

EXPLORE

BLANCO COUNTY
VOLUME 5 ISSUE 1



REAL
ALE
BREWING

BLANCO
COUNTY INN

JOHNSON CITY
VET CLINIC

BLANCO
COUNTY
MAPS

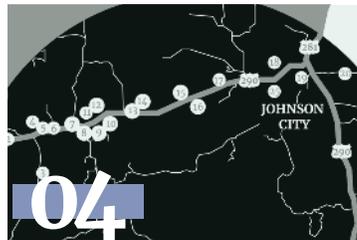
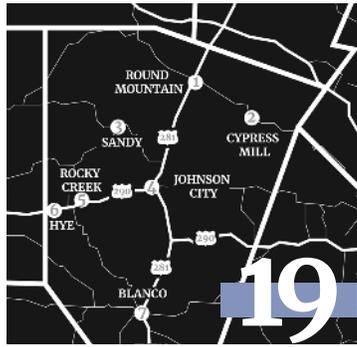
INSIDE EXPLORE

EXPLORE BLANCO CONTINUES
SHARING STORIES HIGHLIGHTING
EVENTS, BUSINESSES, AND ACTIVITIES
AROUND BLANCO COUNTY.

EXPLORE WHAT BLANCO
HAS TO OFFER.

EXPLORE BLANCO

CONTENTS



DRINKS AROUND BLANCO

04

JOHNSON CITY VET CLINIC

BY PHIL HOUSEAL

08

REAL ALE BREWING

BY PHIL HOUSEAL

10

BLANCO COUNTY INN

BY SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS

14

BLANCO COUNTY MAP

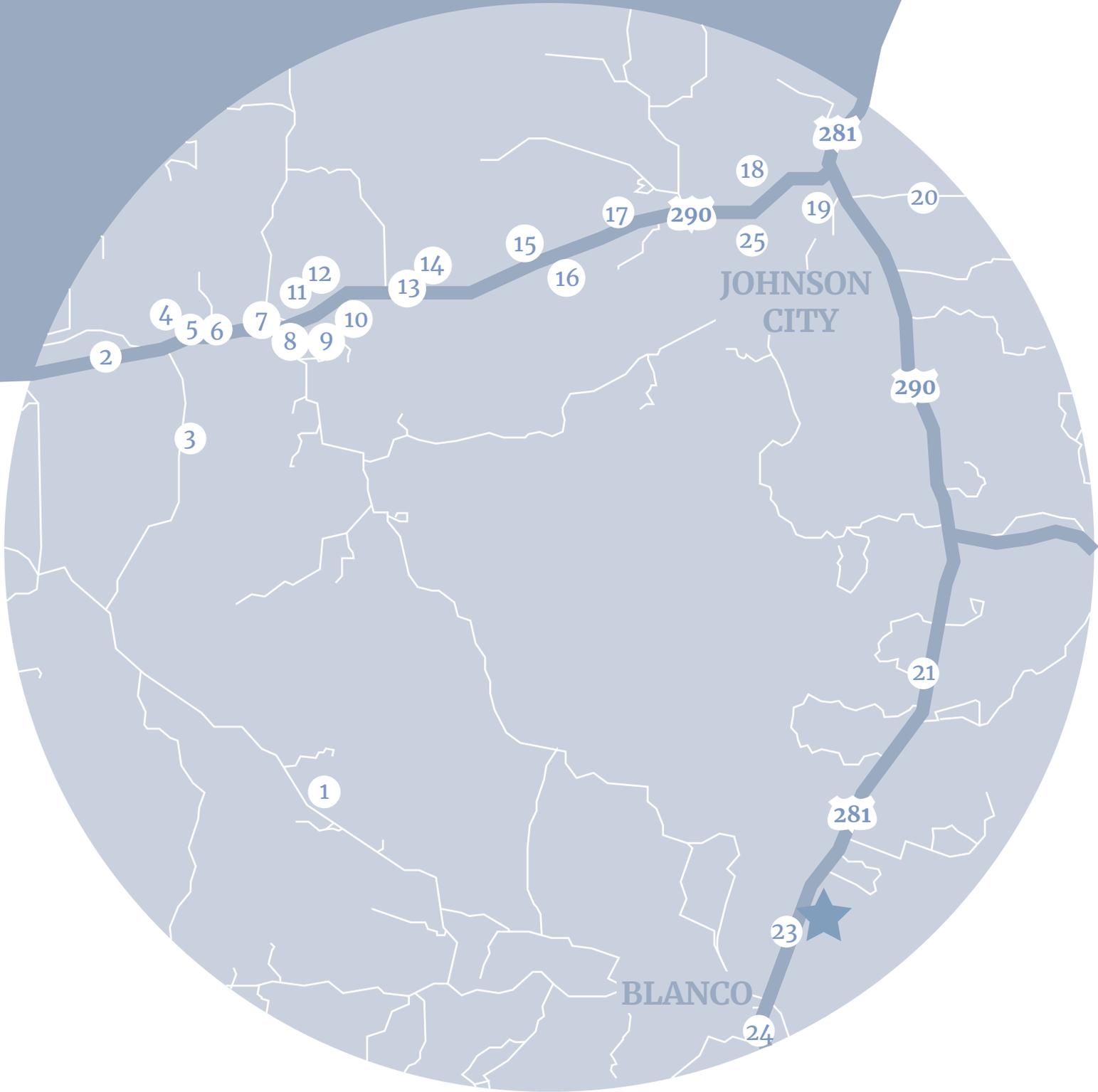
19

TABLE OF

DRINKS AROUND BLANCO COUNTY

WINERIES, DISTILLERIES, AND BREWERIES

- ① LA VIE ESTATE WINERY
- ② HYE RUM
- ③ GARRISON BROTHERS DISTILLERY
- ④ WILLIAM CHRIS VINEYARDS
- ⑤ HYE MEADOW WINERY
- ⑥ HORN WINERY
- ⑦ WESTCAVE CELLARS
- ⑧ TEJAS WINERY
- ⑨ HYE CIDER COMPANY
- ⑩ CALAIS WINERY
- ⑪ TEXAS MEAD WORKS
- ⑫ COVINGTON HILL COUNTRY
- ⑬ RON YATES WINES
- ⑭ VINOVIUM
- ⑮ 290 WINE CASTLE
- ⑯ CARTER CREEK WINERY RESORT & SPA
- ⑰ LEWIS WINES
- ⑱ PECAN STREET BREWING
- ⑲ FARMHOUSE VINEYARDS
- ⑳ TEXAS HILL VINEYARDS
- ㉑ ANDALUSIA
- ★ REAL ALE BREWING COMPANY
- ㉓ MILAM & GREENE WHISKEY DISTILLERY
- ㉔ ESPERANZA WINERY
- ㉕ RECK 'EM RIGHT BREWING COMPANY



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JOHNSON CITY VET CLINIC

• STORY BY •
PHIL HOUSEAL

Growing up on a ranch in Hallettsville while being active in 4-H and FFA, Kelly Krobot knew she wanted to pursue a career in agriculture. But agriculture can be a fickle friend, dependent on weather, markets, and consumer tastes. Then something happened in high school that set her on a path of healing and helping all creatures, 4-legged and 2-legged.

“Our local veterinarian asked me to start working at the clinic,” she said. So she rode the bus there after school, and began her journey to become Dr. Kelly Krobot, DVM.

After graduating from Texas A&M and working at a Marble Falls clinic, Krobot opened Johnson City Veterinary Clinic in October 2024. She chose Johnson City for its quality of life and to be close to her extended family. In that short time, she has built a steady following of clients who look to her to take care of their pets and small animals.

Her philosophy of practice and personal approach resonates with both pets and their keepers.

“When a client leaves with their animal, I want them to understand what's happened, and to understand what's going on. So client education is really important—learning about the patient and the client, collecting all the history, doing a thorough physical exam, and just spending time to do it right. That's important to me, but I think that makes it more rewarding for me, also. You develop relationships and when you know the whole story, you're better able to solve the whole puzzle.”

