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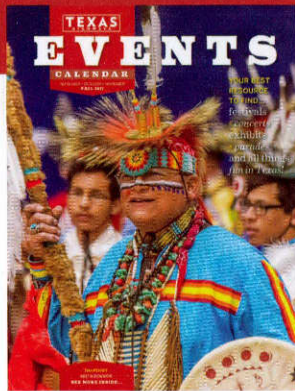
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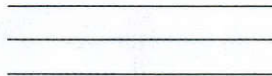
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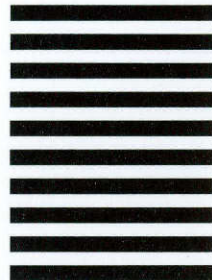
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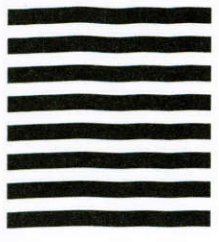
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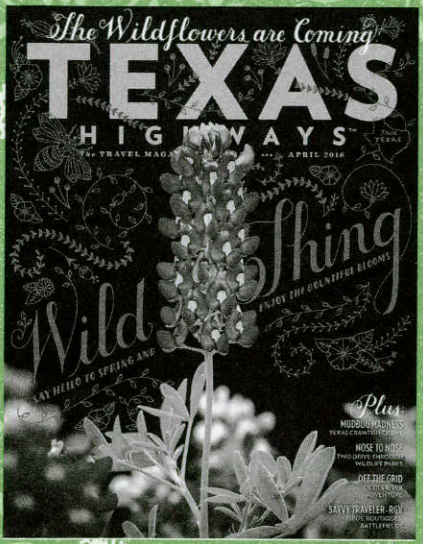
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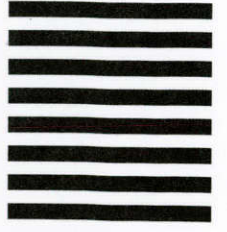
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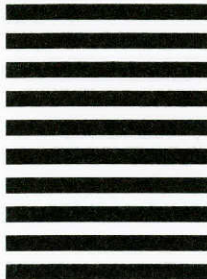
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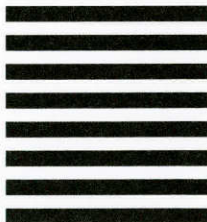
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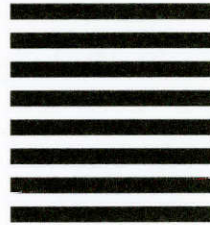
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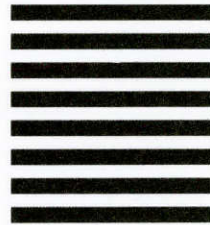
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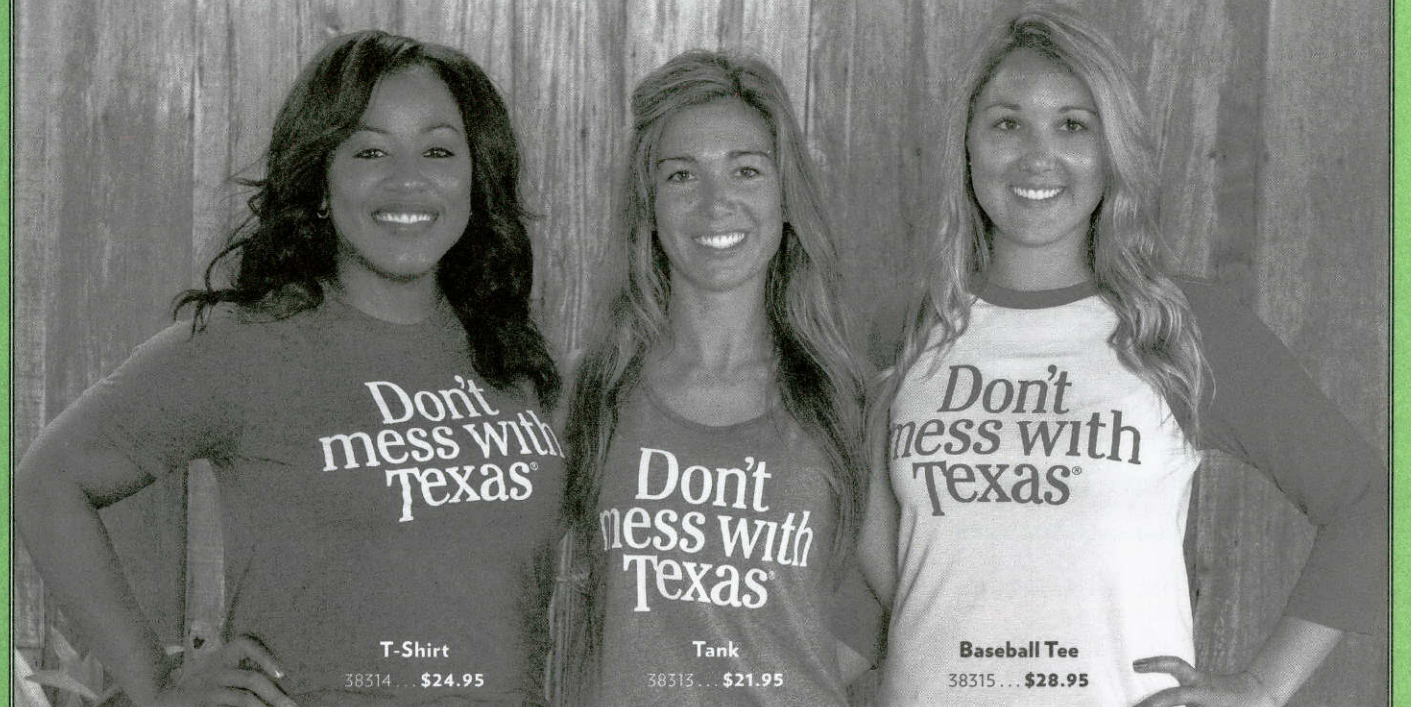


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Let's Celebrate!

SINCE 1977, *TEXAS HIGHWAYS* has been a member of the International Regional Magazine Association (IRMA for short)—a group of nearly 40 publications whose missions run the gamut from covering travel in Texas to delving into the culture of the Pacific Northwest. Each year, IRMA members meet to talk shop, share ideas, brainstorm solutions to common problems, and recognize our talented peers with awards focused on design, writing, and photography.

And so, as we celebrate our 42nd year as the travel magazine of Texas, we're bursting with pride: On September 19 at the 2016 IRMA conference in Fort Lauderdale, *Texas Highways* received a total of 21 awards, including our first-time win as "Magazine of the Year;" a Gold prize for companion website; well-deserved laurels for our in-house wordsmith Matt Joyce, who won a Bronze award for "Magazine Writer of the Year;" and

multiple nods for design and photography.

Much of the credit for the magazine's editorial content in recent years belongs to our longtime colleague and friend Jill Lawless, who left the magazine in June to reap the rewards of part-time retirement. Jill's precise skills, keen wit, and equanimity in the face of occasional chaos kept us on task, focused, and sometimes in stitches. When I reached Jill with the good news, she sent enthusiastic congratulations from the comfort of her lakeside lounge chair, and—and true to her generous nature—thanked the whole team.

That team, of course, includes you, our loyal readers. We hope you enjoy the November issue.

LORI MOFFATT, *Interim Editor*

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Texas Bookish Destinations

Texas is an undeniable muse for both writers and wanderers. So it makes sense that our state is also fertile ground for literary travelers. From Austin to Archer City, read on for great bookish destinations.

Text by KAY ELLINGTON

38

Nine Divine Hill Country Hikes

With its sunny savannas, rocky hilltops, sheltered canyons, and shady river bottoms, the Texas Hill Country is a hiker's paradise. And there's no better season than autumn to hit the trail.

Text and photographs by ERIC W. POHL

50

The Venice of Texas

The expansion of San Antonio's River Walk has transformed the downtown tourist paseo into a 15-mile trail linking the city's natural setting with its influential heritage and ever-evolving cultural offerings.

Text and photographs by E. DAN KLEPPER



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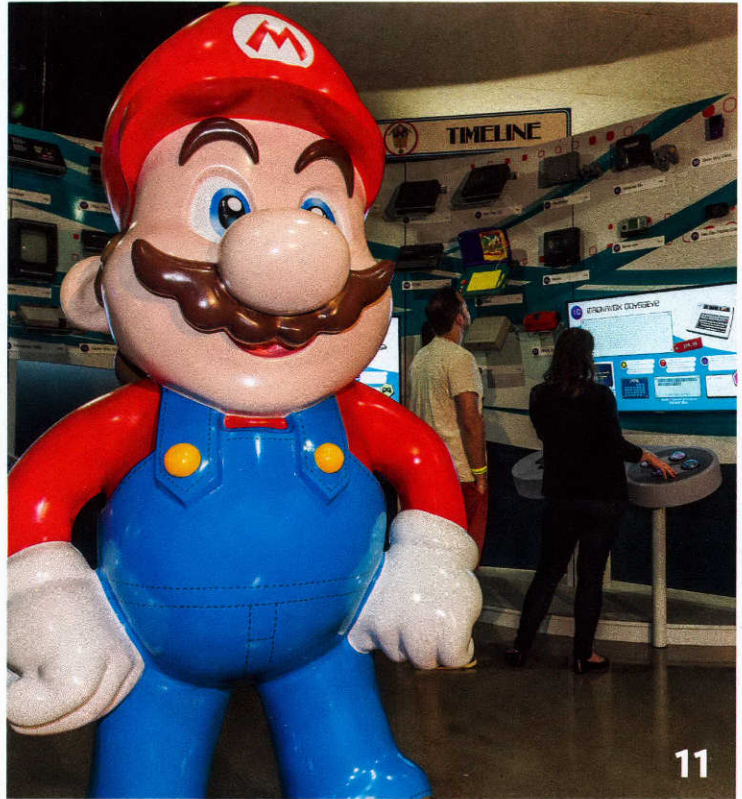
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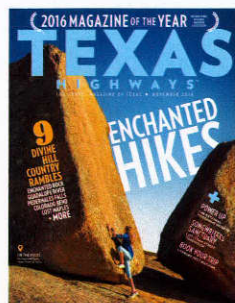
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COVER

Hiking the granite dome at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area is an accessible yet rewarding challenge, made all the more fun by crisp autumn weather.
Photo © Laurence Parent

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VINTAGE TREASURES IN CANTON

Shoppers flock to Canton for one weekend each month for Trade Days. We indulge in a little retail therapy and share some of our interesting finds.

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From Austin to Archer City, our November issue features top Texas destinations for bookish travelers. Check out our online lists of top Texas bookstores and favorite Texas books.

MATCHA MADNESS

This Asian green tea swirls into Texas! We'll show you where to find a perfect cup.



SEASON of FESTS

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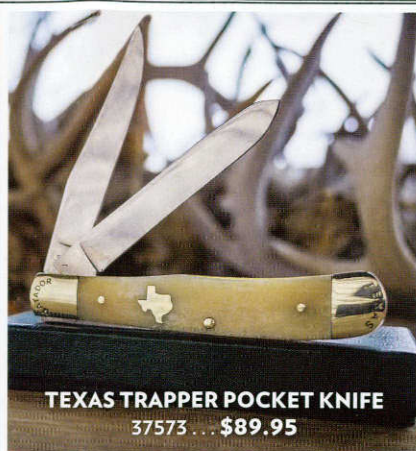
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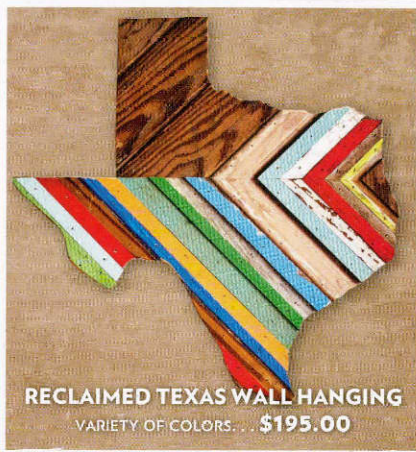
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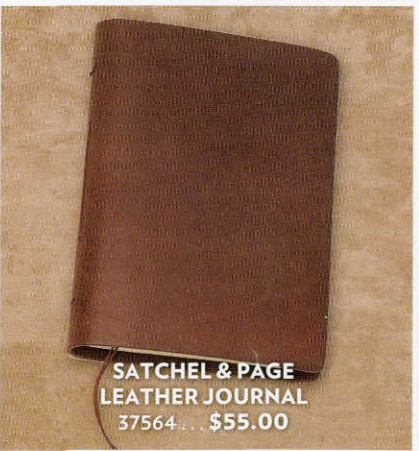
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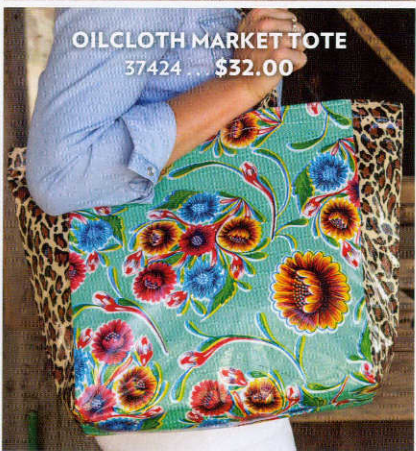
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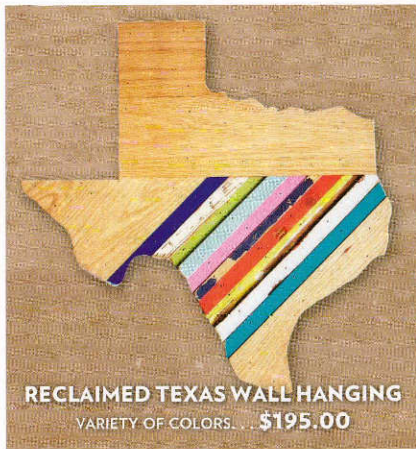
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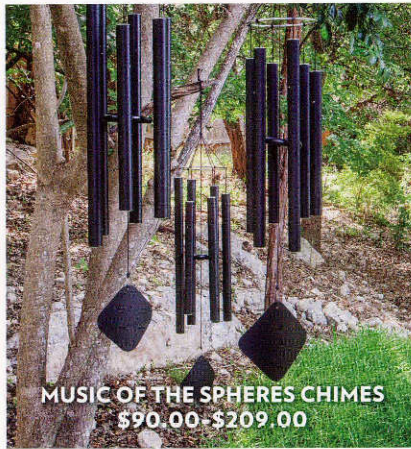
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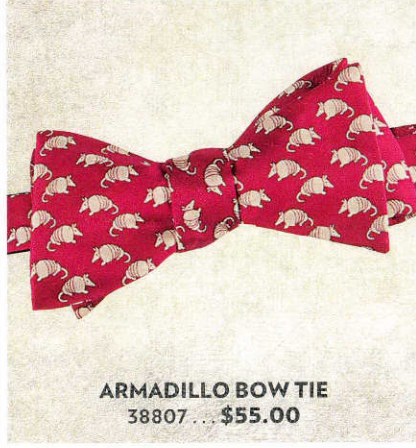
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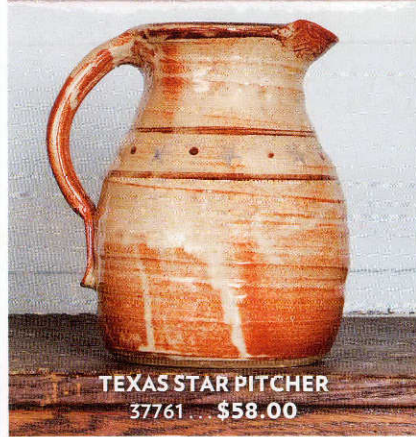
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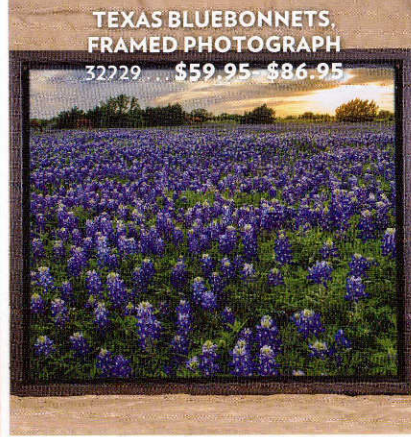
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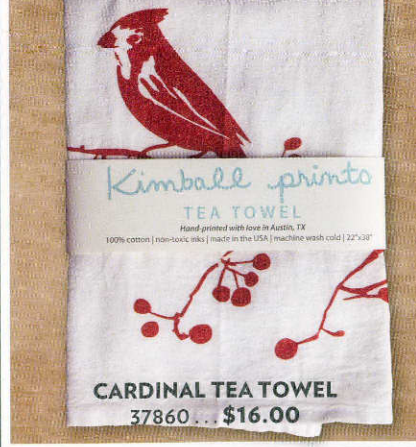
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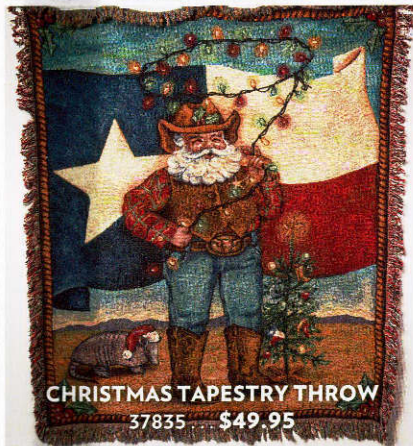
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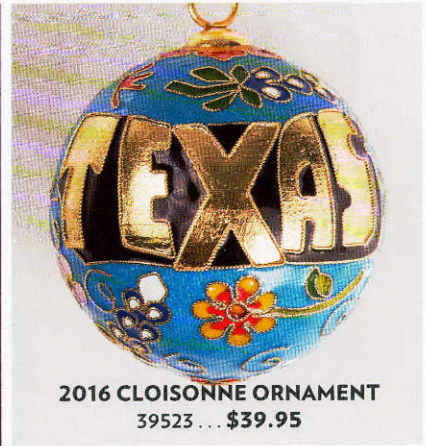
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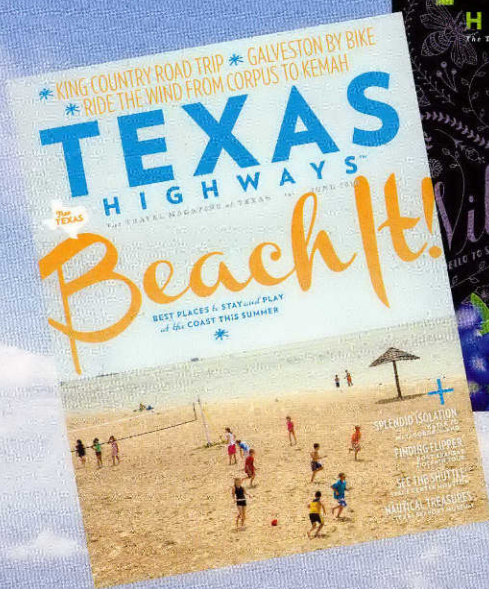
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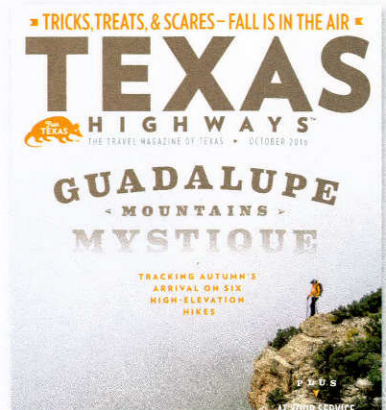


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Congratulations to @TexasHighways for winning the International Regional Magazine Association's 2016 Magazine of the Year award.

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👤 JAMES BASS, @TXDOTCEO



OUR FAVORITE SOCIAL MEDIA OF THE MONTH



I love beautiful McKittrick Canyon & the Pratt house [October]! Wallace Pratt was my great uncle, so I am a little biased though.
LYNNE DREWRY DAUGHTERS, WACO



@TexasHighways True Texan quiz reminds me of a joke: A fella stops at the Dairy Queen in Mexia and asks, "How do you pronounce this place?" "Day-ree Qweeeen."
CHERIE COLBURN, @cheriecolburn



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True Texans

A couple of years ago, my husband and I were on our way to a family outing on the Frio River. We were traveling south on US 83 and lost the tread on one of our rear tires. We limped to the next roadside park, where we tried to figure out how to change the tire. It was so hot that day the blacktop was molten. I pulled out beach towels and my husband crawled under the truck. Next thing we knew, another truck pulled up, the family piled out, and the dad came over to see if he could help. He and his grown sons proceeded to jack up our truck, use their portable air-powered tools to change the tire, and have us back on the road in less than 20 minutes. I know there are angels in Texas—they come in all colors, shapes, and sizes.

Martha Hollingshead Chappell, Belton

A Graham Great

The October story about Graham mentioned "a Graham resident named Dean Smith, who spent his career as a Hollywood film stuntman." As I was

growing up, I read about him as an All-American track star at the University of Texas and as a gold medal Olympian at the 1952 Olympic games. Dean Smith is a genuine Texas legend.

Gary Giles, Fort Worth

Bush 43

I just finished the Texas Bucket List article [September] describing 42 travel adventures around the state of Texas. What a great state we live in! However, I think you left off one of the best. The 43rd adventure would be none other than our 43rd President's library, located on the SMU campus. The George W. Bush Presidential

Library and Museum is a must-see for any visitor or resident of our great state.

Bill Hickey, Dallas

Balcones Booster

Thank you for covering the Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge in such intimate language [September]. The refuge is a place of peace for so many throughout the year. But if action is what one likes, there are challenging hiking trails, really "wild" wildlife, and so much more than our two endangered bird species.

Sharon Macut, Friends of Balcones Canyonlands NWR, Lago Vista

READER'S FAVORITE

Happy at the Holland

My husband and I enjoyed a wonderful week in the Big Bend area in August, including two nights at The Holland Hotel in Alpine. Dinner at The Holland's Century Bar & Grill should also be included as a must-enjoy. Their Dutch chef has created a marvelous chicken-fried steak unlike any we've ever eaten. He uses panko-crusted tenderloin, plus the gravy is to die for! Their bar, with indoor seating looking out onto the street, was a perfect place to hang out on a rainy afternoon.

COOKIE MCCALL, Coppell

The Holland Hotel is at 209 W. Holland Ave. in Alpine. Call 800/535-8040; www.thehollandhotel.texas.com.

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SCENIC ROUTE

Ode to England

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TWO OF ODESSA'S most unusual attractions are reproductions of iconic British sites. Stonehenge, on the northeast corner of the University of Texas Permian Basin campus, is nearly the same size as the one in England. Made of local limestone, it provides a peaceful place of reflection and contemplation. About three miles west of the university, the Globe Theatre at Odessa College is modeled after William Shakespeare's original theater in London. It hosts Shakespearean plays, as well as Broadway musicals and other performances.
odessacvb.com/visit/attractions/unique-attractions

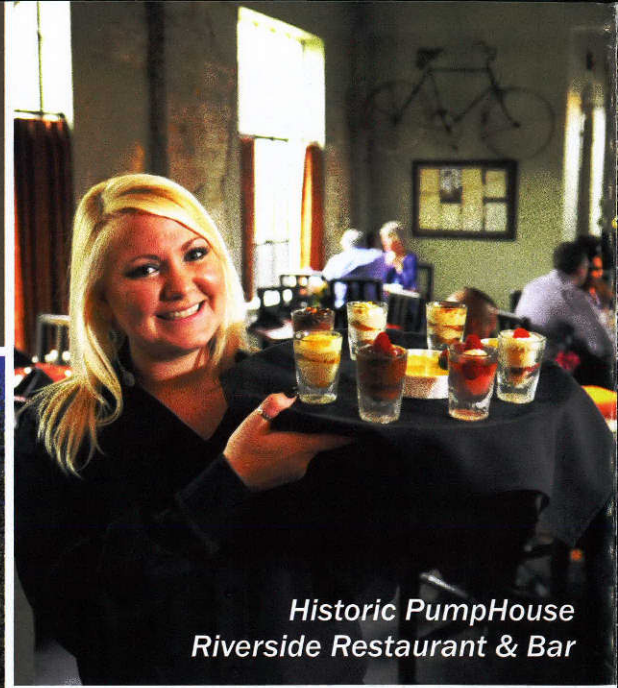




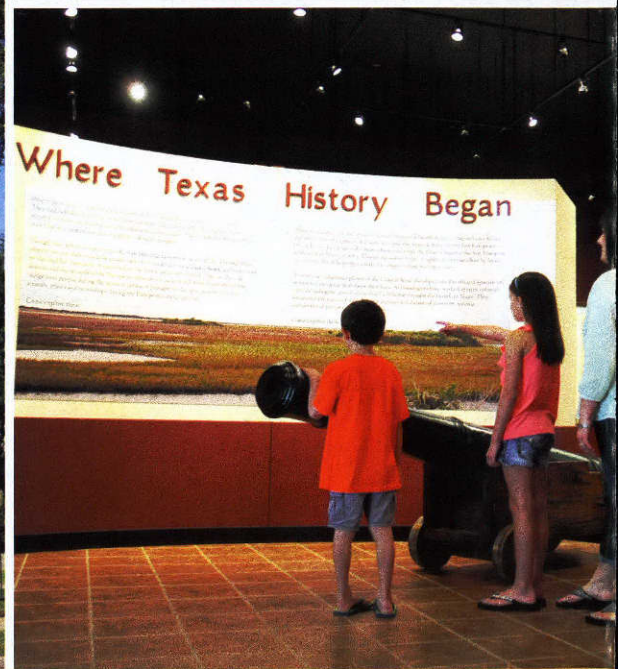
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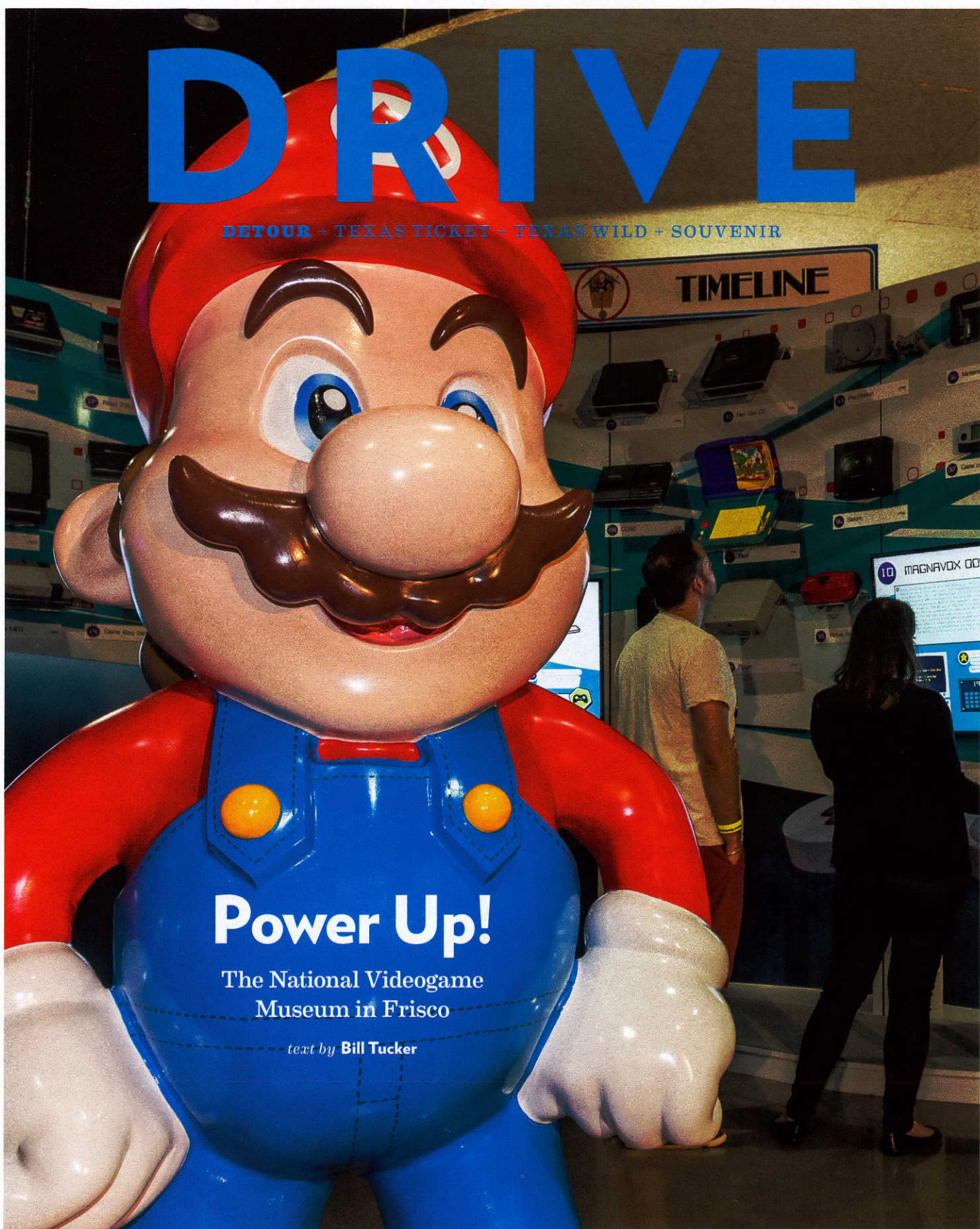
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Power Up!

