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THE TRAVEL MAGAZINE OF TEXAS ★ SEPTEMBER 2017



**BIG BEND
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pg. 36

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Nature's Wonders



OUR “ARTS & CULTURE” SPECIAL issue celebrates the beauty of Texas—from must-see public art to lovingly restored downtown theaters to breathtaking natural wonders. Narrowing down the state’s natural wonders to a manageable list was no easy task. After starting with our catalog of staff favorites and sifting through hundreds of reader responses on Facebook, we whittled our list down to about 20 finalists. While we originally intended to present the seven natural wonders of Texas to mirror the Seven Wonders of the World, we found some cuts just too painful to make. So we took the liberty of making our list Texas-size; our picks for the nine natural wonders of Texas begin on Page 36. (For our list of top man-made wonders, visit texashighways.com.)

Photo Editor Brandon Jakobeit instructed our intrepid photographers to take these well-known sites and reimagine them, to capture the art in nature’s splendor. As you’ll see from their ruminations accompanying the photos, they found themselves awed by both the majesty and aggressiveness of nature. Implicit in the enjoyment of these beloved sites is the need to protect

them from a variety of threats. In Caddo Lake, for example, nonnative giant salvinia (see Page 46) continues to wreak havoc on the aquatic ecosystem. The salvinia’s deceptive beauty belies its destruction of native plants that provide habitat for native animals and waterfowl.

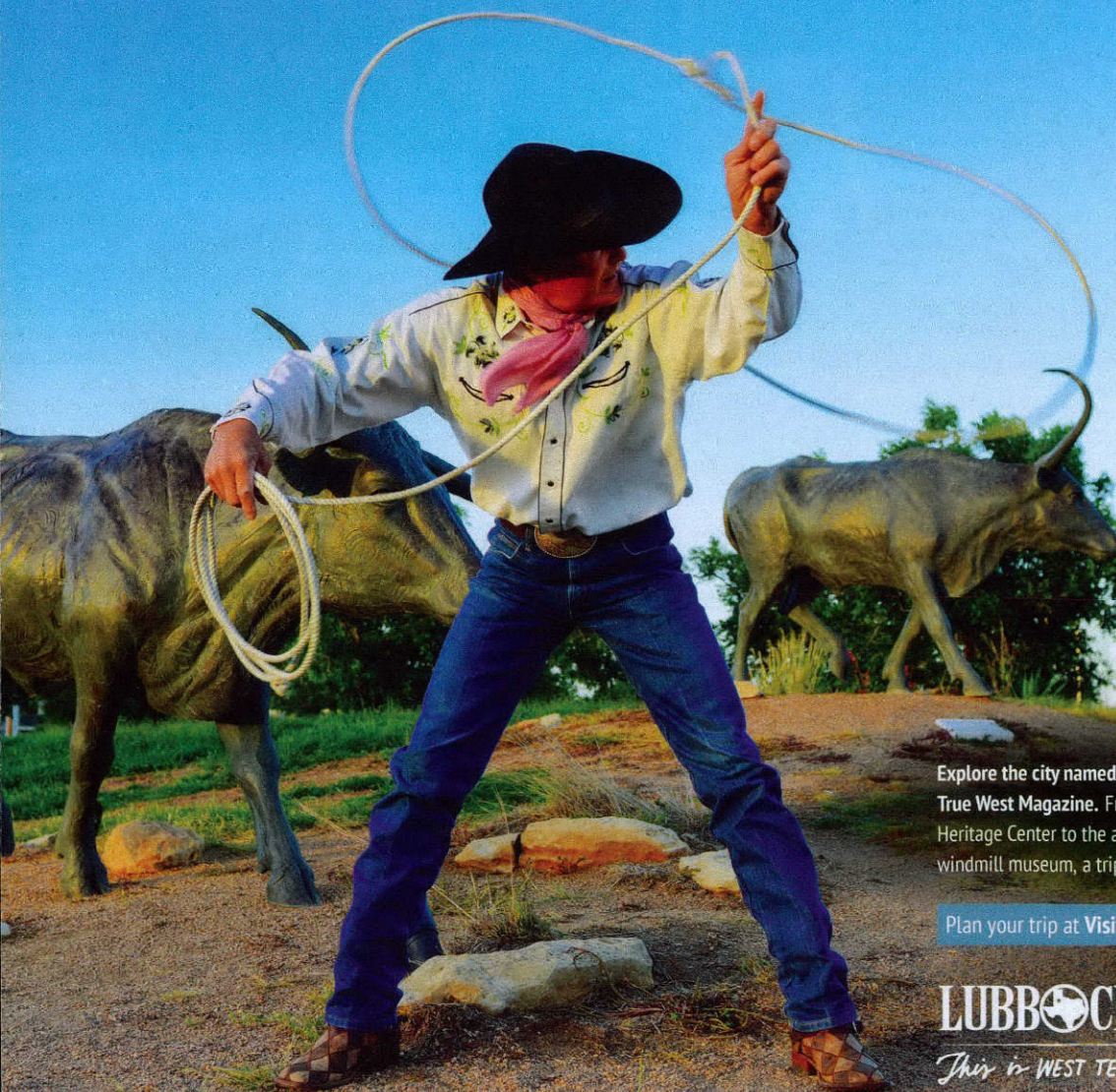
For tourists, the explosive growth of salvinia means less opportunity to fish and boat. Along with the environmental damage, the economic impact is high as the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department must spend millions of dollars each year combating the invaders in affected waterways. For visitors interested in how they can help, park officials instruct boaters to clean, drain, and dry their boats, trailers, and gear every time they leave the water. We share responsibility for preserving the beauty of these scenic spots so future generations can stand in those same sacred spaces and be similarly filled with wonder.

Emily R Stone

EMILY ROBERTS STONE, Editor

One of the few natural lakes in Texas, Caddo Lake’s bayous, wetlands, and backwaters cover about 26,800 acres in East Texas and Northwest Louisiana.

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SEPTEMBER

36

State of Wonder

The ancient world had seven wonders, so of course we had to make our list Texas-size. Explore our picks for the nine natural wonders of the Lone Star State, with reflections from the photographers who captured them like never before.

Photographs by **KENNY BRAUN, E. DAN KLEPPER,**
and **ANDREW R. SLATON**

50

Art for Everyone

From El Paso to Fort Worth to Galveston, must-see public art installations decorate freeways, waterways, parks, and college campuses across the state. Put on your favorite walking shoes and enjoy a free art tour any day of the week.

Story by **HEATHER BRAND**
Photographs by **ERIC W. POHL**

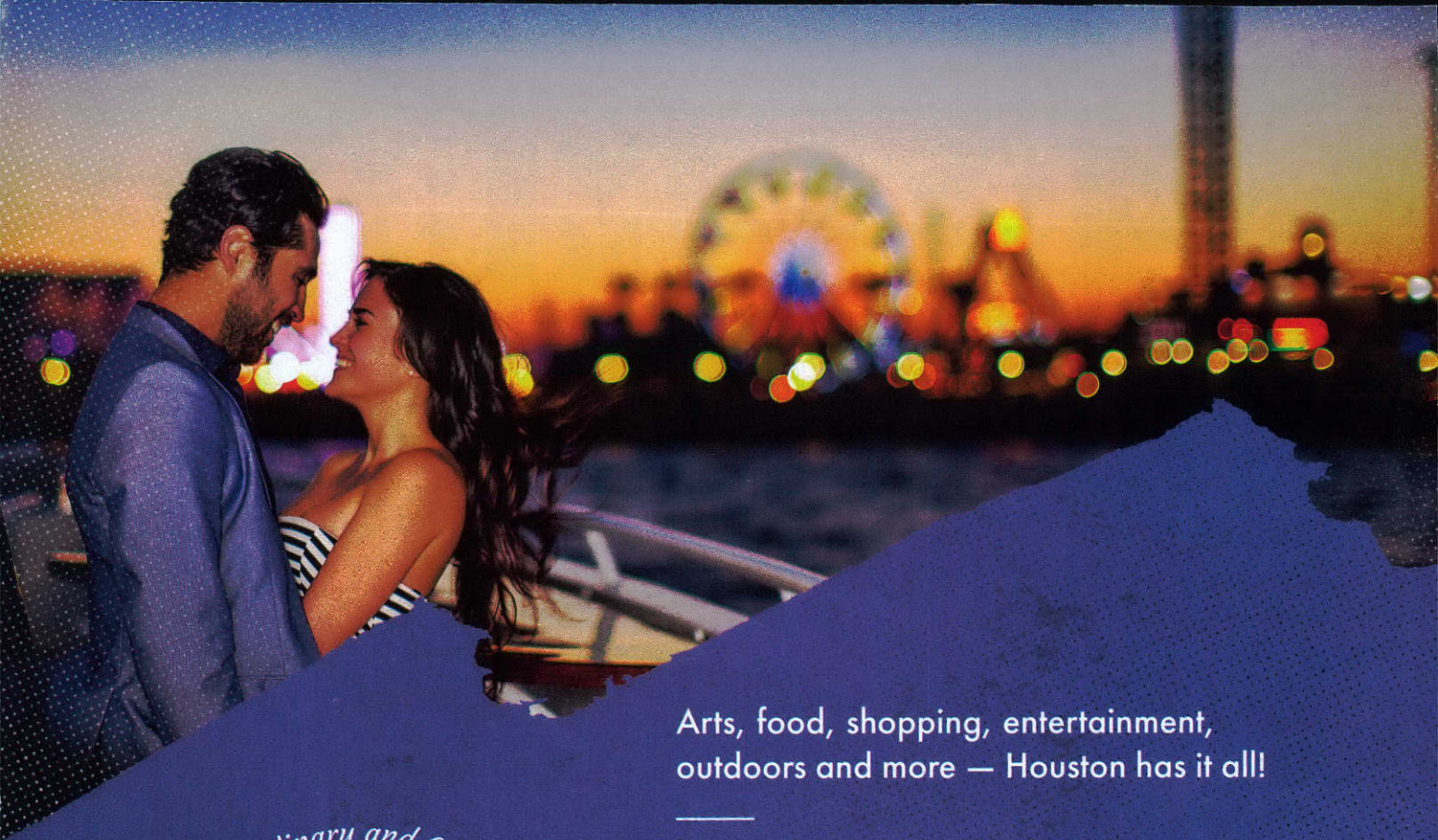
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Take Two

Thanks to careful restoration by visionary community members, historic movie theaters are finding new life as music venues, playhouses, and cinemas, proving that sometimes the sequel lives up to the original.

Story by **MICHAEL CORCORAN**
Photographs by **JEFF WILSON**

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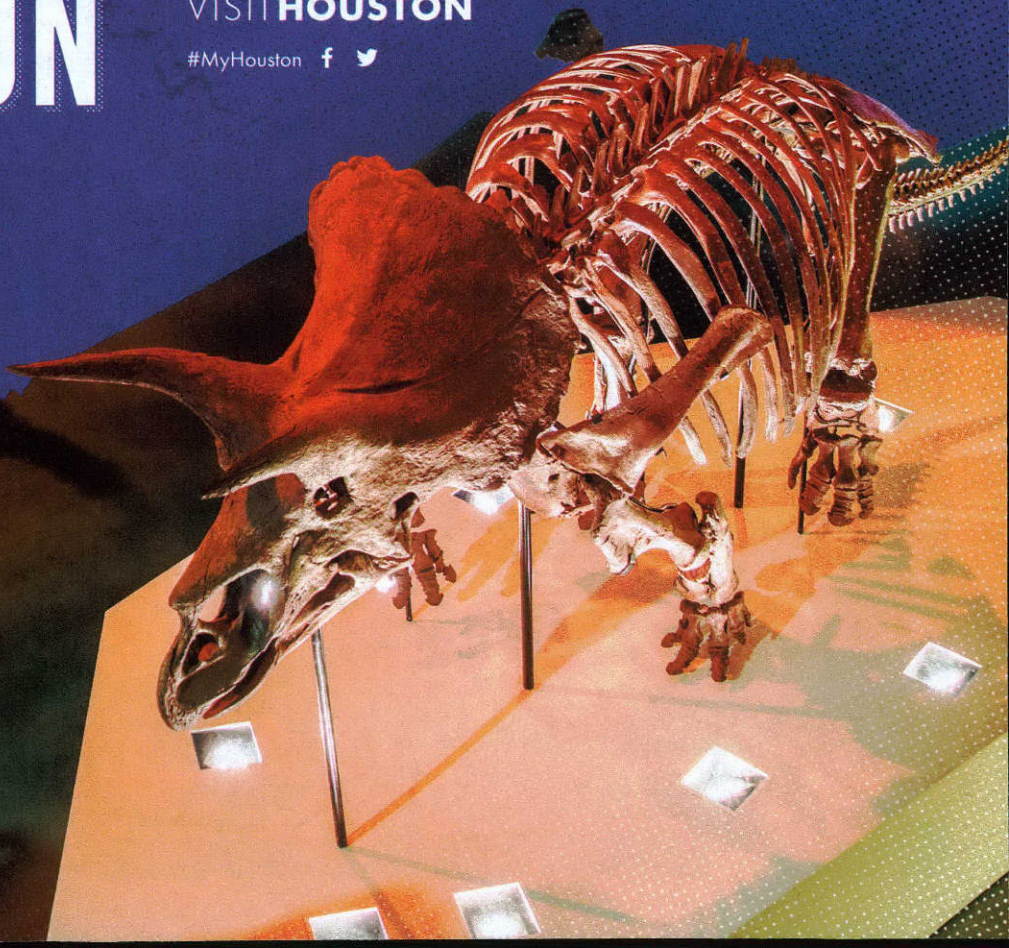
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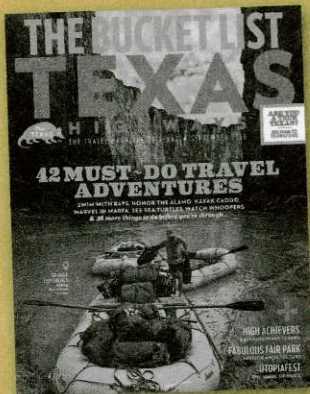
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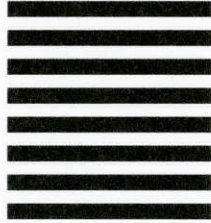
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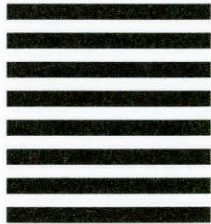
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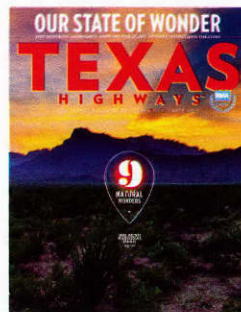
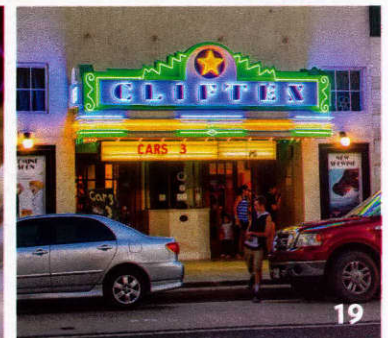
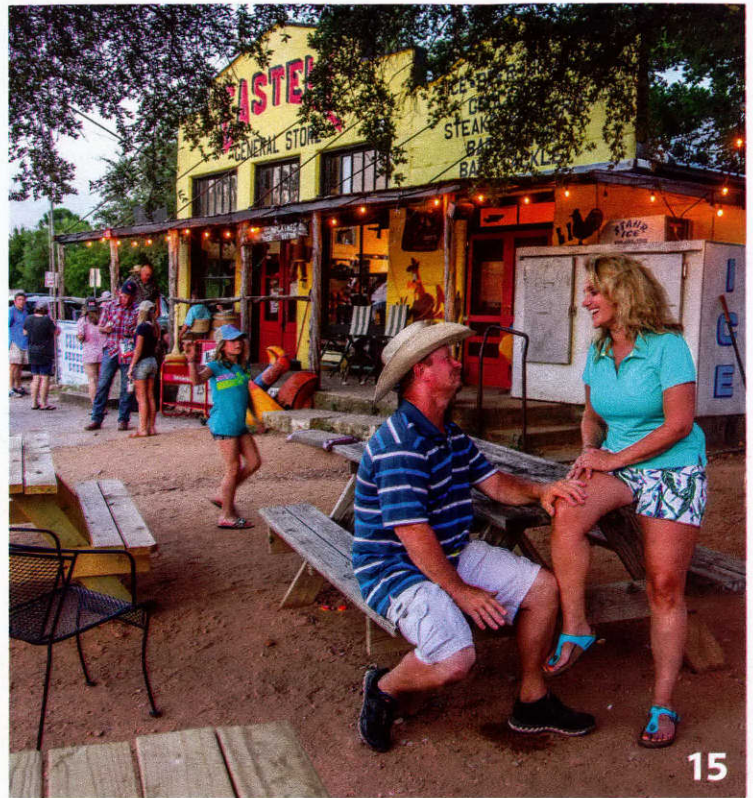
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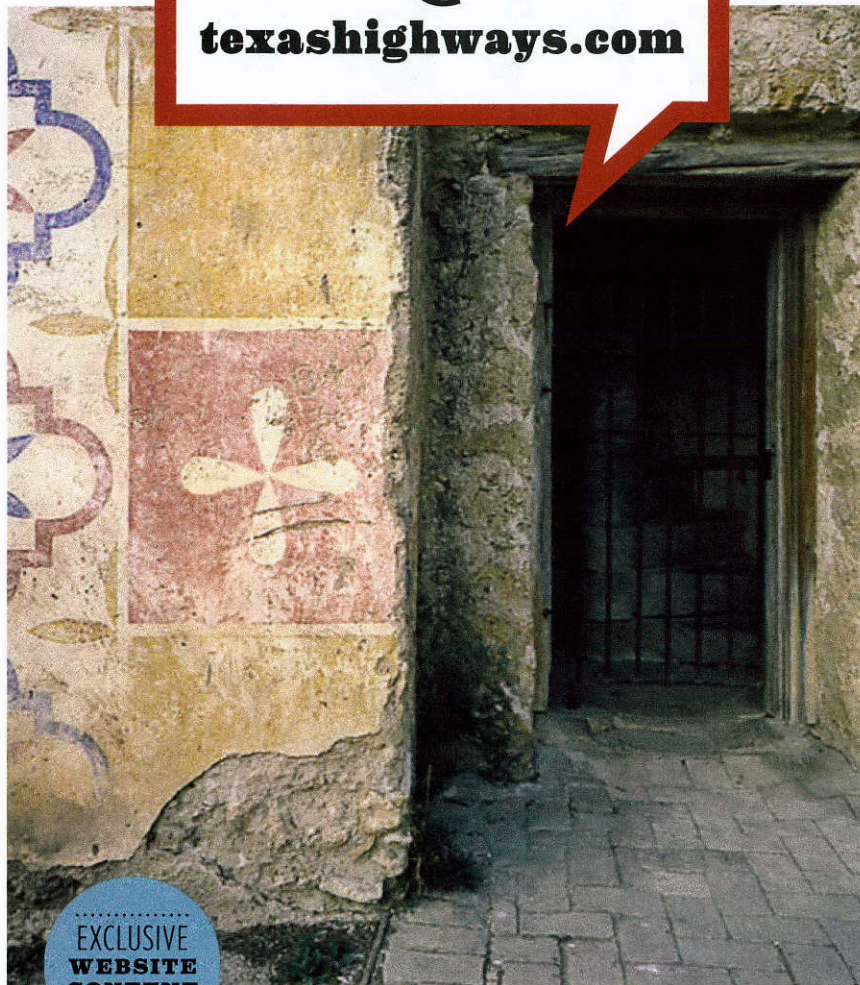
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COVER
Big Bend National Park
© Andrew Slaton

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EXCLUSIVE
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CONTENT

SEPTEMBER

Man-Made Wonders

In May, we asked readers to help us compile a list of Texas' wonders—those quintessential places that are undeniably a part of the Lone Star State. These are the places that leave us awestruck and instill pride for the place we call home. In this issue, discover our collaborative list of the state's top natural wonders. Then go online for more—the top *man-made* wonders of Texas.

THEATERS: EXTENDED REMIX

After reading Michael Corcoran's restored theaters story in this issue, go online for a bonus story on Mason's historic Odeon Theater. Opened in 1928, the theater has withstood the test of time.

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE
TRAVEL INFORMATION DIVISION

Division Director Joan Henderson
Publisher Deborah Fey Follien
Creative Director Mark Mahorsky

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Subscriptions are \$24.95 annually
(\$39.95 foreign). 800-839-4997
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back issues also available at 512-486-5811.

For letters to the editor or to be
removed from mailing list sales, write to
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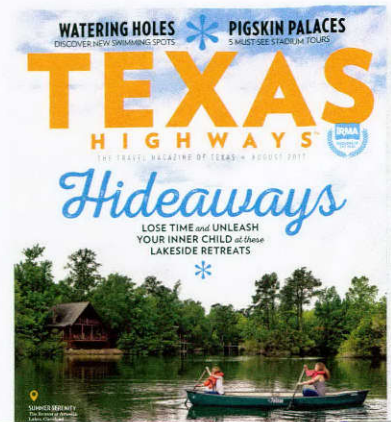
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GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

I love this magazine. It never disappoints!

ERNETTE ZIMMERMAN, PORT O'CONNOR



OUR FAVORITE SOCIAL MEDIA OF THE MONTH



The Texas State Cemetery is one of my favorite places in Texas. It's such a special feeling to be able to walk among those who created the history of our great state.
WESTON KUENSTLER, AUSTIN

Love Newman's Castle [July]! My 14-year-old was in complete awe of this place, and Mike Newman is a super sweet guy.
JENNIFER MARIE, HOUSTON



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Black Beauty Ranch

I've been a fan of Black Beauty Ranch [July] for over 15 years and was finally able to visit this wonderful facility in 2013 and again in 2014. I had to make a second visit as I lost the pictures from my first visit! I would highly recommend it to anyone, especially Girl and Boy Scout groups. If I had all thumbs, I would give it 10 thumbs up.

Julia Brantley, Austin

Kemah Memories

When I was growing up in League City in the 1960s and '70s, Kemah was the place to go for a nice dinner out at Jimmie Walker's [now Landry's] or to grab some quick seafood from one of the shacks. The small road was made of shells, and you had to wait on the drawbridge to get to Kemah from League City or vice versa. We'd get a window seat, and I'd get to watch the drawbridge open up to let the huge old boats come through. During holidays, a lot of people would decorate their boats and show them off. Quite a show it was. After I cleaned my plate, I was allowed to go outside

and get some shells. Wonderful memories.

Tamara Walker, Godley



Cover Comments

TH: *The July issue's idyllic cover photo of a relaxing day on Inks Lake proved to be more aggravating than soothing for some readers. We fielded phone calls from a handful of readers upset over the image of a Lone Star flag hammock. We respect the callers' concerns, but rest*

assured, the hammock was made from parachute nylon and not an actual flag. We feel the photograph captures the joy of a summer day on the lake and reflects our spirit of celebrating all things Texas.

While the cover picture of two canoeists on the August issue is pretty, it shows the improper use of life preservers. Both people do not have the strap that passes around the lower back attached, which makes the life preserver totally ineffective. The life preserver will slip over the person's head and be of no value if the person is disoriented, panicking, or unconscious. Show the correct use, or don't show it.

Ric Massie, Humble

TH: *Point taken, Ric. Thankfully, no canoeists were injured in the making of this photograph.*

READER'S FAVORITE

Hillsboro Barbecue Tip

The brisket at Taylor's Smokehouse in Hillsboro is the best I've ever had!

JANA CHILDRESS CAVNESS, Houston

Taylor's Smokehouse, 5626 State Highway 22 in Hillsboro, opens Wed-Sat 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m. and Sun 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 254-266-4209; facebook.com/taylorssmokehouse.

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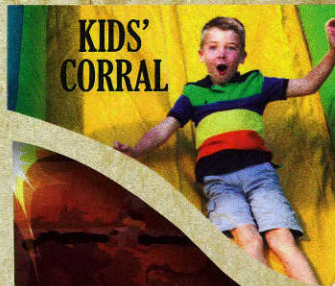
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Grinding through the Pines

The El Camino 205
gravel grinder in Palestine

story by **Dan Oko**

Part of the El Camino 205 bicycle tour's route intersects the historic *Camino Real*.

WE RISE BEFORE DAYBREAK TO A CHORUS of birdsong and pump up our tires. It's the morning of my first gravel grinder, a gritty and popular organized bicycling event that mostly takes place on unpaved roads. As I sip my coffee and slip on my bike shorts, I hope the past few weeks of spinning over the potholed streets of southwest Houston, where I live, will be enough to carry me across the finish line. I have convinced Perry, an old mountain-biking buddy, to join me on El Camino 205, an annual grind that traverses the Piney Woods outside of Palestine.

The Camino is not a race, so we don't have to worry much about competition. But as we roll into the Palestine old town square, I feel the anxious tickle of butterflies in my belly. Perry and I have registered for the 65-mile version of the ride, which organizer Dave Morrow explains has been extended to 70 miles to avoid some of the sand bogs along the course. The Camino's signature 205-mile route actually intersects the historic *Camino Real* linking Louisiana and Mexico, one of several Spanish trade routes between missions and colonial

Anybody who thinks the Piney Woods are flat would do well to think again. The course we follow undulates between forested uplands, flower-strewn prairies, and sandy swales.

settlements established in the late 17th century and used by merchants and military forces until the end of the 19th century. A 25-mile ride on paved roads provides new cyclists an introduction to the touring experience, while saddle-hardened riders might choose the 105-mile route skirting the Davy Crockett National Forest.

"Bicycles have been used through history for all sorts of surfaces," says Morrow, a 63-year-old former road racer who waxes poetic about East Texas scenery. "We just thought that if we could find someplace that is close enough to the major metros, where riders can get into the country and not spend more time in the car than you would spend riding your bike, then we could put on this great event."



Gravel grinders are bicycle tours that cover mostly unpaved roads. El Camino 205 includes routes of 25, 65, 105, and 205 miles.

The Camino 205 turns four in 2017, taking place Sept. 23.

Our band of 65 or so riders on the 70-mile route follows a police escort out of town, where the fun begins. East Texas may not have the limestone cliffs and escarpments of the Hill Country, but anybody who thinks the Piney Woods are flat would do well to think again. The course we follow undulates between forested uplands, flower-strewn prairies, and sandy swales formed not long after dinosaurs had been wiped off the face of the earth some 60 million years ago.

Lately, adventure cyclists and endurance athletes across the country have embraced rides like this to test their mettle. Texas gravel grinds include the Texas Chainring Massacre north of Dallas-Fort Worth (Jan. 27, 2018) and the Iceman's Challenge at the Talbert Ranch near Waco (Dec. 2, 2017). The godfather of the Lone Star gravel rides is probably the Castell Grind, held annually in April. Chasing empty farm roads deep into the Hill Country near Llano, the Castell event offers 62-mile, 45-mile, and 31-mile options.

Despite the grueling distances, gravel grinders in the United States tend to be more democratic affairs than traditional road races. Events such as the Camino and Castell evince a "come-one, come-all" ethos, with participants more interested in casual camaraderie than crushing the competition. (The Camino provides a meal and serves free beer at the finish line.) At least that's Perry's and my experience, as we pass other riders and in turn are overtaken—huffing along dusty, forgotten country roads where the French and Spanish once vied for control of the region.

Through the years, Perry and I have spent many hours pumping burly mountain bikes across Texas and beyond, but for the gravel grind we managed to find steeds better suited for lengthy rides over rough roads. Bicycles in this category come with knobby

FIELD GUIDE to **BASTROP COUNTY** **ISSUE No 17**

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tires, disc brakes, and the sort of “drop” handlebars associated with road racing bikes like those seen in the Tour de France. (For the Camino, bicycle-maker Jamis loaned me a Renegade Exploit, which retails for about \$2,000.)

With gravel grinding gaining traction nationwide, Texas is well positioned to become a major player. According to the Federal Highway Administration, the United States has more than 1.3 million miles of unpaved roadways. The exact number of dirt roads (including gravel, shell, and stone) in Texas is hard to pinpoint, but a 2015 TxDOT report tallied about 83,000 miles of unpaved county roads across the state.

There’s a disconnect between the primitive conditions we tackle on the red-dirt track of the Camino and the 21st-century technology of our bikes. Yet this ability to explore rustic landscapes relatively unencumbered is

one aspect that draws people to gravel grinding as a sport. Unlike mountain biking, you can sit up and enjoy the vistas and passing country without risking a crash, and unlike speeding along city streets or busy highways, you don’t have to worry about vehicle traffic.

As Austin-based journalist Ian Dille, a competitive cyclist who authored *The Cyclist’s Bucket List: A Celebration of 75 Quintessential Cycling Experiences*, says: “The great thing about gravel grinding is it’s fun. It makes me feel like I’m a kid again.”

For the most part, as we skirt the dappled woods past horse pastures and lowing cattle, Perry and I share that sense of freewheeling excitement. But before we roll back into Palestine for burgers and beer at the cozy Pint & Barrel Drafthouse, a last brace of big hills sparks my lumbago and drops my speed from 12-15 miles per hour to a pathetic 6 mph. What started out as a



EL CAMINO 205, THE TEXAS GRAVEL ADVENTURE

is Sept. 23 with routes of 25, 65, 105, and 205 miles.

For race details and registration, visit camino205.com.

great gravel baptism turns into a slog for the ages. With gritted teeth, I pedal past the timekeeper. The entire circuit takes just about seven hours.

On the drive home, I stop by the shady Mission Tejas State Park southeast of Palestine to see traces of the original *Camino Real*. Poking around the park’s Mission San Francisco de los Tejas, a replica of the first Spanish mission in the Texas territory built in 1690, I feel a kinship with those early settlers. As a newcomer to gravel grinding, I still managed to prevail against the odds and have discovered a wild new frontier. 🐾

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All's Well in Castell

Good food and fast friends at the Castell General Store near Llano

story by **Michael Barr**

IT'S A SATURDAY AFTERNOON, AND MESQUITE SMOKE from the barbecue pit perfumes the Castell General Store, a weathered old building that houses a grocery business, café, and saloon. The store is the center of activity in Castell, a tiny town hidden away in the Texas Hill Country west of Llano. Early in the week the store is quiet and unassuming. But as the weekend approaches, the place comes alive with food, music, and amusements that draw a range of visitors—from rugged outdoorsmen to those who prefer a bar stool, air-conditioning, and a plate of good barbecue.

Getting to Castell takes time and patience. At the square in

“This place was a ghost town 10 years ago. Now we have people coming from all over.”

Llano, I turn west on Ranch Road 152 and drive 18 miles on a crooked two-lane blacktop that roughly parallels the Llano River, just out of sight to the north. About the time I'm convinced I took a wrong turn somewhere, I pass St. John Lutheran Church and the adjacent cemetery. Finally I round a corner and see the sign that says Castell. I carefully negotiate a hairpin turn, go past the Texas Ranger marker and the

The Castell General Store, whose building dates to 1927, serves as the social hub of Castell.

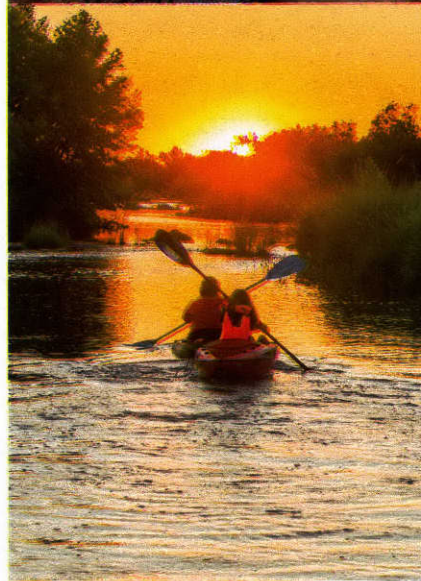


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Along with comfort food, live music, and community events, the Castell General Store offers kayak rentals for patrons interested in paddling the nearby Llano River.

post office and find my destination: the Castell General Store.