While her original goal was working with large animals, the reality of the workplace and the lack of large ranch operations in the area has turned her focus to small-animal practice.



Location
Johnson City Veterinary Clinic
213 Hwy 281 South- Unit C
Johnson City, Texas 78636

Contact
info@JCvetclinic.com
(830) 225-1095

Hours
Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm
First & Third Saturday of the month, 9am-12pm



“When I got out of school, I worked at a mixed animal practice,” she said. “But with being a mom and being a woman, it’s just not as easy, and there are not enough large animals to keep you fully busy in this area. So it has just kind of evolved into small animals over time.”

Therefore her practice focuses on dogs and cats, small rodents, sheep and goats, and a “little bit of pigs.” Chickens and ducks are becoming more popular as well. Krobot, her husband, Keith, and two children own cats, dogs, and a few goats, and the kids show pigs. While every pet is loveable, owning any pet is therapeutic.

“We’re dealing with a loneliness epidemic,” she said. “People’s pets become more and more important to them all the time. I can’t help you the way your doctor can help you, but I can help you by helping your pet. When your pet is the person that you care about, and the animals you care about are healthy and happy, that’s comforting. That’s a big part of the reward of being a vet.”

Another reward is diagnosing and treating her furry clients, or as she calls it, “solving the puzzle.”

“When you figure out the issue, and then you’re able to correct it with medication or correct it with surgery, that’s very rewarding. I like seeing the pet come back and they’re healthy and happy

again. Having those clients that come back and say, thank you so much for what you did. That’s a huge, huge part of what makes it rewarding.”

Another focus is helping youngsters experience what she experienced while growing up in rural Texas. That’s why she supports programs such as 4-H and FFA.

“They’re just very rewarding programs, because they’re centered on helping students succeed. That’s a really important part of me going forward, to give back and help perpetuate that. Fostering the next generation of veterinarians is also something that has been instilled in me by my mentors and is something I am very passionate about. Seeing one’s profession continue to grow and thrive into future generations is a goal and reward of anyone who truly loves their profession. I look forward to helping develop area programs that assist youth in their goals in veterinary medicine.

Krobot’s philosophy of caring extends beyond her practice.

“I enjoy being a valuable part of the community and taking care of humans by fostering the human animal bond and helping people best care for their pets. God put all of us on this earth to take care of each other. We all have gifts and ways to do that—this is ours.”

EXPLOREBLANCOCOUNTY.COM

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info@realalebrewing.com
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REAL ALE

BREWING CO

STORY BY PHIL HOUSEAL



Tap Room hours:
Thursday & Sunday 12-6pm
Friday & Saturday 12-8pm

Free tours:
Fridays @ 4pm

Dogs on leash and supervised children welcome.



When you name your business “Real Ale Brewing Company,” there is a reason. The word “real” means something.

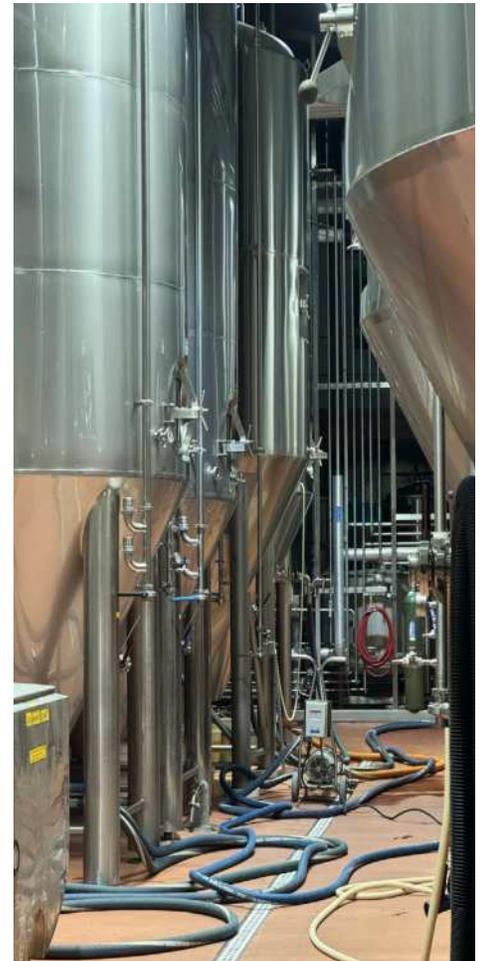
“We built the whole business on four basic philosophies,” explains Brad Farbstein, who, with his wife, Gabriel Gregerman, are majority owners. “It’s quality, consistency, innovation, and value. I think we bring all of those things to the table every day in the products that we bring to market.”