The National Videogame
Museum in Frisco

text by **Bill Tucker**

The video-game character Mario welcomes guests to the museum in front of the exhibit *Timeline of Consoles*.



ONCE A RURAL SUBURB 30 MILES north of Dallas, Frisco is now a burgeoning mini-city of its own. As the home of the Double-A Frisco Roughriders baseball team, FC Dallas of Major League Soccer, the NBA D-League Texas Legends, and the Dallas Cowboys' new headquarters and practice facility, Frisco always has a game going on, it seems.

Perhaps it's no surprise, then, that Frisco is also home to a new destination dedicated to another favorite competitive pastime—video games. Nestled within the Frisco Discovery Center, a complex of arts, science, and cultural exhibits, the National Videogame Museum opened in April to the delight of gamers everywhere. Whether you were a Pac-Man expert in the '70s, a Nintendo kid in the '80s, or a PlayStation addict in the aughts, the museum's

The museum's tribute to all things gaming is sure to delight the button-mashing kid inside.

tribute to all things gaming is sure to delight the button-mashing kid inside.

A statue of an exploding game cartridge greets visitors entering the 10,000-square-foot museum. Covered in TV screens, consoles, and game boxes, the structure provides a taste of what's to come in the museum's exhibits, including more than 100,000 artifacts that chronicle gaming's fascinating and sometimes rocky history.

Inside, the museum is broken up into a series of exhibits called "stages," each of which represents a different aspect of video-game history. Everything in the museum is meant to be touched. Stage 1 presents guests with an oversized, 15-foot-tall Pong machine, one of the first video-game systems playable at home. As I played Pong with an Australian tourist, using paddles the size of steering wheels, I was

Clockwise from left: Guests can play a variety of games on 10 different consoles in *Head-to-Head Hall*; play *Duck Hunt* in a retro, 1980s-themed bedroom; and check out the *Evolution of Controllers* exhibit's display of numerous classic controllers.

transported back to when gaming was simpler—yet just as competitive.

Once I tore myself away from Pong's monochromatic screen, the museum gleamed with color and sound. A life-size Mario statue provides a prime photo opportunity, and vibrant murals of video-game characters line the walls. From handpainted depictions of Frogger leaping out of trouble to Doom's monsters and the Call of Duty soldier preparing to fight terrorists, every inch of the space screams gaming culture.

Even the museum itself is a game. Throughout the exhibits, the museum designers have hidden visual secrets, known as "Easter eggs"—the term for hidden features in a game. They could be out-of-place characters in a painting or a word purposefully misspelled in an exhibit description. You can look up clues and post your scores on the museum's phone app, or play the

game on a museum arcade cabinet.

And if none of this sounds familiar to you, don't worry. In the *Timeline of Consoles* exhibit, the museum chronicles gaming history on three massive televisions controlled by giant Super Nintendo controllers. Elsewhere, the museum explores topics like the origins of video-game music; ultra-rare collectibles, including a Barbie-themed Game Boy (there are only two in existence); and early online gaming with an exhibit that shows a piece of data crawling along a dial-up internet connection.

One of the museum's most thought-provoking stages is titled *The Crash*, represented by a life-size replica of a 1983 game store in the final stages of closing for good. A \$50 game is marked down to \$5, and a sign reads "Everything Must Go." The exhibit harkens to a time in the early 1980s when anybody with a computer could make a

game for the Atari 2600, the most popular home system at the time. With no quality control or oversight, the market was flooded with bad games. Consumers didn't know the good titles from the bad, lost interest, and the industry crashed in 1983. If it weren't for the surprise success of the Nintendo Entertainment System in 1986 and its now-famous Mario character, video games could have been a historical footnote.

The National Videogame Museum is built mostly upon the collections of museum founders and curators John Hardie, Sean Kelly, and Joe Santulli, longtime friends from the East Coast who began collecting games 25 years ago. The trio collectively owns enough memorabilia to fill a space five times the size of the museum. They started exhibiting their collection at gaming conventions more than 15 years ago, all the while dreaming of starting a

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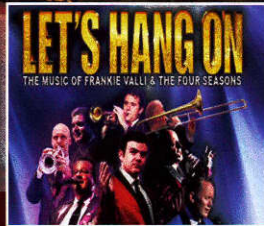
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THE NATIONAL VIDEOGAME MUSEUM

is at 8004 N. Dallas Pkwy. in Frisco. The museum opens Tue-Thu 10-5, Fri-Sat 10-8, and Sun 12-5. Tickets cost \$12; \$10 for children ages 4-10. Call **972/668-8400**; www.nvmusa.org.

brick-and-mortar museum. Their goal is to preserve video-game history, while also bringing together generations of gamers.

"It's fun when parents come in with their kids," Joe says. "It helps join the two generations. When a dad and his kids are on the couch and they're playing BurgerTime [a 1982 game in which players steer a chef through a maze of hamburger ingredients while avoiding killer condiments], the kids may struggle with it a bit, but when it begins to click, it's a pretty cool thing to watch."

It's a scene that plays out repeatedly as grown-ups dive back into their childhoods in the retro exhibits, including a 1980s-themed bedroom—complete with *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* posters, Pac-Man bed sheets, and a chance to play Duck Hunt on a 19-inch Zenith television from the era. While the dads may hold the upper hand in games like *Streets of Rage 2*, the tables turn when the intergenerational gamers pick up *Street Fighter 2*.

One of the museum's most popular features is the Pixel Dreams arcade, a cacophony of bleeps, beeps, and excitement. The arcade is packed with nearly 40 coin-operated machines, ranging from Centipede from 1980 to 1993's controversial *Mortal Kombat 2*.

Fully interactive and endlessly nostalgic, the National Videogame Museum is a one-of-a-kind shrine: a testament to the magic and charm of gaming's yesteryear. Bring quarters, your thumbs, and a renewed sense of childlike discovery. **L**

Brushing up on History

A trio of Austin museums

text by **Gene Fowler**



WITHIN A FEW MINUTES' WALK OF DOWNTOWN Austin's bustling Sixth Street entertainment district and historic Congress Avenue, a trio of museums at the city's Brush Square offer distinctive windows into the Texas capital's past. Visiting all three in one day, perhaps with a lunch break nearby at the Chez Nous French bistro or Carmelo's Italian Restaurant—the latter housed in the historic Old Depot Hotel—makes for a well-rounded history lesson that touches on the Texas Revolution, American literature, and the story of Austin firefighting.

When Republic of Texas President Mirabeau B. Lamar appointed his old friend Edwin Waller, a veteran of the Texas War of Independence and a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence, to plat the grid for the republic's new capital of Austin in 1839, Waller reserved spaces for four public squares.

A trio of museums at Austin's Brush Square offer distinctive windows into the city's past.

The city today maintains three of the squares as parks. Wooldridge Square, at West Ninth and Guadalupe streets, is a 1.73-acre park that slopes down from the sides like a natural amphitheater-in-the-round. A gazebo bandstand, built in 1910, graces the center of the park and has hosted innumerable concerts, speeches, weddings, and other events. A few blocks south, at Guadalupe and Fifth streets, Republic Square hosts outdoor film screenings, a farmers' market, and events of all sorts. Three stately live oak trees—known as Auction Oaks because lots in the new town were auctioned off beneath their shade in 1839—still stand here. Closed until spring 2017 for renovations, the park will feature a circular promenade around a central lawn.

The third, Brush Square, is a .73-acre park at East Fifth and Trinity streets. The still-active 1938 Art Deco Central Fire Station No. 1 anchors the park at Trinity and East Fifth streets, and within the station the Austin Fire Museum chronicles the heroism of the folks dedicated to keeping the capital city safe. Next door and also facing East Fifth, the O. Henry Museum interprets the career of writer O. Henry, born as William Sydney Porter. On the other side of the museum, the Susanna Dickinson home at East Fifth and Neches preserves the story of "the Messenger of the Alamo."

SUSANNA DICKINSON MUSEUM

Originally built at the southeast corner of East Fifth and Neches streets, the rock-and-rubble home of Susanna Dickinson and her fifth husband, Austin furniture maker/undertaker

Visitors to the Susanna Dickinson Museum can view vintage Texas images through a reproduction stereoscope, which makes them appear three-dimensional.

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The museum at Central Fire Station No. 1 presents the history of Austin firefighting. Writer O. Henry lived in this Austin home—now the O. Henry Museum—from 1893 to 1895.

Joseph Hannig, was moved to Brush Square in the early 2000s and restored for its new life as a museum.

A native of Tennessee, Susanna had come to Texas with her first husband, Almeron Dickinson, who died at the Alamo. Spared by Santa Anna, Susanna was dispatched from San Antonio with her infant daughter Angelina and a slave known as Ben to inform Sam Houston and the Texian army at Gonzales of the Alamo's fall. A 21st-Century painting in the museum, *The Alamo Messengers* by Bruce Marshall, vividly depicts the mournful trek.

When Susanna met Joseph Hannig in 1857, she was operating a boarding house in Lockhart. Some 20 years Susanna's junior, Hannig built the Austin home himself. A maple bedroom suite in one of three exhibit rooms includes a chest with "J. W. Hannig, Pecan Street" stenciled in a drawer, and a quilt made by museum staff is signed by descendants of Alamo defenders. "Mr. Hannig was not happy about Susanna's celebrity as an Alamo survivor," confides museum docent Elyssa



Browning. "Her account of the battle changed in various tellings through the years, so a fair amount of mystery about her remains."

So much mystery remains that a planned exhibit, *Who Is Susanna Dickinson? Myth, Memory, and Message*, has been postponed until summer 2017. Until that show opens, visitors can enjoy an exhibit celebrating the 40th anniversary of the O. Henry Pun-Off, an annual battle of wordplay held each spring on the Brush Square lawn.

THE O. HENRY MUSEUM

A 20-year-old William Sydney Porter headed west from North Carolina for his health in 1882. He worked on a ranch in LaSalle County, then moved to Austin in 1884. At some point, Porter lived part-time in San Antonio; he published his humor newspaper *Rolling Stone* in both cities. In the capital he also worked as a pharmacist, a draftsman at the General Land Office, and as a teller at the First National Bank. The last occupation got him convicted of embezzlement and sent to federal prison, though the question of his guilt or innocence has vexed literary historians for generations.

With his wife Athol and daughter Margaret, Porter spent about two

years in the small Queen Anne-style house—with floors of long-leaf pine from Bastrop—that now stands on Brush Square. Eventually moved to the square from Fourth and Trinity, the house became Austin's first public museum in 1934.

Visitors can see furnishings and other personal items, including Porter's drafting table, county maps he drew, and the 1870s dictionary he brought from North Carolina. Audio played through an antique gramophone horn contains what some believe is the only recording of Porter's voice. "Truth is indeed stranger than fiction," notes the mystery speaker. "Use characters you've come across in your lifetime."

In stories like "A Fog in Santone," "The Last of the Troubadours," and "Art and the Bronco," that's exactly what O. Henry did, transforming Texas people and places into literary art. Scholar Marian McClintock writes in



AUSTIN'S BRUSH SQUARE MUSEUMS

The Susanna Dickinson Museum is at 411 E. 5th in Austin. Call **512/974-3830**.

The Austin Fire Museum is at 401 E. 5th in Austin. Call **512/974-9357**.

The O. Henry Museum is at 409 E. 5th in Austin. Call **512/472-1903**.

All three sites open Wed-Sun 12-5. See www.austintexas.gov.

the introduction to the 1986 collection *O. Henry's Texas Stories* that his characters are "changed for the better by Texas" and that "their strength is bred into them by the land itself."

AUSTIN FIRE MUSEUM

There are perhaps no stronger Texans than the brave men and women who defy the demon's breath of fire.

The Austin Fire Museum, in two rooms of the still-working Central Fire Station No. 1, honors their sacrifice with photographs, artifacts, and firefighting equipment dating to the 1870s. A short 1952 home movie, shown in a video loop on a television screen, tells the story of the city's first black firefighters, including Willie Ray Davis, who later became Austin's first black fire chief.

As if a working fire station isn't enough to keep Brush Square from being a sleepy green spot, the museums host a lively series of concerts and other events. The O. Henry Museum sponsors discussions and reading groups, but the biggest party unfolds during the O. Henry Pun-Off World Championships held each May. "I'm a new man with a new outlook, and Iowa lot of that to you!" punned a recent winner in a state-themed category.

You can almost hear O. Henry groaning in his grave. 🐉

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Walking to the Water

The magic of Gorman Falls

text by **Sofia Sokolove**

MY FRIEND CALLIE AND I HAD BEEN HEARING about Gorman Falls—the 70-foot waterfall that’s the centerpiece of Colorado Bend State Park—for the past few years. So when we wrapped up a weekend getaway to San Saba this past spring, we followed our whims and detoured to the park before the 100-mile drive back to our homes in Austin. Our goal: to hike to the bottom of the waterfall.

While park rangers lead regular tours to the falls, we opted to tackle the three-mile, round-trip hike without a guide. At first,

Were we in Central Texas, or had we suddenly walked straight into Puerto Rico?

we questioned the wisdom of our decision; even though the map assured us we were headed in the right direction, nothing about the trail indicated that we were walking to water. We hiked single-file along a narrow, bone-dry path, with blistered cacti and yellow wildflowers sloping down from both sides. “It’s like a different planet,” I said to Callie as we navigated the rugged terrain. Instead of rushing water, we heard only the crunching of leaves and twigs under our feet and some faint rustlings.

Animal rustlings? There’s a good chance, confirmed Colorado Bend State Park Ranger Jason Hairston when I caught up with him after our visit. “Our park is very primitive, and it’s wild—that’s part of the appeal,” he explained. Colorado Bend State Park is a prime park for spotting wildlife, he noted, because while it spreads across more than 5,300 acres, the footprint of the infrastructure is pretty small, meaning that much of the park serves as a wilderness area.

During the day, he suggested, we should keep our eyes peeled for some of the 155 species of birds found in the park, including golden-cheeked warblers in the springtime and bald eagles in winter. And if we were camping, we could expect to see deer or armadillos once the sun set. We might even hear from some of the park’s coyotes. “Those are fun to hear at night!” said Jason, who may or may not have been joking.

Before Callie and I had the chance to see anything dart across or fly above our path, though, the terrain dramatically shifted. Suddenly, we found ourselves making our way down a steep hill and headed into a valley. This new, tree-lined path offered a different experience than the sunny path from earlier, and we stopped to marvel at how the differences—especially the soil (much softer) and the lush vegetation (much greener)—made us feel as

Gorman Falls, a 70-foot spring-fed waterfall, is the crown jewel of Colorado Bend State Park.

though we had walked into an entirely different climate.

Holding the rope railings as we steadied ourselves down the steep decline, we soon came face-to-face with Colorado Bend Park's pièce de résistance: Gorman Falls, a spring-fed, rushing 70-foot waterfall surrounded by cascading moss, ferns, and foliage. From the very beginning of our Gorman Falls hike, we'd encountered surprises at every turn. But this felt as unexpected as a cool day in August. The flowing water was spectacular, but the rich shades of green framing it on all sides truly distorted our sense of place. Were we in Central Texas, or had we suddenly walked straight into Puerto Rico?

"This area of the Hill Country is generally a lot drier, with sparser vegetation," explained Jason, "so when you do make your way down there, and you see sort of a jungle, and it has the feel

of a rainforest, it's quite a surprise. I think the contrast with the surroundings is what makes it special."

Jason told us that the view changes in the winter, too, when the trees lose their leaves. "Every time you go down," Jason said, "it's a unique experience."

Depending on the amount of rainfall, the waterfall itself changes during the year, as does the cliff formation, Jason explained. Over time, calcium-rich water deposits (called travertine) form on the cliff structure itself, creating stalactites—icicle-like formations usually found in caves. As water runs off over the years, the travertine builds up, sometimes creating crevices that alter the direction of the water's flow. That's why they refer to Gorman Falls as a "living waterfall," Jason told us.

Another big part of Jason's job is to preserve the park and keep the waterfall "living." "Being that Gorman Falls



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is in Bend, on the Colorado River just north of Lake Buchanan.

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is such a heavily visited area," he explained, "we have to be very careful about saving it ... so that in five or 50 years it will provide the same experience that visitors get today."

We easily could have spent all day, or even all weekend, exploring Colorado Bend State Park. The park offers 35 miles of hiking and biking trails, fishing, swimming, wildlife-viewing, kayaking and canoeing in Lake Buchanan, and even cave tours. We'll definitely be back to take in more of the park offerings now that we've gotten to know its heart, the mesmerizing Gorman Falls. **L**

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The Dirt on the Soap

Old-fashioned soap-making at Sauer-Beckmann living history farm

text by **Cynthia J. Drake**

IT'S 9 A.M. ON A SATURDAY, AND MOST OF THE FARM chores have already been done.

Stephen Baethge, wearing a straw hat, muddy boots, a work shirt, and rust-colored pants with suspenders, throws some logs on a pit, strikes a match, and settles in for yet another task—making a batch of soap for the Sauer-Beckmann Farmstead at Lyndon B. Johnson State Park & Historic Site in Stonewall. The primary ingredients: animal fat, lye, water, and hours spent watching the kettle bubble and froth.

Baethge, a park ranger, points to a display of soap he made previously. “I’m gonna tell you, I made that out of some pretty rank lard—rancid animal fat and bacon grease—because the fresh animal fat was too valuable for cooking and baking,” he says.

Baethge makes lye soap the old-fashioned way as part of the

Available in the gift shop for \$4 to \$6, a bar of the farm’s lye soap gives visitors a tangible link to the farm’s hard-working history.

Sauer-Beckmann farm’s interpretation of the hardscrabble life and times of rural Texans in 1915 to 1918. By operating the farm according to early 20th-Century practices, the park offers insight into Texas’ rural roots and the childhood of President Lyndon Johnson, who was born nearby in 1908. Available in the gift shop for \$4 to \$6, a bar of the farm’s lye soap gives visitors a tangible link to the farm’s hard-working history.

Every day, park employees dressed in traditional garb demonstrate old-time chores like milking cows,



slopping pigs, gardening, and cooking over a wood-burning stove. Visitors can occasionally even help collect eggs from the chicken coop.

The Sauer family first settled the farmstead in 1869, building rock and log cabins and raising 10 children here. The Beckmann family acquired the farm in 1900, grew cotton, and added on to the structures. In the 1960s, a Beckmann descendent sold the farm to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.

“Don’t be looking for electricity; don’t be looking for running water in those buildings,” Baethge calls out to visitors. “Electricity didn’t truly arrive in rural America ‘til the 1940s.”

That meant meat preservation created its own rituals, and soap is a byproduct of this cycle. At the Sauer-Beckmann farm, butchering pigs and cows is done once or twice a year, in the fall, winter, or early spring, “because Mother Nature is giving us natural refrigeration,” Baethge explains.

After butchering the animals, the park rangers start the curing process, which includes coating the meat with a curing mixture of salt, sugar, and preservatives; and grinding meat scraps to be stuffed into sausage casings. Bacon and hams are kept in a covered pan for the first 10 days; on a daily basis, farmers turn the meat and pour out any excess liquid. After 10 days, the meat is placed in a crock of lard for storage.

After issuing a warning that it’s no pretty sight for vegetarians, Baethge lifts up a lid on an earthenware crock and dips a metal hook into the fat (in the hot summer months, the lard is liquefied), fishing out a sausage link. The cured meats are used in the daily meals served to park employees at noon.

“They didn’t throw anything away—everything was utilized,” Baethge says, even down to the eggshells, which were fed back to the chickens to fortify their own eggshells.

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The lard that preserves the meat is kept for cooking and baking until it goes rancid, which can take a year or two. “It kind of smells like latex paint if you sniff on it,” he says. And then it gets a new life as lye soap, which was used to treat poison ivy and chigger bites; wash hands, floors, and laundry;

Every day, park employees dressed in traditional garb demonstrate old-time chores like milking cows, slopping pigs, gardening, and cooking over a wood-burning stove.

and for the weekly bath. Occasionally, it was also used as punishment in the mouths of defiant children.

As the lard, lye, and water cook together over the heat of the open fire, the mixture goes from white to pale yellow and from liquid to a pudding consistency. Soap was originally made



THE SAUER-BECKMANN FARMSTEAD

is part of Lyndon B. Johnson State Park & Historic Site, located two miles east of Stonewall on US 290. The farm opens 8-4:30 daily. Free admission. Call **830/644-2252**; www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/lyndon-b-johnson.

with wood ash, but lye—technically known as sodium hydroxide or caustic soda, and commonly known as drain cleaner—replaced ash as a safer and more predictable substitute. In their day, the Sauers and Beckmanns would have purchased lye from a general store. It takes hours of cooking to achieve just the right amount of viscosity, which Baethge tests by dipping a paddle into it.

After the soap mixture is cooled and dried, Baethge cuts it into bars. He notes that if you check the ingredients list on a bar of Dove soap, you’ll find “sodium tallowate,” the technical term for the exact ingredients he’s using today. The farm’s lye soap is unscented, no

fancy fragrance added. “One hundred years ago, they were only taking one bath a week, so if they were clean, they were smelling pretty good,” he jokes.

The process of making lye soap was likely one of the easier tasks on the farm when the settlement’s first inhabitants lived here. In that sense, the Sauer-Beckmann farm’s soap-making demonstration drives home the amount of hard work that daily life required in the Texas countryside in the early 20th Century.

“It’s changed my life at home, to be honest with you,” says Baethge, who’s been working here for 12 years. “It’s made me very grateful for what we have today. Very grateful.”

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PLATES

DRINK + COOK + EAT

Got Matcha?

It's easy being green at Zhi Tea in Austin

text by Veronica Meewes

The latest trend in green tea, matcha has a creamy mouthfeel, tastes slightly sweet, and is packed with antioxidants.

JUST WHEN IT SEEMED LIKE COFFEE COULDN'T get any hotter, a green alternative started to emerge in cafés all over the country—matcha, a type of green tea that has been popular in Asia for centuries. The American coffee community has begun to embrace this time-tested caffeinated beverage for its vibrant earthiness, health benefits, and ability to calmly energize.

While entire cafes dedicated to matcha have popped up on the east and west coasts, matcha is finally stepping into the Texas limelight—and that has a lot to do with Zhi Tea. The Austin-based wholesale and retail tea shop has been spreading the good word of tea since 2007, when Zhi started selling its organic tea blends online. In 2008, Zhi opened the doors to its eastside tea house. These days, Zhi Tea is one of a few tea purveyors in the state actively educating restaurants and coffee shops on the tradition of matcha.

Unlike most teas, which are infusions of tea leaves in hot water, matcha is produced by grinding dried whole green tea leaves, then briskly whisking the powder into a ceramic bowl of hot water that's around 190 degrees Fahrenheit, creating a frothy and creamy drink that is simultaneously earthy, vegetal, and slightly sweet.

While entire cafes dedicated to matcha have popped up on the east and west coasts, matcha is finally stepping into the Texas limelight.

Zhi Tea owner Jeffrey Lorien visited Japan two years ago to tour the farms and factories where matcha is grown and produced. Later, one of the families that sells Zhi tea overseas came to Texas to perform a traditional tea ceremony for Zhi employees. The family also demonstrated an abbreviated preparation process that could work in a fast-paced café, and Lorien trained his staff in the simplified method of making a tasty cup.

"Everyone's always looking for these new, great-tasting, healthy things," says Lorien. "And if matcha's not *the* healthiest beverage on the planet, it's certainly one of them."