Cars, pickups, motorcycles, and four-wheelers crowd the parking area in front of the store. Like other Johnny-come-latelies, I find myself relegated to a parking spot in the mesquite flat across the road.

Wasting no time, I fall in line at the barbecue pit and choose some brisket and beef ribs, then follow the leader inside to pay Jennifer at the bar. After selecting a beverage and loading up with sides, including beans, pickles,

jalapeños, and a salad made of pasta and coleslaw, I squeeze into a seat against the wall and dive in. Quarters are close. Dining is a community event at the Castell General Store.

Randy Leifeste, co-owner of the store and its quirky goodwill ambassador, works the crowd. "I keep things loose around here," he tells me with a deadpan look that is both disarming and mischievous. Thanks to Randy, no one in Castell is a stranger for long. "My job," he says, "is to be sure everyone has a good time."

In addition to the Castell General Store, Randy owns a ranch just across the Llano River that has been in his family since the mid-19th century. Young idealistic freethinkers from Germany established several communal settlements along this stretch of the



café. Randy bought the building 10 years ago after leaving a career with a Houston oil company.

Six tables—no two alike—fill the dining area along with a motley assortment of wooden and metal chairs. The back room, until recently a storage area for sacks of feed, seats another 30 or so. Rolls of paper towels substitute for napkins.

The floor is bare concrete. Beer signs adorn the walls, which are stained and dulled by time. Sheets of rusty tin cover the ceiling.

The bar in the back corner of the store is crowded two deep on this Saturday afternoon. An old bounce-back

shuffleboard table occupies the opposite corner along with Randy's stuffed pet rooster Cockaroo. An 8-foot blue marlin is mounted over the kitchen door, and a signed picture of Mickey Mantle hangs in the middle of the wall.

On a triple digit summer afternoon, you can take a cool dip in the Llano River.

Televisions are tuned to sports or The Weather Channel but almost never to the news. The problems of the world have no place in Castell.

"People come here to get away from that stuff," Tom at the next table tells me.

There are a few shelves stocked with bread, beans, snacks, and other deer-hunter staples. Koozies, caps, and T-shirts with the Castell logo occupy some of the prime space once used

Llano River in the 1840s. Today only Castell remains.

The building that houses the Castell General Store dates to 1927. First constructed as a blacksmith shop, it has served various purposes over the years, including a gas station, a garage, and a

TAKE A DRIVE ON THE WILD SIDE... in New Braunfels.



for groceries—a sure sign this once unknown village is making a name for itself.

And for a small Hill Country town, Castell has a lot to offer. You can pitch washers in the shade of an oak tree or rent a kayak at the store and paddle the Llano. The 5-mile trip down the river takes three hours unless you stop to fly fish for Guadalupe bass. On a

triple-digit summer afternoon, you can take a cool dip in the Llano or just hang out at the air-conditioned bar.

But food is the big draw at Castell General Store. For lunch on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, the kitchen turns out juicy hamburgers on homemade buns. The Wednesday menu varies. On Saturdays, it's barbecue at lunch and burgers in the evening. On

Sundays, the kitchen serves rib-eye steaks with all the trimmings. Many weekends offer live music, and there's never a short supply of laughter, tall tales, and social incorrectness.

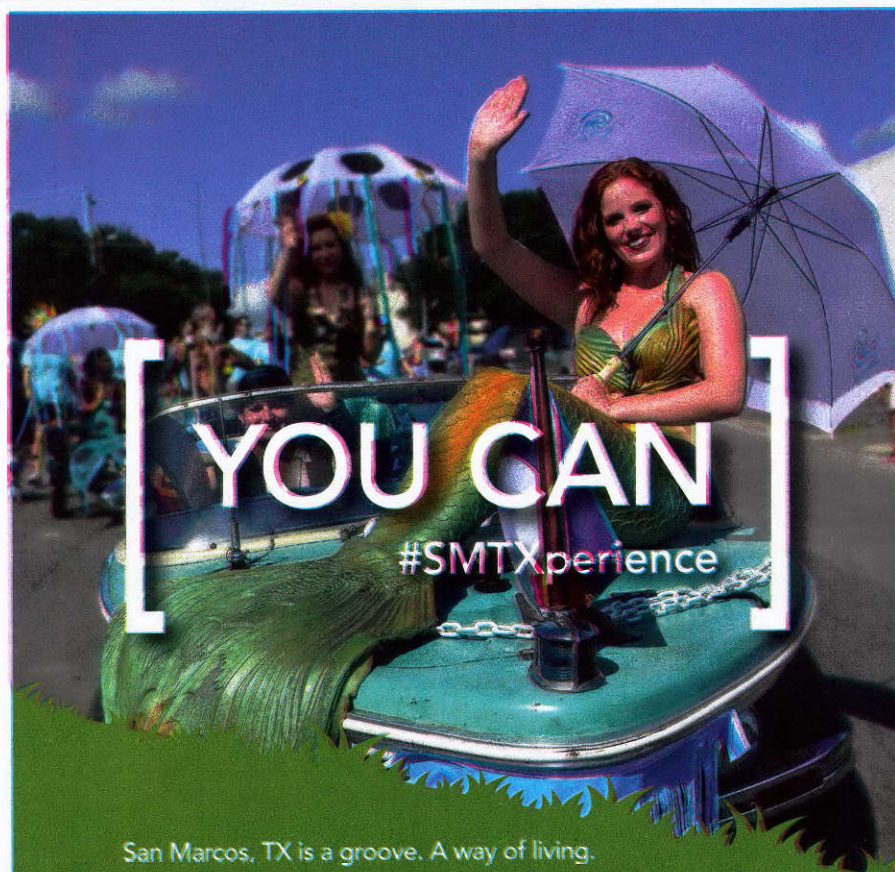
“If you want a four-star restaurant go to Austin, but if you want to have fun, come to Castell.”

The Castell General Store hosts five special events each year: the Chili Cookoff (the third weekend in February), the Castell Grind 100K off-road bike race (first Saturday in April), the Testicle Festival (serving calf fries and turkey fries the third weekend in May), the Wesfest Goat Cookoff and Margarita Pour-off (fourth weekend in October) and the Gumbo Cookoff (first weekend in December).

“This place was a ghost town 10 years ago,” Randy says. “Now we have people coming from all over. We had 450 people here for the Testicle Festival in May. We had a six-piece band and gave away \$1,750 in prizes in the washer pitching contest.”

While most visitors come to Castell for a day or an evening, others stay awhile. There are 10 B&Bs in and around Castell ranging from a large, but basic, house next to the store (starting at \$160 per night) to cozier and swankier country cottages (some starting at \$350 per night).

“We started the Testicle Festival not knowing how it would turn out, but everybody had a ball,” Randy says with a grin. “Seriously, if you want a four-star restaurant go to Austin, but if you want to have fun, come to Castell.” 🍷



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THE CASTELL GENERAL STORE,

at 19522 Ranch Road 152 West, Castell, is open Tues.-Thu. 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 8 a.m.-noon, Sun. 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Call **325-247-4100**.

Beyond the Screen Door

Clifton's Screen Door Inn combines comfort with nostalgia

story by **June Naylor**



THE SOUNDS OF A SCREEN DOOR OPENING AND closing evoke powerful memories. My grandfather's 1920 brick house in Dallas, where I spent a lot of happy time while growing up, had a screen door off the kitchen door leading to the backyard and another in front, on the screened-in porch. Sometimes they would shut with a muffled bang, as when Pop Pop and I slipped out before breakfast on warm August mornings to pick figs, and sometimes with a gentle squeak when the sun was finally dropping from sight and I would dash out to chase fireflies.

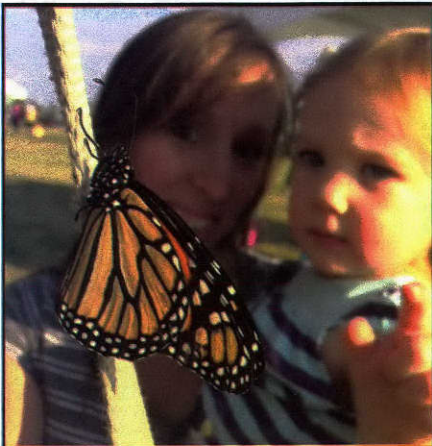
The somehow reassuring noise of these doors in action signaled people I loved coming and going; it's forever filed with memories labeled "comfort" in my psyche.

Each room's entry is hung with a vintage screen door outside the room's solid door.

So upon stepping into the Screen Door Inn in Clifton, I was immediately swept into a mood of sweet nostalgia by walking through such a door. I asked my husband, who'd come with me, if he had similar recollections from childhood. It turns out that he, too, has a nearly identical memory from his beloved grandmother's home.

My guess is that a lot of folks feel transported when staying at this seven-room inn. Each room's entry is hung with a vintage screen door

Each of the Screen Door Inn's seven rooms features an antique screen door, lending a touch of nostalgia to an overnight stay.



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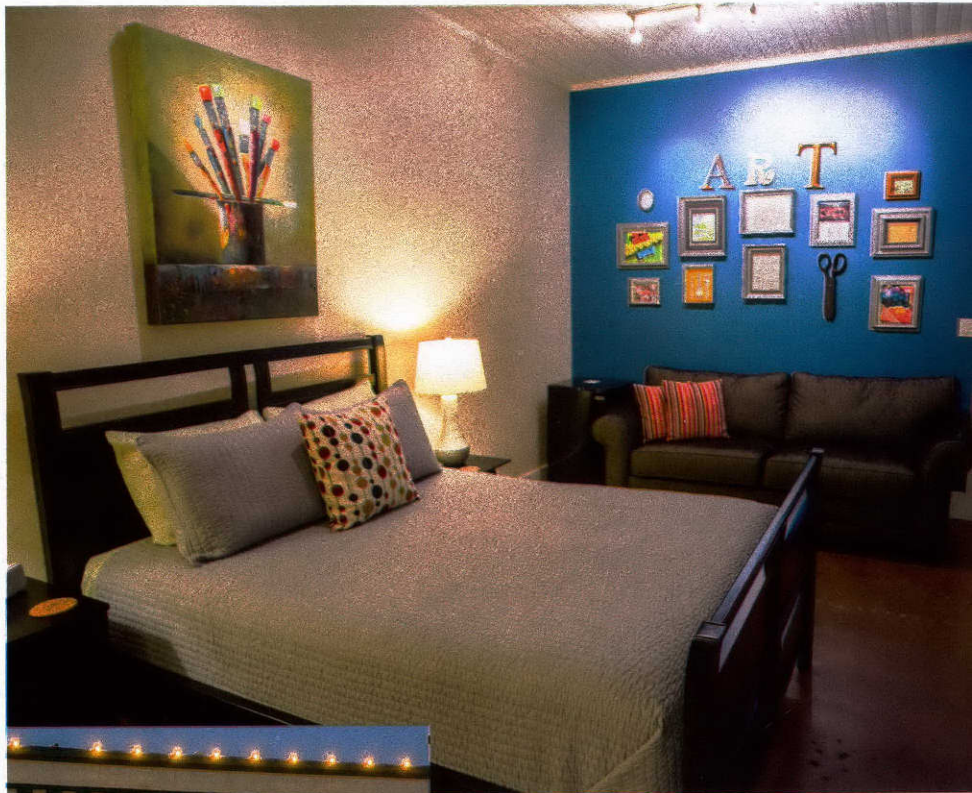
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Some materials salvaged in the building's restoration became headboards, tables, and other furniture pieces.

Café occupy the Brooks Building in downtown Clifton, a town designated a Texas Cultural Arts District in 2011 by the Texas Commission on the Arts, thanks largely to ongoing programs at the nearby Bosque Arts Center. As downtown's renovation began nearly a decade ago, locals dove into action.

Smart investors saw the need for a downtown inn and joined in the renovation of the building, which had served as home to a hotel, apartments, doctors' offices, and a beauty shop in addition to its years as a boarding house. Its second floor had sat empty for some 50 years and was deemed perfect for a lodging in the center of Clifton's revitalization. The inn opened in early 2012, with six guest rooms

outside the room's solid door. And they're not just any old screen doors—these are the restored originals that came with the early-1900s building. Once a boarding house, the two-story brick building employed screen doors to provide ventilation on warm days in the years prior to air conditioning.

The inn, a small barbershop, and a restaurant called the Corner Drug

Ongoing renovations of Clifton's downtown area mean visitors can easily carve out a relaxed weekend. Meal options include comfort fare at the Corner Drug Café.



upstairs and one on the ground floor, just off the welcoming lobby.

Making a connection to Clifton's cultural designation, several rooms feature art, history, and heritage themes. The Studio, the only room on the ground floor, features a wall hung with paintbrushes, scissors, and other art implements. A room called Norse pays tribute to Bosque County's deep Norwegian heritage; the Lone Star room highlights Western antiques. And our home for the night, a comfortable, spacious room called Marquee, is decorated with vintage movie posters and overlooks the restored, 101-year-old Cliftex movie theater across the street. Most furnishings in the inn came from local estate sales and resale shops, and some Clifton residents donated pieces for use in the interior design. Some materials salvaged in the building's restoration became headboards, tables, and other furniture pieces.

Details throughout the inn serve as little windows to the past: The upstairs hallway's original beadboard ceiling and walls, as well as the pine floors, are worn but painstakingly restored. Framed century-old photos of Clifton decorate the hallway, and the lobby features exposed brick walls that survived a 1906 fire.

Just outside the Screen Door Inn, we found other places tethered to Clifton's

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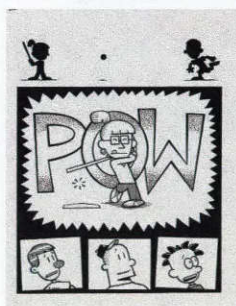
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Miki Falls - Autumn © 2007 by Mark Crilley

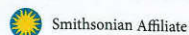
This exhibition features today's leading graphic novelists of the illustration world: Mark Crilley, Matthew Holm, Jarrett J. Krosoczka, Lincoln Pierce and Raina Telgemeier. On display is artwork from iconic books such as *Baby Mouse*, *Big Nate*, *Lunch Lady*, *Brody's Ghost and Smile*. Highlighting the varied style and media used, this exhibition celebrates the art and literature in graphic novels.

This exhibition was organized by the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature, Abilene, Texas.

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history. The Cliftex Theatre, with its sand-colored stucco exterior and green-and-blue neon sign, is perfectly restored to its 1916 glory. Its low prices are from another time, too, with \$5 admission to first-run films and popcorn and drinks costing a fraction of what's charged today at the multiplex.

As we explored, we made time to eat at the two best places in town.

Down Avenue D at West Third, a renovated feed mill now houses Market at the Mill. With inventive home goods, it reminds me of the famous Magnolia Market in Waco, and it also presents a full calendar of live music featuring local and regional acts.

One mile east of the inn, the Bosque Art Center occupies the 1923 Clifton Lutheran College building and also spreads to a more modern addition.

The old college auditorium has recently been renovated, and it's a venue for concerts like a recent one starring country and gospel singer Larry Gatlin and another this fall with Cajun-influenced country artist Eddy Raven. The art complex is also home to various workshops and shows throughout the year, including the annual Bosque Art Classic, a juried art show and sale that awards thousands of dollars to winning artists. Work by local and regional artists make up the art center's permanent collection.

And we found still more by local artists at the Treaty Oak Art Gallery, down the street from the Screen Door Inn. While paintings and drawings dominate the gallery's offerings, there are woodcraft, sculpture, and mixed-media pieces, too.

As we explored, we made time to eat at the two best places in town, both found inside meticulously renovated



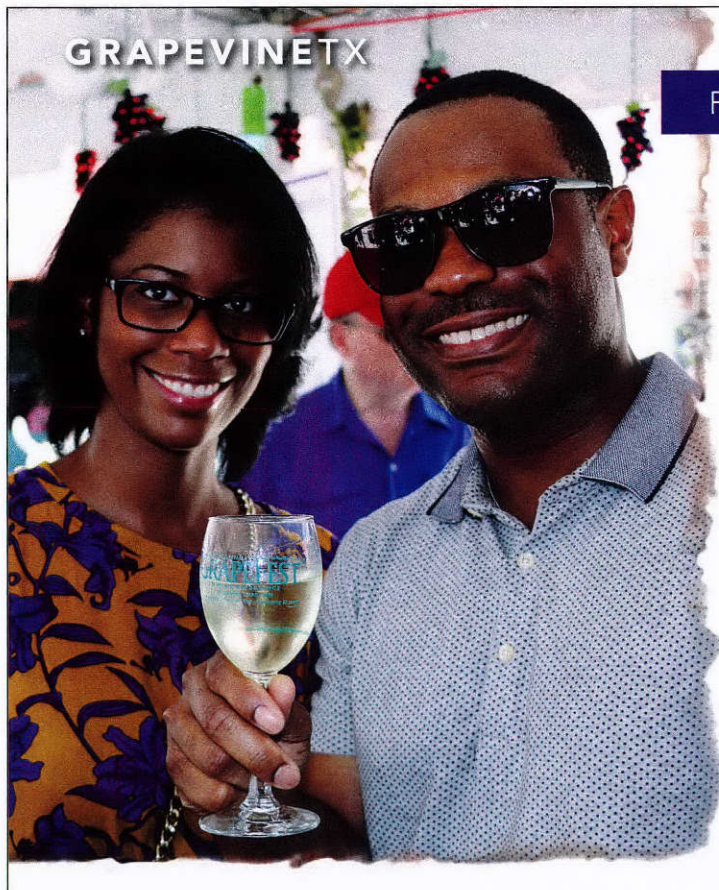
THE SCREEN DOOR INN

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spaces. Two blocks from the inn, The Sinclair offers dishes like yellowtail snapper with zucchini and chimichurri in a former gas station. And just below our room, the Corner Drug Café won us over with a made-from-scratch breakfast of house-made granola and buttermilk biscuits with cream gravy, as well as baked goods like lemon-blueberry muffins, chocolate cream pie, and a cookie of the day.

Corner Drug swept me back to earlier years, as well, especially as I dug into those perfectly flaky biscuits. It's good to reopen that "comfort memory" file now and then. 🍪



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Pages and Stages

Autumn book festivals in West Texas

story by **Kay Ellington**

FALL IN WEST TEXAS MAY EVOKE IMAGES OF *FRIDAY Night Lights*, with whole towns rallying around their favorite football teams. But this autumn some of West Texas' most prominent cities will be luring travelers with a different—but equally dramatic—kind of entertainment. In September and October, book festivals, writers' workshops, and author appearances will enliven the cultural landscape from the Big Country to the Permian Basin and the Llano Estacado.

Perhaps the best place for literature-loving travelers to begin a West Texas journey of words is Abilene. Officially designated the "Storybook Capital of Texas" by the Texas Legislature in 2015 for its delightful array of character statues from children's literature, Abilene also stages the West Texas Book Festival Sept. 21-23.

"We really want our festival to be a celebration of reading and writing, Texas style."

Now in its 17th year, the West Texas Book Festival has showcased some of the Lone Star State's most notable literary figures, including Jodi Thomas, Stephen Harrigan, Sandra Brown, Leila Meacham, and the late Elmer Kelton. Also, the festival each year confers its A.C. Greene Award on a leading Texas author. Greene, a native son of Abilene, loomed large in Texas literary matters as memoirist, fiction writer, historian, poet, and book critic.

This year's A.C. Greene Award will go to Fort Worth author Jeff Guinn, whose repertoire ranges from Western fiction to contemporary true crime and investigative journalism. Guinn is currently touring the country in support of his bestseller *The Road to Jonestown: Jim Jones and Peoples Temple* (2017), a book that's chock full of new details about cult leader Jones and what really happened in Guyana. Literary critics have praised Guinn, a former *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* book editor, for his historical accuracy.

The West Texas Book Festival has traditionally been one of the state's longest, incorporating nearly seven days of events, but that's changing this go-round. "We hope to generate more of a festival feel by making it a three-day event," said festival chairman Glenn Dromgoole, himself an author, journalist, and owner of the Texas Star Trading Company bookstore. The Boots & Books Culinary Luncheon will kick things off Thursday, followed that night by the Texas Cookbook Gala, an annual fundraiser for Abilene library services. One-of-a-kind Abilene touches enliven the proceedings. At a recent festival, the Hardin-Simmons Cowboy Band converged on the author luncheon and serenaded attendees with a set of Texas tunes that included chants, sing-alongs, and choreography to warm up the crowd for the speakers.

On Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., the festival will hold multiple author

Midland, home of the Midland Centennial Library, draws writers for the Permian Basin Writers' Workshop in September.

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Dr. Seuss' Cat in the Hat, sculpted by Leo Rijn, is one of 17 storybook sculptures that grace downtown Abilene.

presentations, panels, and writing workshops at the downtown library (all free) as well as a Saturday lunchtime program with award-winning children's author Chris Barton—*Mighty Truck*, *Shark vs. Train*—at the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature.

"One thing that is special about the West Texas Book Festival is that we always feature Texas authors," Dromgoole said. "If we do bring in authors from out of state, it's because they have written books about Texas or have some strong Texas connection. We really want our festival to be a celebration of reading and writing, *Texas* style."

Another three-day festival in West Texas this fall caters to those as dedicated to writing books as to reading them. The Permian Basin Writers' Workshop, Sept. 15-17 in Midland, encourages aspiring wordsmiths to learn to write—and to sell—with experts in fiction and nonfiction. Organizers describe the workshop on the Midland College campus as an intense three

days of learning and networking.

Now in its third year, the workshop brings nationally recognized agents and writing coaches to the Permian Basin, explained Edward McPherson of the Midland County Public Libraries, which founded the event. "The workshop aims to parlay the natural beauty of the desert with the development of a writing community that is becoming well-known as rich in support of thriving writing professionals," he said.

On Friday and Saturday, the workshop offers an array of breakout sessions with literary agents, editors, and industry professionals, while Sunday focuses on the world of Christian literature with Houston author DiAnn Mills. Mills' novels have appeared on Christian bestseller lists and have been recognized in the American Christian Fiction

Writers' Book of the Year Awards.

In the more northern reaches of West Texas, Lubbock enters the arena this fall with its first all-day Lubbock Book Festival on Saturday, Oct. 28. More than two dozen best-selling authors and regional favorites will read, sign books, and greet fans at LHUCA (Louise Hopkins Underwood Center for the Arts), a cornerstone of the Lubbock Cultural District.

Keynoters include S.C. Gwynne, author of the nonfiction bestsellers *Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches* (2010) and *Rebel Yell: The Violence, Passion, and Redemption of Stonewall Jackson* (2015). Most recently, Gwynne explored how throwing passes revolutionized Texas' most popular sport in *The Perfect Pass: American Genius and the Reinvention of Football* (2016), including a nod to the innovations of Mike Leach, former



THE WEST TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL

is Sept. 21-23 in Abilene; call **325-676-6025**, abilenetx.com/apl/BookFest.

The Permian Basin Writers' Workshop is Sept. 15-17 in Midland;

call **432-742-7438**, permianbasinwritersworkshop.com.

The Lubbock Book Festival is Oct. 28; call **806-762-8606**,

lubbockbookfestival.org.

Texas Tech University head coach.

Other literary luminaries scheduled to attend the Lubbock Book Festival include Jodi Thomas, a member of the National Romance Writers Hall of Fame, and John R. Erickson, creator of the beloved Hank the Cowdog series for young readers. Fans can also look forward to appearances by writers Terry Jennings, author of the heartfelt memoir/biography *Waylon: Tales of My Outlaw Dad* (2016); Adán Medrano, cookbook author of *Truly Texas Mexican: A Native Culinary Heritage in Recipes* (2014); and Patrick Dearen, Western Writers of America Spur Award

winner for *The Big Drift* (2014).

The Lubbock Book Festival will play a key role in the 20th anniversary of LHUCA. The center's studios, galleries, and performance spaces host a busy schedule of film screenings, exhibitions, concerts, and dance performances. With the new book fest, the center will strengthen its connection to the literary arts, Executive Director Jean Caslin said. The new festival brings to mind a quote from George Washington, appropriately lettered above the entrance of LHUCA's building: "To encourage literature and art is the duty that every good citizen owes to his country." 🇺🇸



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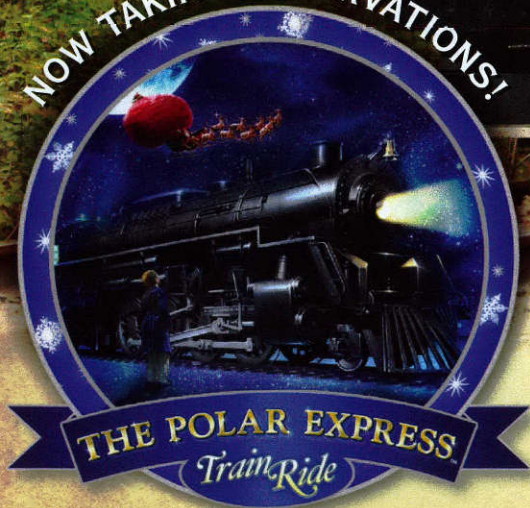


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The Cowboy Way

The National Cowboy Symposium
and Celebration in Lubbock

story by **Melissa Corbin**

More than a dozen modern-day chuckwagons pay tribute to the rolling kitchens of the cattle-drive era.



AS A TENNESSEE NATIVE WHO MARRIED A Texan, I've long been fascinated with the difference between the two states' geography and culture—especially when it comes to the romantic ideal of the cowboy in the Texas Panhandle.

In the High Plains around the Lubbock area, it seems plenty of mamas saw fit to let their babies grow up to be cowboys. "Texas cowboys pride themselves on looking like what they think a cowboy should be, and you'll see this out on the ranch. You can look at 'em and spot 'em and tell they're working cowboys," says Scott White, director of collections, exhibits, and research at Texas Tech University's National Ranching Heritage Center. This 27.5-acre Lubbock museum and historical park offers visitors an opportunity to explore the history of ranching, pioneer life, and the development of the livestock industry in North America. It's also the original site of the National Cowboy Symposium and Celebration, which celebrates its 29th year Sept. 8-10 and has grown so large it now fills the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center. Here, my notions of Hollywood-born cowboy grandeur would be tested. I'd learn that the cowboy way is much more than Stetsons and spurs. It's a lifestyle. It's a culture. It's a tradition.

Competing cooks are hard at work by 5 a.m. Saturday, stoking fires and preparing their secret recipes.

You, too, can immerse yourself in cowboy culture at this extravaganza, which is made possible by a legion of volunteers and tireless work by Executive Director Monica Hightower, who says with a smile, "Everyone is welcome, from urbanites to real cowboys."

Supported by Western lifestyle brands such as Wrangler and Lodge Cast Iron, this is a full weekend peppered with history presentations, horse-training demonstrations, panels of Western authors, food, music, poetry, and storytelling. There are headliners like award-winning Western singer Mary Kaye. The exhibit hall boasts an array of Western products, including custom-blended coffee by Arizona-based Arbuckle's Coffee Roaster, which pays tribute to the era when Arbuckle's was synonymous with coffee on the open range. All

A broad array of Western traditions draw visitors to the event, but few things captivate an audience like the aroma of bacon cooking over an open flame.

throughout the Civic Center, the celebration resonates as artists pay homage to the American cowboy—the figure described by cowboy poet Jay Snider as “the greatest superhero of all time.”

Other vibrant components of the weekend include the demonstrations of Native American skills and traditions. The Quanah Parker Society, named for the great Comanche chief Quanah Parker, educates attendees about Native American music, dance, and dress. Just as the society prepares to honor the event’s founder, Alvin G. Davis, in ceremony, I am entranced by a flute’s musings accompanied by the sweet aroma of burning cedar. “Cedar is used by a lot of different tribes. We use it as healing and to comfort,” explains Don Parker, Quanah Parker’s great-grandson. He smiles and says, “This is home for us and always has been.” Scott White explains that Quanah helped his nation adapt to the white



CHUCKWAGONS: THE ORIGINAL FOOD TRUCK?

Long before the advent of food trucks, chuckwagons were a hardworking cowboy’s saving grace during cross-country cattle drives. Cattleman Charles Goodnight is credited with inventing the chuckwagon in 1866, when he and partner Oliver Loving prepared to drive 2,000 Longhorn cattle from Texas to northern markets. Starting with a Studebaker military wagon, whose steel axels could survive the rocky trails, Goodnight outfitted the back with a hinged workspace for food preparation and boxes with drawers for food, supplies, and utensils. Because cowboys called their meals “chuck,” the wagon became known as a chuckwagon.

The chuckwagon caught on with other cattle drovers, and in 1884, Studebaker began marketing its “Round Up” model to ranchers based on Goodnight’s original design. But the chuckwagon’s heyday was short; with the railroad boom of the late 1880s, cattle drives soon became obsolete. Yet they’re an enduring symbol of the American West, and in 2005, Governor Rick Perry signed a resolution declaring the chuckwagon the official vehicle of Texas, ensuring its legacy for future generations.



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man's world while advocating for the tribe's education, health, and economy. Events like the National Cowboy Symposium and Celebration help guarantee that the legacy of the Comanches and other tribes won't be forgotten.

Where there are cowboys and their counterparts, you'll also find horses. On Saturday morning, the annual Parade of the Horses travels through

town and proceeds to the Civic Center's northern side. Here, the enticing aromas of food cooking over open flame can mean only one thing: It's chuckwagon cook-off time!

On average, between 10 and 15 chuckwagon teams compete for cash, prizes, and bragging rights across categories that include meat, potatoes, beans, and bread, plus awards for best ranch

wagon and camp, best trail wagon and camp, and best overall cooking. Competing cooks are hard at work by 5 a.m. Saturday, stoking fires and preparing their secret recipes. "Cooking on a chuckwagon is hard work, and the National Championship Chuck Wagon Cook-Off is a highlight of the event. Cooks toil over a real wood fire to produce some of the best cowboy cuisine in the country," Hightower says.

As the morning progresses, a crowd huddles around the camp of Granbury's Homer Robertson, an award-winning chuckwagon cook and firefighter who has appeared on television with chefs Bobby Flay of the Food Network and Carla Hall of ABC's *The Chew*. "Folks like to get a good meal and see some living history," Robertson says as he floats a floured filet of pounded beef in a Dutch oven filled with hot cottonseed oil. A gust of wind suddenly changes his flames' direction, and he notes, "When you're a Texan cowboy on a High Plains chuckwagon, the one thing you have to worry about is the wind." That's my cue to scoot over to the C4B Chuck Wagon of Amarillo, where I'm tickled by Randy Whipple's storytelling. He says his angel biscuits will float right off my plate, but when I ask him what his secret is for his pinto beans, he winks. "We only use 239 beans because we don't want 'em too farty."

Each and every cowboy has a story to tell. 🤠

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THE NATIONAL COWBOY SYMPOSIUM AND CELEBRATION

takes place at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center Sept. 8-10. For information about tickets and a calendar of events, see cowboy.org.

For information about the National Ranching Heritage Center at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, see www.depts.ttu.edu/nrhc.

For information about visiting Lubbock, see visitlubbock.org.

All About That Burger

How fresh! In East Texas, Jucy's Hamburgers aims for the win

story by Paul McDonnold



WALKING INTO JUCY'S HAMBURGERS, AT THE corner of McCann and US 80 in Longview, the first thing I notice is the vibe, or lack thereof. The place is not pretentious. But it's not self-consciously unpretentious, either, like restaurants that carefully cultivate an aged, hole-in-the-wall feel. I'm at the original location of what is now a five-site chain in East Texas, and the utilitarian decor here hasn't changed much since it was a diner called The Spur. Wood booths line the front wall. A counter for ordering and paying is at the back. A row of tables and chairs fills the open space between. The only sounds are of orders being relayed, cups being filled, trays rattling, and people conversing. Food is the focus.

The decor here hasn't changed much since it was a diner called The Spur. Food is the focus.

