

LONG CANYON

Gazette

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A NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE LONG CANYON

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Viper Nation Gala Early Bird Tickets On Sale December 4th! Price increases January 29th!

By Courtney Johnson, VNEF Executive Director

Viper Nation Education Foundation's 8th Annual Gala will be February 10th at the gorgeous J.W. Marriott in downtown Austin. Tickets are on sale at www.ViperNationEF.org. Advanced sales for VIP tables have been brisk.

Our Valentines-themed evening will include a lovely cocktail hour with silent auction bidding, followed by a gourmet dinner and jazz music from the popular band "TimeOut," led by local Steiner resident Charles Couch. Guests can look forward to another spirited live auction night with high anticipation for top packages like an unforgettable "Car Driving Experience," sponsored by Apple Sport Imports, a private home getaway in Crested Butte, Colorado, and many other luxury packages soon to be announced.

We'll conclude the evening with a fun DJ dance party, thanks to sponsor Four Points News. Says Lynette Haaland-Seitzler, "I'm ready to see everyone having fun on the dance floor!"

Community leaders and families who already stepped forward with generous sponsorships by early November include Independence Title, Cedar Park Pediatrics and Family Medicine, Four Points News, Kim Krant of Engle and Volkers Austin Real Estate, Brigham Minerals, LLC and

Dr. Stephen Whiteside & Tiffany Whiteside, LasikPlus of Austin. Exciting sponsorships are still available for those wishing to be part of the Foundation's most important fundraiser of the year. To learn more about sponsorship opportunities and to purchase tickets, go to www.ViperNationEF.org or call Executive Director Courtney Johnson at (512) 750-9185.

Early bird tickets go on sale December 4th, starting at \$175 per person. On Monday, January 29th, ticket prices increase to \$200 per person. Proceeds from the event support Impact Grants for teachers at all eight public schools, and the entire portfolio of VNEF-supported academic programs. Tickets may be purchase online at www.ViperNationEF.org.

JW Marriott Austin's new luxurious Spa will offer a special Valentine's Spa Package for two, including a couple's massage and facials with the choice of the couple's suite, if desired, for any Gala overnight guests. "Be sure to buy your Viper Nation Gala tickets in December and reserve our "Bed of Roses" Spa package soon – the complete Valentine weekend is certain to be popular," says Spa Director Amy Barton Ray.

Started in 2009, Viper Nation Education Foundation funds academic grants for programs in the eight public schools within the Four Points area (Grandview Hills Elementary, Laura Welch Bush Elementary, River Place Elementary, River Ridge Elementary, Steiner Ranch Elementary, Canyon Ridge Middle School, Four Points Middle School and Vandegrift High School.). To learn more about the organization, visit www.ViperNationEF.org.

Light Up the Holidays with a Day Trip to Johnson City

The twinkliest town in the Hill Country is a perfect destination for a holiday tour of lights with family and friends. Located in the heart of the Hill Country, Johnson City has activities for all ages to enjoy.

During the day, light up your imagination with a visit to the Science Mill, a science museum housed in Johnson City's historic 1880s mill. Run your hands through the 3D topographic sandbox to create colorful rivers, mountains, lakes and dams. Enter the Fractalarium to experience a larger-than-life lighted representation of Romensco broccoli and see how fractals are a marvel of nature. Explore the Silo of McKays, a multidimensional art installation combining art and science with light, sound, rhythm, balance, color and harmony. The Science Mill's 40+ hands-on exhibits (and current 3D movie, Wonders of the Arctic) will engage all ages.

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The Science Mill is located at 101 S. Lady Bird Lane in Johnson City, TX and will be open extended hours during the holidays. Find more information at www.sciencemill.org.

Johnson City's annual Lights Spectacular celebration, celebrating its 28th year, runs Friday, Nov. 24 through New Year's Day, starting with the spectacular courthouse lighting ceremony and fireworks.

The whole town glows, from the Blanco County Courthouse to the dazzling display of light-wrapped trees at Pedernales Electric Cooperative's headquarters, to candlelight tours of Lyndon Baines Johnson's boyhood home. Visitors can enjoy the lighting extravaganza by foot or by horse-drawn carriage, and local retailers and art galleries offer extended hours, food and music on the town square during the Spectacular. The event is free and pet friendly.

For more information about Johnson City and the Lights Spectacular visit the Johnson City Chamber of Commerce website at www.johnsoncitytexas.info.

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