While some green teas are cultivated in open fields beneath full sunlight, matcha is partially shaded for several weeks before being

At Zhi Tea's tea house in east Austin, customers can sample numerous varieties of green and black teas in addition to matcha.





MORE MATCHA

See texashighways.com/drink for more spots to find matcha in Texas.

harvested, which causes the plant to produce additional chlorophyll and pull more nutrients from the soil.

“That also gives it a full-bodied, umami flavor,” explains employee Melanie Mock. “And matcha is unique because it’s ground from the entire leaf. So, when you drink it, you’re getting the entire leaf and all of its nutrients.”

Matcha also has high levels of l-theanine, an amino acid that complements caffeine to produce a sense of calm and focus without the jitters associated with coffee drinking.

“The reason that tea affects you differently than coffee, other than having less caffeine, is that it has l-theanine, which is a huge component in the tea experience,” explains Lorien. “It allows people to be awakened from the caffeine, but focused and relaxed.”

In a past life, this self-proclaimed “tea guru” was actually a coffee junkie—until he started experiencing acid reflux, crankiness, and major energy crashes. “Tea has literally changed my life, which is why I started a tea company,” says Lorien. “The magic of tea is that it’s one of the easiest things to incorporate into your lifestyle with the most benefits.”

Lorien says that the antioxidant-rich green tea continues to rise in popularity, and fortunately for consumers in the United States, Japan is focusing on exports rather than the Japanese market, which helps keep prices stable.

“The young people in Japan want coffee now—surprise, surprise!” says Lorien. “It’s more Western, it’s more cool, it fits their lifestyle, and they work their butts off. Tea is considered their grandparents’ stuff now. So instead of trying to convince young people to drink tea, Japan has decided to increase exports.”

Zhi Tea sells wholesale matcha to Austin-area restaurants and coffee

shops like Wheatsville Co-op, Thai Fresh, Epoch, and Sa-Tén, where it’s blended into juices, smoothies, and coffee drinks. And matcha goes beyond beverages: The Driskill Hotel’s pastry department uses the tea in desserts like macarons and marshmallows.

Located at the intersection of Springdale and Bolm roads, Zhi Tea offers something that can’t be found anywhere else in town: a traditional matcha bowl prepared tableside.

“Even Japanese restaurants and cafes aren’t doing it yet!” says Lorien. “But ‘yet’ is the good news. That’s where we come in! Part of the whole experience of Zhi Tea is education. Everyone here is trained to help people through the journey of tea—demystifying it while keeping it fun.”

Employee Kat Malone whisks each bowl tableside before presenting the creamy, green beverage on a tray accompanied by a small dish of traditional Japanese sweets. Today, that means beautifully paper-wrapped, melt-in-your-mouth candies.

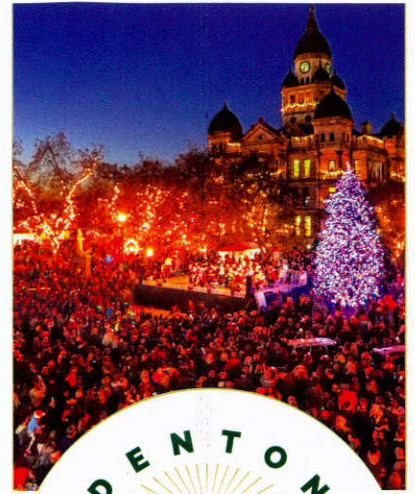
“I was talking to this one customer, and he said he likes the experience of drinking it out of a bowl and having both of the sides of his body engaged,” she says. “Part of what a tea ceremony is about is having a balance between the left and the right side so you are grounded while you’re drinking.”

Malone says she is looking forward to experiencing her first tea ceremony in Japan soon; meanwhile, the Zhi Tea team continues to learn more about the history of tea. Colleague Melanie Mock is currently immersed in a book about the intricacies of the traditional Japanese tea ceremony. “That’s what I like about tea—there’s so much history and meaning behind it,” she says. “You’re never done learning.”



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Make Time for Tea Cakes

A treasure trove of heirloom recipes

text by **Lori Moffatt**

IN HER NEW COOKBOOK *FROM TEA CAKES TO TAMALES: Third-Generation Texas Recipes*, journalist and former *Texas Highways* editor Nola McKey returns to her roots as she explores how recipes, cooking, and food bring families and communities together.

“About 20 years ago, my son Clay came home one evening and told me that he needed a traditional family dish to take to school the next day,” says Nola. “I hadn’t thought about my Grandma McKey’s tea cakes in decades, but they were the first things that came to mind.”

A tea cake—a simple sugar cookie sometimes embellished by lemon zest or other flavorings—was a common treat baked in

Recipes from more than a dozen ethnic groups complement traditionally Southern recipes like red velvet cake.



HEIRLOOM RECIPE TIPS

See www.texashighways.com for tips on preserving your own family recipes.

households across the United States in years past. “Grandma kept them in a ceramic container next to the spoon jar, and one of the things I always associated with going to Grandma’s house was that I could have tea cakes,” recalls Nola.

“I had written down some of her recipes when I was in college, but I hadn’t touched them since then,” she continues. “But as I made my grandmother’s tea cakes that night, and the kitchen filled with the familiar smells, the memories came back. Taking them out of the oven brought even more memories. When we tasted them—thick, pillowy, with a hint of lemon—it was almost like a visit from Grandma.”

The power of scent to recall memory has been well-documented anecdotally and in literature. French novelist Marcel Proust famously described the phenomenon in his novel *Remembrance of Things Past* (also known as *In Search of Lost Time*), in which a character describes a similar olfactory memory-jog in response to the delicate butter cakes known as *madeleines*. Science bears this out, too: Aromas, it turns out, are first processed by the olfactory bulb, which starts inside the nose and runs along the bottom of the brain, with direct connections to the amygdala and the hippocampus, areas of the brain that have strong associations with emotion and memory.

“After that first experience with the tea cakes,” Nola says, “I started reflecting on the power of family recipes to connect us with people who had passed on, and I also started wondering how many people cook with heirloom recipes. So when I retired a few years ago, I started working on the cookbook.”

As contributors sent her family recipes—scalloped potatoes, egg

Not too sweet and sometimes flavored with lemon zest, tea cakes may be the ultimate heirloom treat.

noodles, gingerbread, watermelon-rind pickles, wild mustang grape jam, and dozens more—they also trusted her with their colorful family stories, and Nola took on the unexpected role of family historian. “One woman shared a recipe for her grandmother’s laborious chicken-and-dumplings,” Nola says. “After she rolls out the dumplings on the kitchen counter, she drapes them over the backs of chairs to dry, and the process reminds her of being a child at home with her mom and grandmother.”

With help from UT-San Antonio’s Institute of Texan Cultures, Nola eventually found contributors from more than a dozen of the many ethnic groups that inform Texas’ rich culture. Recipes from Germany, Poland, Italy, and other countries complement traditionally Southern recipes like red velvet cake and cane syrup pie.

One of the book’s most compelling tales relates the story of the spirited Marie Sophie Victoire Lebel Commins

RECIPE

GRANDMA’S OLD-FASHIONED TEA CAKES

(Adapted from the book *From Tea Cakes to Tamales: Third-Generation Texan Recipes* by Nola McKey)

- ✦ 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter
- ✦ 1 cup sugar
- ✦ 2 eggs
- ✦ 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ✦ 2 teaspoons lemon zest
or 1 teaspoon lemon extract
- ✦ 2 cups sifted flour
- ✦ 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ✦ 1/2 teaspoon salt

1. Cream butter and sugar together in a large bowl. Add eggs and beat well. Stir in vanilla and lemon zest.
2. Blend flour and remaining ingredients together and add to butter mixture; mix well. Place dough on a floured board and roll out to 1/4-inch thickness; cut into 2-inch rounds or use a cookie cutter to make special shapes. Place cookies on a lightly greased baking sheet and bake at 375° for 10-12 minutes, or until edges are golden brown. Remove to wire racks to cool. Makes about 3 dozen cookies.



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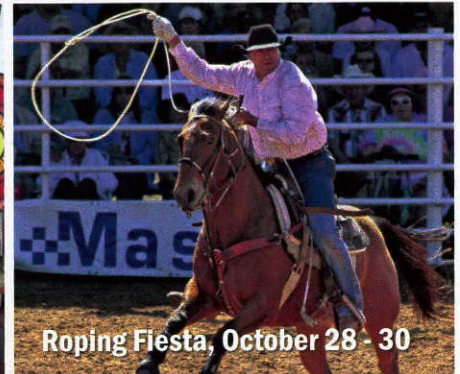
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FROM TEA CAKES TO TAMALES

Find *From Tea Cakes to Tamales: Third-Generation Texas Recipes* by Nola McKey (Texas A&M University Press) at bookstores and online.

Stewart (1842-1915), a young Belgian girl who was sent to a convent because her parents deemed her too tall—to more than six feet—to marry. She learned to cook at the convent, but eventually escaped with an equally rebellious friend and made her way by ship to America, where she married and ran a spa called the Fairfield Inn in Mineral Wells. Marie Sophie’s recipe for French plum pudding, submitted by her great-great granddaughter Anne Shannon Lewis Isham, appears in the “Desserts” section, which Nola says proved more difficult to whittle than others, as contributors shared more heirloom dessert recipes than any other category.

The book also includes tips on how to preserve your own family recipes, a chapter on festivals and museums where readers can learn more about Texas’ culinary history, and a trove of black-and-white family photos that speak volumes about the state’s multicultural influences.

Another entertaining theme emerges if you pay attention to contributors’ names: Such affectionate nicknames as “Big Mama,” “NanNan,” “Momie,” “Gran,” “Maw-Maw” and “Nannie” seem as universal as the tea cakes that started Nola’s journey.

“At some point, in fact,” says Nola, “I had to start turning away tea cake recipes. It turns out they are the quintessential Texas heirloom recipe.” Slightly sweet and infinitely adaptable with additions ranging from anise to lemon zest, these time-tested nibbles hit all the pleasure centers with their sweet, buttery simplicity.

Try baking some yourself; you may create a new family tradition of your own. 🍪



Leave it to Bevers

Comfort Food in Chappell Hill

text by **Melissa Gaskill**

WHEN IN NEED OF SUSTENANCE ON MY frequent travels around Texas, I seek out local places—establishments where I know the food will be fresh and I can count on a few locals hanging around to make me feel welcome. For example: Bevers Kitchen in Chappell Hill.

On a recent Saturday night, I arrive to meet my friend Debbie Jenkins, who lives a few miles away and had first turned me on to this local favorite. For the Saturday dinner special, the restaurant offers three types of enchiladas—beef-and-cheese,

verde (chicken in tomatillo sauce), and chicken-and-spinach. I choose the latter, two corn tortillas stuffed with tender pieces of chicken topped by a creamy cheese sauce with flavorful bits of spinach.

Debbie's grilled chicken salad comes in a large bowl, and it's a generous mix of fresh greens, morsels of chicken, and Gouda cheese. Our waiter leaves her a bottle of house-made raspberry vinaigrette dressing. While we nibble and catch up, the restaurant's two dining rooms fill up and a line forms on the covered porch, its worn boards creaking beneath people's feet.

The restaurant's namesake, Ann Bevers, bought this 1907 Victorian-style cottage in 1984, shortly after she and her husband Ken moved to the area from Midland to be closer to their parents. Ann originally opened a real estate office in the building, but with business slow, she decided to use one room to sell sandwiches, soup, and ice cream. When delighted locals asked for more than this limited menu, she began cooking plate lunches.

The first few years, it looked like the café might not succeed. But Ann kept cooking, eating many of those plate lunches herself, while Ken worked in Houston to pay the bills.

Meanwhile, current owner Alejandra Ray arrived to Texas from the tiny state of Colima, Mexico. In 1987, she made her way to Chappell Hill and found a job at the café. When the restaurant's pastry chef walked out one day in 1989, Ann recalls, she turned to Alejandra and said, "You're my new pie lady."

Alejandra protested at first. "Pies were something I didn't want to do," she says. "I don't like to do things I don't know how to do. But she said to keep trying; that I was going to be good at it."

By 2001, Ann's real-estate business had taken off, and she decided to sell the restaurant to Alejandra. "I loved

In addition to enchiladas and pies, folks come here for Friday's dinner specials.

Alejandra Ray started working at Bevers Kitchen in 1987 as a cook, and she eventually became the restaurant's "pie lady" and owner.

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working at Bevers so much, I had decided I wanted to have my own restaurant," Alejandra says.

These days, Alejandra's family recipes from Mexico—sirloin steaks topped with pico de gallo, fish tacos, enchiladas, and fajitas—complement such comfort-food offerings as chicken-and-dumplings, hand-battered onion rings, and chopped steaks. Fortunately, all go well with pie, as Alejandra took her "pie lady" role seriously.

Diners with dessert on their minds face an abundance of pie options ranging from coconut meringue to apple-pecan-praline. In a tall, circular case near the front door, whole pies tempt with layers of fluffy meringue towering higher than a beehive hairdo. More line a bakery case across the back of the dining area. Alejandra adds new

Known for comfort food like chicken-fried steak and meringue-topped pies, Bevers Kitchen also has a small gift shop.

flavors on a regular basis—the latest a white-chocolate strawberry—with some 30 or 40 choices in all. During the holidays, the restaurant sells 400 pies a week; in a slow week, about 200 go out the door. Each and every one comes from a small kitchen in the back, made with the help of Alejandra's daughter, Olga Keese. Ann Bevers remembers that when Olga first started helping make pies, she was so little that she had to stand on a stool to reach the countertop.

In addition to enchiladas and pies, folks come here for Friday's dinner specials, fresh-baked bread, and other favorites, including pinto beans

seasoned with jalapeño, cilantro, and onion. "People love my pinto bean recipe," Alejandra says. "The key is finding a pinto bean that cooks well, because not all of them do."

In a tall, circular case near the front door, whole pies tempt with layers of fluffy meringue towering higher than a beehive hairdo.

Growing up on Mexico's central Pacific coast, Alejandra and her family raised most of the food they ate. Poor in the traditional sense, she says she felt rich when it came to food. "Everything was fresh. My father was a fisherman, and we ate fresh fish almost every day. When I came here, I added more fresh things to the menu. I always try to find the best ingredients, too. I use real vanilla and real butter and mostly fresh vegetables."

And the secret to her savory, bright enchilada sauce just might be fresh garlic and real butter, which adds a piquant kick and a silky mouthfeel. Debbie and I leave nary a bite on our plates, but we still order pieces of French silk and apple pie. Some versions of French silk pie are topped with a mere dollop of whipped cream, but this one has a creamy snowbank of it over a deep layer of chocolate. The apple pie wins us over with thick, cinnamon-tinged slices of fruit nestled in a flaky, buttery crust.

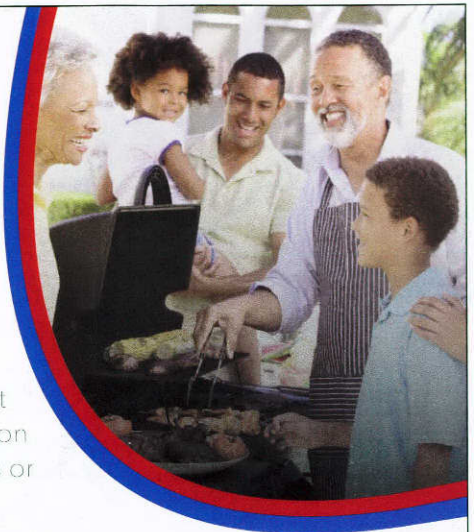
Alejandra hopes to expand her always-crowded kitchen, but plans to keep the restaurant itself small. "That way I can be in touch with everything," she says. "I'm grateful for the faithfulness of my customers, and I really enjoy cooking for them." 🍴



BEVERS KITCHEN

is at 5162 Main St. in Chappell Hill. Hours: Mon-Thu 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Fri-Sat 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Call 979/836-4178; www.bevers-kitchen.com.

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Texas Bookish Destinations

A reader's ramble through
the Lone Star State

*

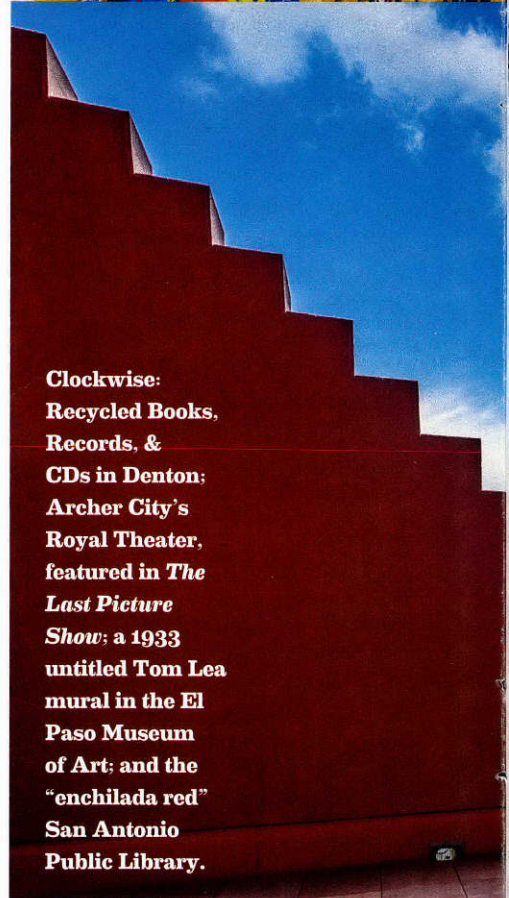
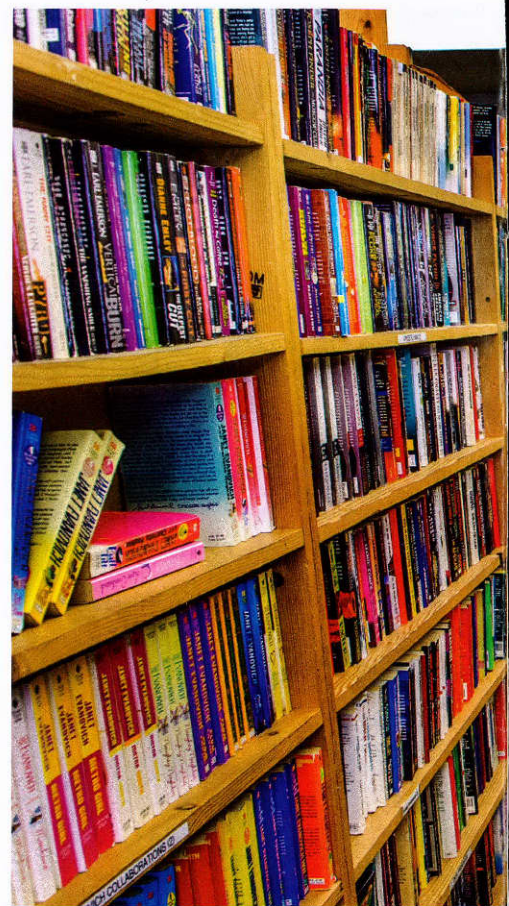
Every fall the streets around the Texas State Capitol sprout huge white event tents, and crowds of booklovers—some 40,000 visitors of all ages—come from miles around to hear hundreds of popular authors discuss their works, snag signed copies, and enjoy food, fun, and live music. The Texas Book Festival, now in its 21st year, is one of the few such events in the nation to invite readers inside a capitol building—and it definitely puts Austin at the top of Texas “bookish destinations” for literary travelers.

What makes a place a literary destination? Fans might seek out a setting of a well-known novel, such as that of Larry McMurtry’s *The Last Picture Show* in Archer City, or a great independent bookstore like Front Street Books in Alpine or Recycled Books, Records, & CDs in Denton. They might be drawn by a work of art like the often-photographed sculpture of Old Yeller and his master in Mason, hometown of author Fred Gipson.

It might be an institution like the enchilada-red public library in downtown San Antonio, co-host of the annual San Antonio Book Festival. Or, a site like the infamous Texas School Book Depository in Dallas, now open to visitors as the Sixth Floor Museum. It might be a once-a-year spectacle that’s worth the trip, like the George West Storyfest (November 4-6 in George West, “the Storytelling Capital of Texas”).

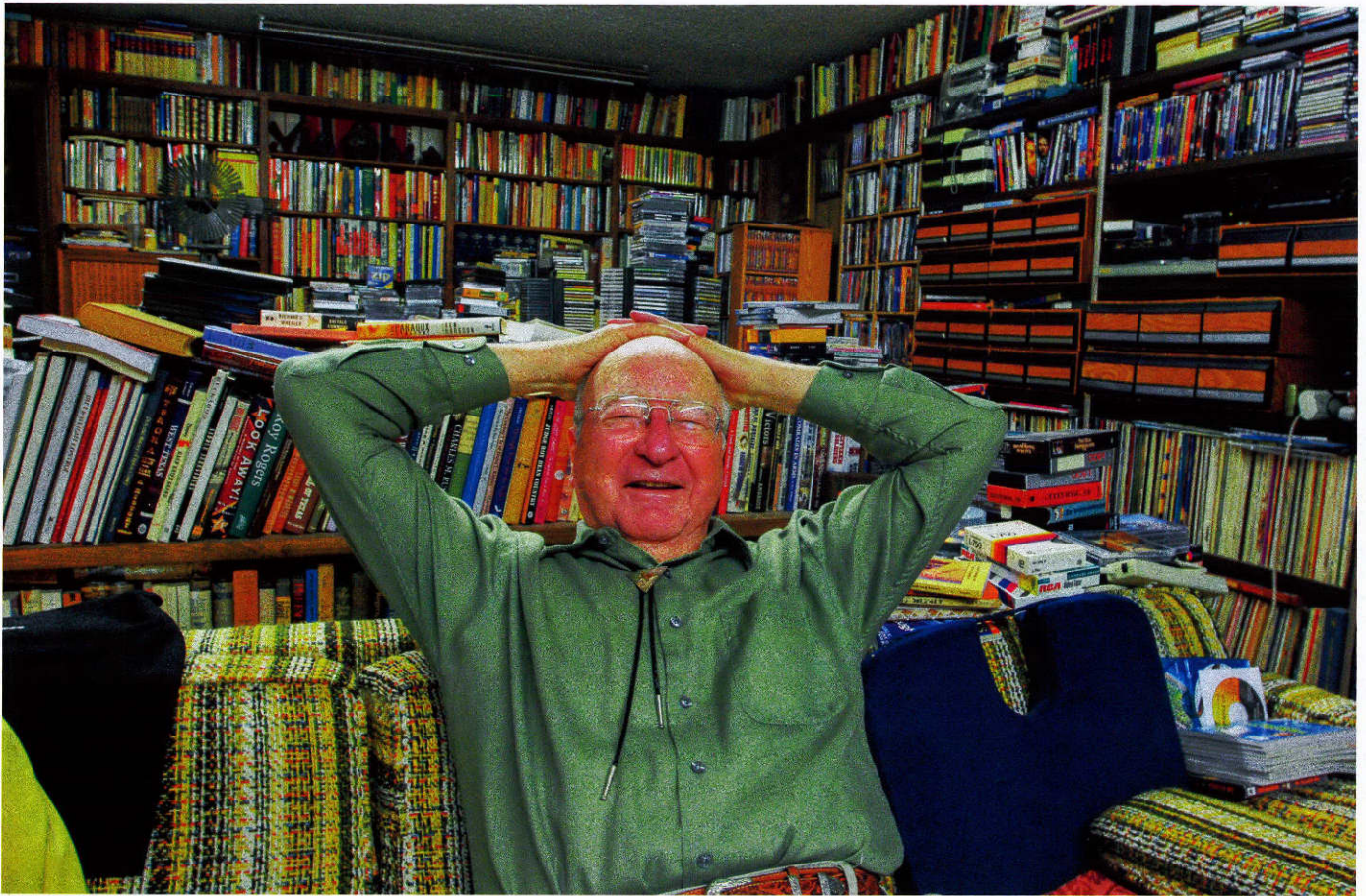
As a lifelong reader and now editor and publisher of *Lone Star Literary Life*, a website and email newsletter dedicated to Texas books and writers, I’ve planned my travels around my interest in books for years. Here are some of my favorite Texas bookish destinations:

Text by Kay Ellington



Clockwise:
Recycled Books,
Records, &
CDs in Denton;
Archer City's
Royal Theater,
featured in *The*
Last Picture
Show; a 1933
untitled Tom Lea
mural in the El
Paso Museum
of Art; and the
“enchilada red”
San Antonio
Public Library.





Austin

The Texas Book Festival is only one reason for booklovers to mark Austin on their itineraries. Slated for November 5-6 this year, it will feature festival co-founder Laura Bush with her daughter Jenna Bush Hager as authors of *Our Great Big Backyard*, which celebrates the centennial of the National Park Service. More than 280 writers “from celebrity chefs to brilliant debut novelists to internet celebrities, political writers, and comedians are on the roster this year,” says Julie Wernersbach, the festival’s literary director.

Austin is also home to a bounty of chain and independent bookstores of all stripes—from the two-story stalwart BookPeople to BookWoman, the city’s longtime feminist bookstore. It’s possible to catch a reading at one of them any given day or night, or at offbeat spots like the Whip In or the Spider House Ballroom, where open mics and spoken-word events draw crowds.

The city’s rich university life also means terrific opportunities for bookish visitors. The University of Texas’ Harry Ransom Center for the Humanities, which holds a renowned collection of manuscripts and rare books (including a Gutenberg Bible and three copies of the *Shakespeare First Folio*, the 1623 collection of the Bard’s plays), is open to the public for exhibitions and tours.

One of Austin’s best-known literary residences is the William Sidney Porter House, the downtown cottage where the author otherwise known as O. Henry lived in the 1890s.

The historic structure houses the O. Henry Museum, which explores Porter’s life in Austin and hosts literary events, including the annual Pun-Off World Championships each May.

*

Abilene

Abilene is the gateway to West Texas, where cedar and live oak trees give way to mesquite, and it’s also the official Storybook Capital of Texas. The Storybook Sculpture Project brightens the city’s downtown with lively depictions of characters like the Grinch, Man in the Moon, and Jack Frost. Young readers—and those who once were—can also delight in the National Center for Children’s Illustrated Literature (NCCIL), known colloquially as “the Nickel.” Visit in June and enjoy the Children’s Art & Literacy Festival, featuring a storybook character parade, readings from nationally recognized illustrators, and other family activities.