In 1980, Longview native Ronny Maxey, who had owned several restaurants in the area before trying his hand in the construction business, learned that The Spur was for sale. He bought the place, changed the name to Jucy's Hamburgers, and started to make a name for himself with some of the most delicious burgers in East Texas.

"I just started cooking half-pound burgers," Ronny says. He also experimented, trying to make each burger better than the last, figuring out what worked and what didn't. He tried different beef mixtures, including brisket and sirloin, and decided that simple chuck—a relatively fatty cut with lots of flavor—worked best. For the beans on his menu, he settled on pintos, and says he found that the combination of spices was not as important as a good five-hour simmer time.

He never imagined that, 37 years later, Jucy's would have five locations in Longview, Tyler, and Marshall, or that the family-owned chain would routinely appear on "best hamburger" roundups (including acclaim from *Texas Highways* readers in 2015).

Ronny credits the restaurant's success to his team both embracing innovation and maintaining tradition. The workday starts at 5 a.m., when the cooks begin the on-site prepwork, breaking down pieces of beef, heads of lettuce, whole tomatoes, and onions. From there it's a process of division. Grind. Slice. Chop. Repeat.

"Everybody says their meat is freshly ground," says Ronny's daughter Molly, who oversees operations for the chain. "But we actually grind it in-house, at each location, twice a day. So when you get a Jucy's hamburger, it's extremely fresh meat. It makes a huge difference."

She should know, having been involved in the business since she was a teenager—first as an opinionated diner. She wasted little time in suggesting changes, including that Jucy's

Along with its acclaimed burgers, Jucy's now offers chicken salads, sides like fried green tomatoes and onion rings, and ice cream desserts.



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Loaded baked potatoes and hand-cut french fries can round out your meal, but if you crave something light, you can order a salad.

should offer salad-dressing options beyond the always-popular ranch.

"I guess I kind of got in the operations of it very early," she jokes. She later worked at Jucy's in high school, then came on full time in 2001, after finishing a degree at Texas A&M. She brought her husband, Dustin, with her, too; he partners with Molly in operations and heads up business development, quality control, and other roles.

It was not necessarily the career path the two envisioned.

"It kind of just fell in our lap," Molly says. "My dad said, 'Give it a try. If you don't like it, you can always go.' And then we loved it. It was really fast-paced. We came in at an exciting time when he gave us the freedom to expand the menu. We didn't have any chicken on the menu, and now we sell a lot of grilled chicken and salads, and chicken strips for kids."



Other menu additions include the Black & Bleu—a burger with strips of crisp bacon on a bed of crumbled blue cheese—and fried green tomatoes. The tomatoes sport a substantial crust that stays crunchy after deep dives in ranch dressing.

According to Ronny's wife, Debbie Maxey, new menu items have come naturally as new locations with bigger kitchens have opened; the menu varies somewhat between locations. But innovation is not limited to the menu. Today Jucy's offers online ordering, and it was among the first mom-and-pop chains anywhere with a Coca-Cola

Freestyle machine. These self-serve soda fountains offer diners a computer touch screen to select from more than 100 soft drink combinations, with optional flavor add-ins such as cherry and vanilla.

Here is one key to the Jucy's burger's success: It is utterly alluring in its proportions.

Convenience can't dispel the limitations of time: Molly notes unapologetically that Jucy's drive-through orders take about eight minutes because they don't cook anything ahead of time.

"Even with the newer menu items, such as the chipotle avocado ranch chicken sandwich, we brine our own chicken. Everything we do and everything we create is still based on that same quality from the original days."

A complimentary cup of savory

pinto beans makes the inevitable wait more bearable. And when my burger arrives, I dig in. Here is one key to the Jucy's burger's success: It is utterly alluring in its proportions. The layering of bun, beef, onion, pickles, tomato, and lettuce is perfectly done. The meat itself is tender, without the bulging middle of some "home-style" burgers. Vegetables are cool and crisp, and the layering stays uniform almost to the last bite. The accompanying fries have a good balance of crispness, salt, and earthy potato flavor.

But good food is only part of the explanation for the restaurant's growth.

"We do have a lot of family involved," Molly says; the staff includes a number of longtime employees, some of whom have worked at Jucy's for 30 years. "I think that really is what pushed us to continue to grow," she adds. "When you've got great people, you want to keep them growing too. I think that's a



JUCY'S HAMBURGERS

There are 5 Jucy's Hamburgers in East Texas, in Longview, Marshall, and Tyler.

See jucyshamburgers.com for locations and hours.

neat aspect you don't always see in the restaurant business."

In addition to the burger joints, Jucy's has started a separate chain of three taco shops (Jucy's Taco). And work is proceeding on the next big Jucy's Hamburgers evolution—franchising. It makes you wonder if they're taking on too much. But Molly says they plan to move slowly and carefully, staying close to home at first.

As they expand to new locations, more Texans will get a chance to try Jucy's for themselves. Until then, plan your trip to East Texas, and prepare to loosen your belt a notch. **L**

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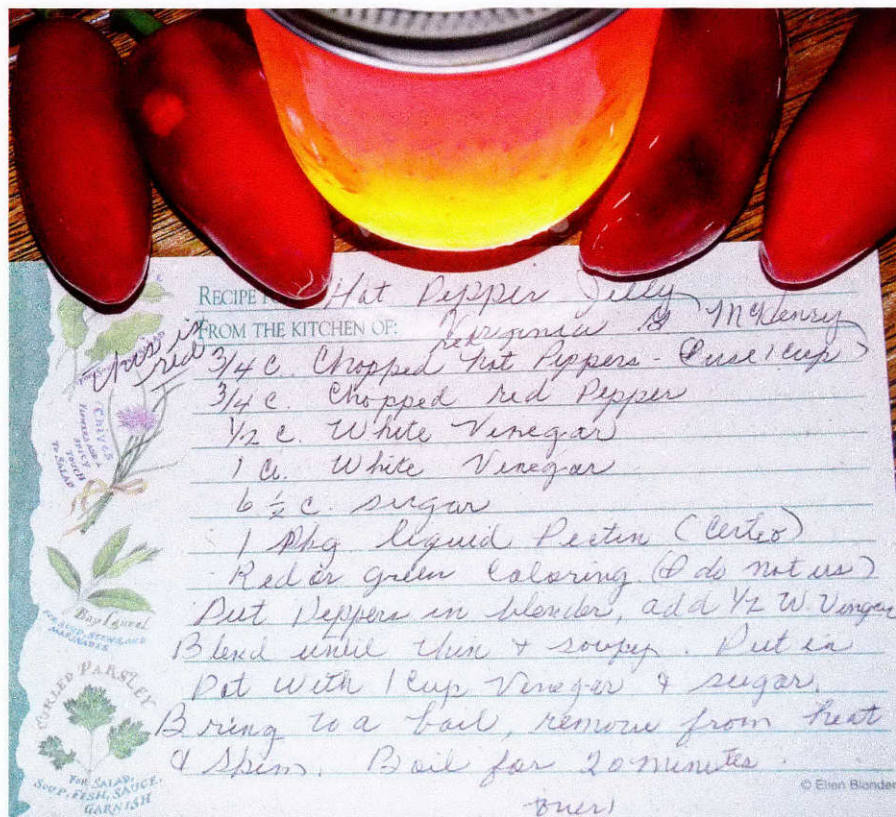
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Summer in a Jar

At the State Fair of Texas, a tribute to the art of canning

story by **Larry D. Hodge**



Every year, there's a large-scale sculpture made entirely of butter. One of my personal favorites is the Glue-a-Shoe contest, which features folk-art creations with a footwear component.

Many of the canning contest entries qualify as works of art themselves. Some jars contain artfully arranged layers of carrots and cucumbers, vertical rows of green beans, or tiers of corn kernels divided by vertical carrot columns. These people even make preserved zucchini beautiful.

It's the jellies and jams that catch my eye, though. Childhood experience taught me how much work goes into growing, gathering, preparing, and canning these fruits of Texas soil, sun, and rain. One of those beautiful jars of jelly came from the garden of 92-year-old Virginia McHenry of Dallas, who grows jalapeño peppers in her garden and turns them into hot pepper jelly. Her entry won the blue ribbon in 2016, but not without some urging by her family. "She's a really good cook, but she is pretty modest," her son Gary says. "We finally wore her down and got her to enter."

McHenry started making jelly after attending a class at a gourmet shop. "I'd never heard of hot jelly, but I thought I could make that," she says. "I started with green pepper jelly, but it didn't have enough color, so I stick with red." Her deceptively simple, prize-winning recipe was developed through trial and error; its rich red color appeals to the eye while its heat warms the tongue. "It's best served on plain crackers with cream cheese," she says. "Or just a hot buttered biscuit."

Unfortunately, you can't buy or sample the contest entries. (Across the street, in the Go Texan Pavilion, you can sample or purchase a variety of Texas products from honey to salsa to ice cream.) People enter the contest for one of the coveted ribbons and the bragging rights that go with them. And there's the satisfaction of knowing they are the best in Texas. "Trying to achieve perfection is a great hobby for

THE STATE FAIR OF TEXAS, HELD EVERY FALL at Dallas' Fair Park, is a feast for eyes, ears, and taste buds, with music, livestock shows, pig races, auto show, midway rides and games, and food.

Especially food. Having a Fletcher's Corn Dog and sampling the year's crop of deep-fried culinary inventions are traditions as treasured as having your picture taken with Big Tex, the fair's 55-foot-tall, talking cowboy mascot.

Partly because a good part of my childhood was spent stoking a 21-quart pressure cooker with garden produce, my favorite part of the fair is the canning competition. Interest in canning is as fresh as ever, says Kathy Bennett, the fair's creative arts director. "People are interested in going back to the basics and are more aware of being healthy and not using preservatives," she says. "In 2016, we had 1,781 entries in 152 categories."

Those canning entries fill an entire wall of the Creative Arts Building, competing for attention with entries in other creative-arts categories, including photography, ceramics, dolls, needlepoint, scale models, and other hobbies you might not expect.

Some of the canning contest entries qualify as works of art themselves. These people even make preserved zucchini beautiful.



THE STATE FAIR OF TEXAS

takes place Sept. 29-Oct. 22 in Dallas. For canning contest rules, email arts@bigtex.com. See bigtex.com.

many people,” Bennett says. “And winning a ribbon is a great joy for them.”

Canning also carries on family tradition. Bennett cites Don Byrd of Denton, a construction worker who learned to can from his grandmother. “In 2015, he won a first in peach preserves and a third in apricot preserves, and he also entered corn relish, blackberry jam, and pear preserves,” she says. “Then there’s the Johnnie and Linda Carroll family of Grand Prairie. They won a total of 13 ribbons in 2016. We are so proud of them for carrying on the tradition of canning.”

Whether you call it canning, preserving, or “putting by,” when you take the bountiful fruits of Texas’ long growing season, combine them with human labor, and lock them in a glass container for future enjoyment, you’ve put a bit of summer in a jar. Pride in that accomplishment shines from the faces of families who come to the fair to see the entries and take family portraits with the winners and their works. Food is one of the things that connects us across the generations, and nowhere is that more evident than in this little corner of the State Fair of Texas. 🍷

RECIPE

VIRGINIA MCHENRY'S HOT PEPPER JELLY

- ✦ 3/4 cup blended red jalapeño peppers, seeds included (wear rubber gloves when processing)
- ✦ 3/4 cup blended red bell peppers, seeded
- ✦ 1 1/2 cups white vinegar
- ✦ 6 1/2 cups sugar
- ✦ 1 package liquid pectin

Mix peppers, vinegar, and sugar in large saucepan. Boil 8 to 10 minutes. Remove from heat, add pectin, and stir well. Cool slightly and pour into sterilized jelly jars.



Stoney LaRue



Aaron Watson

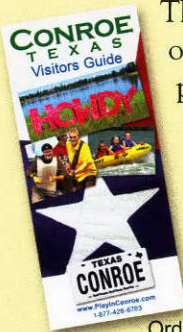


Tracy Byrd

Conroe Cajun Catfish Festival

The streets of downtown Conroe will come alive with three days of continuous live music on three stages October 13-15 for the 28th Annual Conroe Cajun Catfish Festival.

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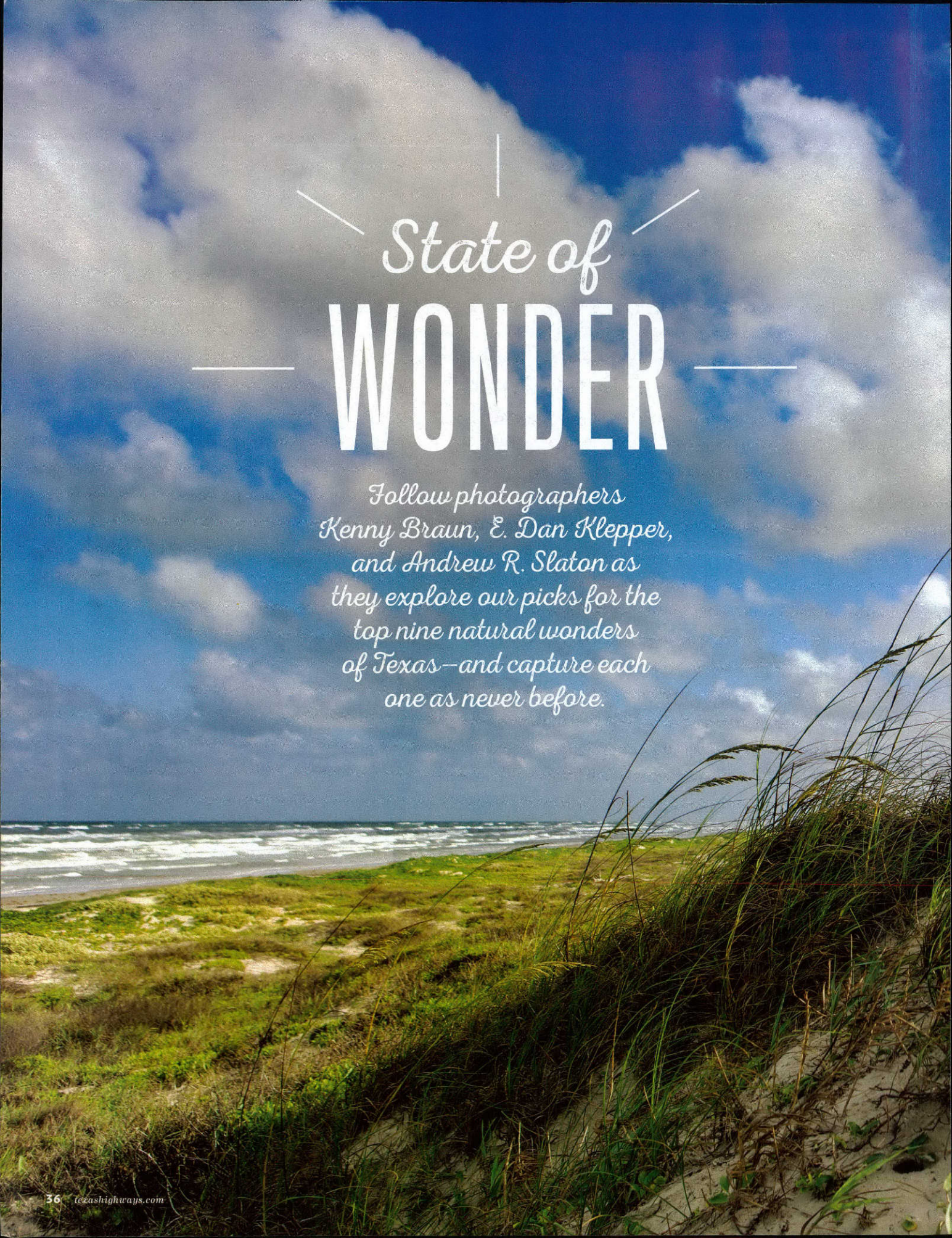


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they explore our picks for the
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PADRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE

"Aromatic, salty air blew in off the water. Pelican formations cruised the shoreline. Seagulls and other shorebirds searched for food, and every minute the light transformed, making the water, clouds, and sand change colors. It's a special place with rare species and isolated, undeveloped beaches—a national treasure and nature at her finest."

— KENNY BRAUN —





GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

"It feels so small at first, until you hit the trail and start to explore. It is pure Texas wilderness—a high mountain desert with the soul of a bygone era that we Texans have yet to forget or leave simply to the history books. Here, we hold on dearly to the past we love."

— ANDREW R. SLATON —



HAMILTON POOL PRESERVE

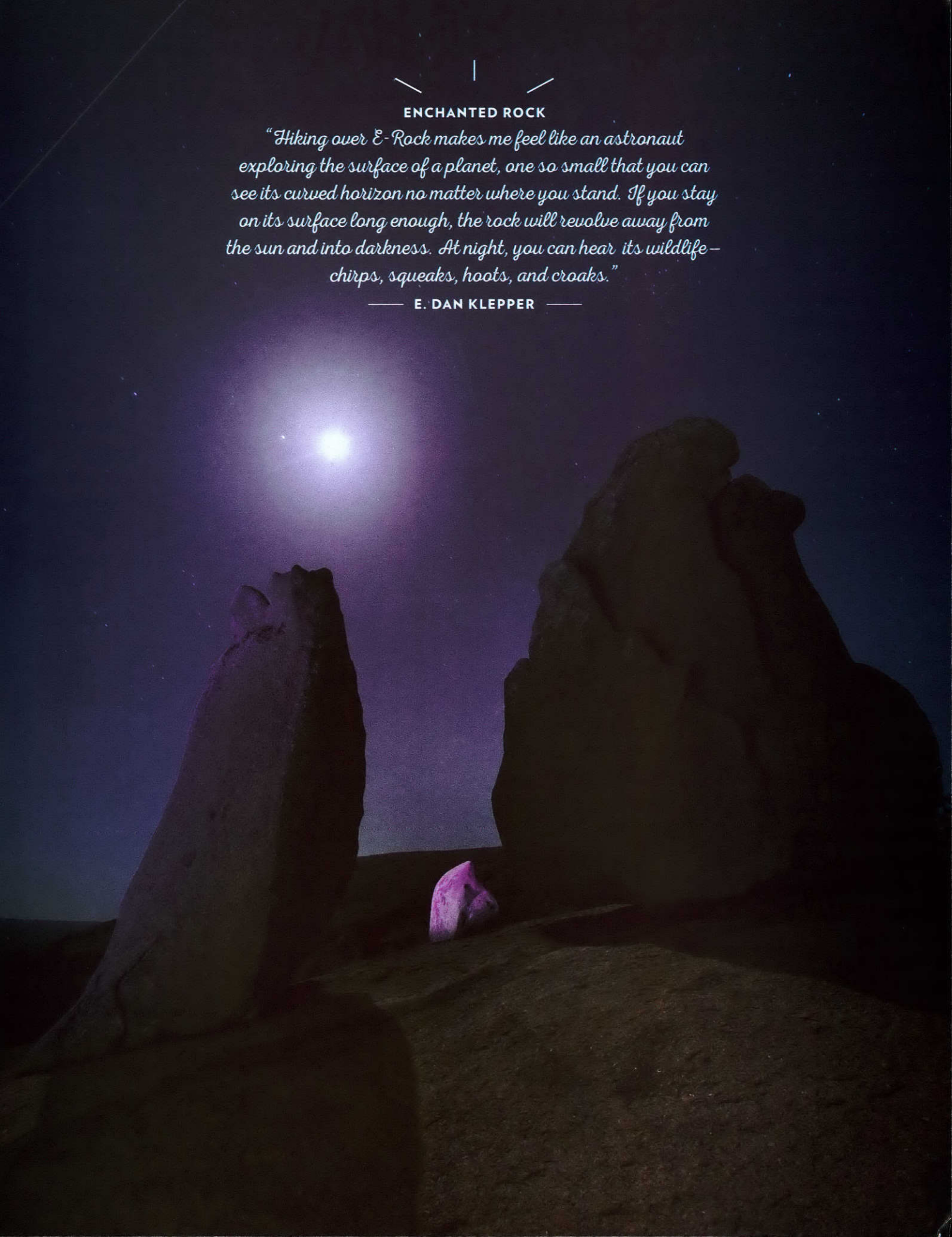
"The lagoon-like grotto and surrounding cliffs illustrate clearly why Hill Country nature is best at creating idyllic antidotes for the Texas heat. Descend a hidden canyon, follow a cypress-lined creek, and arrive at a shaded, blue-green Eden. Bring your own personal Adam or Eve but be prepared to share the waters with everyone else. And, without a doubt, watch for snakes."

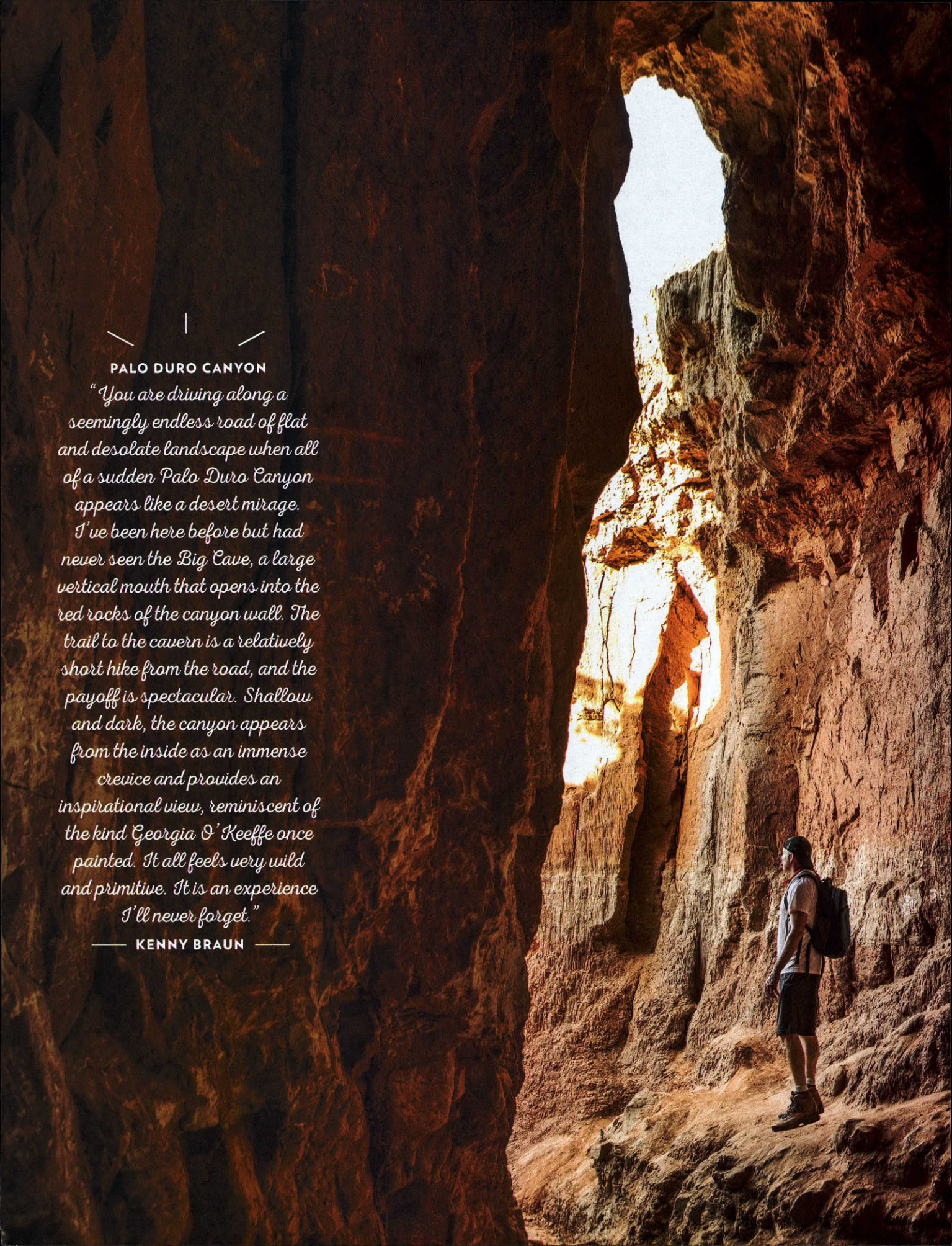
— E. DAN KLEPPER —

ENCHANTED ROCK

"Hiking over E-Rock makes me feel like an astronaut exploring the surface of a planet, one so small that you can see its curved horizon no matter where you stand. If you stay on its surface long enough, the rock will revolve away from the sun and into darkness. At night, you can hear its wildlife—chirps, squeaks, hoots, and croaks."

— E. DAN KLEPPER —





PALO DURO CANYON

"You are driving along a seemingly endless road of flat and desolate landscape when all of a sudden Palo Duro Canyon appears like a desert mirage.

I've been here before but had never seen the Big Cave, a large vertical mouth that opens into the red rocks of the canyon wall. The trail to the cavern is a relatively short hike from the road, and the payoff is spectacular. Shallow and dark, the canyon appears from the inside as an immense crevice and provides an inspirational view, reminiscent of the kind Georgia O'Keeffe once painted. It all feels very wild and primitive. It is an experience I'll never forget."

— KENNY BRAUN —

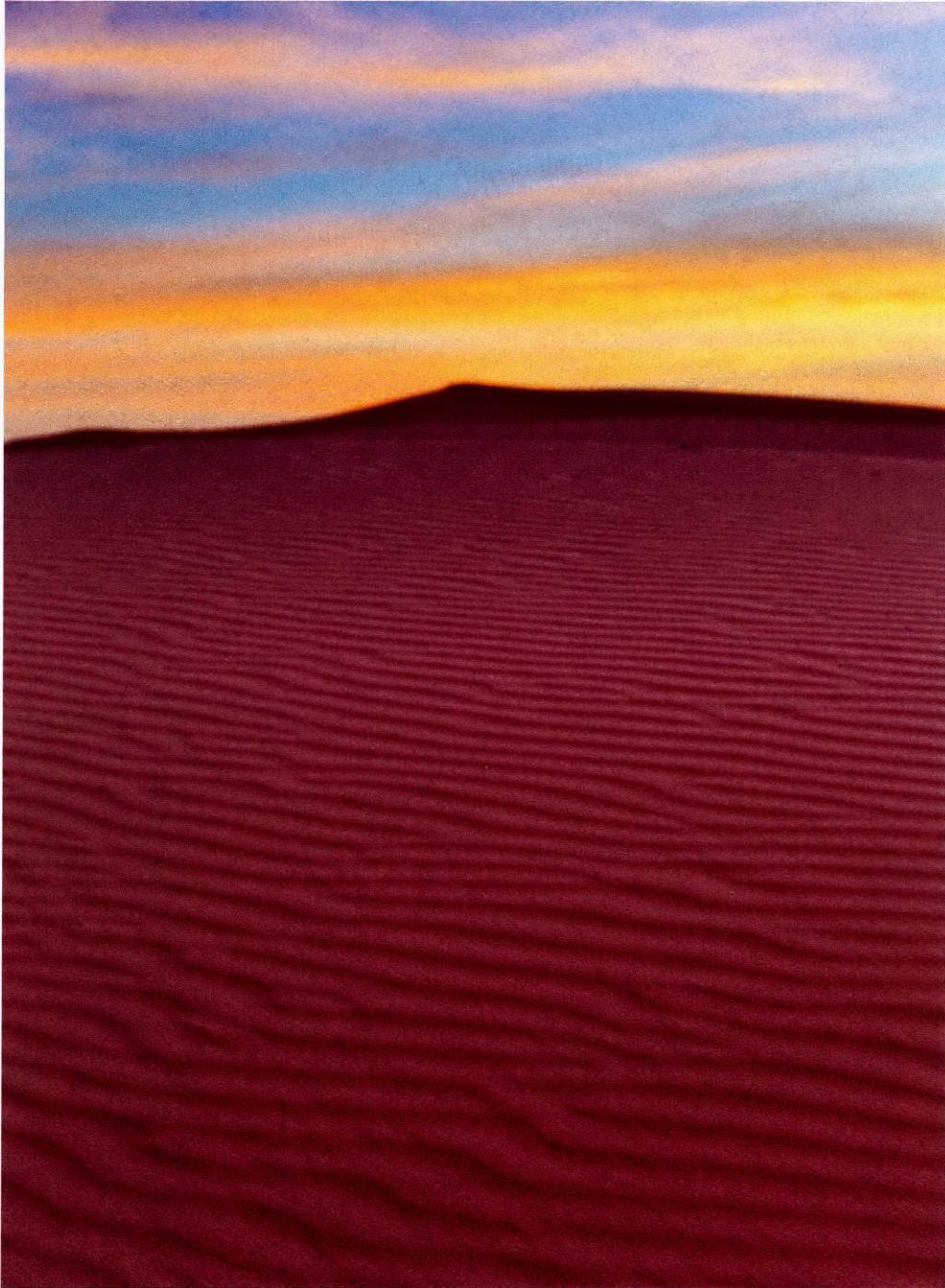




DEVIL'S SINKHOLE

"Many years ago, I was a part-time park ranger for Devil's Sinkhole State Natural Area. On weekend evenings, the park manager and I would give interpretive talks and answer questions for visitors as millions of Mexican free-tailed bats emerged from the sinkhole. Today, whenever I watch the flight, those memories rise with the bats, at least for a moment, until the emergence transforms the night sky and I am awed into the here and now, still overwhelmed by the phenomenon."

— E. DAN KLEPPER —

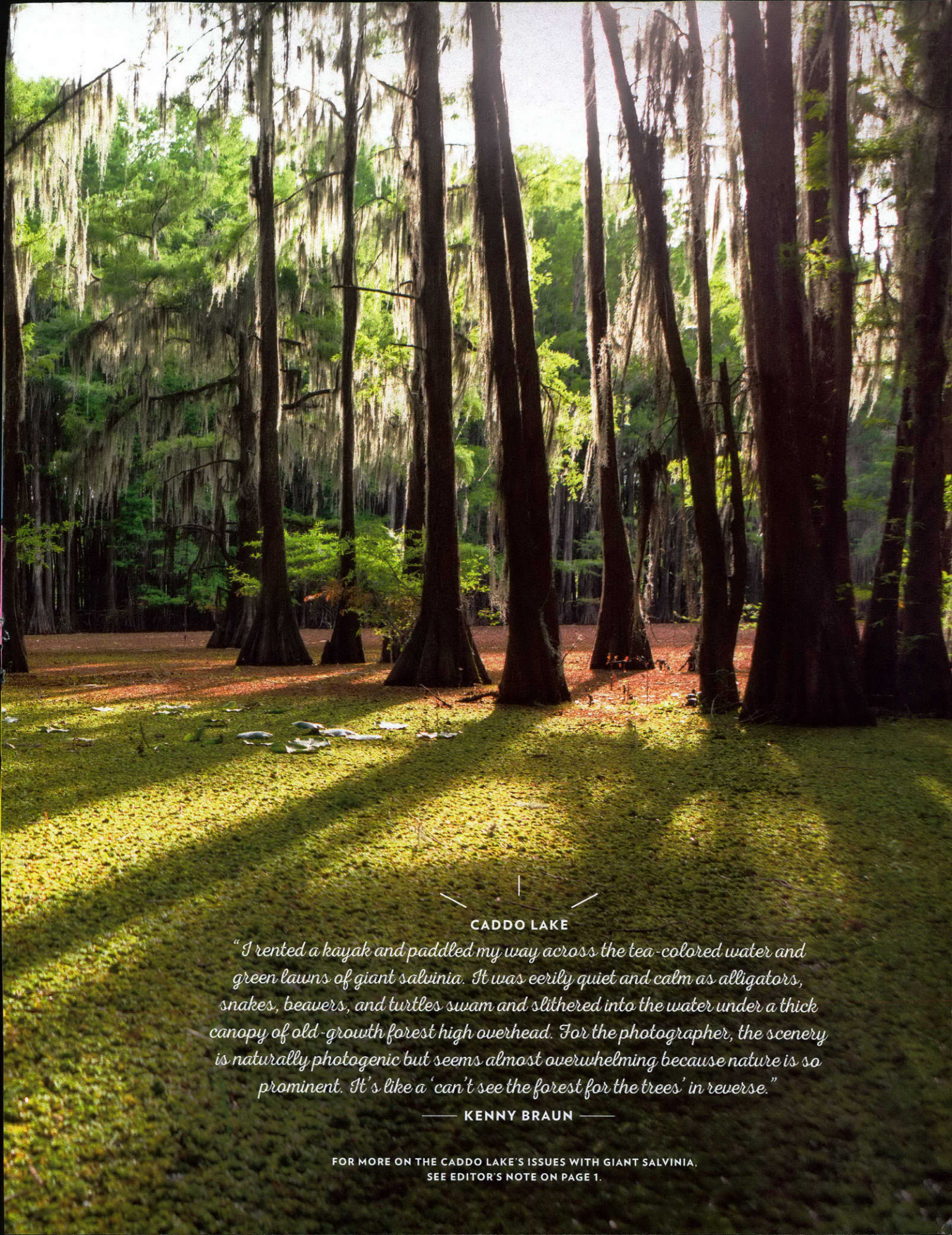


MONAHANS SANDHILLS

"This place is one of the most unassuming treasures in our fair state—a microcosm of nature smack dab in the middle of classic Texas oil country. I've never seen such consistently awe-inspiring sunsets anywhere like I've seen over the dunes at Monahans Sandhills."

