

## Courtyard Gallery offering sneak peek at The Loft

Singer, songwriter Elskes to perform in Cuero Saturday

By [SONNY LONG](#) •

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CUERO – Kerry Rhotenberry has big plans for the second floor of her art gallery in Cuero.

"It is going to make a great live music venue," Rhotenberry said of what she has dubbed "The Loft" on the second floor of the Courtyard Gallery at 210 N. Esplanade St. "There are actually three separate spaces up there. The largest one takes up about 60 percent of the area and I bet we can seat 125 in there for a live show."

Rhotenberry, who already hosts Third Saturday Acoustic Jams in the courtyard on the main floor, also sees The Loft as a multi-purpose use facility for kids day camps, weddings, receptions and parties.

"It's just neat space," she said.

To give the public a "sneak peek" at The Loft, popular singer, songwriter and artist Tommy Elskes returns to the Courtyard Gallery at 8 p.m. Saturday. Elskes performed here in February to a large crowd.

Before Elskes begins playing both original songs and what he describes as "old time acoustic finger pickin' blues," a reception will be held from 6-8 p.m. for this month's featured artist John Naunheim.

"John's work makes you feel good. Cowboy art with occasional shrimp boats or wildflowers, his watercolors remind you of simple pleasures and simpler times," Rhotenberry said.

Naunheim's art reflects his background. He fooled around with the rodeo, worked cattle some, and spent a lot of time on horseback, even picking up a little trick riding.

In addition to the reception for Naunheim and Elskes' performance, the gallery is exhibiting the work of DLC Leathercrafters of Westhoff.

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Advocate Staff ReportCuero author Sonny Long will be on hand Saturday beginning at 6 p.m. at the Courtyard Gallery to autograph copies of his books, "A Long Look at Life." Volume I features poetry and short stories, and Volume II is a collection of newspaper columns. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Suggested donations are \$3 for one volume and \$5 for both.

"If you like reading, you will enjoy Sonny's laid-back, insightful style," said Kerry Rhotenberry, Courtyard Gallery owner. "We are pleased he's joining us for this special night. He really rounds it out well with the art and music."

To learn more about Long's books go to [www.sonnylong.com](http://www.sonnylong.com). Long is also an Advocate reporter.

Online

To learn more, go to [www.courtyardgalleryofcuero.com](http://www.courtyardgalleryofcuero.com) and [www.tommyelskes.com](http://www.tommyelskes.com), call 361-275-9111 or e-mail [CourtyardGalleryTX@sbcglobal.net](mailto:CourtyardGalleryTX@sbcglobal.net)