in downtown Taylor. Tickets are \$8 per show or \$20 for a Series Pass to all five shows.

#### High Noon Schedule

JULY 10 - Joshua stars Fred Williamson as Union Soldier who vows to avenge the death of his mother. The Howard Theatre.

JULY 17 - The Deadly Companions is Sam Peckinpah's first film about an ex-soldier who escorts a woman across hostile Apache territory so she can bury her dead son. The Howard Theatre.

JULY 24 - Mad Dog Morgan stars Dennis Hopper as one of Australia's most notorious criminal who gains infamy as he evades the authorities across the Australian Outback. The Howard Theatre.

JULY 31 - A Fistful of Dollars stars Clint Eastwood as the infamous "man with no name" who wanders into a small Mexican town run by two warring families and quickly becomes the one holding all the power. The Howard Theatre.

## Churches to host VBS next week

Vacation Bible School is a summer tradition, and there will be several opportunities in the upcoming weeks.

The Greater Taylor Area Vacation Bible School and Educational Institute will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. July 18-21 at Naomi Paseman Elementary.

The community bible school is open to the public and everyone is invited to attend. The theme this year is the "Ultimate Climb Exodus 34:2."

Knobbs Springs Baptist Church in McDade will have Vacation Bible School July 17 through July 21. Meals for children begin at 6 p.m. with worship rally at 6:30 p.m. Wrap-up is at 8:45 p.m.

For more information contact the church 512-273-2743 or email knobbspringsbaptist@gmail.com.

San Gabriel Christian Church, 184 County Road 421, about 4 miles north of Thorndale of FM 436, across from the old San Gabriel school house, will be holding Vacation Bible School on Saturday, July 16, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The VBS will be for children who will be entering kindergarten next year through those going into fifth grade.

The theme is

"Barnyard Roundup." Lessons will focus on Jesus as our Shepherd. The day will include singing, classes, activities and crafts. The church will provide lunch. The program is free and open to all children within these age groups.

"Because we are a rural congregation we have found it to be more effective to combine the entire VBS into one day rather than try to have it over several nights. That way families can bring their children for the one day rather than having to drive out several nights in a row," said Norma Mott, VBS coordinator.

For more information, call Mott at 512-924-5308 or Billy Bob Cox, minister, at 512-373-0954.

First Baptist Church (Davis St.) in Taylor, will host its VBS July 25-29. This year's theme is "Submerged: Finding Truth Below the Surface."

VBS is open to children who are who have completed kindergarten through fifth grade. They will enjoy all of the activities including bible story time, snack, missions, music, crafts and recreation.

For more information, call 512-352-3144.

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## PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Former University of Texas football player Romance Taylor encouraged kids in drills during a speed camp held this past weekend.

Photo by:  
Jason Hennington



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# Banks donate to families of fallen officers

DALLAS/AUSTIN – Banks and their employees throughout Texas are understandably concerned and want to help. Through the Texas Bankers Association, member banks have come together to help the families in their time of need.

The banks are making donations to the Assist the Officer Foundation, operated by the Dallas Police Association.

The organization provides immediate financial assistance to an officer's family in the event of death or injury.

"The morning after the tragedy, we began getting phone calls from member bankers asking if there was a coordinated effort on behalf of the industry to help the victims," said TBA President and CEO Eric Sandberg. "We did our due diligence and selected Assist the Officer Foundation

because 100 percent of the proceeds go to the families in need. We've also heard from bankers in other states who are looking for ways to help."

"PlainsCapital Bank, based in Dallas reached out to the Dallas Police Department with a donation of \$25,000 dollars.

"Our great city is hurting," said Alan B. White, chairman of PlainsCapital Bank. "But in the wake of this tragedy, I believe the country and world will witness the strength, resilience and human compassion that makes me so proud to call Dallas home. Our Hilltop Holdings family of companies - PlainsCapital Bank, PrimeLending, HilltopSecurities and National Loyds - has made a \$25,000 donation to support the families of our heroic fallen officers. We must all stand united against acts of hate and not let them define us."

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swing musician on this record. The album's artists stretch across three generations of swing musicians including Bill Dowdy, Ray Tesmer, Jim Grabowski, George Harrison, Kim Cochran, Bill Dessens, Clyde Brewer, Bud Harger, Greg Rickard and Jimmy Heap Jr.

Many of these musicians have been playing for decades, such as George Harrison (not the Beatle), who played drums and recorded for Jimmy Heap in the 50s.

Bill Dowdy, at age 93, also appears on the record. Dowdy, who Schlesinger names as a mentor, played in the 40s and taught him how to play rhythm guitar.

As for what's next, Schlesinger looks to create something more gospel-infused.