— ANDREW R. SLATON —



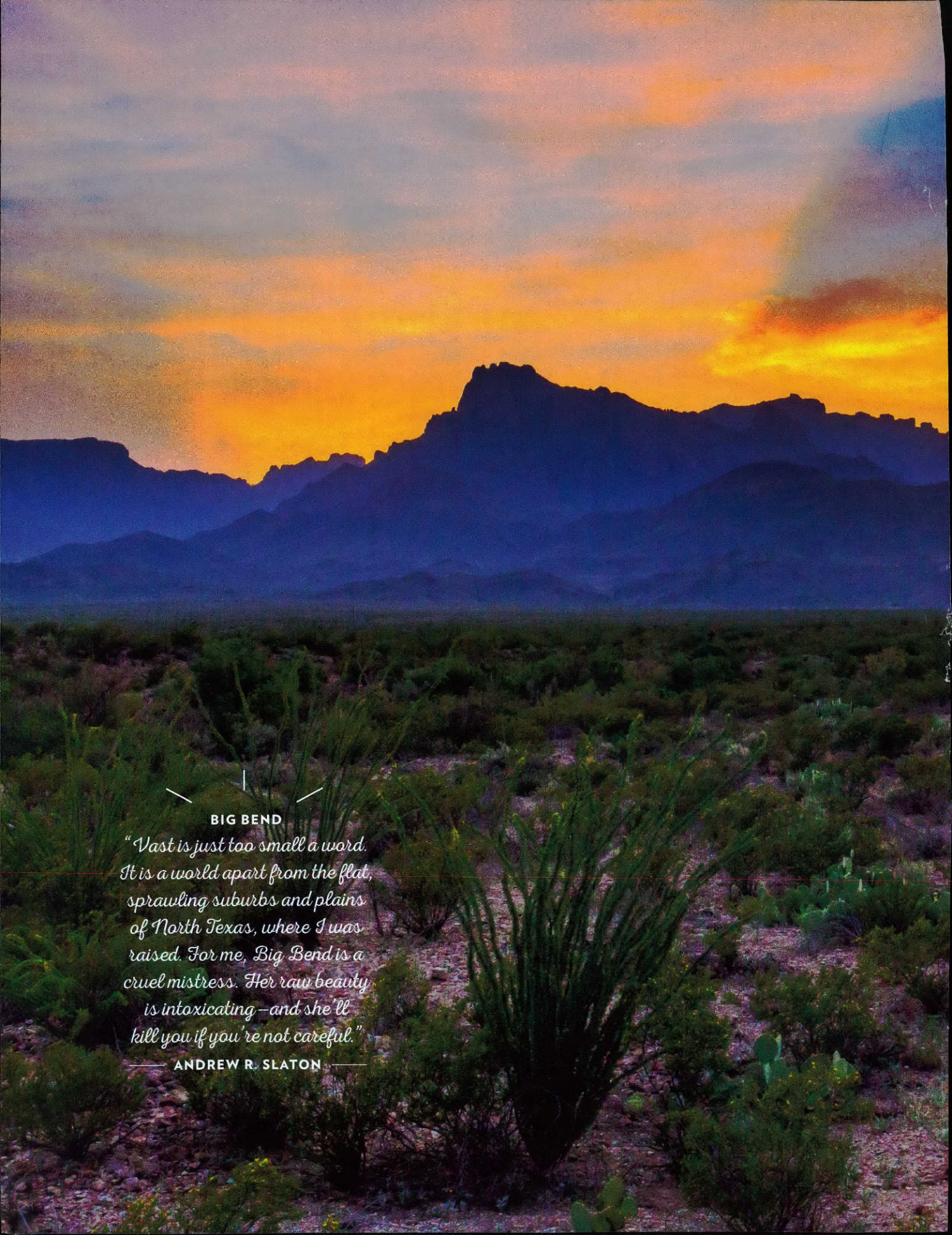


CADDO LAKE

"I rented a kayak and paddled my way across the tea-colored water and green lawns of giant salvinia. It was eerily quiet and calm as alligators, snakes, beavers, and turtles swam and slithered into the water under a thick canopy of old-growth forest high overhead. For the photographer, the scenery is naturally photogenic but seems almost overwhelming because nature is so prominent. It's like a 'can't see the forest for the trees' in reverse."

— KENNY BRAUN —

FOR MORE ON THE CADDO LAKE'S ISSUES WITH GIANT SALVINIA,
SEE EDITOR'S NOTE ON PAGE 1.

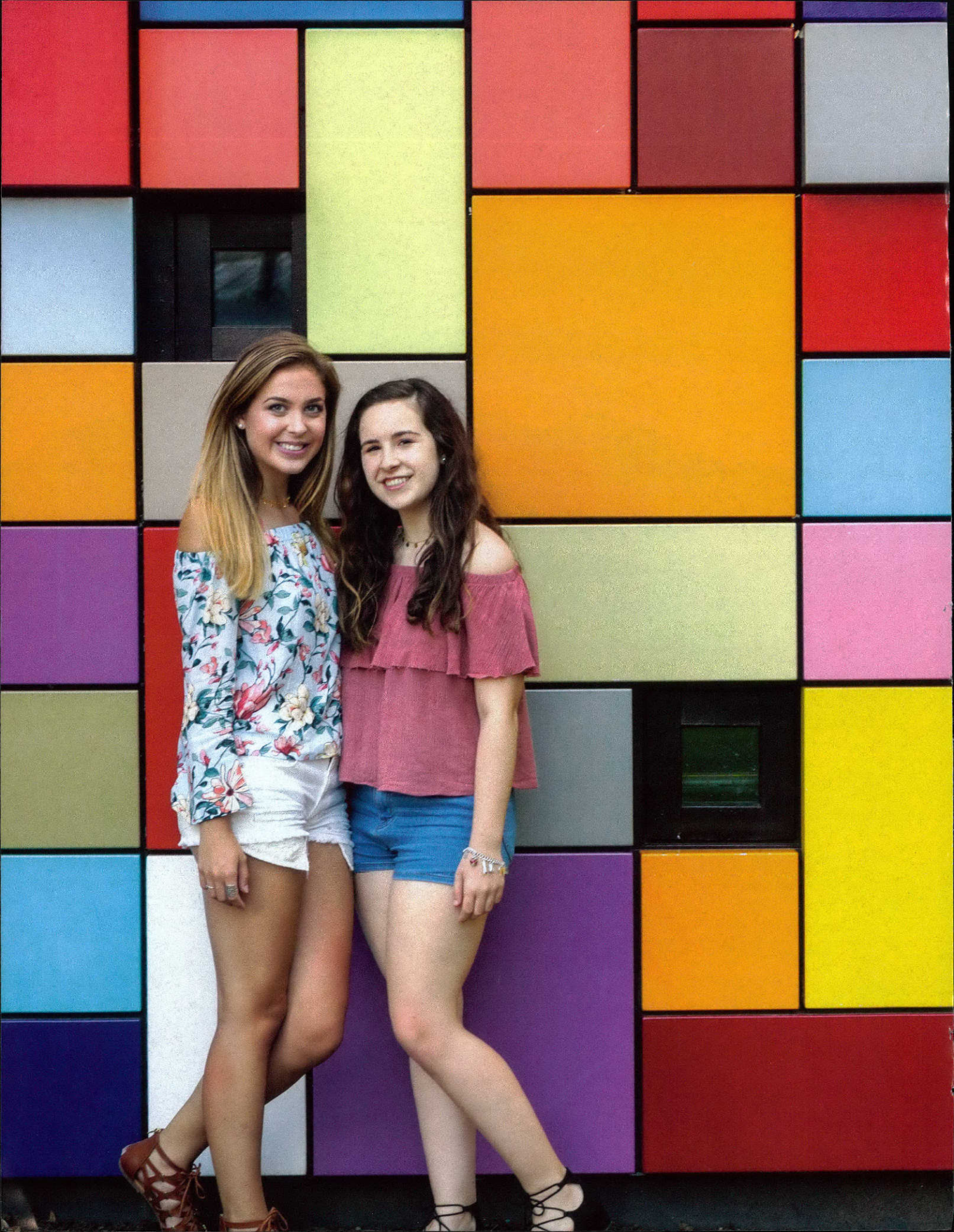


BIG BEND

"Vast is just too small a word. It is a world apart from the flat, sprawling suburbs and plains of North Texas, where I was raised. For me, Big Bend is a cruel mistress. Her raw beauty is intoxicating—and she'll kill you if you're not careful."

— ANDREW R. SLATON —





STORY BY HEATHER BRAND

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
ERIC W. POHL

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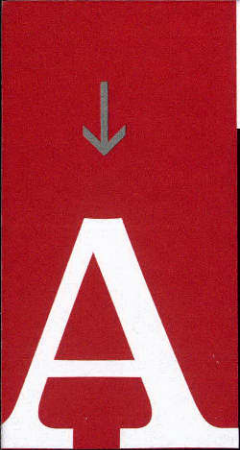
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FOR EVERYONE

WITH THE GREAT OUTDOORS
AS A BACKDROP,
PUBLIC ART SURPRISES
AND INSPIRES





cross Texas, eye-catching public art can be found standing along city freeways and waterways, clustered in town parks, and tucked within college campuses. Whereas some places celebrate the work of a single artist, others highlight a variety of talent, ranging from local artists to those of international acclaim. These sculptures represent recent commissions as well as established landmarks, and they vary from the traditional to the contemporary, with something for just about every taste. Best of all, they are free to see. Here are a few dozen worth exploring around the state.

EL PASO

Thanks to the city of El Paso's active Public Art Program, this West Texas metropolis features multiple artworks along its busy thoroughfares. Several of these roadside attractions were inspired by the surrounding landscape. A 45-foot-tall, blue-gray steel abstraction called *Aguacero* (2011), by the internationally acclaimed Mexican sculptor Sebastián, represents the occasional downpours of the desert climate. *The Cloud* (2016), installed in a traffic circle on the west side of town, is one of several Texas commissions by the New York artist Donald Lipski. At first glance, this three-sided structure could be mistaken for a water tower. However, closer inspection reveals that the "tower" is made of hinged steel panels arranged in a cloud shape. These panels flutter in the breeze and mirror passing clouds. Wind also plays a role in Vicki Scuri's *Airway Gateway* (2014), located along Airway Boulevard. Its 16 tall metal pillars double as wind turbines, and its related 29 ground-level sculptures mimic desert flora. At dusk, colorful lights illuminate their surfaces. Likewise, Howard Kalish's *Ocotillo* (2011) enlivens a roundabout on the east side. This steel sculpture, which resembles its namesake plant, lights up at night with luminous red blooms. **For locations, see mcad.elpasotexas.gov/public-art.**

FORT WORTH

Since 2001, Fort Worth has been enhancing its urban environment with public art. *Wind Roundabout* (2015), a three-story-tall kinetic sculpture by Ned Kahn, is part of the ambitious new development plan at Panther Island just north of downtown. Kahn, known for his interactive exhibits at San Francisco's Exploratorium, sheathed this elevated cylindrical structure with thousands of aluminum flaps that glint in the light and shimmer in the wind. Art has also played a role in the revitalization of downtown neighborhoods, as seen on a half-mile stretch of Lancaster Avenue, where you can find *Avenue of Light* (2009). California-based Cliff Garten designed the installation's six sculptural towers, each composed of stainless-steel tiers stacked more than 30 feet high and embellished with laser-cut art deco motifs inspired by the surrounding architecture. At night, these towers become beacons of unusual beauty as light dances over their irregular surfaces. Duck into the nearby Fort Worth Convention Center to check out Donald Lipski's *Intimate Apparel & Pearl Earrings* (2005) in the lobby. This massive, three-dimensional star, suspended in midair, is composed of about 400 donated cowboy hats (and two sombreros)—a lighthearted nod to the city's Western heritage and pioneering spirit. **For locations, see fwpublicart.org.**

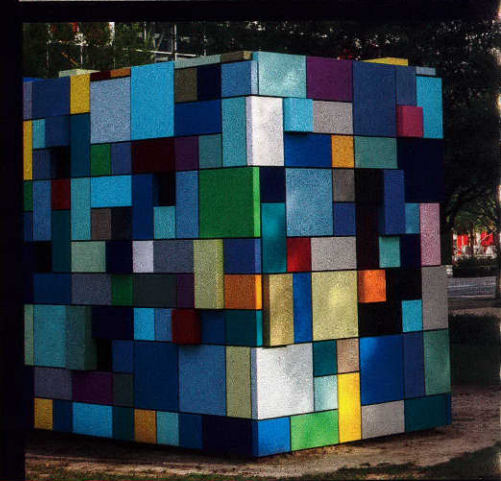
FRISCO

The community of Frisco, just north of Dallas, is home to the Texas Sculpture Garden—the largest private collection of contemporary Texas sculpture on public display. Acquired by developer Craig Hall, works by about 40 different artists are scattered across four scenic acres at HALL Park (and about 100 additional works can be found within the office park's various buildings). Among the homegrown talent is Jerry Daniel of Sanger, whose three-story-tall *Dancers MM* (2000) greets visitors at the entry to the office park. The simplified lines of this graceful duo, made of concrete over steel, convey a sense of carefree movement. Eliseo S. Garcia of Farmers Branch offers a different kind of duo: His modernist *Maternal Caress* (2000), carved from a block of limestone, portrays a mother tenderly embracing her child. Several Houston artists are represented, including Edward Lee Hendricks, Paul Kittelson, and Michelle O'Michael. Hendricks' tall twin spindles (*2004 IX* and *2004 X*) terminate in curving yellow rods that churn in the wind. Kittelson's oversized *Staples* (2001) looks as if a giant has misplaced his stapler refills. And O'Michael's 26-foot-long *La Mujer Roja* (2000) evokes a reclining female form through looping strips of welded steel, painted a brilliant red. **The Texas Sculpture Garden is at 6801 Gaylord Parkway. See texassculpturegarden.org.**



Opening spread: *Synchronicity of Color* by Margo Sawyer, Houston. Above, clockwise from top: *Intimate Apparel & Pearl Earrings* by Donald Lipski, Fort Worth; *Airway Gateway* by Vicki Scuri, El Paso; *Wind Roundabout* by Ned Kahn, Fort Worth; *Dancers MM* by Jerry Daniel, Frisco; *The Cloud* by Donald Lipski, El Paso.





Clockwise from top: *Birds of Galveston* by Dayle Lewis, Galveston; *Been Fish'è'n* by Joe Barrington, Lampasas; *Lampasas Furniture* by Carolann Haggard; *Synchronicity of Color* by Margo Sawyer, Houston; *Wings Over Water* by Joe O'Connell and Creative Machines, Houston. Right: *Monument au fantôme* by Jean Dubuffet, Houston.



GALVESTON

After Hurricane Ike battered hundreds of trees on Galveston Island in 2008, the Galveston Island Tree Conservancy embarked on a plan to give the dead trees new life as sculptures. Today, Galveston boasts more than 20 of these artful reincarnations. Local homeowners commis-

sioned many of the tree sculptures, most of which are found in the island's East End Historical District. Chainsaw artist Dayle Lewis of Indiana, who specializes in wildlife forms, carved the elegant *Two Crested Herons* from a single trunk, and the diverging branches of his *Birds of Galveston* morph into a flock of 18 birds, including a heron, pelican, ibis, and spoon-bill. Several other works honor the island itself. Galveston's own Earl Jones created *Tall Ship ELISSA Figurehead*, modeled after the figurehead on the bow of this historic ship, and *Island Totem Pole*, by Houston artist Jim Phillips, includes an assortment of regional fish and fowl. Among the more imaginative pieces is Jones' *Grandmother Reading to Her Grandchildren*, in which storybook characters appear as if springing from the minds of the listening children. Another fictional character, *Tin Man from The Wizard of Oz*, by Jim Phillips, stands before the former home of King Vidor, who survived the 1900 hurricane and later directed part of that film. **For locations, see galveston.com/treesculpturetour.**

HOUSTON

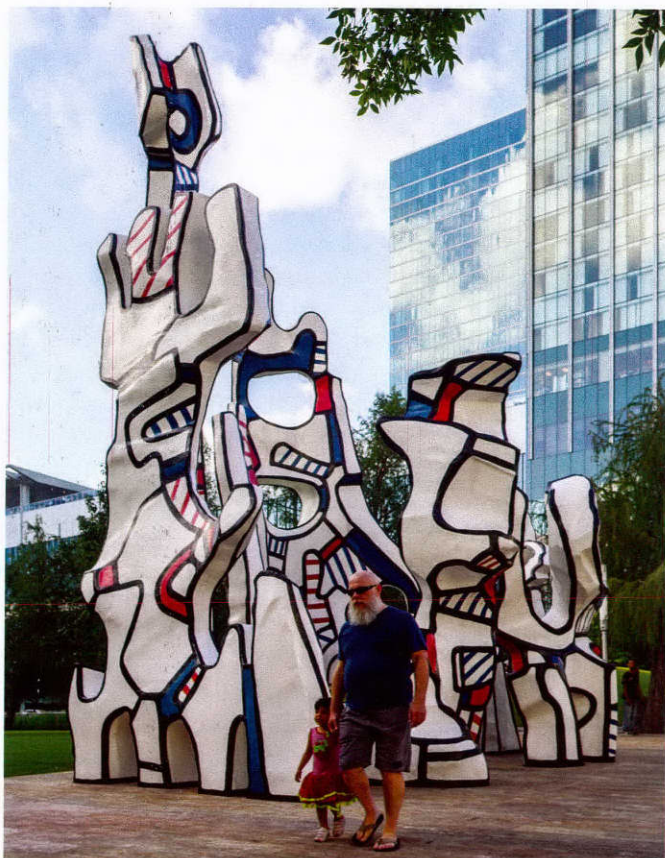
Houston is a gold mine for public art, and two recent additions can be found in the Avenida Houston district, anchored by Discovery Green and the newly refurbished George R. Brown Convention Center. *Wings over Water* (2016), a 30-foot-tall kinetic sculpture

by the Tucson design firm Joe O'Connell and Creative Machines, beckons from outside the center's entryway. Winglike metal blades undulate above a rectangular basin with spurring fountains, transformed at night by colored lights. Within the center's atrium, *Soaring in the Clouds* (2016), by local artist Ed Wilson, also references flight. This multitiered installation features metal mesh formed into flying birds and floating clouds. These elements are animated by the circulating air, and in the evening they take on a whole new aspect as projected light bathes them in pastel hues. Directly across the street at Discovery Green, *Synchronicity of Color* (2008), by Austin sculptor Margo Sawyer, resembles giant rectangular Rubik's Cubes composed of irregular metal blocks in an array of vivid shades. Nearby sits one of Houston's beloved landmarks: *Monument au fantôme* (1983)—a towering three-dimensional doodle in fiberglass (painted red, white, and blue) by the famous French artist Jean Dubuffet, who was inspired by the imaginative drawings of children. **Avenida Houston is at 1001 Avenida de las Americas. See avenidahouston.com.**

LAMPASAS

Lampasas has long been known for its mineral springs, but since 2005 this small Central Texas municipality has evolved into an unexpected oasis of public art. The Hanna Springs Sculpture Garden, overseen by the Lampasas Association for the Arts, opened in

2005 with three commissioned sculptures produced on-site, including one by Carolann Haggard, a native Texan now residing in Tennessee. Her *Lampasas Furniture* (a sofa and chair roughly carved in limestone) invites visitors to kick back and enjoy the scenery. New permanent fixtures are added each year, now totaling 16. Among them, *Been Fish'en* (2010), by Joe Barrington of Throckmorton, is a fish tale come to life, depicting a pickup truck hauling a monstrously huge yellow catfish. Four brightly painted cartoonish birds make up the playful *Bird Totem* (2011) by Austin artist Terrell Powell. Nic Noblique of Clyde used weathered steel for his dynamic abstract sculpture *We Will Spread, We Will Cover the Earth... Like Air and Water*, which he donated to the site in 2014. The garden also displays five or six works on a rotating basis, unveiled the second weekend in October during the annual Art in the Park event. **Hanna Springs Sculpture Garden is at 501 E. North Ave. See lafta.org/sculpture-garden.html.**



LIBERTY HILL

In 1976, a score of artists descended upon the rural community of Liberty Hill, about a 40-minute drive north of Austin, to participate in an international sculpture symposium organized by local artist Mel Fowler. Sculptors from six different countries joined their American peers for the symposium, and each created a work for what would become known as the Liberty Hill International Sculpture Park. Today, this assorted gathering of 28 sculptures stands as a testament to the town's hospitality. The Japanese artist Mihama Yoshinao left behind a spiraling limestone sculpture called *Lotus*, a common Eastern motif symbolizing purity. Several other participating artists used limestone to produce various abstract shapes suggesting shells or bones, such as *Sans Titre* by Jean Louis Marmorat of France and *Evolution No. 2* by Renata Reck of Germany. *Faces of the People*, by Italian artist Renato Mari, comprises four limestone orbs with oversized holes for eyes. Fowler initially contributed four works to the garden. One, *Misterio di Vita*, meaning "mystery of life," resembles a mass of spiraling forms melding together, with the dark veins of the Italian marble emphasizing the sense of movement. **Liberty Hill International Sculpture Park is at 355 Loop 332. See lhusculptures.com.**

LUBBOCK

On the high plains of the Panhandle in Lubbock, the Texas Tech University campus is peppered with public artworks, and you don't have to be a student to view them. Among the more than 100 works on display outdoors, several relate to their specific locations. For instance, *The Messengers* (2013) appears outside the Media and Communications Building. Created by Dallas artist David B. Hickman, it features a flock of five messenger pigeons whose metal bodies spin in the wind like weather-vanes. The 12-foot-diameter *Astrolabe* (2014), inspired by an instrument used for measuring the heavens, sits in the courtyard of the Experimental Sciences Building. The artist, Owen Morrel of New York, added a greenish patina and mirrored surfaces to its intersecting circular steel forms. Outside the College of Architecture is an untitled sculpture from 1974 by former faculty member Robert Bruno that became the model for his *Steel House*, the idiosyncratic weathered-steel structure at Ransom Canyon, just east of town. And before the University Library stands the Greek literary figure *Prometheus* (1967–68), by the celebrated Texas sculptor Charles Umlauf. The elongated muscular figure bears aloft a torch—a symbol of his gift of fire to mankind and the power of knowledge. **Texas Tech University is at 2500 Broadway. See texastech.edu/publicart.**

SALADO

The Central Texas town of Salado has a population of only about 2,000, but it has big aspirations when it comes to public art. The Salado Sculpture Garden, established in 2011 by the Public Arts League of Salado and Keep Salado Beautiful, occupies more than two acres. This outdoor venue highlights the work of Texas artists, including talented locals such as Troy Kelley and Johnny Shipman. Kelley's life-size figurative bronze sculpture *Late Again* (2011) depicts a young boy playing with his dog. Shipman's *Marvin the Moose* (2013), of welded steel painted bright red, appears right at home in the natural setting, as does Joe Barrington's oversized *Raven* (2015), whose black feathers are made of tire-tread fragments. Winding trails lead to other discoveries. *Starburst* (2011), a kinetic metal sculpture by Jim LaPaso of Kyle, takes the form of an elaborate silver pinwheel with spiraling arms that catch the wind. About 25 of these works are permanent; others rotate through on an annual basis, so there is always something new to see. This year's exhibition will debut at the annual Art on Parade event, slated for Sept. 22–23. **Salado Sculpture Garden is at 113 Salado Plaza Drive. See keepsaladobeautiful.com/sculpture-garden-2.**

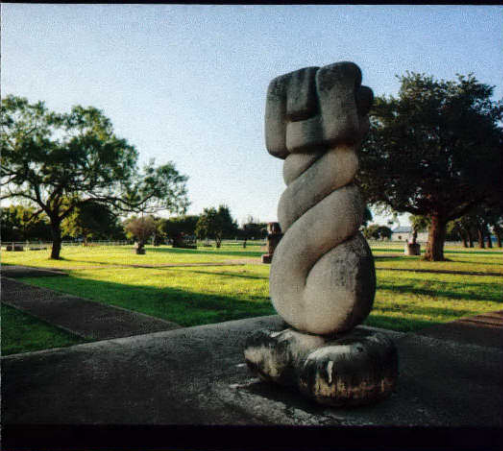
SAN ANTONIO

There is even more to see on the River Walk since its expansion in 2009. The 1.33-mile urban section of its Museum Reach extension, which offers river access to the San Antonio Museum of Art, extends art-viewing opportunities even beyond museum walls. Privately funded through the San Antonio River Foundation, several commissioned installations punctuate this stretch of river. For *Under the Over Bridge*, San Antonio artist Mark Schlesinger painted the underside of the Ninth Street Bridge with vibrant stripes using a special paint that glows at night, and he installed four block-like benches with built-in fiber optics—squiggles of light zip across their surfaces and respond to touch. Stuart Allen, also of San Antonio, transformed the McCullough Street and Brooklyn Street underpasses with his *29° 25' 57" N and 98° 29' 13" W*, in which suspended rectangular panels appear to gradually change color as people pass by. Other works were inspired by the river setting. For *F.I.S.H.*, Donald Lipski hung a luminous school of larger-than-life long-eared sunfish from the I-35 overpass; and local *faux bois* artist Carlos Cortés used concrete to shape his enchanting *Grotto* along the riverbank, complete with stalactites and cascading streams. The urban stretch of the Museum Reach runs from Lexington Avenue to Josephine Street. **See sariverfoundation.org/river-initiatives/museum-reach.**

Houston native and art-book editor Heather Brand enjoys visiting the eclectic art venues in her hometown and throughout the state. Austin-based photographer Eric W. Pohl specializes in travel, architecture, food, and the outdoors.



Clockwise from left: Untitled piece by Robert Bruno, Lubbock; F.I.S.H. by Donald Lipski, San Antonio; *Marrin the Moose* by Johnny Shipman, Salado; *Lotus* by Mihama Yoshinao, Liberty Hill.



TAKE ②



C

D

THE FLICKERING EXCITEMENT OF RESTORED MOVIEHOUSES

— STORY BY MICHAEL CORCORAN —

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JEFF WILSON



A

s Hollywood blossomed in the early 20th century, movie houses became the social and entertainment hubs of both small towns and big cities across Texas. But the advent of television's free programming in the 1950s, a residential exodus to the suburbs, and the popularity of drive-in cinemas caused downtown marquees to go dark, one by one. As the movie industry shifted to multiscreen cineplexes in the 1960s, most downtown theaters were torn down or repurposed as hardware or clothing stores, storage buildings, day cares, non-denominational churches, and the like.

But in recent years, flickering excitement has returned to many of the historic downtown theaters across Texas. Some have been fabulously refurbished into world-class music venues, like The Kessler Theater in Dallas and The Heights Theater in

Houston. In Greenville, the Texan Theater has been renovated as a classy dinner theater. Still other abandoned movie houses have been resurrected for their original purposes as first-run movie theaters, places where the town once again follows plotlines together in the dark.

Whether presenting bands, movies, or dramatic plays, these restored theaters not only provide entertainment for locals and visiting audiences. They also serve as anchors of local pride and community engagement. But such projects don't come together without enough vision and hard work to resurrect an old building into something new again.

— GLOBE THEATRE — BERTRAM

The Globe Theatre injected new life into downtown Bertram when it reopened in late 2015 after decades of dormancy. "When we started, we thought live music would be our thing, and we'd show movies on the side," said Globe co-owner Lance Regier, who grew up in nearby Leander and played in high school bands with his business partner Zach Hamilton. "But the town really comes out for the movies, so we had to flip it around." The Globe, which was built in 1935 from the same type of "sunset red" granite used to build the Texas Capitol in Austin, shows about four movies a month, while booking at least one concert and various private events each month.

Restoring the original marquee is usually a priority, so Regier and Hamilton were a little perplexed when they learned that the Globe's vintage sign had disappeared in the '90s. "We thought we'd have to build a new one," said Regier, "but we got lucky." After a tip, they found the Globe marquee on a goat farm outside of Bertram, buried under a mountain of junk. With a \$10,000 grant from the Bertram Economic Development Fund, the Globe Theater's original plumage was beautifully restored.

Some of these restoration projects have taken years to complete, without much financial return. The Globe took six years. Hamilton and Regier did much of the finish-out work themselves, and they took their time to do it right, finding recovered vintage theater seats in Tennessee and rescuing wood flooring from a 1930s Sears store in San Angelo for the stage. "It's more than a hobby, but not a fulltime job," said Regier, who works a desk job by day.

— GRAND THEATER — YOAKUM

South of Interstate 10 in the cattle country of south-central Texas, schoolteacher Tammy Steinmann had been talking about bringing back Yoakum's 1922 Grand Theater "since I started dating my husband 15 years ago." A 1994 graduate of Yoakum High School, she knew from experience that the town needed "something for the kids to do." Steinmann bought the building from a church, and with the aid of a \$150,000 economic development grant from the city, restored the theater and reopened the Grand in September 2016.

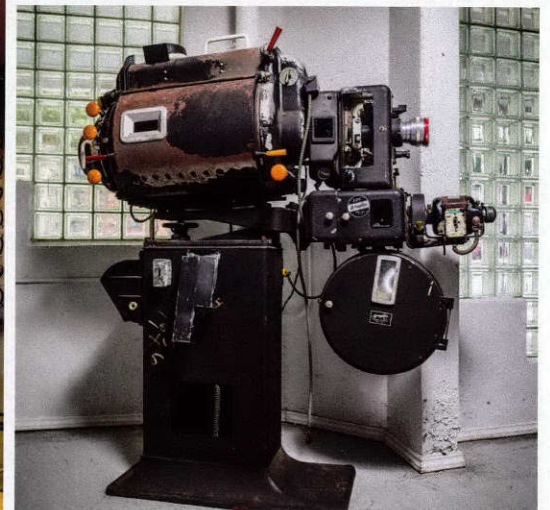
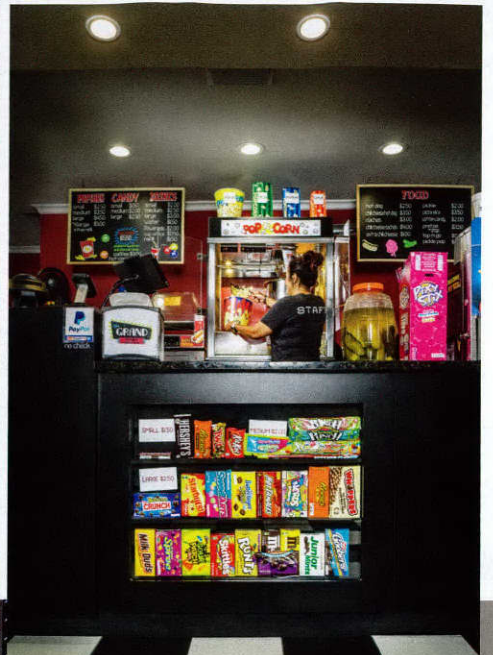
From the sidewalk, the Grand's lit-up art deco marquee makes it feel like we just got our boys back from Korea. But the reclaimed movie theater, which operates Thursday through Sunday, has a modern interior with high-back gray chairs and red-and-black theater curtains lining the walls to enhance the room's acoustics. Steinmann uses the same Barco digital projector found at multiplexes. The Grand screens free movies on Wednesdays in the summer, and in February, it will host its first theatrical production—the Main Street Theater of Houston's *Junie B. Jones is not a Crook*.