Abilene is also home to the West Texas Book Festival, which celebrated its 16th year in September. Bookseller, author, and journalist Glenn Dromgoole remembers the festival’s launch. “None of us had ever even been to a book festival, so we really had no idea what we were doing,” he says. “We just started inviting authors to come.” More than 100 of them did—and a popular Texas literary tradition was born. Glenn and his wife, Carol, also run the Texas Star Trading Co., a bookstore and gift shop specializing in all things Texas.

*

San Angelo

In San Angelo, friends and fans of longtime resident Elmer Kelton raised more than \$120,000 in donations to build a statue of the city's favorite literary son. The statue at the stylish downtown library pays tribute to the Western Writers of America's "Best All-Time Western Writer," as do a downtown mural and a water lily variety named in his honor in the city's International Waterlily Collection.

Looking for collectible Kelton books? The Cactus Book Shop caters to aficionados of Western literature and Texana. Owner Felton Cochran posts on his website, "I'm particularly proud of my Texas County and Regional History section, which takes up over 70 linear feet of shelving!" Also downtown, Eggemeyer's General Store is a bustling mercantile in the heart of the city, where many a Texas cookbook author has signed books for the store's foodie clientele.

*

Midland-Odessa

If you believe there's nothing to Midland and Odessa but pump jacks and pipe yards, think again. In the Permian Basin, which has a population of more than 300,000 residents, the user-friendly Midland Centennial Library brings in some of the state's leading authors to interact with readers. Also in Midland, the George W. Bush Childhood Home offers children a free book with each visit. And events like Midland's Permian Basin Writers' Workshop and Odessa's Books in the Basin invite book fans to appreciate the talents of writers who hail from the area, such as Stephen Graham Jones, Patrick Dearen, and Leila Meacham.

Left: The late Elmer Kelton in his home office in January 2008.
Below: Kathy Murphy in a 2010 photo at her Beauty and the Book salon in Jefferson.
She has since moved the business to Hawkins.

For more on Texas bookish destinations, check out the online newspaper *Lone Star Literary Life*, which covers Texas authors and their work. www.lonestarliterary.com.





“Odessa defies expectations,” says Randy Ham, director of the Odessa Council for the Arts & Humanities. “People think of us as oil and football, but we are so much more.” Indeed, you can visit Ratliff Stadium, which inspired the book *Friday Night Lights*, as well as the Globe Theatre at Odessa College—a full-size replica of London’s historic Globe Theatre—which stages Shakespeare’s plays and other dramatic works.

*

El Paso

Not only is El Paso in a different time zone, its international flavor yields an experience unlike any other in the state. El Pasoan Tom Lea, an author and artist who wrote the novels *The Brave Bulls* and *The Wonderful Country* as well as numerous nonfiction classics, has left his legacy throughout the city. The downtown El Paso Public Library building is itself a worthy starting point, with its celebration of local artists and its excellent Border Heritage Collection. In the atrium behind the modern entrance is the original 1954 foyer with Lea’s 1956 mural *Southwest*, a rendering of the regional landscape.

A pop-up book at the National Center for Children’s Illustrated Literature in Abilene; Murder By The Book’s cheeky poison display in Houston; and the Midland Centennial Library.

One of the best vistas overlooking El Paso and Juárez, Mexico, is from Tom Lea Upper Park, situated above El Paso High School. Or call ahead to visit the Tom Lea Institute and see his archives. The Institute is the springboard for a wider exploration of the Tom Lea Trail, which currently includes Lea murals in 11 Texas cities.

National Book Award winner and Rhode Island native Cormac McCarthy

Check out lists of Texas’ top bookstores and classic Texas books at www.texashighways.com.

came to El Paso in the 1970s to write in “one of the last real cities left in America” and achieved both international renown and a devoted following. The author of the Border Trilogy series lived in a one-story adobe home on Coffin Avenue that later served as a touchstone for author and artist Peter Josyph’s essays in the book *Cormac McCarthy’s House*. Subsequent owners renovated the house, which is unassuming and unmarked. Though McCarthy departed El Paso some years back, his legend thrives here.

For a quirky book-scout’s excursion, stop into Martin’s Book Store at 2120 Montana. You just might be rewarded with the discovery of volumes by El Paso literary lights—Daniel Chacon, Dagoberto Gilb, Sarah McCoy, Rigoberto González, Leon Claire Metz, Benjamin Alire Sáenz, Estela Portillo Trambley, Sergio Troncoso, and publishers/writers Bobby and Lee Byrd among them—that will open the door to a new appreciation of this border city.

*

Hawkins

Across the state near the East Texas Piney Woods town of Hawkins, you can have your hair done and talk Texas books at the same time. Kathy L. Murphy’s Beauty and the Book is likely the only combination hair salon-bookstore in the country. It’s also the headquarters of the Pulpwood Queens and Timber Guys book clubs.

Sixteen years ago, Murphy, a book publisher’s representative with a bent for big hair, started the book club out of her salon with six members. Members from the club’s nearly 600 chapters converge for Murphy’s annual “Girlfriend Weekend,” a gathering for gals and guys each January complete with tiaras, pink boas, and a book-character costume ball. This coming January 12–15 in Nacogdoches, the 2017 Girlfriend Weekend will honor the late Southern novelist Pat Conroy.

“It’s the only annual meeting of book clubs in the world, and more than 50 authors will appear,” Murphy says. “Pat was such a great guy when he came to the Pulpwood Queens meeting before. He really interacted with the readers, and we loved him.”

*

Kyle

The contribution of women to Texas’ literary development is emphasized in Kyle at the Katherine Anne Porter Literary Center. Porter was born on May 15, 1890, in Indian Creek. At age two, following the death of her mother, she moved with her father to her grandmother’s modest house in Kyle. The restored home, furnished with period décor, hosts tours by appointment and visiting writer events throughout the year.

Porter left Texas in 1915, moving to Chicago to start a career as journalist and writer, during which she won the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award. Her first short story was published in 1922, and her first collection, *Flowering Judas*

and *Other Stories*, in 1930. Her 1962 novel *Ship of Fools* made the bestseller lists for months—and made her a millionaire.

*

Houston

No list of Texas bookish destinations would be complete without a nod to the state’s largest city. Houston is rich in opportunities for bookish travelers. More than two dozen independent and chain bookstores dot the city’s literary landscape. Brazos Bookstore, Blue Willow Books, Murder By The Book, River Oaks Bookstore, and Kaboom Books are among those regularly featuring author events.

Houston is a particularly rich locale for emerging writers, a trend partly due to the influence of the University of Houston Creative Writing Program. Today, literary arts organizations like Writespace, the Houston Writers’ Guild, and Inprint also cultivate local writing talent.

Booklovers will want to stay tuned for the reopening of The Printing Museum after a May 2016 fire prompted a temporary closure. Founded by four printers who wanted to share their vast collections of printed books and documents with the community, the museum first opened in 1982.

*

Archer City

Archer City may be one of the smallest towns on this list, but it’s a bookish destination that can’t be ignored. Native son Larry McMurtry has been awarded Pulitzer, Grammy, and Emmy prizes for writing inspired by his life in Texas and his Panhandle Plains hometown. The movies *The Last Picture Show* and *Texasville*—both based on McMurtry novels—were filmed in Archer City. The Royal Theater, the historic cinema highlighted in both films, remains open as a venue for theater and musical performances.

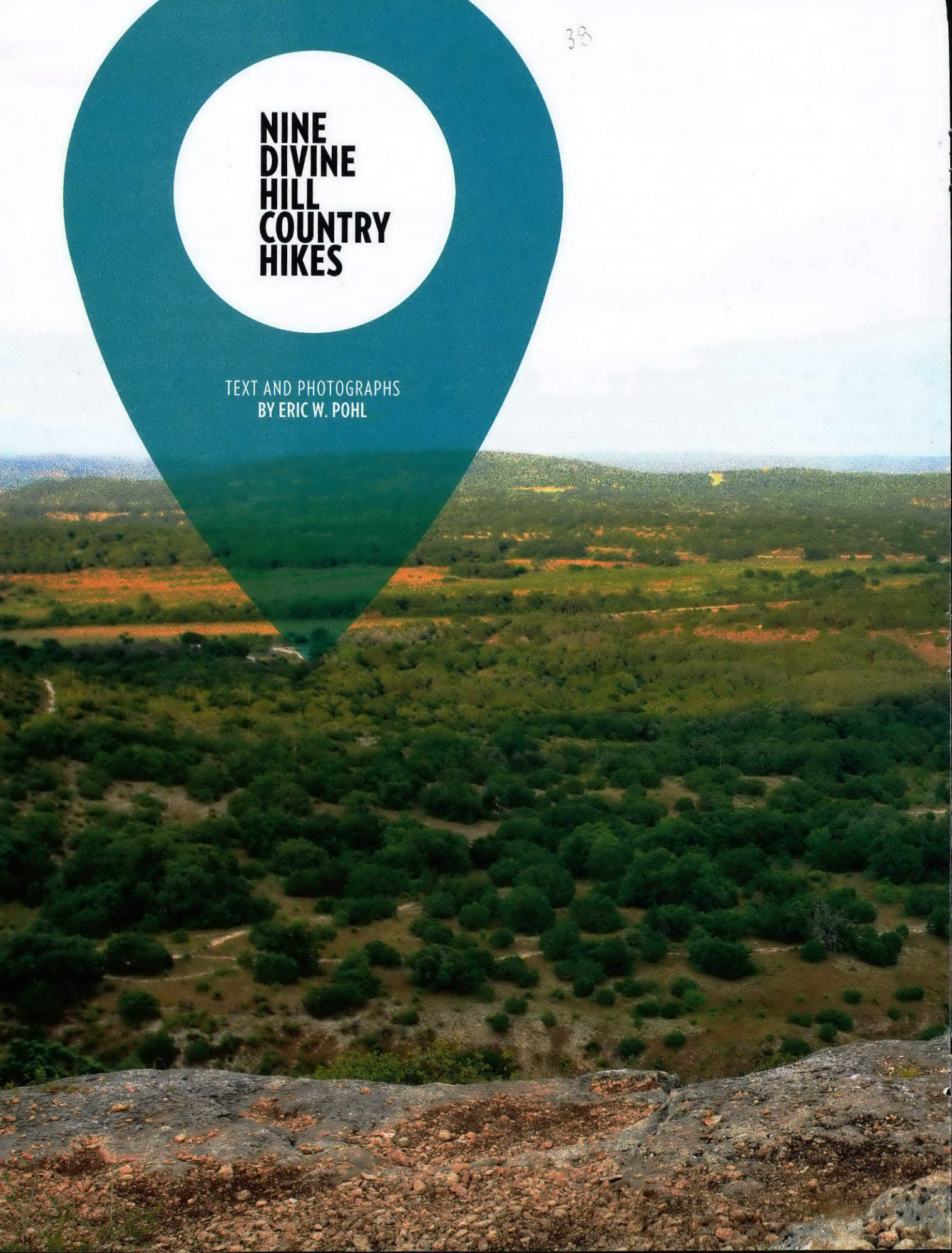
McMurtry, once a book scout, had bought up much of his hometown’s retail space and singlehandedly transformed Archer City into a “book town,” opening multiple Booked Up stores, where visitors could skim seemingly endless shelves in search of literary treasure. Although the author famously downsized in 2012, his Booked Up No. 1 and No. 2 stores on South Center Street remain open by appointment, with some 200,000 titles still available to peruse.

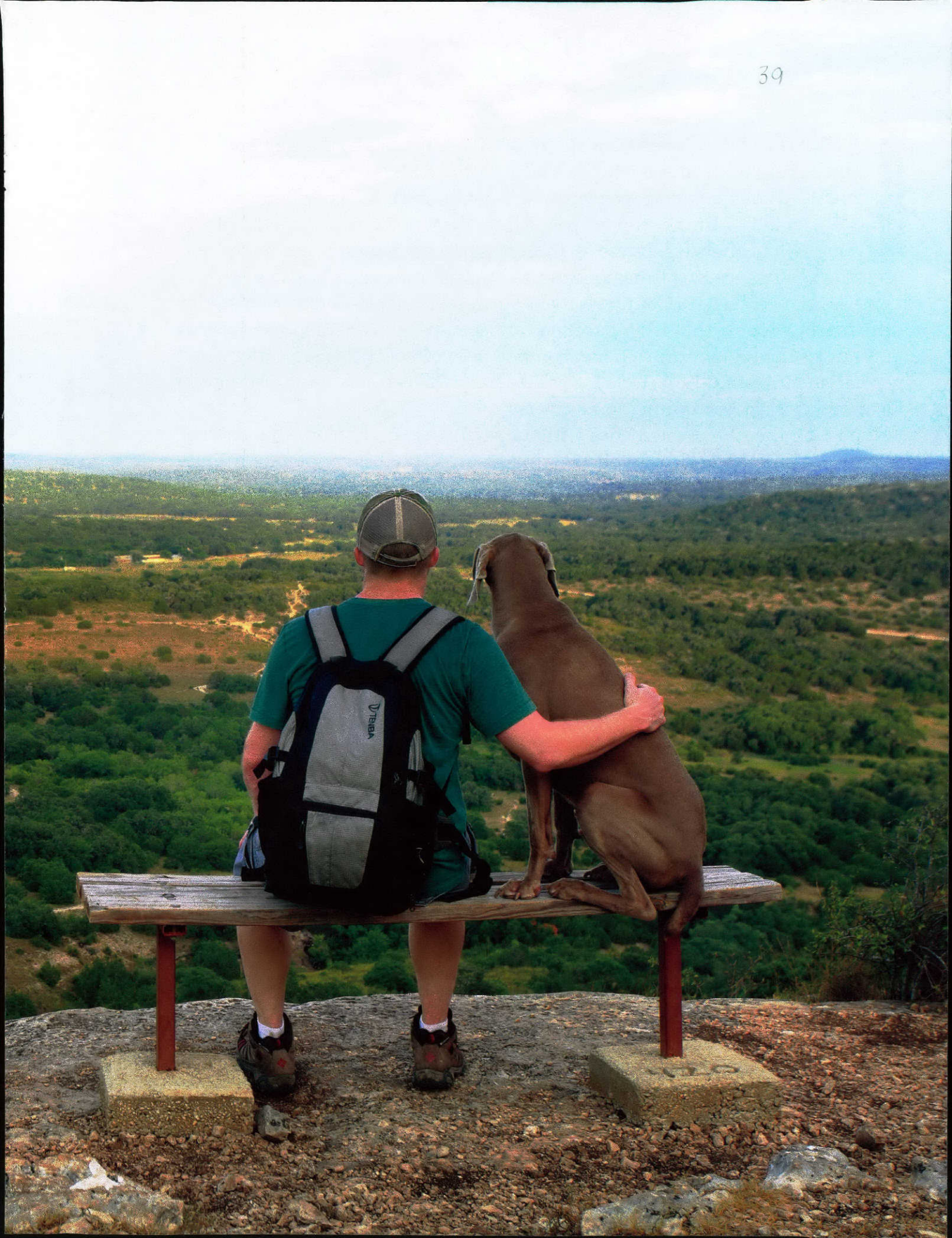
In June 2017, Archer City will host a Larry McMurtry Festival in the author’s honor. Fans of *Lonesome Dove* and other Texas classics will want to mark their calendars for a red-letter day in this tip-top Texas bookish destination. 📖

Texas native and Lubbock resident Kay Ellington is editor and publisher of Lone Star Literary Life, a weekly outlet for Texas literary news, and coauthor of the Paragraph Ranch series of Texas novels.

**NINE
DIVINE
HILL
COUNTRY
HIKES**

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHS
BY ERIC W. POHL





IN THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY, the flat Gulf Coastal plains to the east and the Texas brush country to the south collide with the Balcones Escarpment—a conspicuous topographic demarcation that nearly bisects the state from Del Rio northwest past Waco. West of the escarpment, which roughly parallels Interstate 35 in Central Texas, a land of contrasts presents itself as soaring limestone bluffs, rugged hills, and steep canyons.

At first glance, the Hill Country's rocky limestone terrain and scrubby cedar hills might suggest that it's a parched landscape. But underground springs flow across the region from a honeycombed network of caverns, aquifers, and porous underground limestone known as karst. These springs culminate to form cool clear streams and scenic rivers.

Expecting the unexpected goes without saying as you explore this outdoor paradise. You may find yourself crossing a sun-soaked savanna one minute and descending into a cool, sheltered canyon with fern-draped walls the next. Or you might be navigating a shady river bottom surrounded by century-old cypress trees before clambering up a stair-stepped trail to find sweeping hilltop views.

Here, I've put together nine of my favorite Hill Country day hikes.

1

COLORADO BEND STATE PARK, 27 MILES WEST OF LAMPASAS



HIKE HIGHLIGHTS:
Scenic views,
river bottom,
canyon,
waterfall

TIP:
Make a
reservation for
a cave tour.

For a 4.4-mile, round-trip hike to see the park's scenic views and famous falls, start out north on the Tie Slide Trail. This rocky path crosses through intervals of open grasslands, rocky outcroppings, and a medley of hardwoods and junipers with views of the Colorado River valley. Before the trail makes an acute turn, take the short side trip to the Tie Slide overlook for an impressive panorama of the river.

Continue south on the Tie Slide Trail for 0.7 miles until you dead-end into the Gorman Falls Trail, where you'll head east.

Near the falls viewing area, the sound of cascading water intensifies as you make a modestly steep descent over a stretch of smooth limestone. As you round the last corner, Gorman Falls comes into view—a terraced, 70-foot waterfall tumbling from a limestone cliff over moss-covered travertine formations. Just below the falls, head down to dip your feet in the Colorado River before taking the Gorman Falls Trail back to the parking area. www.tpwd.texas.gov

 **WHERE TO EAT:** Grab a "Bad Burger" and a cold beer at Bad Bob's Bend Store, an eclectic convenience store and music venue, less than four miles from the park. Call 325/628-3523; www.badbobsbendstore.com.





2

MILTON REIMERS RANCH PARK, 30 MILES WEST OF AUSTIN

HIKE HIGHLIGHTS:
Scenic views,
Pedernales River,
canyons, cliffs

TIP:
Use caution with
your footing, as the
canyon trail is very
slippery.

This 2.2-mile, round-trip hike showcases the ecological contrasts of the Hill Country.

Stepping down into Climbers Canyon, you're immersed in a subterranean wonderland where maidenhair and shield ferns thrive as cool spring water seeps from limestone walls.

As you head down the trail, the canyon quickly deepens to more than 70 feet. To the left, a spring-fed stream flows into clear pools, over waterfalls, and through stands of bald cypress and sycamore trees. To the right, a small grotto echoes with the sounds of dripping water.

Near the canyon's end, go right to roam a wooded trail in the shadow of a steep limestone bluff overlooking the Pedernales River. Listen for the chirp of canyon wrens as you pass vines of mustang grapes and stands of Turk's caps and beautyberries.

Heading down this scenic stretch of river on the Upper River Trail, you'll follow emerald waters and navigate around boulders. Walk along the river to the vehicle access point on the beach, then follow the road up the hill, where you'll turn right to hike along a granite trail with interpretive displays on the area's geology and ecology. The trail features a couple of scenic overlooks with dramatic panoramas of the river bend and canyon.

<https://parks.traviscountytx.gov>

 **WHERE TO EAT:** Take the short trip to Verde's Mexican Parrilla, a casual grill with a full bar, a large patio, and an outdoor play space. Call 512/263-0500; www.verdesmexicanrr.com.

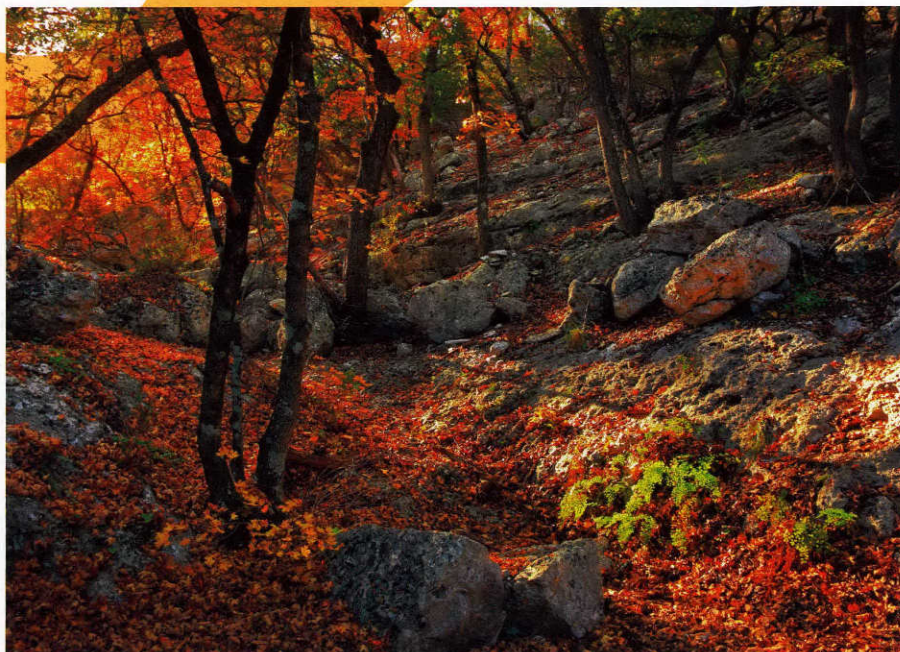


HIKE HIGHLIGHTS:
Scenic views,
canyons

TIP:
For smaller
crowds when there
is fall color, visit
during the week.

3

LOST MAPLES STATE NATURAL AREA, 47 MILES SOUTHWEST OF KERRVILLE



Although famous for its spectacular displays of fall color throughout the park, Lost Maples' scenic trails appeal to hikers year-round. This moderately challenging, 4.6-mile, round-trip hike traverses rugged hills, sinks into deep canyons, and skirts the Sabinal River and gentle streams.

Start from the East-West trailhead to pass through stands of Uvalde bigtooth maples. Go left at the fork, crossing Can Creek to begin a clockwise loop on the West Trail. (If you take the

East Trail, you'll find some of the park's best autumn color, as red oaks and Uvalde bigtooth maples turn a warm palette of reds, yellows, and oranges.) After Primitive Campsite D, you'll begin a steep ascent of 220 feet to a grassy plateau. Soak in 360-degree views of undulating wooded terrain before trekking down into Mystic Canyon, marked by spring-fed pools and stair-stepped ravines adorned with colorful maples. The trail eventually turns east to follow

Can Creek, which flows into several deep ponds fringed with cattails. From here, turn south on the East-West trail for an easy trek back to the trailhead.

www.tpwd.texas.gov

 **WHERE TO EAT:**

Head 15 miles south to Lost Maples Cafe in Utopia for comfort food like chicken-fried steak. Finish with a slice of fudge-pecan pie.

Call 830/966-2221;

www.lostmaplescafe.com.

4

**GARNER STATE PARK,
30 MILES NORTH OF UVALDE**



HIKE HIGHLIGHTS:
Scenic views,
historic
dance pavilion,
Frio River

TIP:
Bring a
flashlight to
explore the
park's cave.

This 3.4-mile, round-trip hike begins at the Old Entrance Road trail, which takes you southwest along the park's original paved entry road. Pause at the overlook for views of the Frio Canyon below. At the end of the trail, admire the original 1930s entrance gate with stonework hand-laid by workers in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).


Next, take the Foshee Trail east, making a rocky ascent. Just before the one-mile mark, shift to the Bridges Trail. Along this path you'll reach Painted Rock, an overlook with views of the Frio River and Old Baldy, the park's

famous half-domed limestone hill.

From there, backtrack to head northwest on the Crystal Cave Trail. Duck inside this cool, 30-foot-deep cave and marvel at the veins of calcite running along the walls and ceiling.

At the trail's end, head back up the park road to finish where the route began at the Old Entrance Road trail.

www.tpwd.texas.gov

 **WHERE TO EAT:** Load up on brisket tacos or tasty burgers at Hippie Chic's River Shack in Concan. Call 830/232-5459.

5

BALCONES CANYONLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE 21 MILES EAST OF MARBLE FALLS



For a four-mile, round-trip hike, begin on the Rimrock Trail. Stay right at the fork to follow a wooded path crossing Doeskin Branch, a clear creek that snakes through the refuge's western edge.

The trail soon opens into a grassy bottomland savanna before ascending a series of rocky switchbacks. Enjoy window views through a shady mix of ashe junipers and hardwoods as you rise 260 feet above the creek bottom.

Next, head south on the Shinoak Trail, which curves east and runs along the rim of an upland plateau. After 0.2 miles, hang right on the Indiangrass

Trail, which descends into a basin encompassed by stair-stepped slopes, then meets the Shinoak Trail again.

Head right, then take another right as you come to the Rimrock Trail, which follows a two-track ranch road. At the creek crossing, admire the waterfall before heading back to the parking area. www.fws.gov/refuge/balcones-canyonlands

 **WHERE TO EAT:** Head to Marble Falls for classic diner fare at the Blue Bonnet Cafe. Call 830/693-2344; www.bluebonnetcafe.net.



HIKE HIGHLIGHTS: Scenic views

TIP:
Watch for migrating monarch butterflies in the fall.

6

HILL COUNTRY STATE NATURAL AREA, 12 MILES SOUTHWEST OF BANDERA



HIKE HIGHLIGHTS: Scenic views

TIP:
The park provides
a list of horseback
guide providers.


This route is short on distance (2.3 miles, round-trip) but climbs nearly 400 feet.