Real Ale has been a brewery for 29 years and a distillery for 12, starting out on the courthouse square in Blanco. From the very first day, they followed a straightforward business plan.

“We’re making beer with the basic four ingredients: water, grain, hops, and yeast. All the water from Blanco is derived from the aquifers and the rivers in the area. So you start with really good water, and you end up with really good beer and whiskey. We use time-honored traditional methods and processes and really good ingredients. We end up with a really outstanding product, day in and day out.”

As only the third craft brewery to open in the state, it was an “uphill battle” at first to get their product introduced to the marketplace.

“We were selling beer when nobody knew what craft beer was,” Farbstein recalls. “It was an uphill battle to get a bar to even consider putting craft beers in their offerings.”



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Now they do. Today, Real Ale's products are distributed state-wide to grocery stores, liquor stores, convenience stores, bars and restaurants. They currently brew 14+ year-round beers, pilot beers for their taproom, along with seasonal offerings. Real Spirits, Real Ale's distillery, focuses on producing hand crafted grain-to-glass spirits made from their beers (without hops)! Texas Hill Country Signature Whiskey, Bottled-in-Bond Whiskey, Grain-to-Glass Gin and Totem, a Pechuga inspired spirit are some of their most popular spirits. You can purchase their spirits at the brewery or at specialty liquor stores across the state.

And that's the best way to experience Real Ale—at their current 25-acre site just outside of Blanco on U.S. Highway 281.

There, they welcome travelers and visitors to a large outside beer garden, where they host anniversary parties, weddings, birthday parties, and corporate events. On weekends, guests can listen to live music performed on the stage they rescued from the historic Threadgill's in Austin. The Tap Room is open Thursday through Sunday and the Pizza Kitchen serves up wood-fired pizzas on Friday through Sunday.

Aside from their brews and spirits, Real Ale has long been

known for their dedication to building community. They host community gatherings throughout the year that include their anniversary party, bicycle ride, Oktoberfests, 5k run and other special events, often to raise money for local charities.

Farbstein points out that the crew at Real Ale are always looking for new ways to expand the market and gain new followers.

"We're usually making fairly unique styles that are traditionally outside the box," he notes. "We try not to pigeonhole ourselves into one thing or another. We're always open to experimenting and trying new things and trying to find what the next new libation will be that we can provide to our customers."

Ultimately it is about forming a bond with those customers.

"We are so focused on the quality of the beer, that after people engage with our brand, we gain them as lifelong customers, and they go on the journey with us," Farbstein says. "I think the beers that we're making are beers we enjoy drinking, not beers that some marketing person tells us we can sell the most of."

And you can't get more real than that.

STORY BY SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS • PHOTOS BY MIKE COLANINNI

BLANCO COUNTY Inn

The Blanco County Inn is
located at
902 Main Street, Blanco, TX

For more info
visit blancocountyinn.com
call (512) 553-5340



Imagine you're getting married in two weeks, and the venue cancels on you. That predicament happened to Joy Holloway last year. First, she panicked. Then she got to work.

"My fiancé and I had planned on a small country wedding so I started calling every little place," recalls Holloway, who works as a bookkeeper in San Antonio. "Since I often drive to Marble Falls to see family, I remembered a cute motel in Blanco. I could already visualize us getting married outdoors there."