"There's a lot of history being brought back," Steinmann said. "We're always having couples tell us they had their first date at the Grand 40 or 50-something years ago. They bring their grandchildren now."

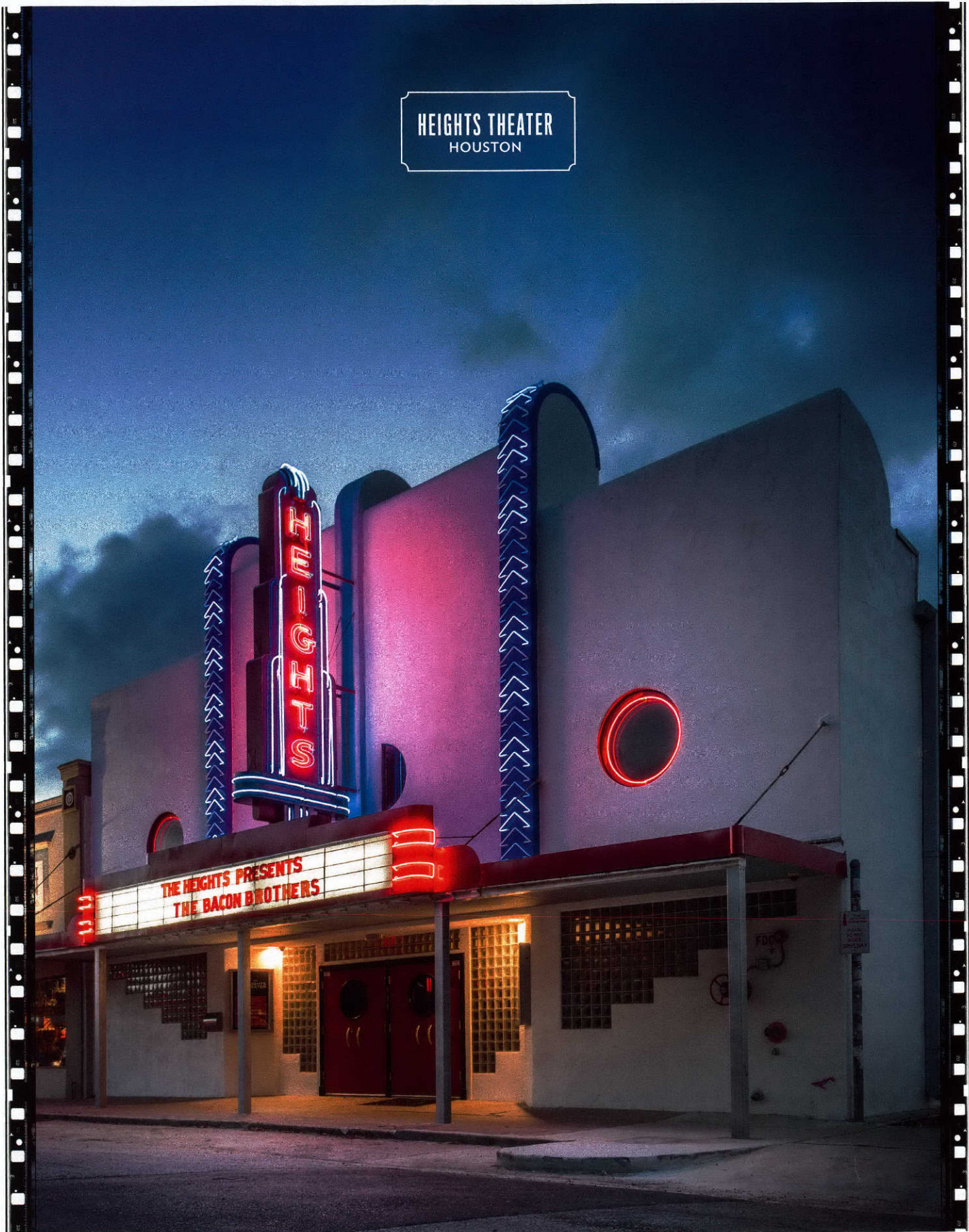


THE INSIDE SCOOP

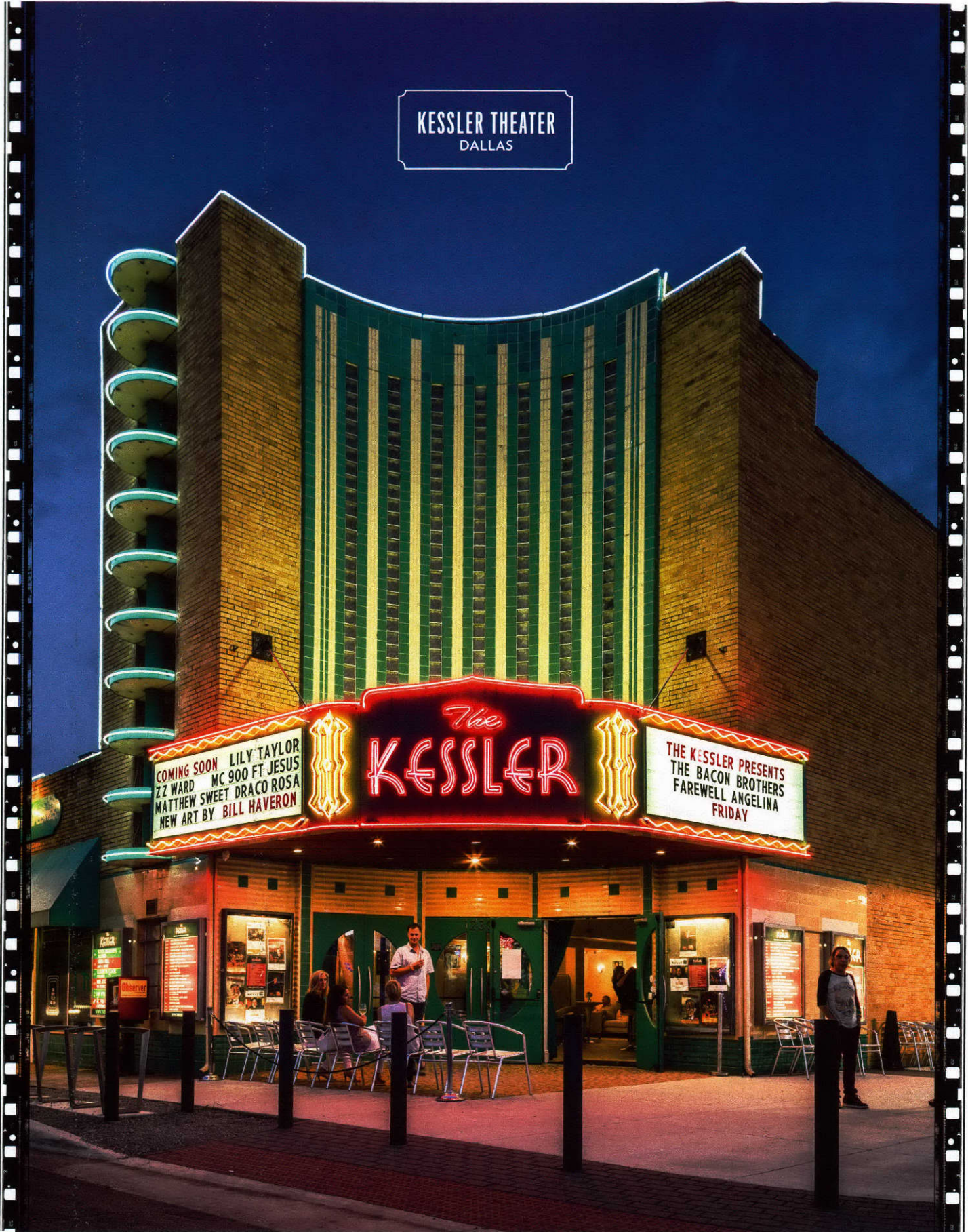
Opening spread: J.R. Thomasson's mural at the Cactus Theater in Lubbock. Opposite page, clockwise from top left: Kessler in Dallas; Grand in Yoakum; Heights in Houston; Heights in Houston; Texan in Greenville; Cactus in Lubbock.



HEIGHTS THEATER
HOUSTON



KESSLER THEATER
DALLAS



CACTUS THEATER
LUBBOCK



JUNE 2 '70S CLASSIC ROCK TRIBUTE: BOSTON - HEART - KANSAS
3 SOUNDS OF WEST TEXAS: TRIBUTE TO OUR MILITARY
6 PHOENIX HUNT AND THE GATHERERS
8 TRIBUTE TO THE DIVAS OF R&B AND SOUL

JUNE 10 COVENANT HEALTH PRESENTS: STORYTELLERS
14 BENEFIT FOR PASTOR DAVID WHITE
16 AMERICA'S FAVORITE BAND: TRIBUTE TO THE EAGLES
17. REBEL OUTLAW, LEGEND: WAYLON JENNINGS BIRTHDAY SALUTE

GRAND THEATER
YOAKUM



GLOBE THEATRE
BERTRAM

MICKY LIVE JUL
& MOTORCARS 28



TEXAN THEATER
GREENVILLE

MISS LAVELLE WHITE
QUEEN OF BLUES JUN 9
LOBBY CAFE 7 DAYS 7-7

TEXAN

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GLADLY GREEN

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ESSENTIALS

THE GLOBE THEATRE

is at 132 W. Vaughan St. in Bertram.
Call 512-627-3962; globetheatretx.com.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

Bruce Robison with Aaron McDonnell on Aug. 25.

THE GRAND THEATER

is at 212 W. May St. in Yoakum. Call 361-427-4002;
yoakumgrandtheater.com.

MOVIE TIMES

7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 4 and 7 p.m.
Saturday, and 1, 4, and 7 p.m. Sunday.

THE KESSLER THEATER

is at 1230 W. Davis St. in Dallas.
Call 214-272-8346; thekessler.org.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

Spyro Gyra on Sept. 8 and Sarah Jarosz on Nov. 4.

THE HEIGHTS THEATER

is at 339 W. 19th St. in Houston.
Call 214-272-8346; theheightstheater.com.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

Delbert McClinton Sept. 1 and Deer Tick Nov. 17.

THE TEXAN THEATER

is at 2712 Lee St. in Greenville. Call 903-259-6360;
texantheatergreenville.com.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

Bruce Robison and Kelly Willis on Sept. 8
and Gary Morris on Oct. 15.

THE CACTUS THEATER

is at 1812 Buddy Holly Ave. in Lubbock.
Call 806-762-3233; cactus theater.com.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Baby Boomer Comedy Show on Sept. 16
and Ray Wylie Hubbard on Oct. 5.

THE KESSLER

DALLAS

THE HEIGHTS

HOUSTON

In this new revival of old theaters, the great stories aren't just on the screen or in song. There's the one about Edwin Cabaniss, who left his position as a Dallas investment banker to bring quality live music to the long-dormant Kessler Theater in the Dallas neighborhood of Oak Cliff in 2010. Six years later, he did the same thing with the Heights Theater in Houston.

Both the Kessler and the Heights were rebuilt as live music venues for national and regional touring acts. The Kessler's renovation included leveling the sloped floors—in part because Edwin's wife, Lisa Cabaniss, runs a dance studio for kids in the building during the day. And when Cabaniss had \$60,000 left in his budget to open the doors, he decided to spend it on a powerful sound system.

"You know that story about how Cortez burned his boats so he couldn't go back? I had that moment of no retreat about two years in," said Cabaniss, who traded his business suit for a black cowboy shirt with pearl buttons.

The show that helped convince Cabaniss he had something special with the Kessler was the Dallas return of Annie Clark, better known as St. Vincent, in October 2011. The two wildly received sellouts got the attention of not only Dallas music fans, but also national booking agents. Suddenly, the Kessler was the hot room in Texas because of its intimacy and attentive audiences. After you've seen an act at the Kessler or the Heights—which are nearly identical inside—it's hard to see them at a nightclub or a festival.

"Everybody kept telling me, 'you've gotta bring the Kessler concept to Houston,'" said Cabaniss, who likes to greet his customers when he's in town. Before a recent Bob Schneider show at the

Heights, Cabaniss shook hands and answered questions from customers, who welcomed the infusion of energy that the Heights has brought to 19th Street.

As with the Kessler, no vantage point in the rectangle-shaped Heights Theater is more than 30 yards from the stage. "We knew from the Kessler what an old theater can mean to a community," Cabaniss said.

— TEXAN THEATER — GREENVILLE

Greenville native Barbara Horan sought to provide "entertainment as it should be" with her renovation of Greenville's Texan Theater, which was built as an opera house in the 1890s. (Houdini played here!) Sick of going to shows where she was jostled by crowds, stuck in lines, and obstructed from the stage, Horan designed the Texan as a VIP experience in a beautiful building with pristine sound. Such treatment isn't cheap. Most tickets cost \$100 to \$200, which includes a four-course dinner with table service. Drinks are also available.

It may take time for the Texan's approach to catch on in a town of only 26,000, but the marquee's neon lights, which shine all night, even when there's not a show, announce a rejuvenation of the entire community. The Texan's arrival complements Greenville's growing list of downtown draws, including the Corner Street Pub next door and Landon Winery & Bistro nearby.

"Greenville has come alive," said Francis Bouknight, who attends many shows at the Texan. Whether it's country music (Tracy Byrd, Jason Boland), oldies acts (Village People, Shirley Jones), folk/blues (Ruthie Foster, Guy Forsyth) or a theater production, Bouknight has been there. She even came out the night Donny Most (Ralph Malph from *Happy Days*) crooned Sinatra and Dean Martin. "We can't drive into Dallas to see a show," Bouknight's friend Ann

Weeks said, "so the Texan is a godsend."

Horan was so keen on restoring every original detail of the Texan, including the terrazzo floors, that she bought the building next door to add new restrooms. She also opened the Texan Lobby Café, a coffee shop open seven days a week serving soups, salads, and sandwiches.

Horan said the project stemmed from her desire to save the Texan's neon marquee, the only one remaining of six old theaters in downtown Greenville. "So I saved the neon, and everything else snowballed," she said.

— CACTUS THEATER — LUBBOCK

Up in the Panhandle, record producer Don Caldwell intended to create a new music venue for local talent and touring acts like the Flatlanders (originally from Lubbock) when he brought the 1937 Cactus Theater back to life in 1994. After the Cactus closed in 1958, it was gutted and used to store scrap iron. While restoration was out of the question, Caldwell rejuvenated the theater, including hiring John Russell Thomasson to paint a wrap-around mural of caprock canyons beneath blue skies.

"The Cactus is one of the coolest places we've ever played," said former Joe Ely drummer Davis McLarty, now an Austin-based booking agent. "The crowd is right up there with you, so there's a lot of energy to go with the intimacy. And that mural is out of this world."

Lubbock entrepreneur Darryl Holland, owner of Holly Hop Ice Cream Shop, bought the 400-capacity Cactus in 2016. Holland's all-star house band, the Rhythm Machine, does special themed nights, covering soul/R&B one night and '50s rock'n'roll the next.

Holland enhanced the Cactus marquee with new lighting and upgraded the Cactus' sound system and expanded its cinema capability. "With a flick of a button, we can go from a live band onstage to a classic film on the screen," he said.

WEB EXTRA

In Mason, the 1928 Odeon Theater shows first-run movies and hosts concerts in the same building where Walt Disney attended the 1957 premier of *Old Yeller*. Read more about the Odeon Theater online at texashighways.com.

The entrepreneurs behind all of these theaters took them on mostly as passion projects, intent on resurrecting classic movie house structures for modern times. But they're not immune from feasibility. "It's all about knowing your clientele and programming accordingly," Cabaniss said. "My background is in analytics, so I did a lot of research. I had to balance my creative side, which was telling me to go for it, with the financial side, which was asking, 'Is this business model going to work?'"

So far, so good. In 2016 and the first half of 2017, more than 100,000 music fans attended shows at the Kessler and the Heights.

"I went from thinking I was just going to do something nice for the neighborhood," said Cabaniss, "to wondering if this was what I was destined to do with my life." 🐾

The author of All Over the Map: True Heroes of Texas Music, Michael Corcoran says his favorite show in a restored theater may have been John Prine at Austin's Paramount Theatre in 1985. The opening act—an unknown named Lyle Lovett—pretty much stole the show. Austin photographer Jeff Wilson has worked photo jobs as diverse as the Texas House of Representatives and the Texas DPS Crime Lab.



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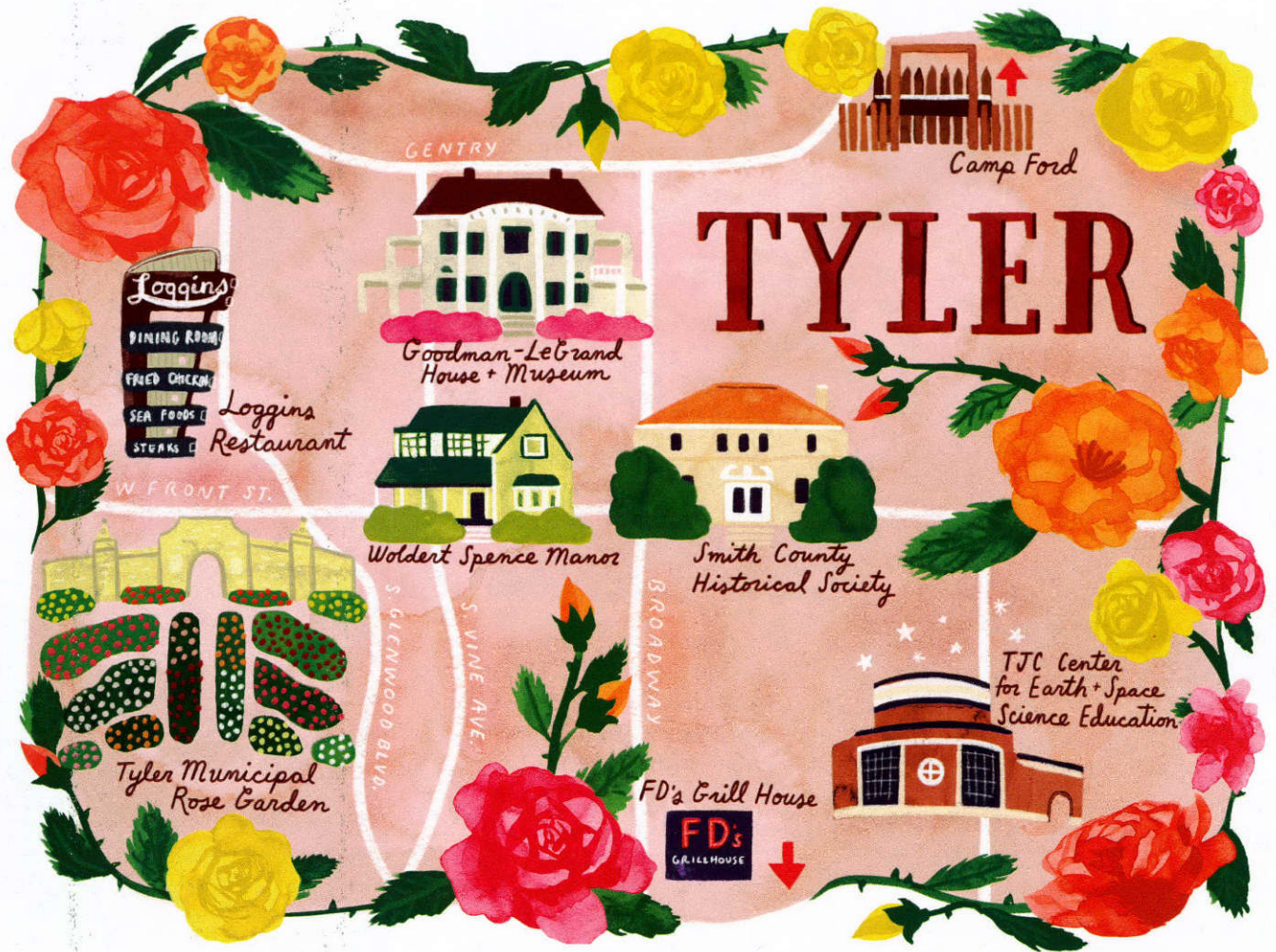
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HIT THE ROAD

CAN'T-MISS GETAWAYS



DESTINATION: TYLER

Stop and Smell the Roses

Natural beauty in the rose capital of America

story by Paul McDonnold

WITH A WAGGLE OF HIS PEN, U.S. PRESIDENT John Tyler signed a bill to bring Texas into the United States in 1845. The following year, the state legislature approved a town in his honor in upper East Texas. Since then, Tyler has grown into a thriving city of more than 100,000 souls.

Mike and Barbara Downs are the first two I meet. A little background: Their life sounds like the premise of a hit television show. A retired Army colonel and his New York-born wife, both working in the stressful whirl of Washington, D.C.,



- ▷ **Palestine**
1 hour
- ▷ **Dallas**
1.5 hours
- ▷ **Houston**
3.5 hours
- ▷ **San Antonio**
5 hours

decide to move south to operate a bed-and-breakfast in a historic Tyler home.

The Downs' 1859 Woldert-Spence Manor, built by one of Tyler's leading families, sits on a quiet street near downtown. Guest rooms are named for the family members who once occupied them.

I check in to the Robert Spence Jr. room, and after a restful night's sleep, come downstairs to find a breakfast menu of orange cranberry muffins with fruit and yogurt, followed by stuffed French toast with bacon on the side. While waiting to be called to the table, I browse the manor's book



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:

The Tyler Municipal Rose Garden; the historic Woldert-Spence Manor; the Goodman-LeGrand House & Museum; the Tyler Rose Museum and Gift Shop.

and magazine collection in the parlor and visit with the other guests—a family up from Houston for their daughter’s wedding.

ICONIC FESTIVALS

After breakfast, we all disperse to our plans for the day. My tour of Tyler begins in the past, on the balcony off my room, which overlooks the brick veneer of South Vine Avenue. It’s a relaxing place to read the work of Alma Woldert-Spence, the mother of my room’s namesake and an acclaimed Texas poet. In her 1936 book *Silver Doors*, she wrote of a seminal period in Tyler history, when nearby towns grew “with incredible rapidity, overnight, for they awakened to find themselves in the heart of the world’s greatest oil field. As sprang the genie from the vase, in tales told on Arabian nights, so springs from the depths of the earth the flowing gold, the genie of the twentieth century.”

That genie appeared during the Great Depression and granted Tyler the wish of having the benefits of oil without the drawbacks. As gushers blackened the sky in places like

Kilgore, Tyler handled the money as the corporate and banking center of the boom, raising flowers instead of derricks. In 1952, the city opened the 14-acre Tyler Municipal Rose Garden. Today it is filled with 32,000 bushes of every color of rose imaginable. I take a minute to relax on one of the benches and savor the view—a sun-dappled pond, tree-shaded walkways, and purling fountains.

Inside the adjacent Tyler Rose Museum and Gift Shop, exhibits recall the history of Tyler’s rose industry, which goes back even further than oil. The area’s earliest European inhabitants recognized its ideal soil and climate for fruit trees, particularly peaches. But after a disease swept through in the late 1800s, commercial growers began switching to roses, which were equally suited to the area.

The museum also exhibits memorabilia of the annual Texas Rose Festival. This four-day event, held in October, celebrates the iconic bloom and also the civic spirit of Tyler.



Involvement in the festival is a family tradition for many. Young boys and girls serve as royal attendants. Over the years, sons progress to escorts, daughters to duchesses or ladies in waiting, with one chosen as queen each year.

Rivalling the Rose Festival in importance is Tyler’s Azalea and Spring Flower Trail, begun in 1960 and held each year across three weekends in late March to early April. The heart of the festivities is a 10-mile circuit of buildings and gardens whose landscapes nature—with a little human help—



has painted with blooming azaleas, dogwoods, tulips, and other flowers.

One of the most impressive buildings on the trail is the Goodman-LeGrand House & Museum. When Sallie Goodman-LeGrand donated this mansion and its grounds to the city in 1939 as a park and museum, she included family furnishings, artwork, and a good deal of clothing. That means you can see the various rooms much as they were once lived in, along with items such as fine china, antique musical instruments, and 19th-century medical books. Museum Curator Mary Foster and her staff also try to keep the home "alive" by making it available for private functions, such as bridal showers and weddings, and have even hosted murder-mystery dinners.

LIVING HISTORY

In a former Carnegie Library a few blocks over, the Smith County Historical Society showcases dynamic exhibits on county history, grouped chronologically, beginning with the Caddo Indians and extending



THE 84TH ANNUAL TEXAS ROSE FESTIVAL

runs Oct. 19-22 at the Tyler Municipal Rose Garden, 420 Rose Park Drive, Tyler. texasrosefestival.com



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NEW BRAUNFELS
EST.  1938

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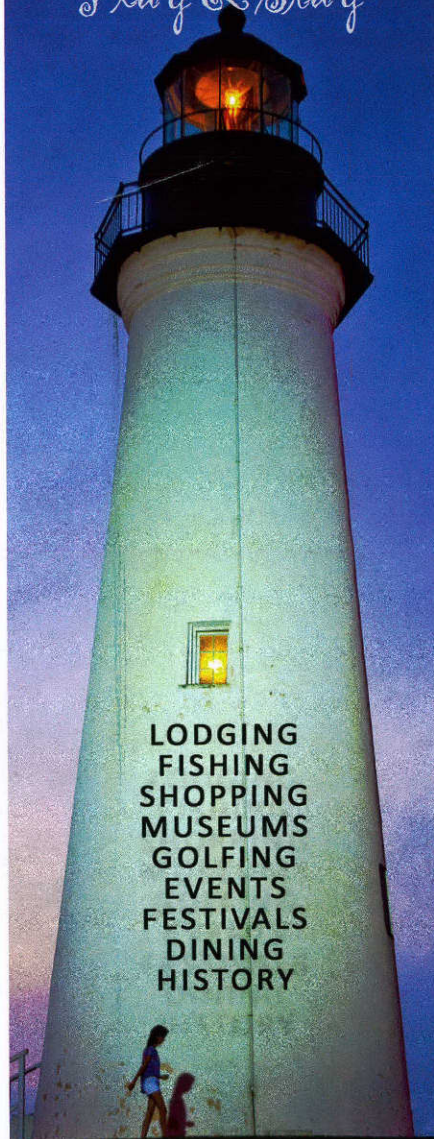
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through the oil boom to modern times.

“We want to do more than display historic artifacts, we want to help interpret the past,” the society’s office manager Savannah Cortes tells me. She likes visitors to find something new on each visit. Currently in the works is a World War I exhibit, scheduled to open Nov. 11 for Veterans Day.

The society also manages Camp Ford Historic Park—a Civil War POW stockade at the edge of town. On the way there I stop for lunch at a Tyler restaurant—Loggins—that is pretty historic itself. It’s been around since 1949.

“It started out with six stools, two tables, and carhop service,” says owner

Jerry Loggins, who took over from his father in 1985. He runs the restaurant, now open for lunch only, with his wife, Lyana. The dining room has expanded from the early days, and when you enter you may notice photos on the wall of Johnny Manziel—the Texas A&M quarterback who won the Heisman Trophy in 2012. Jerry and Lyana are longtime Aggie football fans, but they also happen to be Manziel’s grandparents.

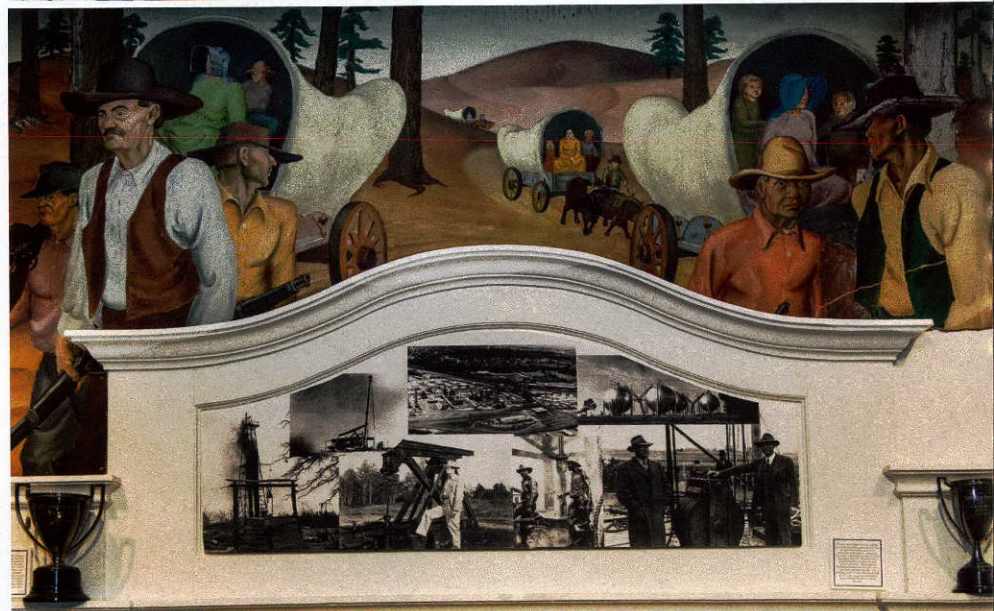
That’s a little ironic, because unlike the daredevil style of “Johnny Football,” the playbook at Loggins is decidedly conservative. Nothing fancy here, just good homestyle cooking and plenty of it. The buffet offers choices like chicken-fried steak and chicken and dumplings. And one taste of the chocolate pudding with its sticky, cloud-like meringue topping may take you back to your grandmother’s kitchen.

Heading northeast on US 271, I pull into the dirt parking lot of Camp Ford. The largest Confederate-run prison



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT:

Former Confederate-run prison
Camp Ford; Tyler Junior College’s Center
for Earth and Space Science Education;
the Smith County Historical Society;
Loggins Restaurant.



camp west of the Mississippi River, it held over 5,300 prisoners in July 1864.

Life for the prisoners was as threadbare as their uniforms. But today, visitors need abandon no hope as they enter the log gates. Instead of the squalor of a multiacre prison encampment, there are informative signs, a quiet walking trail, and replica living quarters—from makeshift tents to tiny “shebangs” the prisoners built of logs. Glancing inside one, I wonder what life was like for prisoners among all the dirt and bugs and disease that once held sway. How many POWs lay awake at night, thinking of homes far away, nothing beautiful to look at but stars?

TRAVEL TO THE HEAVENS

The night sky is one thing that would have been better back in the



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BEST COASTAL SMALL TOWN
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 ROCKPORT, TEXAS

1800s. As the sun sets, I find that modern Tyler's city lights dim the view. But my next stop, Tyler Junior College (TJC), has an antidote. The school's Center for Earth and Space Science Education boasts a state-of-the-art planetarium.

Inside the domed theater, blue carpet and polished wood give the feel of a new suburban mega-cinema. Visitors relax in comfortable chairs as a 40-foot screen takes them across the galaxy, under the sea, or even back in time to watch dinosaurs. And the first Saturday of the month, the planetarium hosts a "star party," with a traditional night-sky cinema show followed by a telescope viewing of the real thing in the courtyard outside.

With supertime fast approaching, I hop over to Broadway, which runs north-south through Tyler like an

axis. Along it, every kind of eatery imaginable lights up the night. I stop by the relatively new FD's Grill House, having read favorable reviews of its affordable, eclectic American fare.