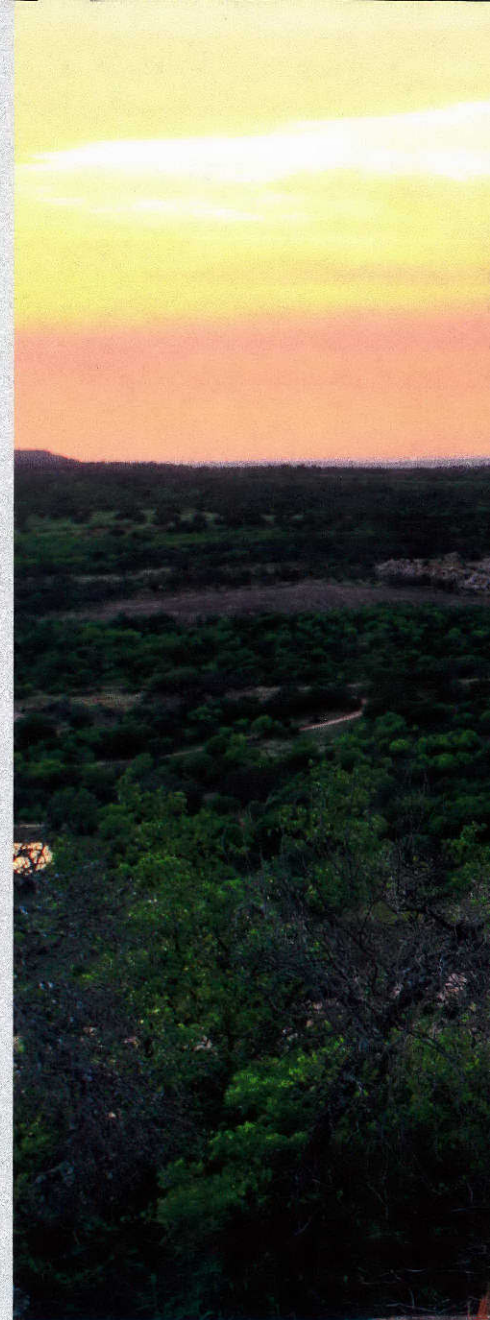
Heading out from the park's Bar-O day-use parking area, take Trail 5A west as rolling panoramic valley views begin to open up. Next, the route dips into a shallow bottomland valley before climbing up a steep rocky saddle bisecting the park's two tallest peaks.

Head left at the Trail 5B junction to explore a loop around the summit of West Peak. A breathtaking Hill Country panorama unfolds as you trace the rim of the park's tallest peak: Layers of verdant slopes become mere silhouettes as they melt into the distance.

Heading back down, join up with Trail 5A again to pivot east on Trail 6, which traces along a ridge with broad views of the West Verde Creek valley. When you've soaked in the view, cross the equestrian parking area to meet Trail 7, which will intersect 5A, near the trailhead.

www.tpwd.texas.gov

 **WHERE TO EAT:** Check out the OST restaurant in Bandera for a mix of home-style favorites like chicken-fried steak, classic Tex-Mex, and all-day breakfast. Call 830/796-3836.



7

ENCHANTED ROCK STATE NATURAL AREA, 18 MILES NORTH OF FREDERICKSBURG



Watching the sunset from the summit of Enchanted Rock, a massive dome of sparkling pink granite that rises 425 feet above the surrounding countryside, should be a goal for every Texan.

Begin your four-mile, round-trip trek to the top of the dome and back by taking the Loop Trail northeast. This stretch of trail runs through a mix of cedar elm, mesquite, and live oak trees with views of Enchanted Rock and an adjacent crumbling granite hill called Turkey Peak.

As the trail curves north, it crosses the creek and heads into the saddle between two smaller boulder-strewn granite domes called Freshman

Mountain and Buzzards Roost. In about a third of a mile, head west on the Base Trail, then head south through Echo Canyon. Rest in the shade of oaks and massive boulders before hanging a left at the Summit Trail to clamber up the smooth granite path to the top of Enchanted Rock.

While exploring the expansive summit, take in the 360-degree views of distant hills and rolling terrain. www.tpwd.texas.gov

 **WHERE TO EAT:** Enjoy German cuisine with local craft beers and wines at Otto's in Fredericksburg. Call 830/307-3336; www.ottosfbg.com.



HIKE HIGHLIGHTS:
Scenic views,
geologic
formations

TIP:
Camp overnight
and marvel
at the stars.

118

This family-friendly trek takes you on a 3.9-mile, round-trip hike starting with bird's-eye views of the park's rolling terrain and ending with a relaxing stroll along the Guadalupe River.

Start from the trailhead on the western end of the Cedar Sage Camping Area. Go left at the fork to head south on the Live Oak Trail, winding through areas of open savanna and woodlands.

Next, veer right on the Painted Bunting Trail to connect with the River Overlook Trail, a high route through a shady mix of oaks and ashe junipers. Pass through the camping area to reach the Cedar Sage River Trail.



HIKE HIGHLIGHTS:
Scenic views,
river relaxation

TIP:
Learn about
the park's natural
features at the
Discovery Center.

Along this forested footpath, take a short detour west on the Barred Owl Trail and stop at the scenic overlook to marvel at a panoramic river-bend view.

After reaching the river and heading south on the Bald Cypress Trail, a towering limestone cliff looms on the opposite bank. Dangle your feet in the cool, spring-fed waters of the Guadalupe River before retracing your steps to head back. www.tpwd.texas.gov

 **WHERE TO EAT:** In nearby Bulverde, check out 46th St. Pizzeria for thin-crust pies, manicotti, and sandwiches. Call 830/980-4678; www.46stpizza.com.



8

GUADALUPE RIVER STATE PARK,
13 MILES WEST OF SPRING BRANCH

9

PEDERNALES FALLS STATE PARK, 44 MILES WEST OF AUSTIN



HIKE HIGHLIGHTS:
Scenic views,
ponds, water-
falls, geologic
formations

TIP:
Watch for deer
and other wildlife
at the duck pond.

The Pedernales River cascades through a steep-walled canyon over 300-million-year-old limestone to create Pedernales Falls.

To see the falls close-up on a 7.8-mile, round-trip hike, head north on the South Loop Equestrian Trail from the Wolf Mountain Trail parking area. This route traces a high ridge through stands of twist-leaf yucca and sotol.

Next, cross the equestrian parking area and hit the North Loop Equestrian Trailhead. Then hang a left at the fork to skirt the duck pond through a mix of mesquite, oak, and Texas persimmon trees.

Go right at the next fork and again at the dead end. In about 650 feet, take a left at the junction that dips down to the Pedernales Falls Trail, then a right to follow the river down to the falls.

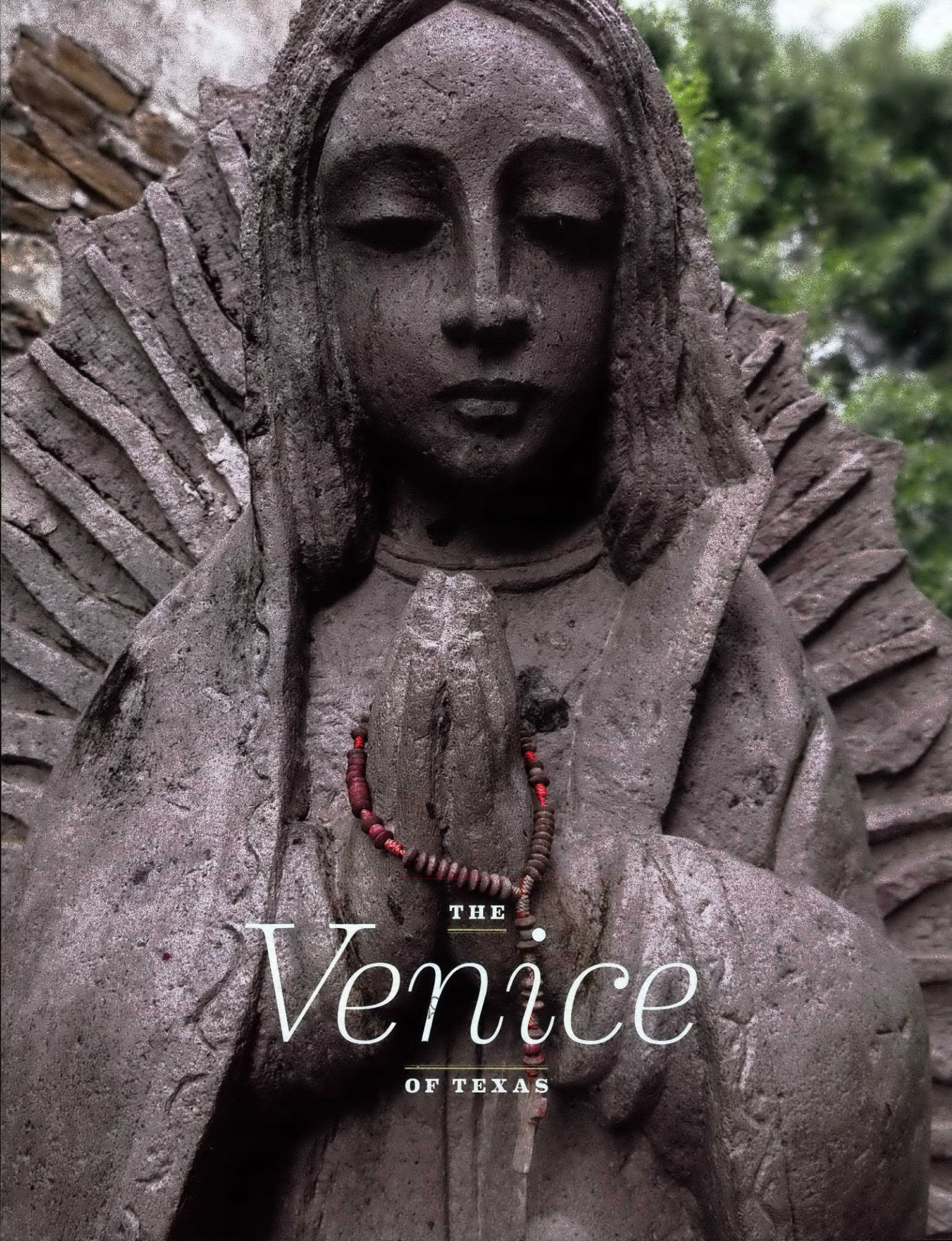
To return, retrace your steps or take the shorter 2.2-mile

trek back on Park Road 6026. www.tpwd.texas.gov

 **WHERE TO EAT:** Pop over to Pecan Street Brewing in Johnson City for brick-oven pizza, burgers, and a selection of craft beers brewed on site. **Call 830/868-2500; www.pecanstreetbrewing.com.**

“Even as a child on family trips to state parks,” says contributor Eric W. Pohl. “I was always eager to learn what lay beyond the next bend.”



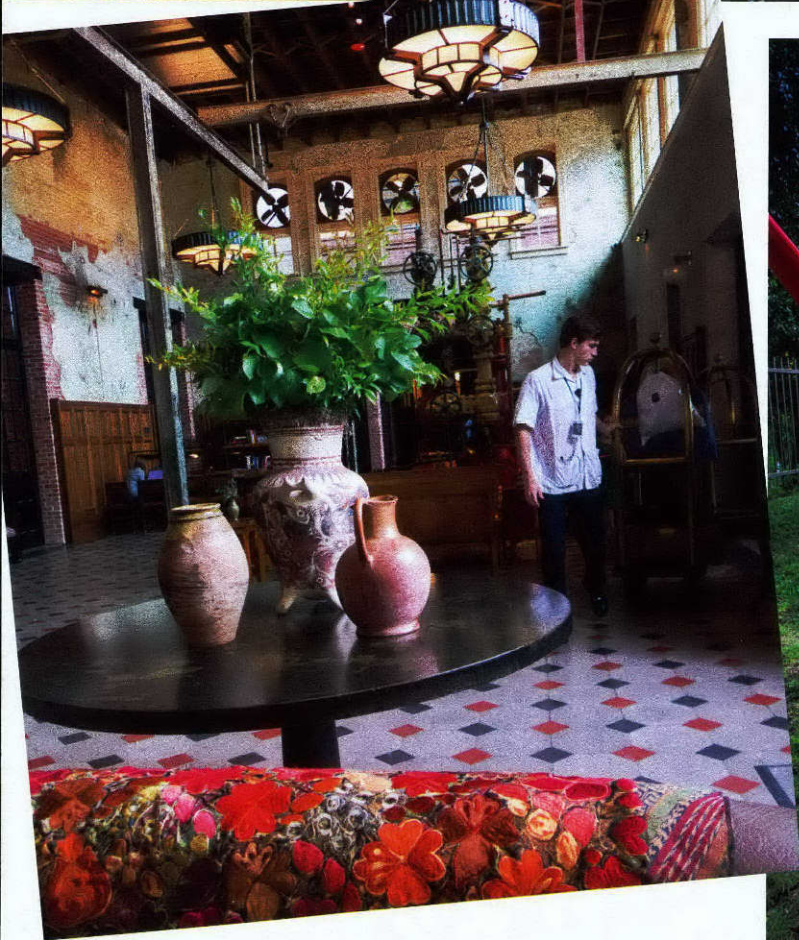


THE
Venice
OF TEXAS



THE HISTORIC
SAN ANTONIO RIVER WALK
BROADENS ITS REACH

Text and photographs by
E. DAN KLEPPER





Just steps from San Antonio's

Main Plaza, established in the 18th Century and considered by many to be the heart of San Antonio, you'll find the San Antonio River Walk, a dynamic pathway that leads you from the city's heart into its soul. The River Walk weaves among the city's icons and attractions via paved, cypress-lined embankments, across arched stone bridges, and through lively, multicultural neighborhoods. Originally a short downtown meander below street level, the San Antonio River Walk now rambles more than 15 miles from north to south, binding together some of the city's best museums, restaurants, bars, museums, and historic sites. In an effort by River Walk planners and government officials to acknowledge the waterway's most serene attribute—its beauty—the extension also traverses a stretch of the river that has been returned to its natural state.

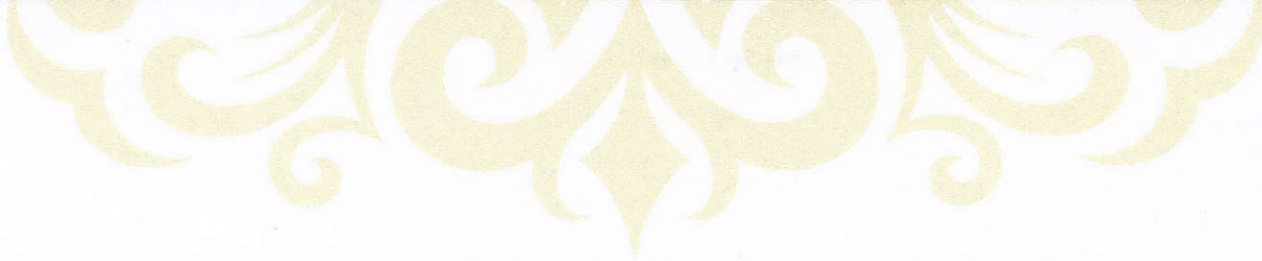
Today's expanded River Walk includes paved, ADA-accessible trails organized into four main segments—the 3.6-mile Museum Reach featuring urban parks and museums; the historic, 3.2-mile downtown River Walk section; the one-mile Eagleland section anchored by the Blue Star Arts Complex and the Southtown and King William neighborhoods; and the new eight-mile Mission Reach. As the longest segment of the trail, the new Mission Reach provides pedestrian and bicycle access to four of San Antonio's Spanish Colonial missions.

If starting at the Museum Reach, the River Walk's northernmost end, you'll begin in 343-acre Brackenridge Park, home to the San Antonio Zoo and the lush Japanese Tea Garden, and trek south toward downtown. This segment links several of the city's major museums, including the Witte Museum and the San Antonio Museum of Art (SAMA), both just a few steps off the Walk. SAMA is one of the city's primary venues for showcasing contemporary movements in art, and it also hosts special events like gallery talks, art parties, sketching sessions, and yoga classes in the galleries.

Across the river from SAMA, a dog-friendly restaurant called The Luxury serves sandwiches and craft beers from a complex of artfully repurposed shipping containers. Thanks to a handful of swings overlooking the river, The Luxury provides

OPENING SPREAD: A STONE STATUE AT MISSION SAN JUAN; TAKING IN THE SCENE FROM THE LUXURY, A RESTAURANT ALONG THE RIVERBANK. LEFT, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: A RIVER TAXI PLYS THE WATER BESIDE THE TOBIN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS; RELAXING AT THE SAN ANTONIO MUSEUM OF ART, THE LUSH LOBBY OF HOTEL EMMA.






a relaxing atmosphere to watch the scene unfold until you move on to the next attraction. A few blocks down the River Walk you'll find VFW Post 76, considered the oldest veterans' post in Texas. Housed in an early 19th-Century Victorian home built along the riverbank, Post 76 continues to serve its members while opening its bar and patio to the public.

Farther downstream, the new Tobin Center for the Performing Arts stages concerts and free public events along its River Walk Plaza, a stepped, grassy amphitheater under the stars. With a facade of skeletal meshwork lit by a changing pattern of hues, the Tobin's riverside venue provides a modern backdrop for Family Fitness sessions, a monthly Cinema on the Plaza, and performance simulcasts of big-ticket shows projected onto a 32-foot video wall.

The Museum Reach also encompasses the Pearl District, one of the more dazzling gemstones of San Antonio's downtown revitalization efforts. The Pearl occupies the site of the former Pearl Brewery, established along the San Antonio River in 1883. After surviving Prohibition, the brewery continued to produce its signature Pearl beer until 2001. Many of the historic buildings have been reconfigured and fully renovated, and today enjoy second lives as restaurants, retail shops, offices, apartments, and the classrooms and kitchens of the Texas campus of the Culinary Institute of America. The Pearl's magnificent Second Empire-style brew house, completed in 1894, is now a culinary-focused boutique hotel called the Hotel Emma. On Saturday and Sunday mornings, year-round, the Pearl hosts a farmers' market where you can enjoy live music and buy foodstuffs like goat cheese, eggs, and raw honey, along with ready-to-eat treats like tamales, wild mustang grape jelly, and empanadas.

The Museum Reach eventually gives way to the historic downtown River Walk, where you'll pass some of San Antonio's traditional attractions, including Main Plaza. The Plaza is home to the city's San

The River Walk weaves among the city's icons and attractions via paved, cypress-lined embankments, across arched stone bridges, and through lively, multicultural neighborhoods.



Fernando Cathedral, constructed in the 1700s and currently serving as backdrop for *The Saga*, a 24-minute video projection depicting the city's history. The site-specific artwork, created by French artist Xavier de Richemont, features a fast-paced video covering the cathedral's facade several nights a week, transforming the Spanish Colonial and Gothic Revival structure into a psychedelic animation set to music.

Construction of the downtown portion of the River Walk began in 1939 along a 21-block section from Nueva Street to Lexington Avenue. By 1940, it incorporated new walkways, footbridges, rock bank walls, and stairways leading to street level. The flood-prone river had been made safer by the addition of dams, flood gates, and bypass channels constructed in the 1920s, making the River Walk possible.

The downtown section was completed just in time to celebrate Fiesta (the city's annual springtime festival and now one of many events held along the River Walk each year) and quickly became the city's primary tourist attraction.

San Antonio continued to build on the River Walk's success, making modest improvements and extensions to the pathway throughout the second half of the 20th century.

In 1998, the city implemented the

San Antonio River Improvements Project, an ambitious plan funded with more than \$384 million dollars. The project, a collaborative investment involving the city, Bexar County, the San Antonio River Authority, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, and the San Antonio River Foundation, sought to improve flood control, ecosystem restoration, and recreational opportunities along an additional 13 miles both north and south of the historic downtown River Walk segment. The project highlighted the river's historical importance by embracing the southern string of Spanish Colonial missions, now part of the National Park system. Today, the expanded River Walk literally connects San Antonians to the city, its history, and the heritage they share.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: A FOCUSED VIEW OF MISSION SAN JUAN, ONE OF FIVE MISSIONS THAT TODAY ARE COLLECTIVELY A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE; SHOPPING AT THE WEEKLY PEARL FARMERS MARKET; A VIEW FROM THE RIVER WALK'S EAGLELAND SECTION; MOCKINGBIRD HANDPRINTS IN THE BLUE STAR ARTS COMPLEX.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: VFW POST 76 WELCOMES THE PUBLIC FOR MUSIC AND LIBATIONS; THE VIDEO INSTALLATION *THE SAGA* WILL CONTINUE THROUGH 2024; TATUM ORIGINALS, A GALLERY AT THE BLUE STAR ARTS COMPLEX.

“All Texans have roots in San Antonio,” the late Liz Carpenter, journalist and former press secretary to Lady Bird Johnson, once observed. Perhaps Carpenter’s statement holds more truth than hyperbole. San Antonio developed around the Presidio San Antonio de Béxar, a Spanish fortress established in 1718, and the five Spanish Colonial missions located near the river (including the Alamo, originally known as Mission San Antonio de Valero). By 1778 the population included Spaniards and other Europeans, mestizos (a mix of Spanish and Indian heritage), Africans (most likely slaves at the time), and the native people of the region. Judging from the diversity found throughout Texas today, it’s likely that many Texans can trace a familial root or two back to the banks of the San Antonio River.

The historic River Walk section transitions from downtown bustle to quieter neighborhoods along the one-mile Eagleland section, which runs through the King William district and the adjoining Southtown neighborhood. Backing up to the river at the southernmost spot of the Eagleland section, the Blue Star Arts Complex houses a contemporary museum, artists’ studios, a brewery, and a handful of restaurants, along with artist-run shops and galleries.

Blue Star is a popular point of departure for joggers and cyclists tackling the Mission Reach, the eight-mile southern leg of the River Walk. The bike-sharing program B-Cycle has installed a number of B-Cycle stations along the River Walk, including at Blue Star, where you can rent bicycles and return them later at any of the stations.

The Mission Reach divulges as much about the natural world as it does about the nature of San Antonio, connecting the river to its Spanish Colonial past as the waterway winds through the city’s multicultural neighborhoods. The paved hike-and-bike trail links four of San Antonio’s historic missions—Concepción, San José, San Juan, and Espada. After three hundred years, their bells still call the faithful to prayer. Side pathways lead to each mission as well as to neighborhood parks. Along the route, pastures have been allowed to return to wild, quinceañera songs echo beneath oak bowers, and cyclists whiz past in streaks of neon green.

Spring along the Mission Reach explodes in wildflowers, hot-colored as cayenne, while summer dries the native seeds under stark skies. Kayakers navigate the riffles, often bringing their own craft or renting a kayak along the route. In autumn, mists rise above the watercourse while dew-damp grasses grow musky like the scent of wet dogs. Winter might layer the Mission Reach with thin light ice.

You’ll find that a day’s immersion along San Antonio’s River Walk will ultimately reveal the pathway’s true destination, guiding you through the city’s heritage to its people and their aspirations; and propelling you out of San Antonio’s past and into its present, celebrating all that the city has become, here and now. **L**

Writer and photographer E. Dan Klepper, a native San Antonian, frequently returns to his hometown for fun and family. “The city just keeps getting better and better,” he says.

San Antonio RIVER WALK

For maps and information about the River Walk, see www.sanantonioriver.org. For general information about visiting San Antonio, see www.visitsanantonio.com. Following are sites in the story.

The **San Antonio Museum of Art**, www.samuseum.org; 210/978-8100.

The Luxury, 210/354-2274.

VFW Post 76, 210/223-4581; www.vfwpost76ontheriverwalk.org.

Tobin Center for the Performing Arts, 210/223-8624; www.tobincenter.org.

The Pearl, www.atpearl.com.

Hotel Emma, 210/448-8300; www.thehotellemma.com.

Main Plaza and **The Saga**, www.mainplaza.org.

Blue Star Arts Complex, <https://bluestarartscomplex.com>.

San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, 210/932-1001; www.nps.gov/saan/index.htm.





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➤ DESTINATION: STARR COUNTY ◀

The Early Bird's Reward

Natural wonders and border culture in Starr County

text by **Daniel Blue Tyx**

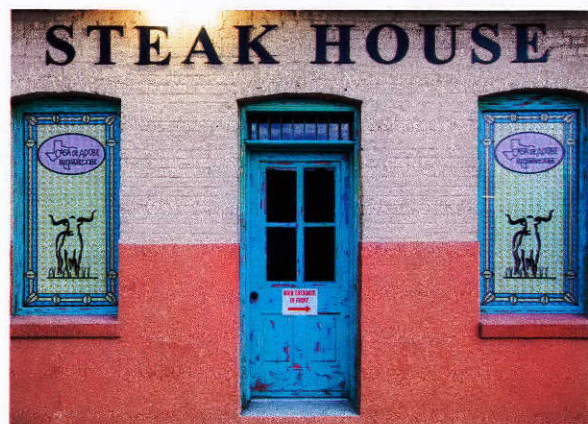
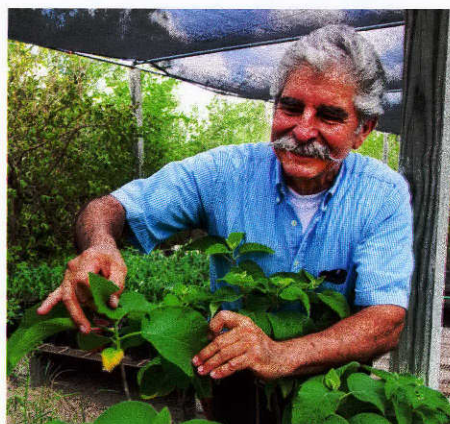
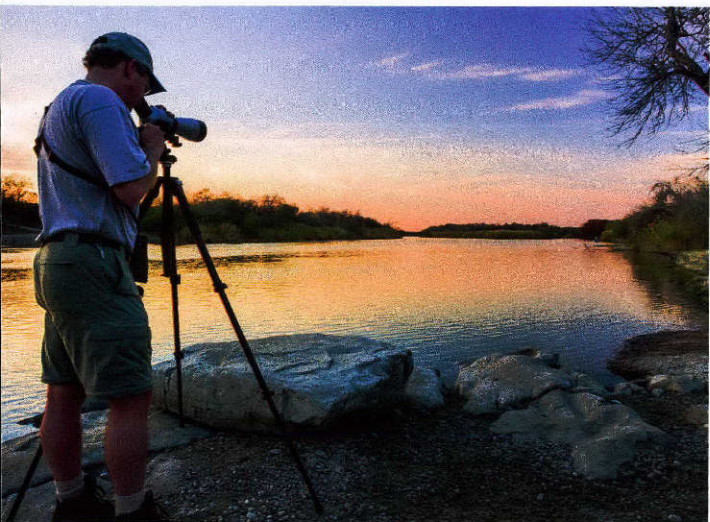
WHEN NATURE ENTHUSIASTS THINK OF the Rio Grande Valley, they most often picture the glimmering resacas and moss-hung forests of destinations like the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge. But venturing farther upriver, away from the large cities and the tropical influence of the Gulf Coast, one finds a strikingly different landscape of rolling ranchland, sheer bluffs, and Old West frontier towns. Not long ago, my wife, Laura, and I headed west from our home in McAllen to explore the natural offerings of Starr County. We hoped to find not only scenic vistas of starkly beautiful country but also bird and plant species that can't be found anywhere else in the United States.