"My next CD project will feature country gospel tunes with my wife, Tara, which will include traditional favorites that we play and swing," he said.

"I've also been asked to become the music director of the Lee County Cowboy Church. That's another big step that I'm considering."

Last year, Schlesinger married his wife, and the couple celebrated their one-year anniversary June 27.

Currently, he is on tour with dates scheduled in the central Texas area including Patsy's Café in Austin Friday, July 22.

His CDs are available at Friends of the Bride and Plain Jane's in Taylor, the Dowdy House in Lexington and Unique Celebrations in Bartlett.

# Chamber talks real estate at luncheon

In the last few years, Taylor's real estate market has seen prices soar and inventories dwindle.

With local businesses and schools having trouble finding homes for new employees and the City looking at ways to stimulate the creation of new housing development, the Taylor Chamber of Commerce has assembled a panel of experts to explain to us what is happening.

"What's going on with Taylor real estate," a panel discussion will be the topic for the Chamber's noon luncheon Monday, July 18, at Sirloin Stockade.

The event will include information from several real estate professionals. It will include information on "selling Taylor" to potential home-buyers, preserving or preparing to sell your property, the state of commercial real estate and staging your home for the best offer.

In addition to real estate representatives, Taylor City Manager Isaac Turner will be there to share information from the recent housing study that outlines potential avenues for growing the home market in the city.

The panel of real estate professionals will include Julie Downs of Remax Associates, Gary Gola of Cornerstone Real Estate, Loretta Patschke of Patschke and Patschke Real Estate, Shane Polach of Terra Properties.

The panel discussion is part of the Chamber's monthly Business Development Luncheon and is free to attend. Those wishing to eat should pay \$10 at the door and arrive around 11:45 a.m. to ensure they have time to get their lunch prior to the start of the meeting.

For information, call the Chamber at 512-352-6364.

# Supporting police



group in the community supporting police. "Our officers matter to us, and we need to support them 100 percent," Michna said. A community member took to social media and challenged people to tie a blue ribbon on their mailbox or porch to support police.

Photo by Jason Hennington

## Texas Tribune Report

# Six months in, few open carry complaints

KIRBY WILSON  
Texas Tribune

When it became legal six months ago for properly licensed Texans to openly carry handguns, anti-gun activists and Second Amendment backers were sharply divided over what to expect.

More people carrying visible guns would likely increase the chances of death or tragedy, opponents argued, while supporters said responsible gun owners would increase safety.

The disagreement has not died down, and national attention was again focused on Texas gun laws after Thursday's shooting that left five police officers dead. Prominent policymakers, including President Barack Obama and Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings, said open carry added to the confusion at the chaotic scene of the shooting as police had to consider whether people legally carrying guns

might be threats.

Dallas Police Chief David Brown seemed to echo that sentiment at a press conference Monday.

Rawlings said that about 20 armed protesters — including one who police mistakenly named a suspect — became immediate targets of suspicion when bullets began to fly in Dallas. Many of them were taken into custody, questioned and released when it was determined they had nothing to do with the shooting.

But the open carry of long rifles, which seems to have contributed the most to the confusion, has been legal in Texas for decades. Texas is one of the 44 states that allow the open carry of such guns.

So far, officials say, the newly allowed open carry of handguns hasn't spawned any major incidents. "I don't know of any instances where there has been violence, arrests, disturbances that have taken place," said Kevin

Lawrence, executive director of the Texas Municipal Police Association. "I think it's been amazingly quiet up to this point."

The Dallas shootings, however, rekindled arguments about revisiting the open carry laws, which state Rep. Diego Bernal, D-San Antonio, called "Republicans thumbing their nose at law enforcement."

Rep. Larry Phillips, R-Sherman, who helped push open carry through the Legislature, said he and his colleagues did weigh the opinion of law enforcement. Despite the opposition from chiefs, rank-and-file members Phillips spoke to were generally receptive to the bill, he said.

Bernal said he hoped to see a repeal of the open carry laws for both handguns and long rifles.

"When we talk about legislation, we often talk about worst-case scenarios," he said. "And I think we saw that [in Dallas]." Phillips said although

the Dallas incident should be reviewed, it should be up to individuals to decide how to practice their Second Amendment rights safely.

Much of the recent controversy over open carry has come not from gun opponents, but from gun rights activists claiming their legal rights to carry are being infringed. Gun rights advocates have filed dozens of complaints with the state over what they believe to be unfair restrictions on open carry in public places.

Private businesses are allowed to restrict open carry in their establishments, and many have.

The open carry disagreements echo earlier arguments over Texas gun laws. Bernal and fellow Democratic Rep. Chris Turner, D-Arlington, both said that they support the state's concealed carry law — a law that faced similar police opposition as the recent open carry legislation when it passed in 1996.

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