Service is hyper-friendly. I order the cedar-planked salmon. The filet arrives well cooked, fork-tender and moist, wearing a crush of pineapple salsa like a crown. A silver shot glass filled with bourbon glaze stands at the side for dipping. The flavors mix beautifully, broken up by bites of a creamy baked potato and tender-crisp mixed vegetables on the side.

As I finish, owner Scott Williams appears from the kitchen, a neatly trimmed beard framing his face. With the look of a man who enjoys his work, he sits down and reminisces about family outings to Houston's Restaurant in Dallas when he was



TYLER

For Tyler visitor information, call Visit Tyler at **800-235-5712**; visitt Tyler.com.

a kid. It inspired him to enter the business.

"I wanted to bring to Tyler an exceptional restaurant with a casual yet elegant atmosphere," Williams says. With a family of his own now, he doesn't see himself leaving the area any time soon and has ideas for another restaurant or two he'd like to open. If they measure up to FD's, Tyler not only has something to be proud of, but also more to look forward to.

Heading back to the Woldert-Spence Manor after the busy day, it occurs to me that might make a pretty good slogan for the city overall. 🐾

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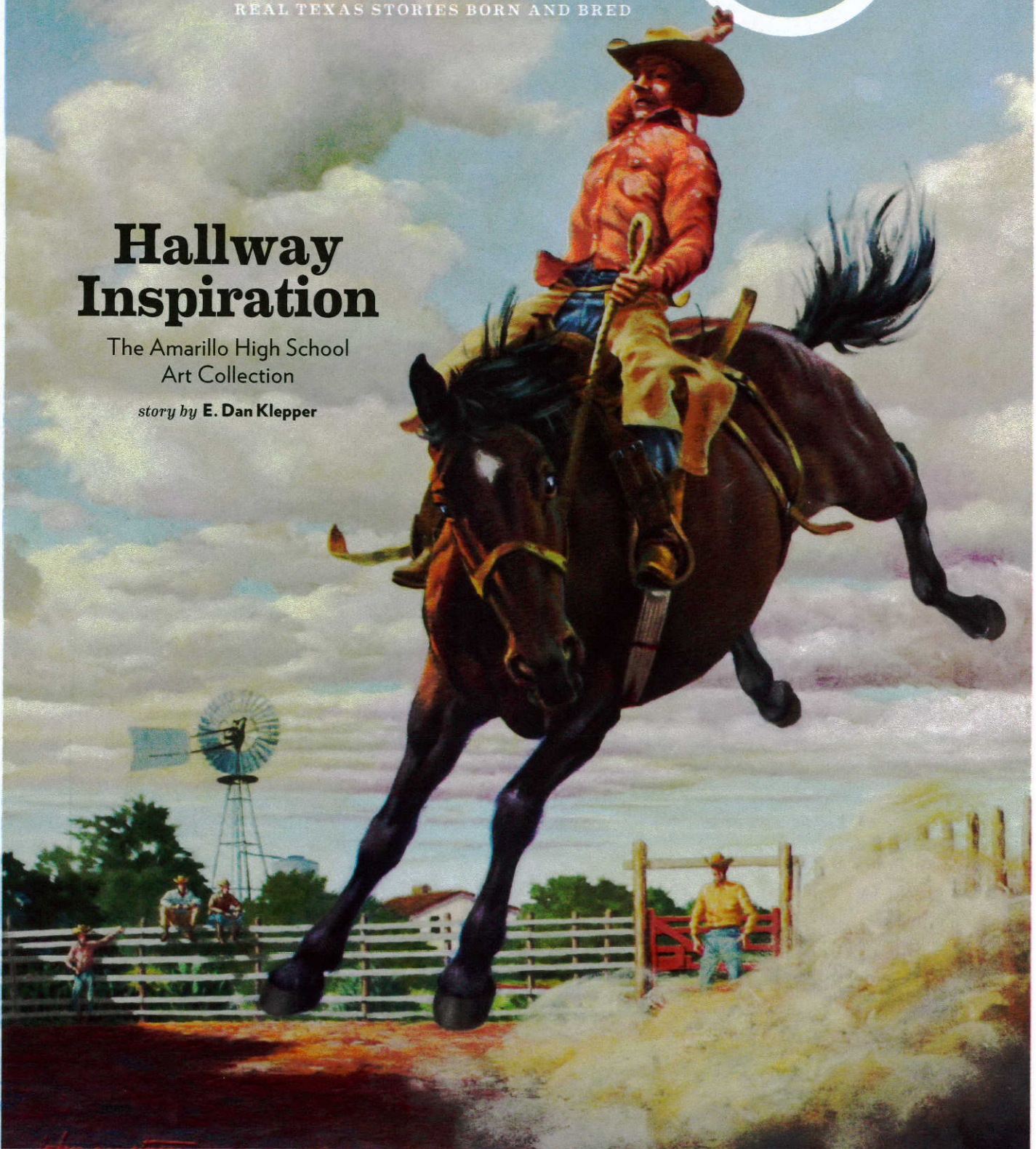
TRUE TX

REAL TEXAS STORIES BORN AND BRED

Hallway Inspiration

The Amarillo High School Art Collection

story by E. Dan Klepper



DISCOVER Clifton



FALL 2017 EVENTS

September 9

Bosque Arts Classic

October 7

Bosque Museum Sporting Clays Tournament

October 21

Fall Fest

October 28

Texas Troubadour Songwriter Classic
with Eddy Raven—Bosque Arts Center

December 1

Lighted Christmas Parade

December 2

Norwegian Country Christmas Tour



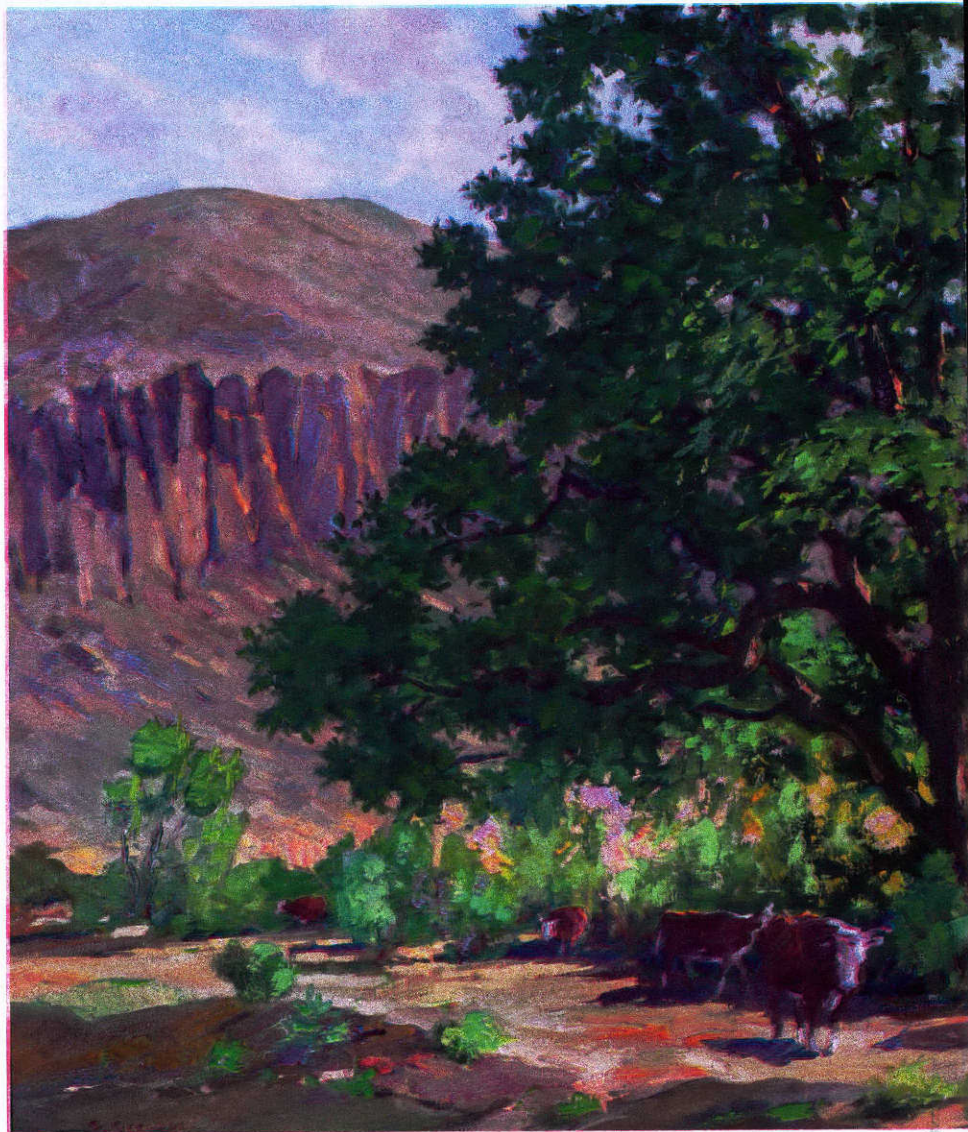
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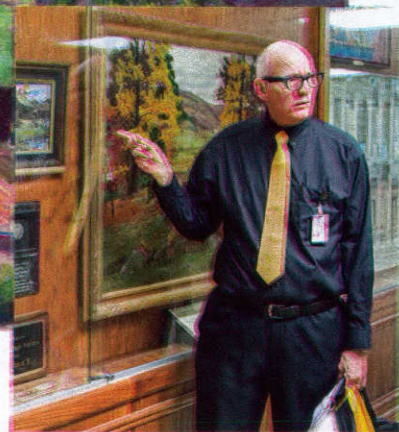


GIVEN THE MUSTY, MUD-BROWN EDUCATIONAL hallways of my youth, the last thing I expect to see when I walk into a high school is a museum-worthy collection of fine art paintings. Yet one exists, comprised of works by American impressionists, post-impressionists, European artists, and Texas regionalists hanging up and down the hallways of Amarillo High School. Here at Amarillo High, it's as if fine art and high school were as routine a pairing as homework and the family dog's enthusiasm for chewing it up.

The Amarillo High School Art Collection is an achievement against odds, a brainy, 72-year-old concept institutionalized by R.B. Norman, principal of Amarillo High from 1929 to 1961. Norman wanted to give Amarillo students, isolated in the post-war Texas Panhandle, the kind of education that only first-hand exposure to the arts could provide. In 1945, he formed a committee and set three rules for assembling an art collection for the high school: The artwork

The core collection features handsome examples of exceptional early American painting, works that many art enthusiasts would be delighted to enjoy every day.

The collection, which now numbers about 100 paintings, can be viewed by arranging a tour.



should maintain an aesthetic appeal as well as a high investment potential; the collection would not include local artists; and, most important, the paintings must hang in the hallways where students could see them every day.

Norman used school money and donations from the Junior League of Amarillo and others to build the AHS collection. He also recruited an expert with a knack for spotting good works, Atlanta art dealer Carlton Palmer. Palmer would buy paintings along the East Coast and then sell them to buyers in the Southwest. Arriving in the Panhandle of the 1940s and '50s with a vehicle full of paintings, he'd stop first in

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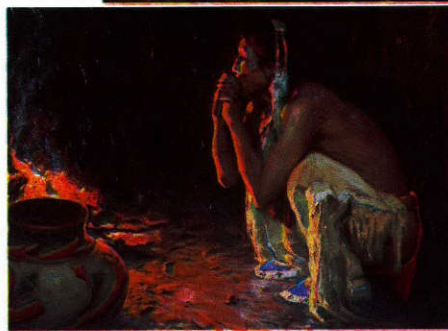
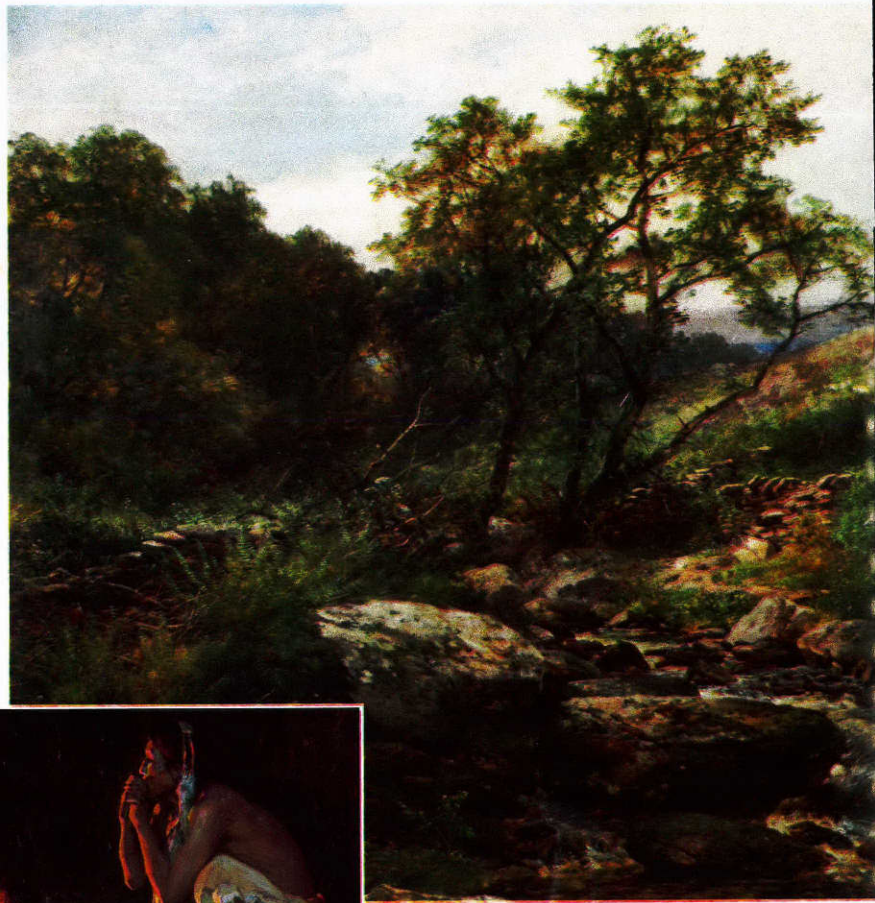


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Amarillo High School Principal R.B. Norman started the collection in 1945 to expose local students to fine art.

Amarillo before continuing south to the Big Bend. Along the unpaved ranch roads from Van Horn to Sanderson, he would offer landscape paintings by European and American artists to ranch matriarchs who had an eye for the refined. Art painted in the style of the impressionists (loose brush strokes, a free use of color) and made by members of the Barbizon School (who created romantic, tonal scenes of the agrarian countryside) were particularly popular. These depictions of verdant fields, pastoral respites, and lush woodlands were a distinct contrast to the dry, West Texas desert grasslands that existed just beyond the walls of the ranch house parlor.

Paintings by lesser-known artists working in the impressionist style (there are still many in the art world today) make up a good portion of the AHS collection. But the core collection

features handsome examples of exceptional early American painting, works that many art enthusiasts would be delighted to enjoy every day. Thomas Cole's *Tivoli-On-the-Hudson*, a bucolic scene of rowboats, sailboats, and steamers navigating the Hudson River, is important as much for its depiction of the 19th-century Northeastern landscape as it is for the fact that Cole, born in 1801, was founder of the Hudson River School of landscape painters, a movement canonized in American art history.

The collection also includes examples of the Taos Society of Artists with paintings by E. Irving Couse and E. Martin Hennings. The society represented a small group of visual artists who made Taos, New Mexico, their home and source of inspiration during the first few decades of the 1900s. Couse's *Indian and the Firelight* is a



classic example of the artist's distinct style and period Native American narratives. In Hennings' striking *Drying Peppers*, line and color converge to depict the heat of a northern New Mexican day in the 1920s. Closer to home, the works of Texas regionalist Porfirio Salinas Jr. are represented by *Blue and Gold*, an autumn scene of the Hill Country, as well as *Texas Blue-bonnets*. Texas regionalism is a style associated with artists like Salinas who painted in the first half of the 20th century and garnered lasting attention for their innovative interpretations of the Texas landscape and people. Salinas, born in Bastrop in 1910, painted through much of the early to mid-20th century and is favored for his landscapes and depiction of Mexican and Tejano life.

By the 1960s, the collection afforded Amarillo High School students a close-up look at styles, subject matter, and painting techniques that had occupied many artists of an earlier age. Impressionist painting was most prevalent,

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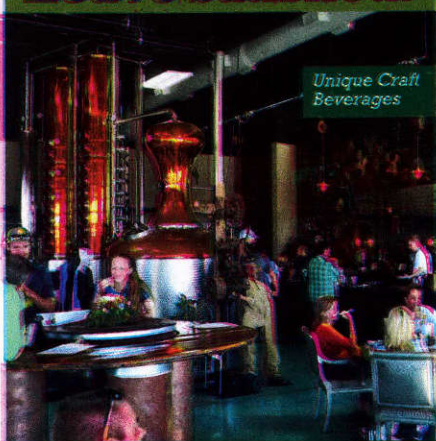
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providing students with an opportunity to examine an artist's method for reinterpreting the world around them without losing sight of its subject matter. Understanding art, self-expression through a medium like paint, is always a challenge. But impressionism can serve as a handy bridge for understanding the variety of ways to see things, helping to awaken the concepts of perception and interpretation in young minds new to artistic endeavors.

Amarillo High acquired the 63 paintings that compose the bulk of the collection between 1945 and 1963. Another 39 were added later. (The school now relies exclusively on donations to add paintings. The AHS 50th Alumni Association funds the collection's maintenance.) Custodians have adhered to Norman's trinity of rules—with a few exceptions—and today the collection is an achievement that students, teachers, and administrators continue to take pride in calling their own.

"AHS has been a tremendous steward and ambassador for this art collection," says Michael R. Grauer, associate director for curatorial affairs/curator of art and Western heritage at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon. "Some museums would kill to have a collection this good." The appreciation and curatorial care have served the collection well over the long term, considering it all could have gone up in flames.

One early morning in March 1970, a passerby saw flames and smoke billowing out of a third-floor window of Amarillo High. A boiler had overheated, igniting a second-story storage room. The fire spread easily to the upper floor, endangering the entire building. AHS students and teachers were on the scene quickly, determined to save whatever they could.

"Mr. Earl Mills, Mr. Davidson, and some students braved the flames and smoke to rescue the paintings," writes Gary Biggers, AHS graduate, teacher, and caretaker of the art collection for more than 30 years, in his




THE AMARILLO HIGH SCHOOL ART COLLECTION

is on display in the hallways of Amarillo High School, 4225 Danbury St. in Amarillo. Guests can see the collection by arranging a guided tour with the school's administration. Call Amarillo High School at **806-326-2006**.

Comprehensive Guide to the Amarillo High School Art Collection. "From the second floor windows canvases were sailing to outstretched arms of people eager to rescue the treasures." Remarkably, every painting survived. The high school building, however, was almost a total loss.

Today, the collection continues to grace the halls of Amarillo High, which relocated to a new building in 1973. The school commissioned custom cabinets to house the paintings and added glass panels for additional protection. Otherwise, the paintings hang in much the same way as they always have, in full view for students to learn and enjoy.

The art world, on the other hand, has changed dramatically. Thanks to the internet and social media, dominated in many ways by the youthfulness found in the halls of Amarillo High, the universe is awash in images and inundated by a creative idiosyncrasy that would have been completely foreign to painters working in the art styles of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Is the collection, with some of its best work painted close to a hundred years ago and under a remarkably different sensibility, still valid as a tool for education and the arts? AHS art student Jonathan Alonso thinks so.

"The art collection at Amarillo High makes me happy that I go to a school that appreciates the value of art," says Alonso, a junior. "I'm glad it'll be preserved for future generations of artists like me. And maybe most important to me personally, anytime I need inspiration I can come here and find it." 

EVENTS



SEPTEMBER'S TRAVEL SPOTLIGHT:

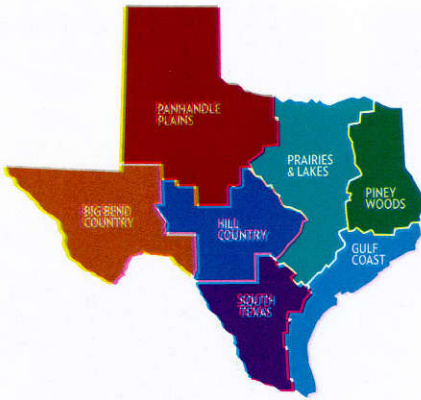
PRAIRIES AND LAKES > Round Top

Fall Antiques Shows

FROM FIELDS OF TIMEWORN treasures to exceptionally curated tents of antiques, vintage shopping has never been better than it will be this fall in Round Top. More than 100,000 antiques hunters from across the country are expected to make their biannual trek to this tiny town as a slew of vendors open up shop. Events include the Arbor International Antiques

& Interior Design Show, which celebrates its 20th anniversary Sept. 20–30; Zapp Hall, which celebrates 30 years Sept. 29–Oct. 7; the Marburger Farm Antique Show, which commemorated its 20th this past spring and returns Sept. 26–30; and the one that started it all—the Original Round Top Antiques Fair—which celebrates its 50-year anniversary Sept. 25–30. roundtop.org

Want more? Go to the Events Calendar at texashighways.com.



BIG BEND COUNTRY

EL PASO: Chopin Music Festival Sept. 23; Oct. 7, 21. Chamizal National Memorial Theatre. elPASOchopinfest.com 915-584-1595 or 915-533-0348

FORT STOCKTON: Act I—Raising Funds for FSCT Sept. 16. The Grey Mule Saloon Tasting Room. fscommunitytheatre.org 432-336-3180 or 432-336-2201

MARATHON: West Fest Sept. 22-23. Post Park. marathonTEXAS.com 432-386-5414

MONAHANS: Desert Reflections Car Show Sept. 9. Hill Park. monahans.org 432-943-2187

ODESSA: American Tribute Sept. 7. Memorial Gardens Park. odessatxparks.org 432-368-3548

ODESSA: Permian Basin Fair and Exposition Sept. 8-16. Ector County Coliseum. pbfair.com 432-550-3232

ODESSA: Randy Rogers Band in Concert Sept. 16. Dos Amigos. dosamigos.com/events 432-307-6384

ODESSA: Tap Into Downtown Odessa Sept. 30. downtownodessatx.com 432-335-4682

GULF COAST

ANGLETON: Texas Navy Day Celebration Sept. 16. SF Austin—Munson Park. brazoria-county.com/parks 979-849-5965

BEAUMONT: FRESH: Recent Acquisitions Through Sept. 10. Art Museum of Southeast Texas. amset.org 409-832-3432

BEAUMONT: Sherry Owens Exhibition Through Sept. 10. Art Museum of Southeast Texas. amset.org 409-832-3432

BEAUMONT: Experimenting with Gravity Through Sept. 10. Texas Energy Museum. texasenergymuseum.org 409-833-5100

BEAUMONT: Cafe Arts: Mary Pat Nelson Grass Aug. 17-Oct. 8. Art Museum of Southeast Texas. amset.org 409-832-3432

BEAUMONT: Neches River Rally Sept. 9. Big Thicket Association. bigthicket.org/neches-river-rally 409-790-5499

BEAUMONT: Spindletop Roller Girls vs. Conroe Cutthroats Sept. 9. Beaumont Civic Center. spindletoprollergirls.com 409-838-3435

BEAUMONT: Deaf Activist Nyle DiMarco Sept. 12. Lamar University Theatre. fineartscomm.lamar.edu

BEAUMONT: Smokey Robinson in Concert Sept. 28. Beaumont Civic Center. beaumontcvb.com 800-745-3000

BRAZORIA: Shake, Rattle, and Roll Sept. 16. Brazoria Civic Center. 979-236-0241

CLUTE: Planetarium Show Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26. Center for the Arts & Sciences. bcfas.org 979-265-3376

CORPUS CHRISTI: Wildlife in Focus Photography Exhibition Through Sept. 30. South Texas Botanical Gardens and Nature Center. stxbot.org 361-852-2100

CORPUS CHRISTI: Arts Alive Sept. 2-3. Art Center of Corpus Christi. artcentercc.org 361-884-6406

CORPUS CHRISTI: Kids Discover Reptiles and Amphibians Sept. 2. South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center. stxbot.org 361-852-2100

CORPUS CHRISTI: Intro to Exciting World of Birds Sept. 9. South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center. stxbot.org 361-852-2100

CORPUS CHRISTI: Shorebird Identification Sept. 23. South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center. stxbot.org 361-852-2100

FREEPORT: Summertime Blues Fest and Biker Bash Present Labor Day Pipes and Stripes Sept. 1-2. Freeport Municipal Park. 979-482-2036

FREEPORT: Schuster Home Open House Sept. 23. 979-297-0868

GALVESTON: Brewmasters Craft Beer Festival Sept. 1-3. Moody Gardens Convention Center. brewmastersbeerfest.com

GALVESTON: Galveston Symphony Orchestra Concert Sept. 3. The Grand 1894 Opera House. thegrand.com 800-821-8194 or 409-765-1894

GALVESTON: Ronnie Milsap Farewell Concert Sept. 16-17. The Grand 1894 Opera House. thegrand.com 800-821-8194 or 409-765-1894

GALVESTON: Chita and Tune: Two For The Road, Chita Rivera and Tommy Tune Sept. 23. The Grand 1894 Opera House. thegrand.com 800-821-8194 or 409-765-1894

GALVESTON: *How I Became A Pirate* Sept. 28. The Grand 1894 Opera House. thegrand.com 800-821-8194 or 409-765-1894

GALVESTON: Galveston Island Wild Texas Shrimp Festival Sept. 29-30. Saengerfest Park. galvestonshrimpfestival.com

HOUSTON: Woody Sez: *The Life and Music of Woody Guthrie* Through Sept. 3. Stages Repertory Theatre. stages theatre.com 713-527-0123

HOUSTON: Restaurant Weeks Aug. 1-Sept. 4. houstonrestaurantweeks.com

HOUSTON: Ella at 100 Sept. 1-3. Jones Hall for the Performing Arts. houstonSymphony.org 713-224-7575

HOUSTON: Lone Star Flight Museum Grand Opening Celebration Sept. 2-4. Lone Star Flight Museum at Ellington Field. lsfm.org 888-359-5736

HOUSTON: Rock and Pop Tribute Concert Sept. 2-3. Traders Village Houston. tradersvillage.com 281-890-5500

HOUSTON: *Xanadu* Sept. 8-9. Miller Outdoor Theatre. stages theatre.com 713-527-0123

HOUSTON: Downtown Houston Home and Lifestyle Tour Sept. 9. Various locations. downtownHouston.org 713-650-3022

HOUSTON: Opening Night with Susan Graham Sept. 9. Jones Hall for the Performing Arts. houstonSymphony.org 713-224-7575

HOUSTON: Shrimp Fest Sept. 10. Traders Village Houston. tradersvillage.com 281-890-5500

HOUSTON: Mahler and Dvořák Sept. 14, 16-17. Jones Hall for the Performing Arts. houstonSymphony.org 713-224-7575

HOUSTON: Fiestas Patrias Sept. 18. Traders Village Houston. tradersvillage.com 281-890-5500

HOUSTON: Taste of the Nation for No Kid Hungry Sept. 19. Silver Street Studios. nokidhungry.org/houston 512-551-3470

HOUSTON: Blanket Bingo Sept. 21. Market Square Park. marketsquarepark.com 713-650-3022

HOUSTON: *Storyline: The Contemporary Quilt* Sept. 22-Jan. 7, 2018. Houston Center for Contemporary Craft. craftHouston.org 713-529-4848

HOUSTON: Andrés Conducts Schumann Sept. 22-24. Jones Hall for the Performing Arts. houstonSymphony.org 713-224-7575

HOUSTON: ROCO in Concert: *To the Beat of a Different Drummer* Sept. 22-23. Miller Outdoor Theatre and The Church of St. John the Divine. rocoHouston.org 713-665-2700

HOUSTON: Da Camera Presents: *From Harlem to Havana, The Harlem Quartet with Aldo López Gavilán* Sept. 23. Cullen Theater, Wortham Theater Center. dacamera.com 713-524-5050

HOUSTON: Love My Neighbor Community Festival Sept. 23. Budweiser Brewery Experience. bit.ly/lovefest092317 713-481-1603

HOUSTON: Houston Symphony Presents Garrison Keillor Sept. 25. Jones Hall for the Performing Arts. houstonSymphony.org 713-224-7575

HOUSTON: Body by Broadway Sept. 26. Market Square Park. marketsquarepark.com 713-650-3022

HOUSTON: Russian Masters Sept. 28, 30; Oct. 1. Jones Hall for the Performing Arts. houstonSymphony.org 713-224-7575

HOUSTON: MET Season Kickoff Performance Sept. 30. Levy Park. levyparkHouston.org 713-522-7275

KATY: Fall Katy Home and Garden Show Sept. 9-10. Merrell Center & Robinson Pavilion. fallkatyhomeandgardenshow.com 832-392-0165

KEMAH: Galveston Bay Songwriters Festival Sept. 28-Oct. 1. Kemah Community Center. galvestonbaysongwriters.com 512-217-9404

KEMAH: Southern Style Market Sept. 30. Kemah Community Center. southernstyleevents.net 281-467-3577

KINGSVILLE: South Texas Show Series Sept. 16-17. JK Northway Exposition Center. 361-296-4667

LAKE JACKSON: Abner Jackson Plantation Site Tour Sept. 2. lakejacksonmuseum.org 979-297-1570

LAKE JACKSON: Pool Daze of Summer Sept. 4. Lake Jackson Outdoor Pool. lakejackson-tx.gov 979-297-4533

LAKE JACKSON: Game Day at the Museum Sept. 6. Lake Jackson Historical Museum. lakejacksonmuseum.org 979-297-1570

LAKE JACKSON: Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre Sept. 9-10. Lake Jackson Historical Museum. lakejacksonmuseum.org 979-297-1570

LAKE JACKSON: Bird Banding Sept. 16. Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. gcbo.org 979-480-0999

LAKE JACKSON: Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza Sept. 16, 23. Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. gcbo.org 979-480-0999

LAKE JACKSON: Science Fest Sept. 23. Lake Jackson Historical Museum. lakejacksonmuseum.org 979-297-1570

ORANGE: *Branding the American West: Paintings and Films, 1900-1950* Through Sept. 9. Stark Museum of Art. starkculturalvenues.org/starkmuseum 409-886-2787

ORANGE: Showdown on the Sabine Sept. 15-17. City of Orange Boat Ramp. orangetexas.org 409-883-1011

PALACIOS: Palacios Community Medical Center Box Supper Fundraiser Sept. 28. Palacios Recreation Center. palacioshospital.net 361-972-2511

PORT ARANSAS: Conquer the Coast Sept. 16. Bayfront Park. conquerthecoast.org 361-881-1800

PORT ARTHUR: Mexican Heritage Fiesta Sept. 9. Robert A. "Bob" Bowers Civic Center. mexicanheritagefiesta.com 409-673-3817

QUINTANA: Adopt-A-Beach Clean-Up Sept. 23. Quintana Beach County Park. brazoria-county.com/parks 979-864-1541

ROCKPORT-FULTON: Warrior's Weekend Heroes Cup Sept. 6-8. rockportfulton.org

ROCKPORT-FULTON: HummerBird Celebration Sept. 14-17. rockporthummingbird.com

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND: Wahoo Classic Sept. 8-10. Jim's Pier. sopadre.com 956-761-5467

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND: Boat and Kayak Fishing Tournament Sept. 22-23. Louie's Backyard. valleyhaveninc.org 956-893-0422

SUGAR LAND: Sturgill Simpson in Concert Sept. 7. Smart Financial Centre. smartfinancialcentre.net 281-207-6278

SUGAR LAND: Opry on the Square Sept. 8. Sugar Land Town Square. sugarland.com

SUGAR LAND: Frolic at the Park Sept. 9. Constellation Field. girlsinc-houston.org

SUGAR LAND: ZZ Top in Concert Sept. 10. Smart Financial Centre at Sugar Land. smartfinancialcentre.net 281-207-6278

SUGAR LAND: Bryan Adams in Concert Sept. 12. Smart Financial Centre. smartfinancialcentre.net 281-207-6278