- **Brownsville**
2 hours
- **San Antonio**
4 hours
- **Houston**
6 hours
- **Abilene**
8 hours

As a high school science teacher, Laura was especially looking forward to the first stop on our itinerary, Rancho Lomitas Native Plant Nursery, a 260-acre nursery and nature preserve whose owner, Benito Treviño, is a pioneer in the field of ethnobotany—the study of how humans use plants for food, medicine, and rituals. First, though, we had to get there. The ranch is 10 miles north of Rio Grande City, and no street signs marked our path through winding gravel roads. Luckily, Benito had given us superb directions, but even so, our arrival at the wrought-iron gate—just where he'd said it would be—felt like a small miracle.

The instant we stepped out of the car, a symphony of birdsong filled the air, and we knew the drive was



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:
 Birding at Salineño Preserve; pan dulce at La Reynera Bakery; a green jay at Salineño Preserve; Casa de Adobe in Rio Grande City; Benito Treviño of Rancho Lomitas Native Plant Nursery; the distance from Rio Grande City to Roma.

worth it. A brilliantly colored scarlet tanager sang in a mesquite branch, while a flock of rare scaled quails scurried in the underbrush, their namesake “scales” glittering like chainmail. Closer to the main house, in a nectar-rich garden shaded by Texas ebonies, we found magnificent green jays feasting on oranges along with the black-headed Audubon’s oriole, another of the uncommon birds that calls the ranch home.

We caught up with Benito, instantly recognizable by his thick mustache and the bag of seeds in his hand, in his plant nursery. Twenty years ago, he started Rancho Lomitas as part of an effort to reforest some of the Valley’s

native habitat, 95 percent of which has been lost to agriculture and development. The bag he was holding, he explained, contained seeds of the Walker’s Manioc plant, a threatened South Texas native with a fleur-de-lis-shaped leaf. Now, he was planting the seeds in his nursery in the hopes of someday restoring the population in the wild. Nearby, he showed us an endangered Star Cactus. The name comes from its yellow flower, but coincidentally Starr County is the only place in the United States you can find it. “These are my babies,” he told us.

When Benito was a child growing up in Starr County, his father and grandfather passed along botanical traditions that date back to cattle-driving vaqueros and indigenous Coahuiltecan hunter-gatherers. “Much of that knowledge is being lost, or already has been,” he said. On an impromptu tour of the ranch, we discovered edible and medicinal plants around every corner,

including the strawberry cactus, whose fruits actually taste like strawberries. Benito also showed us a Spanish dagger yucca plant with a stalk that can be grilled like asparagus, leaves that can be woven into hammocks, and roots that can be turned into soap. “With that plant,” he explained, “you can have your breakfast in the morning, a place to rest in the afternoon, and your bath at night.”

Rancho Lomitas is also home to four furnished vacation rentals, an RV park, and campsites, but we had already made lodging reservations in Rio Grande City, so as the sun sank low in the sky, we said goodbye to Benito and drove to La Borde House, our hotel in the heart of historic downtown. One of the oldest cities in the Valley, Rio Grande City was originally part of a Spanish land grant in 1767. By the time the hotel was built in 1899, the city was a bustling port for steamboats that navigated the Rio Grande bound for

New Orleans. Today, the Starr County Historical Foundation runs the hotel, which has themed rooms decorated with authentic period furniture. When we arrived at the Audubon Room and saw the fireplace adorned with tiles painted with the likenesses of green jays, we knew we'd made the right selection for the night.

But first there was the matter of food. We strolled to Casa de Adobe, a steakhouse and bar whose main dining room is in a historic home that really is built of mud and straw. We admired the original mesquite woodwork inlaid with turquoise and ordered a meal fit for two hungry vaqueros after a day on the trail—the *parrillada*, a sizzling assortment of beef and chicken fajita, sausage, and grilled vegetables, served in a cast-iron skillet with homemade tortillas.

The next morning, we woke up before dawn, knowing that the early bird gets the—well, the birds. We swung by La Reynera Bakery for coffee and fresh *pan dulce*, and headed out in the direction of the Salineño Preserve, a famed site in birding circles. Along the way, we stopped at the Roma Bluffs World Birding Center—part of a network of nine different Valley birding sites collaboratively run by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and local communities. The center offers exhibits on the area's natural and cultural history, as well as a dramatic vista from a bluff overlooking the winding Rio Grande. The volunteers at the center also gave us a hand-drawn map to Salineño, located 25 miles west of Rio Grande City, for which we were most grateful. Although I'd been once before, I knew that part of its appeal lay in its location off the beaten track.

We arrived at a parking area in sight of the river and walked a well-marked path through the mesquite for a few dozen yards. Then, we turned a corner, and Laura audibly gasped. It was her first visit, and though I'd tried my best to describe this place, words couldn't convey the kaleidoscope of color and motion before us. We saw dozens and

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dozens of orioles, green jays, cardinals, kiskadees, and woodpeckers—along with many other species—flitting from branch to branch, some so close we could have touched them.

In the early 1980s, caretakers Lois Hughes and Merle Ihne explained, visiting RVers began feeding the birds here with a homemade mixture of peanut butter, cornmeal, and lard. Later, owners Gale and Pat DeWind gifted the property to the Valley Land Fund, a nonprofit that partners with the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge to protect the land for birds and people alike. "Generation after generation of birds have known that when their natural food source dwindles in the wintertime, they can come here to help tide them over until the spring comes," Lois explained. All this attention, coupled with the spot's idyllic location at a bend in the river, has meant more species of birds in one place than I've ever seen, anywhere.

A birding tour group arrived amid a rapid flutter of photo lenses, the expert birders no less amazed by the winged spectacle than we were. Joining us in a line of white plastic chairs in the shade of Lois and Merle's RV, the tour leader happily reported sightings of white-collared seedeaters and red-billed pigeons down at the river's edge. After another half-hour of birding and chatting, Laura and I added our names to the thousands already in the guest book and followed in the footsteps of the tour group down to the water's edge. Watching the river gently glide past, we were content with a sighting of a great blue heron and the greatest discovery of our weekend getaway: a tranquil moment together. 🌿



STARR COUNTY BIRDING

For more on Starr County birding, check out Rancho Lomitas at www.rancholomitas.com, Roma Bluffs World Birding Center at www.the.worldbirdingcenter.com, and Salineño Preserve at 956/784-7575.

TRUE TX

REAL TEXAS STORIES BORN AND BRED

Singing a Story

The songwriters' haven
of Cheatham Street Warehouse
in San Marcos

Text by
Bobbie Jean Sawyer

HalleyAnna and Sterling Finlay, daughter and son of Cheatham Street Warehouse founder Kent Finlay, perform at the San Marcos club.

IT'S WEDNESDAY EVENING AT CHEATHAM Street Warehouse. Open guitar cases are scattered throughout the neon-lit barroom, the sign-up sheet for the weekly Songwriters' Circle has just been posted, and Guy Clark's voice plays on the overhead speakers.

"I wish I was in Austin at the Chili Parlor Bar, drinking Mad Dog Margaritas and not caring where you are."

It's exactly what you'd expect to hear in this unassuming tin-roofed building next to the railroad tracks in the heart of San Marcos. Inside, band stickers and posters plaster the columns, and black-and-white photographs of Willie Nelson and Jerry Jeff Walker playing the Cheatham Street stage line the walls, recalling the redneck-rock heyday of the 1970s. What this former cotton warehouse lacks in frills, it more than makes up for with stellar acoustics and its unwavering dedication to the hard-won lyrics of Texas troubadours past and present. A Texas flag hangs behind the stage, and a large Shiner Beer sign welcomes visitors to Cheatham Street Warehouse: "Home of the Songwriter Circle."

The venue has hosted a stream of iconic performers, from Townes Van Zandt to Stevie Ray Vaughan, but on Wednesday nights the Cheatham Street stage belongs to anyone with a song.

Songwriting has been Cheatham Street's heart and soul since the late Kent Finlay, a high-school English teacher and lifelong songwriter, opened the bar in 1974. Finlay was inspired to open Cheatham Street after becoming friends with Hondo Crouch, the mayor of Luckenbach. Crouch's utopian community of misfit artists and cosmic cowboys appealed to Finlay. After realizing those artists didn't have a place to perform original songs, Finlay decided to create the Songwriters' Circle. In 1977, a group of songwriters gathered around a wood stove in the middle of Cheatham Street Warehouse, transforming the rough-and-rowdy honky tonk into a weekly listening room. The venue has hosted a stream of iconic performers, from Townes Van Zandt to Stevie Ray Vaughan, but on Wednesday nights the Cheatham Street stage belongs to anyone with a song.

"I've seen him throw people out of here on Wednesday nights for talking," says Gregg Andrews, Finlay's friend and lead singer of the country-blues band Doctor G and the Mudcats. "Kent said 'Come back tomorrow night. You can shoot pool. You can be loud. You can dance and do whatever you want to do. But this night is special and it's for the songwriters.'"

Kent's daughter Jenni Finlay, who grew up sleeping on the Cheatham Street pool tables while her parents ran the bar, says that from the beginning her father's main motivation was to provide a place for songwriters to perform their original material.

"It's not been about selling beer. It's not been about packing the joint. It's not been about how many people are playing pool in the afternoons," Jenni says. "It's always been strictly about the music."

Jenni's book, *Kent Finlay, Dreamer: The Musical Legacy Behind Cheatham Street Warehouse* (Texas A&M University Press, 2016), serves as a tribute to her father, who passed away in March



Cheatham Street Warehouse's Wednesday night Songwriters' Circle gives tunesmiths a chance to perform for an audience of peers and fans.

2015. The book includes Jenni's conversations with her father as well as co-author Brian T. Atkinson's interviews with songwriters who have passed through Cheatham Street Warehouse during its 40 years, including Ray Wylie Hubbard, Joe Ely, Marcia Ball, Hayes Carll, and Randy Rogers.

Jenni, who's made her own name in the music industry as a promoter and record label owner, says her father devoted his life to mentoring young songwriters. It wasn't uncommon to find struggling musicians "flop-housing" in her family home. "There were many years of my childhood that we would have songwriters sleeping on the couch," she recalls. "It was because they needed to have a place where they could develop and study."

Jenni also remembers watching an unknown singer named George Strait, fresh out of the Army, who had auditioned to be the new lead singer of the hottest country band in San Marcos, the Ace in the Hole Band. "Dad liked George right away. They became fast friends," she says.

Strait played his first gig at Cheatham Street in October 1975. Two years later, Kent took Strait to Nashville to record his first demo tapes. Less than a decade later, the "King of Broken Hearts" was onstage at the Country Music Association awards accepting the trophy for Best Male Vocalist. In a rare boastful moment, Kent posted a sign at the entrance of Cheatham Street the following day that read, "I told you so!"

As Strait went on to rack up more No. 1 hits on various charts than any artist in any genre, a new generation of artists began rising up through the dusty floorboards of Cheatham Street. Up-and-coming lyricists James McMurtry, Bruce Robison, Terri Hendrix, Todd Snider, and Hal Ketchum were all regular performers at the Songwriters' Circle and part of what became known as the "Class of '87."

Kent sold the club in 1988 to focus on his family band with the fiddle-playing Jenni. For 10 years, the duo played

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<p>MARCH Kilgogh Arts Festival</p> <p>APRIL Avalon Faire Renaissance Festival Rangerette Revels Kilgore Spring Film Festival</p> <p>JUNE Stars & Scars Mud Run</p> <p>JULY Texas Shakespeare Festival</p> <p>SEPTEMBER Kilgore Fall Film Festival S.A.F.F.E. Day</p>	<p>OCTOBER East Texas Burn Run Avalon Faire's Oktoberfest 2017 Knightmare 2017 Main Street Oktoberfest</p> <p>NOVEMBER East Texas Oilmen's Chili Cook-off East Texas Pipe Organ Festival</p> <p>NOVEMBER/DECEMBER Christmas Under the Stars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derrick Lighting • • Snowhill Festival • • Mingle & Jingle • • Christmas Parade • • Jingle All the Way •
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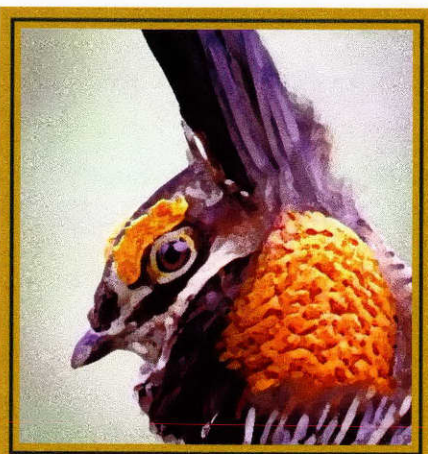


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fairs and festivals across the West and Southwest, including the State Fair of Texas and the 1988 Democratic National Convention in Atlanta. They disbanded when Jenni left for college. Even after so many years, Kent still felt drawn to the old warehouse, which had a short life as a fraternity club and a Tejano bar. In 2000, Kent re-opened the venue after he was given a cassette tape of a young songwriter named Adam Carroll. "He came home and said, 'This guy needs a place to play,' and all of a sudden the wheels started moving around in his head," Jenni recalls.

"It's not been about selling beer. It's not been about packing the joint," Jenni says. "It's always been strictly about the music."

Carroll says he immediately recognized Kent's devotion to songwriting.

"He didn't care whether you were famous or not, he just cared about your songs," Carroll says. "What it taught me was that you can be in art and music and have a lifetime in it and not be a star necessarily or be famous or rich. But you can do it for a long, long time if you love it."

Walt Wilkins was already a songwriting veteran by the time he started playing gigs at Cheatham Street in 2001. Rising Texas country star Pat Green had recently scored national success with "Carry On," co-written with Wilkins, and the Wilkins-penned fan favorite "Songs About Texas." Wilkins says he felt an immediate kinship with Kent.

"He knew who was going to take it seriously, and he provided this great club where it was hard to make money but it was easy to learn your craft," says Wilkins. "It was one of the best listening rooms. Everyone got up there and gathered around the stage."

Since Kent's death, the songwriting community has rallied to preserve the legacy of the Songwriters' Circle through the Cheatham Street Music Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to

advancing songwriting through classes, workshops, and live performances. The Cheatham Street Music Foundation now owns the Cheatham Street Warehouse building, while Jenni and her siblings, Sterling and HalleyAnna Finlay, own the business itself.

And Jenni recently learned that Nashville's Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum will honor her father and Cheatham Street in a spring 2018 exhibit featuring Kent's hand-written lyrics to "The Songwriter," as well as his signature straw hat, boots, and 1950s Gibson B-25 guitar.

Though Kent Finlay is gone, you get the sense that the songwriters still feel his presence at the circle, as if he were sitting on his favorite stool at the end of the bar and soaking up every lyric with a twinkle in his eye.

On a recent Wednesday night, Sterling opened the Songwriters' Circle with his father's "I'll Sing You a Story (I'll Tell You a Song)." The song, which is about a songwriter entertaining his loved ones with tales of travel, adventure, and "Jesus and wild señoritas," serves as a love letter to the art of songwriting.

Kent's final tune, written on the last day of his life, is proof that as long as there are great songs, Cheatham Street Warehouse will live on forever.

"He had this song called 'The Last Thing I Want to do is Die,' and that was the last song he ever wrote. The day he finished it, that was it," Jenni says. "He wrote until the very end. To the people he mentored and the people who grew up under him, that is always this great little lesson. You've got to follow your passion." 🐦



CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE,

119 Cheatham St. in San Marcos, opens Mon-Fri 3 p.m.-2 a.m. and Sat 4 p.m.-2 a.m. The Songwriters' Circle is held every Wednesday at 8 p.m. For information and the music schedule, call **512/353-3777**; www.cheathamstreet.com.

EVENTS



NOVEMBER'S TRAVEL SPOTLIGHT:

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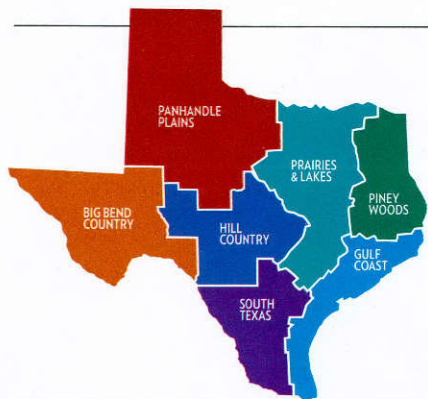
Texas Book Festival

NOVEMBER 5-6, THE TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL takes over the Texas State Capitol and surrounding grounds for two days of insightful and inspiring book talk. Even the most casual of readers is sure to find engagement in the lineup of more than 280 authors, which ranges across every genre imaginable. Along with author

presentations, the free event features book sales and signings, children's activities, live bands, and food vendors. While devoted fans appreciate the chance to see their favorite writers, the festival also presents a rare opportunity to bop around and explore fascinating new topics with expert wordsmiths. www.texasbookfestival.org.

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

EVENTS



BIG BEND COUNTRY

ALPINE: *A Feeling of Humanity* Western Art from the Ken Ratner Collection Sep. 17-Mar. 26. Museum of the Big Bend. museumofthebigbend.com 432/837-8143

ALPINE: Artwalk 2016 Nov. 18-19. Downtown Alpine. artwalkalpine.com 432/837-3067

FORT STOCKTON: Women's Division Arts and Crafts Fair Nov. 23. Pecos County Civic Center. 432/336-3804

FORT STOCKTON: Christmas Festival Nov. 25. Chamber of Commerce Visitor's Center. fortstockton.org 432/336-2264

ODESSA: Merry Marketplace Nov. 3-6. Ector County Coliseum. jloodessa.org 432/332-0095

ODESSA: Tejano Super Car Show Nov. 19-20. Ector County Coliseum. tejanosupercarshow.com 432/337-2189

TERLINGUA: 50th CASI Terlingua Chili Championship Nov. 1-5. Rancho CASI de los Chisos. casichili.net 210/887-8827

VAN HORN: Trans Pecos Big Buck Tournament Nov. 25-Dec. 12. Van Horn Convention Center. vanhorn.texas.us 432/283-2682

GULF COAST

ANGLETON: Angleton Market Days Nov. 19-20. Brazoria County Fairgrounds. angleton.tx.us/tourism 979/849-4364

ARANSAS PASS: Christmas by the Bay Nov. 12-13. Aransas Pass Civic Center. texasmarketguide.com 888/225-3427

BROWNSVILLE: Wild Tales Nov. 12. Gladys Porter Zoo. gpz.org 956/546-7187

CLUTE: Elizabethan Madrigal Feast Nov. 25-27.

Center for the Arts & Sciences. bcfas.org 979/265-7661

CORPUS CHRISTI: *Wild-life in Focus* Photography Exhibition Oct. 8, 2016-Sep. 30, 2017. South Texas Botanical Gardens and Nature Center. stxbot.org 361/852-2100

CORPUS CHRISTI: *A La Mano* Nov. 18. North Bayfront Park. facebook.com/corpuschristivisitor informationcenter 501/561-2000 ext. 201

EDNA: Texana Chili Spill and Go Texana Barbecue Nov. 10-12. Brackenridge Recreation Complex Main Event Center. texanachilispill.com 361/782-5229

FREEPORT: Thanksgiving SuperFeast Nov. 24. Freeport RiverPlace. freeport.tx.us 979/233-3526

GALVESTON: Lone Star Motorcycle Rally Nov. 3-6. lonestarrally.com

GALVESTON: Festival of Lights Nov. 12-Jan. 8. Moody Gardens. galveston.com/holidaymagic 409/797-5124 or 800/582-4673

GALVESTON: Ice Sculptures, A Caribbean Christmas at Moody Gardens Nov. 12-Jan. 8. Moody Gardens. 800/582-4673 or 409/797-5124

GALVESTON: Holiday Splash at Schlitterbahn Nov. 25-Dec. 31. Schlitterbahn Galveston. schlitterbahn.com/gal

GALVESTON: Home for the Holidays Gift Market Nov. 25-26. Moody Gardens Convention Center. homefortheholidaysgiftmarket.com

GALVESTON: Hotel Galvez Holiday Lighting Celebration Nov. 25. Hotel Galvez. WyndhamHotelGalvez.com

HARLINGEN: Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival Nov. 2-6. Harlingen Municipal Auditorium. rvgvb.org 956/423-5565

HOUSTON: *United We Stand, United We Signed* Exhibit Sep. 1-Dec. 31. National Museum of Funeral History. 281/876-3063

HOUSTON: *Best if Used By...* Sep. 2-Jan. 15. Houston Center for Contemporary Craft. craftouston.org 713/529-4848

HOUSTON: *Helen Levitt: In the Street* Sep. 13-Jan. 2. Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. visithoustontexas.com/event/helen-levitt%3a-in-the-street/43119

HOUSTON: *Picasso: The Line* Sep. 16-Jan. 8. The Menil Collection. visithoustontexas.com/event/picasso%3a-the-line/41619

HOUSTON: *Craft Texas 2016* Sep. 23-Jan. 8. Houston Center for Contemporary Craft. crafhouston.org 713/529-4848

HOUSTON: *Julian Onderdonk and Texas Silver* Oct. 2-Jan. 22. Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. mfah.org 713/639-7300

HOUSTON: *Degas: A New Vision* Oct. 16-Jan. 8. Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. mfah.org 713/639-7300

HOUSTON: *Emperors' Treasures: Chinese Art from the National Palace* Oct. 23-Jan. 22. Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. mfah.org 713/639-7300

HOUSTON: *You Are Here: Maps of Texas* Oct. 26-Jan. 7. The Heritage Society. heritagesociety.org 713/655-1912

HOUSTON: International Quilt Festival Nov. 3-6. George R. Brown Convention Center. quilts.com/quilt-festival-houston.html

HOUSTON: Annual Turkish Festival Nov. 5-6. Jones Plaza. houstonturkishfest.com 713/309-6824

HOUSTON: *Ancient Luxury and the Roman Silver Treasure from Berthouville* Nov. 6-Feb. 5. Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. mfah.org 713/639-7300

HOUSTON: Houston Ballet Nutcracker Market Nov. 10-13. NRG Center. NutcrackerMarket.com 713/535-3231

HOUSTON: Houston Salutes American Heroes Veterans Day Celebration Nov. 11. City of Houston. houstontx.gov/nov11

HOUSTON: Texas Championship Native American Powwow

Nov. 12-13. Traders Village. tradersvillage.com/houston/events/27th-annual-native-american-championship-pow-wow

HOUSTON: City of Houston Thanksgiving Day Parade Nov. 24. houstontx.gov/thanksgivingparade

KINGSVILLE: Ranch-Hand Breakfast at King Ranch Nov. 19. King Ranch. kingsvilletexas.com 800/333-5032

LA PORTE: Special Evening with Texas History Nov. 3. San Jacinto Museum. sanjacinto-museum.org 281/479-2421

LAKE JACKSON: Abner Jackson Plantation Site Tour Nov. 5. Abner Jackson Plantation Site. lakejacksonmuseum.org 979/297-1570

LAKE JACKSON: Festival of Lights Nov. 17-19. Lake Jackson Civic Center. lakejackson-tx.gov 979/415-2600

LAKE JACKSON: Bird Banding Nov. 19. Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. gcbo.org 979/480-0999

ORANGE: *Preserving the Past* Mar. 29-Jan. 14. W.H. Stark House. starkculturalvenues.org/whstarkhouse/events/1970/01/preserving-the-past 409/883-0871

ORANGE: *Collecting Conversations* Aug. 6-Jan. 7. Stark Museum of Art. starkmuseum.org 409/886-2787

ORANGE: Scarecrow Festival Oct. 11-Nov. 5. Shangri La Gardens. starkculturalvenues.org/shangrilagardens/scarecrow-festival 409/670-9113

PASADENA: Bay Area Nutcracker Market Nov. 11-12. Pasadena Convention Center. houstonareashow.com 713/679-1399

PORT ARTHUR: Pleasure Island Bridge Half-Marathon Nov. 5. Pleasure Island. SportsSocietyforAmericanHealth.org 409/781-2932

PORT ARTHUR: Roughneck II Nov. 5. Logan Park. facebook.com/IslandBridgeHalfMarathon

RICHMOND: *1830s Before Thanksgiving Was* Thanksgiving Lunch Nov. 19. George Ranch Historical Park. georgeranch.org 281/343-0218

RICHMOND: Bagley Pecan Harvest Festival Nov. 20. Richmond City Hall. 281/282-7476

ROCKPORT: Rockport Film Festival Nov. 3-5. rockportartcenter.com 361/729-5519

SAN BENITO: Third Thursday Conjunto Nites at the Chicho Nov. 17. Narciso Martinez Cultural Arts Center. 956/244-0373

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND: South Padre Island Marathon Nov. 12. Schlitterbahn Beach Resort. runspi.com 800/767-2373

SPRING: *Home for the Holidays* Nov. 12-13, 19-20, 26-27. oldtownspring.com 281/353-9310

SUGAR LAND: *Time Warp* Concert Series Nov. 4. Sugar Land Town Square. sugarlandtownsquare.com

SUGAR LAND: Country at the Ballpark Nov. 5. Constellation Field. SugarLandSkeeters.com

SUGAR LAND: Sugar Land Holiday Lights Nov. 25-Jan. 8. Constellation Field. SugarLandHolidayLights.com

TEXAS CITY: Texas City Model Train Festival Nov. 5-6. Texas City Museum and Showboat Pavilion. texas-city-tx.org 409/229-1660

TEXAS CITY: *Touch a Truck* Nov. 5. This is a street event on 6th St. between 4th Ave. and 6th Ave. texas-city-tx.org 409/229-1660

TOMBALL: Tomball Holiday Parade Nov. 19. Main Street. tomballchamber.org 281/351-7222

VICTORIA: *Winter Wanderettes* Nov. 17-20. Leo J. Welder Center for the Performing Arts. theatrevictoria.org 361/570-8587

VICTORIA: Main Street Market Days Nov. 19. victoriainmainstreet.com 361/578-0060

HILL COUNTRY

AUSTIN: *Xu Bing: Book from the Sky* Jun. 19-Jan. 22. Blanton Museum of Art. blantonmuseum.org 512/471-7324

AUSTIN: *Looking Back: 50 Years After the UT Tower Shooting* Jul. 26-Nov. 20. Austin History Center. austinhistorycenter.org 512/974-7480

