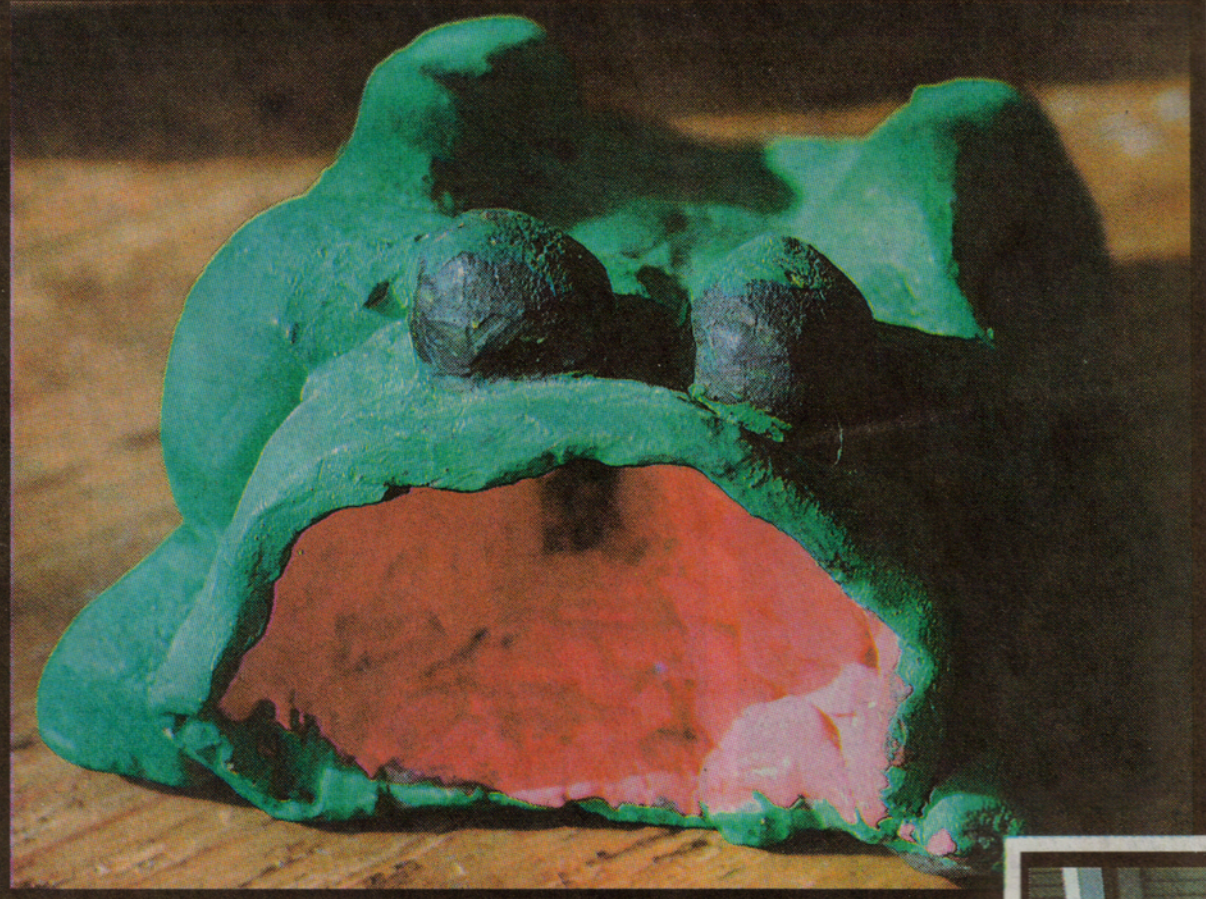
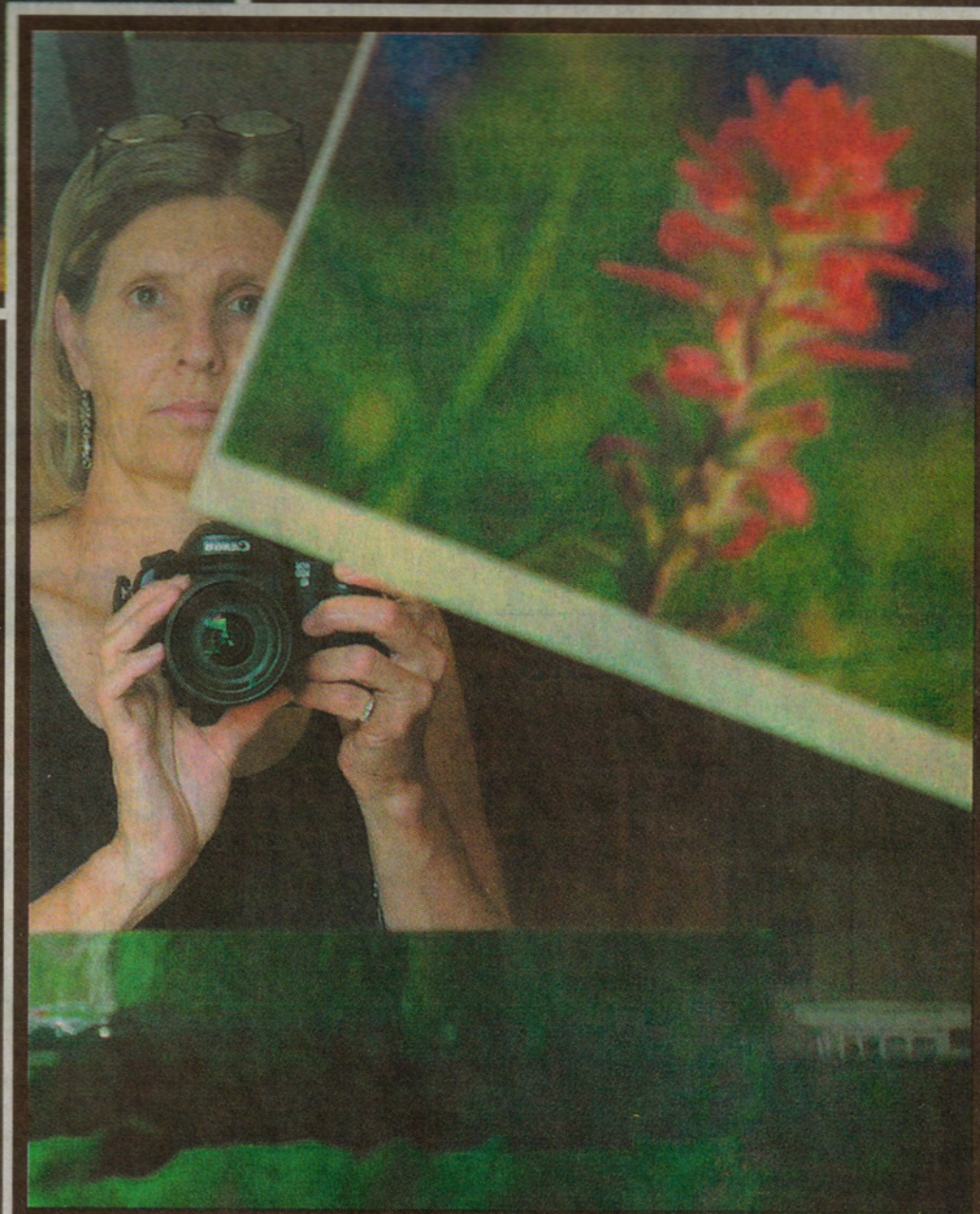