SUGAR LAND: Dancing Under the Stars Sept. 15. Sugar Land Town Square. sugarland.com

SUGAR LAND: Sammy Hagar & The Circle in Concert Sept. 15. Smart Financial Centre. smartfinancialcentre.net 281-207-6278

SUGAR LAND: Children's Wellness Bash Sept. 16. Sugar Land Town Square. sugarland.com

SUGAR LAND: Fossil Wash Day Sept. 16. Houston Museum of Natural Science at Sugar Land. hmns.org/hmns-at-sugar-land 281-313-2277

SUGAR LAND: Steve Winwood in Concert Sept. 21. Smart Financial Centre. smartfinancialcentre.net 281-207-6278

SUGAR LAND: Lyrics and Lawn Games Sept. 22. Sugar Land Town Square. sugarland.com

SUGAR LAND: Skeeters Foundation Kickball Tournament Sept. 23. Constellation Field. sugarlandskeeters.com

SUGAR LAND: Ms. Lauryn Hill and Nas in Concert Sept. 27. Smart Financial Centre. smartfinancialcentre.net 281-207-6278

SUGAR LAND: Umbria in Sugar Land Sept. 27-Oct. 1. Sugar Land Auditorium. visitsugarlandtx.com/umbria 281-275-2500

SUGAR LAND: Paramore in Concert with Special Guest Best Coast Sept. 29. Smart Financial Centre. smartfinancialcentre.net 281-207-6278

SUGAR LAND: Vino and Vintage Vocals Sept. 29. Sugar Land Town Square. sugarland.com

SURFSIDE BEACH: Adopt-A-Beach Clean-Up Sept. 23. Stahlman Park. brazoria-county.com/parks 979-864-1541

TEXAS CITY: Old Smokey Cookoff Sept. 16. 409-549-4815

TEXAS CITY: Quilt Show Sept. 30-Oct. 21. Texas City Museum. texas-city-tx.org 409-229-1660

TOMBALL: Beetles, Brew, and Barbecue Sept. 30. Historic Downtown Depot. tomballtx.gov 281-351-5484

VICTORIA: *Boeing Boeing* Sept. 14-17. Leo J. Welder Center for the Performing Arts. theatrevictoria.org 361-570-8587

VICTORIA: *The Undisputed Masters* Sept. 16. Victoria Fine Arts Center. victoriasymphony.com 361-576-4500

VICTORIA: Czech Heritage Festival Sept. 24. Victoria Community Center. victoriaczechs.org 361-575-0820

VICTORIA: Fall for Dance Sept. 30. Leo J. Welder Center for the Performing Arts. victoriaballet.org 361-575-2313

HILL COUNTRY

AUSTIN: *Deep in the Vaults of Texas: A Campus Collaboration* Through Sept. 6. LBJ Library. lbjlibrary.org 512-721-0200

AUSTIN: Janet Jackson in Concert Sept. 10. Frank Erwin Center. uterwincenter.com 512-477-6060

AUSTIN: *Mexico Modern: Art, Commerce, and Cultural Exchange, 1920-1945* Sept. 11-Jan. 1, 2018. Harry Ransom Center at The University of Texas at Austin. hrc.utexas.edu/mexicomodern 512-471-8944

AUSTIN: Lone Star Le Mans Sept. 15-16. Circuit of the Americas. circuitoftheamericas.com

AUSTIN: Wrangler Long Live Cowboys Classic Sept. 16-17. Frank Erwin Center. uterwincenter.com 512-477-6060

AUSTIN: Museum Day Sept. 17. Various locations. austinmuseums.org

AUSTIN: Fantastic Fest Sept. 21-28. Alamo Drafthouse Cinemas. fantasticfest.com

AUSTIN: The Flatlanders in Concert with Dan Penn Sept. 22. Paramount Theatre. austintheatre.org 512-474-1221

AUSTIN: Roger McGuinn in Concert Sept. 23. Paramount Theatre. austintheatre.org 512-474-1221

AUSTIN: Enrique Iglesias and Pitbull in Concert Sept. 24. Frank Erwin Center. uterwincenter.com 512-477-6060

AUSTIN: Arcade Fire in Concert Sept. 27. Frank Erwin Center. uterwincenter.com 512-477-6060

AUSTIN: Radney Foster: Sycamore Creek Album and Book Release Sept. 28. Stateside at the Paramount. austintheatre.org 512-474-1221

AUSTIN: AJ Croce: *Just Like Medicine* Album Release Sept. 30. Stateside at the Paramount. austintheatre.org 512-474-1221

AUSTIN: Austoberfest Sept. 30. Scholz Garten. austoberfest.com

AUSTIN: Texas Craft Brewers Festival Sept. 30. Fiesta Gardens. texascraftbrewersfestival.org

AUSTIN: Unplugged at the Grove Through Sept. 22. Shady Grove. theshadygrove.com/unplugged 512-474-9991

AUSTIN: Out of Bounds Comedy Festival Aug. 29-Sept. 4. Various locations. outofboundscomey.com

BANDERA: Celebrate Bandera Sept. 2-3. Main Street. banderacowboycapital.com 830-796-4447

BANDERA: Cowboy Capital Opry Sept. 5. Silver Sage Community Center. silversagecorral.org 830-796-4969

BANDERA: Bandera Cattle Company Gunfighters Sept. 9, 16, 23, 30. Bandera Visitor Center. banderacattlecompany.com 830-796-3045

BANDERA: Cowboys on Main Sept. 9, 16, 23, 30. Bandera County Courthouse. banderacowboycapital.com 830-796-4447

BANDERA: Cajun Festival and Gumbo Cookoff Sept. 23. Lakehills Civic Center. cajunfestival-medinalake.com 830-751-3130

BANDERA: Lace, Grace, and Gears Sept. 28-Oct. 1. 2E Twin Elm Guest Ranch. lacegracegears.com 830-796-3045

BERTRAM: Oatmeal Festival Sept. 2. Downtown Bertram. oatmealfestival.org 512-244-6357

BOERNE: Kendall County Fair and Rodeo Sept. 1-3. Kendall County Fair Grounds. visitboerne.org 830-249-2839

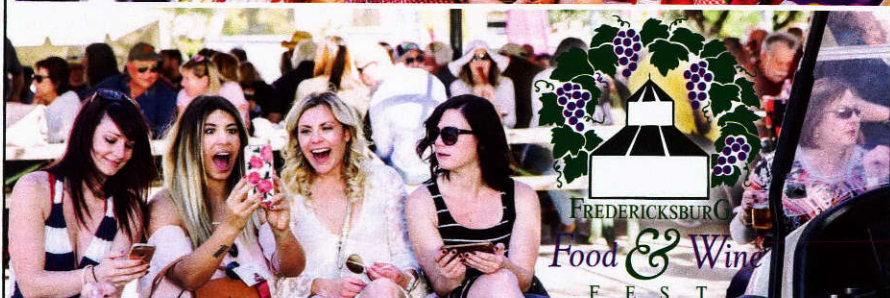
BOERNE: Axiom Returns to the Cave Sept. 2. Cave Without A Name. cavewithoutaname.com 830-537-4212

BOERNE: Kuhlmann-King Museum Tour Sept. 9.



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Kuhlmann-King House.
visitboerne.org 210-823-9171

BOERNE: Moondance Concert Series: Lost Mule Band Sept. 9. Cibolo Nature Center. visitboerne.org 830-249-4616

BOERNE: Texas Hydro-Geo Workshop Sept. 15-17. Cave Without A Name. caves.org/grotto/bexargrotto/hydrogeo 830-537-4212

BOERNE: Hot Rod Night Sept. 16, 30. Soda Pops. visitboerne.org 830-331-8799

BOERNE: Fall Equinox—Underground Sounds Sept. 23. Cave Without A Name. cavewithoutaname.com 830-537-4212

BOERNE: Paddle Battle Sept. 23. Boerne City Lake. visitboerne.org 210-842-4057

BOERNE: Science In Nature Sept. 23. Cibolo Nature Center. visitboerne.org 830-331-8596

BOERNE: Sip and Savor Sept. 28. Cana Ballroom. visitboerne.org 830-331-8950

BOERNE: Thirst For Nature—Cider on the Cibolo Sept. 28. Cibolo Nature Center. visitboerne.org 830-249-4616

BOERNE: Oktoberfest Sept. 29. Olde Town. visitboerne.org 786-445-0160

BOERNE: Texas Chute Out Sept. 30-Oct. 1. Kendall County Fair Grounds. texaschuteout.com

BRADY: World Championship Barbecue Goat Cookoff Sept. 2. Richards Park. bradytx.com 325-597-3491

BULVERDE: Tejas Rodeo Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. Tejas Rodeo. visitboerne.org 830-980-2226

BULVERDE: Jubilee Sept. 16. Downtown. facebook.com/bulverdejubilee 830-980-8801

BURNET: Bluebonnet Air Show Sept. 9. Burnet Municipal Airport. bluebonnetairshow.com 512-756-2226

BURNET: Kids' Day Out Sept. 9. YMCA of the Highland Lakes. burnetchamber.org 512-756-2963

BURNET: Day Out with Thomas Sept. 29-Oct. 1. Burnet Community Center. austinsteamintrain.org 512-477-8468

COMFORT: Founders' Day Celebration Sept. 3. Historic Downtown. comfort-texas.com 830-995-3131

COMFORT: Fall Art Festival Sept. 16. Historic Downtown. comfort-texas.com 830-629-3131

CONCAN: Frio River Trash Bash Sept. 9. Garner State Park. visitvaldecountry.com/events 830-232-4310

DOSS: VFD Benefit Fish Fry Sept. 2. Doss VFD Fire Station. dossvfd.org 830-669-2220

DRIPPING SPRINGS: Redbud Artisan Market Sept. 2. Dripping Springs Ranch Park. 512-858-7892

FREDERICKSBURG: First Friday Art Walk Sept. 1. Various locations. ffawf.com 830-997-6523

FREDERICKSBURG: Pacific Combat Living History Reenactment Sept. 2-3. Pacific Combat Zone. pacificwarmuseum.org 830-997-8600

FREDERICKSBURG: USO-Style Hangar Dance Sept. 2. Hangar Hotel. hangarhotel.com 830-997-9990

FREDERICKSBURG: The Wonder Bread Years Sept. 8-9. Steve W. Shepherd Theater. fredericksburgtheater.org 830-997-3588

FREDERICKSBURG: Fall Planting Days Sept. 8-10. Wildseed Farms. wildseedfarms.com 830-990-8080

FREDERICKSBURG: Boys & Girls Club Shopping Tournament Sept. 9. Main Street. shoppingtournament.org 830-997-8241

FREDERICKSBURG: Historic Schools Open House Tour Sept. 9. Various locations. historic-schools.org 830-997-5116

FREDERICKSBURG: Professional Bull Riders Sept. 9. Gillespie County Fairgrounds. gillespiefair.com 830-997-2359

FREDERICKSBURG: Historic Wrede School Open House Sept. 16. historic-schools.org 830-997-5116

FREDERICKSBURG: Nimitz Foundation Symposium Sept. 16. Steve W. Shepherd Theater. pacificwarmuseum.org 830-997-8600 ext. 205

FREDERICKSBURG: Historic Lower South Grape Creek School Open House Sept. 17. historic-schools.org 830-997-5116

GRUENE: Friday Afternoon Club Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29. Gruene Hall. gruenehall.com

GRUENE: Gospel Brunch with a Texas Twist Sept. 10. Gruene Hall. gruenehall.com 830-629-5077

GRUENE: Come and Taste It Sept. 21. The Grapevine. grapevineingruene.com 830-606-0093

HARPER: Frontier Days Celebration Sept. 1-2. Harper Community Park. harpercommunitypark.org 830-864-5048

INGRAM: Color, Value, and Hue Aug. 18-Sept. 15. Hill Country Arts Foundation. hcac.com 830-367-5121

JOHNSON CITY: We Got Yer Goat Barbecue Cookoff Sept. 15-16. Blanco County Fairgrounds. lbjcountry.com 830-868-7684

JOHNSON CITY: Art Walk Sept. 23. lbjcountry.com 830-868-7684

JUNCTION: Barbecue Cookoff Sept. 1-2. Junction City Park. junctiontexas.com 325-446-3190

JUNCTION: Kayak/Canoe Up and Back Race Sept. 1-2. Junction City Park. 325-446-3190

KERRVILLE: Making God Laugh Aug. 18-Sept. 3. Playhouse 2000 VK Garage Theater. playhouse2000.com 830-896-9393

KERRVILLE: Photoquest Aug. 24-Sept. 24. Kerr Arts and Cultural Center. kackerrville.com 830-895-2911

KERRVILLE: Homeage Sept. 1-Oct. 5. Kerr Arts & Cultural Center. kackerrville.com 830-895-2911

KERRVILLE: Kerrville Fall Music Festival Sept. 1-3. Quiet Valley Ranch. kerrville-music.com 830-257-3600

KERRVILLE: The Party at the Museum of Western Art Sept. 16. museumofwesternart.com 830-895-2553

KERRVILLE: Kerrville Triathlon Festival Sept. 23-24. Louise Hays Park. kerrvilletri.com 512-953-5585

KERRVILLE: Texas Heritage Music Day and Community Concert Sept. 29. Schreiner University. texasheritagemusic.org 830-792-1945

KERRVILLE: Guadalupe Watercolor Group Show and Sale Sept. 30-Oct. 28. Kerrville Arts and Culture Center.

guadalupewatercolorgroup.com/gallery.html 830-895-2911

KYLE: Pie in the Sky Sept. 1-2. Lake Kyle. kylexpienthesky.com 512-938-8098

LAKEHILLS: Medina Lake Cajun Festival Sept. 23. Lakehills Civic Center. cajunfestival-medinalake.com 830-751-2727

LAMPASAS: Lampasas County Wine Tour Sept. 23. lampasaschamber.org 512-556-5172

NEW BRAUNFELS: Comal County Fair Sept. 26-Oct. 1. Comal County Fairgrounds. comalcountyfair.org 830-625-1505

NEW BRAUNFELS: River Revival Music Festival Sept. 29-Oct. 1. KL Ranch Camp-On the River. splicerecordstx.com/events/river-revival

SAN MARCOS: SMTX Pride Sept. 9. Plaza Park. smtxpride.org

SAN MARCOS: Mermaid Society Ball Sept. 15. The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment. mermaidsocietysmtx.com 512-825-2819

SAN MARCOS: Mermaid Parade and Aqua Festival Sept. 16. Downtown San Marcos and Plaza Park. mermaidsocietysmtx.com 512-825-2819

SAN SABA: Pecan Capital Street Dance XII Sept. 17. Courthouse Square. visitsansabatexas.com 325-372-8291

SPICEWOOD: Matt Wilson Band in Concert Sept. 22. Spicewood Arts Society. spicewoodarts.org 512-264-2820

UTOPIA: Utopiafest Sept. 21-23. utopiafest.com 512-496-2798

UVALDE: PalominoFest and Pro Rodeo Labor Day Weekend Celebration Sept. 1-3. uvaldecountryfairplex.com 830-591-9040

UVALDE: Bark in the Park Sept. 7. Uvalde Memorial Park. visituvalde.com 830-934-2732

UVALDE: Four Square Friday Sept. 8. Historic Downtown Uvalde. visituvalde.com 830-278-4115

UVALDE: Dove Expo Sept. 23. Oasis Outback. visituvalde.com 830-278-4115

WIMBERLEY: *The Winter's Tale* Sept. 1-24. EmilyAnn Theatre & Gardens. emilyann.org 512-847-6969

WIMBERLEY: *Making God Laugh* Sept. 8-Oct. 1. Wimberley Playhouse. wimberleyplayers.org 512-847-0575

PANHANDLE PLAINS

ABILENE: West Texas Fair and Rodeo Sept. 7-16. Taylor County Expo Center. taylorcountyexpocenter.com 325-677-4376

ABILENE: West Texas Book Festival Sept. 17-23. Abilene Public Library and Abilene Convention Center. abilenetx.com 325-676-6017

ABILENE: Big Country Balloon Fest Sept. 29-Oct. 1. Red Bud Park. hotairballoon.com/big-country-balloon-fest 325-795-0995

ALBANY: *Cell Series: Kelly O'Connor* Sept. 16-Feb. 3, 2018. Old Jail Art Center. theojac.org 325-762-2269

ALBANY: *Ronald Watson* Sept. 16-Feb. 3, 2018. Old Jail Art Center. theojac.org 325-762-2269

ALBANY: *Texas Moderns: Bill Bomar* Sept. 16-Feb. 3, 2018. Old Jail Art Center. theojac.org 325-762-2269

AMARILLO: *Biennial 600: Architecture* Through Oct. 1. Amarillo Museum of Art. amarilloart.org 806-371-5050

AMARILLO: *America's Horse in Art Show* Aug. 1-Oct. 14. American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame and Museum. aqha.com/museum 806-376-5181

AMARILLO: AQHA World Championship Show Aug. 25-Sept. 2. Amarillo National Center. aqha.com 806-376-4811

AMARILLO: Cal Farley's Boys Ranch Rodeo Sept. 2. calfarley.org/rodeo 800-687-3722

AMARILLO: Tri-State Fair and Rodeo Sept. 15-23. Tri-State Fairgrounds. tristatefair.com 806-376-7767

BIG SPRING: Comanche Warrior Triathlon Sept. 9. Dora Roberts Community Center. permianbasinevents.com

BIG SPRING: Howard County Fair Sept. 28-30. Howard County Fair Grounds. hcfair.org

BIG SPRING: Clay Walker in Concert Sept. 30. Howard County Rodeo Bowl.

CHILDRESS: Chamber Golf Tournament Sept. 23. StoneyRidge Golf Course. 940-937-2481

DALHART: Relay for Life Sept. 16. relay.acsevents.org 806-244-5646

ELECTRA: Homecoming Sept. 22-23. Downtown. electratexas.org 940-495-3577

LUBBOCK: National Cowboy Symposium Sept. 8-10. Lubbock Memorial Civic Center. cowboy.org 806-798-7825

LUBBOCK: West Texas Watercolor Society Fall Show Sept. 8-Oct. 29. Legacy Event Center. wtws.org 806-794-4655

LUBBOCK: Apple Butter Festival Sept. 9. The Orchard. visitlubbock.org 806-892-2961

LUBBOCK: McPherson Patio Nights Sept. 14. mcphersoncellars.com 806-687-9463

LUBBOCK: Panhandle South Plains Fair Sept. 22-30. Panhandle South Plains Fairgrounds. southplainsfair.com 806-763-2833

MEMPHIS: Hall County Picnic and Reunion Sept. 15-16. Memphis City Square. memphistxchamberofcommerce.com 806-259-3144

PLAINVIEW: Tejano/Conjunto Festival Sept. 16. Running Water Draw Regional Park. plainviewtx.org

POSTOAK: Busy Bee Quilt Show Sept. 29-30. Post Oak Community Center. postoakquilters.com 940-567-2771

QUANAH: Fall Festival Sept. 9. Courthouse Square. 940-663-2222

RANGER: Roaring Ranger Parade and Festival Sept. 16. Main Street and Bargsley Park. 254-647-3340

SAN ANGELO: *Critical Angles: Featuring the Work of Cathy Cunningham Little* Through Sept. 24. San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts. samfa.org 325-653-3333

SAN ANGELO: *Paintings and Sculpture by Jimmy Don Cox* Through Sept. 24. San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts. samfa.org 325-653-3333

SAN ANGELO: Art Thursday Sept. 7, 14, 21, 28. San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts. samfa.org 325-653-3333

SAN ANGELO: Chamber Music Series Concert Sept. 3. San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts. samfa.org 325-653-3333

SAN ANGELO: Speakers Series Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27. Fort Concho National Historic Landmark. fortconcho.com 325-657-4441

SAN ANGELO: Cowboy Gathering Sept. 8-9. Wells Fargo Pavilion. sanangelocowboygathering.com 325-653-7785

SAN ANGELO: Family Day Fiesta! Sept. 9. San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts. samfa.org 325-653-3333

SAN ANGELO: Riverfest Sept. 16. San Angelo Riverwalk at Celebration Bridge. cosatx.us 325-657-4279

SAN ANGELO: *Play It Again* Concert Sept. 17. San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts. samfa.org 325-653-3333

SAN ANGELO: Downtown Stroll Sept. 21. San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts. samfa.org 325-653-3333

SAN ANGELO: Archaeology Fair at National Museum Day Sept. 23. Fort Concho National Historic Landmark. fortconcho.com 325-234-0316

SAN ANGELO: Lilyfest Sept. 23. The International Waterlily Collection, Civic League Park. internationalwaterlilycollection.com 832-274-3377

SAN ANGELO: National Museum Day Sept. 23. San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts. samfa.org 325-653-3333

SAN ANGELO: Lucas Oil Drag Boat Race Series Showdown Sept. 30-Oct. 1. Lake Nasworthy Marina & RV Park. lucasoildragboats.com 951-870-6381

WICHITA FALLS: Texas Oklahoma Fair Sept. 12-16. MPEC. founderlionsclub.com/texas-oklahoma-fair 940-720-2999

WICHITA FALLS: *Quilting in the Falls* Quilt Show Sept. 22-23. Multi-Purpose Event Center. wichitafallsquiltguild.org

WICHITA FALLS: Top of Texas Market Sept. 23-25. Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall B. topoftexasmarket.com 940-723-0623

PINEY WOODS

BULLARD: ETX Music Awards Sept. 8. KE Bushman's Celebration Center. etxmusic.com 936-332-4777

CARTHAGE: Texas Country Music Awards Sept. 28. Carthage Civic Center. texascountrymusic.org 903-472-8008

DE KALB: Saturday in the Park Sept. 30. City Park. dekaltexasoktoberfest.com 903-306-9112

GLADEWATER: Arts and Crafts Festival Sept. 16-17. Broadway School Grounds. gladewaterartsandcrafts.com 903-845-5501

HENDERSON: *Leading Ladies* Sept. 9-10, 16-17. Henderson Civic Theater. hendersoncivictheatre.org 903-657-2968

HUNTSVILLE: Antique Show Sept. 16-17. Walker County Fairgrounds. huntsvilleantiqueshow.com 936-295-4162

JASPER: Jasper Remembers 9/11 Sept. 9. Courthouse Square. 409-489-4800

LIBERTY: Liberty Opry Sept. 9, 16, 23, 30. libertyopry.com 936-336-5830

LUFKIN: Riders in the Sky Sept. 14. The Pines Theater. thepines.visitlufkin.com 936-633-0359

LUFKIN: Texas State Forest Festival Sept. 20-24. George H. Henderson, Jr. Exposition Center. texasstateforestfestival.com 936-634-6644

LUFKIN: Chris Botti in Concert Sept. 21. Temple Theater. angelinaarts.org 936-633-5454

LUFKIN: *Moon Mouse—A Space Odyssey* Sept. 24. Temple Theater—Angelina Arts Alliance. angelinaarts.org 936-633-5454

MAGNOLIA: Stroll thru The Renaissance Sept. 23. The Stroll. cityofmagnolia.com 713-542-4358

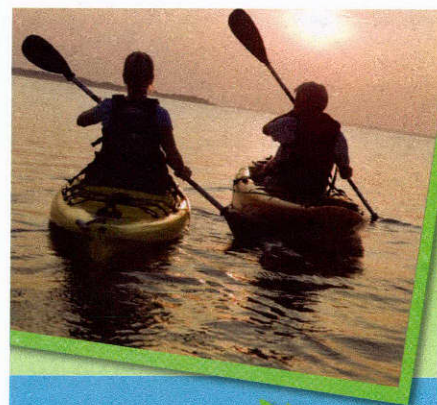
MARSHALL: Jeann's n Classics Concert Sept. 16. Downtown Marshall. marshallartscouncil.org 903-935-4484

MONTGOMERY: Woodforest Craft Fest Sept. 23. Christine Allen Nature Park. woodforesttx.com 972-415-6002



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EVENTS

MOUNT PLEASANT:

Canterbury Renaissance Festival of Northeast Texas Sept. 2-3, 9-10, 16-17, 23-24. canterburytx.com 903-305-9239

PALESTINE: Art Tracks Through Oct. 31. The Redlands Historic Inn. visitpalestine.com 903-729-6066

PALESTINE: Dogwood Jamboree—Autumn Country Sept. 14. Palestine Civic Center. dogwoodjamboree.com 903-729-7080

PALESTINE: Comino 205 Sept. 23. Oldtown Palestine. camino205.com 903-723-3014

SILSBEE: Cruise'n Silsbee Car, Truck, and Motorcycle Show Sept. 22-23. Kirby Memorial Stadium. cruisesilsbee.com 409-673-0921

TEXARKANA: Science of Buoyancy and Layering Sept. 16. Discovery Place Interactive Museum. texarkanamuseums.org 903-793-4831

TEXARKANA: Watercolor Galaxies Sept. 23. Discovery Place Interactive Museum. texarkanamuseums.org 903-793-4831

TRINITY: Trinity Community Fair and Youth Livestock Auction Sept. 29-30. facebook.com/trinitycommunityfair 936-662-5082

TYLER: Yo-Yo Ma in Concert Sept. 17. University of Texas at Tyler R. Don Cowan Fine & Performing Arts Center. cowancenter.org 903-566-7424

TYLER: Downtown Tyler Film Festival Sept. 27-30. Liberty Hall. tylerfilmfest.com 903-593-6905

WINNSBORO: Classic Cruise-In Sept. 2. Winnsboro Depot. winnsboro.com 903-342-3666

PRAIRIES AND LAKES

ADDISON: Oktoberfest Sept. 14-17. Addison Circle Park. addisonoktoberfest.com 800-233-4766

ALVARADO: Pioneers and Old Settlers Reunion Sept. 2-9. Pioneer and Old Settlers Facility. alvaradopubliclibrary.org 817-538-2337

ARLINGTON: Advocate Classic Sept. 2. AT&T Stadium. attstadium.com 817-892-4000

ARLINGTON: Frame 4 Frame Festival Sept. 21-24. Various locations. frame4frame.org

ARLINGTON: Six Flags Over Texas' Fright Fest Sept. 23-Oct. 29. sixflags.com/fovertexas 817-640-8900

BASTROP: Colorado River 100 Sept. 2. Fisherman's Park. coloradoriver100.com 512-303-0558

BASTROP: YMCA Burning Pine Run Sept. 9. Bastrop State Park. burningpinerun.com 512-321-9622

BEDFORD: Blues and Barbecue Festival Sept. 1-3. City Hall Complex. bedfordbluesfest.com 817-952-2128

BELLVILLE: Austin County Fair Kickoff Dance and Shrimp Boil Sept. 23. Austin County Fair Convention & Expo Center. austincountyfair.com 979-865-5995

BONHAM: Farming Heritage Day Sept. 23, 30. Sam Rayburn House State Historic Site. visitsamrayburnhouse.com 903-583-5558

BRYAN: Brazos Bluebonnet Quilt Show Sept. 22-23. Brazos Center. bbqg.org 409-767-1707

BRYAN: Texas Reds Steak and Grape Festival Sept. 22-24. Downtown. texasredsfestival.com 979-822-4920

BUFFALO: Barbecue Cookoff Sept. 9. Shelly Pate Park. 903-322-5810

BUFFALO: Buffalo Stampede Sept. 16. Harriman Park. 903-322-5810

BURLESON: Labor Day Car Show Sept. 4. ddrockinrods.com 817-797-1197

BURTON: LaBahia Antique Show Sept. 22-30. LaBahia Hall. labahiaantiques.com 979-289-2684

CLEBURNE: *Smoke on the Mountain Homecoming* Sept. 1-9. Plaza Theatre. plaza-theatre.com 817-202-0600

CLEBURNE: Duane Durrett in Concert with Sandra Kaye Sept. 9. Songbird Live! songbirdlive.com 817-489-4840

CLEBURNE: *Arsenic and Old Lace* Sept. 15-30, Oct. 1. Performing Arts Center. carnegiplayers.org 682-317-3644

CLEBURNE: *Treasure Island* Sept. 15-30, Oct. 5-7. Plaza Theatre. plaza-theatre.com 817-202-0600

CLEBURNE: Colin Boyd in Concert Sept. 23. Songbird Live! songbird.com 817-489-4840

CLEBURNE: Wine Festival Sept. 30. Depot at Cleburne Station. thecleburnewinefestival.com 214-402-3597

CLIFTON: Bosque Art Classic Sept. 9-23. Bosque Arts Center. bosqueartscenter.org 254-675-3724

DALLAS: Bishop Arts District Tours Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24. dallasbychocolate.com 972-814-5997

DALLAS: The Hidden Dallas Tour Sept. 3, 9, 23. dallasbychocolate.com 972-814-5997

DALLAS: Sammons Jazz Sept. 6. Sammons Center for the Arts. sammonsjazz.com 214-520-7788

DALLAS: Chocolate Festival Sept. 8-10. Fashion Industry Gallery (F.I.G.). dallaschocolate.org 214-669-3355

DALLAS: Custom Auction Gala Sept. 8. Rosewood Mansion on Turtle Creek. taca-arts.org 214-520-3930

DALLAS: Arts and Letters Live: Ken Follett Sept. 14. First United Methodist Church. dma.org/all 214-922-1818

DALLAS: *Tom Sachs: Tea Ceremony* Sept. 16-Jan. 7, 2018. Nasher Sculpture Center. nashersculpturecenter.org

DALLAS: Night Fever: Fashions from Funk to Disco Sept. 20-Nov. 1. Galleria Dallas. galleriadallas.com

DALLAS: Autumn at the Arboretum Sept. 23-Nov. 23. Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden. dallasarboretum.org 214-515-6500

DALLAS: Tall Tales Sept. 28. Reunion Tower. reuniontower.com 214-712-7040

DALLAS: State Fair of Texas Sept. 29-Oct. 22. Fair Park. bigtex.com 214-565-9951

DECATUR: Cruise Nights on the Courthouse Square Sept. 2. Downtown Decatur. 940-399-9558

DENTON: Arts and Autos Extravaganza Sept. 9. Downtown Denton Square. dentonmainstreet.org 940-349-8529

DENTON: Blues Fest Sept. 16-17. Quakertown Park. dentonblackchamberonline.org 940-382-9100

DENTON: GreenFest Sept. 30. Ray Roberts Greenbelt. friendsofthegreenbelt.org 682-365-8677

DESOTO: Taste of DeSoto: Sweet and Savory Sept. 28. DeSoto Civic Center. desotochamber.org 972-224-3565

DUNCANVILLE: Fourth Saturday Cultural Event Sept. 23. Museum of International Cultures. internationalmuseumofcultures.org 972-572-0462

ELGIN: Sip, Shop, and Stroll Sept. 14. Historic Downtown.