AUSTIN: *Community Altars: A Celebration of Life* Sep. 17-Nov. 13. Mexic-Arte Museum. mexic-arte-museum.org 512/200-7265

AUSTIN: *Icons & Symbols of the Borderlands* Sep. 17-Nov. 13. Mexic-Arte Museum.

mexic-artemuseum.org 512/200-7265

AUSTIN: *The Illusionists-Live from Broadway* Nov. 1-6. Bass Concert Hall. theillusionistslive.com

AUSTIN: First Edition Literary Gala Nov. 4. Four Seasons Hotel. texasbookfestival.org 512/477-4055

AUSTIN: The Settlement Home's Charity Garage & Estate Sale Nov. 4-6. Palmer Events Center. settlementhome.org/2016-charity-garage-estate-sale

AUSTIN: Austin Powwow and American Indian Heritage Festival Nov. 5. Travis County Expo Center. austinpowwow.net 512/371-0628

AUSTIN: Blue Genie Art Bazaar Nov. 25-Dec. 24. bluegenieartbazaar.com

AUSTIN: City-Wide Garage Sale Nov. 26-27. Palmer Events Center. cwgs.com 512/441-2828

BANDERA: Cowboy Capital Opry Nov. 1. Silver Sage Community Center. silver-sagecorral.org 830/796-4969

BANDERA: Annual Hunters Bar-B-Que & Musicfest Nov. 4. Antler Oaks Lodge. banderatexasbusiness.com 830/796-3280

BANDERA: Bandera Market Days Nov. 5. Bandera courthouse lawn. banderatexasbusiness.com 830/796-4447

BANDERA: Bandera Honors Veterans Nov. 13. Bandera County Courthouse Lawn. 830/460-0394

BANDERA: Frontier Times Museum Cowboy Camp Nov. 13. Frontier Times Museum. frontiertimesmuseum.org 830/796-3864

BLANCO: Hill Country Western Showcase Nov. 4-5. Pine-Moore Town. Buggy Barn Museum. buggybarnmuseum.com 830/868-7684

BOERNE: Hot Rod Night Nov. 5. Soda Pops. visitboerne.org/calendar/hot-rod-night-30 830/331-8799

BOERNE: The Chamber of Commerce Wild Game Dinner Nov. 5. Kendall County Youth Agriculture & Equestrian Center. visitboerne.org/calendar/chamber-commerces-wild-game-dinner-1 830/249-8000

BOERNE: Fall Pre-Holiday Market Days Nov. 12-13. Main Plaza. visitboerne.org/calendar/boerne-market-days-96 210/844-8193

BOERNE: San Antonio Christmas Light Fest Nov. 24-Dec. 31. Don Strange Ranch. sanantoniochristmaslightsfest.com 210/434-2340

BOERNE: Dickens on Main Nov. 25-26. Downtown. visitboerne.org/calendar/dickens-main-8 830/248-1617

BROWNWOOD: Gun and Blade Show Nov. 19-20. Brownwood City Coliseum. silverspurtradeshows.com 806/253-1322

BULVERDE: Christmas Lighting Nov. 25. Old Village of Bulverde. bulverdespringbranchchamber.com 830/438-4285

BURNET: Fall City-Wide Garage Sale Nov. 5. Downtown Square. burnetchamber.org 830/798-5738

BURNET: Hill Country Christmas Nov. 18-19. YMCA of the Highland Lakes. ymcagwc.org/burnet 512/756-6180

CEDAR PARK: Veterans Memorial Parade and Ceremony Nov. 5. Veterans Memorial Park. cedarparktexas.gov/index.aspx?page=733 512/401-5500

CEDAR PARK: North Pole Flyer Nov. 26-27. Austin Steam Train. austinsteamtrain.org 512/477-8468

COMFORT: Christmas In Comfort Nov. 26. Historic Downtown. comfort-texas.com 830/995-3131

COMFORT: Life-Size Nativity Scene Nov. 26-Jan. 1. Comfort Park. comfort-texas.com 830/995-3131

FREDERICKSBURG: Fredericksburg Fall Farmers Market Oct. 6-Nov. 17. Pioneer Museum. fbgfarmersmarket.com 830/997-6523

FREDERICKSBURG: Armadillo Sheep Dog Trial Nov. 4-6. Armadillo Acres Ranch (Lewis Ranch). 830/377-8113

FREDERICKSBURG: First Friday Art Walk Fredericksburg Nov. 4. Participating fine art galleries. ffawf.com 830/997-6523

FREDERICKSBURG: Harvestfest German Chorale Fall Concert Nov. 5. St. Joseph's Hall. 830/456-1713

FREDERICKSBURG: Texas All Star Big Band Bash Nov. 10-12. Hill Top Cafe. hilltopcafe.com 830/997-8922

FREDERICKSBURG: Die Kunstler Fine Art Show and Sale Nov. 11-13. Zion

Lutheran Church. diekunstler.com 830/990-4641

FREDERICKSBURG: Frontier Days Nov. 11-12. Fort Martin Scott. fmartin.scott.org 830/217-3200

FREDERICKSBURG: Veterans Day Observation Nov. 11. Memorial Courtyard at the National Museum of the Pacific War. pacificwarmuseum.org 830/997-8600 ext. 205

FREDERICKSBURG: Trade Days Nov. 18-20, 25-27. 7 miles east on US 290 across from Wildseed Farms. fbgradedays.com 830/990-4900

FREDERICKSBURG: Annual Lighting of the Community Christmas Tree and German Pyramid Nov. 25. Marktplatz, 100 block of W. Main. visitfredericksburgtx.com 830/997-6523

FREDERICKSBURG: The Peddler Holiday Show Nov. 25-27. Gillespie County Fairgrounds, Texas 16 South. peddlershow.com 800/775-2774

FREDERICKSBURG: A Swingin' Christmas Show with Andy Meadows Nov. 25-Dec. 24. Rockbox Theater. rockboxtheater.com 830/997-7625

FREDERICKSBURG: Eisbahn Outdoor Ice Skating Nov. 25-Jan. 3. Marktplatz, 100 block of W. Main. skateinfred.com 830/997-6597

GEORGETOWN: Annual Lighting of the Square Nov. 25. The Georgetown Square. VisitGeorgetown.com 800/436-8696

GRUENE: Gospel Brunch with a Texas Twist Nov. 13. Gruene Hall. GrueneHall.com 830/629-5077

GRUENE: Come and Taste It Nov. 17. The Grapevine. GrapevineInGruene.com 830/606-0093

GRUENE: Old Gruene Market Days Nov. 19-20. Gruene Historic District. GrueneMarketDays.com 830/832-1721

HONDO: South Texas Maize Sep. 17-Nov. 20. South Texas Maize. southtexasmaize.com 830/741-3968

HUNT: Clay Week Retreat Nov. 6-11. Mo Ranch. moranch.org/attend-a-conference/adult-conferences/clay-week-retreat 830/238-4455 ext. 246

JOHNSON CITY: Market Days Nov. 25-27. Courthouse Square. lbjcountry.com 830/868-7684

JOHNSON CITY: Art Walk Nov. 26. Downtown Johnson City. stidhamoutfitters.com 830/868-7684

JUNCTION: Wild Game Dinner Nov. 26. Coke Stevenson Memorial Center. junctiontexas.com 325/446-3190

KERRVILLE: Texas Furniture Makers Show Oct. 27-Dec. 3. Kerr Arts Cultural Center. kackkerrville.com 830/895-2911

KERRVILLE: First Friday Wine Share Nov. 4. storkcountry.com 830/200-1483

KERRVILLE: Hill Country Swap Meet Nov. 5. Kerr County Hill Country Youth Event Center. kerrmarketdays.org 830/459-6198 or 830/370-3614

KERRVILLE: Kerr County Market Days Nov. 5. Kerr County Hill Country Youth Event Center. kerrmarketdays.org 830/895-7524

KERRVILLE: Annual Sleigh Bell Boutique Nov. 18-19. Inn of the Hills Hotel and Conference Center. sleighbellboutique.com 830/285-8664

KERRVILLE: 16th Annual Holiday Lighted Parade Nov. 19. Downtown Kerrville. mainstreetkerrville.com 830/257-8000

KERRVILLE: Kerrville Traders Fest Nov. 26-27. River Star Arts and Event Park. kerrvilletradersfest.com 830/739-6700

LAMPASAS: City-Wide Garage Sale Nov. 5. City of Lampasas. 512/556-5434

LEAKEY: Christmas on the Square Nov. 26. FrioCanyonChamber.com 830/232-5222

LLANO: "Starry Starry Nights" Nov. 25-Dec. 31. Badu Bark. llanochamber.org

MARBLE FALLS: Christmas Light-Up Parade Nov. 18. walkwayoflightstx.com 830/693-2815

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EVENTS

MARBLE FALLS: Walkway of Lights Nov. 18-Jan. 1. Lakeside Park. walkwayoflightstx.com 844/635-4448

NEW BRAUNFELS: North American Jewelry and Gift Show Nov. 4-6. New Braunfels Civic Center. nashows.com 210/410-0737

NEW BRAUNFELS: Wurstfest Nov. 4-13. Wursthalle. wurstfest.com 830/625-9167

NEW BRAUNFELS: Downtown Christmas Tree Lighting Nov. 18. Main Plaza Downtown. nbtexas.org/index.aspx?NID=1467 830/221-4350

NEW BRAUNFELS: Weihnachtsmarkt Nov. 18-20. New Braunfels Civic Center. sophienburg.com/events/weihnachtsmarkt 830/629-1572

NEW BRAUNFELS: Chosen Marathon Nov. 19. Summit Vacation Resort. newbraunfels.chosenevents.org 830/964-2531

ROUND ROCK: A Sami Show Nov. 19-20. Dell Diamond. samishow.com 512/441-7133

SAN MARCOS: Veterans Day Parade Nov. 5. Downtown Courthouse Square. 512/393-8400

SAN MARCOS: CAF Veterans Dinner and '40s Swing Band Hangar Dance Nov. 12. Commemorative Air Force CenTex Hangar. CAFcentex.com 512/396-1943

SAN MARCOS: Sights and Sounds of Christmas Nov. 30-Dec. 3. San Marcos Plaza Park. sights-n-sounds.org 512/393-8400

STONEWALL: Holiday Cookie Decorating and German Traditions Nov. 26. Sauer-Beckmann Living History Farm at the Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site. tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/lyndon-b-johnson 830/644-2252

TAYLOR: Dr. Dickey Parade and Health Fair Nov. 12. Dickey Museum. 512/296-6109

UTOPIA: Utopia Arts and Crafts Fall Fair Nov. 5. Utopia Town Square. RM 187. 830/966-4159

UVALDE: Four Square Friday Nov. 11. visitualde.com 830/278-4115

WIMBERLEY: Market Days Nov. 5. Lions Field. shopmarketdays.com 512/847-2201

WIMBERLEY: Wimberley Alive! Music and Arts Festival Nov. 11-13. Wimberley Square. wimberleyalive.org 512/847-2201

WIMBERLEY: Trail of Lights Nov. 26-Dec. 29. EmilyAnn Theatre and Gardens. emilyann.org 512/847-6969

panhandle plains

ABILENE: *Spanish Texas: Legend and Legacy* Sep. 24-Mar. 11. The Grace Museum. thegracemuseum.org 325/673-4587

ABILENE: 24fps International Short Film Festival Nov. 4-5. Paramount Theatre. 24fpsfest.com 325/676-9620

ABILENE: 28th Annual City Sidewalks and KXVA Fox Christmas Parade Nov. 29. Downtown Abilene. abilenedowntown.com 325/668-5300

ALBANY: *Cell Series: Dan Phillips* Sep. 17-Feb. 11. Old Jail Art Center. theojac.org 325/762-2269

ALBANY: *Texas Moderns: Sallie Gillespie, Blanche McVeigh, Evaline Sellors and Wade Jolly* Sep. 17-Feb. 11. Old Jail Art Center. theojac.org 325/762-2269

AMARILLO: *Speed Dating Tonight!* 2 Nov. 4-5. amarilloopera.org 806/372-7464 or 806/378-3096

AMARILLO: *The Open Road: Photography and the American Road Trip* Nov. 4-Jan. 1. Amarillo Museum of Art. amarilloart.org 806/371-5050

AMARILLO: Broadway Spotlight Series: *Elf The Musical* Nov. 5-6. Amarillo Civic Center Complex Auditorium. panhandle tickets.com 806/378-3096

BAIRD: Christmas Village Nov. 25-26. The Arches Downtown. bairdchamber.com 325/854-1212 ext. 4

CANYON: *You are Here: Maps from the PPHM* Collection Jun. 4, 2016-Aug. 26, 2017. Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum. panhandleplains.org 806/651-2244

CANYON: *When Georgia Was Here* Aug. 29, 2016 -Feb. 24, 2018. Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum. panhandleplains.org

DALHART: XIT Rangers Veterans Day Parade Nov. 11. Denrock Avenue from 2nd Street to 8th Street. 806/249-2791 or 806/244-5646

LUBBOCK: West Texas Watercolor Society 2016 Fall Membership Show Oct. 24-Nov. 30.

Legacy Event Center. wtws.org 806/794-4655

LUBBOCK: The Second City Nov. 11. TTU Allen Theatre. presidentialseries.ttu.edu 806/834-5261

POST: Post Crafters Day Nov. 5. Main Street. 806/495-0888

SAN ANGELO: *The Art of Frank Reaugh, A Texas Master* Sep. 15-Nov. 27. San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts. samfa.org 325/653-3333

SAN ANGELO: *The Arts of the Islamic World: A Survey* Sep. 15-Nov. 27. San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts. samfa.org 325/653-3333

SAN ANGELO: First Saturday at the Old Chicken Farm Art Center Nov. 5. Old Chicken Farm Art Center. chickenfarmartcenter.com 325/653-4936

SAN ANGELO: Family Day for the Dogs! Nov. 12. San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts. samfa.org 325/653-3333

SAN ANGELO: *Play It Again* Nov. 20. San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts. samfa.org 325/653-3333

VERNON: Texas Best Shindig Nov. 4-5. Santa Rosa Rodeo Grounds. vernontexas.net 940/552-2564

WICHITA FALLS: Christmas Magic Nov. 4-6. MPEC Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall. jlwf.org 940/692-9797

WICHITA FALLS: Hangar Holiday Nov. 19-20. MPEC Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall. sheppardosc.webs.com/hangar-holiday 830/719-0206

PINEY WOODS

CENTER: Pinecone & Mistletoe Christmas Market Nov. 4-5. John D. Windham Civic Center. shelbycountychamber.com 936/488-1601

CENTER: Taste of the Holidays Nov. 4. John D. Windham Civic Center. shelbycountychamber.com 936/598-3982

GLADEWATER: Holiday Open House Nov. 12. Antique District, Downtown Gladewater. gladewaterchamber.org 903/845-5501

HENDERSON: Heritage Syrup Festival Nov. 12. Depot Museum/ Historic Downtown. visithenderson.tx.com 866/650-5529

JACKSONVILLE: Mud-aholic Convention Nov. 10-13. River Run ATV Park. river runpark.com 903/724-4100

JEFFERSON: Jefferson Flea Market Nov. 4-5, 18-19. jeffersonfleamarket.net 903/431-0043

JEFFERSON: Rail of Lights Christmas Train Nov. 24-26. Historic Jefferson Railway. JeffersonRailway.com 866/398-2038

JEFFERSON: Old-Fashioned Christmas Parade Nov. 26. Lions Park. jefferson-texas.com 903/665-2672

LUFKIN: Angela Primm at The Pines Nov. 7. The Pines Theater. thepineslufkin.com 936/633-0359

MILAM: Milam Settler's Days Nov. 18-19. El Camino Park. milamsettlersday.org 409/625-4876

NACOGDOCHES: Nine Flags Christmas Festival Nov. 13-Dec. 10. nineflagsfestival.com 888/564-7351

NACOGDOCHES: Holiday In The Pines Nov. 17-19. Nacogdoches County Civic Center. nacjforum.org 936/564-7351

PALESTINE: Art Tracks Nov. 1, 2016-Oct. 31, 2017. The Redlands Historic Inn. visitpalestine.com 903/729-6066

PALESTINE: Curious Exhibit Nov. 11-13, 18-20, 25-27; Dec. 2-4, 9-11, 16-18, 23. Curious Building. exhibitcurious.org 903/727-0204

PALESTINE: *The Polar Express* Train Ride Nov. 18-20, 25-27; Dec. 2-4, 9-11, 16-18, 23. Texas State Railroad. Palestine Depot. texasstaterr.com 877/726-7245

THE WOODLANDS: Children's Festival Nov. 12-13. The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion. woodlandscenter.org 281/364-3010

TYLER: Rose City Christmas Nov. 1-Dec. 31. visittyler.com 903/592-1661

TYLER: Mistletoe & Magic Nov. 9-12. Harvey Convention Center. juniorleagueoftyler.org/?nd=mistletoe_and_magic 903/593-1080

TYLER: Bill Blagg the Science of Magic Nov. 17. R. Don Cowan Fine & Performing Arts Center. cowancenter.org 903/566-7424

WINNSBORO: Winnsboro Art and Wine Festival Nov. 11-12. Downtown Winnsboro. winnsboroonlineguide.com/WFAM_lineartmarket.htm 903/342-7772

WINNSBORO: Christmas in the Park Bazaar Nov. 12. Winnsboro Civic Center. 903/975-3279

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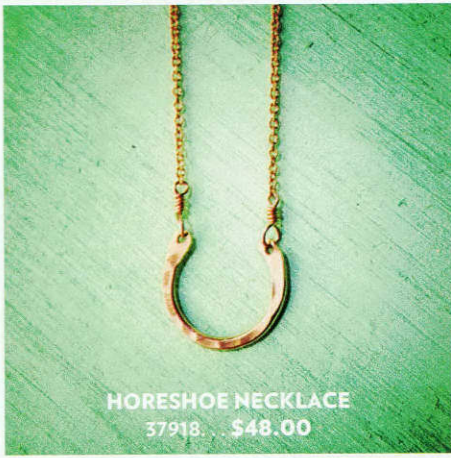
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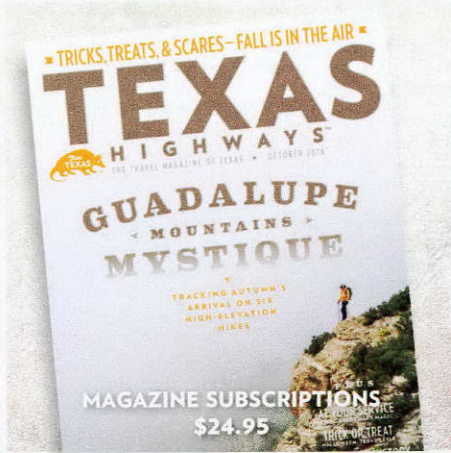
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PRAIRIES AND LAKES

ADDISON: Vitruvian Lights: A Magical Night of Lights Nov. 25. Vitruvian Park. vitruvianpark.com 214/526-6262

ARLINGTON: Pablo Picasso: Ceramics Nov. 12-Feb. 12. Arlington Museum of Art. arlingtonmuseum.org

ARLINGTON: Texas Christkindl Market Nov. 25-Dec. 23. Globe Life Park in Arlington. txchristkindlmarket.com 817/461-3888

BASTROP: WWII/ Camp Swift Exhibit Sep. 1-Dec. 31. Bastrop County Historical Center. bastropcountyhistorical.society.com 512/303-0057

BASTROP: November Art Walk Nov. 4. Downtown Bastrop. bastropdowntown.com 512/332-8996

BASTROP: A Sami Show Nov. 5-6. Bastrop Convention Center. samishow.com 512/441-7133

BASTROP: Veterans Day Car Show Weekend Nov. 11-12. bastropareacruisers.com 512/303-0558

BASTROP: Bastrop Harvest Art Fest Nov. 25-26. Bastrop City Market. facebook.com/HarvestArtFest 405/566-9081

BASTROP: Lost Pines Christmas Nov. 25-Dec. 18. lostpineschristmas.com 512/303-0558

BASTROP: Wassail Fest Nov. 26. Downtown Bastrop. lostpineschristmas.com 512/332-8996

BELTON: The President's Photographer Traveling Exhibit Oct. 29-Jan. 28. The Bell County Museum. bellcountymuseum.org 254/933-5243

BELTON: A Sami Show Nov. 12-13. Bell County Expo Center. samishow.com 512/441-7133

BELTON: City-Wide Garage Sale Nov. 12-13. Bell County Expo Center. cwgs.com 512/441-2828

BELTON: Discovery Day with Charley Chisholm Nov. 19. The Bell County Museum. bellcountymuseum.org 254/933-5243

BELTON: A Sami Show Nov. 25-27. Bell County Expo Center. samishow.com 512/441-7133

BRENNHAM: Christmas at the Mansion Nov. 5. Giddings

Stone Mansion. hermannfurniture.com 888/836-7237

BRYAN: Downtown Bryan Sip and Shop Nov. 26. facebook.com/DowntownBryan/?fref=ts 979/822-4920

CLEBURNE: Celebrate the Arts Festival Nov. 5. J.N. Long Cultural Arts Complex. cleburneculturalarts.com 817/641-4908

CLEBURNE: Pioneer Days Nov. 18-19. Chisholm Trail Outdoor Museum. jcchisholmtrail.com 817/648-2815

CLEBURNE: Motown Review Nov. 19. Songbird Live Theater. songbirdlive.com 817/489-4840

CLEBURNE: Whistle Stop Christmas Lighting Ceremony Nov. 21. Hulen Park. whistlestopchristmas.org 817/645-2455

CLIFTON: Joan Spieler Exhibit Sep. 1-Dec. 13. Bosque Arts Center. BosqueArtsCenter.org 254/675-3724

CLIFTON: The Bosque 7 Art Exhibition Oct. 22-Nov. 6. Bosque Museum. bosque museum.org 254/675-3845

COLLEGE STATION: Driven to Drive: Defining our Identity Jul. 15-Jan. 8. George Bush Presidential Library and Museum. bush41.org 979/691-4000

COLLEGE STATION: Santa's Wonderland Nov. 11-Jan. 1. Santa's Wonderland. santas-wonderland.com 979/690-7212

COLLEGE STATION: WWII Tank Experience Nov. 19-Dec. 17. Museum of the American G.I. americangimuseum.org/events 979/446-6888

CORSICANA: Piecemakers' Guild Quilt Show Nov. 3-28. Warehouse Living Arts Center. corsicanaquiltguild.com 972/825-6364

CUERO: Urban Cowboy Reunion Tour Nov. 12. Cuero Performing Arts Center. cueroedfoundation.org 361/275-1924

CUERO: Christmas in the Park Nov. 21-Jan. 1. Cuero Municipal Park. cuerochristmasinthepark.org 361/275-2112

DALLAS: Special Exhibit: A Time For Greatness: The 1960 Kennedy Campaign May 21-Nov. 13. The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza. jfk.org 214/747-6660

DALLAS: The Great Contributors: The Artistry in Nature May 27-Nov. 27. Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens.

dallasarboretum.org 214/515-6500

DALLAS: Giant Gems of the Smithsonian Sep. 9-Jan. 17. Perot Museum. perotmuseum.org

DALLAS: Clay Between Two Seas: From the Abbasid Court to Puebla de los Angeles Sep. 17-Feb. 12. Crow Collection of Asian Art. crowcollection.org 214/979-6430

DALLAS: Autumn at the Arboretum and Pumpkin Village Sep. 17-Nov. 23. Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden. dallasarboretum.org 214/515-6500

DALLAS: Birds of Paradise Oct. 8-Jan. 8. Perot Museum. perotmuseum.org

DALLAS: The Ultimate Cocktail Experience Nov. 5. Clyde Warren Park. triggers toys.org 214/641-9684

DALLAS: The 12 Days of Christmas Nov. 6-Jan. 3. Dallas Arboretum. dallasarboretum.org/visit/calendar#

DALLAS: Elite Rodeo Athletes World Championship Nov. 9-13. American Airlines Center. erodeo.com

DALLAS: Flea Style Nov. 11-12. Automobile Building at Fair Park. fleastyle.com 214/641-9684

DALLAS: The Nutcracker Nov. 18-Dec. 21. Dallas Children's Theater at Rosewood Center for Family Arts. dct.org 214/740-0051

DALLAS: The Trains at NorthPark Nov. 19-Jan. 8. NorthPark Center. thetrainsatnorthpark.com

DENISON: Dia de los Muertos Festival Nov. 5. Main Street/Heritage Park. smalltownbigart.com 903/465-1551

DENISON: Denison On Ice Nov. 25-Dec. 31. Downtown Denison. denisonlive.com 903/465-2720

DENISON: Grayson County Holiday Tour of Lights Nov. 25-Dec. 31. Loy Lake Park. denisontexas.us 903/465-1551

DENTON: Guided Tour of the North Texas Horse Country Nov. 5. horsecountrytours.com 940/382-7895

DENTON: Turkey Roll Bicycle Race Nov. 19. Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. 940/387-6323

ELGIN: Sip, Shop & Stroll Nov. 26. Historic Downtown Elgin. elgintx.com

EMORY: The Gospel Opry Nov. 19. McClanahan Life Center. 903/885-4262

FARMERSVILLE: Farmers and Fleas Nov. 5. The Onion Shed. farmersvilletx.com/main_street_2/farmers_and_fleas_market/index.php 972/784-6846

FORT WORTH: Monet: The Early Years Oct. 16-Jan. 29. Kimbell Art Museum. kimbellart.org 817/332-8451

FORT WORTH: KAWS: Where the End Starts Oct. 20-Jan. 22. Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth. themodern.org 817/738-9215 or 866/824-5566

FORT WORTH: Texas Motor Speedway AAA Texas 500 NASCAR Tripleheader Weekend Nov. 3-6. Texas Motor Speedway. texasmotorspeedway.com 817/215-8500

FORT WORTH: Funky Finds Holiday Shopping Experience Nov. 5-6. Will Rogers Memorial Center, Cattle Barn 2. funkyfinds.com/holiday 903/665-7954

FORT WORTH: Lone Star Film Festival Nov. 10-13. Sundance Square. lonestarfilmssociety.com 817/924-6000 or 817/924-6001

FORT WORTH: National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA) Futurity Nov. 17-Dec. 10. Will Rogers Memorial Center Coliseum. nchacutting.com 817/392-7469

