READY TO ROLL

WONDER WOMAN-THEMED COASTER MAKES BELATED DEBUT SATURDAY AT SIX FLAGS FIESTA TEXAS

MUSIC » Natalia Lafourcade » Dwight Yoakam » Gipsy Kings » Tom Jones » Helmet » Prong | STAGE » 'La Bohème'
» 'Bridges of Madison County' » 'Every Woman Comedy Tour' | TRAVEL » Checking out Nashville's Patsy Cline museum
Artifacts from the musician's home add personal touches to the Patsy Cline Museum in Nashville.

Singer's museum captures spirit of late 1950s-early 60s

SIMPLY 'CRAZY' OVER PATSY

By Robbin Seelow
FOR THE EXPRESS-NEWS

What female singer ranks highest on the Top 10 All-Time Jukebox Hit Singles, according to Gibson.com? Hint: the year this hit, written by another rising star, came out was 1961. "Crazy" — the Willie Nelson ballad that Patsy Cline turned into the ultimate expression of...
yearning. It became a cornerstone of the late 1950s-early 1960s Nashville sound that tempered honky-tonk style with smoother pop elements.

Nashville's Patsy Cline Museum, which opened April 2017 above the Johnny Cash Museum downtown, is a treasury of songs, archival photos, costumes, scrapbooks and even furnishings from the iconic performer's house. Most surprising to me: the crescendo of Cline's achievements that blazed the trail for country music, particularly for female entertainers.

Born Virginia Patterson Hensley, Cline dropped out of school, put on red lipstick, walked to her local radio station in her mountain hometown of Winchester, Virginia, and got herself on the air. Same thing with Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts.

The TV variety show on which she crooned "Walking After Midnight." She didn't wait to be invited on the Grand Ole Opry; she talked her way on stage. All this before she recorded "Crazy" in 1961 while on crutches right after being seriously injured in a car crash.

She was the first female country vocalist to perform on American Bandstand, headline her own show in Vegas, and at the time, the only female country vocalist to perform at both Carnegie Hall and the Hollywood Bowl.

And all this before the March 1963 plane crash that proved to be the only thing that could stop the icon whose songs peppered Billboard charts for decades after her passing. In 1973, she was the first female to be inducted in the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Cline designed her own costumes down to the final fringe and last rhinestone, which her mother Hilda sewed, answered all of her fans mail — sometimes detailing what she'd do if ever catching the person who stole her favorite coat. The museum

Robert's Western World is one of dozens of Nashville joints that feature female-powered bands.

Online
For more photos, go to MySA.com/Travel.

Introduction to the singer, wife and mother who thrived on ambition and excellence. Here you can play her hits at listening stations, flip through her wonderful scrapbook, savor the handwritten lyrics of an artist who didn't need to learn to read sheet music.

Bill and Shannon Millar, who founded the Patsy Cline Museum, have done a magnificent job telling the icon's story, says museum manager Mario Munoz.

"We've seen everything from tears, joyful laughter, singing out loud and slow dancing in the gift shop. Patsy is still loved and remembered, and this museum is a valentine to her fans."

Today, Nashville's women are elevating the creative scene in Cline's Countrypolitan wake.

When visiting Music City, put the fruits of these Nashville catalysts' bold visions on your hit list.

CLINE continues on M23

Femme-fierce bands

Throw a drumstick in any direction and you'll hit a female musician playing Nashville honky-tonks like legendary Robert's Western World, clubs like the Bluebird and Mercy Lounge, and annual showcases like Tin Pan South. Hot tickets include Sarah Gayle Meech, Bally (whose frontwoman reminds me of Gwen Stefani) and Kelsea Ballerini, who has toured with Lady Antebellum and recently played at San Antonio's AT&T Block Party. City Winery Nashville's regularly featured local musicians include Gwen Levey and Valentine James.