ENNIS: *Moon Over Buffalo* Aug. 25-Sept. 9. Ennis Public Theatre. ennispublictheatre.com 972-878-7529

ENNIS: Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale Sept. 14-16. Ennis Public Library. ennistx.gov/library 972-875-5360

FAIRFIELD: Show of Wheels Sept. 9. Courthouse Square. fairfieldtexaschamber.com 903-389-5792

FORT WORTH: *Misty Keasler: Haunt* Sept. 23-Nov. 26. Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth. themodern.org 817-738-9215

GAINESVILLE: Born to be Wild—Art Show and Sale Sept. 1-10. Historic Santa Fe Depot Museum. gainesvilleareavisualarts.org 214-537-9120

GARLAND: Labor Day Parade Sept. 4. Downtown. garlandlabordayevent.com 972-263-7223

GARLAND: Urban Flea Sept. 9. Downtown. intrinsicbrowe.com

GLEN ROSE: *The Promise* Sept. 1-Nov. 4. Texas Amphitheater. thepromiseglense.com 254-897-3926

GLEN ROSE: Mike Calaway in Concert Sept. 2. Oakdale Park. 254-897-3081

GLEN ROSE: Discovery After Dark Sept. 8. Fossil Rim Wildlife Center. fossilrim.org 254-897-2960

GLEN ROSE: Animal Keeper Tour and Dinner Sept. 9. Fossil Rim Wildlife Center. fossilrim.org 254-897-2960

GLEN ROSE: Photo Tour Sept. 9, 23. Fossil Rim Wildlife Center. fossilrim.org 254-897-2960

GLEN ROSE: Girl's Night Out on the Square Sept. 16. Downtown. 307-631-4106

GLEN ROSE: Third Weekend Bluegrass Sept. 16. Oakdale Park. 254-897-2321

GLEN ROSE: Rhino Reality Sept. 19. Fossil Rim Wildlife Center. fossilrim.org 254-897-2960

GLEN ROSE: Ride to the Rhinos Sept. 25. Fossil Rim Wildlife Center. fossilrim.org 254-897-2960

GLEN ROSE: Gospelgrass Sept. 30-Oct. 1. Oakdale Park. gospelgrass.info 817-901-7100

GRAND PRAIRIE: Mid-Autumn Festival Aug. 28-Oct. 1. Asia Times Square. asiaticsquare.com 972-988-8811

GRAND PRAIRIE: Comic Con Sept. 2-3. Traders Village. tradersvillage.com/grand-prairie 972-647-2331

GRAND PRAIRIE: Sturgill Simpson in Concert Sept. 8. Verizon Theatre. verizontheatre.com 972-854-5050

GRAND PRAIRIE: Olé in Concert Sept. 9. Uptown Theater. uptowntheatergp.com 972-237-8786

GRAND PRAIRIE: Native American Powwow Sept. 15-17. Traders Village. tradersvillage.com/grand-prairie 972-647-2331

GRAND PRAIRIE: Quarter Horse Racing Sept. 15-16, 21-23, 28-30. Lone Star Park. lonestarpark.com 972-263-7223

GRAND PRAIRIE: Flight of the Monarch Celebration Sept. 23. Grand Central. grandfungp.com 972-237-8100

GRAND PRAIRIE: Taste of Grand Prairie Sept. 28. Traders Village. tasteofgp.com 972-264-1558

GRAND PRAIRIE: *Sweeney Todd* Sept. 29-Oct. 1, 6-8. Uptown Theater. artsgp.org 972-642-2787

GRAND PRAIRIE: Paramore Sept. 30. Verizon Theatre. verizontheatre.com 972-854-5050

GRANDVIEW: Antique Alley Texas and 30-Plus Miles of Shopping Sept. 15-17. antiquealleytexas.com 817-240-4948

GRAPEVINE: Grapevine Rails: *Rolling Through Time* Through Sept. 17. Grapevine Tower Gallery. grapevinetexasusa.com 817-410-3185

GRAPEVINE: Italian CarFest Sept. 9. Nash Farm. nashfarm.org 817-410-3185

GRAPEVINE: GrapeFest Sept. 14-17. Historic Downtown. grapevinetexasusa.com 817-410-3185

HILLSBORO: Cotton Pickin' Fair Sept. 22-23. Courthouse Square. hillsboromainstreet.org/cottonpickinair 254-582-5499

HONEY GROVE: Davy Crockett Day Sept. 30. Town Square. honeygrovechamber.com 903-378-3112

LA GRANGE: Fayette County Fair Aug. 31-Sept. 3. fayettecountyfair.org 979-968-3911

LA GRANGE: Texas Heroes Day Sept. 16. Monument Hill State Park. texasstateparks.org 979-968-5658

MANSFIELD: Music Alley Festival Sept. 9. mansfieldtexas.gov/music-alley-festival 817-804-5795

MCKINNEY: *Dinosaurs Live!* Sept. 2-Feb. 18, 2018. Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary. heardmuseum.org 972-562-5566

MCKINNEY: Oktoberfest Sept. 22-24. downtownmckinney.com 972-547-2660

MESQUITE: Mesquite Championship Rodeo Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. Mesquite Arena. mesquiterodeo.com 972-285-8777

MESQUITE: Texas Area Artists Art Exhibition Sept. 5-29. Mesquite Arts Center Main Gallery. mesquiteartscenter.org 972-216-6444

MESQUITE: Florence Ranch Homestead Tours Sept. 9. historicmesquite.org 972-216-6468

MESQUITE: Dallas-Fort Worth Toy Dog Show Sept. 16-17. Mesquite Convention Center and Exhibit Hall. 972-204-4925

MESQUITE: Just for Kids: Peeler and Rose Marionnette Show Sept. 16. Mesquite Arts Center Black Box Theatre.

mesquiteartscenter.org
972-216-6444

MESQUITE: Mesquite Symphony Orchestra Concert Sept. 16. Mesquite Arts Center Concert Hall. mesquitesymphony.org 972-216-8127

MESQUITE: Opal Lawrence Historical Park Tours Sept. 23. Opal Lawrence Historical Park. historicmesquite.org 972-216-6468

NEW BERLIN: Sausage Festival Sept. 3. New Berlin Community Center. 830-560-6647

NOCONA: Wheels and Grills Chili and Barbecue Cookoff Sept. 21-23. Horton Classic Car Museum. hortonclassicmuseum.com 940-825-1022

PLANO: *Dear Delinquent* Aug. 10-Sept. 2. Rover Dramawerks. roverdramawerks.com 972-849-0358

PLANO: *Sweet Charity* Sept. 1-17. The Art Centre Theatre. app.arts-people.com 214-810-3228

PLANO: Texas Pool Labor Day Party Sept. 4. texaspool.org 972-881-8392

PLANO: Courtyard Texas Music Series Sept. 7. Courtyard Theater. plano.gov 972-941-5600

PLANO: *Bus Stop* Sept. 14-Oct. 7. Rover Dramawerks. roverdramawerks.com 972-849-0358

PLANO: Downtown Plano Art and Wine Walk Sept. 14. Downtown Arts District. planomagazine.com/wine 972-468-1588

PLANO: InTouch Credit Union Plano Balloon Festival Sept. 22-24. Oak Point Park. planoballoonfest.org 972-867-7566

PLANO: Fall Plano Train Show Sept. 30-Oct. 1. Plano Event Center. dfwtrainshows.com 469-438-0741

POTTSBORO: Frontier Day Sept. 30. Friendship Park. pottsboro-chamber.com 903-786-6371

RED OAK: Founders Day Sept. 9. Watson Park. redoakreachamber.org 972-617-0906

RICHARDSON: *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus—Live* Sept. 15-16. Charles W. Eisemann Center. eisemanncenter.com 972-744-4650

RICHARDSON: Plano Symphony Opening Night with Conrad Tao Sept. 23.

Eisemann Center. planosymphony.org 972-473-7262

ROUND TOP: Wine and Dine with Patsy Cline Sept. 9. Round Top Rifle Association. ilovetread.org 979-249-2700

SALADO: A Taste of Art Sept. 22-23. Salado Historical Museum. salado.com/calendar 254-718-2030

SALADO: Chocolate and Wine Weekend Sept. 22-24. salado.com/calendar 254-947-5040

SANGER: Sellabration Sept. 9. Historic Downtown. sangertexas.com 940-458-7702

SMITHVILLE: Scream Hollow Wicked Halloween Park Sept. 15-Nov. 4. screamhollow.com 512-710-8267

SULPHUR SPRINGS: Lone Star Heritage Quilt Guild Quilt Show Sept. 15-16. First Baptist Church R.O.C. sulphursspringsquilt.com 903-994-2570

TEMPLE: First Friday Sept. 1. Downtown. discovertemple.com 254-298-5378

TEMPLE: Food Truck Frenzy and Main Street Market Sept. 23. Downtown. jan2017foodtruckfrenzy.eventbrite.com 254-298-5378

TEMPLE: The Robinson Family Farm Pumpkin Patch Sept. 23-Oct. 29. therobinsonfamilyfarm.com 254-931-9564

TEMPLE: Dead Poet Night Sept. 27. J. Cowboy Wine Bar. 254-298-5378

TEMPLE: Kings and Queens of Cuisine Sept. 30. Hilton Garden Inn. tcfound.org 254-598-7435

TERRELL: Flights of Our Fathers Air Show and Fly In Sept. 23. No. 1 British Flying Training School Museum. bftsmuseum.org 972-551-1122

WACO: *Speed: Science in Motion* Through Sept. 3. Maybom Museum Complex. maybommuseum.com 254-710-1110

WACO: Homestead Heritage Labor Day Sorghum Festival Sept. 4. homesteadheritage.com 254-754-9600

WACO: Rootstock: A Texas Wine Festival Sept. 16. Indian Springs Park. humanesocietycentraltexas.org 254-754-1454

WAXAHACHIE: C10s Trucks in the Park Sept. 16. Getzendaner Park.

waxahachiecvb.com
469-309-4040

WAXAHACHIE: Oktoberfest Sept. 16. Waxahachie Civic Center. stjosephoktoberfest.com 972-937-0956

WAXAHACHIE: Screams Halloween Theme Park Sept. 29-30, Oct. 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 27-28. screamspark.com 972-938-3247

WAXAHACHIE: Chautauqua Assembly Sept. 30. Chautauqua Auditorium. waxahachiechautauqua.org 469-309-4040

WEATHERFORD: Opening Weekend Train Show Sept. 2-3. Clark Gardens. clarkgardens.org 940-682-4856

SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

ALICE: Fiesta Del Centro Sept. 8-9. Downtown. alicetxchamber.org 361-664-3454

EAGLE PASS: Mexico's Independence Celebration Sept. 15. San Juan Plaza. 830-773-9255

EDINBURG: South Texas International Film Festival Sept. 7-9. Edinburg Conference Center. stxiff.us 956-478-0341

FLORESVILLE: Opry Sept. 7. Wilson County Show Barn Ball Room. facebook.com/floresvilleopry 830-391-1062

GOLIAD: A Day in the Life of the Presidio Sept. 23. Presidio La Bahia. presidioalabaha.org 361-645-3752

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FOR A FREE PRINTED COPY of an even more detailed, quarterly schedule of events, go to texashighways.com/freepubs, write to *Texas Highways Events Calendar*, P.O. Box 149249, Austin, TX 78714-9249, or call 800-452-9292 from anywhere in the U.S. or Canada, between 8-6 Central.

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LA VERNIA: Corn Maze, Petting Zoo, Pumpkin Patch Sept. 23-Oct. 31. Circle N Maze. circlenmaze.com 210-274-3816

SAN ANTONIO: *Whales: Giants of the Deep* Through Sept. 4. The Witte Museum. wittmuseum.org 210-357-1905

SAN ANTONIO: *Wild Weather* Through Sept. 4. The Witte Museum. wittmuseum.org 210-357-1905

SAN ANTONIO: Labor Day Artisan River Walk Show Sept. 1-4. River Walk. thesanantonioriverwalk.com 210-227-4262

SAN ANTONIO: First Saturday at the Alamo Sept. 2. thealamo.org 210-225-1391

SAN ANTONIO: Volkswagen Car Show and Swap Meet Sept. 2-3. Traders Village San Antonio. tradersvillage.com 210-623-8383

SAN ANTONIO: Bud Light, The Taste Sept. 12-14. San Antonio River Walk. thesanantonioriverwalk.com 210-227-4262

SAN ANTONIO: Fall Hudson Showroom and Main Space Sept. 21-Dec. 31. Artpace. artpace.org 210-212-4900

SAN ANTONIO: A Salute to Texas Quilt Show Sept. 22-23. San Antonio Event Center. sanantoniouilt.org 505-331-2215

SAN ANTONIO: *Rock Stars and Stripes: The American Rock Experience* Sept. 30. The Tobin Center for the Arts. rockstarsandstripes.show.com 210-614-2554

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the inside who knew what was going on with the Viet Cong. And my dad coordinated a boat to take our family and to give us a chance to get away to have a life in America or another country, wherever it was. They had five kids, and my mom was four-and-a-half months pregnant with me. You talk about courage, just taking a leap of faith. I don't know if I have enough courage to do that now.

Q: *How did your parents choose Rockport?*

A: My relatives were distributed on the Gulf Coast where they did the shrimping industry, which they did in Vietnam. And so we decided to move south, and my mom's family members were in Rockport. What's ironic is we lived in a small village south of Saigon called Bin Da. The translation of Bin Da is Port of Rock.

Q: *Hu-Dat in Rockport is your family's restaurant?*

A: My mom started the restaurant. When my brother turned 20 years old, my dad built him a shrimp boat. And my dad had a shrimp boat himself. And they'd usually start about 4 o'clock in the morning. My mom would make coffee before they left, and at 1 or 2 o'clock in the afternoon when they got back, she would be making sandwiches or meals. During that transition, my dad sold his boat and built a marine supply, which is what he did in Vietnam. He would sell shrimp nets, pulleys, cables, ropes, whatever they needed on the shrimp boat. The shrimpers would go there and buy stuff from dad and eat a meal from mom. My mom thought, "I'm doing this every day; I might as well make it into a restaurant." That's how Hu-Dat started.

Q: *What do you like at Hu-Dat?*

A: You can't go wrong with the traditional food, the rice and the pork. I like the pork chops. Then you have to go to my sister's place in Corpus Christi,

HU-DAT D'Noodle House. She has the Dat Nguyen Special. It's called the Shaken Beef. It's cubed beef marinated with oyster sauce and pepper and a little bit of soy sauce, and it's laid on top of tomatoes, onions, and lettuce, and then you eat it with a bowl of rice.

Q: *Did Hu-Dat influence your interest in the restaurant business?*

A: Absolutely. I saw how it worked. We started Hu-Dat in 1993 when I went to college, and every time I came back in the summer, I would work for my mom. I was a dishwasher, a busboy.

I remember fifth grade, sixth grade, seventh grade, every summer I had to be on the shrimp boat. ... When I fell in love with football, I said I never want to get back on a shrimp boat again in my life.

Q: *Did you ever work on a shrimp boat?*

A: Oh yes. I was my brother's deckhand. I remember fifth grade, sixth grade, seventh grade, every summer I had to be on the shrimp boat. We'd leave at 4 o'clock in the morning, and you don't have a life. So that was the last thing I wanted to do. When I fell in love with football, I said I never want to get back on a shrimp boat again in my life.

Q: *Where does your family like to vacation in Texas?*

A: We love Marble Falls. We go up there to the Bluebonnet Café, of course. There's a little Thai place, Ginger and Spice, right downtown where we always eat; it's very good. Austin is one of our favorite places. We love to go see the bats with the kids. My wife loves the outdoors. Now that we have these 2-year-olds it's a little bit harder, but before that we'd go down to Barton Springs and swim. We like to go down to College Station, and you have to hit up the famous Wings 'N More. Those might be the best chicken strips in the country.

Q: *What do you like to do in Rockport?*

A: I spend time with my mom and my dad. [Dat's father, Ho Nguyen, passed away in April.] You miss the home cooking of course. And it depends on the mood of my friends. There's a new sports bar that popped up called Benchwarmers. They've got fabulous wings, and they've got great fried oysters as well. If I'm wanting crawfish, I run down to the Boiling Pot. Everybody knows about the Boiling Pot. They spread out the paper on the table and then dump the food on the table and you just eat—crawfish, shrimp, sausage, you name it.

Q: *How has your family's immigrant experience influenced you?*

A: It shaped who I am. The adversity, the opportunity, the dedication, having a dream, having a vision. You saw it in my parents coming over here for an opportunity, having faith, and never knowing when that opportunity was going to be. You think about my career at Texas A&M. I was the backup linebacker my freshman year. Leading up to the first game against LSU, the starter stepped on a sprinkler head. He twisted his ankle and couldn't play. That's how my career started. I had worked so hard to be in that position, I knew I wasn't going to give it up. My parents are the reason I am who I am today. I'm thankful and grateful for the opportunity, and now I get a chance to impact other people. In the Bible, Jesus said, "Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." And that's what we're supposed to do—have a purpose. I try to walk that path each and every day and try to impact people to have a better chance, a better life, and to fulfill their dreams. **L**

Texas Highways (ISSN 0040-4349) is published monthly by the Texas Department of Transportation, 150 E. Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas 78704; phone 512-486-5858, fax 512-486-5879. The official travel magazine of Texas encourages travel within the state and tells the Texas story to readers around the world.

Periodicals Postage paid at Austin, Texas, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Texas Highways* Circulation, P.O. Box 8559, Big Sandy, Texas 75755-8559.



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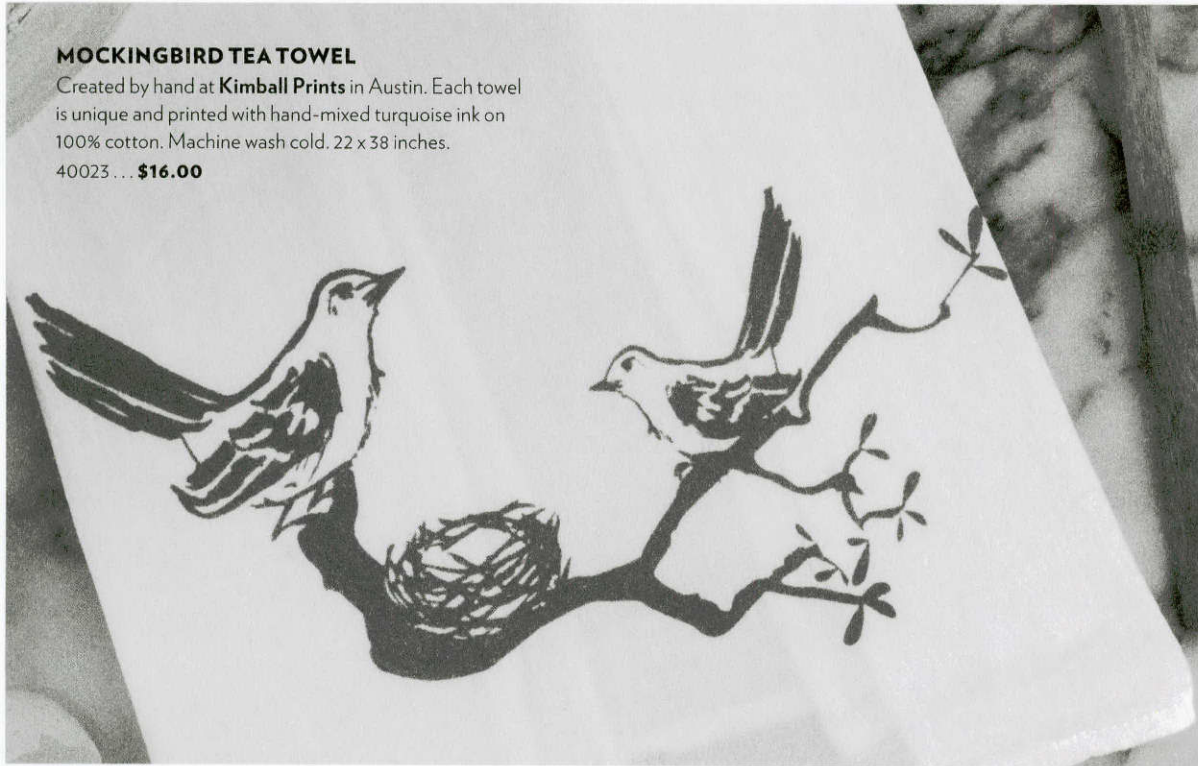
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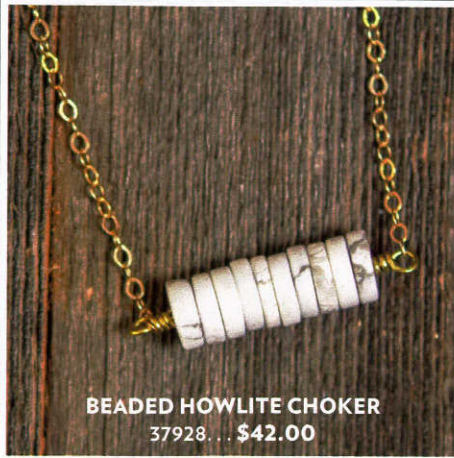
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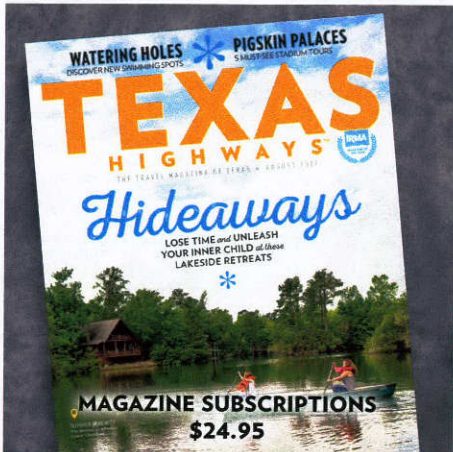
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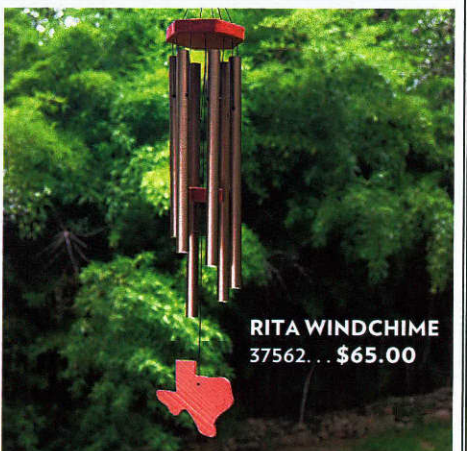
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The Road Most Traveled

IF YOU FOLLOW MY TRAVELS you know that I spend most of my time off the beaten path. While this philosophy lends itself to new discoveries, sometimes I end up neglecting well-traveled tourist destinations. In order to buck my own trend, I headed to Texas' most-visited city—San Antonio—for an epic day trip directly *on* the city's beaten paths.

8:30 A.M. No trip to this city would be complete without Tex-Mex, so I followed my stomach (and the crowds) to **Mi Tierra**, a 24-hour institution serving its signature dishes around the clock. The walls were decked with Christmas lights, flags, and piñatas of every shape and color—almost as bright as the 50-foot-long case of fresh Mexican pastries. I ordered a *concha* and coffee, which served as a nice appetizer for the *huevos rancheros* I devoured after my table was ready.

10 A.M. I stepped outside and onto the **Historic Market Square**, which was bustling with sights, sounds, and smells that felt imported straight from the streets of Mexico. Inside **El Mercado** I explored an authentic Mexican-style artisan market with booth after booth of handmade goods and even bought some new *luchador* masks for my collection.

11 A.M. I continued walking and found myself at the **Spanish Governor's Palace**, built in 1749 and now the last

remaining piece of the Presidio San Antonio de B exar, which was built to secure Spain's claim on Texas and

protect the many missions in the area. One might expect a "palace" to be laced with gold and pomp, but stepping inside this quaint adobe

building proved that life on the Texas frontier was humble and hard for all.

NOON Next I explored the beautiful **San Fernando Cathedral**, a marvel that would make some European churches pale in comparison. Inside, I found a ceiling and altar laden with gold, and frescoes that were as stunning as they were historic. In the foyer, a coffin holds the ashes of the fallen Alamo defenders, collected by Tejano revolutionary Juan Segu n and hidden in this church. I took a moment of silence to honor some of the bravest men to ever grace Texas.

1 P.M. It was finally time to visit the

most famous mission in Texas, maybe the world: **The Alamo**. I walked a few blocks and stood in front of the famous chapel where heroes like William B. Travis, Davy Crockett, Jim Bowie, and approximately 180 others gave their lives for Texas freedom. Living history demonstrations showcased everything from firing an 1830s rifle to baking biscuits in a Dutch oven. While the story remains the same, the Alamo's way of telling it keeps getting better and better.

3 P.M. I traded in traveling by foot for traveling by boat on a **Rio San Antonio Cruise**. We floated through the **River Walk** past shops, buildings, and restaurants as our educated guide shared the stories of the city along with plenty of corny jokes. I learned lots of new facts and even some good "dad jokes" to impress my kids.

4 P.M. Way overdue for lunch, I decided on **Casa Rio**, the first restaurant on the River Walk back when its shores were nothing but dirt and branches. Inside I found classic Tex-Mex dishes like enchiladas and tamales that seemed untouched by time.

This family has stuck to tradition since 1946, and I hope they never change—it's *muy bueno*.

7 P.M. I rolled into **The Menger Bar**, which sits inside the oldest continually operated hotel west of the Mississippi.

Modeled after a famous London pub, this bar was notorious for attracting a rough crowd, which is why Teddy Roosevelt visited in the 1890s to recruit the Rough Riders. It's now a great place to grab a drink and some of the hotel's famous mango ice cream. Both served as a great finale to the day.

The unique culture and history of San Antonio attract visitors from all over the world. And while the crowds can be immense, sometimes the road most traveled is the road best traveled. So whether you follow my footsteps or forge your own path, I hope to see you on the road. **L**

Chet Garner is the host of *The Daytripper*® travel show on PBS. To view the San Antonio episode visit thedaytripper.com

Contact Visit San Antonio at 800-447-3372; visitsanantonio.com.

TRAVEL MATTERS

TRAVEL TALK WITH TRUE TEXANS



Who's Dat?

Football star Dat Nguyen's improbable journey

story by **Matt Joyce**

DAT NGUYEN HOLDS THE DISTINCTION OF BEING THE first and only Vietnamese-American to play in the National Football League. And he's got a life story to match that accomplishment.

Born in 1975 in an Arkansas refugee camp, Nguyen grew up in a Catholic Vietnamese shrimping family in Rockport. He joined the Rockport-Fulton Junior High football team in eighth grade and, despite his parents' skepticism, found his calling.

"I fell in love with the game," he says. "The most intriguing thing to me about football is that everything is so challenging—the lineups, making a tackle, going out there and running or catching the football. The execution part was really the drive that got me interested."

As a linebacker at Texas A&M from 1995 to 1998, Nguyen won a host of awards, including his induction this year into the College Football Hall of Fame. In the NFL, he started six seasons as the

"Some of my teammates and opponents were born to be NFL players; I, on the other hand, was born in a refugee camp to immigrant parents, neither of whom is a smidgeon over 5-foot-2."

Dallas Cowboys' middle linebacker before retiring in 2006.

Nguyen served coaching stints with the Cowboys and the Aggies before leaving the game. Last year, he became proprietor of the Chick-fil-A restaurant at Montgomery Plaza in Fort Worth.

All this for a child who was in his mother's belly when the family fled Vietnam by boat, under fire, on the night the Viet Cong captured Saigon. Today, the 41-year-old Nguyen lives in Grapevine with his wife, Becky, and their five children, ages 2 to 13.

Q: How did football lead to Chick-fil-A?

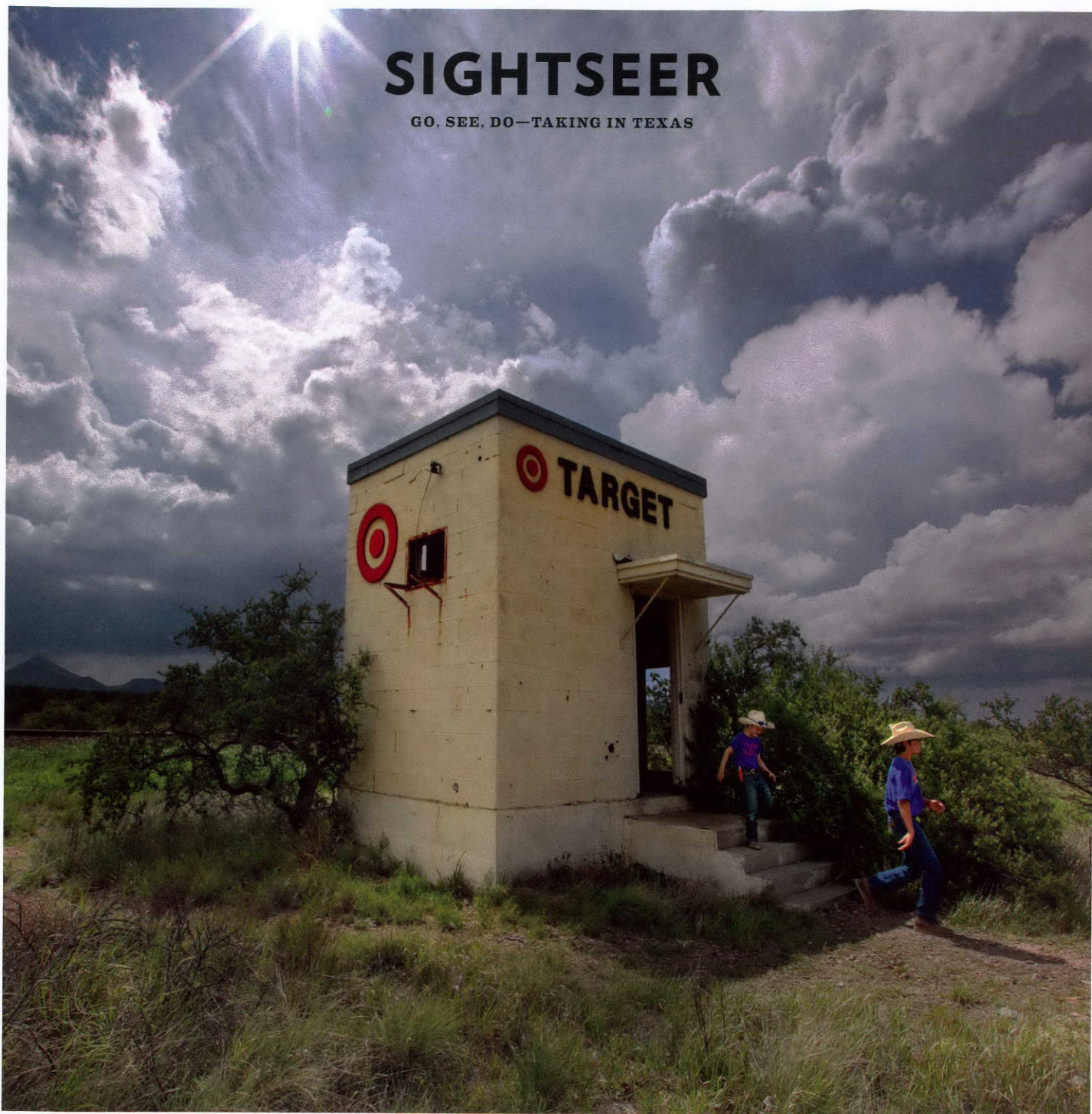
A: I wanted to coach football, no doubt about that. The only thing I didn't like about coaching was the potential of moving my family around the country, and there was a little bit more politics than I thought going in. When you're a coach, you're impacting young people's lives, giving them a chance to pursue a dream. I wanted to do something where I could impact other people on a daily basis. That's why I decided to do the restaurant business with Chick-fil-A. You're building a team. I have about 65 to 70 employees; about 45 to 50 of them are 19 or younger. So I'm having a chance to touch a lot of these kids' lives and teach them life skills. I use all the football concepts—impacting, motivation, awards. The only things we don't do are gas-sers and up-downs and stuff like that that's physical punishment.

Q: How did your family manage to escape Vietnam?

A: My dad was fortunate to be in a position that he could afford a radio, and he knew a couple of people on > continued on page 90

SIGHTSEER

GO, SEE, DO—TAKING IN TEXAS



WHAT: TARGET MARATHON WHERE: US 90 BETWEEN MARATHON AND ALPINE WHEN: YEAR-ROUND

Right on Target

An anonymous artist hits the bull's-eye with this roadside art installation in far West Texas.

The Galveston, Harrisburg, and San Antonio Railway first reached Brewster County in the 1880s—turning this isolated spot into a shipping and supply point for area ranchers. Despite its stark beauty, the area remains one of the most unpopulated parts of Texas (the 2010 census counted only 1.5 people per square mile). Sometime in early 2016, the world's smallest Target store quietly “opened” in a former railroad structure along US 90 west of Marathon—a nod to Prada Marfa near Valentine, perhaps. Unlike its high-end predecessor, no artist has come forward to claim this clever commentary on consumerism, so there's no telling how long this quirky photo-op will remain. However, those who have ventured inside for a shopping spree report the tiny big-box store carries little more than a beehive and the occasional rattlesnake. Consider yourself warned.

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