FORT WORTH: XTO Energy Parade of Lights Nov. 20. Downtown Fort Worth. fortworthparadeoflights.org 817/336-2787

FRISCO: Christmas in the Square Nov. 25-Jan. 1. Frisco Square. friscosquare.com/cits 469/633-7117

GARLAND: Urban Flea Nov. 12. Resurrected Designs. resurrectedesigns.com

GIDDINGS: Merry Marketplace Arts and Crafts Fair Nov. 20. Lee County Youth Center. GiddingsTX.com 979/542-3455

GIDDINGS: Lights of Tejas Nov. 26-Dec. 31. Camp Tejas. camptejas.org/lot 979/366-2422

GLEN ROSE: Fall Woodcarving Show Nov. 5-6. Oakdale Park. 254/897-2321

GLEN ROSE: Discovery After Dark Program and Tour Nov. 11. Fossil Rim Wildlife Center. fossilrim.org 254/897-2960

GLEN ROSE: Fossil Dig & Hike Nov. 12. Fossil Rim Wildlife Center. fossilrim.org 254/897-2960

GLEN ROSE: Third Weekend Bluegrass Nov. 19. Oakdale Park. 254/897-2321

GRANBURY: The Stories & Songs of Classic Country Nov. 5, 19. Granbury Live. bigcitymusicrevue.com 855/823-5550

GRANBURY: Country Christmas Night of Lights Parade Nov. 25. Historic Granbury Square. granburysquare.com 682/936-4550

GRAND PRAIRIE: American Quarter Horse Racing Nov. 3-5. Lone Star Park. lonestarpark.com 972/263-RACE

GRAND PRAIRIE: Annual Mountain Man Weekend Gathering Nov. 5-6. Traders Village. tradersvillage.com 972/647-2331

GRAND PRAIRIE: Veteran's Day Celebration Nov. 11. Grand Prairie Veterans Memorial. grandfunGP.com 972/237-8100

GRAND PRAIRIE: Fall Tejano Festival Nov. 19. Traders Village. tradersvillage.com 972/647-2331

GRAND PRAIRIE: Sneak-A-Peek Run/Walk Nov. 19-20. Lynn Creek at Joe Pool Lake. prairielights.org 972/237-8084

GRAND PRAIRIE: Prairie Lights Nov. 24-Jan. 3. Lynn Creek Park. prairielights.org 972/237-8100

GRAND PRAIRIE: Holiday Market with Santa Nov. 26-Dec. 24. Traders Village. tradersvillage.com 972/647-2331

GRAPEVINE: First Fridays at the Farm Nov. 4. Nash Farm. NashFarm.org 817/410-3185

GRAPEVINE: Candle Light Tour of Homes Nov. 5. Historic Downtown Grapevine. GrapevineTexasUSA.com 817/410-3185

GRAPEVINE: ICE! and Lone Star Christmas Nov. 10-Jan. 1. Gaylord Texan Resort. gaylordhotels.com 817/778-1000

GRAPEVINE: Carol of Lights Nov. 21. Town Square Gazebo. GrapevineTexasUSA.com/ GrapeFest 817/410-3185

GRAPEVINE: Magic of Christmas Light Show Nov. 22-Jan. 2. GrapevineTexasUSA.com 817/410-3185

GRAPEVINE: Christmas on Main Nov. 25-27. Historic Downtown Grapevine. GrapevineTexasUSA.com 817/410-3185

GRAPEVINE: North Pole Express Nov. 25-27. Grapevine Vintage Railroad. GrapevineTexasUSA.com/ GrapeFest 817/410-3185

HALLETTSVILLE: Festival of Lights Nov. 26. Court House Square. hallettsville.com 361/798-2662

HAMILTON: Holiday Market Nov. 12. Fair Park. 254/372-3120

MADISONVILLE: Holiday Market Nov. 17. Oak Ridge Country Club. 936/825-1470

MCKINNEY: Dinosaurus Live! Sep. 17-Feb. 19. heard museum.org 972/562-5566

MCKINNEY: Old Red Lumberyard Junk Market Nov. 18-19. 600 E. Louisiana. visitmckinney.com 214/544-1407

MCKINNEY: Third Monday Trade Days Nov. 18-20. trmt.com 972/562-5466

MCKINNEY: Home for the Holidays Nov. 25-27. Historic Downtown McKinney. downtownmckinney.com 972/547-2660

MESQUITE: Christmas on the Square Nov. 29. Heritage Square in Downtown Mesquite. communityheartofmesquite.com 469/951-6842

NORTH RICHLAND HILLS: NRH Apron Celebration Nov. 11-12. North Richland Hills Library Community Room. myapronstory.com 817/427-6800

PLANO: African Violet State Convention and Show Nov. 2-5. Comfort Inn and Suites Plano East. lsavc.org 940/321-5638

PLANO: Plano Courtyard Texas Music Series Nov. 3. Courtyard Theater. planostages.com 972/941-5600

PLANO: Monthly Muscle Car Show Nov. 5. Gazebo Burgers. monthlymuscle.com 214/707-6348

PLANO: Heritage Farmstead Museum: Young at Heart Nov. 7. Heritage Farmstead Museum. heritagefarmstead.org 972/881-0140

PLANO: Downtown Plano Art and Wine Walk Nov. 10. Downtown Plano Arts District. visitdowntownplano.com

PLANO: Neath the Wreath Holiday Gift Market Nov. 10-

13. Plano Centre. jcollin county.org 972/769-0557

PLANO: Plano Christmas Market Nov. 19-20. Carpenter Recreation Center. plano.gov 972/208-8087

ROUND TOP: Theatre Forum Nov. 4-6. Round Top Festival Institute. festivalhill.org 979/249-3129

ROUND TOP: Round Top Wine Trail Nov. 5. roundtop.org 979/249-4042

SALADO: Scottish Festival/ Highland Games Nov. 11-13. Salado Civic Center. salado.com 254/947-5040

SALADO: Royal Street Art Walk (RAW) Nov. 25. Royal Street. royalstreetartwalk.com 254/947-0339

SMITHVILLE: Airing of the Quilts Nov. 12. smithvillex.org 512/237-2313

TODD-MISSION: Texas Renaissance Festival Oct. 8-Nov. 27. Texas Renaissance Festival Grounds. texrenfest.com

VAN: Holly Berry Holiday Bazaar Nov. 12. The Old Movie House. vantx.com 903/963-5051

VAN: Festival of the Trees and Christmas Lighting Nov. 21-Dec. 2. The Old Movie House. vantx.com 903/963-5051

WACO: Sacred Journeys Oct. 1-Dec. 31. Mayborn Museum Complex. www.maybornmuseum.com 254/710-7981

WACO: Homestead Fair Nov. 25-26. 254/754-9600

WAXAHACHIE: Waxahachie Veterans Weekend and WWII Re-enactment Nov. 11-13.

Historic Downtown Waxahachie. waxahachiecvb.com 972/938-3434

SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

ALICE: Alice Wonderland of Lights and Parade Nov. 29. Downtown. alicetxchamber.org 361/664-3454

GEORGE WEST: George West Storyfest Nov. 5. Live Oak County Courthouse Square. georgeweststoryfest.org 361/449-2481

OAKVILLE: *Dobie Dichos: Campfires, Chili con Carne, and the Words of J. Frank Dobie* Nov. 4. georgeweststoryfest.org 361/449-2481

SAN ANTONIO: *Art In the Garden—Alyson Shatz* Jun. 30, 2016-Jun. 19, 2017. San Antonio Botanical Garden. bluestarart.org/exhibitions/art-in-the-garden-alyson-shatz 210/536-1400

SAN ANTONIO: *Carlos Mérida: Selections From the Permanent Collection* Jul. 8-Jan. 29. San Antonio Museum of Art. samuseum.org 210/978-8113

SAN ANTONIO: *National Geographic Presents Earth Explorers* Sep. 24-Jan. 22. Kathleen and Curtis Gunn Gallery, Witte Museum. wittemuseum.org/national-geographic-earth-explorers 210/357-1900

SAN ANTONIO: *Telling Tales Contemporary Narrative Photography* Sep. 28-Jan. 8. The McNay Art Museum. mcnayart.org/exhibitions/upcoming/telling-tales-contemporary-narrative-photography 210/824-5368

SAN ANTONIO: *Dia De Los Muertos Altar Exhibition* Oct. 21-Nov. 11. Galeria Guadalupe. guadalupeculturalarts.org/210/271-3151

SAN ANTONIO: First Saturday at the Alamo Nov. 5. The Alamo. thealamo.org 210/225-1391

SAN ANTONIO: Guadalupe Signature Reading Series presents *Natalie Diaz* Nov. 19. Guadalupe Theater. guadalupeculturalarts.org/210/271-3151

SAN ANTONIO: *Holiday in the Park* Nov. 11-Jan. 1. Six Flags Fiesta Texas. sixflags.com/fiestatexas/special-events/festival/holiday-park-2014-11-28 210/697-5050

SAN ANTONIO: SeaWorld's Christmas Celebration Nov. 19-Jan. 1. SeaWorld San Antonio. seaworldparks.com/en/sea-world-sanantonio/christmas 800/700-7786

SAN ANTONIO: Zoo Lights Nov. 19-Jan. 1. San Antonio

Zoo. sazoo.org/zoo_lights 210/734-7184

SAN ANTONIO: Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza Nov. 27-Dec. 3. Lila Cockrell Theatre and many other venues. mariachimusic.com 210/225-3353

SAN ANTONIO: Ford Holiday Boat Caroling Nov. 30-Dec. 18. San Antonio River Walk. thesanantonioriverwalk.com/events

SAN ANTONIO: *'Twas The Night Before Christmas* Nov. 18-Dec. 30.

The Magik Theatre. magiktheatre.org/buy-tickets-make-reservations/2016-2017-season 210/227-2751

SAN ANTONIO: Tchaikovsky's "Pathétique" Nov. 18-19. H-E-B Performance Hall at The Tobin Center. sasymphony.org 210/223-8624

SAN ANTONIO: Tuesday Musical Club Artist Series Nov. 29. Laurel Heights United Methodist Church. satmc.org 210/364-1992



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New York. Houston was ultimately the right choice.

Q: *What are some of your other favorite Texas towns?*

A: I love Austin. A favorite place there is the Oasis restaurant, which looks out over Lake Travis. I went to see east Austin recently; there's a lot of art going on there. And there's Round Top, with all the antiques and music concerts. San Antonio is also a beautiful town. I love the River Walk and eating at Casa Rio, a Mexican restaurant near the Commerce Street Bridge that's been there forever.

“Permanency” is a word I’m attracted to. ... All my big sculptures are too heavy to move. My name might not be remembered, but the work will be.”

Q: *What other restaurants do you recommend?*

A: One of my favorites is Café Ginger, a Chinese restaurant on West Gray Street in Houston. I always order the same thing: spicy and tangy chicken. I also like Barnaby's Cafe. It's named after the owner's dog, and there are paintings of the dog on the walls. They have several locations in Houston and the best honey-baked ham sandwich.

Q: *Where do you like to go to see art?*

A: I spent all day yesterday at the Menil Collection seeing primitive art, and last week I was at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and saw some classic portraits. I like to visit the Kimbell Art Museum and The Modern in Fort Worth, and the Dallas Museum of Art. It's what I do—see art. It's a creative experience.

Q: *What are you working on these days?*

A: I'm making Sam Houston on horseback for a large roundabout being built in Baytown. I'm doing a big sculpture with the words “Art Is Fun” for



ADICKES' ART

David Adickes' artwork is on display around Texas, including the 76-foot-tall Sam Houston statue on Interstate 45 in Huntsville, and at the Adickes Foundation in Huntsville. The foundation, which displays Adickes' work and other artwork he's collected, opens by appointment for tours. Call **936/662-3177**; www.adickesfoundation.com.

Houston. The letters will be tilted and colorful, fun-looking. I'm 89 and still going strong. People ask me “What's your secret?” I say only once, early in my life, have I worked at a job, because art isn't work for me. Solving problems in art is fun for me, and all other problems are work.

Q: *How do you plan to celebrate your birthday?*

A: I try to do something original each year. Here's my birthday joke for my 90th: I'd love to have big numbers—nine and zero—made 15 feet tall and hang them from the Astrodome. Then I'll hang from the numbers and have 90 beautiful girls, each carrying a candle on their head, pass by and I'll blow out the candles one by one. I'll need to get the key to the Astrodome first...

Q: *What do you want your legacy to be?*

A: “Permanency” is a word I'm attracted to. The Sam Houston statue is going to be there for a long time. All my big sculptures are too heavy to move. People will not remember my name. Do you remember the name of the guy who made the Statue of Liberty or Mount Rushmore? My name might not be remembered, but the work will be. **■**

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THE DAYTRIPPER

WITH CHET GARNER



A Wild Time in San Angelo

ON A MAP, SAN ANGELO SITS SOMEWHERE between the Hill Country and West Texas. But what the map doesn't show is that this town also lies between its epic past and a bright future. I quickly realized that when tripping to "S'nangelo" or "Angelo" (as the locals call it), one must always come prepared with an appetite, boots, and a wanderlust to explore.

9:00 A.M. To start my adventure in the "doorway to the West," I headed to **Donutopia's** magical wonderland of circular sweets topped with everything from bacon to breakfast cereal. After much debate, I opted for a fresh-from-the-oven cinnamon roll prepared like a peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwich. It was truly donut utopia.

10:00 A.M. Next, I made my way to **Fort Concho**. Built in 1867 on the lonely Texas frontier, this Wild West fort is now in the middle of town, as it was the fort's protection that allowed the city to grow around it. Walking through the buildings transported me back to the days of soldiers, cannons, and mounted cavalry. It felt like the bugle could sound and ready the troops for battle at any moment.

12:00 P.M. Crossing the **Concho River** en route to downtown, an old truck covered in paint and mosaics caught my eye. I pulled over and found

myself walking the **Concho River Trail**, where amazing sculptures, murals, and mosaics enhance the natural beauty of the river. Before I knew it, I had wandered a mile down the trail, which made for an easy and artistic way to get some exercise.

1:00 P.M. I arrived on **Concho Avenue** and noticed painted **sheep statues** all around, which is fitting for a town once known as the "Wool and Mohair Capital of World." I also noticed multiple buildings bearing the name "Miss Hattie's" and decided to investigate **Miss Hattie's Bordello Museum** (pictured above). Our tour guide led us upstairs and into an apartment-like studio that was once San Angelo's busiest "house of ill repute"—until the Texas Rangers shut it down in 1950.

2:30 P.M. I walked downstairs to

a heavenly aroma originating from **Miss Hattie's Restaurant and Cat-house Lounge**. Though the walls are covered with women's undergarments, it's one of the town's best burger joints. I chowed down on a "Brothel Burger" with bacon, jalapeños, and roasted red peppers. It was sinfully delicious.

3:00 P.M. I had already found more than expected in San Angelo, but the Concho River pearls at **Legend Jewelers** really surprised me. I perused the lavender pearls, each with a distinctive hue and character, and marveled that these gemstones came from Tampico pearlymussels found in the murky waters of the Concho River. Local jewelry shops get the pearls from the handful of licensed commercial musselers permitted to collect them.

4:00 P.M. Since I'd spent enough time looking at women's clothing and jewelry, I decided it was time to do something more macho. I grabbed my mountain bike and headed to **San Angelo State Park**, home to part of the Official Texas State Longhorn Herd. The park's 50 miles of trails led me through dirt, dust, and cactus as I spent the next few hours admiring the wide-open spaces and expansive West Texas

sky—and trying not to crash face-first into a prickly pear.

8:00 P.M. My appetite was back, and I knew the perfect place to relax and enjoy the rest of the evening—**The**

Concho Pearl Icehouse. This rockin' restaurant sits inside of a renovated gas station building and serves up "Texas eclectic" food with a hip vibe, live music, and plenty of craft brews on tap.

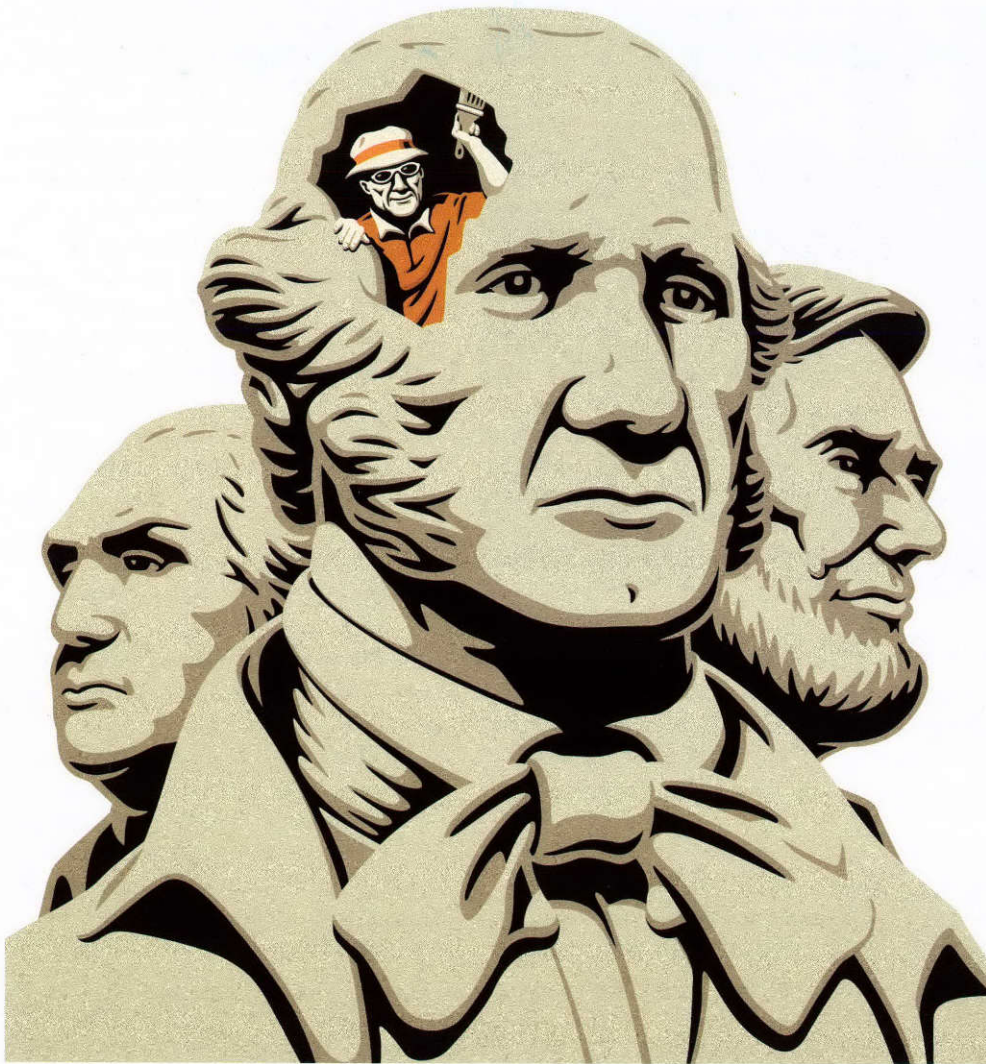
I dug into my deep-fried, brisket-stuffed avocado and looked up as the sunset painted the sky with the pinks and purples of a Concho pearl. It reminded me that beauty, adventure, and the best trips are often found in the most unexpected places. So whether you follow my footsteps or forge your own path, I hope to see you on the road. **L**

Chet Garner is the host of *The Daytripper*® travel show on PBS; www.thedaytripper.com.

Contact the San Angelo Convention & Visitors Bureau at 325/655-4136; www.visitsanangelo.org.

TRAVEL MATTERS

TRAVEL TALK WITH TRUE TEXANS



Big, Bold, and Boffo

David Adickes' grand life and artworks

text by **Heather Brand**

HOUSTON-BASED ARTIST DAVID ADICKES ESTIMATES HE'S created about 5,000 paintings, drawings, and three-dimensional artworks over the course of his 70-year career. But he is best known for the largest of those creations, which cover two disparate themes—monumental concrete statues of heroic figures and monumental concrete statues of whimsical phrases.

Adickes' first large-scale sculpture was *Virtuoso*, a 36-foot-tall celist designed in Cubist style, which has adorned the front of Houston's downtown Lyric Centre since 1983. In the subsequent decades, he produced many more. Today, his 76-foot-tall Sam Houston looms large along Interstate 45 in Huntsville, and his colossal Stephen F. Austin, about the same height, stands sentry over Texas 288 in Angleton.

Adickes' 76-foot-tall Sam Houston looms large along Interstate 45 in Huntsville.

In Houston, drivers on Interstate 10 in the Heights frequently pull off the road at the Patterson Street exit to take pictures in front of his three-story sculpture proclaiming "We Love Houston;" and his 35-foot sculpture of vertically stacked letters spelling ART welcomes visitors at the entrance of the Silos at Sawyer Yards, an art space just west of downtown.

Adickes earned degrees from Sam Houston State University and the Kansas City Art Institute before enlisting in the military during World War II. From 1948 to 1950, he studied art with Fernand Léger in Paris, afterward returning to his hometown of Huntsville and then moving to Houston.

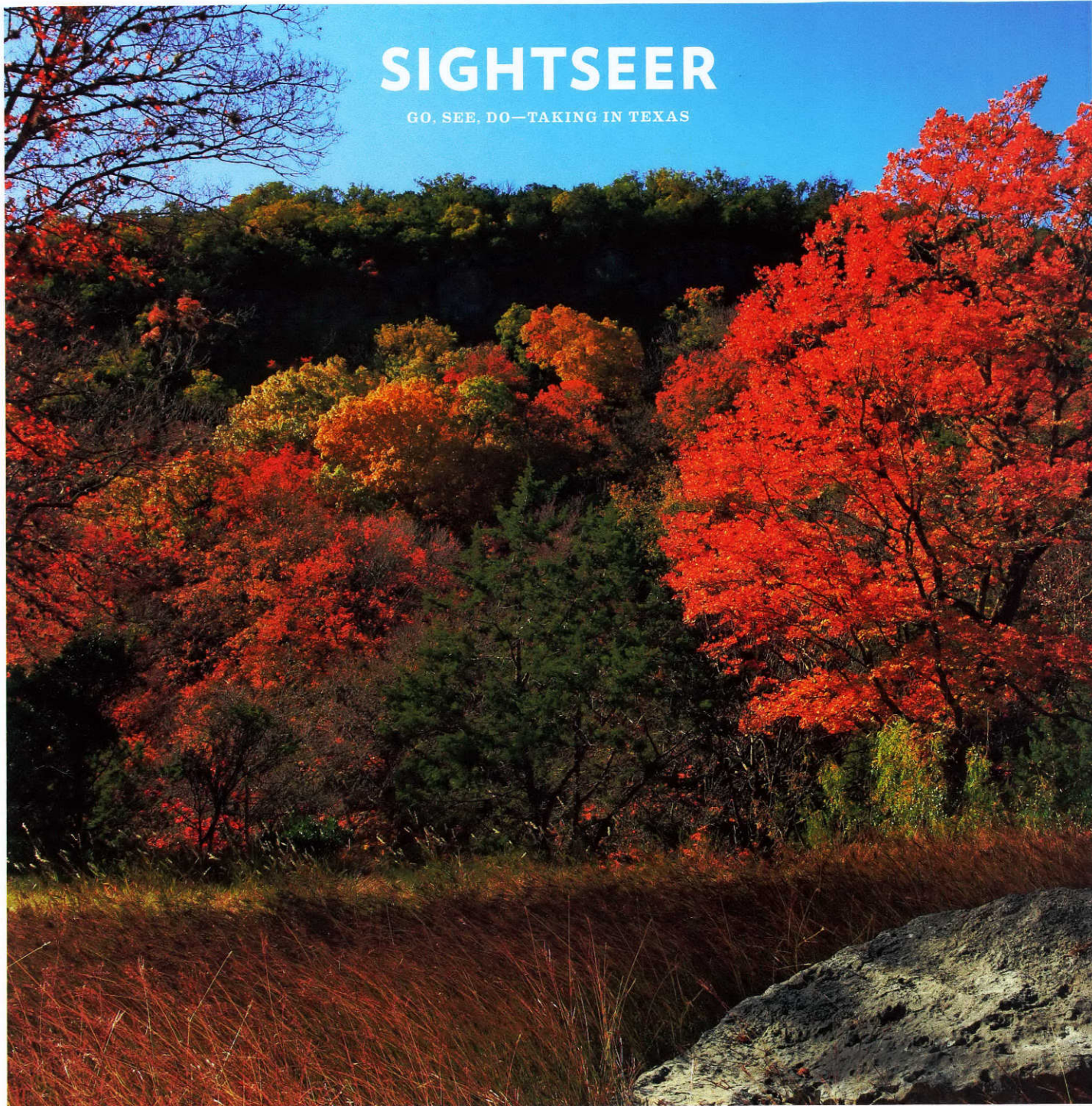
Adickes, who will celebrate his 90th birthday in January, shows no signs of slowing down. He still regularly works in his studio east of downtown at 2401 Nance Street (the massive presidential busts and a towering statue of Charlie Chaplin outside are a local landmark). And in 2007, he purchased the old Huntsville High School building and converted it into a personal museum of his life's work.

Q: *Why did you choose to move to Houston after studying art in Paris?*

A: It was close to Huntsville and seemed like the right place to go. Why didn't I go to New York? It was in the 1950s, right when a group of artists in New York was getting big. But if I hadn't moved to Houston, I would not have been able to make the big statues, which are what I'm known for. Those could be made in Houston, which had land and was inexpensive; they could not have been made in > continued on page 74

SIGHTSEER

GO, SEE, DO—TAKING IN TEXAS



WHAT: UVALDE BIGTOOTH MAPLES FALL FOLIAGE **WHERE:** FIVE MILES NORTH OF VANDERPOOL **WHEN:** LATE OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

Lost Maples State Natural Area

In November, Texas' largest stand of bigtooth maples shimmers with brilliant autumn colors.

Tucked among the steep hills and canyons of the Balcones Escarpment, Lost Maples State Natural Area protects an orphan stand of Uvalde bigtooth maples famous for flashy fall colors of orange, red, maroon, and yellow. The leaves typically start changing in late October and peak around the second and third weeks of November. Rains tend to dampen the colors, while an October of sunny days and cool nights triggers the brightest shows. Park officials recommend visiting on a weekday, if possible, to avoid the weekend crowds. www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/lost-maples.

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