Taylor Swift's space at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum

The superstar donated $4 million to endow the Taylor Swift Education Center, a fun space at the museum that includes hands-on experiences and an interactive gallery, like sometimes drops into the museum, which is a work.
CLINE
From page M22

derland of legendary guitarists, cowboy boots, chiseled stones and memoria.

Girl-power guitar shop
Women run Fanny's House of Music in East Nashville sells new, used and vintage gear, including guitars contoured to fit smaller torsos and bodies. Walls display photos of such icons as Emmylou Harris and Sister Rosetta Tharpe. While there I met Callan Dwan, known for performing guitar wizardry with her band, Blind.

Drum craters
A bright new star on the downtown scene, Carter's at Union Station Hotel is named for Glady's "Happy" Carter, a notable telegraph office clerk who attracted crowds to the train depot lunch counter back in the day. The 1900 building's splendid historic feature huge fireplaces and sky-high 6-foot stained-glass lined barrel-vaulted ceiling that is now ringed by 150-southern-comfortable guest rooms. Pandora Ederlink be-
came a new Gladys, drawing patrons with her "Countrypolitan" fueled with creations made with local spirits, including the hotel's own signature barrel of Jack Daniel's whiskey.

Bees elevating Nashville's beer scene include Bailey Spaulding, a law student turned homebrewer founded Jackslopes Brewing, and Corinna's head brewer Karen Lessiter, a beer historian who knows ancient Egyptians' brewing secrets.

Saucy chefs
Walk East Nashville founder/guide Karen Lee Ryan includes female-run dining rooms on her tours. At Margot Caff & Bar, indulge in Margot McCormack's French-inspired country plates that change daily based on the morning's ingredients — paired with house-made potato chips. The charming East Nashville stop is based in a 1960s former service station. For delicious photo-free good-

es, head to Lauren Moskowitz's Little Mosko's Muschonette & Bake Shop by the river.

Must-visit farm-to-
table includes Henrietta Red, where classically trained chef Julia Sullivan and nomadical Allie Poin
dexter serve shareable veggie and seafood plates and daily happy hour specials. For three decades, Deb Pauquette's inventive fla-

ors have helped catapult Mastic City to foodie town

dominance. Special touch-

es at her restaurant, Rich, include truffled pea pesto and sunflower seed hum-

mus.

Everyone in the night-
time plays a guitar," says the chef about the many female musicians on her staff.

Inspired art-makers
Crazy is how people described Anne Brown and Susan Timney a de-
cade ago when they pur-

Save the date
National Polka Festival
Ennis celebrates its 110th Czech heritage with the National Polka Festival.

May 25-27

Czech Music Hall, 3201 S.W. 19th St., Ennis, nationalpolkafestival.com. A festival celebrating Emi's Czech heritage. Includes polka bands, food trucks, arts and crafts, a parade and a kiloshe.

Amazing women have helped make Nashville a global powerhouse of music.

By Robin Sismon/For the Economy-News

Hotel & Convention Center, 2033 Sidney Baker, Kerrville, texasmowers.com. An exhibi-
tion of professional artists and craftpeople from all over Texas. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. May 25-26, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. May 27.

Fiesta Charras: The Lonestar Cantina Club, 100 Parker Ave., Lewisville, cityoflewisville.com. A demonstration of traditional charreada activities, including traditional dress and horse-
manship performances based on the animal husbandry practices in the haciendas of Old Mexico. Noon-7 p.m. May 19.

For you go
Pathways.com VisitMusicCity.com

to working to apply nanofib-
er materials to healing skin. Clout's honors in-
clude a $10 award from the Women's Essence Show in Paris.

Outside on a tall nearby wall looms Emily Elizabeth Miller's super-sized bird-adorned guitar, one of the street artist's contrib-


In Nashville, women are seen and heard — giving us more reasons to be crazy about this town.

Robin Sismon, a writer-photographer based in the South, can be reached at rassismon@gmail.com