who originally tried out in the contest’s Top 32. Though Vancil didn’t make it into the Top 6, he gave his all and the move will better serve the fans of Texas music and the care of preserving the actual artifacts.

Helene Cronin, of Plano, was one of the Top 6 co-winners in this year’s Kerrville New Folk Competition. Helene and Ezra Vancil, also from North Texas, were the only two Texans that made it into the prestigious Top 32 finalists, and the others were, as Woody Guthrie sang, “From California to the New York Island, from the Redwood Forest to the Gulf stream waters.”

Jackie Don Lee will celebrate his birthday at A Step Up Lounge on June 9.

Sherman, Denison and Van Alstyne (all in Grayson County) are kicking off their five summer music concerts. Van Alstyne’s Music in the Park is being held on the third Tuesdays of June, July and August, with Tanner Sparks Band, Tony Ramey, and Big Joe Walker band playing those nights respectively. Sherman’s Hot Summer Nights is held each Thursday through late July with a variety of musicians bringing a variety of genres to audiences. Denison’s Music on Main is on every Friday evenings, and also features many styles of music and features, also, an opening act each night.

Meanwhile, Fort Worth’s radio station 95.9, The Ranch, is sponsoring a Texas music series on Wednesdays at The Yard, 3017 Morton Street. They are bringing in the best regional Texas artists and accenting the shows with more local bands for a complete schedule of these and other concerts, go to SceneTellTown.com’s Official Texas Music Calendar.

Dallas native Michael Martin Murphy is finishing work in Austin on a new release of some his early hits including “Cosmic Cowboy” and “Geronimo’s Cadillac.” He will perform the at Poor David’s Pub on June 20.

KNON will present Rosin Flores at Poor David’s Pub on June 15. For tickets and more information go to knon.org.

New releases

IT’S BEEN FOUR DECADES SINCE Kinky Friedman has released a new album. But, at Willie Nelson’s urging, he has recorded and is releasing Circus of Life. Due out July 6, Circus of Life will be supported with a circus of another type – Friedman’s incomparable live show – which kicks off June 20th in Nacogdoches and circles the country. He will perform at Poor David’s on July 30.

Grammy-winning roots troubadour Rodney Crowell announced the July 13 release of his new Acoustic Classics. Exclusive pre-order bundles featuring the new cd and vinyl can be found on website, rodneycrowell.com. A creative powerhouse with no off switch, the acclaimed songwriter, musician, author and poet is adding yet another title to his already esteemed pedigree; label head. As prolific today, as he was in his twenties, Crowell has released six albums in the last ten years. There’s even a revised version of his most commercially successful song, “Shame on the Moon,” said Crowell.

Renowned folk singer Eliza Gilkyson will release her 20th album, Secularia, on July 13 via Red House Records. The album features a duet with her friend, the late Jimmy LaFave, as well as two poems written by her grandmother and adapted into songs.

Austin-based artist Arkansas Dave has released his new cd featuring a wide range of blues-rock, the 13-track album was recorded over eight days at FAME Studios with the Swampers, and horn arrangements by Charles Rose and Jim Horn. The album was produced by Jamie “Gypsy” Evans and Arkansas Dave.

O MAY 17 THE TEXAS MUSICIANS Museum closed after 12 years in Downtown Irving due to a contract dispute with the landlord. Home to friends and family of all genres of Texas traditions, it was not only a museum but a bar & grill plus a live music venue with an outdoor beer garden. Owner and operator Tom Kreason acknowledged that the move is in progress and waiting for the final location.

Events

ON MAY 29 BIG BEAT DALLAS which included five clubs and two outdoor stages supporting live music suddenly stopped all operations for only eight weeks, the problems of parking inefficiencies, various material factors, and landlord interference were cited as reasons that contributed to the inability to operate the plaza. All other restaurants and bars remain open around the Toyota Music Factory.

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