# FINE ARTS 2009



**Celebrating the  
Art and Artists  
of Our  
Community**







Billy Blaze plays a rendition of "The Man," a song written from the perspective of the "tax pirates," he said.

If you like mellow tunes with just a guy and his guitar, check out *Under the Covers* by Billy Blaze.

What's not so mellow are some of the lyrics. If you listen closely, you'll hear about nightmares, the pain of addiction, the healing power of love and the sad state of the political world today.

"I like things that really mean something," Blaze said, "so I started writing about

things that really matter to me — either stuff that I went through or things that other people close to me went through."

"Open Your Eyes" asks that folks pay attention to today's political climate.

"It's a plea for people to take notice of what's going on in the country," Blaze said.

"Open your eyes/Is everything better/Remember when you were a child/Mama didn't change the law/So you always

knew right from wrong/You didn't have to worry/About someone wanting your land/And taking your home/

"How can you look at the world today/And not get emotional/How can you think/That this would all be ok/When everyone you know is hurting/Have you gotten so used to ignoring the truth/Can't you tell that they're lying/Open your eyes/Is everything better?"

"The Man" is "written from the perspective of the global elite, the powers that be," Blaze said.

"Got a good job and it pays a lot of money/2.2 kids and a dog and cat honey/....This is my happy good nothing can be wrong song/

"But to the rest of the world it ain't pretty/You work till you fingers are broken and gritty/But I'll just keep plugging along/Stepping on all of the backs of the slaves that I own/....

"I'm not concerned with the value of money/I'll just print

# Blaze of glory

## Springtown singer Billy Blaze is easy listening in debut CD

more 'cause I think that it's funny/Watching the people go crazy for an IOU/If I don't like the way things are going/I'll change the law to keep everything flowing/All in the name of a flag of skull and cross bones/This is my happy good nothing can be wrong song."