Holloway called the Blanco County Inn, and the rest is history. On March 27, 2024, Joy and Clayton Holloway held hands and said "I do" outdoors beneath a rustic, tin-roofed pergola tucked behind the motel. Friends and family seated in white chairs cheered when the couple sealed their vows with a kiss.

"Our wedding couldn't have turned out better," Holloway says. "The staff at the Blanco County Inn went above and beyond for me."

Since the 1930s, the former motor-style motel on Main Street in Blanco has welcomed guests. Originally built as the Lester Courts, the name changed in 1952 to the Mobley Motel when Frank and Blanche Mobley purchased the property. Other owners followed. In December 2003, Ralph and Deborah de Leon bought and remodeled the motel. They renamed it as the Blanco County Inn.



Enter Mike Colaninni, a real estate investor from Austin. In July 2022, he purchased the inn and began extensive renovations. The commercial property is a first for Colaninni, who's mainly focused on renovating homes and reselling them. So what led to his decision to buy the Blanco motel?

"I've always loved the Hill Country," he says. "Blanco is one hour from Austin and is a great little town. I saw the property's value. I wanted to keep the motel's vintage look but modernize it as well. I've really poured my heart into this project."

Altogether, the newly refreshed and expanded Blanco County Inn offers 13 motel rooms and six cottages. The grounds stretch across a full city block. Out front in a landscaped courtyard, guests may relax in Adirondack chairs or wrought iron furniture, set beneath the sprawling limbs of live oaks. Rocking chairs outside of motel rooms provide more spots to unwind.

Guests may also use fire pits located both in front of the motel and behind it in a nearly half-block-sized, fenced courtyard, where more additional outdoor furniture is arranged beneath shady oaks. Since the motel is pet-friendly, dogs can run around within the fence.

The boutique motel offers five different kinds of guest rooms. An economy comes with a queen bed and shower. A double double has two full beds and shower while a double queen has two queen beds and a tub/shower combo. Queen suites have a queen bed, twin beds in a trundle, shower and a kitchen sink with dishes. King rooms have a king bed, shower and kitchen sink.

Roomiest of all and facing Pecan Street is the Casa Blanca, which formerly was home for Blanco's Fraternal Order of Eagles. The three-bedroom house has a full kitchen, two bathrooms and a living area, not to mention a front porch with rocking chairs. Behind and attached is the Cottage, a two-bedroom get-away with a bathroom and private driveway.





There's also the one-bedroom Bluebonnet Suite with a full kitchen, living room, king bed and trundle, and a private yard. The two-bedroom Dogwood has a queen bed, bunk beds and a private yard. The upstairs Round-Up offers two queen bedrooms and living room. The Hideaway offers a king bedroom.

All accommodations have a microwave, mini fridge (or larger), snacks, coffee maker, bottled water, Roku TV, keyless entry and WiFi.

Two outdoor murals at the motel were created by artist Avery Orendorf of Austin. Painted on the inn's two-story building, the towering "Blanco Bronco" depicts a long-haired cowgirl – clad in a red neckerchief, boots and jeans – waving a cowboy hat while seated on a rearing horse. "Kick Up Your Boots" – which adorns the backside of an open-air utility shed – celebrates the iconic Texas shape, prickly pear cacti topped with yellow blooms and a pair of red cowboy boots kicking sky high.

Art students from Blanco High School dressed up a propane tank that's tucked into a corner at the inn behind the office. Rooted in acrylic brown soil, bluebonnets, Mexican hats and blooming cacti pop out against a vivid orange background.

With all the open space and roomy accommodations, motel manager Samantha Healey says the property is the perfect location to host family unions, parties, meetings and weddings. This year, she hopes to draw more brides like Joy Holloway who want to plan their own do-it-yourself weddings.

"We'll provide the space and overnight rooms," Healey says. "Brides can bring their own flowers, decorations and caterers. We can also offer discounted rates for guests staying overnight."

"If anyone wants to tour the Blanco County Inn," she adds, "just give me a call."

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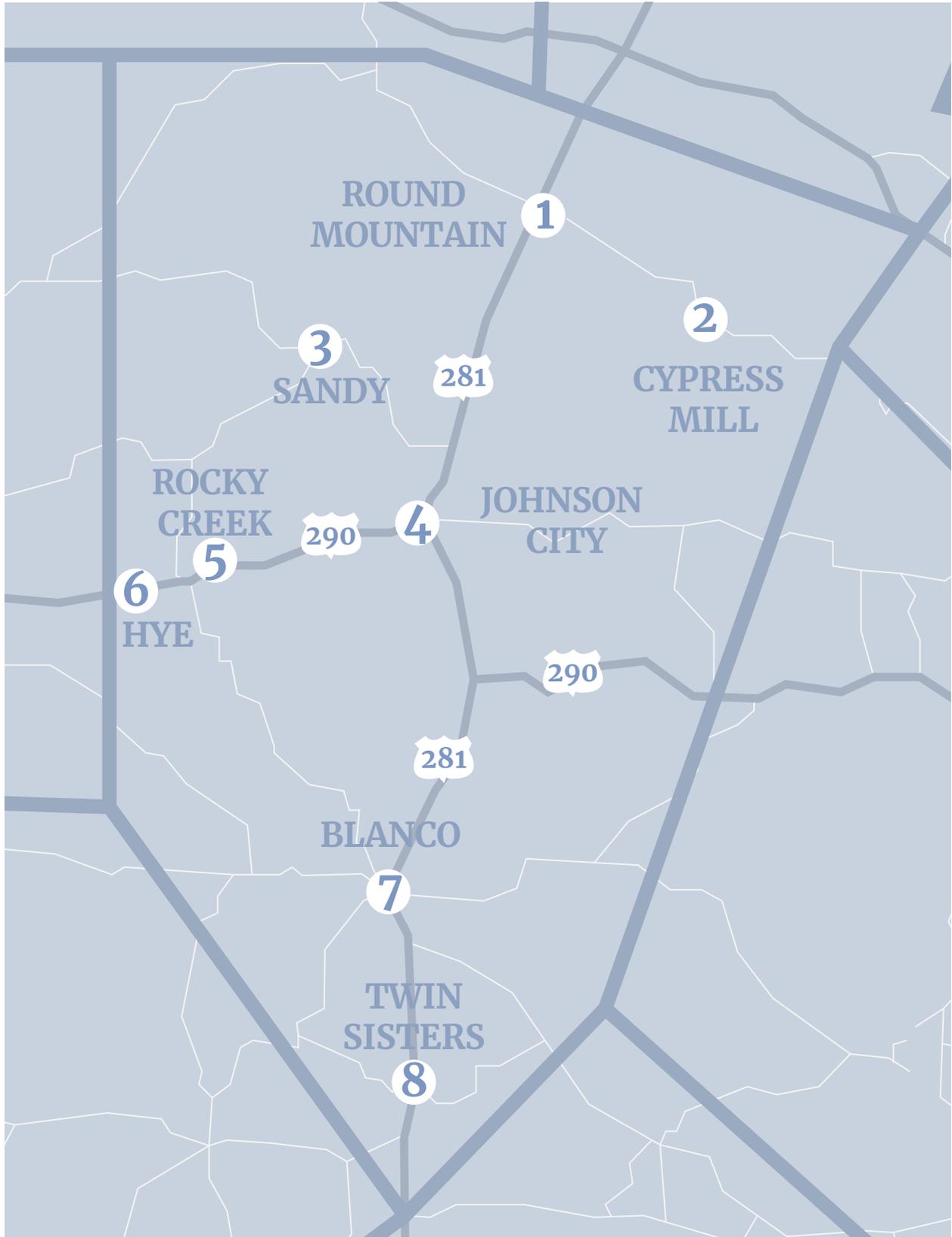
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