A song Blaze has only released on UTube, "Mr. Rx," is about the powers of Big Pharma.

Blaze, 42, worked 15 years as a certified optician. While pharmaceutical use so prevalent in that industry as in other medical fields, he said, his father was a doctor, his mother was a nurse and he has friends who are doctors and so has had the chance to make some observations.

Pharmaceutical companies, he said, use unique marketing techniques to get doctors to prescribe their drugs to patients.

The company sends sales representatives "who are real good looking" to doctors' offices, he said. "If it's a male doctor, they'll send a woman, and if it's a female doctor, they'll send a man.

"Then they'll take the entire staff to lunch and show charts and studies, which are skewed .... and push (the doctors) to sell these products," Blaze said. "And (doctors) get kickbacks," he added.

"I'm talking to the doctors," Blaze said. "What happened to your conscience?"

Blaze, whose real last name is Raburn, is a native of Vidalia, Louisiana. His family

moved to Fort Worth when he was 16. He and Kathy, his wife of nearly 13 years, moved to the Springtown area several months ago.

Blaze taught himself guitar, plays by ear and simply writes the lines that move him.

It took a while, though, to work up to being a singer/songwriter/performer. In fact, Blaze's confidence wobbled as he grew into each part.

At the age of 11, he tried playing guitar but gave up — someone tried to show him an "F" chord — "a monstrous chord," Blaze said, "so I put it in a closet until I was 18."

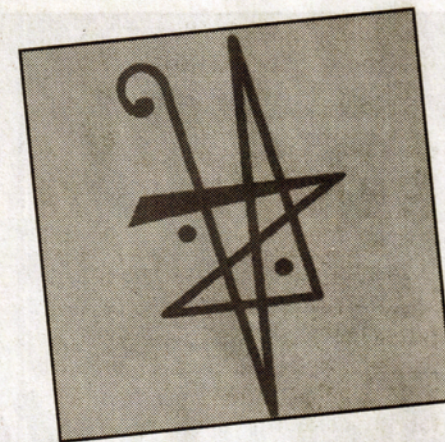
He didn't really start playing until his 20s and finally built up the calluses he needed to play comfortably.

Then he had to get comfortable playing tunes all the way through.

"I learned how to play the guitar in stages," Blaze said. "I'll never know enough chords, but you keep pushing and (eventually) have a revelation."

Then he had to learn how to sing while playing.

"I thought, 'I can't play and



The cover art of Billy Blaze's debut CD, *Under the Covers*, is his signature. He designed it after seeing an art exhibit and noticed that many artists used symbols for their signatures.

sing at the same time," he said. "It's two different tempos."

When Blaze realized that playing guitar is memorization, he reached the point of being able to sing and play simultaneously.

Then he thought he couldn't write songs, "but I kept pushing, and I'd have another revelation," he said.

As for Blaze's particular genre of music, mostly it fits under folk — "people call it 'Texas music,'" Blaze said. "Folk, rock, blues, country — it's not any of those, but I'm influenced by all of them. And it all goes back to blues."

Blues is his favorite genre, and it shows in his songwriting.

"No matter what I try to

PLEASE SEE PAGE 6.

Story and photo by Carolea Hassard

## Blaze plays mellow

■ FROM PAGE 4

write, it comes out like it does," he said.

Thirteen years ago, Blaze played on stage for the first time.

"My legs were just shaking," he said. "You never get over stagefright, but it gets better."

Blaze spent 10 years performing with various musicians in the DFW area and founded the band Tasty Lixx.

He said the name of the band was wordplay on "licks," as in playing a group of notes on the guitar or drums, and "tasty," as in the licks sounding good.

The name of his debut CD, *Under the Covers*, refers to being a cover band, he said.

"There are three kinds of bands," he said. "A cover band plays other artists' songs plus their own stuff. An original band

plays their songs only, and a tribute band plays tributes to other artists, such as the Swan Song band plays Led Zepplin songs."

Blaze has since gone solo, moving out here to find some quiet and get back to the country life he knew growing up in Louisiana.

He has joined the Salt Creek Volunteer Fire Department and is planning to release a second CD, perhaps in the fall ("Mr. Rx" will be recorded on that disc).

Blaze sang for a SCVFD fundraiser earlier this fall and plans to hold a free concert in the Tabernacle on the Square in spring.

To learn more, see [www.billyblaze.net](http://www.billyblaze.net).

Blaze also has a karaoke band. For information, see [www.nextarkaraoke.com](http://www.nextarkaraoke.com).